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THE LITTLE ACORN

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

Volume 42, Number 3

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 2006

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

I am honored and excited to be President of the Darnestown Civic Association! I have lived in Darnestown since 1998 and wild horses couldn't drag me away. Darnestown is really a special place, and I'm not just saying that. The people are "real" people. How to describe that is hard, but if you have befriended some Darnestownians, you would know what I mean. I moved here because it reminded me of where I grew up, upstate New York, 20 miles from the Canadian border. Granted, the weather is warmer here, but the landscape and people are very similar. Where else in the DC metropolitan area can you find a place like this?

I started with the DCA back in 2000 when the bridge to Virginia threats was heating up. Living on Esworthy Road, several of the crossings sliced right through the middle of our road. I met Bruce Deppa at one of these meetings and really hit it off. I called then DCA President Terry Reis and asked how I could help. He said they needed a recording secretary. I jumped at the chance not knowing how much work was actually

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NEXT DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING

Thursday
September 21 at 7:30 p.m.
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

PEPCO Speaker

**Come on down to the Hoedown!
Friday, October 13**



**For Dancing, Hayrides and Lots
of Fun**

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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 have the author's phone number and address.



!!! DEADLINE !!!

Deadline for the next issue of
The Little Acorn is

November 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.

ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!

BABY SITTERS

Christine Bertoncini	age 17	301-990-8252
Vanessa Chazelle	age 14	301-869-8097
Joey Foley	age 17	301-926-6756
Alexa Garfield	age 13	301-921-8290
Jeanie Gordon	age 17	301-869-1921
Emily Gubish*	age 14	301-963-2241
Jenni Hoy	age 16	301-926-6960
Kelsey Hudler *	age 14	301-840-9889
Marlena Juperts	age 15	301-869-3127
Alexandra Letarte	age 13	301-990-3284
Kassie Nantz*	age 13	301-840-0803
Ashley Nee	age 14	301-840-8467
Maire O'Neill	age 16	301-208-0024
Kara Peoples	age 16	301-330-1267
Katie Pohl	age 12	301-926-8818
Trish Poulos	Adult	301-208-1007
Maggie Smith	age 14	301-869-8364
Carly Stefanelli	age 14	301-990-3633
Andy Surratt	age 12	301-926-3126
Teddy Surratt	age 14	301-926-3126
Grace Wallerstedt*	age 15	301-590-0698

*Completed babysitting certification program.

MOTHER'S HELPER

Claire Pohl	age 10	301-926-8818
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PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Christine Bertoncini	age 17	301-990-8252
Paul Wm. Buehler	age 13	301-519-9767
Vanessa Chazelle	age 14	301-869-8097
Jeanie Gordon	age 17	301-869-1921
Marlena Juperts	age 15	301-869-3127

MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan	Guitar	301-990-8811
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NOTARY SERVICES

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

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involved with the position. But that didn't matter. Watching, learning, and getting to know the folks involved in the DCA and actually realizing that one voice can make a difference here in Montgomery County. I have renewed my faith in our state and county government agencies. Who would have thought that I would be elected President of the DCA six years later and be on a first name basis with our senator, Rob Garagiola?

Darnestown's town center is rapidly changing. With the opening of Harris Teeter and future plans for a neighborhood restaurant, adult living center, and office/retail building, now would be a great time to get involved! We are actively working with Department of Natural Resources to help control the deer population and some areas are already noticing a difference. The DCA is also investigating deer baiting stations that roll tick medicine on the ears and face of deer while they feed. There are numerous other projects in the works, which will be discussed in this and future issues of *The Little Acorn*."

I know we are all overloaded with work, kids, volunteering, sports, etc.; but I encourage you to come to one of our board meetings. You will meet some of the most interesting and caring people who have helped shape, protect, and manage Darnestown's progress. Some for well over 25 years! With Montgomery County still going through population expansion, there will always be pressure on Darnestown, and therefore, volunteers are always needed. Again, just come on out to one of our meetings and meet the crew. There might just be something that interests you and you'll get the DCA "bug!"

Public Safety

by Mary Stefanelli

PEPCO will have a representative coming to our Town meeting on Thursday, September 21 at 7:30 pm.

The representative will be speaking about:

- Emergency preparedness

- Service reliability

They will also bring materials on energy conservation.

This will be a good opportunity to discuss what can be done to address the frequent power outages we experience in Darnestown.

Roads Committee-Needs Your Help

by Mary Stefanelli

The Roads Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the committee issues. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Brian McCollom at brian@mccollomconsulting.com or 301-963-0239.

Village Committee

by Steve Ellis

There seems to be a good deal of positive anticipation for the opening of the Harris Teeter this October or November. At the June town meeting there was some discussion as to whether or not the HT could receive an off premises beer and wine license. At that meeting District 15 senator Rob Garagiola said he would help make it possible through legislation if it could be done, and if the town and HT wanted to pursue it. We looked into this idea and found out the following primarily from Dennis Theoharis, the Executive Director of the Board of Licensing Commissioners in Montgomery County:

- It used to be that a grocery chain could have one store that sold beer and wine: such as the Giant in White Oak, Shoppers on the Great Seneca Highway, etc.
- About 25 or more years ago the state of Maryland passed a law that no grocery chain could obtain a license, but those that already had one would be grandfathered. This license can be purchased when the store is bought by another grocery chain. It can also be transferred to a different location, which explains how the Shoppers has one. The

rationale for the restriction is to protect the smaller independent operators.

- Anne Arundel County was recently granted an exception by the state legislature for a particular area.
- The Harris Teeter representative indicated that they certainly would desire a beer and wine license, but if only one were possible, a planned Rockville Pike location would have been their choice.

We have concluded that a wine and beer selection at the HT is not going to happen.

Some disappointments linger in the development of the Village from my perspective. While it was fortuitous that Ben Sarfarazi and his partners purchased parcel 641, the restaurant site, they do not have sufficient capital to initiate a solid plan. Ben is looking for a partner or partners or a winning lottery ticket to help finance his dream of a restaurant in Darnestown. I think there was a group of 12 that reopened the Comus Inn.

Also the Archdiocese was not willing to sell a half-acre of septic capacity for the eventual Petrucci office/retail building where the old house and cell tower are located. Under the regulations for the rural village center, the floor area ratio (FAR) for a commercial building is limited to FAR 0.2. This is computed only on the area of the underlying commercially zoned portion of the site. Subtracting the highway right of way the site is approx. 80,000 sq. ft. Thus, the size of the building can be no greater than $80k \times .2 = 16,000$ sq. ft. As reference, the existing building on the corner is about 7,000 and the Harris Teeter is 43,000.

It was hoped that the building would be constructed to enable an upper addition. Some day when the full 16,000 sq. ft. or less may be needed, it could be achieved with such an addition. The septic area on the lot is constrained by the cell tower base, the storm water management-holding tank and sand pit for the adjacent parking lot, and the low area on the western portion of the lot. Without the extra capacity from the neighboring Archdiocese site the size of the building will be limited to 9-10,000 sq. ft.

So why does it matter what the size is? First, the current DCA members, and hopefully our successors, will continue to hold the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan as our guide. This means among other things that DCA will oppose any new properties in the Village from becoming commercially rezoned. This policy should last at least 16 years and possibly many more depending on the guidance in the next Master Plan.

Second, it is our belief that our existing commercial properties should be developed close to the maximum as long as the community or a majority approve of the ideas put forth. This, of course, is going to be limited by the FAR 0.2 requirements and septic capacity. Aside from the Petrucci property, there remains about 3 acres of C-1 area along the west side of Seneca Road. Mike Bailey and the rest by the Zilvetti family own about half. They may not wish to redevelop their properties for some time. We know of no such plans at present. We do anticipate that the Darnestown Village area will be built out at some point, and hopefully, it will have enough office and retail space to adequately and successfully accommodate our future citizens and passing visitors. By maximizing the commercially zoned portions of the Village, we hope to give our future citizens a better chance to resist and defeat demands for more commercially zoned enterprises in Darnestown, with the approval of the community at that time.

We asked Jean Cryor's office, one of our State delegates, to compose a letter to the State Highway Administration. The request was for state engineers to meet with DCA representatives about what can be done to slow traffic through the Village area. Jean's letter prompted a quick response from the SHA. We are hoping to initiate some minor changes that will aid in slowing traffic. With the opening of the Harris Teeter we anticipate increased auto and pedestrian activity in the Village. During the recent Master Plan there was a proposal for a traffic circle at either Seneca Road and Rt. 28 or Rt. 28 and Turkey Foot. The purpose was to define, beautify and slow traffic in the town center. More recent discussions of a traffic circle have been met

with the overall conclusion that it would be impractical.

Did you notice the 4 x 8 foot green and white political sign in front of the Harris Teeter site? The large sign was supported by several 2 x 4s with stakes; kind of obnoxious, particularly the wording "SICK OF TRAFFIC". Did the message imply the widening of Darnestown road to four lanes through Darnestown? Bruce Deppa called candidate Silverman about the meaning. One of his campaign managers explained that it was a generic sign that was being put up throughout the County and they did not mean to suggest any implications for our main street. We requested that the SHA remove the sign from the state highway right-of-way. They dutifully dismantled the structure within a couple of days and left it on the ground. We assume that the Silverman campaign retrieved the sign and lumber soon thereafter.

Website Update

by Mary Stefanelli

Its official! The new Darnestown Civic Association website www.darnestowncivic.org is live. Any information regarding the Darnestown Civic Association or Darnestown as a community can be found on our new website.

Please take a few minutes to look at the website and let us know what you think. We will be updating and changing information on a regular basis so if you have ideas on things to be added or corrected, please feel free to email them to me at thelittleacorn@comcast.net.

Zoning and Development Review Committee

by Pam DuBois and Steve Ellis

The DCA Zoning and Development Review Committee have been busy monitoring two properties this summer. Preliminary site plans were recently submitted to Maryland National Parks and Planning Commission:

1. **Miller Property** at 13635 Darnestown Road. This property has no frontage along Darnestown Road and is situated behind the Paddocks subdivision and between the Turkey Foot and Indian Run cul-de-sacs (Seneca Highlands) and the Seneca State Park and the Haddonfield common area along the Colonial Pipeline Easement. The 15.7 acre parcel is zoned RC (5 acres). Guelda Miller purchased it last year from Gerald Christner reportedly for \$600,000. The site plan submitted had three dedicated lots but without any street frontage, County regulations will likely only permit two lots. Road access to the proposed homes has many complications; including, ingress/egress easements from a landowner in the Paddock, traversing the gas easement, dealing with a stream crossing and flood plan, environment preservation issues, and property slope and grade issues.
2. **Butz (Homeplace) Property** at 15330 Darnestown Road. This RC zoned property is located on the west side of Berryville Road south of Darnestown Road and currently functions as a 258+ acre farm estate. Subdivision plans illustrate 45 residential lots on approximately 94 acres so the average lot size is slightly more than 2 acres. However, lot sizes range from 1.42 to 4+ acres. The remaining 145 acres is rural open space, which includes stream valleys and forested areas. Access to 41 planned homes will be directly across from Black Rock Road and there is a planned 4 home cul-de-sac across from Bellingham Drive. When the original pre-preliminary plan was submitted in 2002, the development was also accessible from Berryville Road. Berryville road citizens requested that access be denied due to the current amount of traffic on the road and its Exceptional Rustic Road designation. The Butz family recognized this legitimate concern, and eliminated that access.

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.

Montgomery County Upper County Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

The 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 Villiage, 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, meeting certain Monday evenings of every month and occasionally on Saturdays. Members are expected to serve on at least one subcommittee, which meets approximately one evening every month on its own schedule. I have been appointed representative to the board from Darnestown, and 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. Please contact me at Bob.Thompson@comcast.net or 240-683-0103.

Poolesville Dump Still Open

by Steve Ellis

Just riding out to the dump through our scenic western Darnestown and Ag. Reserve area is a treat. All of the experienced appreciate that wonderful empty load feeling as they leave the gate. The new rules have disappointed many in Darnestown.

Below seems to be a very good explanation of why this has happened. The following information was taken with permission from Councilmember Mike Knapp's newsletter. Any italics and bolding are mine.

As of July 1, the Poolesville Beauty Spot is accepting only bulk trash – up to 499 pounds – motor oil, and antifreeze, and will no longer be accepting yard trim and scrap metal. These materials are considered recyclables, and therefore will now be collected curbside by the County. The decision by the Department of Public Works and Transportation – which oversees the Beauty Spots in Poolesville and Damascus in the Upcounty – met with mixed reviews from area residents. Some residents applauded the decision, citing the reduction in the long lines that often snaked away from the Beauty Spot's Jerusalem Road location; on the other hand, some area farmers – who often discarded large amounts of organic material, such as trees and brush – expressed concerns both about their ability to bag large amounts of material for curbside removal, as well as about the ability of the County and the Town of Poolesville to remove it all.

Daniel Locke, the Chief of the Division of Solid Waste Services says that:

"When the Beauty Spots were opened over 20 years ago, they were intended as a place for residents with private trash service to drop off bulk trash items and to also hopefully have a positive impact on illegal dumping in the rural parts of the County. Back then, yard trim and scrap metal were both considered trash, but got reclassified as recyclables in the mid-1990s. At that point, they were no longer acceptable for disposal via a Beauty Spot".

"In 2004, residents in the Poolesville area contacted the Division of Solid Waste Services complaining about the long lines entering the facility. Many residents felt that the lines were caused by out-of-county users, but survey work by the Solid Waste Service's field staff revealed that the percentage of out-of-county users was less than 2%, and that the long lines were caused by residents bringing in huge quantities of yard trim and brush. This material was

generally being boxed up and trucked out of the facility with the trash (*meaning that the material was incinerated*) and not being recycled. Also the volume of material coming in is so great that Highway Services had to dedicate several workers all week long handling the material. This impacted the operational capabilities of the site due to space being taken up with yard trim, and the loss of personnel work hours.

"Since curbside collection of yard trim and scrap metal is provided both by the County and the Town of Poolesville, there is no reason to have yard trim and scrap metal enter the facility, and possibly not get recycled. Residents in Damascus and Poolesville who have oversized yard trim, or choose not to package their material for curbside collection may still bring it to the Shady Grove Transfer Station, like residents with large lots from other parts of the County, like those in Potomac, Bethesda, and Burtonsville do."

Upcounty farmer, Wade Butler, a member of the County's Agricultural Advisory Committee, expressed the committee's concern about removal of large amounts of trim, and asked for an exemption for Certified Agricultural Producers. Solid Waste Services denied such an exemption. An exemption, Chief Locke said, "does not solve the problem of the volume of material entering the facility and its impact on Highway Services. It also affects our ability to ensure the recyclables are recycled and goes against the long-standing policy of not accepting commercial waste at the Beauty Spot." Solid Waste Services has begun more intense monitoring of back roads and open spaces surrounding Poolesville to determine if this decision, to prohibit yard waste and scrap metal from being dumped, is encouraging illicit dumping instead. If you see anyone dumping - or spot dumped materials please report it to Solid Waste Service at 240-777-6410.

This new policy will be reviewed periodically.



Darnestown Directory

by Marsha Crowley

The new updated Darnestown Directory was mailed to Darnestown residents in June. If you did not receive the 2006 directory, please contact me at mfcrowley777@msn.com or 301-840-9428 and I send you one and confirm your address.

In the directory we use the information submitted on your membership form. If this information is not correct, please email the correct information to Vicki Mostrom at mvmostrom@comcast.net so we can update our records.

Please make the following corrections:

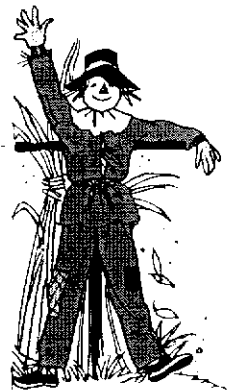
- Jim and Linda Sartain: correct telephone number is 301-527-8530
- Tina Petzold: should read Charlie and Tina Petzold
- Dan and Colleen Venable: new telephone number is 301-258-1326
- L Rosenberg is the correct spelling

Add: Barbara Jones, 15100 Spring Meadows Dr.
301-977-7078

Agricultural Reserve

by Andrea Arnold

Autumn is a wonderful time to visit rural Montgomery. Pick-your-own orchards have abundant crops of apples and pumpkins, the leaves around Sugarloaf Mountain are turning brilliant colors and many local farms have fall festivals that are ideal for families looking to spend a day in the country. During the month of October, the exhibit "Rustic Roads: A Journey Through the Montgomery County Ag Reserve" will be on display at the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown. Please join us for an opening reception and awards ceremony on October 7th at 5pm.



For more information on fall events in the Ag Reserve, ways to get involved (including becoming a Friend of the Ag Reserve) and information on and photos of Montgomery County farmland, please visit www.ruralmontgomery.org.

Under Ground – Septic Fields

by Steve Ellis

Sewer service has been an overriding issue in Darnestown since the first farm was subdivided in the late 1950's. The large lots would not have happened if sewer service were available.

Some people want, even need, a relatively large lot. Darnestown residents, at least initially, fall into this category. We share the understanding that our water related wastes decompose in subterranean concealment not far from our homes. Feeling of horror and disgust and thoughts of disaster are common when the outflow pipe fills and backs up into our homes. It's **septic** – the sewer alternative. Don't allow septic to become a pejorative word in your house:

1. Put as little as possible animal or vegetable fat/grease down your sink.
2. Do not put eggshells and coffee grounds down your sink.

These materials will clog and solidify in the soil around the effluent flow from your septic tank. This can form an impenetrable barrier. If the situation continues and more blocking occurs in your septic field, there is a potential for back up into your home.

3. Sanitary napkins and other similar objects should not go into the toilet.
4. Have your septic tank pumped out every two to five years depending on your situation and household size. It is not all that expensive, especially when compared to sewer service rates.

I have heard people say, "Haven't had a problem in 25 years. I don't need to do anything," only to have their yard dug up a year later.

It Is Time For Montgomery County to Gang Up On Gangs

by Chris Pilkerton

Gang violence is on the rise in Montgomery County. What were once a handful of high school altercations and random acts of vandalism have developed into a choreographed network of violent criminals who have established a concentrated recruiting program amongst our youth and throughout our schools. Some of these groups are local, while others are offshoots of national organizations that have provided a blueprint for newer gangs to follow. Currently, the Maryland Department of Corrections is tracking over 130 organizations in our area deemed Security Threat Groups (STGs). This problem has only been exacerbated by an influx of out-of-state prison inmates initiating local gang members in this area. After their release from prison, experienced gang members from other parts of the country recruit new members and encourage them to commit lower-level crimes, as well as engage in the distribution of narcotics, prostitution and violent crimes. Although these gangs are growing in strength and numbers, the good news is that we as a community can work with law enforcement to do something about them. This article will briefly review the current landscape of gangs throughout Montgomery County and discuss our options as a community going forward.

A criminal street gang is typically defined as a group of three or more subjects brought together under a common symbol or leadership with the express purpose of committing crimes or working towards a continuing criminal enterprise. Gang members are often identified via symbols, signs, particular colored clothing, specific tattoos, self-admission, or through confidential informants. Gang members in Montgomery County run the gamut from young children to middle-aged adults, and are most often divided among ethnic lines. Law enforcement reports demonstrate that there are several active gangs throughout the County, with a large number centered in Gaithersburg. The largest and most violent of these gangs is MS-13 (Mara Salvatrucha), with an estimated three thousand members in the Washington, DC area. Other

smaller gangs in this area include: South Side Locos, 18th Street, the West Side Mob, Sangre Pura (in the Quince Orchard/ Clopper area), the 124 Crew, and the Montgomery Village Mob. More localized groups are often delineated by the route number affiliated with their headquarters, including routes 355 and 28.

Gang members have been identified in most area public high schools, and recent intelligence from law enforcement demonstrates that there are over seventy different gangs with almost two thousand members in Montgomery County. MS-13 also maintains a dominant presence throughout Prince George's County and Northern Virginia. Originally established in Southern California by refugees of the El Salvadoran civil war in the 1980's, members of these gangs have been linked to murder, rape, human and drug trafficking, as well as witness intimidation. As part of MS-13, members are required to attend scheduled meetings and pay dues every other week. The number "thirteen" holds significance for its members, and they often recognize one another with a particular hand gesture that connotes a "devil horn." Other identifying information can be seen through blue bandanas, gothic letter style tattoos and graffiti often displaying the nicknames of the other members of their crew. Once new members are identified, organizational meetings are held throughout parks in Montgomery County, outside of the purview of citizen associations or the police. The numbers of young people attending these meetings rise dramatically in the summer due to school breaks, warmer weather, and longer hours of sunlight.

In direct conflict of traditional gangs like the Italian mafia, it has been reported that MS-13 members are not in life-long gang commitments and can opt out of their membership. MS-13 members also avoid dealing certain types and amounts of narcotics that carry particularly long prison sentences. This demonstrates an understanding of the way police officers develop their narcotics investigations, which includes building from small purchases of drugs to requests for larger shipments. Of equal importance, though, is that it shows concern that the length of prison sentences associated with dealing certain narcotics may lead to deportation. In fact,

some former MS-13 members have encouraged immigration reform, in that many new recruits fall into the support network that MS-13 provides for undocumented immigrants. They argue that documentation would free these people from the need to seek the protections that the gang provides, and help them to acclimate into the legitimate economy.

Although local law enforcement has made significant strides in this arena, the gang problem in our area continues to grow. Experts agree that smothering this problem at its root is the most effective way to limit gang violence. This means combating recruitment. New members are drafted as young as six years old and it has been reported that gang leaders have gone to internet chat rooms to enlist younger members. More common forms of recruitment include former students and current gang members showing up in free periods and lunch recesses to sign up unsuspecting children. In fact, in some instances, these groups loiter and control bus stops and parking lots with the express purpose of intimidation and recruitment. The message is clear: our community needs to get to the children before the gangs do. Our schools should have a concerted anti-gang message that demonstrates the realities of gang life and its effects on their futures. Second, community-based after school programs need to be better funded and coordinated more efficiently throughout the County. This should not only be a place for children to go after school, but activities should also stress concepts of cooperation and conflict resolution. Finally, religious organizations must work with our youth to express the teachings of their faiths on the topics of violence and respect for one's neighbors. By the community and law enforcement working together, Montgomery County will protect its children from gang participation now and in the future.

Chris Pilkerton is a former narcotics gang prosecutor in New York City and is currently a member of the Montgomery County Committee on Hate and Violence. He is also a candidate for Maryland State Delegate in District 15.

Is That Any Way To Fight A War?

by Rutlage Brazee

We tend to think of World War II as the incubator that greatly accelerated the advancement of science and invention. Even though it was focused on mayhem and destruction, much of the development resulted in phenomenal advances in the half-century that followed.

In order to get wings as a Blimp Pilot it was necessary to spend some twenty hours aloft in a balloon. Since helium was very expensive and rare, and these balloons were ripped at the end of the day, they were filled with highly flammable and, under certain conditions, highly explosive hydrogen. Although not particularly noticeable from the ground, these vessels, 10,000 miles high in the sky, drifted with the wind from San Francisco to San Jose, in an area that was riddled with power lines even in those by-gone days. To even brush against one of them would be curtains.

To describe the balloon as primitive would be to ascribe to them a sophistication they did not possess. A balloon was a wicker basket about four feet square and three and one half feet deep suspended below a 60,000 cu. ft. bubble of hydrogen. Instruments were a rudimentary compass, an equally rudimentary altimeter and a bubble device that told you whether you were losing altitude, something that's difficult to determine if you are up more than a hundred feet or so. Most importantly there was a tray filled with sand attached to the rail and the floor of the basket was covered with ten or so thirty pound bags of sand and an equal number of half bags. Without this disposable ballast one would have little or no control of the craft. Also on board were three carrier pigeons and a roll of toilet paper. A sheet from the latter was dropped over the side at intervals to check on the wind directions below. Thus if the pilot wished to change direction he descended to the level with the most favorable wind. Of course, there was also a rope to release gas from a valve located at the very top of the balloon and a 200-foot drag rope used in landing.

The day of the flight began before dawn when two crews were mustered for each balloon that was to fly that day. The crews stood around shivering for an hour while the handlers stretched the balloons out on the tarmac and inflated them from large tanks. There were two crews because while one was aloft the other rode the chase truck piloted by an experienced Bos'n, who knew the road network of the area like the back of his hand; he was accompanied by two ordinary seamen. Their mission was to stay as close as possible under the balloon and to serve as ground crew when the craft landed. The two seamen and a cadet comprised the basket crew while the three remaining cadets were charged with catching the drag rope. The latter stood one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet closer to the approaching balloon than did the basket crew. When the pilot judged the time was right he would release the rope and the three cadets would latch on to it lending their weight and resistance to slow the craft. Ideally the basket crew would be there to catch the basket and guide it gently to the ground.

The cadets aboard the balloon were each assigned a position. There was the gasman who held the rope that operated the valve. If the pilot thought they were rising too fast he would say, "Valve one second." The gasman would reply, "Aye, Aye, Sir, One thousand one" as he pulled the cord. If the pilot wanted to slow a descent he would say "Throw out a handful of sand" and the first sandman would reply, "Aye, Aye, Sir," as he obeyed the command. (Just like in the movies.). If a sudden gust or a path over cool water caused the balloon to lose altitude suddenly the pilot might say, "Throw out half a bag." and the second sand man would do so immediately. As mentioned before the rate of change in altitude is difficult to determine when you are high up. However, when you reach tree top level you are frequently amazed at how fast the ground is coming at you. So when, after the drag rope is dropped the pilot orders the third sandman to throw out a bag of sand, often every cadet in the basket tosses a bag over the side. The basket crew scrambles out of the way and the drastically lightened craft bounces twenty to thirty feet in the air as the gas man frantically and unbidden valves for several seconds. Of course, the balloon then

becomes heavy and crashes back to earth where the basket crew finally grabs the basket and hangs on. As the last act in the drama, the pilot scribbles the names of the nearest intersecting streets on a small slip of paper, puts it in a tube on the leg of one of the pigeons, tosses the bird in the air and everybody cheers as it heads for home. Then the ground crew scrambles aboard for the next flight.

Though the flights were fraught with danger not the least of which was our very tenuous control of the balloon, and we knew that we were courting disaster much of the time, ghosting soundlessly over the beautiful farms and orchards on cloudless California days was kind of sublime. One experienced a peace and serenity it would be hard to duplicate in any other environment.

And imagine the pride of that small cadre of sailors who, when asked by their sons, "What did you do in the war, Daddy?" could reply, "Well son, I cleaned the pigeon cotes at Moffitt Field."

Historic Home of Peter Family from Darnestown and Georgetown

Down Seneca, not far from Riley's Lock, there is a house, privately owned, that belonged to the Peter family two centuries ago. The Peters grew crops and farmed there. The family was buried there and the graves are clearly marked. The Peter boys and their cousins fought in the Civil War, sometimes on different sides.

Meanwhile, in Georgetown, another house belonging to the Peter family is open to the public. This is Tudor Place. In 1805, the Peter family bought a whole city block of eight acres with the money bequeathed by George Washington to his step-grand daughter, Martha Peter. Dr William Thornton, the first architect of the Capitol, designed the house. Tudor Place contains many items owned by George and Martha Washington, such as his chest and camp stool, and her tea table, as well as a desk belonging to Francis Scott Key and an amazing collection of other items that were left with the house.

The last Mr. Peter set up a Trust so that when he died the Trust would manage the house. He died in 1983 and the Trust now runs the house and surrounding five acres of beautiful gardens. Mr. Peter gave the entire contents of the house so that all the rooms are completely furnished with the original items, furniture, carpets, china, pictures and even a mousetrap. You can see the bed where Robert E. Lee spent his night in Washington when he came back to settle his affairs after the Civil War, and you can see the portrait Lafayette presented to the family when he visited during his trip to America in 1824, many years after the Revolution.

Tudor Place is located at 31st Street and Q Street in Georgetown, and is open to the public every day except Monday. Why not go and visit it, and enjoy the connection between Darnestown and Georgetown.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

Eureka! There's black gold in your own garden

Yes, there is black gold in your very own garden in the form of Compost. Fall is the time when nature provides us with one of a gardener's greatest natural resources in the form of leaves. Now most people look at leaves as a nuisance but what Mother Nature is doing is providing the land with a blanket for the earth for the onset of winter and a raw material that will feed the soil with rich nutrients for next spring's plants.

So what does the average person do with this precious gift? They spend hours raking and bagging and throwing away these beautiful objects that could be turned into black gold.

With all the attention on global warming these days and everyone pointing the finger saying someone should do something, Composting can be something that each household can do to help mother earth out.

Did you know that the average household produces 18% yard waste, 8% food waste and 40% paper products, all of which can be composted? According to the University of Maryland's cooperative extension hand book, yard waste amounts to nearly 230 pounds and food waste another 100 pounds PER PERSON PER YEAR! That's a lot of waste. Disposing of yard waste in landfills is expensive and environmentally unsound; burning organic materials uses up fossil fuels and releases pollutants.

So how do you do it? It's easy; all you have to do is follow these few simple steps.

Organic matter for composting comes in two broad forms:

- **Green Materials** - Fresh grass clippings and weeds, kitchen waste - like eggshells, fruits & vegetables, tea and coffee grounds. Never add grease, fat, meat, or dairy
- **Brown Materials** - Woody materials like fallen leaves, straw, wood chips, sawdust, small sticks and branches, shrub clippings, wood ashes, shredded newspaper (non-glossy), horse, cow or chicken manure. Never dog or cat wastes.

Look for a flat site that is out of site from your house and your neighbors, but convenient to your gardening routine. It should be at least 3 feet wide by 3 feet long by 3 feet high (1 cubic yard). A smaller pile may not have sufficient critical mass to heat up and stay hot and a larger pile may just be too hard to handle. Have enough room so you can turn the pile over onto an adjacent area.

- It is not necessary to layer materials, mix materials thoroughly
- Keep pile moist (but not soggy) for efficient decomposition. During dry weather it may be necessary to add water
- Only add branches and woody materials that are chipped or broken into small pieces. Try raking leaves into a pile and running the lawn mower over them, and then add them to the pile

- Turn the pile periodically to mix. If fall-gathered leaves make up the bulk of the pile, turn the pile in mid-November before the first frost. Do not turn in winter because it may cause too much heat to escape and slow down decomposition.

In a nut shell that is it. Then sit back and let nature do her trick and in the spring you should see your 1 cubic yard of raw materials turn into 11 to 12 bushels of finished compost (400-500 lbs). This black gold can be mixed into new beds, as organic mulch on the soil surface or used in your outdoor containers along with potting soil.

Now isn't that better than sending all those materials to the dump? Don't you feel better about not contributing to global warming? I know I do.

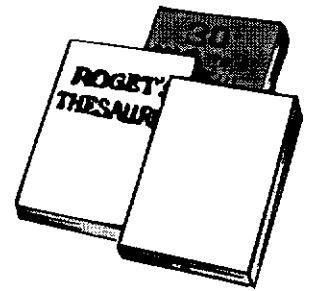
Friends of Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

Community Day was another great success with a big gathering of visitors who came to enjoy all the activities. The music on the lawn was very popular as different groups

performed all day. Many students came to register for the kick-off of the Summer Reading Program. There were also student helpers some of whom were children of the adult volunteers so whole families were involved. The book sale received a lot of interest and people were leaving with bags of books. Aggregate Industries and Harris Teeter donated to the event, which made it even more successful for the Friends of the Library. Harris Teeter provided generous platters for the volunteers' lunch and everyone had a good time. The weather was perfect!

Book sales are going well and will continue on a monthly basis. Anyone who would like to help set-up on a Friday or assist with the sale on Saturday morning is most welcome. It's a friendly group and volunteering earns a few free books.



Over the summer there have been reading programs for students and adults. By the next issue we should know who the winners were from the adult contest. The results will be announced at the Library on September 14. The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will also take place on September 14. This meeting will be open to everyone and there will be refreshments.

The Adult book club meets the last Thursday evening of the month. It is led by alternate librarians and is very informal. We have just finished discussing books with an island theme, and will start a new series in the fall.

Jackie Lee of the Penny Theatre Players created a new play called Little Bobachee, which is an addition to the repertoire. Thanks go to Quince Orchard High School Media Department for help with the recording. Penny Theatre shows for the pre-school kids will start again in October.

Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club

by Elizabeth Cookson

The GANC has a very active program of activities for women in the area. There are monthly coffees at a private home where people meet and greet you. Wednesday is the day for an outing around town, often to DC or other places of interest. Car pools are arranged so no one needs to worry about driving or finding their way. Book club meets one afternoon a month, and there are numerous evening activities such as Bunco. Socials with spouses or friends take place every now and then. Please call 301-948-0696 if you are interested. You don't have to be entirely new to the area.

From Our Schools

Butler School

by Lisa Daly

Butler Welcomes New Changes

Butler School is happy to announce several changes for the 2006-07 school year! Cheryl Rowe, our Head of School, is retiring after 21 years at Butler.

Prior to becoming the Head of School in 1999, Cheryl taught at the Elementary level for 14 years. The Butler community has thrived under her direction and her passion for learning has inspired us all. We will miss her energy and commitment to excellence.

We are happy to announce that Becki Hardie has been appointed as our new Head of School. Ms. Hardie has been a member of the Butler School staff for the past six years. She has a broad Montessori background as well as business management experience. Her knowledge, experience and esteem in the community are sure to create a smooth transition and further enhance Butler School.

Butler is also wishing a fond farewell to Janet Hartz, the music director for the past 28 years. Mrs. Hartz' cheerful smile and warm hello will be missed on Butler's campus. We will miss her energy, zest for the arts, and the love of life she shows to her students each time she sits down at a piano. We wish her well as she heads off to spend time with her own family, including her six grandchildren.

In addition to our retiring staff, Butler will be making a change to part of its Elementary Program by returning to Dr. Montessori's original vision of a classroom containing children ages 6-12. This time period is referred to as the full second plane of development. Although these children grow and change dramatically during this time, their characteristics are basically the same, which is why grouping them together for these years make sense. The dynamic of work can be amazing, with inspiration coming from everywhere.

Also at Butler this fall, PEP (Parent Encouragement Program) will be offering PEP II classes. PEP is a wonderful organization that encourages parents to be the best parent possible and challenging them to relate to their children in a caring and responsible way. For more information about PEP please visit their website at www.parentencouragement.org. The PEP classes are open to the community.

To find out more about Butler School, visit our website at www.butlerschool.org and plan to attend

an Open House this fall. Open House dates will be posted on the website.

Darnestown Elementary

by Cathy Sharpe

Backpacks are stuffed, pencils are sharpened and the halls are abuzz with excitement. Another terrific year of learning is underway at Darnestown Elementary.

No one is more excited about the 2006-2007 school term than Principal Laura Colgary. Most recently Ms. Colgary was a principal at Gallup Hill School in Ledyard, Connecticut.

In a letter to DES parents, students and staff, MCPS Community Superintendent LaVerne Gray Kimball, Ed.D wrote, "Ms. Colgary demonstrated administrative experiences and skills that match the desired characteristics expressed by the staff and community members for the DES principal. Her vision for promoting high student expectations is closely related to what she considers to be her most important core value: that all children can learn and all children should be challenged. Ms. Colgary strongly believes that creating a professional community in which staff members have goals surrounding high expectations for students – shared accountability, collaboration and self-reflection on practices – will contribute to a successful outcome."

PTA Officers have been hard at work this summer planning what is already shaping up to be an exciting year. They are:

Co-Presidents:	Kathy O'Rourke Diane Harris
1 st Co-Vice Presidents:	Sharon Beautz Sunita Tohan
2 nd Co-Vice Presidents:	Faith Frankel Bonnie Lippe
Co-Treasurers:	Valli Dell'Aqua Dawn Dinh
Corresponding Secretary:	Heath Honeycutt
Recording Secretary:	Kristen Huntley

Parliamentarian:	Denise Hathaway
MCCPTA Delegate:	Sue Gordon
Northwest Cluster Reps:	Ellen Foreman Kelley Rogers

Back-to-School Night on September 18 will be a great opportunity for parents to meet their children's teachers and learn about the new term's objectives and activities. And don't forget to bring in new school supplies and new and gently used articles of clothing for the children of Gaithersburg Elementary. This is the fifth year of the sister school partnership between DES and Gaithersburg Elementary.

The Sally Foster sale, the PTA's largest fundraiser, is already underway. Running through September 29, the sale features a colorful selection of gift-wrap and related supplies, small gifts and candy.

DES will once again participate in the Montgomery County Community Service Week in October. We will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for the Manna Food Center. Flyers will be distributed early next month -- be on the lookout for those and please donate as much as you can. The school also will say a big thank you to bus drivers on October 24 with Bus Driver Appreciation Day.

Mark your calendars for PTA meetings that are being held on September 19 and November 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the DES Media Center. Babysitting is available.

The Annual Book Fair is scheduled for November 3-10. It's your chance to buy Caldecott and Newberry award winners, cookbooks, bestsellers and other must-reads.

You'll also want to do all of your holiday shopping at the Lake Forest Mall Shopping Night on November 19. DES receives a portion of all sales so make your lists now and get ready to shop.

Make your reservations NOW for the

DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S

2006 HOEDOWN

Join your friends & neighbors for an evening of square & line dancing with Caller Mac McCall. No experience necessary....this is for FUN!

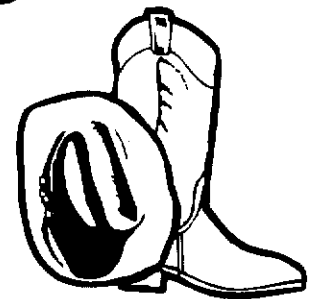
Dinner, dancing, beverages, desserts & hayrides are all included.

STILL ONLY \$30.00 per person!!!

Friday, October 13th, 2006

6:30 P.M. TO MIDNIGHT

AT SMOKEY GLEN FARM
Main Pavilion, Riffle Ford Road
Right here in Darnestown!



Back by Popular demand:

Darnestown's favorite caller, Mac McCall

***Serving Smokey Glen Farm's famous
complete BarBQ chicken and BarBQ spareribs buffet dinner***

Starting with seafood bisque and ending with smoked fruit pies
Included are sodas, apple cider, beer, wine, bar beverages, and coffee

RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1ST!

****NO REFUNDS** PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR**

"DARNE GOOD COOKBOOKS" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE HOEDOWN

Please **clip and submit** the following form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/1 to:

Lisa Patterson Troike at: 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

Direct any questions to Lisa @ 301-548-0499

Full Names of those in your group: _____

Phone # _____ # of Reservations _____ @ \$30.00 each: Enclosed \$ _____

(Please list full names of those in your party. Nametags will be awaiting you at the door & will serve as your ticket)

Jones Lane Elementary

by Princina Drazan

Our PTA officers and committees have been very busy this summer gathering information and preparing for a fun-filled year for our children and community. We are looking forward to working with all of our Jones Lane Elementary School (JLES) parents. Our parents are the key to the PTA's success.

Please note that the 2006- 2007 PTA officers are as follows:

President	Princina Drazan
1 st Vice President	Martha Segreti
2 nd Vice President	Michelle Cornblatt
Treasurer	Ellison Onsi
Secretary	Susan Levy

This year we will hold three separate Back-to-School Night Presentations. The first was held on August 24 for kindergarten parents. The remaining two will be held on September 6 for first and second grade parents and September 7 for third through fifth grade parents. Our New Students Orientation was held on August 25. The remaining JLES student body was treated to an Open House during the afternoon of August 25. We are looking forward to inviting all of our JLES community to participate in the September 1 "Welcome Back Picnic" which will be hosted by the PTA from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. September also marks the kick-off of our Sally Foster gift-wrap fundraiser. This is our school's largest fundraiser. Fifty percent of the proceeds go towards funding many of our programs during the year.

This year we hope to introduce new PTA sponsored programs to JLES and provide our parents access to more resource information. Our aim is to support parents in their effort to provide a quality education and learning experience for their children. We are so excited about all that we have to offer to our JLES community this year.



Mary of Nazareth

by Marion Strishock

A Time for Transitions

One of the final activities for our 8th grade students was the annual retreat. Held in the tranquil, rustic setting of St. Mary's Shrine and Pavilion in Barnesville, it was the perfect way to turn off the excitement of the upcoming graduation and take stock of the changes that lie ahead. The theme of the retreat was "Transitions". The retreat was led by Father Scott Woods, and the theme was as relevant for him as it was for the students, as he prepared to leave St. John Neumann Parish and Mary of Nazareth School for his new assignment at Mt. Calvary in Forestville.

The retreat began with a trust walk. Blindfolded students were led into the fields and separated from the comfort of being with one another. Unable to see and communicate with anyone, the students confessed that they soon felt nervous and anxious. They had to rely on Fr. Woods and their teachers to bring them back to a safe environment. They realized that once they leave the security of Mary of Nazareth School, they need to be careful whom they trust as they embark upon their journey through high school.

Armed with a variety of props, the students had fun creating and performing skits on such topics as high school temptations, dating, responsibility, and peer pressure. They discussed ways to avoid or remove themselves from bad situations, and people they could turn to for help.

Fr. Woods then celebrated Mass. The reading from the book of Sirach reminded them of the qualities of a true friend. They reflected on the qualities of their classmates, what kind of a friend they themselves have been, and how to choose new friends.

After lunch, Fr. Woods led a meditation on the gospel passage of the rich young man. The students placed themselves in the passage and thought about the material things that can weaken their relationship with God.

The "Island Game" fostered teamwork, cooperation, and the importance of assisting others while providing an opportunity for exercise and physical activity. Finally, sworn to secrecy and using a candle and crucifix, the students shared their fears, worries and concerns about the future. They left these concerns in the hands of Christ, and once again focused on the excitement of graduation.

It is with both sadness and joy that we say good-bye to our graduating class and to Fr. Woods. Fr. Woods has been inspirational to our students, and has been very active at Mary of Nazareth School. We are grateful for his efforts to bring us closer to Christ and know that he will do the same for the youth and parishioners of Mt. Calvary parish.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

Late last spring NWHS's National Honor Society installed the following new students as part of their 2006 inductees: Elise Braun, Shelli Cone, Theresa DiPeppe, Rachel Handel, Kari Mason, Athina Nungovitch, Adora Nwankwo, Taylor Osborne, Jessica Ryan, and Brooke Seaman.

This summer the Northwest community was stunned by the death of Mr. Leonard Cave. The popular Art Resource Teacher and sculptor, whose work was once displayed at The White House, was killed by a drunk driver on July 11. Ms. Carolyn Gipe, Choral Music Director, was also severely injured in the accident. The students held a vigil in Mr. Cave's memory. Mr. Cave had created and donated a sculpture to be unveiled in the new wing of the school later this fall. His family has asked that donations be made in his memory to the Lenny Cave Arts Scholarship in care of Northwest High School.

The Marching Band has already held tryouts and begun practicing. Darnestown members include: Mike Waddell (Drum Major), Suzanne Cornelsen (Color Guard), Derek Paul (Section leader), David Tony, Kyle DiPeppe, Thomas Bivans, Connor Hobelmann, Steven Rapp, Alex Song, Anna D'Alessio, Andy Haberman, and Bobby Donson. The instrumental music students will be selling

White House Christmas Ornaments starting in September.

Don't miss the fun on Friday nights at home football games.

This fall's Football Game Schedule:

9/8 Churchill at home

9/15 Seneca Valley at home

10/6 Whitman - Homecoming

10/20 at Quince Orchard

11/3 Damascus at home

If you have information that you would like included please send it to Madeline D'Alessio at dalessio@comcast.net.

Ashley Kircher Receives Undergraduate Honors From Georgetown University

by Andrea Sarubbi

Ashley Susan Kircher of Darnestown received the Thomson Texere Marketing Scholar Award and the Georgetown University Alumni Association Recognition Award at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business commencement activities. Kircher was one of 1,679 students to complete undergraduate studies this year as a member of Georgetown's class of 2006.

Kircher graduated with a bachelor's degree *magna cum laude* in Marketing from the McDonough School of Business. She attended Northwest High School in Germantown.

"Ashley Kircher represents some of the most-talented student scholars at Georgetown University," said George Daly, dean of the McDonough School of Business. "We are extremely proud of all of our graduating students and wish Ashley continued academic, personal and professional success."

Georgetown University is the oldest Catholic and Jesuit University in America, founded in 1789 by Archbishop John Carroll. Georgetown today is a major student-centered, international, research university with one of the most selective

undergraduate student bodies in the United States. It offers respected undergraduate, graduate and professional programs on its three campuses in Washington, DC. For more information about Georgetown University visit www.georgetown.edu.

Darnestown Presbyterian Church Welcomes Dr. Robert Hoover

by Tom Wheeler

On August 15, 2006, Dr. Robert P. Hoover of Youngstown, Ohio will begin serving as Interim Pastor at Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Dr. Hoover has 40 years of experience serving Presbyterian Churches in northeast Ohio. In 2004, Dr. Hoover retired after 17 years at the Poland Presbyterian Church near Youngstown, and started his "second career" as an Interim Pastor in Wichita, Kansas. Dr. Hoover described his time in Wichita as his "happiest year in ministry." He holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Ashland Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity degree from Princeton Theological Seminary, and an undergraduate degree from Franklin & Marshall College. Drawing upon their positive experience in Wichita, Bob and his wife, Linda, are looking forward to serving Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Bob and Linda have a son who resides in Alexandria, Virginia, and a daughter in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dr. Hoover will be serving in Darnestown for approximately a year while the Church identifies a new full-time Pastor. Bob and Linda visited Darnestown on Father's Day weekend, where they attended Saturday's pancake breakfast, and Bob preached at both Sunday services. Bob is accustomed to serving larger congregations, but Linda encouraged him also to consider smaller congregations. Through a last-minute change on his Personal Information Form, Bob indicated that he would serve congregations of "400 and up" instead of "1,000 and up." Darnestown Presbyterian Church is the clear beneficiary of this last-minute change. The Church cordially invites all residents of Darnestown and western Montgomery County to meet and experience this gifted clergyman.

All Through The House Bazaar

by Jan Summers

Darnestown Presbyterian Women will hold their annual "All Through the House" bazaar on Saturday, November 4 at the church from 8:30 am until 4:00 p, (some areas close at 2). We will have a silent auction, crafts and gifts, antiques and collectibles, used books, baked goods, and many other items. Come do your holiday shopping, and plan to stay for lunch in our café! The church is at 15120 Turkey Foot Rd. at Route 28; telephone number is 301-948-9127.

Darnestown Softball

Standings as of Sunday, August 6. The December issue will contain the final standings. Tom Wheeler is a captain of the BHR team. His note below is to all the captains of the league.

AMQ wrapped up the 2006 league title yesterday (8-6) with a hard-fought 7-4 win over BHR. From the viewpoint of the BHR coaches, the better team won. AMQ played a flawless game, and we should all congratulate them on another well-deserved league championship. From start to finish this season, AMQ was the top team. Thanks also to Derek Widmayer for umpiring yesterday's big game. Derek did an exceptionally fine job.

AMQ and BHR are exhausted from yesterday's game, and have decided not to play their remaining game next Sunday. They have agreed to call the game a 7-7 tie, and to go fishing instead. The other two games, therefore, can start earlier (4:00) if they wish to avoid difficulties with darkness.

Great season, everyone. Tom Wheeler

TEAM

	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>T</u>
Ancient Mountain Quails (AMQ)	8	1	1
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR)	6	3	1
Highlanders (HL)	5	4	0
Western Darnestown (WD)	4	4	0
Rollinmead (RM)	2	7	0
Berryville Seneca (BS)	1	7	0

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 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
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
Jeralyn 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
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
Louise Evans, 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)

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)

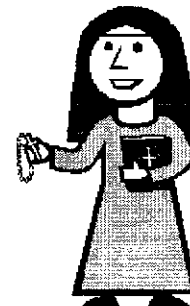
**MARY OF NAZARETH School's
Eighth Grade IS PROUD TO HOST
A Stand Up Comedy Show from Chicago**

**"LATE NITE CATECHISM"
Saturday September 30th
Katie Fitzgerald Center
14129 Seneca Rd. Darnestown, Maryland
Doors Open 7PM (Cash Bar) - Show 8PM**

Join us for an entertaining evening and enjoy the hilarious antics of Sister as she engages the audience in a whimsical question and answer catechism session!!

The NY Times calls it "hilarious, well-written and inspired."

Send this ticket request back ASAP! (Seats are Limited!)



Make check out to Mary of Nazareth School

NAME: _____

EMAIL/PHONE: _____

OF TICKETS: \$40 __ (Gold Seats-first 5 rows only) \$30 __ (Blue Seats)

Mail to: MON 14131 Seneca Rd Darnestown MD 20874 -Attn: 8th Grade - Late Nite

Thank you!

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

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