Vol. 50, No. 2

P.O. Box 222, Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

Summer-Fall 2023

Save the Date!

South County Community Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 4–7 pm* (*AACPS 2-hr early dismissal)

Hosted by Knightongale Farm 3924 Solomons Island Road, Harwood

(at intersection with Birdsville Road)

ACA board members will be handing out goodies to trick-or-treaters who come to this fun fall event located at the end of Birdsville Road, where Davidsonville borders Harwood.

Come out for a fun event with your South County community, supporting the kids. There will be lots of fun activities. Admission \$2, cash only at the gate.



Results of Election of DACA Officers and Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting

The officers below were reelected on June 1 to serve another one-year term, which expires at the next annual meeting to be held in June 2024:

President: Bruce Stein
Vice President: H. Edward Woods
Corresponding Secretary: Gail Enright

Treasurer: Brian Stanton

Board members whose terms ended last June were Jeff Bishop, Kate Fox, and Wayne Reid, all of whom indicated their willingness to continue if reelected; there was also a fourth vacancy on the board to be filled after a previous member left the board in 2022. In addition to board members who agreed to run again, three nominations were also offered from the floor: Jessica Adams, Don Buntz, and Jon Zajik. After votes were tallied, the results were as follows:

Elected for a three-year term ending in June 2026 were Don Buntz, Kate Fox, Wayne Reid, and John Zajic. Jeff Bishop and Jessica Adams were elected as first and second members at large, respectively.

Over the summer, two of our board members (Melissa Stanton and Don Buntz) stepped down for personal reasons, so Jeff Bishop and Jessica Adams have been elevated to full board member status.

Volunteers Still Needed! Kate Fox seeks to be replaced as **recording secretary**—this role prepares agendas and takes minutes at our monthly board meetings. Gail Enright seeks to be replaced as **corresponding secretary**—this role monitors DACA's email, responds to requests for information, and forwards important notices to the Board.

Thanks to and Notes from Our Members and Readers

Many thanks to Gerry Coffman for his gift to DACA in addition to renewing his membership for three years—yay! And thanks also to Gerry for serving as DACA's liaison to DFRC, carrying and retrieving our communications with the umbrella organization for all who use the DFRC facilities.

Thanks also to Jim Anderson, Tonka and Alexis Bradley, Nancy Marvin, Joan Placido, Steve and Debbie Williams, and John and Uschi Zacepilo for their gifts to DACA in addition to their memberships.

Scholarship Angels!

DACA gratefully acknowledges and thanks Robert and Jennifer Dorr and Bernie and MaryLu Lammers for their gifts to the Scholarship Fund.

A note from *The Villager's* editor emerita, who announced that the March–April issue was her last:

Thanks to all who came to my retirement celebration [June 1]—for the flowers, cake, balloons, cards, and many good wishes. The friends and readers of *The Villager* are the reason I lasted so long. $\sim Gail$

From our Readers to editor emerita Gail Enright:

March 9: Say it ain't so! I am in tears, Gail. Although we've never met, I have always felt that I knew you personally. Thank you so much for all you've done for



our community, not just with *The Villager*, but with all your contributions to the Davidsonville area. You will be greatly missed. Very warm regards, Fran Canavan

March 11: I see you're retiring from doing the DACA newsletter after 50 years. An amazing record. Congratulations and thanks for so many years of outstanding work. Gary A.

Gail: Thank you for another opportunity to support *The Villager* and the Davidsonville community."

And likewise many thanks to Natalia Bassford for a generous gift to DACA in addition to continuing her advertisement for Four Legs Animal Hospital.

I am sorry to hear you are stepping down as the *Villager* editor. Your paper is unique and an example of what makes our community so special. You will be missed. Thank you, Ray



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More notes to Gail Enright:

Gail—Thank you so much for the SHOUT OUT in the *Villager* for our donation and ad. Robert Choisser is the name of the owner. Congratulations on such a long run as Editor of the *Villager*. It is a great staple of the community, and your efforts to keep everyone informed is appreciated.

Dear Gail—You have done such an excellent job being the editor of the *Villager*—but you do deserve to retire! I know you continue to write articles with a historic bent for, the name eludes me, the Davidsonville something or other [*Stroll*]. I've really enjoyed learning about the local history.

Bobbi R.

Gail, I just wanted to say "Thank you" for everything that you have done for these past 50 years. Although we have never formally met, we appreciate your work, and truly enjoy reading the newsletter. Enjoy a well-earned "Retirement." Lisa H.

Congratulations for 50 years! I look forward to working with your daughter! Joyce L. [Joyce, Likewise! ~Meredith]

Gail, Congratulations! But mostly THANKS! 49 years of keeping Davidsonville residents informed! You are a treasure! Thanks for all you do! We don't say it enough!

T.S. and H.S.

Dear Gail.

Thank you very much for the many years you have been secretary and editor of the *Villager*. You're a wonderful writer. You have played a significant role in keeping Davidsonville more rural and an enjoyable place to live. We appreciate all the hours you've spent to benefit all of us. We're so glad we chose to buy a home in Davidsonville in 1971. With gratitude and best wishes.

Betty and John

Thank you for caring about Davidsonville!

J. and P.

Thank you for all that you have done. L.W.

[We] appreciate your dedicated years of service to the Davidsonville community.

Lynn and Bill

Thanks for everything you've done for the community and continue to do. Thank you for everything.

You are the supreme role model for volunteers! Thank you for your many years of it. Brenda D.

Thanks so much.... You've been an asset to DACA for so many years, we know you will be missed in your role!

2023–2024 DACA Scholarship Winners

Many congratulations to this year's winners of DACA scholarships—Seth Door, Emily Egna, and Grace McQuoid. Each of these students were awarded \$1000 toward their college education for the coming academic year. Schools they are attending this fall include University of Georgia and Salisbury University.

In his short answer essay, Seth addressed the question, "If you could change or improve one thing about Davidsonville, what would it be, and why?" He wrote the following:

"Opportunity, Success, Drive, Family. All words characterizing Davidsonville. Our community is home to kind, caring, talented, and successful individuals, yet sometimes these characteristics are eclipsed. Eclipsed by focusing on what other people have. If I could change one thing in Davidsonville, it would be to eliminate materialism and the mindset that focuses on defining our success through possessions.

"Davidsonville is an area filled with the brightest, most charismatic people. We have people in our town who have created nonprofit organizations, saved lives, and initiated world-changing projects, but these achievements are repeatedly undervalued by materialistic eyes."

(Continued page 7)

~ ~ ~

Cheers to Gail for her many years of service and outstanding effort or our community.

JD and RD

THANK YOU, Gail!! You are the best.

~ Don



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS

Statement on Kings Branch Flat Creek Greenway Natural Area

Updated June 1, 2023

Kings Branch Flat Creek Greenway Natural Area ("Kings Branch") is a 56.62-acre property managed by the Department of Recreation and Parks. The property, which was acquired in 1996, is identified and operated a natural resource area. As part of its ongoing commitment to environmental stewardship, the County partnered with both the Scenic Rivers Land Trust and the Maryland Environmental Trust to preserve and protect Kings Branch, just as we have sought to protect thousands of acres of similar natural spaces in Anne Arundel County.

The property is subject to a legally binding Deed of Conservation Easement that guides how the property is utilized. This Conservation Easement confirms our commitment to the natural resource protection of the property, while maintaining responsible open space attributes permanently. Because of its significant environmental features, the Department has always regarded this as a conservation acquisition—there are no plans to add recreational amenities or otherwise develop Kings Branch. In 2021, a stream restoration project was completed by the Arundel Rivers Federation and the County's Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration. The purpose of the project was to maintain the health of Flat Creek and was not related to any development of this parkland.

Recently, some community members received an unsanctioned mailer that was not sent out or authorized by the County. This mailer placed a significant spotlight on an area that has always been open to the public. The mailer, however, encourages visitation beyond what the park can support and contradicts the original vision for this site. The

property does not have the infrastructure, specifically parking, to support hundreds of visitors. The recent influx of visitors is contrary to the operating philosophy that the Department employs at this site. The Department believes limited responsible use of this site allows for greater protection of wildlife and the broader forest ecosystem.

Since the completion of the stream restoration project, access for the casual passive use of the property has been through the end of Ashe Street, which is a public road. Use of this public right-of-way for access has allowed for responsible, limited public usage while still maintaining and protecting the property's vital natural resources.

The Park Finder on the Anne Arundel County website highlights many other sites located within the Davidsonville area that offer active and passive opportunities for all of our residents.

A sign as been posted at the entrance listing the following rules and regulations:

- 1. OPEN DAWN TO DUSK
- 2. MOUNTAIN BIKING IS PROHIBITED ON ALL NATURAL SURFACED TRAILS
- 3. PETS MUST BE ON A LEASH AT ALL TIMES, PHYSICALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THEIR OWNERS, THEIR WASTE PICKED UP AND DISPOSED OF OFF THE PROPERTY
- 4. MOTORIZED VEHICLES SUCH AS OFF ROAD VEHICLES, DIRT BIKES, ATV'S AND SIMILAR VEHICLES ARE PROHIBITED
- 5. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, WEAPONS, HUNTING, FIRES, FIREWORKS, METAL DETECTING, LITTERING AND CAMPING ARE PROHIBITED
- 6. INTERFERING WITH OR DISTURBING WILDLIFE, DAMAGING OR REMOVING TREES, SOIL, ROCKS OR ANY OTHER NATURAL RESOURCE IS PROHIBITED
- 7. DISPOSAL OF YARD DEBRIS ON PARK PROPERTY IS PROHIBITED
- 8. EQUESTRIAN USE OF TRAILS WITHIN THE PROPERTY IS PROHIBITED

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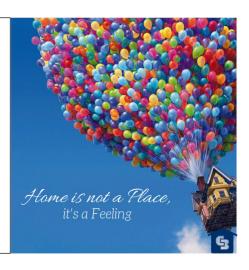


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September Schools Report

For the twelfth consecutive year and fourteenth time overall, the National Procurement Institute has recognized Anne Arundel County Public Schools' (AACPS) Purchasing Office as one of the best in the United States. The 2023 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award once again puts AACPS's Purchasing Office in elite company. AACPS is one of just 25 school systems and 194 agencies across the USA and Canada to earn the award.

A new notification system through which families of students and members of the general community can be made aware of bus delays and route cancellations is now available. The system provides email and text message notifications in either English or Spanish to those who sign up through this link. Users are asked to provide the bus number and school for which they wish to receive the notification.

Users can sign up to receive multiple notifications and will be asked to confirm registrations through the email address or phone number they utilize. One registration will need to be done for each bus/school combination.

Messages will be sent at 7:30 p.m. the night before a school day to alert users of delays and cancellations for the following school day. Messages will also be sent beginning at 6 a.m. on each school day and periodically through 8:45 a.m. as updates are entered from bus contractors. Users will receive one message per

delay or cancellation and will receive an additional message if there is a change in bus status. At 12:30 p.m. on each school day, messages will be sent to users to remind them of afternoon-only impacts to bus routes.

The proficiency rate of AACPS students on the most recent administration of the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) assessments administered last Spring rose in seven of eight tested areas, led by a 10.1 percentage points increase in Algebra I scores. The Algebra I results move AACPS from ninth among state school systems to second, behind only Howard County.

Gains were less notable but still significant in English Language Arts, where proficiency rates rose by 3.2 percentage points in middle and high school, and 0.8 percentage points in elementary school. Elementary school math scores rose by 2.4 percentage points and middle school math scores were up by 2.2 percentage points. Student scores increased by 3.9 percentage points in fifth-grade science but fell by 10.1 percentage points in eighth-grade science. Complete results for the 2022–2023 MCAP assessments can be found here.

AACPS weekly vacancy updates (as of September 20):

- 0 bus driver vacancies (14 last month) with 66 in training
- 104 teacher vacancies (224 last month)
- 95 food service vacancies (97 last month)
- 26 custodial staff vacancies (30 last month)

Gray Morgan





Fall Agriculture Report

In August we learned that Mountaire Corporation and Anne Arundel County completed their proposal procurement of the Lothian Grain facility. On September 25 the County signed an agreement with Warfield Brothers of Howard County to repair, open, and run day-to-day operations of the grain elevator. Mountaire will be the merchandiser to buy grain from farmers. "Getting this contract done to open the elevator for this fall's crop was an all-hands effort by farmers, county staff, and the operators," said County Executive Pittman. "We did an emergency procurement, a plan to fund repairs, and relied on advice from farmers to make it happen. It's this kind of collaboration that will keep our farms producing for generations to come."

The grain bin rescue tube and training that was scheduled for last month was postponed (due to the trainer being ill) to October 10 at 6:00pm at Galesville Vol. Fire Department.



Despite recent rains at the end of September, farmers in our region have been contending with serious drought conditions for most of the growing season. *Margie Chase*







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2034-2024 DACA Winners, Continued

(**Seth Dorr's** short essay, *continued from page 3*)

"Too often in our community, friendships, popularity, and relationships are owned by people with the nicest things. We are frequently worried about what the next person has, aspiring to be like them. We need this to change.

"We can set a revised standard of community if we all chose to focus on what people have done to better our community, not what they have. We need to let individuals thrive and develop their own unique goals. We should inspire our neighbors to create change in the lives of others. By changing this perspective we can form a community that supports diversity, where individuals strive to create change instead of striving to have ethe coolest houses. We can help the world around us become a better place.

"I long to see the impact our community can have not by praising the tangibles in life, but instead focusing on the intangible that we can all provide."

Grace McQuoid's short essay addressed the question "What field of study are you interest in pursuing, and how might it be important to your community and/or to the environment?"

She wrote, "I plan to pursue a career in physical rehabilitation which includes a minimum of eight years worth of post secondary school. Growing up, I was an avid member of the full spectrum of athletics that DAA [Davidsonville Athletic Association] offers, from soccer, to lacrosse, to basketball and more. I know I wasn't the only kid who loved sports. The reason I chose to pursue physical therapy was because I had to undergo it myself and it's a taxing and tedious process. I want to be able to help young athletes not feel so alone and alienated in the process."

Emily Egna addressed the same short essay question that Grace did. Emily wrote, "It's important to have a society filled with people who have diverse experiences, but it's essential to have writers who can share them.

"I intend to graduate college with a major in English so I have the skills necessary to become a successful author. To become someone who shapes readers in the way my favorite authors shaped me. To challenge people to examine their opinions and view them through different perspectives.

"When I was younger, amid a classroom of aspiring firefighters, actors, and dolphin trainers, my dream job was an author. But it was just that: a dream. A wish I always had but never really expected to achieve. So I pushed it to the back of my mind and focused on attainable goals like passing math texts and winning tag during recess.

"Despite initially pushing away my wish of becoming an author, I found that my dream could not be quieted. After seven years of studying creative writing in a magnet program through middle and high school, I completed my first novel this past January. And when I signed the first copy before giving it to a friend, I could truly see myself as an author. The first time I'd felt that way since I was seven and self-published a picture book through Shutterfly. And now, being a published author doesn't seem like such an unreachable goal.

"Authors educate, persuade, entertain, and inspire. They are essential contributors to an informed community that is well equipped to tackle tomorrow's challenges."

DACA wishes each of these students every success in their college studies and future careers. DACA also thanks former board member Melissa Stanton for so ably administering the scholarship program.

Ray Alcorn

ACORN RENOVATIONS

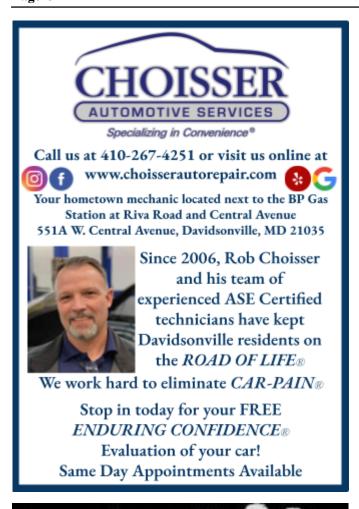
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2021

Thanks to to Patrick Maslar and Scott Cannon; to Bob and Ann Bradshaw, Jennifer and Robert Dorr, and Gail Enright for their second contributions; and to Tom and Kris Angelis for their third contribution

2022

To Liz and Keith Lewnes; to Teresa and Hassan Sadeghin and Judy Kienast for their second contributions; to Betty Knupp and to Bob Bradshaw for their third gifts; and Tom and Kris Angelis for their fourth gift

2023

To Bernie and MaryLu Lammers, Nick Kemp and Kay Osburnsen, and Meredith McQuoid-Greason for their second gifts; to Teresa and Hassan Sadeghin for their third gift; and to Robert and Jennifer Dorr, Betty and John Knupp, and Bob Bradshaw for their fourth contributions

Many thanks to this illustrious and generous group of DACA Scholarship supporters.

Farm Bureau Cell Tower Update

s reported previously in *The Villager* (May–June 2023), an application from Network Towers Inc. is pending to erect a 140-foot-tall cell tower immediately behind the Maryland Farm Bureau building at 3358 Davidsonville Road. The tower, which would extend more than 100 feet above the building, was initially approved by the county at a hearing in October 2022. An appeal was filed by members of the local community who were concerned about the visual impact the tower would have on the area. The appellants presented testimony indicating that several other locations in the Davidsonville area might be better sites for a cell tower. The proposed tower would be visible from multiple historic properties, including several on Central Avenue in the Davidsonville Historic Crossroads District. The appellants were also concerned that the tower would be clearly visible from the section of Davidsonville Road north of central avenue, which is designated by the County as a Scenic and Historic Road. The Anne Arundel County Board of Appeals heard the case in March and held a public deliberation in July. However, no decision has been released as of September 27. The Board of Appeals would normally have been required to issue their decision by the end of August, but they have announced that their decision will be delayed due to a heavy caseload. Several of the appellants attended the July deliberation. Based on those deliberations, it seems likely that the tower will be approved with the stipulation that it be disguised as a very tall pine tree, but the final decision won't be known until it is released by the Board of Ann-Marie Novo-Gradac Appeals.

Applications for the 2024–2025 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.

Applications for 2024–2025 academic year due no later than June 15, 2024, 11:59 pm

Learn about the scholarship and access the application by visiting www.davidsonvillemaryland.org/scholarship.

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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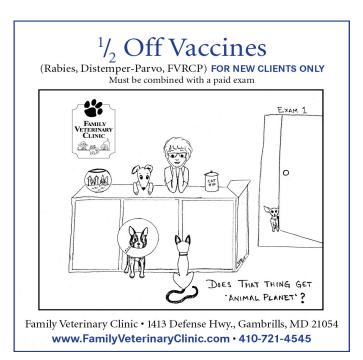
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South Anne Arundel Rotary to Celebrate 10th Anniversary of Lights of Kindness

The Rotary Club of South Anne Arundel County will celebrate the tenth anniversary of its highly successful Annual Lights of Kindness charity event, a Christmas tree decorating contest to be held December 1–3 at Homestead Gardens.

An Opening Reception will take place Thursday, November 30, 5:30–7:30 pm at Homestead Gardens to recognize the sponsors and charities involved in the event.

This unique and magical event has been important to the community, raising \$190,000 to help local charities in the previous nine years. The goal is to raise awareness for both local charities and businesses to make our community a better place. Last year more than 10,000 people walked through the Lights of Kindness tree forest during the holiday season at Homestead Gardens.

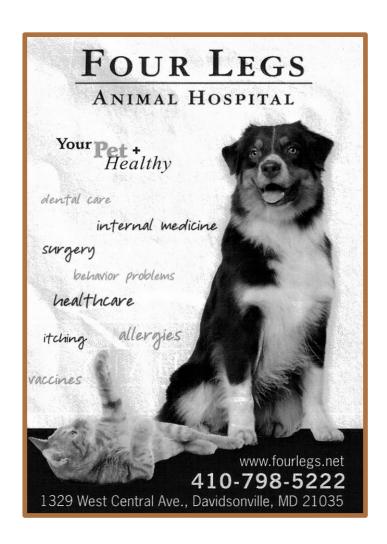
Businesses partner with charities to decorate trees, and members of the community vote for their favorite tree(s) in person and online to raise funds for the charity and the club's foundation. Half the proceeds will be donated to the designated charity and half will be donated to the South Anne Arundel County Rotary Foundation. A cash donation prize will be split among the charities' top three vote-winning decorated trees.

Inflation and economic conditions continue to create needs in our community. The Lights of Kindness Christmas tree decorating contest provides business sponsors a valuable marketing opportunity in addition to raising thousands of dollars for local charities.

Proceeds will benefit programs supported by the Rotary Foundation, including Bountiful Backpacks Program currently providing food for needy elementary school children; the Dictionary Project; Haiti workforce development programs; the Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly; scholarships; and the Polio Plus program to eradicate the disease worldwide.

All trees will be displayed at Homestead Gardens from Friday, December 1, thru Sunday, December 3. Visitors will be able to vote for their favorite tree during regular business hours or online at www.RotaryLightsofKindness.org.

Winning trees will be announced at 7:00 pm, Monday, December 4. Go to https://www.rotarylightsofkindness.org/for more information and to view photos of winning trees.



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Celebrating South County Concert Association's 48th Year

South County Concert Association invites you to become a subscriber for our 2023–2024 season. Founded in 1975, SCCA offers our members and the community a variety of nationally recognized artists plus popular local performers.

A season subscription at \$70 per adult admits you to all the concerts below. An individual ticket is \$30. Students 18 and under are free. A reciprocity agreement with Anne Arundel Community Concert Association allows our subscribers to attend the five AACCA concerts to be presented at Severna Park High School.

2023-2024 Season

South County Concert Association

Venue: Southern High School, 4400 Solomons Island Rd. (Route 2), Harwood, MD 20776

Vox Fortura Saturday, September 23, 2023, 7:30pm

Ireland's Greatest Showman - David Shannon Tuesday, October 10, 2023, 7:30pm

> Sounds of Silence Monday, November 13, 2023, 7:30pm

COSMIC Symphony Orchestra - Rebirth Sunday, March 3, 2024, 3:00pm

Key of G: Tribute to Garth Brooks Wednesday, April 24, 2024, 7:30pm

Anne Arundel Community Concert Association

Venue: Severna Park High School, 60 Robinson Road, Severna Park, MD 21146 [except for The Suits, February 28, at The Byzantium, 2747 Riva Road, Annapolis, MD 21401]

The Oyster Boys

(a local favorite) Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 7:30pm

Ja**č**a, clarinet and guitar Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:30pm

The Suits, vocal quartet
(at **The Byzantium**)
Wednesday, February 28, 2024, 7:30pm

Brían Ganz, píano Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 7:30pm

Key of G: Tribute to Garth Brooks Monday, April 15, 2024, 7:30pm

SCCA is a nonprofit organization of volunteers dedicated to offering fine music and community cultural enrichment. For information or to receive a brochure, call 410-956-4881 or visit www.southcountyconcertassociation.org.

Great artists, convenient location, outstanding value, and community cultural enrichment—all reasons to become a subscriber of the South County Concert Association.



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Another member writes:

Gail, I'm glad you were thanked and congratulated for your long service to the Davidsonville community. How blessed we were to have your outstanding service for so long, and I know that will continue.

Meredith, Good luck with being the new editor of *The Villager*.

Betty K.

IN MEMORIAM

Arthur George Stillinger February 23, 1939 – July 24, 2023

Deepest sympathy to the directors and members of the Londontowne Symphony Orchestra on the loss of their good friend and volunteer, Buzz Stillinger. *The Villager* received all its LSO information and announcements from Buzz, who served as their public relations agent.

*Richard Mayr*July 8, 1983 – April 23, 2023

DACA member since 1986 Deepest sympathy to his family

RECYCLING

A nne Arundel County's recycling outreach program is designed to educate and motivate County residents to effectively recycle all that our program allows, both at the curb and at County Recycling Centers.

Because of your involvement with providing information to residents that is relevant to your community, we're requesting your help with communicating this recycling message.

REMINDER: Plastic bags, wrap, and film are <u>NOT</u> accepted within curbside recycling. Unfortunately, we continue to observe a high volume of this contaminate within curbside recycling containers. Please recycle this material at County Recycling Centers or local retail stores. Thank you!

Richard Bowen

Manager, Recycling & Waste Reduction Division DPW – Waste Management Services

Editor's Note

Dear Readers: Please spread the word—tossing plastic bags in your curbside recycling bins gums up the sorting machines at the recycling facilities. But please don't throw them in the trash either. These plastic films <u>should</u> be recycled, just not in your curbside bin. Instead, take them back to the grocery store every time you go!

~ Your friendly neighborhood recycling enthusiast



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Planning Ahead for Green Expo 2024

DACA has ordered 300 Maryland native, pollinator-friendly tree and shrub seedlings to give away at Green Expo in March 2024:

100 Redbud 100 Witch-Hazel 100 Red Osier Dogwood

The trees from DNR's Ayton Tree Nursery on the Eastern Shore cost \$3.00 each. DACA gets them at a discount by purchasing the large quantity. As a service to the community, DACA distributes the trees at Green Expo to visitors who wish to plant them.

For many years Green Expo has typically been held on the last Saturday of March. Next year, March has five Saturdays, so we have not yet determined the best day—it will most likely be either the fourth or fifth Saturday. Stay tuned for the specific date to be announced in the next issue of *The Villager*.

Red Osier Dogwood Cornus stolonifera

(1 yr: 12–24") About 10 to 20 feet tall at maturity, this shrubby tree has bright red twigs when young. Commonly found on moister soils, it is planted for watershed protection and wildlife cover.



Redbud Cercis canadensis (pinkish purple)

(1 yr: 8–20") A small tree 25 to 35 feet tall, commonly found on abandoned farmlands, cleared woodlands, road banks and in forest under stories. Noted for its pink blossoms in spring. The tree is valued for wildlife food and cover.



Witch-Hazel *Hamamelis virginiana* (white flowers)

(1 yr: 8–16") A shrub to small tree growing to 30 feet tall that flowers in late autumn. Witch-Hazel provides food and cover for birds and other wildlife.



NEWS FROM THE COUNTY

Anne Arundel County Identifies Operator for Lothian Grain Elevator

Warfield signs letter of intent to open grain elevator this fall; opening date to be determined in coming days

County Executive Steuart Pittman announced on September 25, 2023, that the County has entered into a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Warfield to open the grain elevator. Warfield will conduct necessary repairs with County permission, beginning today.

"Getting this contract done to open the elevator for this fall's crop was an all-hands effort by farmers, county staff, and the operators," said County Executive Pittman. "We did an emergency procurement, a plan to fund repairs, and relied on advice from farmers to make it happen. It's this kind of collaboration that will keep our farms producing for generations to come."

"I am grateful for the County Executive's leadership and the collaboration of the farming community in ensuring that the grain elevator can open this fall and benefit farmers throughout Anne Arundel County and all of southern Maryland," said Senator Sarah Elfreth.

The County will assist with securing the required Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) air permit and will continue to work with the new operator with the goal of accepting grain through the facility in the coming weeks.

Perdue Farms first announced its intent to close the elevator in January 2021. County Executive Pittman worked with Perdue to keep the elevator open for an additional two years to support local farmers and then contracted with Perdue to purchase the elevator in March 2023.

Opportunity for Public Comment:

Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study (Tier 2) Equity Survey

Deadline: October 16, 2023

The Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) invites you to participate in the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study Equity Survey to assist us in achieving equity in the process and in the project outcome. Your input will help them understand travel needs and concerns within the Study corridor and around the existing crossing, guide engagement efforts to meet your specific needs and help improve future decision-making so that an equitable solution for the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study can be realized.

You may visit the study website (baycrossingstudy.com) to participate in the Equity Survey, learn more about the Chesapeake Bay Crossing Study, or provide a comment.

Department of Natural Resources, Anne Arundel County, Severn Riverkeeper Partner to Restore Damaged Jabez Branch

Anne Arundel County Executive Pittman has announced a partnership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Severn Riverkeeper to clean up the Jabez Branch. The Resilience Authority will invest more than \$8M in grant funding on a long-anticipated project to restore the damaged coastal ecosystem. The project is expected to be completed this fall.

The project, located in Reach III of the Jabez Branch, will help to address a significant erosion and pollution problem that continues to grow. Large sections of the coastal plain have been destabilized and are moving downstream with each rain event - transferring tons of sediment, debris, and pollution into the Severn River. High runoff volumes from roadways and surrounding impervious areas have impacted the headwaters of the Severn River, which once hosted one of the largest perch spawns in the entire Chesapeake Bay.

"These are the types of comprehensive projects and partnerships that the Department of Natural Resources is promoting to update our overall Chesapeake Bay cleanup strategy," said Maryland Department of Natural Resources Secretary Josh Kurtz. "We're embracing the lessons we've learned over the past 40 years and adapting our strategy to reflect the latest science. As rising sea levels and stronger storms due to climate change threaten Maryland, we must invest in more impactful projects such as this one that integrates clean water and climate mitigation strategies."

The approach is to fill the deeply incised channel—10 feet deep or more in places—with native sands, gravel, and wood chips to reconnect it with its floodplain. A series of riffles and pools will be created in the channel to slow the flow and help withstand big storms. The existing 2.6 acres of wetlands bordering the stream will be enhanced and doubled in size.

Centuries of agriculture have caused sediment to settle downstream, then as the surrounding land was paved and built on, water rushed off those hard surfaces and into streams so fast it cut into the banks, said Fred Kelly, Executive Director of the Severn Riverkeeper Program. "It is a completely broken system. The banks are eroding, the wetlands are drying out, the ecosystem is dying."

"The anticipated impacts of climate change are well documented, and the implications for communities like Anne Arundel County are profound," said Matt Fleming, Executive Director for the Resilience Authority of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. "Accelerating the pace and scale of climate action will be necessary to enable communities across the county to adapt and thrive in the face of these challenges."

For more information visit www.ResilienceAuthority.org.

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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.



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, contact *Stroll*'s publisher, David Grabau, david.grabau@n2pub.com, who will email you a free PDF.

DACA's current membership is 298 ~ We are small but mighty!

New to Davidsonville? Or still need to renew your membership for 2023? Pay dues of \$20 per person and your voice will be amplified by this respected civic association in meetings and discussions with representatives of our county and state government. DACA exists to assist by speaking with you and for you. Members and guests are welcome to attend our monthly board meetings. Let your voice be heard!





Anne Arundel County Farmers' Market 275 Truman Parkway at Riva Road, Annapolis

Saturdays 7:00 am–Noon April–December Sundays 9:00 am–12:00 pm year round Wednesdays 4:00–7:00 pm



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The Villager will be published at least four times per year. We invite your written and signed contributions of letters, articles, and community notices.

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I wish to join DACA and receive the VILLAGER.	MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE \$20.00 PER PERSON PER YEAR
My check for \$ is enclosed, payable to	DACA for membership for person(s) for year(s).
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ALSO enclosed is my contribution of \$	_ for the Scholarship Fund.
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