



Volume 43, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2007

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

## *Welcome to Darnestown Harris Teeter!*

The much-anticipated opening of Harris Teeter occurred in November. What a great addition to our town. It has turned into a social hub where even during the somewhat cold months you see your neighbors!

Harris Teeter has put customer service back into the shopping experience. Their helpful staff is on hand to assist and guide you. Another positive is that the cashiers unload your cart onto the conveyor. At first the isle layout was a little confusing but now everyone seems to have gotten the hang of it. Also, let us not forget about their in-store Starbucks and pharmacy.

Up to now Harris Teeter stores were located primarily in the southern states. In addition to the Darnestown location there will be a store in Rockville. Harris Teeter is trying to stock items that we consume that are not requested in the southern market. If there is an item that you would like to see them carry, you can go to their website [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com) and under *Shopping* there is a *Special Item Request* form.



### *Next Town Meeting*

Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 pm  
Darnestown Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Turkey Foot and Darnestown Road

### *Spring Social*

Wednesday, April 25 from 6:00-8:00 pm  
Hosted by Smoking Glen Farms  
*For more details see inside flyer*

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

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

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

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

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

Compliance: Kurt Karst  
Darnestown Village: Steve Ellis, Terry Reis  
Darnestown Heritage Park: Chris Collins,  
Scott Mostrom  
Database: Vicki Mostrom  
Directory: Sarah Scherer  
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-Troike  
Softball: Steve Ellis  
Survey: Brian McCollom  
Trails: Marilee Giebel  
Trees: Joyce McCarthy  
Welcome: Vinnie Mirizaiaans  
Wildlife: Larry Zoeller  
Zoning & Dev. Review: Pam Dubois, Steve Ellis

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 !!!**

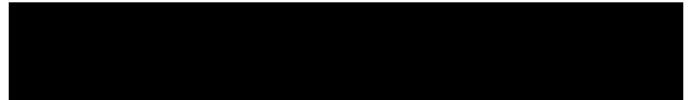
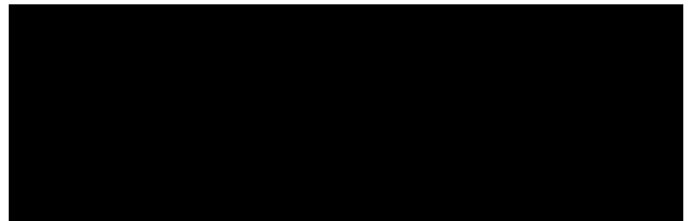
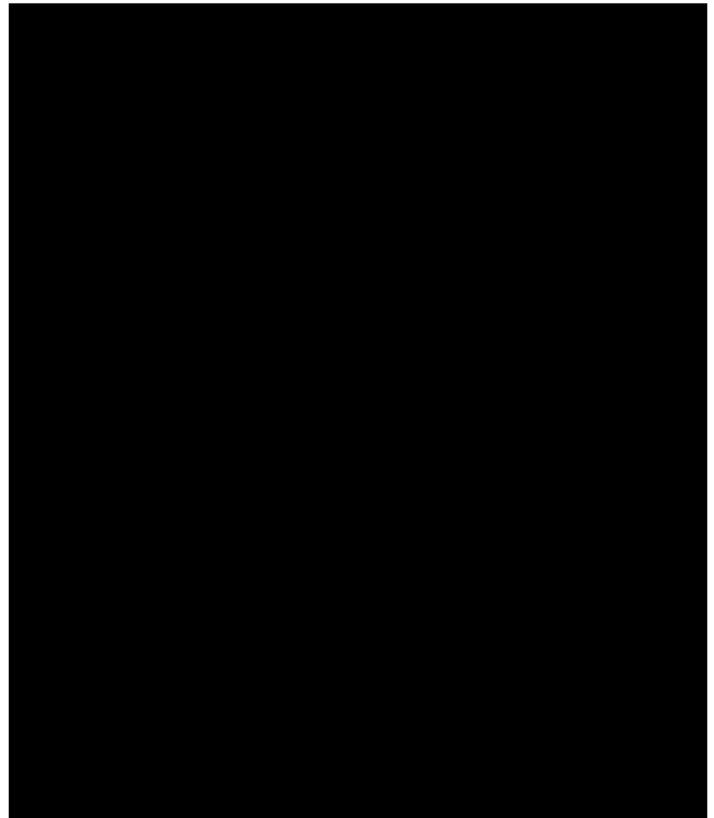
Deadline for the next issue of  
*The Little Acorn* is

**May 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**. The editor can be reached  
at 301-869-8079.

*ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!*



### **NOTARY SERVICES**

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

## *Civic Association News and Notes*

### *Notes from the President*

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

It looks like 2007 is going to be a busy year for the Darnestown Civic Association. We have several issues and projects in the works:

- Finalize the Darnestown Heritage Park plans with MCNPPC and get on the books for the 2007-2008 timeline.
- Work with upcoming building projects: Butz Farm, St. Nicks Episcopal Church, Petrucelli's commercial property, and MWOSH assisted living center just to name a few.
- Manage the deer & tick problem through different strategies.
- Meet with our newly elected officials to discuss concerns and issues important to Darnestown.
- Speak at Park & Planning board hearings on matters affecting Darnestown and its neighbors.
- Continue to improve and expand our website [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org).
- Stay abreast of any matters that come before the hearing board that may positively or negatively affect Darnestown.

The last bullet item is probably the most difficult and most important. We need your help! If you become aware of something that you feel the DCA should be made aware of, please contact us. Several residents have shared plans they've received in the mail from developers, builders and neighbors. Often, the DCA does not receive such items and would have no idea unless someone alerted us. We monitor the weekly hearing board schedule; unfortunately the schedule is published on Friday for the upcoming week's hearings, so we may not get a chance to look over the agenda items. One such item almost passed over us if it wasn't for

a Darnestown friend. County Councilman Mike Knapp introduced what looked like a relatively innocuous Zoning Text Amendment however it could have a negative impact on Darnestown.

In response to Councilman Knapp's Zoning Text Amendment, the following letter was sent to Marilyn J. Praisner, President, Montgomery County Council on January 15, 2007:

*"The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) is writing in strong opposition to proposed Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 06-26, written to exempt development plans for commercially and industrially zoned properties from compliance with Master Plans. The DCA testified in opposition to this ZTA at the January 11, 2007, Planning Board Meeting. At this meeting the Planning Board unanimously voted to affirm their staff's recommendation to deny this ZTA. Please be advised that the DCA supports the Planning Board's decision in this matter.*

*In its review memorandum, Planning Board staff detailed that this ZTA is inconsistent with the current zoning and development review process and obviates guidance in current Master Plans and Sector Plans. The DCA concurs with Planning Board staff's conclusions*

*This ZTA, because of its intent and scope, would cause a host of negative unintended consequences for Montgomery County Residents. We recommend that the Council support Planning Board and Planning Board staff denial of ZTA 06-26."*

The DCA is in the process of setting up a meeting with Mike Knapp to discuss ZTA 06-26 and other issues important to Darnestown. We will keep you updated.

Help us help you! Alert us to anything you think we should be made aware of. We need all the eyes and ears we can get.



## ***Darnestown Directory***

by Marsha Crowley

### **Darnestown Directory News**

I am pleased to announce that Sarah Scherer has volunteered to be the Chairperson of the Directory Committee. The Directory Committee produces our bi-annual Darnestown Directory. I have totally enjoyed my thirty-year tenure but I think thirty years is enough. In the future, please send any corrections or additions to sarahscherer@comcast.net.

Following are additions and corrections to your directory:

#### Name changes:

Rick & Dawn Moore to Rick and Reine Moore

Bill & Vicki James to Drew & Vicki James-Miller

#### Telephone number change:

Tan & Mai Le 301-330-4588

#### New neighbor:

Mariana Teresa Acevedo  
13405 Wild Bird Terrace  
301-977-3617

Bob & Welmoed Sisson  
13121 Darnestown Road  
301-926-6585

If your information changes please contact Sarah Scherer at [sarahscherer@comast.net](mailto:sarahscherer@comast.net) or 240-683-8533 and we will update your information in our database.

## ***Membership Update***

by Mary Stefanelli

We have 94 new members of the Darnestown Civic Association. This increases our total membership to 865 members. Of those members 101 are Friends and 92 are Sponsors.

If you are new to the area or have not had an opportunity to become a member, please complete the membership form below. If you have any questions contact Jean Jurgena at [jmurgena@hotmail.com](mailto:jmurgena@hotmail.com) or 301-840-1187.

As always, we thank you for your support and invite you to attend our next Town meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 15 at 7:30 pm at Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

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 \$ 50 \_\_\_ Sponsorship \$100  
  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_ New to Darnestown \_\_\_ Didn't Recv. in Mail

## ***Social Committee***

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

The annual DCA holiday tree lighting was Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> and what a crowd there was! This year, the hot chocolate didn't run out, but the cookies did. We were nervous that Santa wouldn't be able to fit us in his busy schedule, but true to his word, he showed up in his bright red suit with a bag full of candy canes. We have yet to find the secret parking place for his sleigh and reindeer!



Special thanks goes out to the Beautz family for all their time and effort to make this event the best yet. They had the fabulous idea of bringing out their metal cauldron and making a fire to warm all the “tree goers.” Please join me in congratulating them for being the official “Holiday Tree Lighters.” The Beautz family has agreed to coordinate all of the Holiday Tree Lighting activities and update us with articles for *The Little Acorn* from now on. Congratulations Sharon, Patrick and kids!

The annual Spring Social is set for Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm rain or shine! Let’s hope the weather is as good as it was last year. Be sure to bring the whole family for their world famous chicken with all the trimmings, miniature golf, swings, hayrides and more. This event is generously hosted and sponsored by Smokey Glen Farm at no charge to Darnestown residents. Please RSVP by Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> to Lisa Patterson-Troike at [lisaapatterson@aol.com](mailto:lisaapatterson@aol.com) or 301-548-0999. Hope to see you all there!

## ***Village Committee***

by Steve Ellis

Some time later this spring we should see the removal of the old green house in front of the cell tower flagpole. A pest inspection must be done before a house can legally be torn down. Traps yielded 11 mice, but no larger rodents.

The design of the Darnestown Heritage Park is moving forward. Park and Planning staff, under the guidance of project manager, Heidi Sussmann, is close to a recommended design for the community to approve. This should be a great asset in the Village once it is completed. Hopefully, it will become part of the county budget for next year.

## ***Volunteers Wanted***

Would you like to get involved in your town? Volunteer to help in the Darnestown Civic Association. There is no set amount of time you need to dedicate – however much or little you want. For more information contact Lisa Patterson-Troike at 301-548-0999 or [lisaapatterson@aol.com](mailto:lisaapatterson@aol.com).

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

by Pam DuBois and Stephen Ellis

### ***Ancient Oak West***

In December, a preliminary plan was submitted on behalf of a potential purchaser for the re-subdivision of the three-acre Wang parcel. The plan is to divide it three residential lots located on the west side of Chestnut Oak Drive at the intersection with Darnestown Road. The three lots range in size from 36,180 square feet to 50,668 square feet and are accessed off Chestnut Oak via a shared half circle driveway. The property is zoned R-200 so three lots are permissible, but private septic systems are required (county sewer service is not available).

The DCA advocates a minimum lot size policy of approximately one acre (43,560 square feet) in any R-200 zoned areas without sewer service within Darnestown, a policy that is more aligned with traditional lot sizes in this vicinity. The county well and septic division of permitting services also advocates roughly one acre minimum lot size for homes on septic. In addition, the smallest proposed lot at 36,180 square feet is smaller than any existing lots in the Ancient Oak West community. The adjacent parcel to the south is over three acres and the parcels on the other side of Chestnut Oak Drive range in size from a minimum of just under acre (42,830 square feet) to a maximum of over three acres. Further, the average lot size for a recent subdivision immediately west of this lot is approximately 1.5 acres per lot. As such, the DCA will support the subdivision of this parcel into two residential lots because that would conform to the existing lot sizes in the neighborhood. The Ancient Oak West architectural covenants advocate lot sizes in the two-acre range with direct access to the bridle/hiker trails in the community.

### ***Schooley Property***

In mid-January, the Planning Board gave approval to Nicholas Petruccelli to subdivide a 5.89-acre parcel into four residential lots for the construction

of four one-family detached dwelling. The lot size average is 1.5 acres. The DCA supported this plan.

Access to the site, located on Rt 28 approximately 80 feet north of the intersection of Country Glen Court (across from Masonwood Drive), will be via a shared driveway. A bridle/hiker trail will traverse the south and west sides of the property. The rows of the Virginia Junipers near Darnestown road will be saved.

The Schooley family purchased the property from Frank Stallone, Sylvester's father, in 1968. They raised their children and many types of animals, horses in particular. They recently moved to Braddock Heights, Maryland. Both Jim and Mary Alice Schooley were very active in the Darnestown and St. Rose of Lima church communities. Jim was vice president of the DCA for many years and the DCA's representative on the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board for six years. Mary was a Trustee of the DCA, led the establishment of the trail system in the eastern and central sections of Darnestown as our TROT representative, and persuaded the state of Maryland to recognize our champion Catalpa and Kentucky Coffee trees in the Village. They were both founding members of the Darnestown Historical Society.

Dr. Richard Beall originally built the farmhouse in 1848. The second owner was George Rice. The large red barn, which can be seen from the elementary school, was built in 1920 by Paul Bogley (the third owner and another old Montgomery County name). The Bogley farm was subdivided into the Ancient Oak West neighborhood. Unfortunately neither the farmhouse nor barn lends itself to the effort of a renovation and will have to be taken down.

### **Smokey Glen Farm**

In late January, the Planning Board gave approval to Smokey Glen Farm to renovate their main pavilion area. The DCA was very supportive of this plan. The reconstruction will be done in two backs the development of the CCT with the following observations.

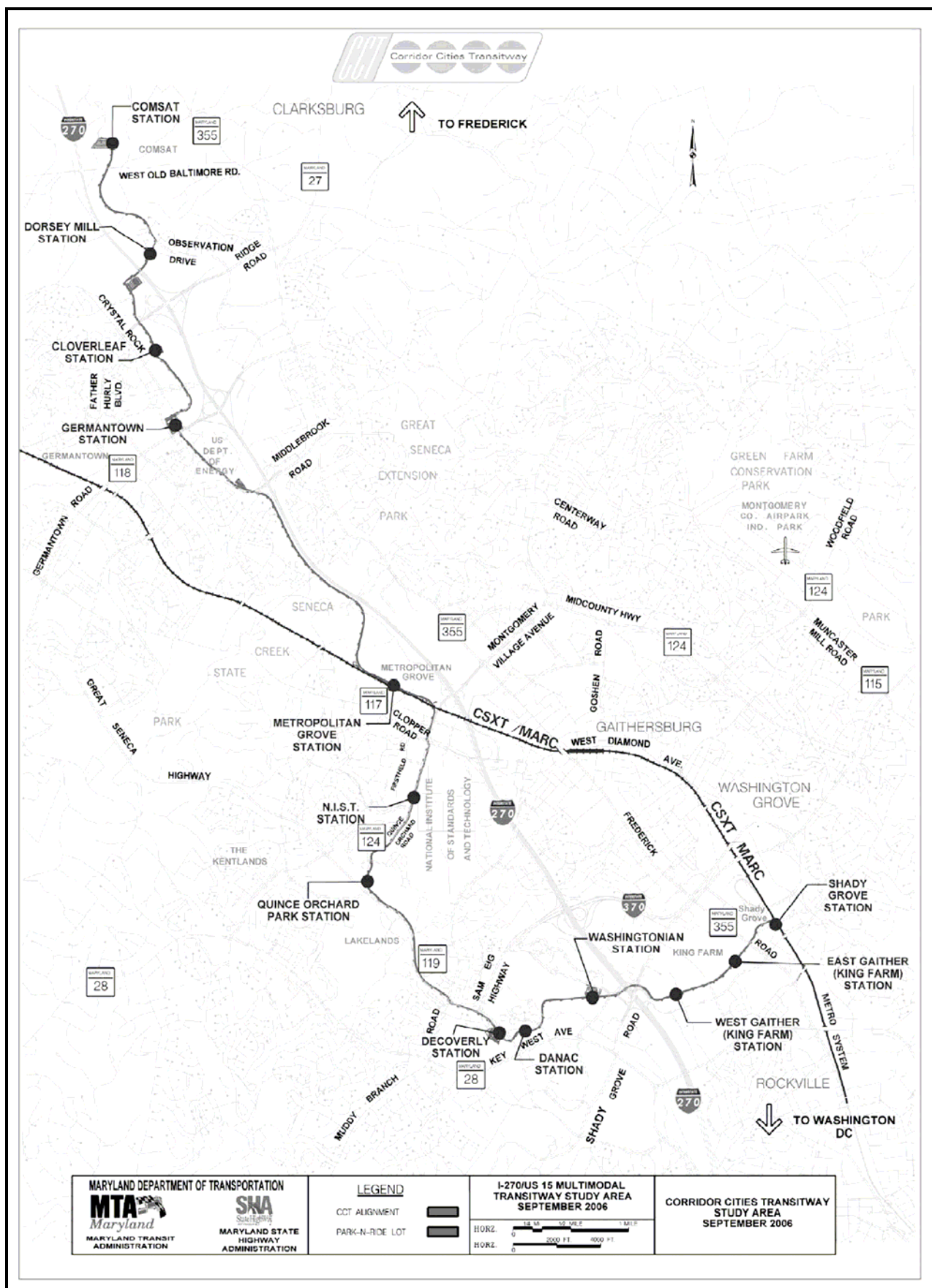
phases. The first phase will include the cooking, storage, outdoor drinks, restrooms and entrance areas; that is, everything leading up to the main pavilion. The design includes a different color scheme. Hopefully, this renovation will be complete for the 2008 spring season. Eventually in the second phase, the current pavilion will be torn down and a larger building will replace it. We are looking forward to seeing how large the Hoedown grand circle will be in the new pavilion.

### ***Montgomery County Upper County Citizens Advisory Board***

by Bob Thompson

One of the issues that vexes all of us is transportation within Montgomery County. One of the things all of us notice on RT112, RT118, and RT28 is an increasing number of interregional commuters, and Darnestown is increasingly becoming a commuter crossing for several hours each workday. All population forecasts for the next 10-30 years forecast that this issue will only become worse. Citizens of the entire Upcounty region are suffering the economic and emotional strain of longer and more difficult commutes and for the past five years the Upper County Citizens Advisory Board (UCCAB) has identified traffic congestion and transportation capabilities as a top priority. Our UCCAB board has studied the problem extensively and sought solutions with the able assistance of both county and state transportation officials. We now find cause for hope in the form of the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). This project is a study of the 13.5 mile transit corridor originally established in Montgomery County master plans in the early 1970s. The right-of-way has been reserved through the development process. The transitway runs generally northwest from the Shady Grove Metro Station in Rockville through Gaithersburg and Germantown where it terminates at the COMSAT facility just south of Clarksburg. Transit alternatives under study include bus rapid transit, light rail transit, and premium bus service operating on HOV or express toll lanes. Our board enthusiastically

1. Transportation planning should move beyond Clarksburg to include Frederick and Washington counties. Further, all potential



stakeholders and participants should be involved in the planning and implementation of the CCT.

2. The CCT should have the political and community support equal to or greater than what is given to the Purple Line project. The significance of the amount of right-of-way that is currently reserved should be emphasized.
3. Concerns about CCT stations and connections to other transit systems & projects:
  - A) Adequate parking facilities and shelters should be provided at each CCT station.
  - B) A plan that covers the interaction of the CCT with Ride On, MARC, Metrobus, I-270 construction, HOT lanes and local road infrastructure construction/improvements is required.
  - C) More details are required to address Ride On coverage for the Damascus area, and the route 124, 97 and 27 corridors.
4. The possible negative impact on transportation should be defined if the CCT is not built. The relationship between impact and timelines should be emphasized in order to support the funding urgency and priority.
5. Ride On marketing should consider using well placed/prominent signs to advertise the service. This is not seen around Shady Grove Metro area, especially the parking garages. People will use their cars if the time and cost factors of using transit are a wash or negative. Marketing should not avoid this problem but attempt to develop a positive approach to address this issue.

**The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board represents more than 300,000 residents** in the Upcounty area, north of Shady Grove Road and including the communities of Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. The 20-member Board advises the Director of the Upcounty Government Services Center, the County Executive, elected officials, and government staff. It provides input on which services and programs should be provided and how they will be delivered. The Board reviews and comments on the County's

capital and operating budgets and master plans; assists with strategies to tailor services to regional needs; and conducts workshops and forums. Some members represent the Board on other ad hoc committees. Members serve three-year terms without compensation, 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. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. We are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural preserve. As Darnestown's representative I am committed to communicating issues of importance to our community up to the County government, and carrying news and information back to our community. Questions or comments are always welcome. Please send them to [Bob.Thompson@comcast.net](mailto:Bob.Thompson@comcast.net) or call 240-683-0103.

### ***Solar Energy Grant Program Funded In Governor's Budget***

In 2002, Senator Garagiola authored the Solar Energy Grant Program, which provides monies to homeowners, businesses, and non-profits to defray the cost of purchasing photovoltaic equipment (solar panels) and solar water heaters.

Photovoltaic equipment uses the sun's energy to provide electricity and solar water heaters use the sun's rays to generate hot water.

When established, the Solar Energy Grant Program only had about \$100,000 in funding. This year, Governor O'Malley provided \$1.5 million in his fiscal year 2008 budget.

In addition to an overall increase in Program funding, Senator Garagiola has introduced two bills to further build on the Solar Energy Grant Program.

One bill (SB 186) would create a dedicated fund for the Solar Energy Grant Program. A second bill (SB 187) would increase grant amounts to cover as much as 30% of the cost of photovoltaic equipment



and solar water heaters. Senator Garagiola plans to introduce a third bill to encourage large retailers, such as Target and Wal Mart to use solar power.

*This information is from Senator Gargiola's District 15 Report.*

## ***Darnestown Area Elected Officials***

Following is contact information for our area's elected officials.

### ***Federal Officials***

#### **U.S. Senate**



**Barbara A. Mikulski** (Democrat)  
Hart Senate Office Bldg, Suite 503  
Washington, DC 20510-2003  
(202) 224-4654  
fax: (202) 224-8858  
tdd: (202) 224-5223  
web: [www.mikulski.senate.gov](http://www.mikulski.senate.gov)

Brown's Wharf, 1629 Thames St.  
Suite 400, Baltimore, MD 21231  
(410) 962-4510  
fax: (410) 962-4760  
tdd: (410) 962-4512

60 West St., Suite 202  
Annapolis, MD 21401-2448  
(410) 263-1805, (410) 269-1650  
fax: (410) 263-5949

6404 Ivy Lane, Suite 406  
Greenbelt, MD 20770-1407  
(301) 345-5517; fax: (301) 345-7573

#### **Benjamin L. Cardin** (Democrat)



B406 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-4524 fax: (202) 224-1651  
tdd: (202) 224-3452  
web: [www.cardin.senate.gov](http://www.cardin.senate.gov)

600 Wyndhurst Ave., Suite 230,  
Baltimore, MD 21210  
(410) 433-8886; fax: (410) 433-2110

#### **U.S. House of Representatives**



**Christopher Van Hollen, Jr.**  
(Democrat), *U.S. Representative, 8th Congressional District* (parts of Montgomery & Prince George's counties), Maryland.

1707 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515  
(202) 225-5341; fax: (202) 225-0375  
web: <http://vanhollen.house.gov>

51 Monroe St., Suite 507,  
Rockville, MD 20850  
(301) 424-3501; fax: (301) 424-5992

3409 Rhode Island Ave.,  
Mount Rainier, MD 20712  
(301) 927-5223; (301) 927-6122

### ***State Officials***

#### **Governor**



**Martin J. O'Malley**  
State House  
100 State Circle  
Annapolis, MD 21401-1925  
(410) 974-3901  
1-800-811-8336(toll free MD)  
e-mail: [governor@state.md.us](mailto:governor@state.md.us)  
fax: (410) 974-3275  
tdd: (410) 333-3098  
web: [www.gov.state.md.us](http://www.gov.state.md.us)

#### **Lieutenant Governor**



**Anthony G. Brown,**  
***Lt. Governor-Elect (Democrat)***  
Transition Office of Governor-Elect  
Martin J. O'Malley  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 St. Paul St., Suite 2000,  
Baltimore, MD 21202  
(410) 767-3125  
e-mail: [interest@marylandtransition.com](mailto:interest@marylandtransition.com)  
web: [www.marylandtransition.com](http://www.marylandtransition.com)

## State Senate



### **Robert J. Garagiola**

*Democrat, District 15,*  
James Senate Office Bldg, Rm. 104  
11 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3169, (301) 858-3169  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3169 (toll free)

e-mail: [rob.garagiola@senate.state.md.us](mailto:rob.garagiola@senate.state.md.us)  
fax: (410) 841-3607, (301) 858-3607

## House of Delegates



### **Kathleen M. Dumais**

*Democrat, District 15*  
Lowe House Office Bldg, Room 350  
84 College Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991  
(410) 841-3052, (301) 858-3052  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3052 (toll free)

e-mail: [kathleen.dumais@house.state.md.us](mailto:kathleen.dumais@house.state.md.us)  
fax: (410) 841-3219, (301) 858-3219



### **Brian J. Feldman**

*Democrat, District 15*  
Lowe House Office Bldg, Room 223  
6 Bladen St.  
Annapolis, MD 21401 – 1991  
(410) 841-3186, (301) 858-3186  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3186 (toll free)

e-mail: [brian.feldman@house.state.md.us](mailto:brian.feldman@house.state.md.us)  
fax: (410) 841-3219, (301) 858-3219



### **Craig L. Rice**

*Democrat, District 15*  
Lowe House Office Bldg, Room 223  
6 Bladen St., Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 841-3090, (301) 858-3090  
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3090 (toll free)

e-mail: [craig.rice@house.state.md.us](mailto:craig.rice@house.state.md.us)  
fax: (410) 841-3164, (301) 858-3164

## County Officials

### County Executive



Ike Leggett  
Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850  
Phone: 240-777-2500  
Fax: 240-777-2517

### County Councilmembers



Seated from left to right; George L. Leventhal, Marilyn J. Praisner (President), Phil Andrews. Standing from left to right; Marc Elrich, Valerie Ervin, Roger Berliner, Duchy Trachtenberg, Nancy Floreen, and Mike Knapp (Vice-President).

Phil Andrews	240-777-7906
<a href="mailto:councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.andrews@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Roger Berliner	240-777-7828
<a href="mailto:councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.berliner@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Marc Elrich	240-777-7966
<a href="mailto:councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.elrich@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Valerie Ervin	240-777-7960
<a href="mailto:councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.ervin@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Nancy Floreen	240-777-7959
<a href="mailto:councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.floreen@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Mike Knapp,	240-777-7955
<a href="mailto:councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.knapp@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
George Leventhal.	240-777-7811
<a href="mailto:councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.leventhal@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Marilyn J. Praisner	240-777-7968
<a href="mailto:councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.praisner@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	
Duchy Trachtenberg	240-777-7964
<a href="mailto:councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov">councilmember.trachtenberg@montgomerycountymd.gov</a>	

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

by Nettie Koepenick

### **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 onset of winter and 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 out mother earth.

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 view from your house and your neighbors, but convenient to your gardening routine. It should be at least three feet wide by three long by three 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, 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 one 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 then sending all those materials to the dump? Don't you feel better about not contributing to global warming? I know I do.



## ***Monart Drawing Studio***

by Sam Esposito

Local residents, Sam & Karen Esposito, have recently opened Monart Drawing Studio, which is located in The Shops At Potomac Valley (behind Wendy's). The studio teaches fine arts to children, teens and adults and is based on the methods developed by Mona Brookes. Ms. Brookes is the author of the best selling books, *Drawing With Children* and *Drawing For Older Children & Teens* and is the founder of Monart. The studio has classes designed for all age groups and the web site, [www.mdmonart.com](http://www.mdmonart.com), has information regarding schedules, class descriptions and a free trial class. You can also call 301-987-0377 or e-mail [info@mdmonart.com](mailto:info@mdmonart.com) for more details. You are welcome to stop by the studio or see our display at Montgomery Mall (near the Redskins Store towards Old Navy).

## ***A New School is Coming to Darnestown!***

by Susie Gooch

The Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School (TJP) signals the growth and expansion beyond The Jefferson School, which has been educating local youth for more than two decades. TJP is striving to create a superlative educational experience for our students, including advanced programs in math, technology, and history. Most importantly, we are and will always remain a family of students, parents, and educators.

Although our focus is on advanced academics, we teach to the whole child by incorporating art, foreign language (Latin), music, physical education, and drama into their experience. We teach to individual mastery by addressing each student's needs on a student-specific basis. Next year, we will run from 1st - 6th grades, adding 7th and 8th grades consecutively thereafter.

As one of the few non-religious private schools in northern Montgomery County, we are proud to host a very diverse student population. We embrace the

global principles and values of justice, compassion and empathy in all facets of life.

We will be located at the Fairhaven United Methodist Church on Darnestown Road. TJP is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to the education and development of our future leaders. Additional information about TJP can be found at [www.thomasjeffersonprep.org](http://www.thomasjeffersonprep.org), or please feel free to contact the Director, Mrs. Susie Gooch, at [wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net).

## ***Acardia Publishing Seeks Darnestown Authors and Historians***

by Lauren Bobier

Calling all Darnestown authors and historians: Arcadia Publishing of South Carolina seeks a Darnestown resident to author a book for our 2007-publishing program. Our company publishes a popular series of photographic histories called *Images of America*, which chronicles the histories of communities, towns, and neighborhoods throughout the country. Our Maryland titles in particular have been very successful.

I do want to emphasize that, unlike many local history publishers, we are not a vanity press. Rather, we finance the entire publication and pay royalties to the author, which makes it a great fundraiser for organizations.

If you have a vested interest in preserving the history and promoting the community of Darnestown, and would like to receive more information about our titles, please feel free to contact me at [lbobier@arcadiapublishing.com](mailto:lbobier@arcadiapublishing.com) or visit our website [www.arcadiapublishing.com](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com).



# The Darnestown Civic Association



Presents our Annual

## ***“Spring Social”***

**Community Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception**

Hosted & Sponsored by

**Smokey Glen Farm**

*On*

***Wednesday April 25, 2007***

**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**At Smokey Glen Farm’s Main Pavilion Area**

World Famous Chicken with all of the trimmings

Refreshments Served

No Charge - Bring the Family

Please RSVP by Friday, April 17 with

Lisa Patterson at 301-548-0999

or e-mail

[lisaapatterson@aol.com](mailto:lisaapatterson@aol.com)



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

by Elizabeth Cookson

Several celebrations took place in February. For Library Lovers Month the Friends sponsored a talk by Roy Passin, proprietor of Roy's Place in Gaithersburg. Mr. Passin is famous for his sandwich combinations and their amazing titles. On another occasion, Veronica Li spoke about her new book *Journey Across the Four Seas: A Chinese Woman's Search for Home* based on stories of her mother's life. This topic was very appropriate for the month as Chinese New Year was also celebrated with a morning of demonstrations and exhibits.

For African American History Month, the Gospel Choir of Fairhaven United Methodist Church of Darnestown gave a great concert. The African American Book group read *The Pursuit of Happiness* by Chris Gardner.

A separate program was the showing of the film *The Inconvenient Truth* that provided a chance for discussion on global warming.

A great many visitors to the Library enjoyed cake and punch at the annual celebration of the Library's birthday in December.

The Library welcomed Michele Sellars who is the new Library Manager replacing Cindy Counihan who retired the end of last year. We will have more about Ms. Sellars in the next edition of *The Little Acorn*.

## ***Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club***

by Elizabeth Cookson

The Newcomers continue their Wednesday trips into Washington all through the winter.

Some of the recent places we visited were American Art Museum, Wegmans grocery store in Virginia, National Archives, Hirshhorn Museum, Sully Plantation, Kennedy Center, Western Maryland Railroad, and a wine tasting. In addition, each month there is a Coffee at a member's house, Book Club, Bridge, Mah Jongg, dining out and lunch

gatherings. Members car pool so there is no problem finding the way or transportation.

You don't have to be completely new to the area to belong. Everyone is welcome. Look in the Gazette for the Coffee meeting on the second Friday morning of the month

Socials with spouses or friends take place occasionally. Please call 301-948-0696 if you would like to sign up or have questions.

## ***St. Nicholas Episcopal Church***

On December 9, 2006, St. Nicholas Episcopal Church held their groundbreaking ceremony for its Worship and Ministry Center, the first of three phases of construction on its 13-acre campus on Darnestown Road near the corner of Germantown Road. The congregation hopes to complete and occupy the Worship and Ministry Center by Christmas 2007.

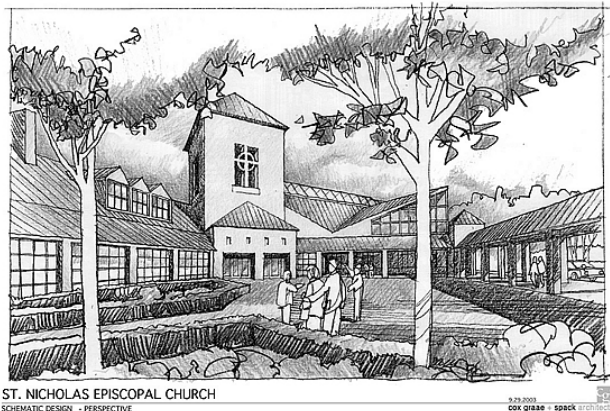
From a core group of just 12 families (the faithful remnant of an earlier unsuccessful attempt at forming an Episcopal congregation in the area), the church has grown to more than 300 members in just over 10 years. Fr. Howard attributes the congregation's strong and steady growth to the church's simple idea of what makes a Christian community.

St. Nicholas' congregation welcomes and celebrates diversity in all its forms – racial, political, economic, theological, and many others – as a sign of the Holy Spirit at work among us.

For the last decade, the congregation has held its weekly worship services on Sundays at Darnestown Presbyterian Church. It is a beautiful facility they have shared with us for the last decade," says Fr. Howard, "We will miss it when we move to our own church building."

When all three phases are complete, a process that will take place over the next seven to ten years, the church will include a 349 seat worship facility, a parish hall and office building, and an education and music wing (architectural drawings are

available on the church's website  
[www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com)).



As a part of its outreach to the surrounding community, the congregation hopes to provide office and food storage space for Germantown HELP and make much of its space and its property open community use. The parish has already constructed a meditation garden and an outdoor Station of the Cross, both of which are open to the public. The congregation has long maintained a close working relationship with Germantown HELP, as well as ongoing weekly ministries to the Montgomery County Jail and the Shady Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

On an international level, the congregation has maintained a ten-year relationship with the El Hogar orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, and has supported interfaith peace education programs such as the Belfast Children's Summer Program and the Jerusalem-based Kids-4-Peace program.

For more information, visit our website at [www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com) or call the church office at 240-631-2800.

## ***Little Acorn Softball***

by Steve Ellis

As noted in the September issue, the Ancient Mountain Quails won last season. Tony Kluk and Frank Mielenz accepted the trophy for the team. Michael Klyn has been an AMQ captain since the beginning 18 years ago. Thanks to Tom Wheeler for

not filing a copyright suit for reprinting his end of season email without permission in the September issue. The final standings were on the back page of the last December issue of *The Little Acorn*.

The next captains' meeting will be held in a quieter place early this spring, because we have numerous items to discuss. **Players** should know that issues such as the 1-1 count, how balls and strikes are called, substitute runners, strict adherence to ASA rules, time limits on make-up games and other issues will be up for discussion and vote. The suggestion that all teams have the ASA rulebook available during games is a good one. Players should express their opinions to their captains or me on these or other items. I Hope that all captains remember to send in their dues to the DCA.

We all want to see Berryville-Seneca and Western Darnestown play each other this year. Thanks to everyone for making it happen.

## ***From Our Schools***

### **Butler School**

by Lisa Daly

Hello Summer!

It may only be February, but plans for summer are taking shape. We look forward each year to helping hundreds of children have a fun, safe summer filled with outdoor activities, swimming, arts and crafts, and so much more. Our beautiful 22-acre campus adjoining Seneca Creek State Park offers exciting opportunities for children to explore and enjoy nature. Butler Camp is accredited by the State of Maryland and all counselors meet or exceed the stringent qualifications set by the State.

Our youngest campers, 'Backyard Explorers', enjoy time indoors and out, going to the creek, swimming, creating wonderful works of art, and hiking while staying close to the security of their classroom.

As the children become 'Young Adventurers', they find themselves spending more time outdoors playing strategic games, learning about and using

the environments on our campus and spending a bit more time in the pool.

As campers grow, so do their choices of activities. 'Outdoor Adventurers' have the opportunity to leave campus for a portion of their day and try their hand at activities such as orienteering, archery, fishing, and tubing. These campers are also treated to one evening cook out per session!

Our most 'Extreme Adventurers' spend most of their day off campus enjoying activities such as canoeing, white water rafting, rock climbing, caving, and mountain biking. Once each week these campers travel to a magnificent destination such as Sugarloaf Mountain or Harper's Ferry for their activity and return home in the early evening.

For those children ages 8 and above, who love horses, Butler offers a top-notch equestrian camp. Students spend time at our stables working with and riding horses as well as having the opportunity to take a dip in the pool and make arts and crafts projects. Students are placed according to experience and riding level. Building confidence and independence is always an important focus at Butler Camp.

Spring riding begins in March. The riding program is open to the public for children ages 8 and above and is a wonderful way for riders to learn or hone their horsemanship skills. Our horses range from genuine schoolmasters to national level competition horses. Each rider is designated one horse to train with and love. Many of our current students are teaming with the Maryland National Commission of Parks and Planning Committee on a project to improve riding trails on and around our campus.

For more information on summer camp or our riding program please visit our website at [www.butlerschool.org](http://www.butlerschool.org) or call us at 301-977-6600. Butler School, 15951 Germantown Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874.



## **Darnestown Elementary**

by Cathy Sharpe

Hundreds of dollars were raised for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society during the school's annual "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser. DES students learned that every five minutes someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with a blood cancer and that their support will be used for life-saving research and local patient services.

Families rocked around the gym at the first annual DES Sock Hop and helped collect socks for needy families. Lots of attendees dressed in 50s-style dance attire and enjoyed the rockin' good tunes spun by the DJ. There was a dance contest, staff raffle and auction of themed-baskets donated by each class. The baskets raised more than \$3,000 for school programs and were loaded with great stuff. Themes included: A Day at the Beach, Thyme Out, I Love This Town, A Book Lover, Green Thumb, Family Game Night, Sports Nut, Art Party, Kids in the Kitchen, Spring Break Fun, Taste of Darnestown, Winter Wonderland, Camp Calleva, Mix 107.3 and Tailgating Fun.

"Donuts for Dads" is coming up on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month -- it's a great way to jump start your day with your children.

Mark your calendars for the annual DES Talent Show being held at Northwest High School on Friday, May 18. Auditions will be held next month. And you'll want to make a note of:

- Smokey Glen Picnic on May 23
- DES showcase on May 31

## **Jones Lane Elementary**

by Princina Drazan

Everyone enjoys a good birthday celebration and the Jones Lane Elementary School (JLES) community is no exception. On September 7, 1987, JLES officially opened its doors. The PTA and staff marked this momentous occasion by hosting a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Past JLES principals, PTA Presidents, community leaders, friends and families turned out for this



event. Recently, the Honorable Sidney A. Katz, Mayor of Gaithersburg, Maryland, issued a Proclamation designating February 6, 2007 as “Jones Lane Elementary School Day”. Mayor Katz noted that JLES has had “twenty years of commitment to excellence in education”. This effort has made JLES the great institution that it is today.

The JLES students were treated to the comedic antics of Paul Hadfield, a/k/a The Funny Guy, Spats, and Dad, to name a few. Mr. Hadfield entertained the students during the February Cultural Arts Assembly. Rumor has it that Mr. Hadfield became a comedian after performing a high wire act with the Royal Lichtenstein Circus wherein he fell off and muddled his white tights. The audience thought this was a part of the act and laughed hysterically. Mr. Hadfield gave up touring with the Circus and took his comedic act on the road. During the Assembly, Mr. Hadfield juggled, rode his unicycle and performed many other tricks. The student’s thoroughly enjoyed the show. This was certainly a grand way to begin the day.

Out with the old and in with the new! The 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades students participated in an art contest designed to select the new Jones Lane Spirit Clothing Logo. Although all of the entries were spectacular, one logo stood out above the rest. The winning logo will be unveiled this spring and proudly displayed on Spirit Clothing and accessories at the start of the 2007-08 school year.

## **Lakelands Middle School**

by Tassey Mariani

The last few months of the first semester at Lakelands Park proved to be a very busy time of year. Students in rotational electives or courses, such as Art and Physical Education, moved to new subjects and new teachers – always a challenge! Most recently students also chose classes for their next student year starting in September. Students have a lot to choose from with three possible languages (Chinese, French and Spanish), creative writing, forensic science, journalism, earth and space technology, imagineering technology, TV studio, etc.

But just as that was happening there were many other activities to also draw their attention and keep the days interesting.! Some of the special event activities that occurred during November, December and January included a PTSA sponsored movie night at the Kentlands theatre, the annual “Greek Day” in 6<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies classes and the 7<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Medieval Times in Gaithersburg.

In December, LPMS held their winter concerts for band and chorus and there were many Darnestown students involved with these two events. The performances were great! One student from our community, Jimmy Gazda, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade trumpet player, was nominated by the LPMS band director to participate in the North County 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Band. This band is comprised of students from many of the upcounty middle schools. This band’s concert will be held in February.

While there is not as much sport or athletic activity during the winter months, we do have some of our local students playing for the LPMS basketball teams. Kaitlin Gularson, Taylor Cheripko, and Gabrielle Flinchum are on the girls’ team and Skyler Radis is playing for the LPMS boys’ team. There were also several students who received recognition for outstanding athletic abilities in PE classes. Students who received an award for PE “Student of the Unit” in sports such as speedball, weight room, badminton and bowling were Denna Ameen, Alexis Widmayer, Jenna Peifer, and Allison Baer. LPMS is now gearing up for the soccer season and tryouts will be held during the second week of March.

As reported earlier, the LPMS staff motto this year is “Kaizen!” which is the Japanese word for “continuous improvement”. From several reports received on our students’ activities and contributions, it appears that our students are also living by the motto “Kaizen”! Many of our students have made the academic honor rolls at LPMS, far too many to list. Congratulations go out to all of these students.

On a more individual basis, Allison Baer, a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, has been selected to represent the LPMS

Character Counts Pillar of Trustworthiness and Anthony Vivino, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader, was one of 10 finalists in the schools' Geography Bee. Anthony also received a Student Falcon Award, which is given by teachers to students in each grade who represent overall excellence. Danielle Chikkaswamy won an award in the 2006 City of Gaithersburg National CHARACTER COUNTS! Week Writing Contest for an essay on an "Adult Hero in Our Community". Her essay has been displayed at Lakeforest Mall and she will be reading her essay at a special ceremony with the Gaithersburg mayor in February.

Also of note, Darnestown students have continued to be involved in school clubs such as newspaper, chess and yearbook. Several have either been selected or have volunteered to be peer mediators for purposes of conflict resolution. These students are Sarah Agate, Anna Mariani, Allison Baer, Kaitlin Gularson, Mary Schaeffer, Sam Sherman, Tommy Johnson and Taylor Johnson.

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**

### **St. Martin's Soup Kitchen**

by Emily Mahoney & Katherine Yevsukov\*

Jesus taught us that He lives in everyone. He said, "Whatever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Volunteering at St. Martin's Soup Kitchen taught us that when we help someone in need, we help Jesus. Many of us volunteered when Miss Strishock, a sixth grade teacher at Mary of Nazareth School asked the eighth graders if we wanted to go to the Soup Kitchen. Once a month, about five of us go with Miss Strishock to the Soup Kitchen. We were nervous but excited about what would happen. When we got there, the food was already made and everything was set up. When everyone arrived, we brought out their food...soup, a main course, bread, and dessert. We cleared the

plates and served any latecomers. All of the people there were extremely nice. It was so much fun to help them out!

We learned that we could use the skills God gave us and give them right back to him by serving the less fortunate. And we learned that even the little things could make a difference in someone's life.

### **Students Send Nine Goats to Africa**

by Emily Mahoney\*

Heifer International is a project designed to benefit third-world countries. The goal is to raise money and then buy an animal for the people to use. A less fortunate family then receives the animal along with instructions on its care. It may be a cow or a goat, a chicken or a rooster. The family is required to give their first-born female of the animal to another family, so it's like a chain reaction. The Student Government of Mary of Nazareth did a fundraiser through Heifer International to raise money to buy a goat for the less fortunate in Africa. The fundraiser was very creative. Here's how it worked. Students bought a raffle ticket for one dollar in hopes of winning Francis (a stuffed puppet). The puppet was named after St. Francis of Assisi, who was always kind and loving towards animals. Members of the Student Government collected money every Tuesday and Thursday. Once a student bought a raffle ticket, he got to write his name on the paper goat. These were hung in the Multi-Purpose Room. On December 20, the money was counted... and Mary of Nazareth raised enough money for over nine goats! (Each goat was \$120.) Through Heifer International, we learned that there is always a way to help other people.

*\* Emily Mahoney and Katherine Yevsukov are eighth grade students.*

### **History Comes to Life at Wax Museum**

by Jenna Moxley\*

Teachers often try to make learning fun, and the Wax Museum Mrs. Matesa's sixth grade classes participated in, was a great way to do just that. It was very enjoyable, and I learned a lot. The Wax Museum was also a confidence building experience.

Many students, including me, were convinced they couldn't memorize their speech by the time we had the event; however, we all ended up memorizing it and in the process building our confidence. The Mary of Nazareth Wax Museum helped us learn a great deal as well. We practiced our researching, memorization, writing, and speaking skills. Students showed off their creativity by making posters, buttons, nametags, and we even picked out our own costumes. I know I learned about historical figures and would be more than happy to participate in a wax museum again.

*\* Jenna Moxley, sixth grade student*

## **Northwest High School**

by Madeline D'Alessio

Three Darnestown students were selected to receive the Northwest Jaguar award for the fall season. The award is the most prestigious award given to a student-athlete. Rosanna Panara - Field Hockey, Garrett Hudler - Golf, and David D'Alessio - Boys Cross Country

We are proud of the Darnestown kids who earned Straight A's during the first quarter: Cynthia Beard, Jillian Hanley, Alyssa Henshaw, Katherine Lang, Lauren Michnick, Arianna Dastvan, Cody Lang, Kyle Neumann, Stefanie Zaner, Shelli Cone, Adora Nwankwo, Robert Allaway, Matthew Romeny, and Paul Sabin. A few of these girls contributed to the JV Girls Soccer team's record of highest GPA ever for a Northwest sports team.

The chess team traveled to Towson Maryland to play in the Riderwood December Scholastic Chess Tournament. The tournament was played in three sections and the Jags dominated in all three sections as Eric Wisniewski took 1st. The Jags Chess Team also won the 1st place trophy as the top High School team over-all for their strong performance.

Congratulations to The Northwest Forensics Team for an excellent performance in their January meet. Special congratulations go to: Kelly Doheny who won fifth place in Serious Prose and was part of the acting team that earned second place in Reader's Theatre.

The Cheerleaders won the MCPS Division II Cheerleading Competition in December. This is the Jaguars fifth division title in the last six years. Go Brooke Cheripko, Remi Jefferey-Coker and Kristen Cornelson!

Ulysses Project Senior Research Projects were presented in early January. Topics included: Robert Allaway - Earth: A Cosmic Grain of Sand - A 3D Study

Alex Booth - The Creation of a Video Game: How Hard Can It Be?

David D'Alessio - The Three Viewpoints of Running: The Movie

Garrett Hudler - The Evolution of Snowboarding

Tommy Martin - Inject into Success: A Study of Athletes and the Use of Steroids

Jessica Ryan - From Bookshelves to Big Screens

Winter athletes include:

*Indoor Track* - Chad Hoggle, Mary Norr, Mick Wallerstedt, Matt Wallerstedt, Kyle Neumann, Robert Allaway, Patrick McGuire, David D'Alessio, Theresa DiPeppe, Becca Stinner, Kathy Aherne, Jillian Hanley, Alyssa Henshaw, Hillary Seigall., Kate Allaway, Rachel Handel, Elise Braun, Edward Krasniewski, Elyssa Bosco, Nick Gummo, Joshua Santangelo, Joseph Santangelo., Matthew Romney, Jenni Norcross.

*Swimming* - Bob Norr, Andrew Haberman, Travis Watts, and Anna D'Alessio (they got to see Coach Todd Garner when they swam against his Springbrook team)

*Basketball* - Tommy Martin, Cindy Beard, Katy Lang and Shannon McGuire.

County Senior Honors Band includes NW students Sean Gordon - Bassoon, Dereck Paul - Bass Clarinet, Stefanie Zaner - clarinet and Michael Waddell - Euphonium. Dereck was also selected for the State Honors Band.

Katie Bryson, Edward Krasniewski and several other students from NWHS, Paint Branch & Blake, will be heading to Besançon, France March 8, 2007 through March 22, 2007 to participate in a student exchange program with the Lycée Claude Nicolas Ledoux school. They will spend three days touring Paris and then travel to Besançon to stay

with a host family and attend classes with their host student. The school program is similar to our magnet programs where the students take their science classes in English. They will be able to learn first-hand about other people and cultures, while also helping others learn about ours.

Northwest High School Drama Department Proudly Presents - a tale as old as time, "Disney's Beauty and the Beast". March 23, 24, 25, 30 and 31st. Come join the millions who have made this story a classic tale of love and courage. Be our guest this March for the spectacular Broadway and film hit "Beauty and the Beast".

If you have items you would like to include please send them to Madeline D'Alessio at [dalessio@comcast.net](mailto:dalessio@comcast.net)

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

by Jodi Thurmond

Seneca students have been active, as we have progressed through this school year. One highlight in December was our participation in the Great American Cookie Swap for troops serving overseas. Our students put their own spin on the swap by preparing cookies with their families and bringing them to school to pack into boxes decorated for the occasion. A brief note written by the students was also slipped into each box and the boxes were delivered locally to Operation Second Chance for service personnel recuperating at Walter Reed Hospital.

## **Students in the News**

Zoe Bell, a preschooler at Seneca, won The Washington Post's Wrapping Paper contest. Zoe's wintry design was deemed best of all entries in the contest and she appeared on the front page of the Weekend section.

Fifth grader, Justine Sim, was featured at the Kennedy Center in their annual production of The Nutcracker. Justine was chosen by the Joffrey Ballet Company to dance as one of the children.

## **Winter Concert**

In late January, kindergarten through eighth grade students participated in the annual Winter Concert that was held at the Christian Life Center on Darnestown Road. Students sang, presented rhythmic interpretations and provided music of their own composition produced on the computer. The music program at Seneca is taught by Jeannette Bartelt and emphasizes learning to read and perform music using the Kodaly method.

## **Dr. Martin Luther King Honored**

Mrs. Nancy Gainer, mother of Hank (second grade), presented a very interesting assembly highlighting Dr. King as a man. Hank's grandfather, Henry Santos, was a college roommate of Dr. King and had shared many stories with his family about college life with Dr. King. Mrs. Gainer related some stories and spoke with the students about how all people are very alike rather than different from one another.

## **Registration for 2007-2008**

Registration is underway for preschool through eighth grade classes at the school. Seneca and The Circle School at Seneca have been located in Darnestown since 1984. The school is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education and is a member of Association of Independent Maryland Schools. Small classes and active methods of learning have led to acclaimed success for our students. Information about classes is available on our website: [www.senecaacademy.org](http://www.senecaacademy.org).

## **Camp Seneca**

This year Camp Seneca will be offering a camp experience designed especially for younger campers aged 4-8. Additionally there will be a special art camp for children eight to twelve years of age. Local resident Diane Blake will be the instructor for the art camp. Mrs. Blake is also the art teacher for Seneca. Camp is open to everyone, but priority goes to current and former students.

## ***Places of Worship***

### **Darnestown Presbyterian Church**

Rt. 28 & Turkey Foot Road  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-948-9127  
[www.darnestownpc.org](http://www.darnestownpc.org)

### **Fairhaven United Methodist**

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

### **Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church**

13101 Darnestown Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-869-8343  
[www.gcacmd.org](http://www.gcacmd.org)

### **Germantown Baptist Church**

1740 Riffle Ford Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
301-428-3622  
[www.germantownbaptist.org](http://www.germantownbaptist.org)

### **Or Chadash**

23 W. Diamond Ave., Suite 203  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-972-6426  
[www.cong-orchadashmd.org](http://www.cong-orchadashmd.org)

### **Our Lady of the Visitation Parish**

14139 Seneca Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-948-5536  
[www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)

### **Poplar Grove Baptist Church**

14625 Jones Lane  
North Potomac, MD 20878  
301-330-5054  
[www.poplargrovebaptishchurch.org](http://www.poplargrovebaptishchurch.org)

### **Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**

11900 Darnestown Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
301-869-3666  
[www.poplutheran.org](http://www.poplutheran.org)

### **St. Nicholas Episcopal Church**

Worshipping at Darnestown Presbyterian  
240-631-2800  
[www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com)

### **Seneca Community Church**

13900 Berryville Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
301-869-9326  
[www.senecacreek.org](http://www.senecacreek.org)

### **Temple Beth Ami**

14330 Travilah Road  
Rockville, MD 20852  
301-340-6818  
[www.bethami.org](http://www.bethami.org)

## ***Historic Place Names of Darnestown and How They Came To Be***

The names of people or places important to the history of an area show up in many ways, mainly in names of town or roads and so it is in Darnestown.

About 1750, settlers began to come to the area we know as Darnestown. The land was thickly wooded with only Indian trails running through it. During the next 50 years, all of the land had been claimed and patented into mostly large tracts. Some of the names of these tracts, such as Mitchell's Range and Deakin's Range, show up on Montgomery County street map book today.

One of the aforementioned Indian trails became one of the first roads in the county, the main road west from Rockville. This road was noted in deeds as early as 1758 as "the main road," and later as "the road that goes from Montgomery County Court House to the Mouth of the Monocacy," which was an important place in its time for trading, a ferry, and crossroads both west and north. That road is now Route 28 – Darnestown Road.

Another early Indian trail is now River Road, and as a branch of it angled up to the main road west (now Route 28), it formed the beginning of Seneca Road. The intersection of these two trails later became the site of the village of Darnestown.

The town of Darnestown was named for William Darne, who owned most of the land on which the town grew. In 1815, William was paying taxes on 422 acres, which included the Our Lady of the Visitation Parrish property, parts of Brookmead, Darnestown Park, all of Seneca Highlands, and much of the land from Darnestown Presbyterian Church on around to Mockingbird Drive. If you live in this area, your property deed will probably read, “a part of Mt. Pleasant,” the tract name of the Darne property.

The Seneca Road area has many names reflecting the history of the area. This road was surveyed in 1810 between the mill at Seneca Creek and the present Route 28. There had been an important gristmill located where River Road crosses Seneca Creek since before the Revolutionary War. The millrace can still be seen near Poole’s Store. On old deeds, it was referred as “the Road to Seneca Mills” later shortened to Seneca Road.

Berryville Road was platted in 1873 and named after members of the Berry family who lived near the Seneca Road end, and was probably an extension of farm lanes to the main road – Route 28. Signal Tree Lane commemorates the location of a Civil War signal station, one of many in a line stretching from Harpers Ferry to Washington, D.C. A sketch of this tall chestnut tree was published in Harper’s magazine in 1866. Another sketch appeared as the frontispiece of the U.S. Signal Corps Manual for many years. “Deakins Lane” comes from a 1788 land grant in that area for 490 acres called “Deakins Range.”

“Springfield Road “ comes from the name of a large tract of 1392 acres patented in 1799 called “Springfield” which once stretched from the Our Lady of the Visitation Parrish property to River Road.

A land patent for 295 acres called “Hartley Hall” was granted in 1785 and is now recalled in the subdivision by that name off Esworthy Road. Esworthy Road was named after George Esworthy, a farmer whose land bordered the road for much of its length. “Query Mill Road” reminds us that there was a grist and sawmill located on Muddy Branch

Creek from 1780-1795. “Turkey Foot Road” came by its name because the three small streams that join near there come together to form of a turkey’s foot, this road was established by 1859.

“Black Rock Road” takes its name from the 1760 tract name “Black Rock” and from the Black Rock Mill, located where the road crosses Seneca Creek. The mill operated from 1815 to around the turn of the century and the ruins have been reconstructed. The small community that once was “Quince Orchard,” hence “Quince Orchard Road” takes its name from a grant of 800 acres named “Quince Orchard,” patented in 166 by Henry Clagett.

“Jones Lane” runs through what once was farm property of Nathan Jones who owned 900 acres around the time of the Civil War and is probably an extension of the farm lane. The name origin of “Riffleford Road” is obvious – the place of a ford at the riffles (or ripples) on Seneca Creek. This road, which connects Route 28 and Route 118 was probably established soon after 1849 when Route 118 was built.

### ***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?

May 1, 2007 is the next deadline for articles. These articles will be published in the June edition of *The Little Acorn*. You can email your articles to [thelittleacorn@comcast.net](mailto:thelittleacorn@comcast.net) or mail them to 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874. Please include your name and telephone number with your article. Pictures are welcomed.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mary Stefanelli at [thelittleacorn@comcast.net](mailto:thelittleacorn@comcast.net) or 301-869-8079.

## 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)

# Gift for all occasions

*“It’s a Darn Good Cookbook”*

*makes a wonderful gift for any occasion.*

*To purchase one, please call 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

Cookbooks are now only \$15.00 each (sales tax included)! A portion of the profit from the sale of every cookbook will go to benefit breast cancer research.

**Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association or DCA.**

**If you purchase 6 cookbooks or more, you pay only \$14 each!**

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

