



Volume 43, Number 3

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

September 2007

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

As we start the new '07-'08 fiscal year, I'm excited to come back for a second term as President. The DCA has a dedicated group of officers and committee volunteers that help keep the DCA and me on track. As always, there will be challenges for Darnestown in this next year, and we are always on the lookout for more volunteers. Feel free to contact me at lisaapatterson@aol.com or 301-548-0999 to learn how you can help.

The DCA would like to thank Mary Stefanelli for her 5 years as editor of The Little Acorn. Mary has done a fantastic job and will continue assisting us with the website and as Corresponding Secretary. Carolyn Thompson has stepped forward as our new editor. Thank you, Mary and Carolyn!

Our annual dues letter will soon be in the mail. We are still trying to reach our goal of 1,000 homes. Help us

(Continued on page 3)

Next Darnestown Civic Association Meeting

Thursday

September 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

- **LPI special exception vote**
- **Sen. Rob Garagiola to speak**



*It's Hoedown
Time Again!*

Friday, October 19

Don't miss out!

*(See page 22 for details
and registration)*



**Darnestown Softball
Standings: Page 17**



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Trees: Joyce McCarthy
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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 include the author's phone number and address.



!!! DEADLINE !!!

Deadline for the next issue of
The Little Acorn is

November 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 acorneditor@comcast.net. The editor can be reached
at 240-683-0103.

ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!

BABY SITTERS

Christine Bertocini	age 19	301-990-8252
Paige Callahan	age 14	301-990-6666
Vanessa Chazelle	age 14	301-869-8097
Marian de Almedia*	age 14	240-252-1776
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 19	301-926-6960
Marlena Juperts	age 15	301-869-3127
Matt Kelley	age 16	301-947-8082
Maggie Kelley	age 14	301-047-8082
Angela Letarte	age 20	301-655-8069
Alexandra Letarte	age 15	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 14	301-926-8818
Maggie Smith	age 14	301-869-8364
Hanna Sponberg*	age 13	301-926-1465
Grace Wallerstedt*	age 15	301-590-0698

*Completed babysitting certification program.

MOTHER'S HELPER

Claire Pohl	age 12	301-926-8818
Kate Sponberg	age 11	301-926-1465

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Christine Bertocini	age 19	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
Matt Kelley	age 16	301-947-8082
Sarah Romney	age 10	301-519-1188
Hanna Sponberg	age 13	301-926-1465
Kate Sponberg	age 11	301-926-1465

MUSIC LESSONS

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

NOTARY SERVICES

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

(Continued from first page)

meet our goal! While membership is still \$25 we also offer two additional levels—\$50 friend, or \$100 sponsor. Being a member empowers you to vote at our Town Meetings. New this year is the ability to pay online from our website www.darnestowncivic.org. Thank you for your support.

A great way to meet the DCA volunteers and other Darnestownians will be at the annual DCA Hoedown at Smokey Glen Farm on Friday, October 19th. Be sure to mark your calendars and send in the reservation form. We look forward to seeing you there!

Membership Update

by Mary Stefanelli

The following people were inadvertently omitted from the Paid Member list in the June issue of *The Little Acorn*.

Rich and Reine Moore
Fred and Peri Schuyler
Moses and Nelly Solano
Jerry and Nadine Stosek

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer



Thank you to all who sent updates for yourselves and your neighbors. Here are some changes, for your information:

Betty Heineman (new number) 301-977-8788

Additions

John Krikorian and Joshua Ervin
16416 Montecrest Lane

Rick and Reine Moore
15511 Germantown Road

Moses and Nelly Solano 301-963-1442
13905 Darnestown Road

We also send a warm welcome to new neighbors:

Jerry and KoShell Miller 301-330-0763
13020 Meadow View Dr.

Amy Robertson
16021 Bonnybank Terrace

Send your changes and new directory information to me at sarahscherer@comcast.net or 240-683-8533. Please keep the information coming. We depend on you!

Village Committee

by Steve Ellis

Senecalawns

Mike Bailey had owned and operated Senecalawns (formerly Superlawn) for 32 years. The business was located at 14115 Seneca Road in Darnestown's commercial center. It had been at that location at least since 1984, shortly after Mike had purchased the property. This past spring he sold his business to Tru Green/Chem Lawn.

Mike is pleased with the sale and will enjoy more free time activities, such as fishing with Angus Phillips. Mike has been a member of the Darnestown Village Committee for the last 6 years or more. He will continue to own the property, and says he is trying to find a suitable tenant. Mike also owns the property that is now leased by the Invisible Fence Company.

The next addition

The Petruccelli property that contains the cell tower/flag pole and the old green house (soon scheduled for demolition) will be redeveloped into an attractive commercial building as soon as the county can rectify a mistake in the last Master Plan (previously discussed in numerous issues of *The Little Acorn*.) The property is zoned O-M (office-medium). The DCA and the Planning Board supported a zoning change to C-1, thereby allowing retail business as well as office space. However, this

change was somehow overlooked during the final stage of the Master Plan process in 2002.

This past July, the Planning Board approved a staff recommendation that a corrective map amendment change the zoning to C-1. Next, the issue must go to the Hearing Examiner for their review and recommendation to the Council. That hearing is scheduled for September 7th. Our Community-based planner at the Department of Parks and Planning, Callum Murray, will continue to guide this zoning issue through the process. The change continues to have the support of the DCA.

Special Exception Proposal for a Landscaping Business and Garden Center in Darnestown

by Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis, and Craig Dart

The June Town Meeting was dominated by discussion of a proposed Special Exception that would allow Landscape Projects, Inc. (LPI) to operate a landscaping business and a retail store on residential Darnestown property currently being used as a retail outlet for yard and garden supplies and plants and firewood. This topic was announced on the cover of the June *Little Acorn*, and details were presented in an article as well. Those in attendance asked many questions and voiced opinions about the proposal, and LPI representatives Michael Abert and Mark Mostrom went into great detail about their plans for the two businesses and the site itself. Though there seemed to be general acceptance of the idea of a retail garden center as proposed, there was clearly concern among the nearby residents about the negative aspects of the landscaping operation, such as noise, dust, trucks and heavy equipment, backup beepers, traffic problems on Darnestown Road, near-daily deliveries into the property by tractor-trailer trucks, etc. Concurrently, neighbors expressed their great frustration with conditions and problems on the property during the past 10 to 12 years that it has been used as a sort of "farm market." Optimistically, the discussion included the possibility that the proposed Special Exception, if approved, might finally bring relief in the form of an enterprise

constrained by the terms, requirements, and conditions imposed by the County's Special Exception process.

With the evening getting late, and the meeting's agenda largely untouched, a motion was made and unanimously approved to establish a DCA committee to develop a list of community based requirements upon which LPI should operate their proposed landscaping business and review those requirements with LPI. The motion stipulated that the committee must report back to the DCA Executive Board by August 15, 2007. The committee membership was open to everyone by sign-up sheets at the Town Meeting. Thirteen people signed up to participate.

The LPI Committee's first meeting was on Thursday, July 12, and was chaired by Rollinmead resident Craig Dart; there were 11 attendees. Discussion at this first meeting centered on understanding the County's Special Exception process and how this proposal would affect the immediate neighborhood if the Special Exception were approved. The group agreed to hold weekly meetings, on Wednesday evenings, to continue work and finish by the August 15 deadline.

The Committee's second meeting on 7/18/2007 was attended by 8 members. During extensive discussion of the detailed proposal submission document from LPI, it became apparent that the negative aspects of LPI's proposed Special Exception in this residential neighborhood were far outweighing the benefits that this business might bring to the neighborhood. Discussion shifted from the formulation of requirements and conditions that might make LPI's proposal more acceptable to the realization that the Committee was leaning strongly toward opposition to the Special Exception itself. Towards the end of the meeting, about two-thirds of the members were clearly ready to vote against the proposal rather than spend more time trying to derive mitigating conditions that might be attached to the proposal. Finally, after more discussion, a vote was taken near the end of the meeting, and the members voted unanimously to recommend that the DCA should oppose the Special Exception. Given the adamant

unanimous decision, there was no desire or motivation to further pursue more information or explanation from LPI.

Since the Committee's action was to recommend opposing the Special Exception rather than to produce a list of mitigating requirements and conditions and discuss them further with LPI as called for in the Town Meeting motion, LPI has been given the opportunity to include in this edition of *The Little Acorn* a response to the Committee's action and to speak at the September Town Meeting prior to the DCA taking a vote as to its position on this Special Exception.

LPI Seeks to Compliment and Enhance the Community

by Mark Mostrom

We at Landscape Projects, Inc. (LPI) would like to thank all the community members who attended the June Town Meeting. This was our second presentation to the DCA and we appreciate the opportunities to share our vision of a country garden nursery and landscape installation operation at 13711 and 13721 Darnestown Road with many of the immediate neighbors and the general community. The feedback we received at these meetings, and our meetings with individual residents of Darnestown, greatly helped us to develop our business plan, which includes our statement of operations and the physical layout of the properties.

At the June meeting, our presentation and the following discussion generated a very a positive and receptive reaction. There were a few voices which raised concerns, but the majority of the speakers were quite enthusiastic about our vision. So much so that a special committee was formed to review the initial draft of our plan and, in a joint effort, work with LPI to develop a final plan. This plan would be both viable for LPI and addresses the concerns and needs of the Darnestown community.

LPI presented its initial draft to the special committee chairman prior to their first meeting. After this, LPI was not permitted to meet with or discuss any issues with the committee. All calls and

email to receive updates and to communicate with the committee were not returned.

The committee has now decided that the general nature of our plan is simply not compatible with and would negatively impact the quality of life in Darnestown. In their opinion, there is nothing that can be done to change this. LPI respectfully disagrees.

LPI takes any impact on the immediate neighbors, and the community in general, very seriously. There are many attractive and functional measures that can mitigate or eliminate any potential concerns, while allowing LPI to conduct a viable business. We are committed to working with the community and being good stewards of the land to erase the current eyesore and to create a landscape that compliments and enhances Darnestown.

The properties, as well as the surrounding area, are zoned Rural Cluster (RC). Per the description detailed in the County's zoning ordinance Section 59-C-9.22. Intent of the Rural Cluster Zone. – *The intent of this zone is to provide designated areas in the county for a compatible mixture of agricultural uses and low-density residential development to promote agriculture, and to protect scenic and environmentally sensitive areas.* Both a horticultural nursery and a landscape operation are classified by Montgomery County as agricultural-commercial. These operations are allowed by special exception in this zone, and are in keeping with the County's Master Plan. So, we wish to apply for a special exception for this endeavor, not a zoning change.

The property is currently being used for a similar purpose but has become a public nuisance. Granted, LPI would be a larger, more professional operation than what currently exists, but we will be able to use the current infrastructure of the property without adding any buildings. We plan to greatly improve the existing conditions by cleaning the property, professionally landscaping the grounds, improving the screening for neighbors, and restoring the 100-plus year-old white house to function as our country garden store.

LPI is enthusiastic about bringing an exciting and positive addition to Darnestown. We will provide an

inviting outdoor and community atmosphere for all visitors. We plan to have theme gardens for an arboretum-like setting while maintaining a residential appearance from Darnestown Road. The country garden nursery will feature a farm market offering produce and products from local Montgomery County farms. We will also provide garden antiques and furnishings, as well as plant material. There will be a horticultural library open to the public, and gallery for local artist to display their work. We plan to deliver and install the products that we offer. Our seasonal agricultural activities will be focused on families and community.

LPI looks forward to the upcoming Town Meeting on September 20 to discuss our plan and to incorporate more feedback from the Darnestown community. We welcome any inquiries from the community regarding our plans. Please visit our website for more company information www.landscapeprojects.com or contact Mark Mostrom with questions at 301-451-7842 x 5.

Montgomery County Upper County Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

Annual Report

Outgoing chair Kevin Schwarz and the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) members presented their annual report to Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Scott Reilly, on behalf of Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett, before meeting with community leaders and elected officials at its annual meeting and reception, held at BlackRock Center for the Arts on June 11th. Newly elected chair Tobi Printz-Platnick along with vice chairs Andy Aviles and Bob Thompson, took the helm at the July retreat where the board set its priorities and meeting schedule for the upcoming year. The monthly meetings will resume in September.

Geographic Scope

Upcounty is roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road. It comprises about one-half of the area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population.

It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, the UCAB's members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background and employment, community and professional experience and expertise.

Structure

The UCAB operates in public meetings and has two standing committees: the Land Use and Preservation, and Social Issues Committees. There is also an adhoc Transportation Subcommittee. The UCAB is supported by the chairman, first vice chair, and a second vice chair, along with the chair of the Land Use and Preservation Committee, chair of the Social Issues Committee, and chair of the Transportation Subcommittee. Other UCAB members provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

Issues

After an organizational retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meet monthly from September through June. The UCAB's committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board's resulting recommendations. The Land Use and Preservation Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, the County's Annual Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Transportation Subcommittee has looked carefully at County plans and programs for traffic measurements, traffic management, and improvements of both public transit and roads. The Social Issues Committee has reviewed programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, law enforcement, homeland security and emergency management. Positions have been taken on many of these issues while others are still being examined for comment.

Recommendations

The County Executive's priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB's recommendations. UCAB meets periodically with the County Executive, the County Council members, and their respective staffs to advise on Upcounty issues and discuss Upcounty priorities. Additionally, the County Executive is provided a summary of UCAB's work during the year at their annual meeting. The board also hosts an annual reception for officials and community leaders to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. Each year, the board also meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in Annapolis, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Each year, UCAB hosts a forum to solicit community comments on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) prioritized by UCAB and then forwarded to Executive Branch department heads and the County Executive.

This year UCAB forwarded a variety of recommendations, some of which concerned improving accessibility of mental health services to the Upcounty Latino population; retaining MARC train stations in Dickerson, Boyds, and Barnesville; promoting the Corridor Cities Transitway to address traffic congestion; managing the implementation of master plans more comprehensively in terms of infrastructure; and protecting the integrity of the Agricultural Reserve. The preservation of the Agricultural Reserve is crucial to the preservation of the unique character of Darnestown. Likewise Darnestown residents have concerns about public safety, roads, and maintaining a rational, ordered, compliant commercial and residential development process while respecting master plans. It's very important for us to keep these issues in the forefront, as groups and areas within the Upcounty, and the County as a whole, compete for resources. We also intend to continue the push for scheduling the Darnestown Heritage Park on the CIP, and finally getting this park funded and built.

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. The activities of UCAB encompass a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. UCAB is committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural Reserve. As a representative of Darnestown, I personally am committed to communicating issues of importance in our community to the County government, and carrying news and information back to our community.

Contacts

Bob Thompson, Vice-Chair of UCAB (phone: 240-683-0103, or e-mail: bob.thompson@comcast.net); Cathy Matthews, Director of the Regional Services Team (phone: 240-777-8000, or e-mail: upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov).

All News Welcome!

Does your group or neighborhood have news it would like to share with the Darnestown Community? Please send your news by November 1st and it will be included in the December edition of The Little Acorn!

New E-mail Address:
acorneditor@comcast.net

Update on Darnestown Square Heritage Park

by Bob Thompson

Adjacent to the easterly side of the Harris Teeter parking lot exists a small, relatively undeveloped 0.6-acre site designated as park. The site is fairly level and currently consists of an unmarked historic graveyard, open lawn areas, and a small cluster of poor quality trees with a few picnic tables and benches. Currently before the County Council are plans to improve this park to provide both a significant heritage-education resource for the area, and an inviting space and gathering area for community events and visitation. It will complete a piece of the future vision for Darnestown as a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly rural village and will offer a tranquil place containing interpretation of Darnestown's rich historical past. Historic interpretation featured in the improved park will follow three themes: the town history, the graveyard, and local Civil War history. Currently a small number of people use the park occasionally during their lunchtime. Once the park is developed, park use is anticipated to include visitation from school groups, community events attendees, casual pedestrian users, and passing cyclists looking for an interesting rest stop. Several years ago, representatives from the Darnestown Civic Association further requested that Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) develop this pocket-park into a focal point for our community, to provide contemplative seating areas and space for community gatherings, and to showcase local area heritage. Site inventory and park design work have been completed for this project. It is anticipated that this project will become a candidate for funding as part of the Montgomery County Capital Improvement Plan (C.I.P.), during the 2007-2008 planning cycle for construction within five years. The plans include:

- Historical interpretation of the town, the on-site graveyard, and local Civil War events is included within two areas of the park plan: the larger central seating/gathering area, and the path loop/seating area toward the back of the

site. Preference is for color-laminated panels. The graveyard border is defined with boulder-rocks from an old railroad culvert bridge. Bike racks are to be made of cannon wheels.

- Inviting and useable spaces are created within the small triangular shaped park. Good interior visibility is maintained by using low maintenance groundcovers, turf with bulbs, and vase-shaped or upright trees. Existing poor quality vegetation is removed. Proposed features are accessible, comfortable, and attractive with ample benches, seat-walls, planters, a pergola, pathways, and shade trees.
- Maintenance access is provided and trash receptacles. Landscaping is sustainable, deer resistant, and provides a rain-garden element for hard-scaped areas. The back corner of the park includes a small massing of bio-retention shrubs. Materials for hard-scaping, amenities, and structures are all very durable and of high quality.
- The plan creates an attractive and visible landmark along Rte. 28 and provides part of the composite vision for the Darnestown village center. The site frontage, details, landscaping, and selection of materials are compatible with the surrounding area and traditional character of the new park. Materials include stone and exposed aggregate with colorations of Seneca red sandstone and gray black-rocks.
- Several opportunities for art and/or place making elements are integrated into the park plan.

The Darnestown Civic Association is looking for broad based community support for this project, and plans to support its inclusion in the Montgomery County 2009 capital budget. Please let us know what you think by contacting Chris Collins (cocollins@cocarch.com), Steve Ellis (smre45@yahoo.com), or Bob Thompson (bob.thompson@comcast.net), or by contacting the planning board directly (MCP-chairman@mncppc-mc.org). For more detailed information including site plans, please visit <http://www.mcparkandplanning.org/Parks/pdd/DarnestownSquareUrbanPark.shtm>.

Darnestown In The Past

by Bruce Deppa

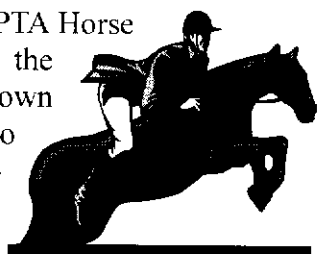
The PTA of Darnestown Elementary School held its first PTA Horse Show in the spring of 1965, at High-Horse Farm on Travilah Road. This annual event was established as a means of raising funds for the PTA. Dozens of volunteers pitched in to make the first show successful, and many, many more helped to expand it in the following years. Kids came from all over Maryland and Virginia to compete on their horses and ponies before professional equestrian event judges—the only non-volunteers involved. Families and friends enjoyed hours of socializing and cheering. Parents brought baked goods to be sold, and also cooked chili to be sold during the day.

The origin of the chili recipe is not known, but the chili was such a success that the recipe was distributed to several parents before the next year's horse show, and all the chili cooked and brought to the event was combined into huge pots and sold in Styrofoam cups all day long.

The annual horseshow, with its traditional chili, continued to be the PTA's principal fund-raiser for 21 years, through the spring of 1986. During that time, the site of the horse show changed twice, ending up at Jim and Maureen O'Connell's Sugarloaf Equestrian Center in Barnesville, Maryland.

By 1987, there were few families in Darnestown with horses, horse shows themselves had become more and more expensive, much of the open land was turning into subdivisions, and the PTA made a decision to switch to a fund-raiser of a different format. The first "Wheel Thing" was held on the school grounds, and involved a large number of families with their bicycles and tricycles.

The recipe for Darnestown PTA Horse Show Chili lives on in the kitchens of many Darnestown residents, and continues to produce some of the best-liked chili this side of the Mississippi River.



Darnestown PTA Horseshow Chili Recipe

3 lbs. ground beef
1 ½ cups chopped onion
1 cup chopped green pepper
3 cans (1 pound each) kidney beans (do not drain)
2 quarts of tomatoes (do not drain)
1 15-ounce can tomato sauce
4 tablespoons chili powder
½ teaspoon black pepper
½ teaspoon red pepper
1 ½ tablespoons salt
½ teaspoon paprika
1 bay leaf

Brown the meat, onions, and green pepper. Drain and discard grease, and blend in the remaining ingredients. Simmer or bake in oven for two hours.

Remove bay leaf before serving and enjoy, especially on cool autumn evenings!

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

The right fit?

For any of you that have gone into the dressing room to try on new clothes you know that the right fit is just as important as the clothing itself. So why should your garden be any different. The trees and shrubs that you dress your home with should also fit their surroundings.

For example you wouldn't want to put a mighty Oak tree next to your front door, nor would you want to put a solitary petunia out in the middle of your 2 acre back yard. In the apparel industry there are size guidelines set up for the consumer to buy the appropriate size for their bodies. The nursery business has a similar system in place. On the tag of every plant there is a height and width guide. This is just an approximation of the growth of the plant. Realize that once the plant hits those measurements it doesn't magically stop growing and stay that size for the duration of its life, it will continue to grow, at a much slower rate, but it will continue to grow.

So plan your garden accordingly. It is easy to plant a small tree or shrub, but not so easy (nor inexpensive) to take down a massive tree that has out grown its space. With houses being built closer and closer together these days, consider the affect your plantings will have on your neighbor's yard, as well as your own. That small White Pine you plant as a privacy screen today will eventually grow to be a giant, with branches susceptible to breakage in a heavy snow storm. Will that branch land on your home or a neighbor's? Something to think about when at the nursery.

When picking out plants for your foundation, keep in mind the distance between the ground and your window sills. Do you want to be pruning constantly to keep that Yew or Juniper from covering up your windows? Probably not, so measure first, check the nursery tags, and plan accordingly.

Are your existing shrubs growing beyond their mulch beds? Are you tired of pruning them to stay inbounds? Why not try extending the beds further out and stop trying to make the plant fit the space. This is a good practice for so many reasons... (1) less work for you; (2) less expensive, if you have to pay a landscaper to prune them inbounds; (3) better for the plant; and, last but not least, (4) better for our environment—by reducing use of gas/electrical hedge trimmers, we reduce air pollutants, dependence on oil, noise pollution, etc.

So the next time you want to plant a tree or shrub, stop and think... What is the right size for my garden? Remember one size does *not* fit all!

The Darne Bloomers meet 9:30–11:00 a.m. on the second Thursday of each month, September–May, at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

From Our Schools...

Butler School

by Lisa Daly

At Butler School, we do things differently than in a traditional setting.

A Montessori education can provide an excellent academic foundation and much more without overburdening and stressing the child or the family with homework and testing.

Butler School is a Montessori school which embodies the educational principles established by Dr. Maria Montessori through her scientific observation of how children develop and learn. The Montessori approach offers education as an "aid to life," assisting children in constructing themselves as they develop from 3-year-olds to mature adolescents through a series of developmental stages. The Montessori classroom and curriculum are designed to meet the specific needs of each developmental stage. Organized in mixed age groupings, students are provided the opportunity to engage in purposeful and meaningful activities under the direction of an Association Montessori Internationale (AMI) trained adult.

Respect is the basis for all behavior in a Montessori classroom. Respect for the child, the adult, one's self, and the physical environment permeate all that is important in formal and informal lessons and interactions. The mixed age groupings of each classroom allow for both individual and social development. The community of the classroom provides a safe and secure place for children to develop self-esteem and confidence, while they learn to be responsible and caring members of a society. The Montessori curriculum ties separate disciplines together into studies of the physical universe, the world of nature and the human experience. Literature, the arts, history, social issues, mathematics and science are all components of the Montessori curriculum. The curriculum is open-ended, with limitless possibilities of study.

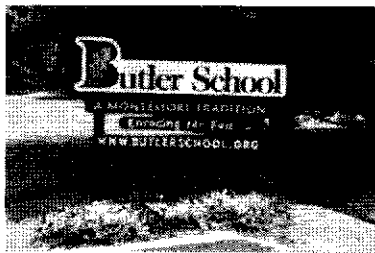
According to Maria Montessori, children from birth to age six or seven are in the "first plane of development." At this stage of development, children have what Dr. Montessori called an "absorbent mind," the ability to literally absorb like a sponge all kinds of information about their environment and culture. The most amazing example of this is all children's ability to learn a very complex language!

All children have an inherent love of learning and joy in discovery. These innate tendencies are given direction by the hands-on materials and the teacher so that children develop knowledge, concentration, motivation, persistence and discipline. All work is done at the pace of the individual child.

The elementary age child, from ages 6-12, has lost much of the capacity to merely absorb information, and is now characterized by the "reasoning mind." The child of this age wants to know why things are as they are and how things work. There is a strong desire to understand the relationships between things. This is also a highly social child who needs to be with friends, actively exploring not just the classroom, but beyond!

In response to these characteristics, lessons are given to small groups of children with the purpose of sparking imagination and sense of wonder, helping them understand the universe around them and their place in the world. Students study core curriculum subjects of geography, biology, history, language, mathematics, geometry, and receive enrichment in foreign language, art, music, outdoor education, and physical development. Students develop competency, discipline and self-confidence as they explore and investigate each subject area, both inside and outside on campus, and with day and overnight outings into the community and surrounding areas.

Discover how a Montessori education at Butler School opens doors to the joy of learning and discovery. We will be holding Open Houses on September 23, October 21 and November 18, all at 2:00 p.m. We hope to see you then.



For more information, please contact Butler School, 15951 Germantown Rd, Darnestown, MD 20874, 301-977-6600, www.butlerschool.org.

Darnestown Elementary

by Cathy Sharpe

Darnestown Elementary Better Than Ever

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

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

Co-Presidents:	Sharon Beautz Diane Harris
1st Co-Vice Presidents:	Heath Honeycutt Kelli Kahalas
2nd Co-Vice Presidents:	Faith Frankel Bonnie Lippe
Co-Treasurers:	Valli Dell'Aqua Bonnie Lane
Recording Secretary:	Christy Adelman
MCCPTA Delegates:	Katie Johnson Lindsey Hoggle
Northwest Cluster Rep:	Kelley Rogers
Parliamentarian:	Kathy O'Rourke

At the annual Back-to-School picnic, DES families enjoyed getting reacquainted as children played games, bee-bopped to music spun by a DJ, had their faces painted, bounced on the moon, and made a variety of crafts.

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

The PTA fall fundraiser with Innisbrook Wraps is already underway. Darnestown is the only Montgomery County school selling Innisbrook items including a large selection of gift wrap and related supplies, small gifts and candy. Funds raised will support a number of PTA programs and events with the highlight being an Outdoor Classroom.

Families new to DES won't want to miss the PTA-sponsored "New Family Coffee" on September 24 at 10:00 a.m.

DES will once again participate in the Montgomery County Community Service Week in October. We will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items for Manna Food Center. Flyers will be distributed early next month—be on the lookout for those and please donate as much as you can.

The Annual Book Fair is scheduled for November 5–9. It's your chance to buy Caldecott and Newberry award winners, cookbooks, bestsellers and other must-reads.

The DES Safety Patrol is doing a great job monitoring the buses and halls. With the assistance of the Montgomery County Police Department, teacher sponsor Luanne Deppa trained patrol members. Patrol Captain Samantha Sullenger, Lieutenant Alex Tran and Sergeants Rachel Cone and Lizzy Paul attended a police-sponsored Safety Patrol camp last month where they learned leadership and safety skills.

Jones Lane Elementary

by Princina Drazan

Our PTA officers and committees have been very busy this summer gathering information and preparing for a fun-filled year for our children and community. As you may recall, the following officers were elected to serve on the 2007–2008 PTA Board:

President:	Princina Drazan
1st Vice President:	Martha Segreti
2nd Vice President:	Michelle Cornblatt
Treasurer:	Deanna Tomasetti
Secretary:	Nan Ropelewski

This year we held three separate Back-to-School Night Presentations. The first was held on August 23rd for kindergarten parents. The remaining two will be held on September 5th for 1st and 2nd grade parents and September 6th for 3rd through 5th grade parents. Our New Students Orientation was held on

August 24th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The remaining JLES student body was treated to an Open House in the afternoon of August 25th from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. On August 31st, we hosted our Welcome Back Picnic from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for our JLES families and friends. This is an annual event that everyone looks forward to attending. August also marked the kick-off of our Sally Foster gift wrap fundraiser, the largest fundraiser of our school. Fifty percent of the proceeds go towards funding many of our programs during the year.

As always, we will attempt to introduce new PTA-sponsored programs and provide our parents with the tools to help their children succeed in school. Our aim is to support parents in their effort to provide a quality education and learning experience for their children. We are looking forward to working with all of our parents. Our parents are the key to the PTA's success.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

Northwest Fall Home Football Schedule

All home games are played Fridays at 6:00 p.m.

Sep. 7	Walt Whitman Vikings
Sep. 14	Seneca Valley Screamin' Eagles
Oct. 6	Thomas S. Wootton Patriots
Oct. 27	Springbrook Blue Devils – Homecoming
Nov. 3	Quince Orchard Cougars

The NW band is looking for a riding lawn mower donation (mower deck not needed) to pull equipment onto the field at competitions and football games. To donate, contact Jerry Haberman (Oompah President) at thehab5@comcast.net or 301-926-6764. Northwest will be hosting a multi-county marching band competition on October 13th. Volunteers and supporters are encouraged.

Straight-As from Darnestown

Kate Allaway, Cindy Beard, Anna D'Alessio, Kyle DiPeppe, Nick Gummo, Jillian Hanley, Alyssa Henshaw, Garrett Hulder, Cody Lang, Katie Lang,

Kyle Neumann, Adora Nwankwo, Karina Perez-Ayalde, Matthew Romney, Paul Sabin, Joshua Santangelo, Hillary Siegall, Michael Waddell, Mick Wallerstedt, and Stefanie Zaner.

National Honor Society Inductees

Anna D'Alessio, Nick Gummo, Edward Krasniewski, Cody Lang, Dana Motabar, Karina Perez-Ayalde, Joseph Santangelo, Joshua Santangleo, Stanley Wu, and Stefanie Zaner.

Shelli Cone has just arrived back from a tour in Australia competing with the Aussies in the Mounted Games discipline. Her team came in a very close second. Jake Cone (the Benchmark advance team) and Shelli Cone (the Limited Edition senior team) will be riding at the United States Pony Club, National Championship in Lexington, Kentucky for Antietam Pony Club. Aron Cone (the John Deere senior team) will be riding at the United States Pony Club, National Championship in Lexington, Kentucky in the Mounted Games discipline for Frederick Pony Club, Frederick Md. All three teams came in 1st place at the Regional USPC competition this past spring. Jake, Shelli, Aron and Rachel Cone will be competing on the National Mall, Washington, DC on September 29th, 2007 with the Mounted Games Across America.

Suz Cornelsen plans to attend Christopher Newport University in the fall and will be a member in the President's Leadership Program. Suz has been the only rider to compete for Northwest in the Inter School Horse Show and she has earned two division champion ribbons. Suz also has qualified for a summer invitational.

Academic Awards

Class of 2007 Senior Awards went to the following Darnestown students:

Academic and Departmental Awards

National Hispanic Recognition Program - Alex Booth; Programmers of the Year - Suzanne Cornel

sen and Ian Sisson; Culinary Hospitality Management Award - Lindsey Der; Foreign Language Award - Kelly Doheny and Matt Romney; Gold Medalist National Latin Exam - Matt Romney; Academic Excellence in Vocal Music - Eric Wiesneski; Instrumental Music Awards - Sean Gordon, Stefanie Zaner, Dereck Paul, Michael Waddell; Math Department Award - Matt Romney; Resource Department Award - Christine Bertoncini; Social Studies Department Award - Kelly Doheny

Big Eight Awards

Meritorious Service - Suzanne Cornelsen; National Merit Scholarship Program - Michael Iafolla, Matt Romney; Maryland Distinguished Scholar - Michael Iafolla, Matt Romney, Kelly Doheny, Alex Booth; President's Education Award - Brooke Cheripko, David D'Alessio, Garrettt Hudler, Amy Nwankwo, Jessica Ryan, Matt Romney, Kelly Doheny, Haley Brightman, Alex Booth; Governor's Merit Award (top 5 percent in MD) - Kelly Doheny, Alex Booth, Matt Romney; Top 25 - Matt Romney, Kelly Doheny, Alex Booth; AP Scholars - Robert Allaway, Eric Wiesneski, Kelly Doheny, Matt Romney

Northwest Awards

Principal's Award - Brooke Cheripko and Kelly Doheny; Rosette Award Winner (the highest NWHS honor) - Kelly Doheny

After three years, I am looking for someone new to volunteer to keep up this article of events and awards for Darnestown/Northwest High Schoolers. If you are interested in volunteering for the next issue of The Little Acorn, please contact me at dalessio@comcast.net.

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Susie Gooch and Michelle Wentz

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory (TJP) is ready to open on Wednesday, September 5th! All of our Technology is in place and ready for the students to begin their journeys into a new and exciting world of education!

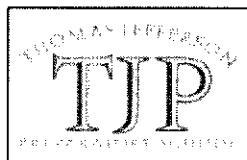
Our primary learning objective in using modern and advanced technology in our classrooms is to enhance our curriculum and, therefore, student learning in a fashion that surpasses the educational programs, both private and public, that we have explored within Montgomery County. Our technology encourages independent learning, cooperative learning, and the exploration of ideals and interests. It further individualizes instruction to ensure mastery of subject material, and it prepares our students with the advanced academic, research, and technological skills that are necessary for success in our highly competitive high school and university programs.

Smart Board Technology is integrated into our curriculum on a daily basis and in every classroom as both a teacher-directed tool and as a student-based cooperative learning tool. Through individual laptop usage, students learn to produce exciting academic projects using Microsoft PowerPoint, Excel, and Word. In addition, students practice to become self-directed learners through studying posted lessons on our specific academic web pages. Finally, our students practice compiling, organizing, analyzing, and synthesizing information through weekly and/or monthly research assignments.

We are thrilled to have moved into Darnestown, as both our Director, Susie Gooch, and our Office Manager, Michelle Wentz (who all but lives at DSRC all summer) are long-time Darnestown residents. If you'd like to learn more about TJP and our programs, please feel free to contact either Susie or Michelle at wsgooch@comcast.net or mtwentz@comcast.net, respectively.

Or, we'll see you at Safeway, Harris Teeter, the Shell station, the 6-12...

Two Darnestown residents who are not associated with TJP have already signed up for our Spring Break trip to the UK and Ireland in April '08. If you'd like details on this trip, please email Susie at the above address or call her at 301-975-0143.



From the Desk of Senator Garagiola



Delivery and Financing.

On April 9, 2007, the 90th General Assembly concluded. This year, I was named Deputy Majority Leader, the 3rd ranking post in the Senate. In addition, I was tapped to Chair a Health Subcommittee and Chair a Joint Senate-House Committee on Health Care

This year, I worked on legislation to promote prevention and wellness in health care delivery, and made some changes that will make health care more affordable for some Marylanders. More needs to be done. Since the session adjourned, the Joint Committee on Health Care Delivery and Financing has met twice and we will be scheduling more hearings before the beginning of the 2008 General Assembly Session, which begins in January. We have mapped out an ambitious agenda over the next several months and will be looking at public and private sector reforms seeking to expand access and help make health care more affordable. I am hopeful that we will be able to develop consensus for solutions for 2008.

I also introduced legislation (SB 595) to put Maryland on the forefront of solar energy development. Under my bill, which became law, utility companies will be required to incorporate solar energy into their portfolio of energy. Starting next year, 0.005 percent of the state's aggregate energy will have to be solar. The solar requirement will increase to 2 percent by 2022. As a result of the bill, large businesses will likely install solar paneling on their rooftops, because the utility companies will have to purchase such energy to meet the new requirement. There will also be new incentives for homeowners. Once fully implemented, Maryland solar energy output will be greater than the energy output of several of the State's existing power plants.

Environmental advocates noted that enactment of SB 595 will reduce more than 26 million tons of

carbon dioxide, which is responsible for global warming, and thousands of tons of sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides, as well as other harmful pollutants. In addition to the numerous environmental benefits, the amount of solar energy that will be introduced in Maryland will likely lead to lower electric bills for all Marylanders, because there will be less strain on the electricity grid, particularly in the summer months. SB 595 is a win for the environment, a win for the ratepayer, and a win for electricity grid reliability.

This legislation comes on the heels of a very successful year for the Solar Energy Grant Program, which I authored in 2004. This program provides funding for a portion of the costs to install certain qualifying solar energy systems. The program's total grant amount awarded to date is \$490,500. These funds have assisted 225 families and businesses purchase solar energy systems. If you would like more information about the Solar Energy Grant Program, please go to the Maryland Energy Administration Website.

I also successfully sponsored legislation that will promote alternative, renewable fuel use in Maryland. The bill (SB 261) creates a Commission to examine ways to promote clean fuel in Maryland, including ways to integrate biodiesel and other renewable fuels into motor fuels in the State and local public fleets as well as examine various incentives and/or mandates to integrate biodiesel and other renewable fuels in the private and public sector. As I represent two-thirds of Montgomery County's Agricultural Reserve, I am hopeful that bio-fuels will be beneficial for local farmers, along with the environmental benefits. As a member of the Commission, I will have the opportunity to gather key information in the development of future legislative initiatives concerning alternative renewable fuels.

In addition to these legislative issues, I have also recently contacted County Executive Leggett in opposition to a study of a second crossing over the Potomac. I have consistently been opposed to such a techway as it would be extremely detrimental to communities in District 15 and the Agricultural

Reserve. As Maryland faces budget shortfalls in the coming fiscal years, it would be more prudent to use funds to improve mass transportation, such as the Corridor Cities Transit Way, than further studies of a second crossing.

There are so many other issues at the forefront and I would like to hear from you. Please feel free to contact me at 301-858-3169 or by e-mail at Rob.Garagiola@senate.state.md.us.

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson



The Harry Potter frenzy was everywhere in July, and the Library had lent out every item connected with Harry before the new book hit the shelves. It shows that people, adults and children, are reading, at least sometimes, and the wait for new books keeps one optimistic. If the young children ever get bored, book the Discovery Room for an hour and they will be fully entertained with all the fun things to do there.

Another sign of books still being read is the fact that there are now wonderful new libraries at Germantown and Rockville which are enormous and a joy to experience, lots of room to move about, sit for a while in contemplation, and bemoan the lack of space at Quince Orchard. These new libraries are set in pedestrian areas which makes them an enjoyable excursion.

Quince Orchard's Community Day in June was another great success with a huge book sale, music all day, lots of activities for kids and lovely weather. Aggregate Industries in cooperation with North Potomac Earth Day Committee presented a check to the Friends of the Library to keep up their support of Quince Orchard with programming and supplies.

Look for more programs as school starts, books sales begin again, and we all get back to the routine of Fall. By the way, another advantage of reading, many people say, is that it sends them to sleep at night!

Judge Wheeler Inaugural Speaker in "Faith and Culture" Discussion Series

by Jan Summers

Federal Judge Tom Wheeler will be the inaugural speaker in the "Faith and Culture" discussion series at Darnestown Presbyterian Church, 15120 Turkey Foot Rd., at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 7. His topic is "Faith on Weekdays." After practicing law in Washington for 32 years, Tom was nominated by President Bush and confirmed as a judge at the United States Court of Federal Claims in Washington, D.C. on October 24, 2005. This court hears suits against the U.S. Government involving government contracts, Constitutional claims, tax refunds, civilian and military pay claims, Indian claims, vaccine injury claims, and patent and copyright matters. In 2006, it gave judgments in over 900 cases and awarded \$1.8 billion in damages. Tom has lived in Darnestown with his family since 1978, and currently serves as the Clerk of Session at DPC. You are invited to join in this discussion on performing "Sunday habits" on a daily basis and to hear about life as a Federal Judge. Future discussions in this new series sponsored by the Darnestown Presbyterian Women will be announced.

Bonnie McManaman Returns from World Tour to Bring Music to Darnestown

by Joy McManaman

My sister Bonnie McManaman, an award-winning musician, has returned from China, to share her passion for music with Darnestown. In February, she went on tour throughout several cities in China, as the Assistant Concertmaster (on violin) with the Mantovani Orchestra.

Since then, Bonnie has been actively engaged in her goals to bring more fun, musical opportunities and education to Darnestown. She is privately teaching the violin, flute, clarinet, and saxophone to members of our community.

Bonnie fondly remembers her early days as a Darnestown Elementary School student, when she

first had the opportunity to participate in the school instrumental music classes. That first positive exposure sparked her interest to pursue a myriad of instruments, and make her career as a musician. In college, Bonnie double-majored in saxophone and violin performance. In 2002, she graduated from the University of Maryland with her Master of Music degree. She has performed all over the world, and has been a featured sax soloist on television, as well as a guest violinist at the Kennedy Center.

Now, Bonnie is striving to ignite that same initial musical spark that she herself first found at DES, by encouraging her students to explore many kinds of music. They can bring in samples of their favorite music to learn, which makes practicing become a labor of love.

Bonnie is also the founding member of the Darnestown "M3 Trio," which consists of herself (on violin and electric violin), and her two sisters, Joy (cello), and Emily (clarinet). Together they perform locally for corporate events and weddings. They often perform music arranged and composed by Bonnie.

To learn more, please visit www.BonnieMcManaman.com.



Maura Leigh Whelan Accepted to Harvard Law

Maura Leigh Whelan, of Darnestown, MD, has been accepted to the Harvard University Law School Class of 2010. Maura attended Ridgeview Middle School and graduated from Richard Montgomery High School with an International Bachelariate Degree in 2001. She then graduated from Georgetown University, Magna Cum Laude, in 2005. She recently completed a two year term as Corporate Legal Assistant for the New York, New York based Law firm of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen, and Katz. Maura is the daughter of Tim and Stephanie Whelan and brother of Tim, Jr.

All Through The House Bazaar

by Jan Summers

"All Through the House" annual bazaar of Darnestown Presbyterian Women will be held on Saturday, November 3, 2007, at the church, 15120 Turkey Foot Rd., from 8:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. The bazaar will include a silent auction, antiques & collectibles, jewelry, knitting, sewing, used books, gifts, Christmas room, and country kitchen; café will serve lunch. Bring your friends! Phone: 301-948-9127.

Darnestown Softball

by Tracy and Brian Lang



As the Little Acorn goes to press, another exciting softball season is drawing to a close with three teams in contention for the championship. In the final games of the season, the league's newest members, Berryville-Seneca and Rollinmead, will vie with Bondy Haddonfield-Ridgefield, for the chance to have their name added to the coveted softball trophy. The trophy itself, which has in the past been transferred each season to the winning team, has now found a permanent home. It hangs proudly in the display case in the entry foyer of the Harris Teeter, where all are invited to view the history of our neighborhood league.

In addition to a hotly contested championship, this season has seen several milestones, including the longest game played in the history of the league. Western Darnestown and Rollinmead battled to a 1-1 tie through nine long innings, studded with many acrobatic defensive plays from both sides. With two outs and deep in the count, perennial power hitter Hetz Wochholz delivered a spectacular home run to

the hill to give Rollinmead the victory. The season also saw the departure of Bondy-Haddonfield first-base mainstay, Don "Spider" Wescott, who retired his Darnestown cleats to head south. Spider, well-known for his love of the game and his preference for official baseball attire, ended his Little Acorn softball career with a narrow victory over Western Darnestown. Afterwards, he was given a rousing send-off speech by Tracy Callahan, and took a final victory lap around the bases, where he was congratulated at the plate by members of both teams. We wish Spider the very best as he continues his career in Florida, where he hopes to play softball year-round.

As always the season proved good, competitive fun for all players. With a tight game schedule necessary to accommodate an all-time league high of six teams, league rules, including the switch to a 1-1 count at the top of the fourth inning, the elimination of the over-run on second and third base, and the 6' circle at home plate (though sometimes difficult to remember/observe!), helped to keep the game schedule on-time and the games safer for all players. No major injuries were reported.

We'd like to thank all players and supporters for a great season. The success of the league depends, as always, on the good sportsmanship and love of the game displayed by its members. We'd like to give special thanks to Joe Gazda for keeping track of stats/schedules/standings through the season, Dave Bivans for his efforts in field and equipment maintenance, Steve Ellis for hanging in there for one more year as league commissioner, and all team captains and volunteers who stepped up to fill the challenging position of umpire. We look forward to a great 2008 season, and hope to see the return of Michael Dry to the Highlands roster.

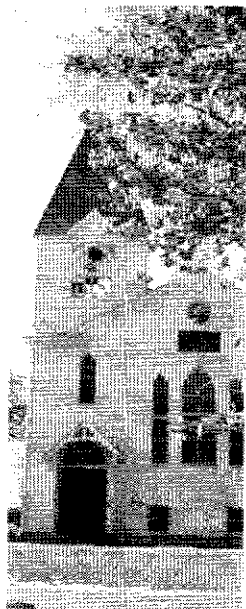
Standings and Stats

Team	W	L	T	PCT	RF	AVG	RA	AVG	RF/RA	GB
Rollinmead	6	1	0	0.857	71	10.1	41	5.9	1.732	----
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	7	2	0	0.778	102	11.3	56	6.2	1.821	----
Berryville Seneca	5	3	0	0.625	71	8.9	70	8.8	1.014	1.5
Ancient Mountain Quails	5	4	1	0.556	88	8.8	82	8.2	1.073	2.0
Western Darnestown	2	8	0	0.200	45	4.5	75	7.5	0.600	5.5
Highlanders	1	8	1	0.111	40	4.0	93	9.3	0.430	6.0

New Schedule for Sunday Mornings at Darnestown Presbyterian Church

by Rev. Bob Hoover
Interim Pastor/Head of Staff

The Darnestown Presbyterian Church, located at 15120 Turkey Foot Rd, announces a new Sunday morning schedule for Sunday School and Worship Services effective September 9, 2007. This will be the first change in the schedule in twenty years. The reason for the change is to provide a dedicated hour at 9:45 for Sunday School classes for children and youth plus selective study courses for adults during the time between the two worship services at 8:45 and 11:00. The old schedule had Sunday School meeting during the first worship service.



The new schedule is designed in such a way so that members of the congregation can participate in Sunday morning teaching and preaching ministries to enhance spiritual growth and faith development by being in a worship service and also participating in classes. The first series of adult selective study classes will include (1) "A Survey of the Bible" to be led by the Rev. Dr. Robert P. Hoover, interim pastor/head of staff and (2) "Identifying Our Spiritual Gifts" to be led by Associate Pastor Tamara Leonard Lara and DCE Debbie McKune.

During both worship services child care will be provided for infants/toddlers and preschoolers. Both services will include a Children's Message for K-5 to be followed by a Junior Sermon activity in an adjacent classroom.

A social time hosted by members of the Board of Deacons in Fellowship Hall will continue each Sunday at 10:30-11:00.

The new Sunday Morning Schedule is the result of a seven year in-depth study of the Biblical, historical, and theological dynamics of Sunday morning teaching and preaching ministries. For more infor-

mation call 301-948-9127, daily between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Places of Worship

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

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

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

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

Fairhaven United Methodist

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

Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church

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

Germantown Baptist Church

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

Or Chadash

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

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

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

Poplar Grove Baptist Church

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

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

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

Seneca Community Church

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

Temple Beth Ami

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

Darnestown Flag Program



We need the community's assistance with our Flag Program. Flags are frequently ruined because tree branches tear them. We are asking those who have trees where the flag brackets are located to please prune them.

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

Attention Shutterbugs!

Any of us with pets knows how incredibly funny they can be, but catching their silly antics on camera can be tricky. Rarely are we prepared to photograph them when they burst into zaniness, and when we are ready, they are nowhere to be found.



"The Fascinating Flush"
Featuring
Chas and Beasley Thompson

So, just for fun, we thought we'd solicit photos of those rare occasions you were actually ready with your camera when your dog, cat, bird, horse... whatever... was clowning around.

If you have such a photo you'd like to share, either of a pet or a regular visitor to your backyard, give it a clever title and send it in to *The Little Acorn*, 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874, or by e-mail (in jpeg format) to acorneditor@comcast.net. Hard-copy photos accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope will be returned. The cutest, funniest, or otherwise most entertaining photos will be published in future issues of *The Little Acorn*.

As Autumn Arrives...

Open Burning: A Regulatory Factsheet

Montgomery County Department
of Environmental Protection

Open burning creates air pollution that can directly affect the health and well being of people who live or work near open burning sites. Air pollution from open burning can cause property damage to nearby residential and commercial property. In addition to smoke and odors, open burning contributes carbon monoxide and nitrogen oxides that contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone (smog).

Open burning of certain materials is not permitted in Montgomery County. Chapter 3 of the Montgomery County Code and Maryland regulations (COMAR 26.11.07) place restrictions on open burning. This factsheet explains these restrictions and provides additional sources for information on this subject.

Complete Prohibition

- Household trash
- Tires
- Construction debris
- Asphalt shingles or tar paper
- Leaves, lawn thatch, garden trimmings
- Brush and other plant life (except certain agricultural materials)

Open Burning with a Permit

It is permissible to conduct open burning with a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection for certain operations. These include:

- Burning of agricultural debris directly related to the commercial production of livestock, food or fiber on land that is classified as agricultural for tax purposes.
- By state regulation, between June 1 and August 31, agricultural burning is restricted to the burning of excess lodging for the purpose of recropping. (For any type of agricultural burning, one needs to obtain an agricultural burn permit from the Department of Environmental Protection.)
- Bonfires or similar recreational fires, provided there is sufficient separation from adjacent properties and well traveled roadways to avoid the creation of air pollution nuisances (1,500 ft).

Open burning cannot be permitted for:

- Burning hazardous material
- Burning within 1,500 ft of an occupied building or well traveled roadway
- Burning that creates a nuisance or that will generate plainly visible smoke plumes that cross a property line

Open Burning without a Permit

It is permissible to conduct open burning without a permit for the following operations, provided that an air pollution nuisance is not created:

- Small recreational fires used by religious or scouting organizations (such as campfires)
- Fires in salamanders or similar devices fired with propane or No. 2 fuel oil at construction sites
- Fires used for outdoor cooking.

Disposal Alternatives

- Use available refuse collection services.
- Compost your leaves and yard trimmings.
- Use the services of a licensed refuse hauler

- Haul your materials to the County's Solid Waste Transfer Station. Call the Division of Solid Waste for additional information at 301-840-2370.
- Use the County's brush pick up service. Call 240-777-6400 for details. Brush can also be disposed of at the County's Waste Transfer Station and at the Damascus and Poolesville Depots.

Depots

- Damascus: 301.253.1599
- Poolesville: 301.972.7829

For more information, please contact Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, 255 Rockville Pike, Suite 120, Rockville, MD 20850, Phone: 240-777-7770.

Source: Montgomery County Department of Fire and Rescue Services

Wonderful Hot Soups for Chilly Autumn Evenings



As autumn arrives, the days grow shorter, the nights grow colder, and the grass just stops growing. We trade our cool summer salads and barbeque fare for some hot, hearty, bone-warming meals and a cozy fire. Here are a few "Darne-Good" recipes to get you started. Just add some hot crusty bread and, of course, the cozy fire!

Apple Orchard Soup
Recipe by Kimberly McCollom

Yield: 6 servings

Wonderful fall addition to any meal.

4 tablespoons butter or margarine
3 large red apples, peeled, cored and sliced
3 large Granny Smith apples, peeled, cored and sliced
1 cup chopped onion
1 teaspoon minced garlic
5 cups canned chicken broth
1-1/2 cups whipping cream
Salt and pepper

1. Melt butter or margarine in large heavy saucepan over medium heat.
2. Add apples, onion, and garlic, and cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.
3. Add chicken broth and simmer until apples are very tender, about 20 minutes.
4. Pureé mixture in batches in blender or food processor.
5. Return to pan and add cream.
6. Simmer. Season with salt and pepper.

Hint: Can be prepared one day ahead. Cool, cover, and refrigerate.

Roasted Red Onion Soup Yield: 6-8 servings
Recipe by Carole Buchanan

A special first course!

- 10 cups sliced red onions
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1 tablespoon flour
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 8 cups good beef broth
- 1 cup dry white vermouth

1. Roast onions in oil in 350° oven for 20 minutes.
2. Remove from oven and add flour and sugar. Return to oven for 5 minutes.
3. Add beef broth and vermouth.
4. Bring to boil and serve.

Hint: Top with croutons and grated mozzarella.

Shrimp Broccoli Bisque

Yield: 8-10 servings

Recipe by Gail Ali

Just add French bread and salad for a superb meal.

- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups milk
- 1 pint half-and-half cream
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground thyme
- 1 can (6-1/2 ounce) shrimp OR 1/2 pound fresh shrimp, steamed lightly and cleaned
- 1 package (10 ounce) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed and drained

1. Sauté onion in butter or margarine until transparent; add flour and stir until smooth.
2. In separate pot, heat milk and half-and-half over medium heat.
3. Gradually add milk mixture to onions, stirring until smooth.
4. Add bouillon cubes and stir until dissolved.
5. Add spices, shrimp and broccoli.
6. Heat over low to medium heat until heated thoroughly, but do not boil.

Hint: Use fresh shrimp and fresh steamed broccoli for fuller flavor.

A 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)! Purchase 6 cookbooks or more for only \$14.00 each. A portion of the profit from the sale of every cookbook will go to benefit breast cancer research.

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association or DCA.



Dust off your cowboy boots and
make your reservations NOW for the
DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S



2007 HOEDOWN

Join your friends and neighbors for an evening of square and line dancing
with Caller Mac McCall. You don't have to be any good at this... it's just a really FUN evening!
Dinner, dancing, beverages, desserts, and hayrides are all included.

STILL ONLY \$30 PER PERSON!!!

Friday, October 19, 2007
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT

At Smokey Glen Farm
Main Pavillion, Riffle Ford Road
Right here in Darnestown!

Back by popular demand:
Darnestown's *favorite* caller, Mac McCall

Serving Smokey Glen Farm's famous complete BarBQ chicken and BarBQ spareribs buffet dinner
Starting with seafood bisque and ending with smoked fruit pies
Included are sodas, apple cider, beer, wine, bar beverages, and coffee

RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 1ST!
****NO REFUNDS** PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR**
"DARNE GOOD COOKBOOKS" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE HOEDOWN



Please clip and submit this form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/1 to:
Lisa Patterson-Troike, 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874
Direct any questions to Lisa via email (lisaapatterson@aol.com) or phone (301-548-0999)

Full names of those in your group: _____

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

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



NEWCOMERS

Are You a New Resident of Darnestown?

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

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

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

Mailing Address:

Darnestown Civic Association
14100 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

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

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

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

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

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

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

Barnesville School

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

Boy Scout Troop 1094

Scoutmaster Bud Wildman (301-990-8318)

Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts

Cathy Sharpe (301-519-9520)

Butler School

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

Circle School/Seneca Academy

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

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

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

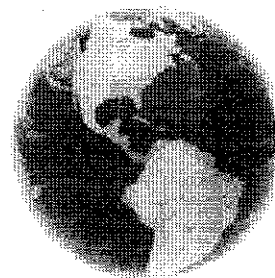
15800 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Mr. Daniel Shea, Principal (301-840-4686)

Ridgeview Middle School

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

Take Another Look ...

We Are On The Web...



www.darnestowncivic.org!

We have changed our website. You can view the calendar for upcoming events, read about our committees, learn about Darnestown history and become a member of the Darnestown Civic Association online. If you have any comments/questions, contact Mary Stefanelli at marystefanelli@comcast.net.

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

New Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SUBURBAN MD
PERMIT #2328

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