



*Civic Association
News and Notes*

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Happy Holidays and Happy 2008! The DCA has been busy with several projects this past year. I will touch upon some of them below:

- **Darnestown Park** – We are closer than we've ever been to getting our park on the books with MCNPPC (Montgomery County National Park & Planning Commission). We will be testifying in support of the park in front of the county council sometime in the beginning of 2008. We will need volunteers to come in person to voice their support. The more voices heard, the more likely the project will get approved! We will alert you when we know the date.
- **Darnestown Village** – There will be more development in the village over the next few years. Property owners Mike Bailey, Eileen Zilvetti and Nick Petrucelli hope to work together to create an aesthetically pleasing and contiguous town center incorporating the already existing brick building that currently houses the 6-12 and other businesses.

- **Zoning and Development** – We have been actively monitoring and working with potential new housing developments.
- **Compliance** – We have worked with several complaints about land use and home businesses.

(Continued on page 3)

**Next
Darnestown Civic
Association Meeting**

**Thursday
December 13 at 7:30 p.m.**
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

**Holiday Tree Lighting,
Dec. 9th (Page 4)**



**Season Ends with
BHR Victory**
(Page 13)



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Editor: Carolyn Thompson
Proofreaders: Vicki Mostrom
Sarah Scherer
Production/Distribution: Lynn Hoffman
Balm ar® Solutions in Print

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Inquiries concerning the Darnestown Civic Association should be directed to Lisa Patterson-Troike (301-548-0999) or mailed to DCA, 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

The Little Acorn will accept letters to the editor for publication. Letters do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors or the DCA. The editors reserve the right to decide if a letter will be published. All letters must be signed and include the author's phone number and address.



!!! DEADLINE !!!

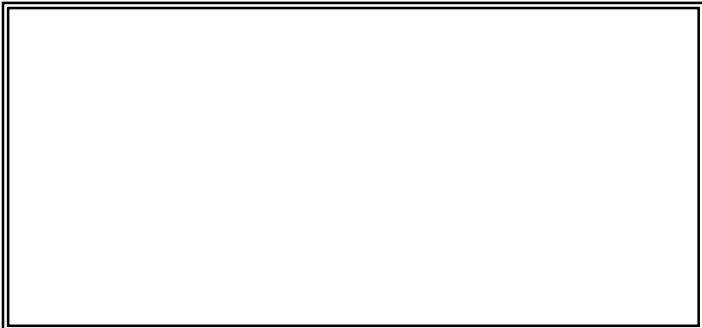
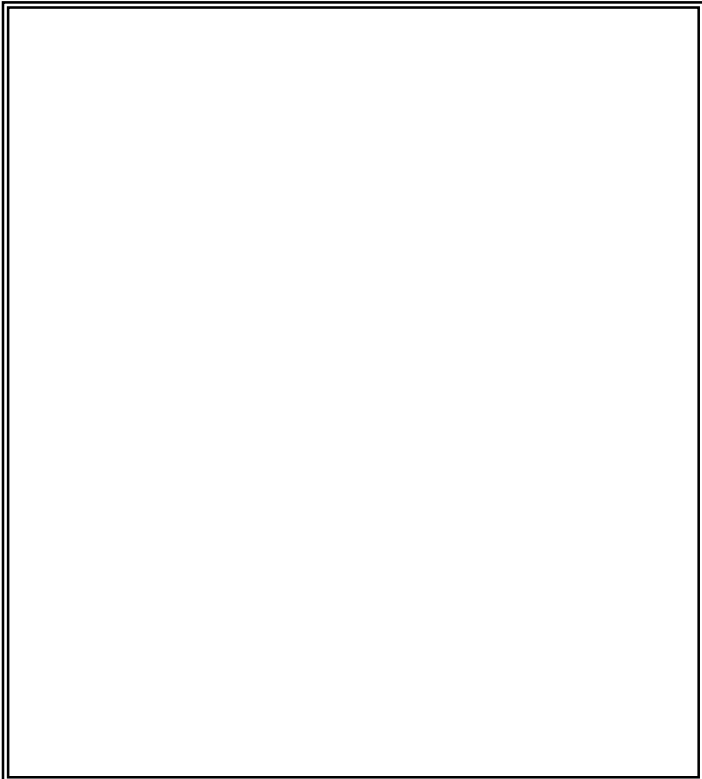
Deadline for the next issue of
The Little Acorn is

February 1, 2008

The deadlines will remain firm.

Articles for The Little Acorn may be mailed to
14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874 OR
E-mail to acorneditor@comcast.net. The editor can be reached
at 240-683-0103.

ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!



MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan Guitar 301-990-8811
Michael Waddell Trombone/Horn 301- 990-6770

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans 301-977-4734
Bruce Deppa 301-963-0567
Tina Kalil 301-948-5364
Frank Mielenz 301-987-7190

(Continued from first page)

Again, these are just a few of the many accomplishments we have had this past year. Our main goal is to protect our community and its residents. Feel free to contact myself or any member of our board for help and/or information.

The DCA would like to thank Mary Stefanelli for her past 5 years as the Little Acorn Editor. Thanks for the great job, Mary! Carolyn Thompson has stepped forward as our new editor. We are very excited to have her on board.

Our annual dues letter went out this fall. Please help us meet our membership goal of 1,000 homes! Your membership dues help us with the many projects that fall on our laps each year. There are several different ways of becoming a member: \$25 member, \$50 friend, or \$100 sponsor. Being a member empowers you to vote at our Town Meetings. If you are interested in becoming a member, please use the form enclosed with the annual dues letter (also available on the back cover of this newsletter). See the DCA Membership Update for more information. Thank you for your support!

Thanks for making this years' Hoedown such a success. I always enjoy getting to know more of our community residents. Keep a look out for our next get-togethers: Holiday Tree Lighting and Spring Social. They are a great, informal way to meet your neighbors and fellow Darnestownians. Have a happy and healthy 2008!

DCA Membership Update

by Guy Armantrout, DCA Treasurer

As most of you know by now, our membership drive for the 2007–2008 fiscal year is well underway. To date, a total of 766 members have signed up, including 89 Friends and 81 Sponsors. Our thanks to all of you who have signed up already!

This year, we have made it even easier to join the DCA. In addition to the tried-and-true check-by-mail method (membership form below), we have also added an on-line payment option to our web site (darnestowncivic.org) for those who prefer the electronic approach.

Either way, we value your membership! If you like The Little Acorn (and who doesn't), DCA membership dues are required for its continued publication. In addition, there are a lot of hard-working folks (all volunteers) who are looking out for your interests in making and keeping Darnestown the kind of place you want for your home. When events occur (and they will) which give you the opportunity to vote or otherwise participate in shaping the future directions for our community, remember that DCA membership is a prerequisite for you to have a voice. And don't forget the Hoedown, the Spring Social, Christmas tree lighting, softball, and other DCA activities!

To join DCA, either go on-line or fill out the form on the back cover of this newsletter and mail to: DCA Membership, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD 20874. For information, call Jean Jurgena at 301-840-1187 or email her at jmjugena@hotmail.com.

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

The **2007 Hoedown** was a huge success! It was a warm and beautiful night until the first group of hayriders got soaked on their hayride around the property. We were worried it might spoil their night of dancing, so the rest of us who were not on the hayride cheered when the tractor pulled in. Every passenger got off the wagon with a huge smile and either went straight to the bar or the dance floor! We were all impressed with their positive attitude! Way to go, hayriders!

Many thanks to Smokey Glen Farm for making our community harvest celebration such a success. The seafood bisque, chicken and ribs with all the fixings,



and smoked pies were delicious! Our dance caller, Mac McCall, was fantastic as always and really “roped” in the western booted dancers. It seemed to be the most naturally talented group I’ve seen in a long time!



Thanks to all of you for making this Hoedown one to remember. See you again next year!



The Darnestown Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Ancient Oak and Darnestown Road. I wonder if ole’ St. Nick will

be able to fit us in his flight plan this year? I’ll send a few letters to the North Pole and see what I can do. Perhaps I should send some reindeer treats too? Music, hot chocolate, cookies and laughs will be provided. Come one, come all!

LPI Proposed Special Exception Application, DCA Town Meeting

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

DCA Town Meeting on September 20, 2007

The main topic of discussion at the meeting was the proposed LPI special exception. A vote was taken: 34 opposed the special exception; 18 were in favor of the special exception. Prior to the vote, The Paddock (Seneca Highlands Homeowners Association) representative asked that the following statement, be read aloud, and included in the official record of the meeting.

More detailed information regarding the meeting can be found in the minutes of the DCA Town

Meeting of September 20, 2007, which will be available online at darnestowncivic.org.

Dear Ms. Patterson-Troiike:

The purpose of this statement is to inform you and the membership of the Darnestown Civic Association of the unanimous position of the Seneca Highlands Homeowners’ Association members regarding the proposed Special Exception for Landscape Properties, Inc., to allow a retail horticultural nursery and a landscape contracting business at the properties located at 13711 and 13721 Darnestown Road.

Seneca Highlands HOA represents all eleven homeowners in the development called The Paddock. The Paddock is one of the closest developments to the properties in question. Our members have reviewed and discussed the proposed Special Exception and strongly believe it is inconsistent with the residential character of our immediate surrounding neighborhood. We unanimously agree that increased commercial use of the properties would adversely impact our quality of life and our home values. We oppose any grant of Special Exception by Montgomery County to the existing zoning laws for the properties, and we urge the DCA to recommend against approval.

We appreciate the opportunity to register our views on this very important matter, and we hope the DCA will support the position of the neighbors in close proximity to the properties in question. Further, we request that this statement be submitted in its entirety to the written minutes of tonight’s proceedings.

Sincerely,

*Clare Cho, President
Seneca Highlands Homeowners’ Association*

Update from the Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

PJM Board Approves PHI’s Proposed 500-Kilovolt Interstate Transmission Line

On October 17, 2007. PJM Interconnection, operator of the Mid-Atlantic power grid, approved

Pepco Holdings, Inc.'s (NYSE: POM) proposal to build a 230-mile interstate power line to enhance electric reliability and improve transmission capacity in one of most heavily congested regions of the country. Approval by PJM's board of managers is a major step forward for this project, allowing an extensive permitting and environmental review process before construction of the approximately \$1 billion transmission line begins. The proposed 500-kilovolt line, known as the Mid-Atlantic Power Pathway (MAPP), will connect Northern Virginia to Maryland, cross the Delmarva Peninsula and link with the power grid in southern New Jersey. It is designed to provide electricity to meet customer demand, now and in the future as each phase of the line is completed over a planned seven-year timetable. By increasing transmission capacity, MAPP also will provide access to more affordable power generation sources for PHI's nearly two million customers, creating an annual savings of about \$125 million. "We are pleased with PJM's decision to approve this proposed transmission line, which will provide the Mid-Atlantic region with an expanded power grid that can meet the rising demand for electricity," said William Gausman, PHI Vice President, Asset Management. "MAPP is necessary not only for the well-being of the Mid-Atlantic region's power grid, but also for every jurisdiction along the line."

A majority of the line will be built along, or adjacent to, existing right-of-way and incorporate environmentally responsible construction techniques. "Our careful planning will include significant community involvement," said Gausman. "We look forward to working with communities during the design, permitting and siting processes to ensure that the construction of MAPP protects the environment and minimizes disruption to residents and businesses along the route," he added. Gausman noted that this line will complement the full range of energy options that are being considered to address future energy demand. "This new transmission line is part of the answer to meet the region's electricity needs. We must also continue to stress the importance of energy conservation and environmentally-responsible new power generation to ensure that the region has a reliable supply of electricity," said Gausman. Demand for power during peak usage times in PHI's

four-state service area is projected to increase by nearly 20 percent over the next 10 years.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board is closely following this proposed project. We have concerns regarding any possible adverse effects on the environment, and in particular, finding out where the proposed routing may impact neighborhoods or environmentally sensitive areas not previously subject to utility right-of-ways. The utility stated that a "majority" of the proposed routing is in existing utility right-of-ways, obviously we will be asking questions to more fully define the proposals and all alternatives, and informing our constituents along the way.

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board represents more than 300,000 residents in the Upcounty area, north of Shady Grove Road and including the communities of Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. The 20-member Board advises the Director of the Upcounty Government Services Center, the County Executive, elected officials, and government staff. It provides input on which services and programs should be provided and how they will be delivered. The Board reviews and comments on the County's capital and operating budgets and master plans; assists with strategies to tailor services to regional needs; and conducts workshops and forums. Some members represent the Board on other ad hoc committees. Members serve three-year terms without compensation. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. We are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural preserve. As a representative representing Darnestown, I am committed to communicating issues of importance to our community up to the County government, and carry news and information back to our community. Questions or comments are always welcome and appreciated. Bob Thompson, 240-683-0103, bob.thompson@comcast.net. Additionally the Board is staffed by the Upcounty Regional Services team. The Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240-777-8000 or via e-mail at upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County Launches Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Web Site

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett announced on October 17, 2007 the launching of the County's web site devoted to the ongoing Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process. The BRAC web site, found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/BRAC, offers updated information on the BRAC process and will enable County residents to access information on moves affecting Montgomery County.

Of particular significance to Montgomery County will be the creation of the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, a consolidation of Army and Navy Medical Centers on the campus of the Bethesda Naval Hospital. The consolidation will bring several thousand new jobs to the Bethesda campus and could double the current outpatient load.

"This web site will give residents – and people across the country – access to information necessary to understand the complex process and effects of the move of the Walter Reed Army Medical Center to Bethesda," said Leggett. "Many people in and outside of Montgomery County need information about the BRAC process in a format that is useful and understandable."

The website enables County residents and others to understand the impact of BRAC on their neighborhoods and provide information on who to contact to make their concerns known. Business owners can find information on contracting opportunities and military and civilian personnel whose jobs are relocating to the area can access information on re-settling.

When completed in 2011, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process – the result of federal legislation enacted in 2005 – will bring thousands of new jobs and residents to Maryland. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the Navy is scheduled for release in late October. The BRAC website will include information on the EIS and how the public can submit comments on it.

In addition to changes at Bethesda Naval Hospital, the relocation of 20,000 new defense jobs to Fort Meade in nearby Anne Arundel County, and changes at the Walter Reed Forest Glen Annex in Silver Spring and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency headquarters in the Glen Echo area of Bethesda will bring new jobs to the region.

For more information, contact Phil Alperson, Montgomery County BRAC Coordinator (240-777-2595 or phil.alperson@montgomerycountymd.gov).

Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board Focuses on Youth Issues for the 2007–2008 Fiscal Year

On behalf of County Executive Isiah Leggett, the Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) and the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) would like to thank the participants of the new "Germantown Positive Youth Development Work Group" who helped kick off the initiative in Germantown on Wednesday, September 26th at the Germantown Library. Their enthusiasm and support set the stage for thoughtful and passionate discussions about our youths' future. More than 60 services providers, county employees, youth, parents, and members of the community attended the first meeting. This very diverse group will continue to focus on: a) opportunities for academic success, job readiness, safe and healthy recreation choices, and effective family supports; b) services and programs that are already in place and available; and c) ways to break barriers faced by youths in accessing programs and opportunities.

The response to this initiative has been great and once again the greater Germantown community has rallied together. The first meeting was spent identifying various issues and concerns facing our youth. Future meetings will focus on data collected and identifying existing resources, developing strategies, and recommending solutions.

Germantown is one of three communities selected to develop community-based collaborations (CBCs), the other two being Wheaton and the Long Branch area of Silver Spring. In general, the CBCs are responsible

for mobilizing and maximizing resources to create vital, quality support and opportunities for youth.

Special thanks to our community leaders, public and private service providers, parents, businesses, faith-based organizations and especially the youth representatives from the Boys and Girls Club of Germantown and Seneca Valley High School for your input, time and efforts thus far!

For more information, please contact Nona Watson at 240-777-8042.

Germantown/Kingsview Fire Station Breaks Ground

Ground broke for the new Fire Station on Route 118 near Richter Farm and Clopper Road in an official ceremony on November 29, 2007. When completed in 2008, the new Germantown/Kingsview Fire Station will help to provide more robust fire and emergency services coverage to the Northern and Western parts of Darnestown, providing assistance to Rockville Station Number 31 near Quince Orchard. In the next five years, as many as six new fire/rescue stations are expected to be built, primarily in the Upcounty communities of Germantown (east and west), Clarksburg, Travilah, Shady Grove, and in the East County along the Route 29 corridor between Burtonsville and White Oak.

Darnestown Heritage Park

by Chris Collins

A Stroll in the Park or As the Park Turns... Those that have followed the progress that our village park has made in the past decade, and most notably in the past year, will be delighted to know that the park development has gained significant momentum towards becoming a reality. On September 6, 2007 DCA Board President Lisa Patterson-Troiike, Chairman Bruce Deppa, Historical Society Representative Greg Clemmer, and I attended the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC) hearing to testify in support of the design and construction of the pending park. A comprehensive presentation was provided by MNCP&P's Heidi Sussmann and her team of park experts, detailing the features and components to be incorporated into the park facility. We were

delighted to witness the unanimous vote from the Planning Board and enthusiastic support for the construction of the facility. The Planning Board's recommendation to send this project to the Montgomery County Council for funding is a significant step toward having the park built.

DCA is working with several Darnestown citizens who may provide donations of building materials and labor for the park components as the town's contribution to the project, with additional funding by Montgomery County. The park is intended to be a partnership of the citizens of Darnestown, MNCPPC, and Montgomery County. The design has been a collaboration between both Darnestown Citizens and MNCPPC through carefully phased development, and brought to fruition by Ms. Sussmann's team.

Our next critical step in the process is testifying in favor of the park before the Montgomery County Council in order to receive funding for the project. It is expected that one evening this February we will be able to voice our support to the Council, DCA Board and citizens alike. We will keep you apprised of the specific time and date of the hearing and encourage your support and participation in such an important step in securing the future of our "Heritage" Park. In the interim we encourage you to write to the County Executive Isiah Leggett and Council President Marilyn Praisner to indicate your support of the park project.

Isiah Leggett

County Executive Office
101 Maryland Ave.
Rockville, MD 20850

Marilyn Praisner

President, Montgomery County Council
101 Monroe Street
Rockville, MD 20850

Save the Date for Luanne Deppa's Retirement Celebration!

by Lauren Bosco

All former and current students of Luanne Deppa (Legget) and their families, please "Save the Date" of Friday, May 30, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. as we cele-



brate and give thanks to Luanne, who is retiring after 35 years of teaching at Darnestown Elementary School! The dinner celebration will take place at the Washingtonian Rio Marriott. We are trying to contact all former students and their families, so please spread the word! We hope you will all attend this special evening to honor Luanne, who has been such a wonderful, creative, fun and caring teacher to the Darnestown Elementary School children and their families. We promise it will be a memorable evening full of reminiscing and laughter (and some tears—Luanne will be missed). Invitations and more information will be forthcoming.

Contact Julia Selwood, by phone (301-840-7157 or 301-963-9312) or by email (julia_a_selwood@mcpssmd.org).

From Our Schools...

Butler School

by Lisa Daly

Separating hydrogen and oxygen atoms from water? Exploding atoms in class? That's exactly what happened recently in an Elementary classroom at Butler School. Two scientists, who are Butler parents, brought in their equipment to show students the power behind separating and colliding atoms.

First, the students acted out the process. They were divided into groups and labeled as "hydrogen" and "oxygen" then two hydrogens joined one oxygen to create "water molecules" (H₂O). Next, "electricity" was introduced and split them into separate atoms.

After the process was acted out with the students, the scientists demonstrated the actual experiment. Electricity from a large battery was used to separate real water into atoms and then the students were able to watch the power that was created as the scientists brought the atoms back together with a small flame and "pop" as the collision took place. The students were spellbound and left with a greater understanding of the concept.

Butler School Intermediate students have started the year with lots of energy and ideas. They are continuing their Composting Program, and started the year by making presentations to the younger

students, explaining how they can put their left over foods to good use and also help save the environment.

Students are also working to rebuild the Bread Oven they constructed last year. Over the summer it sustained some erosion damage and they are anxious to have it in working order so they can include fresh bread in their Community Lunches. Community Lunch is a weekly favorite. Early in the week the students choose the menu, then place the dairy and meat orders with Stone Mountain Creamery, a nearby farm. On Friday mornings, their order is delivered in time for preparation. This spring the Intermediate students plan to use their own produce but until then, they are supporting the local economy by using local, in season, produce. The greenhouse and garden on campus will be a busy place in the coming months. The Intermediate students are planning and preparing a large garden for spring harvest vegetables. The students are tilling the soil and fertilizing with natural products this fall, to be ready to plant the seeds in the spring.

Another group of students is in the process of building a 10' x 10' shed-type structure that will serve as a school store. Preliminary plans for this structure have been approved and the students began preparation for construction during October. In the spirit of the Intermediate "Micro-Economy," profits from the store will help pay for the construction costs as well as supplement the Class Fund.

To learn more about Butler School visit our website www.butlerschool.org or call for more information, 301-977-6600. The Butler School is located at 15951 Germantown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874.

Darnestown Elementary

by Cathy Sharpe

Darnestown Elementary continues its commitment to community service through myriad activities and events. Nearly 300 pounds of food were collected by the PTA and delivered to Manna Food Center, Montgomery County's food bank, which serves nearly 20,000 families. Operating since 1983, Manna distributes food to families, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, group homes, emergency assistance organizations and low income housing projects.

Thanksgiving was made extra special for dozens of families at Gaithersburg Elementary thanks to grocery store gift cards and dozens of food items that DES families contributed. And, as part of the book fair, "One for Books," enabled our school to donate several books to Gaithersburg Elementary and help support a national non-profit in support of reading. Way to go DES!

This month, the SGA is coordinating its annual gift drive for the children of The Dwelling Place. Founded in 1988, The Dwelling Place offers transitional housing, life skills workshops, employment assistance, support networks and other services to homeless families in Upper Montgomery County who are achieving self sufficiency. Please help to make the holidays a little brighter for these youngsters by donating new toys, games or clothing for children of all ages. Gifts, labeled with the appropriate age and sex for its recipient, can be dropped off at the school office through December 7. And, don't worry about wrapping them – students volunteer their time to do that on December 10 using paper and ribbon purchased exclusively for The Dwelling Place by Darnestown families during the recent Innisbrook sale.

Get some holiday shopping done at Barnes & Noble in the Washington Center on December 13, 2007. There will be DES student artwork on display and a performance by the DES chorus. The school will receive a small percentage of sales from each purchase made by a DES family. And if you need to do more shopping without the kids, you can return on December 14 and the school will still benefit.

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events: Bingo/Pizza Night at Northwest High School (Jan. 11), Muffins for Moms (Jan. 16), Winter Concert (Jan. 30), General PTA Membership Meeting (Feb. 5), Family Sock Hop with Staff Raffle, Class Baskets and Art Projects (Feb. 22).

Jones Lane Elementary

by Princina Drazan

The Scholastic Book Fair Blizzard ran at Jones Lane Elementary School (JLES) November 2–9. Posters advertising the Scholastic Book Fair

Blizzard were created by students and displayed throughout the school. The students also enjoyed lots of games and crafts at the Scholastic Book Fair Family Fun Night, held on November 6th. Everyone had a great time.

The students were treated to two Cultural Arts events at JLES. On October 16th, award-winning author and storyteller Dovie Thomason told humorous tales about her Native American ancestry. On November 28th, the students were entertained by the world renowned Luis Gary Percussion World. This multicultural group of professional percussionists performed Latin jazz rhythms (Brazilian and Cuban) and fusion (Latin-Jazz and funk). The students enjoyed this high energy performance as they rocked out to the beats.

Our Sally Foster Fundraising Committee was hugely successfully. This year, the Committee raised more than \$17,000. Almost half of these monies will be used to fund programs that will directly benefit our children.

This year, our JLES students, teachers and parents participated in the International Walk Your Children to School Day event. On October 3rd, crowds of parents gathered at Aberdeen Park and in the neighborhoods of Doe Lane and Buckeye Court to walk together with their children to school. Every child in the school received an item which commemorated this event. This event highlighted the importance of pedestrian safety and the need to take part in some form of physical activity. All in all, the event was a huge success.

The students and their families enjoyed a night of Bingo at Ridgeview Middle School on November 16th. Everyone had a wonderful time nervously hoping that they would eventually get to shout "BINGO." There were lots of prizes and lots of winners. The entire school looks forward to this annual family event.

The year has just started but the staff and PTA at JLES are busy planning many more events that will educate and entertain our students. Stay tuned. We have much more in store for our students to enjoy throughout the year.



Lakelands Park Middle School

by Tassej Mariani

It is the start of the school year at Lakelands Park Middle School and this represents the first year in which there is a class, the 8th grade class, which has been at this new school for all of their middle school years. It is very exciting. So, too, is the fact that there are over 850 students in the school—the largest middle school in the county—and plenty of new changes that have been implemented this year. There are more instrumental music classes, an expanded reading program, a mobile laptop lab, over 25,000 books in the Media Center, and a TV production class taught by a teacher with experience in the television industry. One of the most significant changes is the introduction of Project Based Learning to increase instructional rigor and assist students in understanding and expressing more difficult concepts. Students will be required to take on projects in almost every subject area and on a more frequent basis.

In each of our class years, there is great activity and interesting subjects of study. The eighth graders are learning about public speaking and debate, weather, the development of websites, the American Revolutionary war period, and in English are focusing on how authors use literal and symbolic “journeys” to develop plot, character and theme in novels, poetry and short stories. The 7th grade students are studying political systems and timelines, photo restorations in digital art, and working to increase their time spent on reading. Sixth grade classes are delving into ecosystems, computer animation, Ancient Egypt, much more advanced math concepts and principles of design in art.

Outside of the classroom, LPMS has this year placed a special emphasis on a school-wide program called Bully Busters. This program has been established specifically to prevent teasing and bullying behaviors within the student body. Educational and counseling efforts extend to special activities during Falcon Time (similar to homeroom period), daily announcements, and TV show segments.

Some of the special event activities that are happening this coming season include the annual 6th grade Outdoor Education program and the 7th

grade trip to Medieval Times in Gaithersburg. The Outdoor Education program will be held at The Smith Center and, for the first time, our students will be taking this trip during the cold month of January. The 7th grade trip to Medieval Times, to be taken in early December, is intended to bolster their understanding of life in medieval days, which is the focus in the 7th grade social studies curriculum. For the holiday season, there will be a Winter band and orchestra concert on December 12 and a Winter choral concert on December 19.

There is also much activity on the playing fields at LPMS. And while LPMS is gearing up for the basketball season, during the first semester of school LPMS fielded boys and girls softball teams. Darnestown students on the boy’s softball team included Jimmy Gazda, Joey Sonken, Alex Thompson, Jake Fakler and Jeffrey White. They finished with a 5-1 record. And this year the LPMS cross country team was undefeated in all four of its meets! Once more Darnestown had great representation. The Darnestown students on the team included: Alexis Widmayer, Nicole Huffert, Lauren Martin, Tommy Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Ideen Razhegi, Andrew Ruf, Jim Kazunas, Sean Hanley, Marshall Hairston and Anthony Vivino.

On a final note, congratulations to all our students who excelled academically last school year with special recognition awards. Many students received straight A’s last year in the last quarter and it is not possible to list them all. Recognition is made though to those students who have earned straight-A’s in all four quarters of the 2006-2007 school year: Sarah Agate, Allison Baer, Sarah Beautz, Allison Febrey, Marshall Hairston, Kaitlin Gularson, Christopher Johnson, Meghan Krisko, Anna Mariani, Simon Michnick, Julie Norcross, Jennifer Paul, Derek Ruf, Anthony Vivino, Marianne Zhao.

Additional information about LPMS events and daily activities may be found on the school website www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/lakelandsparkms.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D’Alessio

More straight-As for Darnestown kids—Justin Fakler, who also plays guitar in the jazz band club.

Northwest hosted the first Marching Band Competition held in Montgomery County. High school bands from three counties competed. It was a huge success, so look for it again next fall.

The NWXC (Cross Country) team has a huge pack of Darnestown students: Captains Rebecca Stinner and Kathy Aherne; Junior Captains Nick Gummo and Anna D'Alessio; and teammates Joshua Santangelo, Joseph Santangelo, Bob Norr, Alyssa Henshaw, Kate Allaway, Hillary Seigall, Jillian Hanley, Mary Norr, Corey Norris, Chris Miller, Evan Winger, Corey Norris, Kevin Nguyen, and Daniel Romney.

In Girls Tennis, Kristen Keefer played line 1 singles tennis and co-captained with Tracy Roman who played line 1 doubles. Teammates include Stefanie Zaner and Marlena Juberts.

Soccer teams are represented by Shannon McGuire, Cindy Beard, Katy Lang, Hillary Pegnato, Chelsea Hoggle, Kelsey Hudler, Lauren Michnick, Athina Nungovitch, Maureen McAllister, Kyle DiPeppe and Cody Lang.

Andrew Haberman, Alex Pyser and John Keefer played on the golf team. John Keefer represented Northwest at the states competition.

Mu Alpha Theta, the international Math Honor Society, includes Charter Members Neil Dhillon and Adora Nwankwo, as well as inductees Elise Braun, Anna D'Alessio, Edward Krasniewski, Lauren Michnick, Donna Motabar, Ali Nantz, Kyle Newumann, and Stefanie Zaner.

Alyssa Michnik won first place in the City of Gaithersburg Character Counts essay contest. She has donated half of her prize money to Alzheimer's research in honor of her grandfather, who inspired her essay.

Contact Madeline D'Alessio via e-mail at dalessio@comcast.net.

Ridgeview Middle School

by Teresa Kaczmarek

Ridgeview experienced a smooth "back-to-school" with 750 students attending its 33rd year of educating local students.

Back-to-School Night welcomed over 400 parents. Family Life night was also well-attended. Cross-country and softball teams both had great seasons with lots of fans cheering them on.

This fall, the PTSA held a fall dance, had its first PTSA meeting, and raised funds by selling Sally Foster products. The membership drive continues. Our fall Scholastic Book Fair was one of the best yet. Restaurant nights bring our families out to socialize and dine together.

Outdoor Education for 6th graders was held in November this year at the Smith Center. Eighth graders recently held a team-building day which included the annual banner making among its many activities.

Parent volunteers are in the building daily sharing their time and talent.

Fall and winter bring the Geography Bee, photos, yearbook sales, Greek Day, and the music, band and choral concerts.

Make it a great year for your child!!

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Susie Gooch

TJP's first quarter was a great success, and we're adding new students almost every week! All of our students have performed very well this quarter, both academically and socially. We're so proud of them all. And, we've gone on a variety of very interesting field trips, including a 3rd and 4th grade trip to The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a 2nd grade trip to the historic Beall House in Rockville, and a 6th grade trip to the Olney Theatre to see a production of John Steinbeck's masterpiece *Of Mice and Men*. What a great start!

Michelle Wentz, our Office Manager, and I are both long-time Darnestown residents who love our community, and we are thrilled to be here in Darnestown with our school. Our parents and students love the area as well (of course!). TJP would very much like to contribute to the Darnestown community that we love so much. As a non-profit entity, we'd like to make ourselves available to Quince Orchard and Northwest High School

students who need or would like to earn Student Service Learning hours. And if your Darnestown organization, church or school is hosting a holiday bazaar, craft fair or other event, please be sure to let our office know, as TJP's faculty and families would like to support your event! Call Michelle at 301-330-7550.

We've also joined Harris Teeter's *Together in Education* program. The TIE program allows up to 5 schools to be linked to a single VIC card. Please consider adding TJP's *Together in Education* number, 6326, to your VIC card. We're working toward the purchase of additional and updated playground equipment for our students and to share with the members of our host, the Fairhaven United Methodist Church.

If you'd like to learn more about TJP and our programs, please feel free to visit our website at www.tjprep.org, or contact either Susie or Michelle at wsgooch@comcast.net or mtwentz@comcast.net respectively.

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

December 13th marks the 9th birthday of the Quince Orchard Library. Punch and cake will be served by the Friends and Advisory volunteers to all who come into the library that day. This has become a tradition that everyone enjoys.

Linda Raden, President of the Advisory Committee, would like to hear from those of you willing to volunteer in the Library. The Library has been short-staffed for a long time and would appreciate the help shelving books, books-on-tape, and other library materials. It is a good way to get to know the collection and the librarians.

A new ESL book club has started for those for whom English is a second language. It meets every two months, with the next meeting to be held on December 20 at 1:00 p.m. The book that month is "The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency" by Alexander McCall Smith.

The regular monthly book club has branched out into sometimes accompanying the discussion with delicious refreshments that reflect the book. For

instance, we had black tea and refreshments provided by friends from Sri Lanka to go with Ondatjee's book, "Anil's Ghost," and our Iranian guest arranged a beautiful table of typical cookies and another type of tea with "Digging to America" by Ann Tyler.

A program called Computer Comfort for Seniors is giving hands-on, free computer classes for beginners. The classes take place two Friday mornings a month from October through December.

The Library was thrilled to welcome the Washington National Opera Workshop on November 7 to explore the story and music of Hansel and Gretel with young children and their families. This was a wonderful way to introduce the children to opera.

Book sales are held as usual on the first Saturday of the month.

Darnestown Girl Scouts Participate in Fundraiser for Ugandan Women

by Bridgette Theurer

Girl Scout Troop 3208, comprised primarily of Darnestown middle schoolers, participated earlier this year in a BeadForLife fundraiser. This was an activity which was done to work on their required major service project but which touched them, and others, in so many ways. BeadForLife is a non-profit organization with the mission to help Ugandan women lift themselves and their families out of poverty. These women are taught to make and roll colorful beads out of paper which are then made into necklaces, bracelets and earrings. The jewelry is sold on-line and through BeadForLife parties. The money raised goes directly to the women who have made the jewelry and it gives them a way to earn a living so that they can make a better life for themselves and their children.

The Girl Scouts in Troop 3208 planned, hosted and ran the BeadForLife party in Darnestown last spring. They made and sent invitations to family and friends, prepared food and decorations, displayed the jewelry, sold it to guests and bought jewelry of their own! What made this activity especially meaningful for the Girl Scouts is the fact that the stories of some of the women who would benefit from the party were



told. BeadForLife sent the troop pictures, stories and a video that put a face to the money they were raising and connected the girls to the women they were helping. After the party, each girl wrote a note to the women and also sent them pictures of the party. Many attended the party and a good sum of money was raised for the cause.

For more information about the organization, please visit the website www.BeadForLife.org.

Troop 3208 Leaders

Sharon Miller Bridgette Theurer

Troop 3208 Scouts

Emily Miller	Andy Nearing
Hannah Theurer	Becca Crowley
Emily Bosco	Grace Reichardt
Alex Phifer	Lauren Fakler
Lindsey Tubbs	Allison Febry
Kate Sponberg	

***Darnestown Softball:
BHR Takes Crown***

by Judge Thomas Wheeler



In a thrilling end to this year's Little Acorn softball season, Rollinmead needed only a win from a final Sunday doubleheader on August 12 to achieve at least a share of this year's crown. Rollinmead had been atop the league for most of the season, and sported a 6-1 record going into the big day. Lurking behind them were perennial power Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield ("BHR") at 7-2, and upstart Berryville Seneca at 5-3. In a schedule-maker's dream, the doubleheader match-up had Rollinmead first squaring off with BHR, and then facing Berryville Seneca.

Rollinmead had handled BHR easily on July 22, coasting to a 17-7 victory. The rematch was a different story. Unleashing a line-drive offense to all corners of Darnestown Park, BHR prevailed, 17-8. Leading the way with multi-hit performances were Dave Peoples, Laura Wallerstedt, Kevin Ricci, Hong McGill, Bob Sonken, Steve Groff, and Ed Macias. In the nightcap, Rollinmead struggled in the heat without any reserves and battled Berryville Seneca to a 5-5 tie before darkness set in. The final standings had BHR on top at 8-2, Rollinmead in

second at 6-2-1, and Berryville Seneca in third at 5-3-1. The Little Acorn League has gradually achieved parity over the years, with nearly all games closely contested. This season's tight finish might have been the most dramatic yet.

BHR's consensus MVP is left-fielder Laura Wallerstedt. In a format calling for at least three women in the field and batting order at all times, Laura provides a distinct advantage because she is a better player than most men. Simply put, she does it all. The records reflect that, with Laura in left field, BHR is tough to beat. Without Laura, BHR has a more difficult time.

The Little Acorn League began in 1989, and just completed its 18th year. The League's "Stanley Cup" style trophy is on public display at the entrance way to Harris-Teeter. The League was the brainchild of Steve Ellis, who continues on as Commissioner today, while still ably manning the shortstop position for the Ancient Mountain Quails. On behalf of all league participants, we owe a lot to Steve for what we have today. We'll see you next April!

Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club

by Bev Frey, GANC President

New in town? Not only is moving a lot of work, but it can be lonely and frustrating as you adjust to a new community. You wonder where to shop, how to get involved in activities or simply how to meet other people and build new friendships. Or perhaps you've lived in the area for a while, but because of work, life style changes or other commitments, you have never had the opportunity to meet your neighbors. You're not alone. Your neighbors were once new to the area and took advantage of the Gaithersburg Area Newcomer's Club to become part of the community. Come join us. Through monthly meetings and various special interest groups, GANC offers a variety of activities that are helpful, fun, and entertaining. Our goal is to have newcomers and old comers meet and establish friendships!

The members of GANC recently held a Renoir Picnic, which was a benefit for Manna Food Center. Members dressed in their finest Renoir style clothing, enjoyed a picnic style lunch and donated

non-perishable foods to the food bank. There is a continuing need for food donations in Montgomery County. For more information, please contact Manna Food Center at 301-424-1130.

For more information, please contact Bev Frey at 301-330-6197 or visit www.GEOcities.com/ganCMD.

Pioneer Hills Sunset Cul-de-Sac Party

by Tim Wilson

Over 250 guests enjoyed music and fun at the annual Darnestown event on September 8th. They were entertained by a DJ, live music featuring TJ Callahan, participated in a hotly contested volleyball game and the largest egg toss competition on the east coast. Months of practice paid off for the sure-handed team of Jim Rost and Hong McGill who walked away the big winners of the egg toss.



Largest Egg Toss in the Mid-Atlantic

The kids had fun climbing aboard the Fire Truck provided by the Montgomery County Fire Department. They also enjoyed the fire dog moon bounce, slid down a giant water slide and played relay games highlighted by a whipped cream eating contest won by Francesca Rowe.

In between the music, games and activities, everyone enjoyed Roy Rogers Famous Fried Chicken, and hot dogs and drinks provided by Harris Teeter.

The Bryans, Eldridges, Harrals, Litchfields, Millers, Scherers, Wagners, Winbergs and Wilsons of Pioneer Hills would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions, helping to make our 7th Annual Sunset Cul-de-Sac Party a huge success:

- Harris Teeter
- Roy Rogers Restaurants
- Black Rock Communications
- 6-Twelve Store
- Papa Johns Pizza

Again, many thanks for your help in making this annual Darnestown party a great event.



Ellie and Korin Wilson after the whipped cream eating contest.

Brookmead Neighborhood Block Party

by Carolyn Thompson

The 2007 Brookmead Neighborhood Block Party took place on September 15, an annual event for three years running, thanks to the ambition and leadership of Rebecca Tzou. This event gets bigger and better every year, and has really fostered a close neighborhood feel. It welcomes new families and helps everyone get to know one another better. This year's event included 41 families joining in with delicious pot-luck dishes, music, fun and games, and a parade of kids on their decked-out bicycles.

Places of Worship

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Kentlands Ward
16 Kent Gardens Circle
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878
301-972-4638, 240-631-0796

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Rt. 28 & Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127
www.darnestownpc.org

Fairhaven United Methodist

12801 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-330-5433

Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church

13101 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-8343
www.gcacmd.org

Germantown Baptist Church

1740 Riffle Ford Road
Germantown, MD 20874
301-428-3622
www.germantownbaptist.org

Or Chadash

23 W. Diamond Ave., Suite 203
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-972-6426
www.cong-orchadashmd.org

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-948-5536
www.olvp.org

Poplar Grove Baptist Church

14625 Jones Lane
North Potomac, MD 20878
301-330-5054
www.poplargrovebaptistchurch.org

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

11900 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-3666
www.poplutheran.org

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Worshipping at Darnestown Presbyterian
240-631-2800
www.saintnicks.com

Seneca Community Church

13900 Berryville Road
Germantown, MD 20874
301-869-9326

Temple Beth Ami

14330 Travilah Road
Rockville, MD 20852
301-340-6818
www.bethami.org

Some Seasonal and Practical Info...

Deer Fences Fact Sheet

(Courtesy of Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services)

Deer Fence: A fence that is up to 8 feet high and constructed of an open mesh, heavy weight, plastic or similar materials that allows a clear view through the fence. Mesh size ranges from 1.5 x 1.5 inches to 2 x 2.75 inches. A deer fence may be constructed with wood, metal, or fiberglass posts. Deer fences must be made of the above materials only.

The building line and yard requirements of Chapter 59 do not apply to (1) retaining walls where changes in street grade, width or alignment have

made such structures necessary, (2) deer fencing in all agricultural zones and in the rear and side yards of all other zones, (3) other walls or fences not over 6 ½ feet in height, or (4) deer and other fences not over 8 feet in height if the property is farmed and agriculturally assessed.

Fence height is measured from the lowest level of the ground immediately under the fence. On a corner lot in any residential zone a fence, wall other than a retaining wall, terrace, structure, shrubbery, planting or other obstruction to vision must not have a height greater than 3 feet above the curb level for a distance of 15 feet from the intersection of the front and side street lines. On a corner lot in any residential zone, a deer fence must not be located closer to the street than the face of the building.

Cooler Weather Approaching—Are You Fire Safe?

Time to Check Home Heating Systems and Smoke Alarms

(Courtesy of Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services)

As cool temperatures embrace the Metro area, the men and women of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service offer some safety tips. The fall season and the approaching winter months are typically the busiest time of the year for firefighters. Cooking, home heating systems, heating equipment and associated electrical systems, as well as holiday decorations too close to a heat source continuously are a significant factor in structural fires in Montgomery County. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips and information can help you maintain a fire safe home and business this winter.

- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon build-up. Inspect electrical systems for overloads.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel such as kerosene, coal or propane, for example, produces deadly fumes.

- Keep young children safely away from space heaters, especially when they are wearing nightgowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited. Give space heaters space!

Kitchen Fires. Most kitchen fires occur because food is left unattended on the stove or in the oven. If you must leave the kitchen while cooking, take a spoon or potholder with you to remind you to return to the kitchen. Never cook with loose, dangling sleeves that can ignite easily. Heat cooking oils gradually and use extra caution when deep-frying. If a fire breaks out in a pan, put a lid on the pan. Never throw water on a grease fire. Never use a range or stove to heat your home.

Space Heaters. Buy only Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) approved heaters. Use only the manufacturer's recommended fuel for each heater. Do not use electric space heaters in the bathroom or around other wet areas. Do not dry or store objects on top of your heater. Keep combustibles away from heat sources. Give space heaters space!

Smoking. We prefer that you don't smoke at all, but if you must, don't leave smoking materials unattended. Use "safety ashtrays" with wide lips. Empty all ashtrays into the toilet or a metal container every night before going to bed. Never smoke in bed. Don't smoke when drowsy.

Candles. Keep burning candles out of children's and pet's reach; keep matches and lighters out of sight and locked away. Make sure they are in stable holders. Do not leave candles unattended, especially around children or pets. Do not place candles near draperies or anything that might easily catch fire. Make sure you put out candles when you go to bed or leave the home.

Fireplace Ashes. Remember never discard hot ashes inside or near the home. Place them in a metal container outside and well away from the house. Have your furnace and chimney professionally inspected and cleaned. Chimney tar build-up can ignite your chimney, roof and the whole house.

It is important that all residents know to have a working smoke alarm on each level of a home, have an escape plan, and call the fire department from a safe area, preferably a neighbor's house.

As Winter Arrives, A Clean Chimney Keeps You Safe And Warm!

(Courtesy of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services)

If you have a fireplace or wood-burning stove, you also have a dirty chimney. As wood burns, the combustion process produces solid by-products that build up in your chimney or flue pipe as a black, sticky layer that is highly combustible, and the only way to get rid of it is through regular cleaning.

Chimney cleaning—or sweeping as it's more properly known—is a matter of physically brushing the inside of the chimney to dislodge the built-up material. How often you do this depends in large part on your burning habits: If you habitually damp the fire down and deprive it of oxygen so that it will burn longer, the result is a lot more smoke that contains a far greater amount of partially burnt solids. These solids will build up rapidly, so the chimney will probably require cleaning at least every year. On the other hand, chimneys that see hotter fires that burn the wood more completely may need cleaning less often.

Chimney Sweeps

Chimney cleaning is not a technically difficult task, but it can be physically tiring and even dangerous. Tall chimneys, long ladders, steep roofs and icy fall and winter conditions can make for a hazardous combination. If your chimney needs cleaning but undertaking the work is not your idea of a fun weekend, consider hiring it out to a chimney sweep.

Chimney sweeping is an honored profession that goes back centuries. In fact, some legends suggest that chimney sweeps bring good luck. Today's chimney sweeps are licensed, bonded and insured, and not only have the proper tools for the job, they are also experienced enough to detect potential problems and hazards and bring them to your attention before they result in a house fire.

When looking for a chimney sweep, ask other fireplace owners or fireplace equipment retailers for recommendations, or check the Yellow Pages under "Chimney cleaning." Before having the sweep come

out, contact them by phone and verify license and insurance information, and also request and follow up on a couple of client references.

Typically, chimney sweeps will begin with a physical inspection of your fireplace or wood stove, the chimney or flue pipe, the spark arrester and any other components of the system. If they see any problems, they make specific suggestions for repair, or they may recommend masons, wood stove technicians or other professionals who can assist you with any necessary repairs.

Next, they will cover the interior portion of the fireplace with plastic as necessary to contain any soot and dust that's created during the cleaning process. They will then head up onto the roof and, using a combination of long poles, brushes and scrapers, proceed to thoroughly brush and clean the insides of the chimney.

As the brushing progresses, the hardened material from the chimney breaks off and falls to the bottom. The chimney sweep will usually clean out the inside of the fireplace to remove the dislodged debris, then vacuum up any dust or soot.

Doing It Yourself

Chimney cleaning is also well within the capabilities of most do-it-yourselfers. You will need to arm yourself with one or more chimney brushes of the proper size, as well as poles or ropes to work the brushes through the chimney. The equipment you need can be purchased at most fireplace and woodstove equipment stores, home centers, hardware stores and some other retailers.

When doing the work yourself, take your time, be careful and follow some common sense rules. Use a sturdy ladder of the appropriate size for the job, wear appropriate clothing and slip-resistant footwear and never overextend yourself on the roof. It only takes one slip to result in disaster.

Finally, when cleaning out the fireplace be sure and place the ashes in an airtight container. Even ashes you think are cool can still retain a remarkable amount of heat and can burn right through paper bags, plastic garbage cans, cardboard boxes, etc.



Darnestown Flag Program

We need the community's assistance with our Flag Program. Flags are frequently ruined because tree branches tear them.

We are asking those who have trees where the flag brackets are located to please prune them.

If you find a flag or see problems developing with a flag, like a bracket coming loose or a flag tangled in a tree, please contact Jim Clifford at 301-605-6464.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated!

"It's a Darne Good Cookbook"

**It *REALLY IS* a gift for all occasions
...and the occasions are fast-approaching!**

Okay, surely *SOMEONE* you know could use a culinary crash course...

How about your new daughter-in-law? Sooner or later you're going to have to eat her cooking. You can't put that off indefinitely... Think of your son. But some tried and true recipes could save you from dreading holidays for years to come.

Or how about that friend who is always asked to bring only non-food items to pot-luck dinners... Do you think she doesn't know what that's all about?

These people desperately need your help, so give it to them!

HELP THE CULINARY-IMPAIRED... PURCHASE A DARNE GOOD COOKBOOK TODAY!

Just call any of the following people:

Beth Canale 301-977-2207

Carole DeMinco 301-963-2518

Bruce Deppa 301-963-0567

Julia Selwood 301-963-9312

Cookbooks are now only \$15.00 each (sales tax included)!

Purchase 6 cookbooks or more for only \$14.00 each.

A portion of the profit from the sale of every cookbook will go to benefit breast cancer research.

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association or DCA.



NEWCOMERS

Are You a New Resident of Darnestown?

If you are a new resident of Darnestown, welcome to our neighborhood! The information on this page should be helpful and will introduce you to some things that give Darnestown a sense of community.

The Darnestown Civic Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation originally formed in 1967, which represents the interests of Darnestown area residents in all matters pertaining to the welfare of Darnestown and its residents. The general purposes of the DCA are explained in its bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Payment of annual dues (\$25 per individual or family) enables you to vote on issues during Town Meetings.

The fiscal year of the DCA is July 1 through June 30, and annual dues billing statements are mailed out at the end of June each year, although dues may be paid any time during a given year. Current officers of the DCA are listed in *The Little Acorn*.

Mailing Address:

Darnestown Civic Association
14100 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

Boundaries: Since Darnestown is not incorporated, it has no official boundaries. The activities and focus of the DCA include an area of some 12 square miles, centered approximately at the intersection of Maryland Routes 28 and 112 (Darnestown Road and Seneca Road). Maps are available at Town Meetings.

The Little Acorn newsletter is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December. Its name derives from its origin as a tiny newsletter in the Ancient Oak subdivision more than 20 years ago. Now it is mailed (3rd class) to every residential address that we have in our DCA data base. Volunteers, based on information from membership remittance form and our Welcome Committee, maintain this name and address file. The newsletter should arrive in your mailbox early in each of the above months. If you don't receive an issue, please contact the editor or any DCA officer. Publication of *The Little Acorn* is entirely a volunteer effort except for the printing and mailing.

Town Meetings are held quarterly by the DCA, usually on the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of March, June, September and December in the Fellowship Hall of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church at the intersection of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Road. Meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., but are not called to order until 7:45 to allow some time for meeting neighbors, etc. Each issue of *The Little Acorn* features an announcement about the upcoming Town Meeting.

Annual Meeting and Election of DCA Officers coincide with the Town Meeting in June. Nominations are announced in June edition of *The Little Acorn* in advance of the Annual Meeting in accordance with the bylaws of the GDCA.

Telephone Directory: Every two years, the DCA publishes a directory of residents' names, addresses and phone numbers and mails it to every residential address in our database. To obtain a copy of the Directory, call Sarah Scherer at 240-683-8533 or sarahscherer@comcast.net. They are only available while supplies last.

Organizations, Clubs, Groups, PTAs, etc. provide much of the social interaction that give any area a sense of community. Below are many of Darnestown's organizations:

Barnesville School

21830 Peach Tree Road
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
Jaralyn Hough, Head of School

Boy Scout Troop 1094

Scoutmaster Bud Wildman (301-990-8318)

Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts

Cathy Sharpe (301-519-9520)

Butler School

15951 Germantown Road
Beckie Hardie, Academic Head (301-977-6600)

Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Brooke Carroll, Head of School (301-869-3728)

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Karen Hinrichsen, President
Betsy Kingman, Membership (301-921-1988)

Darnestown Civic Association

14100 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Lisa Patterson Troike, President (301-548-0999)

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
Laura Colgary, Principal (301-840-7157)

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P. O. Box 3574
Darnestown, MD 20885
Alice Kimball, Membership (301-977-4785)

Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter

Membership, Elizabeth Cookson (301-869-6326)

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Carole Sample, Principal (301-840-8160)

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Joseph Sacco, Principal (301-670-1400)

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Michael J. Friel, Principal (301-869-0940)

Quince Orchard Community Library

Quince Orchard Road
240-777-0200

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Road
Germantown, Maryland 20874
Sylvia Morrison, Principal (301-601-4660)

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Mr. Daniel Shea, Principal (301-840-4686)

Ridgeview Middle School

16600 Raven Rock Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Dr. Carol Levine, Principal (301-840-4770)



Darnestown Civic Association Membership Form

Fiscal Year July 1, 2007–June 30, 2008

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association and mail
with this completed form to

DCA Membership, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD 20874

___ Annual Dues \$25

___ Friends \$50

___ Sponsorship \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

___ New Address

___ New to Darnestown

___ Didn't receive notice in mail

or join DCA on-line at www.darnestowncivic.org!

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100 Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

New Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org