



Volume 42, Number 4

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

December 2006

[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

## *Civic Association News and Notes*

### *Notes from the President*

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year! The DCA has been busy with several projects this past year. I will touch upon some of them below:

- Darnestown Park – We are closer than we've ever been to getting our park on the books with MCNPPC (Montgomery County National Park & Planning Commission). The plans look great and we hope to share them with you at our Town Meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- Deer Tick Control – Several of us are investigating a 4-Poster Treatment System that will help control ticks in our community.
- Traffic Control – Additional road markings, signs, and more to help slow down traffic on both Seneca and Darnestown Roads.
- Harris Teeter – We have been working effectively and closely with the opening of their store.
- Zoning and Development – Actively monitoring and working with potential new housing developments.
- Environmental – We responded quickly to several illegal tree clearing incidents.
- Compliance – We continue to assist residents with an understanding of the County and State compliance laws.

*Notes continued on page 3*

## **NEXT DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING**

Thursday  
December 14 at 7:30 p.m.  
Darnestown Presbyterian Church  
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

### **Agenda**

**Harris Teeter Representative**

**Park & Planning  
Darnestown Park**



**Holiday Tree Lighting  
Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
Details Inside**

### ***The Little Acorn Staff***

Editor: Mary Stefanelli  
Proofreader: Mary McAndrews  
Vicki Mostrom  
Sarah Scherer  
Production/Distribution: Hector Donolo  
Minuteman Press

### **The Darnestown Civic Association Board**

President: Lisa Patterson-Troiike  
Vice President/President Elect: Tim Wilson  
Chairman: Bruce Deppa  
Vice Chairman: Scott Mostrom  
Treasurer: Chuck Gularson  
Trustee: Dennis Rippeon  
Trustee: Steve Ellis  
Trustee: Vacant  
Corresponding Secretary: Mary Stefanelli  
Recording Secretary: Bob Thompson

### **The Darnestown Civic Association Committee Chairpersons**

Compliance: Kurt Karst  
Darnestown Village: Steve Ellis, Terry Reis  
Darnestown Historical Park: Chris Collins,  
Scott Mostrom  
Database: Vicki Mostrom  
Directory: Marsha Crowley  
Environment: Tim Wilson  
Flag Program: Jim Clifford  
Historical Society Representative: Greg Clemmer  
Library: Elizabeth Cookson  
Master Plan: Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis, Gerry Foley,  
Terry Reis  
Membership: Jean Jurgena  
Monopole: Robyn Bryan  
Roads: Brian McCollom  
Safety: Alan Noznesky  
Social: Lisa Patterson-Troiike  
Softball: Steve Ellis  
Survey: Brian McCollom  
Trails: Marilee Giebel  
Trees: Joyce McCarthy  
Welcome: Vacant  
Wildlife: Larry Zoeller  
Zoning & Dev. Review: Pam Dubois, Steve Ellis

Inquiries concerning the Darnestown Civic Association should be directed to Lisa Patterson-Troiike (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

**February 1, 2007**

**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](mailto: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
Hanna Sponberg	age 13	301-926-1465
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
Kate Sponberg	age 11	301-926-1465

### **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
Sarah Romney	age 10	301-519-1188

### **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

*continued from first page*

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

We welcome Bob Thompson and Guy Armantrout, two new volunteers, who have come forward and became members of our team. We are always looking for more volunteers. Let us know what interests you, and we will find a match.

The DCA would like to thank Chuck Gularson for 12 ½ years as our treasurer. Chuck could tell you where every penny has gone during his tenure! Guy Armantrout has stepped forward and will be taking the reins as treasurer. Please come to our December meeting to welcome Guy and thank Chuck.

We also want to wish Rutlage and Elena Brazee all the best with their move to Connecticut. Long time residents of Darnestown, Rutlage has been very active with the DCA for the past 10 years. Most of you may know him from his stories in the Little Acorn.

Our annual dues letter went out this fall. We are trying to reach a goal of 1,000 homes – please help us meet our goal! Your dues help us with the many projects that fall on our plate each year. There are several different ways of becoming a member: \$25 member, \$50 friend, or \$100 sponsor. Being a member empowers you to vote at our Town Meetings. If you are interested in becoming a member, please use the enclosed form. Thank you for your support.

I was thrilled at the support we had at our annual Hoedown. I always enjoy getting to know more of our Darnestown residents. Keep a look out for our next community events, Holiday Tree Lighting and Spring Social. They are a great, informal way to meet your neighbors and fellow Darnestownians. We all have so much in common. Have a happy and healthy 2007. We are looking forward to the next year ahead and what surprises it will bring.

## ***Darnestown Directory***

by Marsha Crowley

### **IMPORTANT DARNESTOWN DIRECTORY NEWS**

#### **PLEASE, PLEASE, verify your information!**

We have no way of knowing if the information we have for you is incorrect unless we hear from you. If we do not hear from you, we assume that the published information is correct. If you have not been included in the directory, we assume that you do not wish to have your information published. You can either send in the correct information with your dues or email me. We do not like publishing incorrect information but Darnestown has grown too large for the door-to-door verification that we used in the past. We now have to rely on you to contact us.

I know we're a year from starting to gather the database for the next update to the Darnestown Directory, but the task would be so much easier for Vicki if all the changes did not come at the last minute. Please submit your changes early so that we can get the Directory to you on time.

I am asking for help for the Directory Committee. I have been in charge of the directory for thirty years and think it is time to begin the process of handing over the chair to someone new. With the exception of proofreading, I have been doing all the various tasks myself for a number of years. It would be so much easier for a new chair to have a committee. So far, two board members volunteered to help, Bruce Deppa will administer the database formation and Mary Stefanelli will work with the printer. I need one more person to handle the pages that are not database: the advertising, the front cover and next three pages. In addition, proofreaders will again be required for the final draft. Of course, if anyone wants to volunteer to chair the committee, that would be just awesome. You can contact me at [mfcrowley777@msn.com](mailto:mfcrowley777@msn.com) or 301-840-9428.

Please make the following corrections:

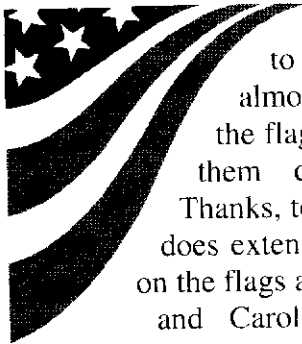
Ienzi, Nello & Georgiann (not Lenzi)

Soskin, Don & Donna  
301-977-5017 (correct number)

Veirs, Michael & Mary Ann (add Mary Ann)

## ***Flag Program***

by Bruce Deppa



Once again, we would like to thank Jim Clifford for almost single-handedly getting all the flags up for special days, taking them down, and storing them. Thanks, too, to Jim's wife, Carol, who does extensive sewing and repair work on the flags as they age. Even though Jim and Carol bought a farm west of Darnestown and moved there a couple of years ago, they have continued to carry on this tradition for Darnestown and its residents.

Occasionally, a flag may fall from its bracket. If you find a flag down, please take it to the Six-12 Store located at the corner of Seneca and Darnestown Road.

## ***Master Plan Overview***

by Gerry Foley

### **Overview and Review of Issues Relating to the Potomac SubRegion Master Plan**

Steve Ellis and I represented the Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) during the development of our area Master Plan, the Potomac SubRegion Master Plan (Master Plan). This plan was adopted in 2002 and replaced its predecessor, which was in effect from 1980 – 2002. If the past is prologue, we are now in the fourth year of an anticipated twenty-year plan.

As much of the Darnestown community is aware, our Master Plan provides a set of comprehensive recommendations and guidelines for the use of publicly and privately owned land within and

around Darnestown. As intended by the Park and Planning Commission, the Master Plan reflects the vision of future area development that responds to the unique character of Darnestown within the wider context of Montgomery County itself.

We would like to pass along to interested Darnestown residents the institutional knowledge that we accumulated during the three-year development period of the Master Plan. Toward that end, we will hold a two/three hour overview on the current Master Plan and Darnestown's place in the plan and its planning process. Our thought is to do this in January 2007 on a weeknight or a Saturday morning session.

So, if you are interested in reviewing: 1) the influence of local Watersheds and Stream Valleys on our local environment; 2) land use and planning in Darnestown, especially as such relates to the Darnestown Triangle and the Overlay Zone in the Village Center; 3) transportation initiatives contained in the plan and/or 4) the zoning special exception policies of the County, please plan to attend the overview.

To obtain a general level of interest and headcount, we ask that you call 301.869.0288 by December 21, 2006 and leave your name, phone number, and preference for a weeknight or Saturday session. We will assemble the results and be in touch with you to detail the meeting date, time and place.

One final point, please be assured we do not plan a strict lecture format for the session. We intend to liven up the subject matter to the extent possible and will plan appropriate time for any attendee's questions or concerns.

## ***Roads Committee***

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](mailto:brian@mccollomconsulting.com) or 301-963-0239.

## Social Committee

By Lisa Patterson-Troike

Was this year's Hoedown fun or what? We had close to 200 people there! I came home with hay in my boots, hat, everywhere! I am still picking it off the carpet around the house. Rumor has it I may have started a "hay fight" on the hayride not just once, but several times. Perhaps we should have the Hoedown on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> more often?

Many thanks to Smokey Glen Farm for making our get together such a success. The seafood bisque, chicken and ribs with all the fixings, and smoked pies were delicious! Someone in the crowd, Karen Kraushaar perhaps, celebrated their birthday and, lucky for us, they brought a huge cake. Mac McCall, our dance caller, was superb and got many "non-dancers" to click those boots together on the dance floor!



Thanks to all of you for making this Hoedown so unforgettable. We are already planning for next year – see you then!

The Darnestown Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the corner of Ancient Oak and Darnestown Road. I just happened to be at Santa's Workshop in North Pole, NY a few weeks ago (no kidding) and Santa said he would try to fit us in his busy schedule. His reindeer look very healthy and ready for their big upcoming flight. Music, hot chocolate, cookies and laughs will be provided. Come one, come all!

## Village Committee

### A Walk in the Park

by Christopher Collins

As you may be aware, there is a small piece of ground that resides in the center of the Darnestown Village Center. The property that I'm referring to has a wooden sign facing Darnestown Road designating this as a Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning area and is 0.6 of an acre in size. The park history was the subject of a recent *Little Acorn* article denoting how the park came into being (*see Little Acorn issue: Volume 42, Number 2, June 2006; Village Committee update*).

In an effort to guide the growth and development of the Darnestown Village Center the use of the property as a park, very close to its geographical center, seemed to be a natural application. This is a project that has been underway for several years, with significant input from many of the town residents and historians. Well boys and girls, it appears that all of that hard work is coming to fruition. Recent meetings with Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning's staff as headed by Ms. Heidi Sussmann have resulted in three proposed park schemes that provide a wide array of options for our use. In fact, it appears we will have the opportunity to meet with Ms. Sussman and her staff at the upcoming December Town Meeting and hear and see first hand what shape our park may take.

With the rich historic past of Darnestown, those events should be highlighted and displayed. It is our sincere interest that representations of our history will be presented in a landscaped park for all to enjoy. With the help of our in-town historians and assistance from Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning's history specialist, Susan Soderberg, we have the opportunity to share the past with all visitors to the new park. To take advantage of the natural resources in our area, we have encouraged Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning to consider using the Red Seneca Sandstone for the construction of feature walls or monument elements in the park. Additionally, a holiday tree would be a central feature of the park, providing interest and a gathering place all year long.

Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning has established a budget for the development of the park. Based on the community's desire we may be able to undertake the park project with the budget provided, and it may be possible to complete the project in a time frame of one to two years. If a greater plan and budget are required, it may take from three to five years for completion. One option that we are presented with is the opportunity to augment Maryland National Capitol Park and Planning's budget with our own funds, by donation or fundraising efforts.

Please join us on December 14, 2006 at our town meeting to view the progress of the park and provide your input to Heidi and her design team, as we move further with the vision of a walk in the park.

### **Harris Teeter Hours of Operation**

by Lisa Patterson

The DCA is currently working with Harris Teeter to modify their hours, currently open 24 hours, in keeping with the character of our Rural Village. We have had much success in the past with Darnestown businesses helping to preserve our Rural Village. The 6-12 Convenience store is the only one in Montgomery County that closes at 10 pm and the 24-hour Shell station now closes at 11 or 12 pm. Please note that modifying the hours will not affect the Harris Teeter pharmacy, since it closes each day at 9 pm. We are very excited about our new neighbor and are happy to hear their grand opening has been a success!

### ***Zoning and Development Review Committee***

#### **Butz Property Update**

by Pam DuBois

The DCA wants to thank the Butz family for all their coordinating and considerations on our behalf. This fall the DCA Zoning and Development Review Committee has been working closely with Tom Butz in finalizing their preliminary site plan for

Homeplace located at the intersection of Berryville Road and Route 28. As a reminder, Homeplace comprises a total of 267 acres of which 60% is dedicated open space and the remaining 40% (107 acres) is being subdivided into 45 residential lots.

We are pleased to report that the plans include equestrian easements flanking both sides of the property, which we hope will eventually connect to the Seneca Creek State Park Greenway trails. Two items that the DCA will be recommending to the County include: 1) maximizing the number of lots over two acres (the threshold required for having horses / large livestock) since there are 19 lots currently planned for less than two acres accounting for approximately 42% of the total; and 2) requesting a scenic easement setback from Route 28 in keeping with the one provided across the street for the Black Rock Mill Estates subdivision.

### ***The Welcome Committee Needs You!***



We are looking for someone who would like to be the Chairperson of the Welcome Committee. The Chairperson sends out packets (materials supplied) to

new residents in Darnestown.

If you are interested or would like additional information, please contact Mary Stefanelli at [marystefanelli@comcast.net](mailto:marystefanelli@comcast.net) or 301-869-8079.

### ***From Our Neighbors***

*Dear Ms. Patterson, Members of the Civic Association and The Little Acorn,*

*I am writing to thank you very much for showing your concern with the numerous automobile accidents near my house. After there were four serious accidents in a 16-day period this spring (including one that caused \$55,000 damage to my house), I am really relieved that you showed interest. You (Ms. Patterson), Mr. Scott Burton,*

*and Mr. Steve Ellis were helpful in handling the problem, and Mr. Andrew Bossi of the Maryland State Highway Administration explained the remedial measures that he state will take.*

*Many people questions why there is a Speed Limit of 30 mph and policemen often give speeding tickets here; however, I believe there is a reason for stronger enforcement. I am grateful that the proper authorities can act quickly to help prevent many more crashes. The precautionary measures (signage, markers, and line widening) determined by highway engineers sound good and preventive. If more people knew of the number of life-threatening accidents along this curve, I am sure they would be willing to drive more slowly.*

*With gratitude from the perspective of being a homeowner here,*

*Best Wishes,  
Nicholas Smith*

## ***Darne Bloomers Garden Club***

### **Cover up for Winter?**

by: Nettie Koepenick

I am facing a dilemma. I have a large pond in my back garden that is visible from all the windows on that side of the house, and it is a beautiful sight to behold year round. It was installed two years ago, so this will be the second winter season for it. So, my dilemma is this: should I cover it with a traditional pond netting to keep leaves out? It is important to keep leaves out of the water because as they decompose in the water they release harmful carbon monoxide. If the ratio of carbon monoxide to oxygen gets too high, it can kill the fish. One way to avoid this is to keep an air hole in the ice. Therefore, if the pond were to freeze, the gases could escape. This is actually very simple to achieve. I keep a bubbler running throughout the winter months so that the pond surface doesn't freeze solid. Putting the netting on will keep blowing leaves out but the bubbler will still have to run to keep it from freezing.

So, what is my dilemma? Well, if I have the pond so I can enjoy its beauty, which beauty includes the winter months when the striking gray boulders are exposed and the snow forms ice sculptures that are truly spectacular. Starting in November and straight through till spring there would be a large black netting tarp there instead, yes, there won't be any unwanted leaves, but isn't the whole idea of having a natural looking pond to have it truly look natural? If I don't net it then next spring I will have to get in there and muck out all those soggy leaves myself, and we're talking a lot of back breaking buckets of leaves. Is that worth it?

Which reminds me, while I'm at it, do I want to net all my plants too, so our friends the deer won't feast on them during the winter? Well, that's a pretty sight. What's the point of planting a natural garden if I'm just going to drape everything with artificial covering that hides an entire season of beauty? To me a winter garden is just as beautiful and interesting as any other season. It is the season when the architecture is revealed, gorgeous stone work, trellis's and what about all the handsome barks and berries and sculptural branches; will I miss out on all that? Do I want to miss out on all that? What's a gardener to do?

HELP WANTED: Gardener in need of someone to remove large quantities of leaves. And as a bonus all the free hostas you can dig. I'm going to go build a fire and drink a cup of cocoa while I gaze out the window at my winter wonderland.

### ***All News Is Welcome***

Do you have an interesting story you would like to share with the community? Or would you like to include something about your organization?

February 1, 2007 is the next deadline for articles. These articles will be published in the March edition of The Little Acorn. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Stefanelli at [thelittleacorn@comcast.net](mailto:thelittleacorn@comcast.net) or 301-869-8079.



## For Those on Your Holiday List

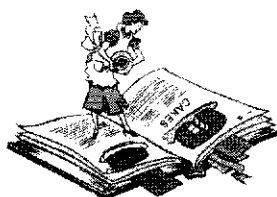
*"It's a Darn Good Cookbook"*

*makes a wonderful gift for those on your holiday list!*

*To purchase one, please contact any of the following people:*

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

**Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association or DCA.  
Cookbook cost is \$15.00. If you purchase 6 cookbooks or more, you pay only \$14  
each!**



### ***Membership Update***

Currently, we have 771 paid members of the Darnestown Civic Association so far this year. If you have not had an opportunity to become a DCA member for the July 1, 2007/June 30, 2007 fiscal year you may do so by completing this membership form.

Fiscal Year July 1 2006- June 31, 2007

Make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) and mail to:  
Darnestown Civic Association, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD. 20874

\_\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Friends \$ 75 \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsorship \$100

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_



## ***Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar***

by John Shaer

Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar will take place on Saturday, December 2 from 9am-4pm at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension

An International Fair Trade Holiday Bazaar with crafts from more than 30 countries will be for sale. In addition to the crafts, there will be children's activities, raffles and a silent auction. The silent auction items include dinners from more than 35 restaurants, Redskin tickets for the 2007 season and a trip to Williamsburg for Spring Break 2007.

Bazaar proceeds will benefit developing nations and local charities through the church's outreach program. The Episcopal Church of the Ascension is located at 205 S. Summit Avenue Gaithersburg. Admission is free. For more information visit [www.ascensionmd.org](http://www.ascensionmd.org) or call 301-948-0122.

## ***Friends of Quince Orchard Library***

by Elizabeth Cookson

After seven years as Library Manager, Cindy Counihan, is retiring this fall. Cindy was appointed to the position of Library Manager for the proposed Quince Orchard Library after the County finally agreed to build this new branch for the Gaithersburg area, so she was on board well before the Library opened in 1999. Cindy encouraged community participation and was always ready to help and support the staff and volunteers. She would give up her weekend to come to an event so that she could help out, and she was open to experiment. Despite all the obstacles of a small building and shortage of staff when the budget was tight, many of the programs now going on at the Library were due to her encouragement. Cindy wanted the Library to be the best it possibly could. She will be greatly missed.

I hope you notice how nice the Friends Garden looks. A group of Friends and other volunteers planted pansies and bulbs and prepared the ground for winter.

The new President of the Friends is Judith Mostyn White. Judith has been the Mistress of Ceremonies at the Community Day for the past few years and the Secretary of the Friends Board. At the Annual General Meeting, the drawing for the Adult Summer Reading program took place. Several participants won beautiful baskets of goodies from Harris Teeter.

Book sales have been very successful. They take place the first Saturday morning of the month. We always welcome donations of books, CDs, DVDs and tapes, in good condition. There is a tax form available at the desk for your donation.

Thinking about Holiday presents, anniversaries or other occasions, then consider buying an engraved brick. It is a great way to honor someone and supports the Library.

Come and help celebrate the Birthday of the Library on Wednesday, December 13 from 1:00 until 7:00 pm. There will be cake and punch for all.

Keep on reading.

## ***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.



## ***Record Turnout For Pioneer Hills Labor Day Party***

by Tim Wilson

The guests of the annual Darnestown event enjoyed two live bands; hotly contested volleyball and the largest egg toss competition on the east coast.



The kids were entertained by Perky the Clown, a moon bounce and relay games highlighted by a whipped cream-eating contest.

The sure-handed team of Julie Callahan and Vic Omelchenko walked away the big winners of the egg toss. They received a large gift basket generously donated by our newest neighbor in Darnestown, Harris Teeter. They narrowly edged out the talented husband- wife team of Mike and Joyce Marcarelli for the top prize.



In between the music, games and activities, everyone enjoyed Famous Dave's BBQ, Roy Rogers Fried Chicken as well as the hot dogs and drinks provided by Harris Teeter.

The families of Pioneer Hills would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions, helping to make our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Sunset Labor Day Party a huge success:

- Harris Teeter
- Roy Rogers Restaurants
- Black Rock Communications
- 6-Twelve Store
- Kentlands Stadium 10 Theaters
- Embroid Me
- Famous Dave's BBQ

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

## ***Harris Teeter Grand Opening***

by Elizabeth Cookson

On October 30<sup>th</sup> around 5:30 in the evening, the line of cars heading into the center of Darnestown was curiously long even for rush hour. There was the unusual sight of a mass of pedestrians crossing the road all headed in the same direction. It was the grand opening of the much-heralded Harris Teeter supermarket.

The parking lot was full of arrivals circling and causing more chaos. Everyone was trying to get to the party. And what a party it was!!

With one hand to greet friends and one to try the samples there was really no time to look at the wonders of the store. Round the bakery was a neighbor, across the aisle a fellow tennis player, a Darnestown Civic Association member, friends from every neighborhood and group in the area. The atmosphere was like a carnival with everyone enjoying the joke. It was the Spring Social all over again except the location had moved to the aisles of a supermarket.

Someone said that there had not been this much excitement in Darnestown since the Civil War!!

## *A Bit Of Darnestown History*

### **Spring Field**

by Nancy Houston – from the 1989 edition of *The Little Acorn*

Mr. Charles Iler, who raised thoroughbred racehorses here, owned this wonderful 160 year-old house, on the east side of Seneca Road, just south of Deakins Lane. Due to its location it has seen much of the changing history of the area – the Civil War, the coming and going of the C&O Canal, and the transforming of the rural character of Darnestown to a mostly residential area. The names of past owners – Magruder, Tschiffely, and Athey – are well entrenched in the Darnestown Community. A triple murder occurred here in 1946. This house has been placed on Montgomery County's Master Plan for historic preservation.

As with most of the land south and west of Darnestown, this property can be traced back to Ninian Beall. Starting in 1750, Beall owned thousands of acres in the area. After his death this portion was inherited by son-in-law- Hardage Lane, who ran a ferry boat on the Potomac. In 1799 Lane put together 1,392 acres of land and renamed it "Springfield," no doubt because of the many natural springs in its fields. This property remained in the family until 1831.

David Denham purchased 267 acres of Springfield in 1841, an auction was held on the premises and the highest bidder for the farm was Samuel Thomas Magruder at \$2,401.71. Sam and his wife, Mary, lived here for the remainder of their lives.

The Civil War brought many changes to the farm. Situated as it was, overlooking River Road and the Potomac River, it was a prime location to observe any Confederate movement in the area. In July of 1861, General Banks of the Union Army chose the Magruder house for his headquarters and a high point of land on the farm to establish an important signal station. This was on a line of signal stations reaching from Harpers Ferry down to Washington, D.C. Here on the Magruder farm the signal station was built on a tall chestnut tree. Today, "Signal Tree Road" off River Road, marks this location. An

artist's drawing of this signal tree was the frontispiece of the U.S. Signal Corps school was also established here at that time.

The Magruder family, as was most of the Darnestown community, were of Southern sympathy, and had a number of relatives who were fighting for the South. A cousin, Colonial Dorsey, having just escaped from a prison in Baltimore, made his way to the Magruder farm for much-needed rest, only to find that the Union Army had also just arrived. The Confederate Colonel, dressed in one of Sam Magruder's suits, calmly walked past the sentries and down the driveway, got a rider to Seneca, and was rowed across the river to Virginia.

The Army stayed here at "Camp Magruder" for several months. When it left, there was very little of value on the place. "Most of the fences became wood for the camp fires, and not a cow, hog, nor chicken was left ..."

Mary and Sam Magruder died in the early 1880's and were buried at the Pleasant Hills cemetery, now part of Spring Meadows. The farm then descended to their two daughters, Vandlia Owen and Mary, who married Wilson B. Tschiffely. Wilson was one of a number of children of Frederick Tschiffely who owned the Kentlands Property. May and Wilson made this farm their home for their lifetimes. Wilson was also the owner of Seneca Mills, a grist mill located just down the road from the farm where River Road crosses Seneca Creek, near Poole's store. The mill was very busy and its grain was shipped down the C&O Canal to Georgetown and Washington City. During the winter, the canal barge mules were kept at the Tschiffely farm on Seneca Road.

After Wilson Tschiffely's death in 1914, the estate was sold in 1917 to John Athey for \$16,035. His son, Thomas, took over the ownership in 1924. Thomas and his wife Willie Beall Athey (daughter of Dr. Reverdy Beall of Darnestown) lived there until 1935, when they lost their farm during the depression. They later bought a farm on Darnestown Road where Seneca Highlands is now located.

The old farmhouse at Springfield remained empty for several years until 1941, when Ross and Jennie Snyder bought it for \$12,500. The Snyders lived in Chevy Chase, and they used the Springfield farm as a summer home for several years before moving there permanently in 1946. They made a number of repairs and improvements during that time. The Snyders had adopted two children, a boy and a girl. The family had lived at the farm for only a few months when the son, then age 14, and his parents argued over the boy's discipline. The boy grabbed his father's shotgun, went to the kitchen where the family was eating lunch, and killed them. The triple murder shocked the community and made headlines in the Washington newspapers.

The house remained empty for two years when, in June of 1948, another auction was held in the front yard. Charles Iler was the highest bidder at \$30,000 and became owner of the 267-acre farm where he has continued to live for more than 40 years. Mr. Iler had a varied career; he sold Baldwin pianos in Kentucky, sold real estate in Chevy Chase, raised championship beagles, raised cattle, and finally bred racehorses. From his Springfield farm he sold some building lots on Signal Tree Lane.

The Federal style house was probably built in three sections; the more formal front section of two stories, the center section of 1 ½ stories (probably the earliest), and the kitchen addition of one story. All of the sections are of frame construction. There is an interior brick chimney at either of the gable ends of the front section and a third chimney between the center and kitchen sections.

The center section faces west and is a one room (and hall) over one room (and hall) design, with eight-foot ceilings. It contains the present dining room, which has a large fireplace, and one bedroom upstairs, also with fireplace. This was probably the original house, built over a red Seneca sandstone foundation without a cellar, perhaps in the early 1830's.

The two-story front section may have been built during the late 1830's. When Denham lost the property in 1840, the list of his possessions, among which were three large mahogany tables, three beds,

and a piano-forte, indicates a large and more formal house. This part of the house is about two steps higher than the earlier center section and contains the living room and the parlor on either side of a center hall, with two bedrooms upstairs. These rooms are large, with 10-foot ceilings and the original random width floorboards. Each of the four rooms has its own fireplace. In the center hall, a lovely walnut stair rail curves up three flights. The cellar here has foundation walls of fieldstone and quarry stone, and the floor beams are whole logs.

The attic over this front part contains two small rooms, perhaps some of the Magruder family had to retreat to these bedrooms when Union General Banks took over the house in 1861.

The original detached kitchen was located to the south of the main house, but there is no evidence of it today. The present kitchen was added onto the south end of the center section, probably during the time of the Tschiffelys' ownership (1880's to 1914). This kitchen addition is one step down from the center dining room section. The connecting door being unusually thick may have been an exterior door at one time.

Several outbuildings are also on the property, including a barn, smokehouse, garage and stables. There is a wonderful year-round artesian spring nearby, which no doubt influenced the decision on the location of the house for the original builder.

The approximately two acres of lawn fronting on Seneca Road were once lined on each side with maple trees, some of which are still there. Some of the old Tschiffely boxwoods remain near the front porch. Locust trees and cedars also shade the old house, and at one time Mr. Iler's beautiful horses gazed in the surrounding fields. This picture of serenity and history was surely an oasis, as our area changes so rapidly.

*Information from:*

*Charles Iler*

*Joann Iler*

*Bessie Lee Athey*

*Helen Riley Bodmer*

*Montgomery County Land Records and Wills*

*Montgomery County Tax Assessment Records*  
*Montgomery County Historical Society Genealogy*  
*Files*  
*Oral History by Claude Owen – from "History of*  
*Potomac" Potomac Almanac 1970*

## ***Dickerson Man May Face \$83,000 Tree-Cutting Fine***

by Miranda S. Spivack  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Thursday, October 5, 2006; B05

Anthony Mereos sees the case against him as nothing more than pulp fiction. Literally.

The tale began more than a year ago in rural Dickerson in northwestern Montgomery County.

Mereos bought two acres for \$65,000, hoping to build a house.

Today, the Montgomery County Planning Board could fine him \$83,000, which, if approved, would be the largest in recent memory. Mereos, a grocery store clerk, stands accused by his neighbors and the county of illegally cutting down trees. And federal investigators, who also have cited him, said they have found signs of illegal dumping in a nearby creek.

Mereos denies cutting down or dumping the trees. He said he is being made a scapegoat by county officials eager to deflect criticism that they have failed to adequately enforce development laws. "I always thought the county was supposed to help with the development process, especially single property owners," Mereos said yesterday. "They let builders off the hook, like Clarksburg. They write a check, and it's over. I am sure they are going to give it to me with fines."

Mereos was referring to last year's controversy over building irregularities at Clarksburg Town Center, where hundreds of houses were built too tall and too close to the road. The developer and builders eventually agreed to pay about \$14 million in a mediated agreement to finance new amenities in the development.

Mereos's case represents a smaller-scale controversy, but officials view illegal tree cutting as a serious offense. State and local laws restrict cutting down trees, even on private land, to ensure that a sufficient tree canopy is maintained to help prevent erosion, improve air quality and provide shade. Plans to cut down trees on private property of 40,000 square feet or more require pre-approval by county officials, and doing so on smaller properties also may be subject to pre-approval. Additionally, federal laws protect wetlands from building, clearing and dumping.

The planning agency, which is recommending Mereos's fine, said that witnesses saw Mereos cutting down the trees and that he should have known his legal responsibilities. Agency staffers also said Mereos tangled with the agency a few years ago over illegally cutting down trees in Burtonsville. Mereos blamed someone else but agreed to plant new trees.

Mereos also was fined \$107.50 recently by a county judge for failing to get a sediment control permit for his Dickerson property. When he failed to pay, the county issued a warrant for him, and he paid the fine.

As planning agency staffers probed his current case, they tracked down a company that rented saws and skids to Mereos about the time that neighbors say they witnessed the tree removal. Staffers also pored over aerial photographs to figure out when the tree cutting occurred.

According to a Montgomery park and planning report, Mereos told at least one neighbor that he was going to try to figure out "who turned him in." He also has offered to donate his property to the county in exchange for it dropping the fines, but the planning agency staff has opposed the donation.

Redskins owner Daniel M. Snyder paid \$37,000 last year into a county conservation fund to compensate for clearing 55,000 square feet of land to improve his view of the C&O Canal. That was about 80 cents per square foot, officials said. The recommended fine against Mereos is \$1 per square foot for a larger area, officials said.

# Ladies' Night Out!

## Teal Ribbon Night



*Play Bunco for Ovarian Cancer*

*Make a difference...*

*Roll the dice..*

*Reduce the risk!*



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Teal Ribbon Night will be held on

### Thursday, March 1

\* Hors d'oeuvres   \* Raffle Drawings   \* Music/DJ   \* Door Prizes   \* Cash Bar

This event is 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 local 501 c3 organization. The goals of TROCRF are to raise funds to advance ovarian cancer research towards a cure; advocating for early diagnostic treatment programs and to improve the lives of ovarian cancer survivors.

For event details visit [www.trocrf.org](http://www.trocrf.org)

For additional information contact Karlyn @ [trocrf@comcast.net](mailto:trocrf@comcast.net) or 301-990-1567

---

To receive a personal invitation to the event, please send the following information (via email or mail) to:

TROCRF, Inc., PO Box 83015, Gaithersburg, MD 20883

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Mereos said yesterday that the proposed fine, which the board is scheduled to consider today, would bankrupt him.

The case against Mereos comes at a pivotal moment for Montgomery's park and planning agency, as the board's new chairman, Royce Hanson, is eager to change a culture that critics have said encouraged lax enforcement on development.

Despite the size of the proposed fine against Mereos, civic activists in Montgomery say they are worried that the planning agency is not sufficiently protecting trees. The Montgomery County Civic Federation wrote to the agency yesterday asking it to suspend work on tree protection until it could set up a more stringent program.

Planning agency staffers, who have been meeting for several weeks as part of an agency task force to examine the enforcement of tree laws, have complained during meetings that the tree protection program has long been understaffed.

Officials said they are unable to provide a complete history of fines for those who have violated the tree protection program, but they believe the proposed fine for Mereos to be one of the largest.

Peter Gajary, a leading government expert on imagery analysis who examined aerial photos of an Ashton property in a case of alleged illegal tree cutting, said the agency uses antiquated methods and equipment. "I faced an arrogance and dismissive ness I have rarely encountered anywhere. . . . They used technology that we haven't used since the late 1970s," Gajary said.

This week, the County Council began examining a proposed law introduced by Howard A. Denis (R-Bethesda-Potomac) and Marilyn Praisner (D-Eastern County) to clarify the agency's responsibility in protecting so-called champion trees. Planning agency lawyers say the law is murky, and civic activists say the agency's responsibilities are clear already.

Last month, a task force set up by Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) urged the county to do more to protect trees to counter the effects of encroaching development. The group was set up after Snyder was cited.

*Staff researchers Karl Evanzz and Meg Smith contributed to this report.*

## ***Places of Worship***

### **Gaithersburg 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**

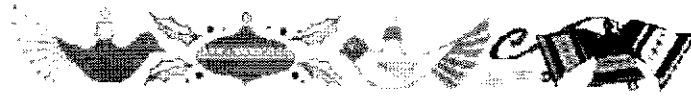
Worshipping at Darnestown Presbyterian  
240-631-2800

### **Seneca Community Church**

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

### **Temple Beth Ami**

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



# Our Lady of the Visitation Church Annual Christmas Tree Sale & Craft Shoppe

Christmas Trees will be on sale December 1<sup>st</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

Hours of Operation are:

Weekdays 3:00 pm 8:00 pm

Weekends 8:00 am 8:00 pm

Featuring Frazier & Douglas Fur  
Trees and Wreaths

The Craft Shoppe will present a selection of hand-made crafts and special offerings. The Shoppe features unique gifts, jewelry, holiday ornaments and more.

Also, a professional in our parish has crafted a magnificent patchwork quilted tree skirt with six matching stockings. These items have been donated as a raffle item for this fund raising event. Raffle tickets are five dollars per chance. Contact Jean Jurgena for ticket information at 301.840.1187.

Shoppe Hours of Operation are:

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>

4:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Saturday/Sunday, December 2/3 & 9/10

9:00 am 9:00 pm

(Shoppe closes during masses)

*Our Lady of the Visitation Church is located at 14139 Seneca Road. The Tree Sale and Craft Shoppe are located on the lower level of the church.*



## ***From Our Schools***

### **Butler School**

Butler Starts the "Going Green" Process  
by Kevin Lang

As summer greens fade to browns, Butler School's "green" is gaining strength. Adhering to the Montessori principle of respecting the environment, Butler Intermediate students began a school-wide composting program this fall. Each classroom is taking part in this project by monitoring what is thrown away. The older students help collect the daily scraps. Not only will students be connecting with the environment but they will also learn first hand what compost is and why we are doing this project.

Composting is an easy way to recycle Mother Nature's nutrients and reduce our waste at the same time. It is a natural process that uses microorganisms to decompose organic material. Intermediate students will use these recycled nutrients for their greenhouse and garden. This past spring, as Intermediate students filled the greenhouse with a variety of plants, we noticed that we were spending a lot of resources on organic fertilizers to aid plant health and development. So why not try to keep some of these precious nutrients instead of shipping them off to the landfill. Virtually everything will break down eventually given the right conditions. Butler will only be composting fruits, vegetables, and breads. We will not be composting meats or dairy products.

To find out more about Butler School, visit our website at [www.butlerschool.org](http://www.butlerschool.org) and plan to attend an Open House. Open House dates are posted on the website.

### **Darnestown Elementary**

by Cathy Sharpe

Darnestown Elementary continues its commitment to community service through myriad activities and events. More than 500 pounds of food were collected by the PTA and delivered to Manna Food Center, Montgomery County's food bank, which serves nearly 20,000 families. Operating since

1983, Manna daily collects and distributes food to families, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, group homes, emergency assistance organizations and low-income housing projects. The food drive was held in support of Montgomery County's Community Service Day.

DES families donated backpacks, clothing and school supplies for Gaithersburg Elementary School students. Also, Thanksgiving was made extra special for dozens of families at the Gaithersburg school thanks to grocery store gift cards and dozens of food items that DES families contributed.

This month, the SGA is coordinating its annual gift drive for the children of The Dwelling Place. Founded in 1988, The Dwelling Place offers transitional housing, life skills workshops, employment assistance, support networks and other services to homeless families in Upper Montgomery County who are achieving self-sufficiency. Please help to make the holidays a little brighter for these youngsters by donating new toys, games or clothing for children of all ages. Gifts, labeled with the appropriate age and sex for its recipient, can be dropped off at the school office through December 8. Don't worry about wrapping them - students volunteer their time to do that on December 11, using paper and ribbon purchased exclusively for The Dwelling Place by Darnestown families during the recent Sally Foster sale.

Families were clucking with laughter during "Family Night" at the Kentlands Theaters for a showing of "Happy Feet." Moviegoers munched on pizza and popcorn and gave the movie "two toes up."

The book fair was another great success as students added loads of new books to their home libraries. In addition, DES teachers had their book wishes come true thanks to the generosity of DES families. "One for Books" enabled our school to donate several books to Gaithersburg Elementary and help support a national non-profit in support of reading. Way to go DES!

It was a day filled with adventure, mystery and laughter as Darnestown Elementary celebrated

Guest Reader Day on November 20. Politicians, educators, librarians and community and business leaders shared their favorite stories with the students and teachers at this ninth annual event.

During the next few weeks, parent volunteers will be presenting author's workshops in each class. Held twice a year, the program is designed to strengthen students' appreciation and excitement for literature, reading and writing by sharing the lives of various children's authors. Through in-class discussions, presentations on the authors, special guest appearances, book reviews and activities such as writing assignments, art projects, games or puzzles, students will learn all there is to know about the selected authors including their experiences, challenges and successes.

### **Jones Lane Elementary**

by Princina Drazan

The Scholastics Book Fair arrived at Jones Lane Elementary School. The Book Fair ran from November 3 – 10. The theme of the Book Fair was Reading Rainforest. The students had the opportunity to create a poster that was displayed throughout the school. Also, JLES Principal, Mrs. Carole Sample, read books to the students during Family Fun Night on November 8th. Everyone had a great time.

The students were treated to a Cultural Arts event on October 12<sup>th</sup>. Students heard the lively music of the Andes Manta group. Andes Manta is made up of four Lopez brothers who play traditional folk music from Ecuador. This was a great opportunity for the students to see more than 35 traditional instruments and to gain a better understanding of the Andes region of South America. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, the students experienced the "Ultimate Science Show" from Mike Offut. Mr. Offut unlocked the secrets and science behind magical "tricks". This was an interactive show that perked the interest of many budding scientists among the students.

Our Sally Foster Fundraising Committee was hugely successfully. This year, the Committee raised approximately \$16,000. Almost half of these

monies will be used to fund programs that will directly benefit our children.

JLES, with the help of our art teacher, Mrs. Wolf, held a contest, which gave the students the opportunity to design a new Jaguar Spirit logo. The new logo will be unveiled in the next 2 – 3 months. In the interim, the remaining inventory of Spirit clothing and accessories will be sold off at a discount to make room for the new stock of Spirit clothing and accessories due to arrive in the spring.

The students and their families enjoyed a night of Bingo at Kingsview Middle School on November 17<sup>th</sup>. Everyone had a wonderful time nervously hoping that they would eventually shout out the words "BINGO". There were lots of prizes and lots of winners. The entire school looks forward to this annual family event.

### **Lakelands Middle School**

by Tassey Mariani

It is the start of the second year at Lakelands Park Middle School and there is a huge change this year – the school now has three grades attending with the last year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders rising to be in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class this year. Not only will the first floor, where the 8<sup>th</sup> grade is housed, be especially active but there is fourteen new staff for this increase in the student body. And there are also new classes and new programs being offered. These include: French, Forensics, Awareness of Languages and Cultures, the Renzulli Program [Univ. of Conn. GT program] for the sciences, etc.

Some of the special event activities that are happening this November and December include the annual 6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education program and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Medieval Times in Gaithersburg. This year the Outdoor Education program will be held at the Skycroft Outdoor Education Center in Middleton, Maryland, near the Washington Monument State Park. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Medieval Times, to be taken in early December, is intended to bolster their understanding of life in medieval days, which is the focus in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies curriculum. The PTSA is contributing some funds to this trip in order to

defray the cost and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade class is selling pizza after school and having "penny wars" to further assist with the expense of this trip.

The PTSA has been active early this year with the year's primary fundraiser, Kathryn Beich kicking off in September. This fundraiser, which sold gift-wrap and small gifts and candy, raised approximately \$30,000. The PTSA will, as a result, be able to realize a fair portion of this as an addition to its funds, a very important thing for a new PTSA trying to start up and fund family events, school dances, community programs, etc. or offer some much needed funding to special school programs that do not have all the monies necessary to operate. [For example, the PTSA financially subsidized the school dedication ceremonies last May.] And, just as last year, the PTSA will be scheduling a Book Fair in the first two weeks of December and the March Madness Basketball Night in March. During November, the monthly PTSA meeting program focused on drug use and prevention in adolescents and, at the December meeting, the program to be presented will be on financial planning for college.

There is also much activity on the playing fields at LPMS. And while LPMS is gearing up for the basketball season, during the first semester of school LPMS fielded boys and girls' softball teams. The boy's softball team finished their season with a 4-2 record (compared to last year's 0-6 record) and had several Darnestown students on its roster: Jeffrey White, DJ Peoples, Eric Woods, Ben Pyser, Corey Norris, Max Frankel and Danny Mars.

This year LPMS had a co-ed cross country team! Once more Darnestown had great representation. The Darnestown girls on the cross country team included: Lauren Rost, Alexa April, Alexis Widmayer, Kai Santangelo, Hanna Sponberg, Rebecca Goodman, and Charlotte Goodman. The Darnestown boys running on the team included: Chris Miller, Jimmy Kazunas, Taylor Johnson, Tommy Johnson, Andrew Ruf and Michael Mars. Special "kudos" to Kai Santangelo who placed first in three out of three meets, and also to Chris Miller who placed first in two out of three meets.

For those following the middle schools and clusters against which LPMS competes, these softball games and cross-country meets were held against Ridgeview, Montgomery Village, Forest Oak, Gaithersburg, Shady Grove and Julius West.

According to Joe Sacco, LPMS principal, the staff motto at LPMS this year is "Kaizen!" This is the Japanese word for "continuous improvement". The staff and administration is committed to improving and delivering the best possible education and personal enrichment to the LPMS students. From various reports received on our students' activities and contributions, it appears that our students are also living by the motto "Kaizen"!

[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.net](mailto:tmariani@comcast.net). Additional information about LPMS events and daily activities may be found on the school website [www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/lakelandsparkms](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/lakelandsparkms).]

## **Mary of Nazareth**

### ***School Community Collects for Children in Iraq*** by Emily Mahoney and Rosemarie McGinty

Mary of Nazareth School recently received a request from Camp Delta in Iraq for clothes, toys, and other items to keep patients occupied. Camp Delta provides medical attention to local civilians. Many of the patients are children from ages six months to thirteen. They came in with severe burns and they are in terrible pain. If they even had clothes they were ratty and falling off.

The students and parents of Mary of Nazareth School all pitched in to donate the desired items. The collection began on October 2nd and ended on October 13th. The Social Concerns Committee of the Home and School Association was worried that because of the short notice and short period of time, we wouldn't receive many donations. They were wrong! Every day the bins had to be emptied into Mrs. Evans' car. Some days there was so much that it wouldn't fit in her car. Luckily, we had Mrs.

Evans who was very dedicated to delivering the clothes and toys to St. Mary's Church in Barnesville. There were 75 boxes of donations.

The bins were held in the vestibule of the school. On October 15th, the last day to bring in donations, the vestibule was overflowing with clothes, books, and toys. Mrs. Evans had to make two trips just to carry everything. Thank you to everyone at Mary of Nazareth School who was kind enough to make a donation to children who need our help!

### ***Learning at MoN Goes Outdoors...***

by Christine Priznar

On October 25, 26, and 27 MoN Middle School students participated in innovative team and confidence building activities at Calleva in Poolesville, Maryland. Each grade went to Calleva on a different day and was grouped into teams to complete the various activities. All students wore harnesses for their activities and were encouraged and supported by the Calleva staff and their team mates to complete the following: a high swing where the student is pulled up 30 feet in the air in a harness and then swings amid the trees; a "helping hands" course where students walk along wires low to the ground and have to help each other to get from place to place along the course; an obstacle course where the team must move around the course communicating without words; a balance beam suspended thirty feet off the ground; and a challenge to build and move tennis balls across a frame held by the team. Many lessons were learned during the students' exercises. Students from Mr. Whitney's 7-2 class share their thoughts. Alexandra Kane said, "I learned to listen to other people, to develop and use strategies, and to trust my classmates." Joseph Zimmerman learned, "How important it is to cheer other people on and tell them that they can do it." Bridgette Wilhelm said that, "Every activity required teamwork and a lot of trust." Mikael Barallon said, "My teammates faith in me was what urged me to succeed." Everyone looks forward to Calleva next year.



Brave at thirty feet above the ground on a wobbly balance beam.



Teamwork is key on the "Helping Hands" low ropes course.



Everyone is supported going over the climbing wall.

## **Northwest High School**

by Madeline D'Alessio

Congratulations to our Principal, Mrs. Sylvia Morrison, for winning not one, but two awards. The Superintendent's Annual Mark Mann Excellence and Harmony Award is presented to a Montgomery County Public Schools Principal who has shown exceptional performance in promoting the following categories: academic excellence, human relations, and community outreach. Mrs. Morrison is the 2006 recipient of this prestigious award. She is also the winner of this year's Walker Principal of the Year Award. The Montgomery County Educational Media Specialist Association gives the award. Danee Wilson, school library media specialist at Northwest High School, nominated and presented the award to Ms. Morrison.

The Homecoming Extravaganza Show this year included original music by Darnestown's Dereck Paul and performed by NWHS Marching Band, Poms and Step Team. In addition to performing at football games the Marching Jaguars have been competing in a number of competitions this year. The last week of October they earned a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> place and received the highest score in the history of NWHS. They have earned the right to compete in Chapter Championships. Congratulations to Mike Waddell for winning the Best Drum Major award!

Brooke Cheripko, received the Jaguar Award for the 2005-2006 cheerleading squad as a Junior. Quoting Mr. Tapley, Athletic Director, "It is the most prestigious award given to the student-athlete." It is a leadership award voted on by teammates. Brooke also was a state qualifier for the track and field team: shot and discus. She is co-captain of the cheering squad for the second year and was one of the three finalists for homecoming queen.

The girls Cross Country team 4-Peated, winning their fourth County Championship in a row. The Darnestown students on that team are Amy Nwankwo, Kathry Aherne, Elyssa Bosco, Elise Braun, Rachel Handel, Becca Stinner, Anna D'Alessio, Hillary Siegall, Mary Norr. Kate

Allaway and Manager Jenni Norcross. The boy's team consists of Captains Robert Allaway and Dave D'Alessio, Chad Hoggel, Patric McGuire, Matt Romney, Bob Norr, Nick Gummo, Joshua Santangelo, Joseph Santangelo, and Sean Gordon.

Tracy Roman, Stephanie Zaner, Kristin Keefer, Marlena Juberts are all Darnestown girls that were on the Northwest High School Girl's Tennis team this fall. They came in 3rd in their division, which is great since they have a very young team and they moved up a division this year.

Haley Brightman was initiated into the NWHS Honor Society in the spring as a junior. Sorry, we missed her name in the previous Little Acorn but it is such a huge academic honor we did not want to miss this opportunity to congratulate her.

Michael Iafolla received a Commendation from the National Merit Scholarship program for his performance on the PSATs.

The Organization of Music Parents & Helpers (OOMPAH) is pleased to offer the 2006 White House Christmas Ornament honoring the 21<sup>st</sup> President, Chester Alan Arthur. The design of the 2006 ornament portrays an American bald eagle flying over the White House North Portico. Ornaments are available now at \$22.00 each. To purchase ornaments and support the music program, contact any NWHS instrumental music student or:  
Joan McNamara 301-916-1489  
([Joan\\_M\\_McNamara@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Joan_M_McNamara@mcpsmd.org))

## **Ridgeview Middle School**

by Teresa Kaczmarek

Ridgeview was built in 1975 as an open plan facility. School colors are red and black and our mascot is a Bobcat. There are currently 750 students in grades sixth, seventh, eighth and 108 staff. The building is scheduled for modernization in 2008-2010.

This year's PTSA Board members consist of:

	President	Teresa Kaczmarek
1	<sup>st</sup> VP	Sheila Jackson
2	<sup>nd</sup> VP	Debra Strickman

Treasurer     Laura Meredith  
Secretary     Holly Parker

Our Staff Awards Chair nominated Dr. Levine for the Washington Post Distinguished Educational Leadership Award and we have our fingers crossed that she will be honored with this award for her outstanding work here at Ridgeview.

Eighth grade recently spent a team-building day at Smokey Glen Farms. Seventh grade took a field trip to see Tom Sawyer with rave reviews. Cultural Arts programs are planned for the year.

Volunteers have already logged over 700 hours since school started. Membership has exceeded last year. Pizza Night was held in September with 150 people in attendance. The first dance will be held in October. The Reflections Program is currently underway as well as Math Olympiad and Destination Imagination. The first NAACP meeting is in October. Also, the Beautification committee did a fine job of weeding and planting mums and flowers on school grounds making the entrance more welcoming.

## **Seneca Academy and The Circle School**

by Jodi Thurmond

### ***National School Yard Habitat***

Seneca Academy is proud to announce that our six-acre campus has been awarded the distinction of being named a National Schoolyard Habitat. This designation, which is granted by the National Wildlife Federation, is bestowed on those schools that meet their high standards. Our school provides the four basic elements needed for wildlife to thrive: food, water, cover and places to raise young. Students, teachers, parents, friends of the school and outside professionals have worked diligently creating a bluebird trail, butterfly garden, wildlife pool and bat houses. Plus many native plants, grasses, and trees have been placed in the habitat and students are primarily responsible for routine maintenance.

Daily we use the habitat as a "learning laboratory" for students of all ages. Students can be found listening to stories or poetry in the gazebo, adding

to the compost pile or using the sitting rocks as a place to observe and complete science journals. This award is a culmination of a great deal of work and we're proud of the accomplishment.

### ***School News***

Back to School Nights and Parent Coffees have aided parents and students as they got into the swing of the school year. Safety Patrol elected Michael McDonald, Captain, with Rodolfo Padilla and Nick Camargo serving as Sergeants. The Parent Committee, our PTA component, is headed by Dawn Albert. Mrs. Lise Sullivan is serving as chair of the hot lunch pizza program and, also, as chair of the school store. There is always a lot going on at Seneca!

### ***Special Events***

Special events this fall included The Dennis Walters Show sponsored by TPC Avenel and held at the school. Mr. Walters was an inspiration as he is a professional golfer who happens to be paralyzed and must play without the use of his legs. His message was that you can accomplish your dreams with determination and faith in yourself. Students in Grades 6-8 completed a physical education unit of golf by playing the three holes constructed at the school in the upper meadow and by taking a lesson with Mike Aldrich, the pro at Poolesville Golf Course.

Then grandparents joined students at school right before Thanksgiving vacation for Grandparents' Day. Many came for lunch or special presentations in the classrooms.

For more information about our extraordinary school, call 301-869-3728 or look on the web at [www.senecaacademy.org](http://www.senecaacademy.org).

## 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  
Jaralyn Hough, Head of School

#### **Boy Scout Troop 1094**

Scoutmaster Bud Wildman (301-990-8318)

#### **Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts**

Cathy Sharpe (301-519-9520)

#### **Butler School**

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

#### **Circle School/Seneca Academy**

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

#### **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)

#### **Lakelands Park Middle School**

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

#### **Mary of Nazareth School**

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

#### **Quince Orchard Community Library**

Quince Orchard Road  
240-777-0200

#### **Northwest High School**

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

#### **Quince Orchard High School**

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

#### **Ridgeview Middle School**

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

## 2006 DARNESTOWN SOFTBALL STANDINGS AND SCHEDULE

<b>TEAM</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>PCT</b>	<b>RF</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>RA</b>	<b>AVG</b>	<b>RF/RA</b>	<b>GB</b>
Ancient Mountain Quails	8	1	1	0.889	102	10.2	48	4.8	2.125	----
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	6	3	1	0.667	139	13.9	62	6.2	2.242	2.0
Highlanders	5	4	0	0.556	82	9.1	84	9.3	0.976	3.0
Western Darnestown	4	4	0	0.500	56	7.0	77	9.6	0.727	3.5
Rollinmead	2	7	0	0.222	56	6.2	90	10.0	0.622	6.0
Berryville Seneca	1	7	0	0.125	53	6.6	127	15.9	0.417	6.5

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



**Darnestown Neighbor**  
**14801 Springfield Rd**  
**Darnestown MD 20874**