

Volume 42, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2006

www.darnestown.net

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Scott Mostrom

In each edition of *The Little Acorn*, I try to use this space to summarize the big issues facing Darnestown and the Darnestown Civic Association (DCA). While there are many important issues and initiatives being worked right now, there are no huge "hot" items. So, I'm going to take advantage of this to talk about something I've wanted to for some time – the behind-the-scenes efforts within the DCA that are lesser known and unnoticed to most in Darnestown.

While we've had many big issues over the past couple years – tackling deer overpopulation, new residential developments, development in our village center, and outer beltway/bridge studies to name just a few – there is perpetual activity to keep the roots of our civic association strong. This doesn't always get communicated in this newsletter, or even discussed in great detail in our town meetings.

I can't begin to name all the individuals and their efforts, but I do want to highlight a few. Many of you may not know Mary Stefanelli, but you know her work. Mary took over the editing of *The Little Acorn* several

NEXT DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday.
March 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this edition . . .

- Annual Spring Social, Wednesday, April 19th
- Harris Tecter coming to Darnestown
- Forest Conservation Cut Down
- Dr. Postel retiring from Darnestown Presbyterian Church
- New principal at Darnestown Elementary School

Notes continued on page 3

The Little Acorn Staff

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Lisa Patterson Social: Tim Wilson Environment: Membership: Jean Jurgena Vicki Mostrom Database: Pam Dubois, Steve Ellis, Zoning & Dev. Review: Charles Neighbor Steve Ellis, Terry Reis Darnestown Village: Scott Mostrom Darnestown Historical Park: Jim Clifford Flag Program: Historical Society Representative: Greg Clemmer Brian McColloni Roads: Joyce McCarthy Trees: Elizabeth Cookson Library: Marsha Crowley Directory: Master Plan: Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis, Gerry Foley. Terry Reis Kelly Bauer, Korin Wilson Welcome: Bruce Deppa, Larry Zoeller Wildlife: Rutlage Brazee Boundaries/Demographics: Joyce McCarthy Publicity: Terry Reis Web Page: Robyn Bryan Monopole: Brian McCollom Survey: Marilee Giebel Trails:

Inquiries concerning the Darnestown Civic Association should be directed to Scott Mostrom (301-330-8290) or mailed to DCA, 14100 Darnestown Road. Darnestown, MD 20874

Softball:

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 have the author's phone number and address.



!!! DEADLINES !!!

Deadline for the next issue of The Little Acorn is

May 1, 2006

The deadlines will remain firm.

Articles for *The Little Acorn* may be mailed to 14100 Darnestown Road. Darnestown, MD 20874 OR

E-mail to **thelittleacorn@comcast.net**. The editor can be reached at 301-869-8079. Please submit text in IBM compatible Word. Please include your name and phone number.

ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!

BABY SITTERS

Christine Bertoneini	age 17	301-990-8252
Vanessa Chazelle	age 13	301-869-8097
Joey Foley	age 17	301-926-6756
Alexa Garfield	age 13	301-921-8290
Jeanie Gordon	age 15	301-869-1921
Emily Gubish*	age 13	301-963-2241
Jenni Hoy	age 16	301-926-6960
Kelsey Hudler*	age 14	301-840-9889
Alexandra Letarte	age 13	301-990-3284
Cassie Nantz*	age 12	301-840-0803
Ashley Nee	age14	301-840-8467
Maire O'Neill	age 16	301-208-0024
Kara Peoples	age 16	301-330-1267
Trish Poulos	Adult	301-208-1007
Catherine Seaman	age 12	301-987-5880
Maggie Smith	age 14	301-869-8364
Carly Stefanelli	age 13	301-990-3633
Andy Surratt	age 12	301-926-3126
Teddy Surratt	age 14	301-926-3126
Grace Wallerstedt*	age 15	301-590-0698
	~	

Call or email the editor if you want to be included in this list.

*Completed Shady Grove babysitting certification program.

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Christine Bertoncini	age 17	301-990-8252
Paul Wm. Buehler	age 13	301-519-9767
Kirk Davis	age 18	301-948-3141
Jeanie Gordon	age 15	301-869-1921

MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan Guitar 301-990-8811

NOTARY SERVICES

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

Steve Ellis

several years ago and does an incredible job of single-handedly pulling together this newsletter four times a year. Many, many hours are spent for each edition coordinating articles from our committee members, editing, and working with the publisher so *The Little Acorn* drops the week prior to our quarterly town meeting.

In almost every Little Acorn we have updates on new development plans, both residential and commercial. For our Zoning & Development Review Committee, there is much more work than just monitoring and providing updates. Steve Ellis. who has led our zoning review efforts for more years than I even know, spends countless hours with developers, neighbors, Well & Septic, Park & Planning, and other county groups to not only size up impacts, but to negotiate important details in the plans and implementation on the behalf of Darnestown. Steve spends so much time down at Park and Planning I'm convinced he has his own office. But the truth is that the relationships that he, Gerry Foley, Bruce Deppa, and Jim Clifford have developed over the years are a big reason we are ahead of new developments and why Darnestown has the ability to help influence an outcome that's successful for us. Pam DuBois and Charles Neighbor are now helping Steve with the lion's share of new activity and learning from his many years of experience.

Steve's work extends to our Village Committee. Along with Terry Reis and the help of neighbors and local business owners on the Committee, the village center continues to be developed with forethought and great supervision. As you probably know, Harris Teeter plans to open later this year (replacing the Food Lion), and the DCA has helped to carve out at least the possibility of a country inn in the future.

Korin Wilson and Kelly Bauer have recently picked up the Welcome Committee, a program that was originally started many years ago by Bruce and Luanne Deppa. Korin and Kelly have worked with local merchants to create a package that includes our Darnestown Directory and *The Little Acorn*,

which they personally deliver to all new residents. With the help of Lisa Patterson, Marsha Crowley, and others, they track all new incoming residents. While this isn't an easy task, it's well worth it to the new residents of our town.

On the other side of these resident changes is Vicki Mostrom, who manages the database of all 1,800 Darnestown homes. Constantly supporting updates and the annual onslaught of dues information, we rely upon Vicki's work for all of our mailings and the content for the bi-annual Darnestown Directory. On the front end of the dues collection process is Jean Jurgena. Jean handles every check that comes in and filters the information out to Chuck Gularson, our Treasurer, and Vicki for data processing.

Marsha Crowley has been responsible for publishing the Directory for more than two decades now, and is in the process of creating the 2006 edition. Using the address information from the database, Marsha coordinates a group of volunteers who perform address validations and proofread to get our listings as perfect as possible. Look for your next Directory this summer and thank Marsha when you see her.

Another area of our growing concern in recent years has been compliance and land use issues. Specifically, we've had many more cases of businesses and uses of residential properties that have not been in compliance with county codes. The DCA is not a Home Owners Association, nor do we want to be one. However, we do have a responsibility to our residents to follow up on practices that may not be compliant and are negatively impacting neighbors. Kurt Karst stepped into this new role a couple years ago and has done a great job of tracking these issues down as they arise. Though these issues aren't often published or discussed at town meetings due to sensitivity, this ongoing work is critical to help maintain the integrity of our neighborhood setting.

Lisa Patterson, our current Vice President, also continues to chair our Social Committee, which she recently picked up from Kathy Ellis. Lisa

coordinates with Smokey Glen on our Spring Social (which is April 19th so please come out!) and our annual fall Hoedown. And, of course, each winter Lisa orchestrates the Christmas tree lighting at Ancient Oak and Route 28.

The Environmental Committee has some new life with Tim Wilson. As a primary focus, Tim has been keeping an eye on activities at the Seneca Creek Wastewater Treatment Center that borders Darnestown and utilizes the waters of Great Seneca Creek.

Finally Chuck Gularson, our Treasurer for more than a decade, continues to keep meticulous books and manages all the financial inflows and outflows. In addition to the daily money management, Chuck supervises the DCA's several CDs and is responsible, with the help of Bruce Deppa, for all regulatory filings and annual taxes.

The list goes on - Elizabeth Cookson who is chair of the Library Committee and our liaison with the Quince Orchard Library, Greg Clemmer who is providing the historical perspective for the planned Darnestown Historical Park, and Farnaz Eivazi and Michael Milbert who have led our website efforts.

I wish I had the room to capture everyone elsc actively engaged in the DCA and playing a role in moving us forward. This includes our residents who simply come out to the town meetings to be informed and provide their two cents. It is all of these efforts, and these people, that keep our civic association running. And, when the big issues do come up, we're ready.

Zoning and Development

by Pam DuBois

The Darnestown Civic Association Zoning and Development Review Committee has been busy monitoring several area developments, which may or may not be in your back yard. Our goal is to ensure that development plans are consistent with county zoning requirements and objectives as well as being compatible with the community.

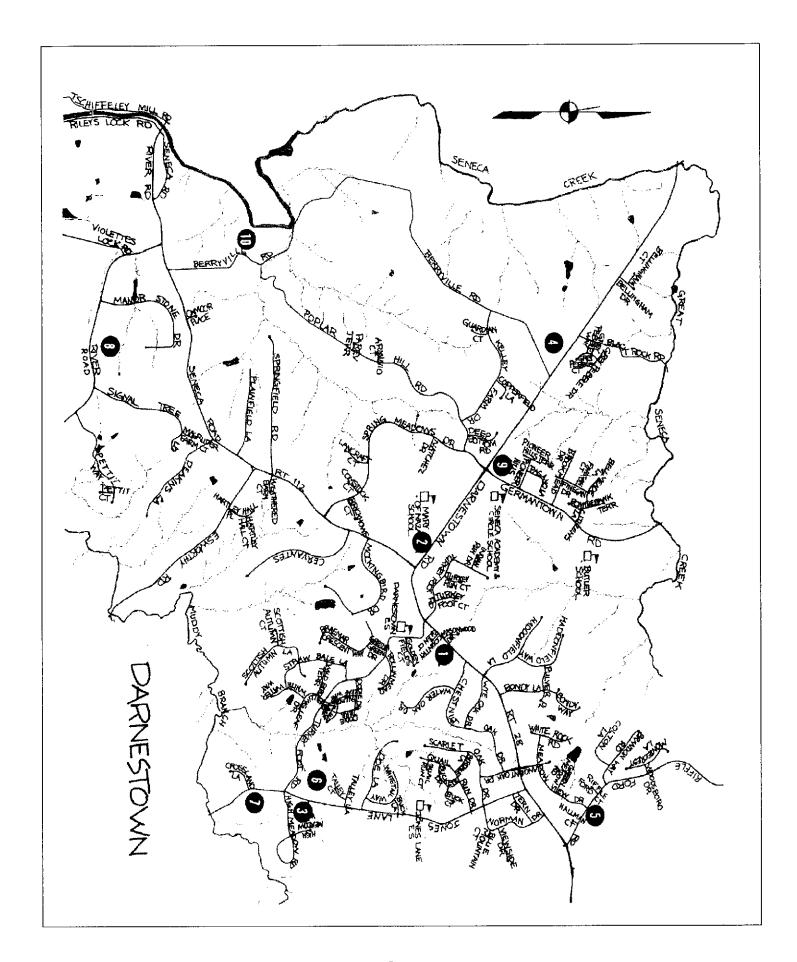
Here is a summary of development activity for 2005 (each property is referenced by number on the map provided):

Pre-Preliminary Plans Submitted to Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission (MNPPC), usually involve site development issues including the number of lots and not a direct zoning change:

- 1. **Schooley** Site at 13700 Darnestown Road. Darnestown Triangle Zone R-200 (1/2acre). The existing 5.89-acre site currently improved with an expanded farmhouse and barn structures will be subdivided and redeveloped into 4 new homes. Access will likely be directly across from Masonwood Drive.
- 2. **Petruccelli's Corner** at 14120 Darnestown Road. The 2.66-acre commercial site is being planned for 10,100 square feet of office and retail (by cell tower). This building may be larger if septic capacity can be purchased from the adjacent Archdiocese property. See Village article.
- 3. Coffman Property on the northwest side of the intersection of Jones Lane, Turkey Foot and High Meadows Road. Zones R-200 & RE-2C. Existing farm and house on 7.4 acres can be subdivided into 4 new homes (6 homes were originally proposed in a prepreliminary plan).
- 4. **Butz** (Homeplace) Property at 15330 Darnestown Road. Rural Cluster zone (5-acre) located on the west side of Berryville Road south of Darnestown Road, this 305-acre farm estate is applying to be subdivided into approximately 60 5-acre residential lots. Actual number of lots will depend on percolation and water table possibilities and compatibility issues.

Preliminary Plans Approved (by MNPPC):

5. **Jennings** Property at 16115 Riffle Ford Road. Zone R-200. This 1.5-acre lot is being split into 2 lots. Existing house to remain. Some protection given to root



- system of large Maple Tree bordering property.
- 6. Roberts Landing is on the northwest side of the intersection of Jones Lane and Turkey Foot Road. This is a 78.4-acre parcel being subdivided into 33 lots that will be developed by NV Homes. Site work has already begun. A County and community bridal/hiking trail will run along the slope above Turkey Foot Branch.
- 7. **Travilah Acres** at 14101-14115 Turkey Foot Road (across from Crossland Lane). Zone RE-2. There are 2 homes currently on this site and the 17.9-acre property can be divided into 6 residential lots for future redevelopment on septic.
- 8. **Pilkerton** Property on the north side of River Road approximately 1,000 feet east of Manor Stone Drive. Zone RC. Existing farmland comprising 48.7 acres is planned to accommodate 9 residential lots. The 60% open space requirement of the zone will be going to several adjacent property owners as non-buildable outlots.
- 9. Clubbs Farm is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Darnestown Road and Route 118. Three homes have been approved for the 19-acre site soon to be under construction now being marketed as Seneca Riding.
- Post Subdivision is located on Berryville Road 300 feet south of Poplar Hill Road. A 7.29-acre can now be separated into two lots.

Finally, bordering Darnestown's eastern boundary, the Hallman Grove property off Fellowship Lane (2nd right off Quince Orchard Road from Darnestown Road) is proposing 12 townhouses and 18 single-family homes on 12.5 acres.

Special Exceptions

There were two special exceptions filed in our area and both were successful. The Metropolitan Washington Orthodox Seniors Housing application at 14124 Seneca Road, part of the Darnestown Town Center, was approved for a 35-unit facility. After much delay the Johnson Family received

permission for their special exception to build a new garden center on approx. 6 acres between the Chevron Station and the Willow Ridge neighborhood. The other 8 acres of the parcel will remain residential with R-200 zoning.

Rezoning denied

Just outside Darnestown on the Potomac Gardens (12024 Darnestown Road) property, a rezoning request from R-200/TDR3 (perhaps a dozen plus houses) to 39 townhomes on the 5.28-acre site was approved by the Planning Board, but denied by the Hearing Examiner. The County Council decides zoning changes. In November, the Council voted 7-2 (Perez and Leventhal the two) to deny the change in zoning which happens to uphold the areas recently approved Master Plan. The local community with their attorneys, and the North Potomac Citizens Assoc. had opposed the zoning change.

Any Darnestown residents with questions and/or concerns regarding zoning and development matters are encouraged to contact this committee as well as anyone interested in helping support these effort going forward.

Village Update

by Steve Ellis

Harris Teeter Update

Richard Sides is the Harris Teeter construction manager for the new Darnestown store. His office is located in North Carolina and he will begin visiting the site regularly after the County has approved their construction plans. He has indicated the following:

- They anticipate or hope for approval by Permitting Services of their plans by mid-February. Construction will commence soon afterward.
- He is willing to meet with a group to go over their plans and operations at that time. We already have copies of most of their plans.
- A store manager has not yet been chosen.

- Harris Teeter has a relationship with Starbucks. There will be a coffee shop area with a few tables near the front of the store.
- The store will open in Fall of 2006.

For more information on Harris Teeter visit their website www.harristeeter.com.

New office building and the Overlay Zone septic issue

The commercial property along Darnestown Road where the cell tower is located may be developed soon. The size (square footage and type of tenants) will be dependent upon septic capacity. The Petruccelli family has submitted to Park & Planning a pre-preliminary plan for a 10,000 sq. ft. building on the property. As currently drawn all septic fields would be located on the site. The old house would be taken down.

Behind the commercial properties on Seneca and Darnestown Roads lies the Archdiocese property. A narrow band of Archdiocese property adjacent to the commercial properties was included in the Darnestown Village Overlay Zone in the recent Master Plan. This land would be used for additional septic capacity for the commercial properties, *if* an agreement can be reached. There cannot be any above ground commercial use on the residentially zoned property. Recent inquiries to the Archdiocese by the Petruccellis' attorney about using some of this septic area have not been fruitful.

Mrs. Elsie Reid is an attorney representing the Catholic Archdiocese property in Darnestown, and she was a participant in the Master Plan Village discussions in 2001. The subject matter at that meeting included three possible Archdiocese projects for their 145-acre parcel. Since I was the primary DCA representative at this meeting, I could only voice what I thought.

A High School, besides the <u>huge</u> septic or sewer extension issue, would be <u>too</u> <u>much</u> for Darnestown. While the prospect of a High School may have some support, I believed that most of the

town would recognize that such a facility would forever adversely change the semi-rural character of Darnestown that so many in the past and present have tried to maintain and defend.

The other two ideas – a moderately sized retreat center and assisted living facility seemed okay to me. This of course is subject to town and board approval. In a recent conversation with Mrs. Reid, she said that their engineers have advised them not to release any septic area until the Archdiocese plans for two possible projects in the future are formed (i.e. a retreat center and assisted living facility). I relayed that these other projects they have in mind or any other building would surely not be located near or on the specific area adjacent to Rt. 28 delineated as part of the Darnestown Village The following letter was recently Overlay Zone. sent to Mrs. Reid and signed by Scott Mostrom and myself.

Re: Darnestown Village Overlay Zone – Petruccelli Property

Dear Mrs. Reid,

As representatives of the Darnestown community, we are requesting a meeting with you and any other persons that you believe would be appropriate to discuss the possible utilization of a portion of the designated septic easement area on the Archdiocese property.

Background

Our community has had a 35-year policy of opposing sewer extension into Darnestown. We believe that the afforded low residential density is best for our area and the adjacent Agricultural Reserve across Seneca Creek. However, the lack of sewer service does restrict the commercial possibilities in the Darnestown Village.

During the recent Master Plan process it was our community's intention to confine the commercial zoning to the existing compact area at the intersection of Seneca and Darnestown Roads. Realizing the limitations of having the septic systems on these relatively small commercial properties, our

Association and Park and Planning staff developed the concept of the Rural (i.e. septic area) Village Overlay Zone. Our purpose was and is to enhance the commercial possibilities within the Village subject to community and DCA approval) by obtaining County permission to use septic capacity on residential property for use by a nearby or adjacent commercial property owner.

Since you were involved in our discussions and the decisions at the time, we only wish to add that we do appreciate the Archdiocese approval of allowing the area behind some of these properties to be included in the Village Overlay Zone.

Impetus

We are prompted to request a meeting by the circumstance that the Petruccellis' are seriously moving ahead to develop their parcel on Rt. 28. By using septic area off site, the development could be larger, more useful to the community, and would expand the possibilities for the building and parking locations.

We look forward to your response, and are willing to discuss other items of interest.

Darnestown Directory

by Marsha Crowley

Many thanks to the advertisers for returning their ads for the new telephone directory so promptly. The printer is in the process of doing the layout for the ads and setting up the cover and front inside pages. There were six full-page advertisers whose names were submitted at the Board meeting on Jan 5th for the drawing for the back pages. The following names were drawn: Lisa Patterson was the winner of the outside back page, F.S.Campbell Heating/Air Conditioning was drawn for the inside back page and Ourisman Automotive for the last page of the booklet.

The deadline for changes to the database to be included in the 2006 Directory is March 1st, so I would imagine that by the time you read this article the deadline will have past. If you have database changes after the deadline, continue to email them

to me to be included in future publications of *The Little Acorn*.

The directory will be published as soon as the database is ready. Jean Jurgena has been collecting the forms that were returned with the dues and is turning them over to Vicki Mostrom to make any changes. In addition I have sent changes that were emailed to me. When Vicki has completed this arduous task, we will submit the database to the printer, proof the galley and then mail the 2006 Darnestown Directory to you.

I imagine you will receive the new directory around the end of March to the middle of April, unless we run into some major database problem. I picked a lovely lavender color for the cover so you will know you have the latest directory.

Proof reading this year will be much more thorough because five wonderful people have volunteered to were numerous mistakes There publication because I actually thought I could proof it by myself. So I am very grateful to Guy Aramatrout, Kelly Bauer, Kelly Cameron, Bobbie Gill. Meredith Morris and Sarah Scherer. If you volunteered and don't see your name or would like email send me volunteer, (mfcrowley777@msn.com). The more people, the less work for everyone.

Membership Update

by Mary Stefanelli

Currently we have 581 Members, 86 Friends, and 81 Sponsors for a total of 748 participating homes.

If you are new to the area or have not had an opportunity to join, please use the form below to become a member.

As a paid member of the Darnestown Civic Association you have the opportunity to participate and vote on issues that impact the community.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Jean Jurgena at 301-840-1187 or jmjurgena@hotmail.com.

Fiscal Year July 1 2005- June 31, 2006 Make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) and mail to: Darnestown Civic Association, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD. 20874			
Annual Dues \$25Friend \$50 Sponsorship \$100			
Name:			
Address:			
Tel#:			
Email:			
New home Didn't Recv in Mail			

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Holiday Tree Lighting

It was a chilly evening with stars shining down Many a child gathered round Hot chocolate and cookies for all, We were having a ball! The tree was lighted with glee, As all snickered tee-hee. Santa arrived in the night, To our greatest delight, Bearing candy canes and smiles, Stepping over the snow piles, We hope he'll come next year, We'll be waiting with good cheer!

Thanks to all who made this year's tree lighting a success! Special thanks goes to Bob Beautz, Denean Bradecamp, and Steve Ellis for helping arrange the lights on the tree.

Also, on April 19 join us for our annual Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. This is a great outing for the entire family.



A Bridge Too F(e)ar

by Bruce Deppa

The recent approval of the environmental impact statement for the Inter-County Connector (ICC) is being hailed by some as a big step toward solving the problem of traffic gridlock in Montgomery County. The proposed (and nearly approved) ICC would connect I-370 with I-95 in Prince George's County. Completion of the ICC would also add a crucial segment of a long-envisioned "outer beltway" around Washington, D.C. The massive interchange at the I-270/I-370 junction was not built to improve access to Metro, it was designed and built as a key element of the outer beltway. The western terminus of the ICC will be I-370, which points southwesterly across the Potomac River toward Virginia routes 7100 and 28, in the vicinity of Dulles Airport. Only two things are needed to connect 7100 and 1-370: a new bridge across the Potomac and a 15-mile highway.

I'm not going to re-hash the pros and cons of either the ICC or the Outer Beltway. What I am going to do is quote directly from my *The Little Acorn* article of April, 2001:

"A new superhighway and bridge connecting I-270 and the Dulles area of Virginia would have a cataclysmic effect on Darnestown. If such a highway were built along the most direct route to I-370, it would either come through the heart of Darnestown or just slightly south of Darnestown. Other suggested routes would bring it northwest of Darnestown. Although its supporters say otherwise, it is inconceivable that such a highway would ever be built without an interchange at its crossing of Darnestown Road.

"Therefore, no matter where the highway might cross the Potomac River, the highway and the interchange at Darnestown Road would either a) destroy a huge piece of Darnestown itself, or b) destroy the peace and tranquility of the area by increasing traffic on Darnestown Road, creating irresistible pressure for new residential and commercial development, forcing the widening of Darnestown Road to at least 4 lanes through

Darnestown, and bringing unprecedented levels of noise, light, air and water pollution to the region."

Darnestown and its residents must remain vigilant and ready to fight again. The "Techway" we heard about so much a few years ago doesn't get much press lately, but that's just because its proponents have been busy fighting for the ICC, knowing that its approval and construction will have to precede a connector into Virginia.

Forest Conservation Easement Cut Down

by Evelyn Ewan

On Sunday, February 5, a crew with a bulldozer cut clear through the back of lot (#8), at 13533 Magruder Farm Court, visible from Seneca Road (Route 112). All the trees in the Forest Conservation easement area were cut down, a corner boundary marker was bulldozed over and moved and the construction crew cut a road into the lot from Seneca Road, which is specifically prohibited on Platt #20250.

The slope from the cleared area angles down to a culvert that goes under Seneca Road and onto our, Valley Mill, campgrounds. From the culvert it goes into a wash area, into the creek and then into our lake

We perceive that our business is threatened. Much of our program, since 1973, centers upon our lake. During Summer Camp we teach canoeing and kayaking to children. Twice before the lake has been damaged by silt from construction sites. The silt is very expensive to remove and can potentially clog the lake causing it to die and become a swamp.

The head of the demolition crew was unwilling to stop, look at the lake or even take my card. He said, "You annoy me lady, go away." On Monday the county building inspector and the inspector from The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) fined the contractor, required them to put up sediment control fences, and close the road from Seneca Road.

Staff at the permitting office concedes that the fines are so low that construction companies sometimes ignore the rules and regard the fines as the "cost of doing business."

MNCPPC is in charge of the forest conservation easement areas and they have informed me that they will require that the contractor survey, signpost and replant the damaged conservation easement area with native trees. This is breaking news on February 13 and I have rewritten the end of this article to eatch up with the latest good news.

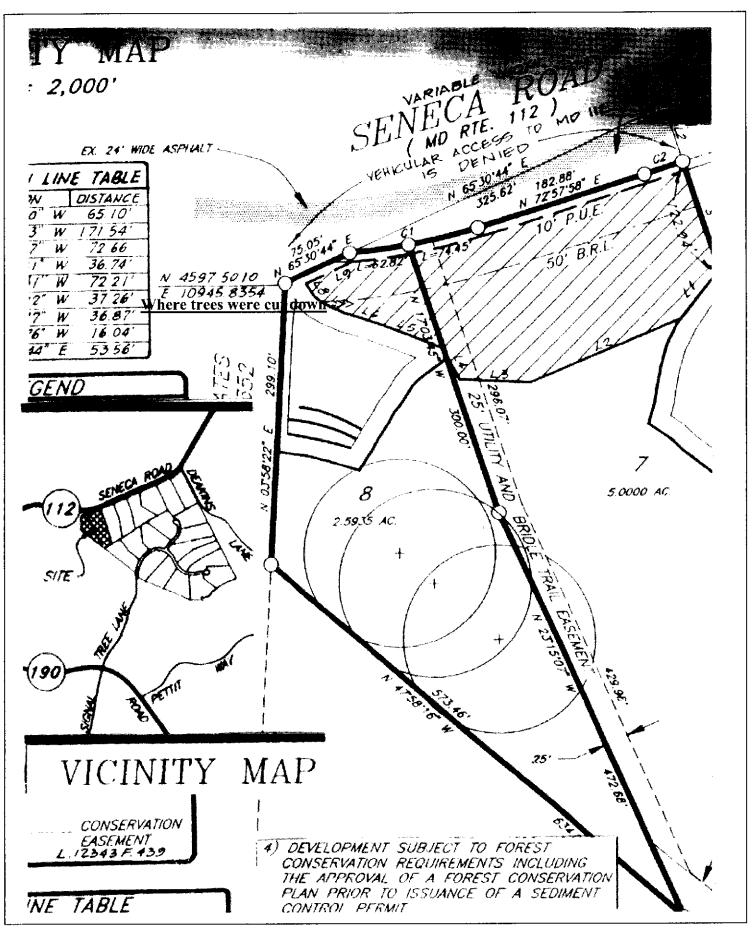
Reforestation is necessary to protect from silt erosion and damaging runoff in the years to come. In the meantime we will keep an eye on the silt movement after heavy rains and snows and do what we can to stabilize the silt barriers currently in place. We will also resurvey our corner and replace the marker.

I have spoken to members of the Darnestown Civic Association and have been heartened with the outpouring of concern and support from our neighbors. I hope that we can get the message out that breaking the rules in Darnestown will not be tolerated.

(Note to Readers: Please contact Tim Wilson at 301-947-8700 or twilson@techarchitects.com for any questions/inquiries regarding environmental issues)

Darnestown Resident Publishes Book on Washington Landmarks

Darnestown resident and award winning nature photographer Bob Mumford has turned his lens away from nature and to the city of Washington, D.C. Rather than hopping on an airplane to far distant lands and exotic critters, his usual focus, he has aimed his camera at some of the most recognizable buildings and monuments in the world that are right in his own backyard. Bob captured the White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol all with spring blossoms.



The images of Washington, D.C. in the book were photographed during the months of March, April and May over the last four years. His book includes 100 of the more than 8,000 images that he made in this project and covers more than 60 sites. Also included in the book are fascinating tidbits of data on the photographed sites, including such facts as the architect's name and when a memorial was completed. The coffee table book entitled "Spring Comes to Washington" is in the process of being printed and will be available around April 1.

You can preview his work, including some of the *Spring Comes to Washington* images, on his web site www.naturalimgs.com. The hardbound book can be ordered through the website or by contacting Bob at 301-948-6813. A \$16.95 pre-publication price is being offered until April 10. After that time the price of the book is \$19.95.

Historic Barns For Sale

Two barns from the Schooley property are for sale. These barns have large beams and hardwood that would be excellent for many uses. Buyer will need to dismantle. Very interested parties only should contact Nick at 301-948-8770.

See following article for more information on the barns' history. Below picture of barn from 1870.

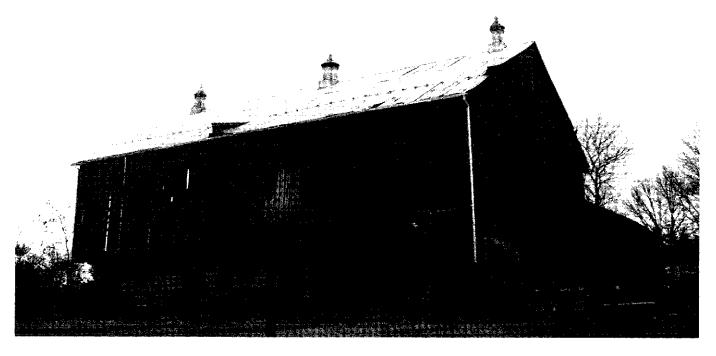
A Bit Of Darnestown History

 $Beall-Bogley-Schooley\ Farm$

(Reprinted from the June 1988 edition of *The Little Acorn*)

The home of the Schooley family sits atop the high ground of Route 28, which runs along a ridge from Quince Orchard to Darnestown. This house is listed on the 1865 and 1879 maps as belonging to Dr. Richard Beall. The Schooley's 5.89-acre property was known to many in the area as the home of Paul and Dorothy Small Bogley. This farm bordered the east side of Route 28 from near Turkeyfoot Road to the rear lot lines of the houses on the north side of Chestnut Oak Drive.

Dr. Richard Beall came to Darnestown in 1827 when he was a young man of 23, after graduating in medicine in Baltimore. He became the physician for the community and practiced here for 52 years. He first set up his office in Darnestown on the main road in a log house – in what, more recently, was known as the Esworthy house (bulldozed in April 1987). But within a few years he married Cecelia Darne, daughter of William Darne, for whom the town was name. They later lived in the Darne Family home on the adjoining lot, which Cecelia inherited. (This house was sketched by Porte



Crayon and was featured on the cover of Harper's magazine in October 1866.)

Soon Dr. Beall, like many others in the town, began to buy land in order to acquire a farm. He first bought in 1834 eight plus acres at the corner of Route 28 and Turkeyfoot Road. Then in 1840 he acquired the 45 acres adjoining. Later in 1843, he bought an additional 107 acres to complete his farm. All three of these tracts were part of the land grant, "Treble Trouble", of 1160 acres issued in 1795 to Samuel Clagett. In 1854 Dr. Beall sold 37 acres (along Wye Oak Drive) to Richard Harper who was Darnestown's wheelright. In 1876 he sold an acre of land on the corner of Route 28 and Turkeyfoot Road to Dr. Thomas Williams who succeeded him as physician for the Darnestown area. Dr. Williams built his home there, which also still stands.

Dr. Beall chose the highest ground on the farm for his house, set back from the main road, but overlooking the Darne farm across the road, which belonged to his wife. Here he built a two-story frame house perhaps in about 1860, although the exact date is uncertain. Dr. Beall probably lived here during his later years.

After Dr. Beall's death in 1879, his heirs, three daughters, sold the farm to George R. Rice for \$1,200. George Rice came from a prosperous and well-known Darnestown family and had served in the Confederate cavalry during the Civil War. He was captured by the Union Army after the battle of Gettysburg and spent the remainder of the war in prison camps. Afterwards he returned to Darnestown and married Elberta Tschiffely, and they had 11 children. The Rice family lived here for only about five years when George decided to return to teaching. They moved to Rockville where he taught at the Rockville Academy. The farm was sold to a cousin, Luther Elgin, for \$4000. In 1903 the Bogley family acquired the farm, now 118 acres, for \$3200.

The Bogleys lived here and farmed the land for 60 years. They raised mixed farm crops of corn, wheat, and hay for many years before switching to a dairy operation in about 1922. In 1963 Paul and Dorothy sold their farm, all but 20 acres, to Ray

Backus, who subdivided the land, built houses, and calld it Ancient Oak West. The remaining 20 acres were retained by the Bogley's for a possible home site for themselves, but most of it is now leased for a horse facility operations. The Bogleys then moved to the Walnut Hill area of Gaithersburg. Frank Stallone purchased the farmhouses, outbuilding and surrounding 5.89 acres from Backus in 1964. And in 1968 the property was bought by Jim and Mary Alice Schooley who have lived there ever since.

The Darnestown Softball League

by Steve Ellis

Darnestown has a coed-recreational slow-pitch adult softball league that plays on Sundays in the late afternoon and evening. Players must reside within the DCA boundaries. Come on and join your neighbors. The league is moderately competitive so some experience and ability is suggested. Oh yeah, and men under 50 years of age must bat opposite their normal side of the plate. We have six teams and they all need players. If you're interested please give Steve Ellis a call at 301-330-0699.

Last year the Western Darnestown team won for the second year in a row. The captains or their representatives should come to the town meeting on March 16th to receive the engraved trophy.

Trash at the field. The Little Acorn league plays softball on Sundays from late April to early August at the Darnestown Local Park on Rt. 28. Jamie Christianson is the supervisor of recreational parks in the upper part of the Montgomery County. Since I am the permit holder of record on Sundays, he called me to say that his maintenance crew had found a large volume of trash at the field on three consecutive Mondays. Were we responsible? I was not there the last Sunday he indicated. So, I sent an email inquiry to the captains about their recollections of the field that last Sunday night in question. Their responses were so good that I passed them on to Mr. Christianson in an email. The following is that e-mail:

Jamie, this is the 17th year for our league on Sunday evenings. We appreciate our local park and honor Cliff Bland. The comments are from the captains of the teams that played last Sunday.

Steve.

I was the last to leave along with the Wheeler's. We cleaned up the dugouts and backstop. All that trash was already at the outhouse. Let Jamie know that a trash can would be beneficial for all.

Brian *

Brian Lang is correct. We were careful to clean up the backstop and dugout areas after the last game. The trash by the outhouse was not ours. With reference to "the last three Mondays," we didn't even play Mother's Day weekend, so that Monday could not have been us. Nevertheless, it's good to have a reminder that we should always try to clean up after ourselves. Compared to other users, I think we do a pretty good job.

There was a huge picnic held at the park this past weekend - I think a birthday party. They were using the softball field when I showed up to setup the field, and they used the pavilion well past the time that both games were over. It's fine for the County to call the permit holders, but the majority of that trash might have been left by Non-permit holders.

Derek *

Tom *

I am in no way attempting to point fingers at anyone, but Sunday afternoon is a big soccer day at the park. I know that whoever plays up there always has some pretty decent picnics during and after the games. My guess it that that's where the majority of the trash comes from. Lynn

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Russ Turner

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club had a hands on workshop with Sarah Von Schrader during December in which they created floral garlands to be incorporated in their holiday decorations. Also, the annual Holiday House Tour was held December 13th. The beautiful decorated homes of Pamela King, Diane Rommey and Joyce Reynders were truly enjoyed by the club.

The January meeting featured Emily Funkhouser from Kentland's Flower and Bows, sharing information on the proper care of houseplants. February brought us Pat Kenny's presentation on the world of Herbs.

Creating a Butterfly Garden

Spring is a good season to create a Butterfly Garden. Creating a garden to attract butterflies is truly a rewarding spring project for gardeners. Of course, the key to attracting butterflies is flowers.

Butterflies are highly attracted to any shade of purple flowers. Pink, blue and red also work well, while light colors such as white and yellow are less attractive to butterflies.

The shape of the flower is also important. Butterflies prefer a long, open-ended trumpet shaped flower, which allows them to obtain nectar with their long tongue.

The Butterfly Bush is the number one shrub needed for a successful butterfly garden. It is available in many colors, but purple shades are best. Glossy Abelia is another shrub which attracts butterflies. This shiny leaved plant produces flowers from June through October and is easy to maintain. Also, Lilacs are another favorite for butterflies.

A favorite perennial of the butterfly is the bright orange Butterfly Weed. Also, Bea Balm and Cardinal Flowers are good choices of perennials for the Butterfly Garden.

Another important aspect of a good Butterfly Garden is shelter. Include at least one large-leafed shrub or small tree, which provides necessary shelter from a passing bird, shower or storm. Hydrangea, Virbunium, Dogwood and Redbud are good choices for providing shelter as well.

Finally, a need for butterflies is moisture. Butterflies do not drink water--instead, they absorb moisture from wet sand, gravel, or clay-like soil. Place a dish or basin on the ground, fill with sand or heavy soil and add just enough water to keep the contents wet. Butterflies will land on the wet soil to absorb the moisture.

So give it a try this spring and enjoy the different species of butterflies visiting your garden throughout the spring and summer season.



Ladies' Night Out!

eal Ribbon Night Play Bunco for Ovarian Cancer

Make a difference...

Roll the dice..

Reduce the risk!

Quality Suites

3 Research Ct, Rockville, MD

Thursday, March 30, 2006 7:00 -10:00pm.

\$ 25.00 per person

Teal Ribbon Night is being organized by Darnestown resident Karlyn Kay in honor of her sister, Kristen Varley. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Teal Ribbon Ovarian Cancer Research Foundation, Inc., a 501 c3 organization raising funds to further Ovarian Cancer research.

* Hors d'oeuvres

* Raffle Drawings

* Music/DJ

* Door Prizes

* Cash Bar





Forms of payment accepted during the event include: Cash/Check

Please clip and submit the following form along with your check (payable to TROCRF) by 3/18/06 to: TROCRF, Inc., PO Box 83015, Gaithersburg, MD 20883 Direct any questions to Karlyn @ 301-990-1567

Name		Phone #	
Reservations for (#)	@ \$25.00 each	Total Amount Enclosed \$	

Friends of Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

Birthdays and Community days flash by and here we are planning the events for another year. The first event was the celebration of the Library's sixth birthday in December with beautiful cake and punch for everyone who visited. The last event will be Community Day, which is set for June 17, each year it gets a little bigger and more entertaining.

Chinese New Year was celebrated with song and dance in January. The Library staff planned Library Lovers Month with two programs entitled "February Brings the Blues". The first concert consisted of renowned local blues musicians Jay Summerour and Warner Williams performing. The second program on February 25 was "Piedmont Blues" with ethnomusicologist and award-winning author Kip Lornell talking about local blues traditions with musical examples.

The Indian Utsav will be coming up April 29. The Utsav is a celebration with Indian music and dancing. Also the Indian restaurants in the area provide delicious food, which is free to all who come through the funding of the Friends of the Library.

The book sales are well attended on the first Saturday of the month. The Library is always happy to receive books for the sale, and you can ask for a tax rebate form for your donation.

Check at the monthly Library calendar for the other programs offered for children and adults.

As always, we invite you to become a Friend of the Library which supports all these programs as well as funding Library requests, such as the need for a television for emergencies so that the staff can be aware and keep track of any important events or local problems that may be unfolding. Don't worry; the staff is far too busy to watch the soaps! In fact, if you have any spare time, we encourage you to write to the County officials to encourage them to keep the libraries open the maximum hours and fill all the staff positions, as well as increase the budget to buy many of the items that the Friends are

purchasing. Tell them how much you love your library.

We are always looking for volunteers for Library programs, the book sale, and help with the Friends Garden, and we are still running our brick campaign, which is a great way to celebrate family and friends.

See you at the Library.

Mother's Day Is A Good Time for A Darne' Good Cookbook

by Mary Stefanelli

It is never too early to start planning a special meal for your Mother's Day celebration. Not sure what to prepare for the special Mother in your life? Purchase *It's A Darne' Good Cookbook* for a tried and truly tasty meal. This cookbook is full of the best recipes in Darnestown. You can purchase the cookbook for \$15.00 including sales tax. To purchase contact one of the following people:

Beth Canale	301-977-2207
Bruce Deppa	301-963-0567
Carole DeMinco	301-963-2518
Julia Selwood	301-963-9312

Dr. Postel To Retire As Darnestown Presbyterian Church Pastor

by Tom Wheeler

After 23-1/2 years as Pastor of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church, Dr. Henry J. (Hank) Postel has decided to retire, effective April 30, 2006. Dr. Postel has been the longest serving Pastor in the history of the Church, founded in 1855. At the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2006, Church members officially approved Dr. Postel's request. Following retirement, Hank and his wife, Susan, plan to relocate to the Richmond, Virginia area. As long-time Darnestown residents, and good friends to many in both Church and community, Hank and Susan will be missed. Dr. Postel will remain in the pulpit through April, delivering the last few of his renowned Sunday sermons.

Under Dr. Postel's leadership, the Church has enjoyed steady membership growth, dramatic expansion of its Christian education and mission programs, as younger families have moved into western Montgomery County. The Church already is working on an appropriate April send-off, honoring Hank and Susan. Church leaders also have laid plans to locate Dr. Postel's successor, something they have not had to do since 1982. The Church anticipates retaining an interim Pastor temporarily through the National Capital Presbytery, to allow time for a Pastoral Search Committee to recommend a new permanent Pastor following Dr. Postel's departure. The existing Church staff, including Associate Pastor Tamara Leonard Lara, Music Director Michael Hooper, Christian Education Director Debra McKune, Facilities Manager Keith Casper, and Administrative Assistant Carole O'Brien, remains intact and is thankful for the opportunity to have worked in ministry with Dr. Postel.

From Our Schools

Butler School

by Lisa Daley

The school commemorated its 35th year anniversary in October with a school-wide surprise birthday party. Everyone in the school received a fabulous red sweatshirt to wear to the celebration. The Intermediate students (having been given a sneak preview) made a wonderful cake during their "cooking expression". They shopped for, baked, and decorated the cake. The students involved were excited and a bit nervous about the part their creation would play in the event. Montessori children care for their community and this was how the Intermediate students wanted to contribute to the celebration.

When the children arrived dressed in their new sweatshirts, they sang "Happy Birthday" with zest. Everyone then watched as the candles on the cake were blown out. After a round of applause and cheers, the gathered crowd enjoyed Birthday Cake.

In Montessori tradition, we have been, "following the child", over the past 35 years and Butler is proud of its own traditions and of its alumnae. Many former students have moved on to do great things, and have so graciously come back to attribute their successes to their education at Butler School. We have former students who attended Loyola, MIT, George Mason, Brown, Amherst, William & Mary, Mount St. Mary's, Hood College, Ohio Wesleyan, University of North Carolina, and so many more. Our former students are teachers and university professors, business managers, geophysicists, CPAs, carpenters, armed forces officers, doctors and nurses, and stay at home moms to name just a few. They live, work, and research all over the world.

We look forward to many more years teaching young children how to learn, to love learning, and to live life to its fullest. To find out more information about Butler School and the Montessori method of teaching and learning, contact us at 301-977-6600.

Darnestown Elementary

by Cathy Sharpe

It's been a busy few months at Darnestown Elementary School.

A special assembly was held to bid Mr. Edmundson a fond farewell and thank him for his dedication to DES these past four years. All of the students sang a special song created just for him and each class presented him with a gift. A highlight of the event was a slide show of images of Mr. Edmundson with staff and students that brought tears and laughter to many who were there. His letter to the DES community can be seen in this issue. We wish him continued success as he opens the new Germantown elementary school.

DES is pleased to welcome Acting Principal Cynthia Duranko. Born in Uniontown, PA and raised in Rockville, MD, Ms. Duranko is a graduate of the MCPS system. She has been an educator for more than 21 years. Prior to joining the DES family, Ms. Duranko was a principal intern at Rolling Terrace Elementary School in Tacoma

Park. She also served one year as assistant principal at Flower Hill Elementary School in Gaithersburg. Ms. Duranko has extensive elementary and middle school classroom experience and also served as a middle school interdisciplinary resource teacher and consulting teacher from the Office of Staff Development. In her free time, she enjoys visiting friends and family, playing golf and watching her daughter perform in the marching and symphonic bands at Damascus High School.

Ms. Duranko answered a few questions in which she shared her philosophies on elementary education and goals for DES:

How would you characterize your approach to elementary education?

The elementary years are a time for parents and school to work together to build a firm foundation for life-long learning. This foundation requires strong academic content as well as the development of learning skills. School staff bears a critical responsibility for of critical thinking. developing skills organization, perseverance, pride, and reflection in addition to teaching the elementary content In a time when knowledge is information. boundless, I believe that schools must provide students with the tools for accessing and evaluating information.

What, or who, inspired you to pursue a career in education? Do you have a role model?

I have many role models who inspired me in different ways. Most of these role models are not famous people, but rather family and friends who encouraged and believed in me; who showed me the importance of conviction and compassion.

How does your time as a classroom teacher influence you in your career as an administrator?

Having taught both elementary and middle school in a variety of settings, I have an understanding of the challenges teachers face and a perspective of what skills students need to have acquired before leaving elementary school.

What are your goals for DES?

My most immediate goal for DES is to keep things moving forward. Our current School Improvement Plan focuses on building and maintaining a strong balanced literacy program. I am currently working with the school leadership to evaluate our progress on meeting this goal, and determining where to set our sights for the future.

What do you think are the biggest challenges in elementary education these days?

I think one of the greatest challenges is to ensure that rigor exists for every child, every day.



Ms. Cynthia Duranko

In other school news, DES staff said a big thank you to Larrie Waldron who retired after 40 years at DES as a building services worker and to Para-Educator Diane Dorelle who retired after 21 years at DES.







Mary of Nazareth School Presents

A Night in Black and White



Katie Fitzgerald Youth Recreation Center, Darnestown

Join your family, friends, and neighbors for a fun evening out – right in the neighborhood!

Dinner, cash bar, live and silent auctions, raffles, entertainment!

Tickets are \$50.00 in advance. Order forms are available on our website, www.maryofnazareth.org

For answers to your questions, to place an ad in our program, or to make a donation to our auction, please check the website or call the Development Office at (301) 869-0940 extension 5.

Thank you for your support!

The 4th and 5th grade choirs brought the "Big Easy" to Darnestown at the Winter Concert with their "Songs of New Orleans." Instrumental ensembles also performed a number of wonderful pieces.

No one went hungry at "Muffins for Moms" and "Donuts for Dads." As always, these annual events were fun ways for parents, grandparents and even aunts and uncles to jump-start their day with students.

The fifth graders experienced life as a colonial child during "Colonial Day." The students had an opportunity to do everything from writing with quill pens and sealing their letters with wax and making medicine with dried snails, chalk and live worms to pounding designs on tin crafts and learning the art of quilting with Judith Keane.

Families and staff traveled around the world last The second annual month in the DES gym! International Night was a wonderful opportunity to learn about China, Germany, Greece, Guyana, India, Israel, Italy, Madagascar, Scotland, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago. There were displays of arts and crafts, musical instruments, photos, currency and dozens of other items from each country. Visitors had their International Night passports stamped at each "country" and received a prize at the "United Nations" table upon completion. In addition, families shared their favorite international desserts and enjoyed "the world of music" by Nada Brahma, a professional band; a tae kwon do demonstration by Tigermasters University; Irish dancing by the Taelin School of Irish Dance and a reading of poems by advanced DES FLES Spanish students. And of course, students crossed their fingers and toes hoping they would win one of the fabulous staff raffle offerings.

This annual raffle – always a favorite of staff and families – included: principal for the morning and lunch with Ms. Duranko; pizza party with the first and second grade teachers Mrs. Nottingham, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Betten, Mrs. Gibbons and Ms. O'Dwyer; a day at the zoo with Mrs. Hill; 100 of Mrs. Sekuler's famous chocolate chunk oatmeal or chocolate chunk toffec cookies; dessert with Mrs. Adelman and Ms. Hartle after enjoying lunch

together; pizza lunch with the 3rd grade team of Mrs. Aguirre, Mrs. Diamond and Ms. Wisner; lunch at Fuddrucker's with 4th grade teachers Mrs. Fawley and Mrs. Smith; bowling and dinner with 4th grade teacher Mr. Thompson; 5th grade teacher for the day from Mrs. Deppa's, Mrs. Waechter's and Mrs. Wareham's classes; Color Me Mine with Mrs. Traub and Ms. Vigliotta; tie-dye t-shirts and dinner with Mrs. Koehn and Miss Koehn; night out at Color Me Mine and pizza with Mrs. Covey, Mrs. Foringer, Mrs. Lowry, Mrs. Nantz, Mrs. Seay-Katz and Ms. Whitely; and a fused glass class with Mrs. Graber. Congratulations to all of the winners!

The annual DES gala and fundraiser being held at the Gaithersburg Marriott on Friday, March 10 promises to be a magical evening. There will be a buffet dinner, dancing and a live and silent auction. Dozens of DES staff and families have donated a number of exciting items for bid including lunch and principal for the afternoon with Ms. Duranko; gather around the grill dinner for six friends; voice lesson; front row parking spaces for three selected school events; three firefighter experiences; just to name a few. No doubt many people will be competing for all of the great items up for bid. And the best part about it – the money raised will be used for educational supplies and programs at DES.

Next month, students will don their aprons, goggles and microscopes and lots of basic household items to demonstrate dozens of amazing experiments for the DES Science Expo. Proving that science is fun and exciting, students will no doubt amaze their parents, friends and teachers with everything from weather patterns and environmental phenomena to physics, anatomy and botany.

Mark your calendars for the annual DES Talent Show being held at Northwest High School on Friday, May 19. Auditions will be held next month. And you'll want to make a note of:

- Smokey Glen Picnic on May 23
- DES showcase on May 31
- Kindergarten graduation on June 12
- 5th grade graduation on June 13

Principal Greg Edmundson Says Goodbye

The following letter from the outgoing principal of Darnestown Elementary School was sent to all DES parents and students, and is reprinted here with permission from Mr. Edmundson.

January 10, 2006

Dear DES Community,

I am writing with mixed emotions to let you know that, at today's MCPS Board of Education meeting, I was appointed as the principal of the new Northwest Elementary School #7 being built in Germantown. This position change is effective Monday, January 23, 2006. My last day at DES will be Friday, January 20, 2006.

It is a difficult thought for me to leave Darnestown, as I have enjoyed incredible success these past four years as your principal. My family and I have gained great friendships and I have grown personally and professionally from the kindness and sincere approach each of you have toward children. The DES staff is, without a doubt, the most focused, caring, and skilled group of people I have ever had the pleasure of working with, and my future goals will include building a learning community using the mold established here many years ago.

Opening a new school is a special opportunity offered to few principals. I am very proud to be offered this position and feel privileged to be considered for such a challenge. I am mindful of the trust granted with such a task and thank each of you for the roles you have played in preparing me for this opportunity. Together we have learned from one another and have grown for the sake of children. My appointment is a tribute to each member of this community who believed that children were the center of our work and that DES could continue to improve each and every day. Darnestown is a very caring community that has lived up to my vision of providing every child, every day, with opportunities to feel valued, respected, and challenged. I will always hold this community and the people here very close to my heart.

Details regarding an interim principal to finish the remainder of this school year will be communicated soon. I will work closely with our Community Superintendent, Dr. LaVerne Kimball, to ensure a smooth transition throughout this process, and I am confident she will continue to support the needs of DES, as she has all along.

I am grateful for your endless support, and wish you continued success as a National Blue Ribbon School.

Warmly,

Gregory S. Edmundson Principal

Jones Lane Elementary

by Diane Schmid

We are entering a new year with many accomplishments and a good number of fun activities on the horizon. In the next few months the PTA will support Jones Lane Elementary School's Community Night Out at Potomac Pizza, Science Night, Destination Imagination, Rock Hop and Turn Off TV Week.

In November, Jones Lane held its Annual Scholastic Book Fair. It was a record-breaking year and more books were sold than ever before. I would like to thank Becky Wolfe, Kerri Moyer and Gail Stabo for the fabulous job they did putting together this event. The time and energy put into coordinating this program is mind-boggling!! We are so fortunate to have such dedicated volunteers.

In December Jones Lane Elementary School kicked off the Take a Flake Program. By participating in this program Jones Lane families and staff are given the opportunity to adopt other community families who are in need. We are pleased to announce that due to the generosity of our families and staff, hundreds of children received needed gifts. A big thanks go out to everyone who participated, especially Jennifer Ehlers, the JLES counselor, for coordinating this program.

The Jones Lane PTA also sponsored a Winter Clothing Campaign to benefit Jones Lane and its sister school, Glen Haven Elementary School. Jones Lane Community Service Co-Chairs, Jean Huber and Kate Steinwandel, report that it was a well-received success. Glen Haven's School Counselor, Beth Cygnarowicz, said that "one morning I gave four students jackets, hats and mittens in a thirty minute time period!". Our goal is to help the kids understand their role as good citizens and the importance of sharing with others. We hope that this is a habit that these kids will continue to practice in the future.

Jones Lane Elementary School students participated in the National PTA's "Reflections" program this year, creating art, literature, photography and music based on the theme, "I Wonder Why....". Students from each grade were encouraged to participate, submitting their work for review by independent judges. Those recognized on the school level move on to countywide competition, with the chance to advance to state competition later in the year. The student artists created variety of pieces and featured such topics as "Why do people litter?". Jones Lane had 47 Reflections entries this year. Several of our children's pieces will now be forwarded for county level review. We congratulate them and wish them luck at the next level!!

A big thanks goes out to 2nd Grade teacher, Christina Jenkins, who presented the first PTA sponsored Parent Program of the year. On January 25th she gave a presentation on "Preparing Our Students for Today's Assessments". She outlined to parents what type of assessments our kids have and how to help prepare for them at home. She gave parents a great list of resources to tap into and ideas on how to help with testing anxiety.

The Jones Lane PTA Cultural Arts Program is well underway. Our students were treated to the first program on Friday, November 4th. The children were entertained by mime Mark Jaster and also treated to a presentation by the Wild Zappers. Two

more programs are scheduled in the spring.



by Tassey Mariani

The second half of the first semester at our new middle school, Lakelands Park, proved to be a very busy. Students in rotational electives or courses, such as Art and Physical Education, moved to new subjects and new teachers – always a challenge! But as that was happening there were many other activities to also draw their attention and keep the days interesting.

Social activities for the new school started energetically during the past few months. There were family nights and fireside chats, a student dance, book fair and several PTSA meetings. The first pizza and bingo night was held in November and was a huge success with over 200 students, parents, and staff participating. All game boards were quickly scooped up, most by students eager to have some fun with their principal and teachers who were marvelous as bingo "callers". The Student Government Association's [SGA] bake sale was also a great success that night.

One of the most exciting events to occur was the Winter Concert and Art show on December 8th. This particular concert was quite different because both the orchestra and bands played that night, and the 6th and 7th grade choral groups performed as well. Prior to these performances there was an art show of student work in the school hallways and digital computer lab. So many Darnestown students performed and were represented in the art show that it is impossible to list individual names, but the performances and artistic endeavors were great! The evening ended with a full house sing-along during which songs such as La Bamba, Draydell, and Jingle Bells was sung by all. Unfortunately, this will be a one time only joint event of the music and art departments; so many people attended that we were at risk of violating fire codes for permissible attendee numbers at this type of function.

Also in December, our 6th grade students marked the start of a new LPMS tradition – Greek Day. Students used standard white sheets to create a traditional Greek garment called a "chiton". In

order to more fully understand ancient Greek culture and teachings, the students were these garments throughout the school day and participated in various interdisciplinary activities in each of their classrooms. A catered lunch with authentic Greek food was also provided and was most certainly a highlight of the students' day.

On the physical education and sports front, it is now possible to report that the main gymnasium was completed in November and is quite impressive with the school name and logo emblazoned in the wooden floor. There is now the full complement of athletic facilities available to the students as the locker rooms; auxiliary gymnasiums and weight room were all also completed. The basketball season is underway and LPMS is able to field both a girls and boys team. Soccer season will soon also begin and LPMS will again field both girls and boys team. Tryouts for 7th graders will start March 14.

One of the more popular extracurricular clubs is the drama club. Students have already joined and it has been announced that the Spring musical will be "The Trial of the Big Bad Wolf". Cast auditions were held in early February. Keep an eye out for announcements regarding performance dates, as there are sure to be many Darnestown students involved in this production.

Finally, there are two other events currently being prepared for the LPMS community and which Mr. Sacco, LPMS' principal, sponsors. The first is Ethnic Awareness night, which is intended to promote cultural understanding, and sensitivity in order to heighten appreciation of varied cultures. The students' academic work at this time will also incorporate cultural diversity and awareness.

The second major event recently announced was the start of Mr. Sacco's innovative Adult University. The Parent College program [within the University] attempts to identify and provide courses and workshops on issues important to the parenting of adolescents. The initial course focused on technology and internet security. The program will be furthered developed with more course offered during the 2006-2007 school year that will offer such subjects as adolescent behavior and

development, the parent-child relationship, preparing for high school, dealing with family changes and crises, and critical discussions on drugs, gangs, bullying and violence that may surround the middle school student.

In conclusion, I would like to make an addition to the list of students previously reported on as peer mediators. A family recently located to Darnestown, the Gularson's, did write to let me know that their daughter, Kaitlin, was also selected to be a 6th grade peer mediator. Congratulations to Kaitlin on this important recognition!

Note: I will continue to write about LPMS in future issues of The Little Acorn and if you would like to have certain news or student achievements or activities included, please feel free to contact me at tmariani@comcast.netT. Additional information about LPMS events and daily activities may be found on the school website www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/lakelandsparkms.

Mary of Nazareth

History Comes to Life at "Wax Museum" by Megan Shapiro and Caroline Zottl, sixth grade

On Friday, the 16th of December, Mrs. Matesa's sixth grade language arts classes presented their wax museum projects. The students researched, wrote a report, and memorized their speech. The also dressed up as the person they were portraying. The siblings in the elementary school got a chance to visit the museum, which was set up in the music room. The whole middle school took part in grading the presenters on memorization, eye contact and voice. The students researched historical people such as Lewis and Clark, Neil Armstrong, Sacajawea, George W. Bush, Elvis Presely and many more.

Students, teachers, and parents got to go and visit the wax museum. The audience had a wonderful time learning about historical people.

Mr. Friel says, "I was most impressed with the amount of preparation that went into each speech. The children did an amazing job giving eye contact,

memorizing their lines and maintaining an appropriate tone." Ms. Benson, who also helped the students with their projects, states, "I was extremely impressed by all of the hard work and dedication shown by the students in 6-1 and 6-2. I thought it was a very creative way for the students to give oral presentations and learn about history."

First School Reunion

by Christine Priznar

Although in its twelfth year, Mary of Nazareth School has experienced another "first" in a long succession of "firsts." The Inaugural Alumni Reunion for students, families, faculty and staff was held on December 30, 2005 at the Katie Fitzgerald Youth Recreation Center adjacent to the school. Each of the six graduating classes (2000-2005) was represented at the reunion along with current and former faculty and staff. Smiles, exclamations of surprise, and laughter were continuous as everyone enjoyed good company, plenty of memories and a simple dinner. Comments from our alumni included: "This was awesome!" "It was fun to see friends!" "MON Rocks!"

Four of the attending graduated classes, years 2000 through 2003, began at Mary of Nazareth School in 1994, when it was the first Catholic elementary school to open in the Archdiocese of Washington in 30 years. At that time these students were in Kindergarten through third grade and were schooled in a converted farm barn. These groups of graduates, along with the students of the Class of 2004, were the first to move into a newly constructed building. The class of 2000 was the first class to graduate and the class of 2003 was the first class to be educated at Mary of Nazareth School from Kindergarten through eighth grade. The class of 2004 was the first to graduate from the new middle school wing; even though they spent only a few weeks in the new facility! The class of 2005 was the first to be educated entirely in the "new" building.

Our alumni want to come back!! Based upon a brief survey, the majority of alumni attending the Reunion want to meet every one to two years. They also want to return right where they started, in the

school/gym to catch up on all the news. God bless all our graduates!

Eleventh Annual Benefit Auction

by Christine Priznar

Join the Mary of Nazareth School community for "A Night in Black & White - An April Fools Benefit Auction" on April 1, 2006. The gala will be held at the Katie Fitzgerald Youth Recreation Center at 13129 Seneca Rd from 6:00 to 11:30 pm. The evening includes silent and live auctions, raffles, games of chance, and a full buffet dinner and cash The proceeds of the benefit support the students at Mary of Nazareth School. A special thank you to the Darnestown area merchants who have supported our event. Donation and advertising forms are available on the school's website: www.maryofnazareth.org. Everyone is welcome to attend and tickets may be purchased at the door.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

Senior Ulysses research projects were presented on January 9th. Darnestown participants and topics included: Kristen Abbott "Gluten Free in the Free State--Being a Celiac in Maryland", Joe Braun -- "The Green Stadium Project", Margaret Mariani -- "Fragile This End Up: Writing the Play"

Ulysses Project freshman Edward Krasniewski won first place for Northwest High School at the Final Frontiers Science Competition at Wootton High School. His winning entry was a micro-mass tower made of quarters, tape, and Xerox paper. The Final Frontiers Competition is a yearly event sponsored by the Maryland Space Business Roundtable to encourage students to design and create devices using space-related engineering.

The Northwest Equestrian Club competed at an Interschool Horse Show. High point earners were Betsy Stephan who earned two ribbons and a medal. She won a Blue Ribbon in her jumping class, riding her horse, Topper. She won a ribbon in each of the three classes in which she participated.

In addition, Christine Bertoncini and Suz Cornelsen both had beautiful rides. Congratulations, riders.

At the Fall Sports Awards Night, many of our players and coaches were recognized for excellence on and off the field. 191 student-athletes received the state's "Minds in Motion Award". This award goes to student-athletes who earn at least a 3.25 GPA while they are participating in a sport. 48% of the fall sports student-athletes earned this award.

Rebecca Stinner came in 14th in the state for Girls Cross Country and was selected for the All Gazette Cross Country Team.

The Northwest Chess Team continues to earn its reputation by winning all three categories in the Riderwood tournament. Led by Captain Stefano Nungavitch and including Eric Wisnieski, Anna D'Alessio and Frances Jeffrey-Coker. They will be competing at the Nationals in April.

AP Scholar Awards - 42 students at Northwest have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams.

Two students qualified for the National AP scholar Award by carning an average grade of four or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken and grades of four or higher on eight or more of these exams including Matthew McAllister.

Thirty-two students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams. Darnestown students include: Stephanie Aaron, Joshua Balsam, Rujuta Pandya, Matthew McAllister, Alexandra Seaman and Rebecca Handel.

Eighteen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of three or higher on four or more of these exams including Cara Anderson.

Of this year's award recipients at Northwest, 28 were still sophomores or juniors when earning the award, giving them at least another year to complete college-level work and potentially earn another AP Scholar Award. Darnestown underclassmen included Raphael Chazelle, Cara Anderson, Margaret Mariani, and Hannah Debelius.

Please join us for the Northwest spring musical, the Broadway production of "The Wiz". This Tony Award winning musical is one of the most popular musicals performed professionally and by high schools everywhere. The audience will feast on all of it's favorite characters and story with a modern twist; such as a dancing yellow brick road, a house that spins, a tin man that does hip hop, Emerald City that will sparkle beyond belief, and characters who songs and dances will bring any audience to tears, laughter and hope. Don't miss the spectacular show!! Darnestown participants include:

Cast: Amy Farhood, Madeline Jimerson, Brad Irish, Elyssa Bosco, Eric Wisniewski, Hannah Debelius, Katie Saulsbury, Lindsay Der, Megan Schaeffer, and Theresa Dipeppe. Pit Orchestra: Stefanie Zaner.

The Wiz at the Northwest Auditorium

March 24	7:30 PM
March 25	7:30 PM
March 26	2:00 PM
March 31	7:30 PM
April 1	7:30 PM

Seneca Academy and The Circle School by Jodi Thurmond

Many classes at Seneca Academy demonstrated their sense of community by becoming involved in the work of WUMCO during the holidays. Classes sponsored families and provided gifts and food to brighten the season. After holiday break, students returned to school to begin their academic studies and to perform in the annual Winter Concert held at Black Rock. Both instrumental and vocal music was performed by the students and enjoyed by families and friends.

The inaugural hike of the Seneca Walking Club was

held on February 1. A circuit was established inside the school and classes were challenged to set a goal of a location and then "walk" to that location. Each student records the distance walked and receives a reward when the goal is attained. Seneca's students are striving to become more physically fit this year and will move to an outside circuit when spring arrives. With seven acres in our schoolyard habitat, we can truly "go the distance." The annual Adult Social and Auction will raise funds for additional physical fitness equipment to be installed in the play area as part of this school-wide objective. Current and former families as well as local residents are invited to attend. Call the office for further information.

Students have been busy completing many long-range projects. Fourth graders culminated their study of Native Americans by presenting the Darnestown version of the Native American Museum. Dressed in authentic replica clothing, students presented oral reports and displayed the written reports and dioramas. Some students even offered native foods they had prepared. Meanwhile, kindergartners studied Alaska and produced a line graph comparing temperatures in Darnestown with selected cities in Alaska. They are also constructed a milk-jug igloo to simulate the historical dwelling of the Inuits. A comparative study of wildlife in Alaska and Maryland completed the unit.

Two other long-term projects were evidenced in the school. Third graders made three-dimensional models of a state in the United States and presented written reports about their chosen state and the second graders cooperatively constructed a large model of the Darnestown area complete with the graveyard at Darnestown Presbyterian Church and our own school. Our school motto of "Turning Experience Into Knowledge" was apparent all over the building.

Registration is in progress for preschool-8th grade. Many former Circle School families are surprised to learn we now offer the same high quality program for students beyond preschool. We welcome inquiries about our elementary and intermediate classes.

Places of Worship

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

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

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

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

Gatihersburg Chinese Alliance Church

13101 Darnestown Road Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-869-8343

Germantown Baptist Church

1740 Riffle Ford Road Germantown, MD 20874 301-428-3622

Or Chadash

23 W. Diamond Ave., Suite 203 Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-972-6426

Our Lady of the Visitation

14139 Seneca Road Darnestown, MD 20874 301-948-5536

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

11900 Darnestown Road Gaithersburg, MD 20878 301-869-3666

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Worshipping at Darnestown Presbyterian 240-631-2800

Seneca Community Church

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

Temple Beth Ami

14330 Travilah Road Rockville, MD 20852 301-340-6818

NEWCOMERS

Are You a New Resident of Darnestown?

If you are a new resident of Damestown, welcome to our neighborhood! The information on this page should be helpful and will introduce you to some things that give Damestown 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. This name and address file is maintained by volunteers, based on information from our block captains, from our annual billing statement returns and from any information that we receive from the neighborhoods. The newsletter should arrive in your mailbox early in each of the above months. If you don't receive an issue, please contact the editors 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 *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 Marsha Crowley at 301-840-9428. 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 P.O. Box 404 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

Cheryl Rowe, Academic Head (301-977-6600)

Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Road Darnestown, MD 20874

Jodi Thurmond, Head of School (301-869-3728)

Cub Scout Pack 1094

Gordon Bodnar (240-632-0018)/Mike Joyce (301-926-0526)

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Peggy Thomas, President

Betsy Kingman, Membership (301-921-1988)

Darnestown Civic Association

14100 Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Scott Mostrom, President (301-330-8290)

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Road

Darnestown, MD 20878

Cynthia Duranko, Principal (301-840-7157)

Elaine Rial, PTA President

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)

Diane Semid, PTA President

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Mr. Michael J. Friel, Principal (301-869-0940)

Quince Orchard Community Library

Quince Orchard Road

240-777-0200

National Capital Trap and Skeet Club

Riffleford Road, Between Rtes 28 and 118

(301-948-2266)

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Road

Germantown, Maryland 20874

Sylvia Morrison, Principal (301-601-4660)

Mark Cantwell, PTSA President

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)

Suc Gordon, PTSA President

The Darnestown Civic Association

Presents the 7thAnnual
"Spring Social"
A Community Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception

Generously Hosted & Sponsored by

Smokey Glen Farm

Wed. April 19th, 2006 From 6 - 8 PM, RAIN OR SHINE

At Smokey Glen Farm's Main Pavilion Area
World Famous Barbequed Chicken with all of the trimmings
Refreshments Served
There is no charge - Bring your family, but
You must **RSVP by Friday, April 7th**To DCA's Social Chairman, Lisa Patterson Troike
At (301) 548-0999 or e-mail to: lisaapatterson@aol.com

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc. 14100 Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874

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Darnestown Neighbor 14801 Springfield Rd Darnestown, MD 20874-3419

