

Volume 44, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION www.darnestowncivic.org

March 2008

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Happy New Year! Another year is upon us and we are looking forward to working on matters important to Darnestown and its residents. This year we are making a conscious effort to get to know the communities that border our own and find out what issues are important to them, specifically, the North Potomac Citizens Association and West Montgomery Citizens Association. One item of concern for all three communities will be the development of Belward Farm located at the corner of Route 28 and Muddy Branch Road. The concerns and aspirations of these other associations closely mirror our own and building a relationship with them will help us all become stronger and more aware.

By the time this issue of *The Little Acorn* comes off the press, we hope Darnestown will have its new Heritage Park on the books with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (NCPPC)! Several of us plan to speak at the County Council hearings set for early February. What makes our park so special and unique will be the (*Continued on page 3*)

Next Darnestown Civic Association Meeting

Thursday March 20 at 7:30 p.m. Darnestown Presbyterian Church Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm

Wednesday, April 23 Don't miss it! Great food and fun for the whole family! (See Page 20 for details)

Community to Honor Luanne Deppa for 35 Years of Dedicated Teaching at DES

Friday, May 30 Washingtonian Rio Marriott (See Page 9 for details)



- DEADLINE -

All items for inclusion in the next issue of The Little Acorn are due to the Editor no later than May 1, 2008 The deadlines will remain firm.

Articles for The Little Acorn may be mailed to 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874 OR E-mailed to acorneditor@comcast.net. Please follow-up by phone or email if you do not receive confirmation from the editor that your submission has been received. The editor can be reached at 240-683-0103. ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!

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Inquiries concerning the Darnestown Civic Association should be directed to Lisa Patterson-Troike (301-548-0999) or mailed to DCA, 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874





	MUSIC LESSONS	
TJ Callahan	Guitar	301-990-8811
Michael Waddell	Trombone/Horn	301- 990-6770
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IAKY SERVICES

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(Continued from first page)

contributions from residents, neighbors, and friends. The Darne Bloomers plan to provide and plant annuals, Seneca sandstone will be donated to incorporate local raw material to the project, and more. NCPPC is excited about this unique partnership and so are we!

If you know or hear of an issue that sounds important and will impact you or others you know, please don't hesitate to contact us. We have eyes and ears keeping tabs on development, lot subdivision and the like, but often hear of it first from people who think, "Gosh, I wonder if the DCA knows about this?" The sooner we hear about an issue, the better. This is an exciting time to live in Darnestown. Our town center will be going through a lot of changes over the next few years. We will keep you abreast through our *Little Acorn* newsletter and Town Meetings.

Wishing you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2008!

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

Directory Last Call!

We are just wrapping up the last additions and changes to the 2008 Darnestown Directory. This is your LAST CHANCE to update your contact information, which will appear in the Directory through 2010. Please send your updates and encourage your new neighbors to do so as well. This will ensure that our community phone book is as accurate as possible.

In addition, we do have some remaining space for advertisers. This is a great way to remind your neighbors of your local business—the directory reaches over 1,800 households and is in effect for two years. Call or email me for prices and to secure your space. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sarah Scherer 240-683-8533 sarahscherer@comcast.net

DCA Membership Update

by Jean Jurgena, Membership Committee Chairperson

As of February 1, 2008, the DCA is comprised of 870 paid members for FY 2007-08. Members are listed on page 22 of this newsletter. The information you submitted on your dues statement will be used to update your listing for the 2008 DCA directory. For information regarding DCA membership, your listing in the DCA database, or to pass along information regarding new neighbors that may not be receiving The Little Acorn, please contact Jean Jurgena, jmjurgena@hotmail.com, 301-840-1187. A DCA membership form is included on the back page of this newsletter for your convenience.

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

The annual DCA holiday tree lighting was Sunday, December 9th with a great crowd of "tree goers." The weather was chilly, but the fire pit sure did keep us warm. Santa showed up right on cue (when the tree is lit), and refreshed all of us with his peppermint candy canes. After over 6 years of service, Santa has decided to retire. Who was that Santa anyway? The DCA would like to thank Rick Shaeffer for all his years of jolly smiling, joke telling and ho-ho-ho-ing. He will be hard to replace, but I think he has someone in mind. We will see...



Thanks to the Beautz family for the wonderful holiday spread: cookies of all kinds, hot chocolate,

marshmallows, fire pit, firewood, and good cheer for all. Thanks also to Michael Dry who has been supplying the 40 ft. ladder and helping with putting on and removing the lights for about the past decade. Be sure to join us for next year's holiday tree lighting. It is a wonderful DCA event at no cost to you!

The annual Spring Social is set for Wednesday, April 23rd from 6:00–8:00 p.m. rain or shine! Let's hope the weather is as good as it was last year. Be sure to bring the whole family for 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. RSVP by Monday, April 14th to Lisa Patterson-Troike at lisaapatterson@aol.com or 301-548-0999. Hope to see you all there!

Village Committee

By Steve Ellis

New Petruccelli Building

As you may recall from previous issues, the Master Plan (MP) called for the zoning on the cell tower property to change from OM (office medium size which can be up to 7 stories and requires about twice the septic capacity) to C-1 which allows retail businesses and requires about half the septic/sq. ft. capacity. This change did not occur in the 2002 MP despite the approval of community, Planning Staff and the Planning Board. When Nick Petruccelli decided to pursue development of the property about 3 years ago, we all realized that the Council did not approve the change in zoning.

Fortunately, Callum Murray, community planner for the Potomac Sub-region and staff leader of the 1998– 2002 Potomac Sub-region Master Plan and the citizen advisory board (of which Gerry Foley and I were members), was willing to initiate and move the process toward rectifying the mistake. Callum was able to expedite this Local Map Amendment (LMA), G870, through the process at a relatively rapid pace. Over the past 6 months or so, Nick Petruccelli, Jim Clifford, as his attorney, and I (for the DCA) have spoken before the Planning Board and Hearing Examiner. All approved of the change. On Tuesday, January 15, the council voted 9-0 to approve the change to C-1. The Hearing examiner was Martin Grossman. He gave a very good explanation as to how the mistake happened and without assigning fault to anyone involved. There are just 2 hearing examiners in/for Montgomery County. Martin Grossman is one; the other is Francoise Carrier. The LMA G-870 can probably be found on the council web site. It might make interesting reading for a few. We will have a copy of the proceedings in our files.

The conclusions of Mr. Grossman:

- 1. That a mistake was made when the Council approved that portion of SMA G-800 which left the subject site in the O-M zone;
- 2. That the appropriate remedy would be to grant the instant application to reclassify the site to the C-1 Zone; and
- 3. That the requested reclassification to the C-1 Zone bears sufficient relationship to the public interest to justify its approval.

SMA—Sectional Map Amendment: Passed by the County Council acting as the District Council (which has the state's authority to make county zoning decisions). Gives legal authority and establishes the recommended and approved zoning changes for an entire area, such as a Master Plan area. This G-800 included all the many zoning changes in the Potomac Sub-region in one document in October, 2002. An individual property or relatively local confined area zoning change is considered a Local Map Amendment.

Mr. Petruccelli needs to break ground for the building by April 1 to fulfill the contract he has with the Maryland State Teachers Credit Union. Thus, ground breaking will begin this March for the construction of this new 9,600 sq. ft. addition to the Darnestown Village. Commercial properties in the village are required to have 35 percent open green space. Height limitation is 35 feet. The FAR, floor area ration, is restrictive at 0.2. This means that if the size of the lot is 40,000 sq. ft., the maximum area of the interior of the building on it is 8,000 sq. ft.



Bailey Property

The two properties on Seneca Road containing the Invisible Fence Company and the previous Seneca Lawns total almost an acre. Mike Bailey has been evaluating his property with a land planning company, and has preliminarily determined that there is sufficient septic capacity for approximately 8,000 sq. ft. retail/office building. By previous agreements years ago, the Bailey properties have septic easement areas on both the Petruccelli property and the Archdiocese property. The easement on the Archdiocese property was negotiated when the Bullard family owned the land. They built and operated the Windsor school, which now houses the Mary of Nazareth School.

This project's commencement is at least two years into the future. At present the concept envisions a brick building with a main level and a smaller lower level to compliment the other brick buildings next door.

Zilvetti Property

The Buffalo Wings and Beer has closed. The owner of the business, Ira Levy, had a five-year lease to rent, with a two-year three-month option to buy the property for \$1.5 million. The three parcels are about 1.5 acres. After exploring the possibility of opening an eat-in wings and beer restaurant housed in a building that would include additional retail space, Mr. Levy decided not to buy the property. The Department of Permitting Services, Well and Septic Division, determined that there was much less septic capacity on the properties than would be required for Mr. Levy's plan. Mrs. Zilvetti had the option to terminate the lease after the two-year period. The property is now for sale.

The only good location with sufficient septic capacity for a desired and suitable restaurant is on the 1.7 acre property allocated for that purpose on Seneca road across from the Bailey properties. The Country Inn property has at least an additional half acre of septic easement area on the adjacent MWOSH property. This idea needs some will and financing. It can happen.

Update from the Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board by Bob Thompson

UCAB Testimony for the Montgomery County Council Regarding Upcounty Priorities for the FY09 Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Budget February 5, 2008

The Upcounty region comprises one-half the county's land area and is home to one-third of the total population, two of the fastest growing areas (Germantown and Clarksburg) and the most widely discussed topic this year – the Agricultural Reserve. As the Upcounty region continues to experience growth, many of its communities are in the midst of master plan revisions and evaluating models of public-private sector collaboration. We feel it is important to remind policy- and decision-makers of these facts because the Upcounty region is vital to the economy of the entire county. Last summer, the Board held a community forum where approximately 60 residents came before us to voice their concerns. Facilitated conversations at this meeting and many other UCAB events throughout the year focused on public safety, public transportation, recreation, parks, and schools. Due to the size of the Upcounty, and the particular needs of our diverse suburban and rural neighborhoods, the Board has been an unwavering supporter of our Police and Fire and Rescue Departments. Most of the public safety comments from the public forum emphasized updating communications and technology. Representatives from the community expressed an urgent need for resources, which include an air support unit and a maintenance facility for Fire and Rescue.

Citizens of the Upcounty suffer the economic and emotional strain of longer and more difficult commutes due, in part, to the growing geographic gap between residences and workplaces. For the past six years, the Board has identified traffic congestion and transportation capabilities as top priorities. After studying the many options available for relief:

- The Board has enthusiastically supported the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). We feel the CCT is an attainable goal, a fact supported by the significant amount of right of way that has already been set aside, dedicated or reserved for the CCT and its requisite stations. Key considerations with the CCT include: ensuring implementation aligns with ridership needs; minimizing transfers; tying access for pedestrians and bicyclists; and connecting with other modes of transportation, such as Metro. Those in the transportation discussion at the June forum also stressed making greater use of the MARC rail and Ride-On bus services.
- A number of residents gave actual street addresses where they believed sidewalks or bike paths should be added or improved.

Like you, the Board is concerned about the programs and services available for our youth and families, and with some understanding of the fiscal situation we face, we want to stress the following points.

- The addition or renovation of community centers or sites that house after school programs and summer fun centers is a common theme in the Upcounty.
- The conversation about recreation, parks and schools prompted comments from many residents about the Plum Gar Community Center, the North Potomac Community Center, the Damascus Aquatic Center, a BMX track and skate park at the Germantown SoccerPlex, the

Germantown Town Center Park, Darnestown Square Heritage Park, the Middle School in Aurora Hills and Seneca Valley High School.

Though our conversation today focuses on construction, I would be remiss if I didn't mention the importance of conservation and protection. The Agricultural Reserve is an economic engine, a recreation outlet and a unique source of beauty. Maintaining its integrity is vital for everyone and of particular importance to those of us living in the northern portion of the county. In closing, the Board believes that funding these priorities will allow the basic infrastructure to be maintained, and for vital improvements to be added. We want to work with you to make these goals a reality.

> —Submitted by Tobi Printz-Platnick (Boyds) UCAB Chair, 2007–2008

About UCAB...

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. Members work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. Members are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural Reserve.

As a representative of Darnestown, I am committed to communicating to the County government those issues of importance to Darnestown, and relaying County news and information back to our community. Questions or comments are always welcome and appreciated: Bob Thompson, 240-683-0103, bob.thompson@comcast.net. Additionally the Board is staffed by the Upcounty Regional Services team. The Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240-777-8000 or via e-mail at upcounty. citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Montgomery County Police Partner with "Public Engines" to Offer Montgomery County Crime Reporting Service on the Internet

On January 29, 2008, Montgomery County Police Chief J. Thomas Manger announced a new partner-

ship with Public Engines, a software development company, to provide the ability to share neighborhood crime incident information through the Internet. The service is available in Montgomery County as of Friday, February 1, and is found at www.crimereports.com. There is also a link to the



"CrimeReports" website from the Montgomery County Police website at www.montgomery countymd.gov/police. This service for Montgomery County, currently in a pilot program phase, allows the department to publish local crime incident data in near real-time on the crime reports website. The program converts raw crime data into easily accessible information for anyone to view via the Internet. The data is presented on a Google Maps interface where residents can review up-to-date crime activity for any location within the jurisdiction of the Montgomery County Police Department. Users may also elect to receive free email crime alerts that are sent when crimes occur close to home or near any other address of interest; such as a business address, school, or community center. Users control the e-mail crime alerts they

receive by specifying the address, the crime types, and the distance from the address for which they wish to receive e-mail alerts. The CrimeReports service is free to the public, allowing them easy access to neighborhood crime data in near-real time; however, it is important to understand that due to the timeliness of the reporting, investigations will not yet have been completed, and the information will be preliminary and subject to change during the course of the investigation. Crime incident data will be updated nightly by the police department. The basic information will include date and type of incident (which will be listed as it is processed in the 911 center, prior to completion of the investigation), and block address location. Additional pertinent information may be included.

This is the first stage of an evolving program. Additional information and features will be added. Montgomery County Police have, for many years, set a high priority on community policing. Chief Tom Manger said, "We know that our community members are very interested in what crime is occurring in their county, and in their neighborhoods, particularly. CrimeReports.com gives us another tool to keep our community informed and to strengthen the department's partnership with the people we serve. When community members know what crime is occurring in their neighborhoods, they can better prevent themselves from becoming victims, and may be more apt to report to police any suspicious persons and activities that may be related to those crimes."

Passing of County Councilmember Marilyn Praisner

The following statement was issued by County Executive Isiah Leggett, February 1, 2008:

Nobody in Montgomery County government ever worked harder, knew more, or cared more than Marilyn Praisner. Whether serving her country in the Central Intelligence Agency, looking out for our kids as a School Board member, or laboring tirelessly to make a good County better in her 18 years on the Council, Marilyn brought to whatever task at hand a keen intellect, a big heart, and a passionate devotion to public service. For me—and for the many thousands of people all over this county, this state, and this country whose lives Marilyn touched—there is a hole in our lives today where Marilyn used to be. She was a colleague, a dear friend, a loving wife, a caring mother, and a delighted grandmother. We mourn her loss. We celebrate her life. May God reach out and bless and comfort her loved ones.

Darnestown Elementary School Capital Improvement Program Update – February 2008 by Ed O'Rourke

A Darnestown Elementary School PTA taskforce is working with Montgomery County Public Schools to secure funding to expand DES facilities by at least four classrooms, perhaps as soon as the 2009– 2010 budget cycle.

The taskforce was formed in September 2007 to increase community awareness of the age and condition of DES infrastructure, the capacity of student and staff population, and related health and safety concerns of the school. Other goals are facility expansion in the short term and school replacement, preferably before MCPS's scheduled replacement of DES in 2020 or 2022.

Background

Key facts about Darnestown Elementary School:

- Built as a 12,813 Square ft. school on 7.2 acres in 1954, with a rated capacity of 273 students and 47 square feet of learning space per student
- The school structure was expanded over the years, as follows:
 - ▶ 1960 6,510 sq. ft.
 - ▶ 1965 11,537 sq. ft.
 - ➤ 1974 4,719 sq. ft.
 - ▶ 1980 2,000 sq. ft.
- DES enrollment of 385 students in 2007/08 is 112 students more than the facility's rated capacity

- Based on current enrollment, DES is at the top of the list of overcrowded schools in the county with less than 98 square feet of learning space per student, excluding staff.
- DES was awarded the Blue Ribbon School status in 2000/01 for high academic achievement

Current Status

Community awareness of DES capital needs clearly has been enhanced. MCPS has committed to assess the school for expansion. At a PTA presentation held at DES on January 3, Bruce Crispell, MCPS Director of Long Range Planning, reported that a four-classroom addition assessment has begun. Facility-evaluation meetings are being conducted by MCPS project and design personnel in conjunction with the Principal, staff, PTA and others to identify infrastructure needs at DES. This process includes an evaluation of the future role of portable classrooms at the school.

This stage of the process should conclude in August 2008 with community presentations of MCPS findings and recommendations. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, an off-year amendment to the 2009/2010 CIP budget may be pursued to fund work recommendations. If the amendment is not accepted, funding likely will be included in the 2010/2011 CIP Budget. Mr. Crispell also acknowl-edged the fiscal pressures MCPS faces for funding capital projects.

Separate from the process above, MCPS is working to replace the failing septic system at DES. This is viewed by both Montgomery County Well and Septic and MCPS as a priority matter for health and safety reasons. Although the DES septic system has been expanded since its 1954 construction, several pits are failing. The MCPS Construction Division is evaluating various options given the footprint of the school area. They hope to replace the septic system before classes resume in the fall of 2008. MCPS Construction is aware of the expansion evaluation currently underway.

Since organizing, the taskforce has had good support from the school Principal and staff, the PTA, and MCPS Facilities. The committee has also presented publicly twice to the Board of Education and has raised additional awareness through outreach to the Superintendent of Schools, Laverne Kimball, the Darnestown Civic Association and both the State Senator and President of the County Council representing the Darnestown area. All have expressed interest and acknowledgement of the efforts and needs of the school as well as DES' strong track record for academic achievement and parent and community involvement.

The Darnestown Civic Association will be appointing a lead to continue to remain involved and informed on the progress of the school. Watch for future updates in the Little Acorn.

Luanne (Leggett) Deppa's Retirement Celebration

by Julia Selwood

Luanne (Leggett) Deppa is retiring after 35 years of teaching at Darnestown Elementary School.

On Friday, May 30, 2008, beginning at 7:00 p.m., a dinner celebration will be held at the Washingtonian Rio Marriott honoring Luanne for her amazing career and dedication to her Darnestown students.

We hope that all current and former students and their families will attend this special evening. We are in the midst of trying to contact all of Luanne's former students and their families, so please spread the word.



Please join us in paying tribute to Luanne, an extraordinary, wonderful, creative, fun and caring teacher who has graced the halls of Darnestown Elementary School for over three and a half decades. We promise it will be a memorable evening full of reminiscing, laughter, and tears.

Invitations to the retirement celebration will be mailed at the beginning of April, 2008. If you do not receive an invitation, or need further information, please contact Julia Selwood at julia_a_selwood @mcpsmd.org or at (301-840-7157).

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

March Madness!

Yes, it's that time of year again. No, not basketball season, gardening season! The weather is warming up and cabin fever is starting to bring you down. So, let's go outside and get our hands dirty. Try to resist the temptation to try and get everything done in one day. Your back will thank you.

Start by doing a survey of your garden. Think back to last season and remember what it looked like and go from there.

Here are some seasonal tasks that will need to be done in March so that your garden is gorgeous the rest of the season.

- Fertilize Spring flowering bulbs. Check your garden center for the product that is best for your particular bulbs.
- **Divide perennials.** After the third year perennials start to die out in their center. Cut them in half and then divide up each half. Use these new divisions to fill in bare spots or plant elsewhere in your garden, or share with a friend.
- **Prune back all woody perennials.** These are the plants that have woody stems but are not real shrubs... caryopteris, artemesia and butterfly bush to name a few. Cut them back to about 4–8 inches from the ground. They only bloom on new growth.
- **Prune roses, hydrangeas and clematis.** Check which varieties you have to guide you in how far back to prune. Some of these plants only bloom on new wood, while others bloom on old wood.
- Transplant shrubs, trees, roses, ground covers and vines.
- WEED! These beasts can survive our winters, so get a head start on them before they set seed and spread.

- Prune Shade Trees and Summer and Autumn-flowering Shrubs and Trees. Do not prune the spring flowering varieties, like Azaleas and Rhododendrons, or you will be cutting off this season's flowers.
- Cut Ornamental Grasses. How low can you go? Almost to the ground. Also, cut any perennials to the ground that you didn't cut back in the fall, including Loriope. Otherwise the new growth will come up through the old and the old foliage will brown out leaving you with a year of half green half brown foliage... Not pretty.

Well, that's at least a weekend's worth of work. Now you've earned some time to sit down and watch some basketball. Happy Gardening!

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club meets September to May, 9:00a.m.-11:00a.m, on the second Thursday of each month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

From Our Readers...

Advice Sought on Attracting Purple Martins as a "Green" Solution to Yard Pests

By Sarah Scherer and Kristin Crook

Are you plagued with flying insects in your yard? Do you spend your time outside in the summertime batting bugs away? Experts tell us that two of the best natural solutions for those pesky gnats are bats and Purple Martins. We are used to seeing Martin Houses, those multi-story houses posted on poles, on farms and in our neighbors' yards. But even if you build it, they don't necessarily come. These birds are persnickety guests! It takes a lot of work to be a successful Martin landlord. Are there any successful Martin landlords in Darnestown who would like to share their expertise? Interested parties-current landlords and wannabes (we are in this category)-please contact us and we can try and set up a get together or at least an email conversation in time for the arrival of young adult Martins searching for housing for this year. We look forward to hearing from you! [E-mail sarahscherer@comcast.net or call 240-683-85331.

From Our Schools...

Butler School

by Lisa Daly

Butler School has wonderful news!

New this fall, we have added an after school program called Kaleidoscope. We developed this because we believe that Kaleidoscope will provide convenience for parents and enrichment for our students, while also alleviating some of the "hustle and bustle" of daily life, by incorporating after school activities into the school environment. The fall session included mountain biking, soccer, vaulting on horseback, and yoga. Our students have really been enjoying being able to take extracurricular classes with their friends from Butler. "It's a great chance to learn new things," claims one student. Our winter session is now in full swing offering students a different array of classes including chess, arts & crafts, karate, babysitting basics, and yoga. The spring will follow with the return of several outdoor activities. We are looking forward to continued success with this program and classrooms full of excited, busy students.

It is with much excitement that we announce that Butler School will be building an arts & activities center! Butler has received a very generous grant from the Alden-Wright Foundation. It is the desire of the Foundation that the center will "nourish many future artists, athletes and other wonderful individuals." The new space will benefit the school by providing more space for art, music, theater, and physical education, and also the opportunity to expand our Kaleidoscope programs. We are in the initial stage of the project and expect to initiate a campaign soon to raise additional funds. We are grateful for the Foundation's gift to Butler School and look forward to proceeding with the project.

Our plans for summer are in place and we are currently accepting camp applications. We look forward each year to helping hundreds of children have a fun, safe summer filled with challenging 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.

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 school masters 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 Butler School, summer camp or our riding program please visit our website at www.butlerschool.org or call us at 301-977-6600.

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 second annual DES Sock Hop and helped collect socks for needy families. Lots of attendees dressed in 50sstyle 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: Shortcut Suppers, Crazy for Lego, Ciao Italia!, Wild about Wines, Scrapbooking, Movie Mania, Let's Get Messy, Let's Eat In Tonight, Sports Nut, Basket Babysitter, Winter Madness, Kids in the Kitchen, Be a Bookworm, You Deserve It Spa Basket and From Hawaii With Aloha.

At Reading Night last month, DES students showed up in their pajamas to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while DES staff read them their favorite stories.

5th graders are starting preparations for Colonial Day and their vignettes and are looking forward to the always memorable trip to Williamsburg which will take place in May. Also in May will be the 4th grade Darnestown History Day.

Mark your calendars for the annual DES Talent Show being held at Northwest High School on Friday, May 16. Auditions will be held next month. And you'll want to make a note of:

- Donuts for Dads, April 23
- Staff Appreciation Week, May 5-9
- Spring Event at DES on May 8

Jones Lane Elementary

by Princina Drazan

The highest result of education is tolerance. —Helen Keller, author (1880–1968)

Recently, the Jones Lane Elementary School (JLES) students learned valuable lessons about tolerance. JLES students and their families participated in our annual "Take-A-Flake" Program. Students learned the value of sharing with children who are less fortunate than themselves. Each flake represented a wish for the holidays from a child in need. Many children asked for necessities such as food, clothing or simply, a toy. Through the generous donations of our JLES community, each "Take-A-Flake" child's wish was granted. Students also learned to appreciate the cultural differences of their fellow students. This year, JLES PTA added an International Night event to its program. Students visited at least 20 countries during this event. Each time the students entered the booth of a new country, the country's ambassador stamped the child's passport. This was, indeed, an eye-opening experience for students and their families.

Students gained new perspectives about math and science. JLES PTA added a Math Night event to its program this year. The aim of the program was to show JLES families how math is used in the classrooms and everyday life. This new program was a huge success. More than 400 adults and countless children attended Math Night. During our Cultural Arts assembly, students learned about scientific theories while being entertained by Billy B. -- The Natural Science Song and Dance Man. Through dance routines, Billy B. taught students about sliding tectonic plates, moon walking, the Big Bang Theory and photosynthesizing leaves. The children had lots of fun viewing math and science in a different way.

JLES continuously strives to show our students how the appreciation of differences will help them become tolerant adults.

Lakelands Park Middle School

by Tassey Mariani

We are well into the school year now and there is a lot of activity at Lakelands Park Middle School. In several academic areas there are exciting projects and special events going on, and the PTSA has had a full slate of meetings and activities to keep both students and parents involved and informed.

Art is one area that has seen a great amount of work done by our students. The 6th graders have produced both an abstract bas relief and an organic shape abstract composition. While the 7th graders have produced African masks that track to the study areas in their History classes, the 8th graders have been working to produce an Op Art mobile made out of CDs. Eighth grade students have also been involved in a more elaborate project – a large Harlem Renaissance city scene. This work includes 24" high people, a dance floor, and a city skyline. It is 20 feet long when assembled! This artwork will be on display at LPMS.

Math has been another major focus area for LPMS students. There is a goal to have almost all LPMS students complete Algebra by the time they are promoted to the 9th grade. There has already been more emphasis placed on advancing basic math skills and computational skills sooner rather than later in the middle school years. And next year LPMS will offer even more double period math courses and after school math study programs.

Some of the special event activities that occurred during the last quarter were the annual 6th grade

Outdoor Education program, the 7th grade trip to Medieval Times, and high school registration meetings. The Outdoor Education program was held at The Smith Center January 14–18. Our students experienced many outdoor activities and learned that they will "weather the weather" even it means being outside in snow and rain! The 7th grade trip to Medieval Times was in early December and helped to increase the students' knowledge of life in medieval days, the focus of the 7th grade social studies curriculum. The 8th grade class, and their parents, had the chance in January to meet with Northwest High School counselors and administrators to learn about high school courses, scheduling, and extracurricular activities.

The PTSA, lead by Malissa Gularson, has stepped up its activities this school year. It has sponsored a Book Fair, a family fun night and a school-wide holiday service project. A new visitor sign-in system and new lighting for school play productions have also been contributed to LPMS by the PTSA. A new PTSA offering coming soon will be the introduction of occasional morning meetings to accommodate parents unable to attend evening meetings.

This spring the Girls on Track program will be introduced at LPMS. This is a 12-week program for middle school girls that combines self-esteem building exercises with running. The goals of the program are to promote a healthy self-image and encourage positive lifestyle choices. Sessions will meet twice a week from mid-March to mid-May and will culminate with participation in a local 5K race.

On a final note, congratulations to two of our 8thgrade students, Julie Norcross and Eric Neumann who were honored by Gaithersburg Mayor Sidney Katz for their prize-winning essays in the citysponsored "Adult Heroes" writing contest.

Additional information about LPMS events and daily activities may be found on the school website www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/lakelandsparkms.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

Missed from last time - Bobby Sonkin ran Varsity on this year's second place in the state Boys Cross Country team. More straight As for Darnestown - Bobby Waffle (he was also a member of the cast and crew for the school's fall play production of High School Musical) and Corey Norris.

Science National Honor Society is in its second year at Northwest. Members maintain a high GPA, take honors and AP science courses, attend science lectures, and provide a minimum of 5 hours of peer tutoring in science. Charter Members include Shelli Cone, Alyssa Michnick, and Adora Nwankwo. They are joined this year by new inductees: Anna D'Alessio, Nick Gummo, Edward Krasniewski, and Stefanie Zaner.

Darnestown students earned two Jaguar awards this fall. This prestigious award reflects team work, sportsmanship, leadership as well as athletic ability and is the highest honor an athlete can earn. Athina Nungavitch won for Girls Soccer and Kristen Keefer for Girls Tennis. Kristen Keefer became the first Northwest girl's tennis player to accept an athletic scholarship. She signed a letter of intent to play at Tusculum College in Tennessee.

This fall the Varsity Field Hockey team set a new Northwest record: 94% of their team earned the Minds in Motion Award, a state award given to athletes who earn a minimum GPA of 3.2 while playing a sport.

Winter sports: Basketball players - JV - Bobby Sonkin, Shannon McGuire. Indoor Track - Corey Norris. Swim and Dive Team includes: Junior Norr and teammates Brenna Captain Bob Haberman, Anna D'Alessio, Bobby Waffle, Chelsea Hoggle, Rita Donson, Hannah Spongberg and Kyle Neumann. Thank you to the families who have continued the NW tradition by hosting 20-40 team members for weekly Friday night pasta dinners. Girls Indoor Track - Earned 2nd place in the County Championship 4x400 with 3 out of 4 girls from Darnestown - Cindy Beard, Becca Stinner and Kathy Aherne. Other Dtown runners include Alyssa Henshaw, Hilary Siegall, Kai Santangello, and Kate Allaway.

The NWHS Pom Squad won their first dance competition January 18th at Blake High School. They also won first place for Choreography and out of 12 teams, Katie Saulsbury won 3rd place for the Captain's performance. The Captains this year are Brooke Seaman and Katie Saulsbury, with Co-Captain Megan Schaeffer - all DES kids. They start their season with a dance camp at UMBC in June and all day practices in early August. Their season doesn't end until mid-Feb. It is the longest athletic season of any competitive sport. They perform at all Football and Basketball games, and practice 3 hours after school each day, and often on weekends.

Stefanie Zaner, Derek Paul and Sean Gordon all made all-county band. Derek and Sean made All-State. Sean is also in the National Symphony Orchestra Young Associates Program and was in the NSO Youth Orchestra, performing alongside NSO musicians at the Kennedy Center Millennium Stage concert held in the Concert Hall in January. He is the principal bassoon of the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra.

Honors Physics students represented Northwest at the Final Frontiers contest. The engineering projects won their respective events at the local school contest. Congratulations to Corey Norris and Cody Hobelmann.

Outstanding Citizenship awards 1st quarter went to the following Darnestown students: Jake Eskin, Kelsey Hudler, Mary Norr and Dereck Paul.

Class of 2008 college decisions have begun. Kara Peoples has been accepted and will attend Salisbury University.

In the next Little Acorn issue we like to list the college choices of Darnestown/Northwest kids. Please contact me with your child's college plans at dalessio@comcast.net.

Ridgeview Middle School

by Teresa Kaczmarek

The school year may be half over but much remains to be learned, accomplished and enjoyed at Ridgeview. Cultural Arts programs have been enjoyed by all. Our 6th graders participated in a China Day.

December brought Career Day for 8th grade students to hear from some of the more than 40 parents who (*Continued on page 15*)



Les Misérables School Edition

Performed entirely by students

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Northwest High School Auditorium

13501 Richter Farm Road Germantown, Maryland 20874

Fri., March 7; Sat., March 8; Sun., March 9 • 7 p.m. Fri., March 14; Sat., March 15 • 7 p.m. Sun., March 16 • 2 p.m. Matinee & 14, 15, 16 Directed by Sherion Cosby

2 Weekends!

March 7, 8, 9

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Mature Themes, Parental Discretion Advised.

(Continued from page 13)

shared their time and talents. The Holiday Luncheon for the staff provided by the PTSA Staff Appreciation Committee was a highlight of the month.

The 5th Grade Parent Articulation Meeting held in January was well attended by feeder school parents and our spirit clothing sales soared that night.

February brings Heritage Café: A Celebration of Black History Month.

March fun includes Family Bingo Night prior to spring break and MSA testing.

The renovation plans at Ridgeview are going thru a feasibility study. The meetings are open to the public and may be found on the RMS website: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/ridgeviewms. Construction would begin as early as summer 2009.

Make it a great month for your child!

Seneca Academy/The Circle School

by Brooke Carroll

After twenty five years serving as the Head of School for Seneca Academy and The Circle School, founder Jodi Thurmond stepped down from that position this past summer and became the President of the Board of Trustees. Under her leadership, the school grew from a small preschool in her basement to a thriving school serving 240 three year olds through 8th graders, housed in its own beautiful building. Mrs. Thurmond's efforts produced a school based on best practices in education that actively engages students at all levels in the learning process.

Dr. Brooke Carroll, an experienced educator and psychologist has taken on the role as Head of School. Most recently from Sandy Spring Friends School, she is eager to continue the vision started by Jodi Thurmond. This year has been full of wonderful learning and community building activities. We had a successful Scholastic book fair and Mini Walk for the Homeless (raising nearly \$4,000) in the Fall. Our preschoolers and 7th/8th graders were highlighted in a Washington Post article about our outdoor classroom. Our 4th graders culminated their Native American study with a Pow Wow attended by family members. More recently, we conducted very successful, well attended K-8 and preschool Open Houses. Our annual Winter concert, held in late February at the Christian Life Center, was a rousing success, and featured our newly formed choir and band groups. Our expanded after school clubs programs provide a variety of options for kindergarteners through 8th graders including Chess club, Family Fitness, Studio Art and Mad Science.

Looking forward, we are busy planning a grand picnic that will celebrate our 25th Anniversary and honor Jodi Thurmond for the incredible legacy she has left in Seneca Academy and The Circle School. All former students and faculty are welcomed and encouraged to attend the festivities on Sunday May 18th. Please contact the school for more information about "homecoming."

Please visit our newly designed website at www.senecaacademy.org. It provides information and pictures of our wonderful school!

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Susie Gooch

TJP will enjoy an exciting March this year!

We are privileged to welcome internationally renowned but local (Poolesville) pediatrician Leonard Sax, M.D., Ph.D., for our March 7th Professional Development seminar. As 21st century educators, we are learning that boys and girls are different in many respects, including but not limited to the way in which they absorb and process information, the way in which they resolve conflicts, and the way in which they perceive the world around them. Dr. Sax, author of the books Why Gender Matters and Boys Adrift, stresses that although it is important to chip away at gender stereotypes, we should also recognize variances in how girls and boys develop. By understanding the unique qualities of each gender, we can better accommodate the different needs of boys and girls with regard to the way they are raised, disciplined and educated. We would like to thank Dr. Sax for having spent some of his very valuable time with us!

On Saturday, March 15th, we are hosting our first annual Silent Auction. The theme is "British Invasion". We anticipate the Auction to be a huge success due in large part to the support we have already received from our Darnestown neighbors and from the congregation of our host, the Fairhaven United Methodist Church. TJP would like to thank all of the local Darnestown businesses that have donated so generously to the Silent Auction. And we'd like to add a very special thanks to FUMC's Quilting Club for donating such beautiful, handmade quilts for the affair! For more information on TJP's Silent Auction, please visit our website and click the Silent Auction link. The Auction is open to the Darnestown community, so please feel free to stop by.

Most of the TJP families, along with some of our Darnestown neighbors, will spend March 19th–28th in the UK and Ireland for TJP's annual overseas educational trip. The group will visit London, Dublin, Oxford, Stratford, the Ring of Kerry, Brasenose College, Anne Hathaway's cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace, the Welsh castle Book of Kells, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Blarney Castle, and Bog Village. Tally Ho! We're already planning next year's trip, and as always, registration is open to everyone in the Darnestown community. We're thinking about a Scandinavian adventure!

If you'd like to learn more about TJP and our programs, please feel free to visit our website at www.tjprep.org, or contact us by phone at 301-330-7550.

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

The Library will celebrate Community Day in June. As always, there will be music, activities for all ages, and lots of community involvement. On May 10, the annual Utsav will take place with Indian dancing, music and good food from a local Indian restaurant.

Meanwhile, there are book sales every first Saturday of the month and many discussion and book groups.

Families may be interested in reserving the Discovery Room which is stocked with toys and educational materials for the pre- school kids. It's a

wonderful opportunity to have a play room just for your tots.

Programs that will be over by the time this is printed, are the talk by a Tuskegee Airman (one of the famous group of African Americans who formed their own flying group in World War II), and a talk on the Harlem Renaissance which was a time of great culture and inspiration.

The Library also arranged a series of discussions on Jane Austen following the movies that were on Masterpiece Theatre. There is still time to join us on April 3 to talk about "Emma" and on April 17 we will take on "Sense and Sensibility," stories of two very different heroines. There may even be an English cup of tea served in a long skirt.

Look for upcoming events on the flyers at the Library. There is always something interesting for young and old readers.

You are invited to join the Friends of the Library on March 11 when they hold their Annual General Meeting to set up the Board for the next year. There will be refreshments and some entertainment. Everyone is welcome. The Friends fund many of the programs at the Library and run the book sales.

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club by Dave Hardy, General Manager

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) is getting ready to open for 2008 and is better than ever! The Club boasts several new improvements to its tennis courts and pools (all discussed below) that will keep the Club attractive for years to come. Of course, what makes DSRC such a special place is its diverse membership, its volunteers, family-friendly nature and social events for all ages.

The Club's six tennis courts were recently resurfaced and look beautiful! As always, we have a full tennis schedule this season run by professionals with clinics, teams and social events for all ages. The popular Women's Tennis program meets on Tuesday nights and the Men's Tennis program gets together on Wednesday evenings. Several "Adult Socials" are already on the calendar for June and July so please check the Club's calendar of events (www.dsrclub.org). In keeping with our long-term plan, we undertook a number of capital improvement projects last fall after the pool closed. You will immediately notice that the chain-link fence along the front of the pool is gone and replaced with an attractive aluminum fence that matches the fence around the wading pool. We also pushed the fence towards the parking lot opening up a lot of room around the pool deck and pavilion.

We used this new found space to extend the pool deck out about 10 feet and added 2 new "funbrellas" resulting in more shaded deck area. There is also a new grass "deck" area behind the extended pool deck. This will be great new space for daily use and make a huge difference during our swim meets.

Several members pointed out that our playground equipment had reached the end of its useful life. Accordingly, new equipment will be installed this spring along with rubber "mulch" that is used at many schools and parks. We have also moved the playground area itself back under the trees to shade it from the noon sun.

Swim and tennis team registration will take place in May with events scheduled to begin in June. DSRC is looking forward to our swim team's improved seeding within MCSL swimming and welcome a new coach to Darnestown.

DSRC's waiting list is as short as it has ever been and we look forward to welcoming new members if any existing members do not renew their membership for 2008. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact our new membership director Jeannie Tucker.

We are also in the process of hiring employees for the 2008 season. We are looking for teenagers 14 years and older who are responsible individuals looking for part to full time employment. You do not need to be a member of the Club to be considered and we have multiple open positions. Please visit www.dsrclub.com and click on the 'employment opportunities' tab.

New items are added to the Club's schedule almost every week. For contact information of Board members and/or management, our social schedule and other important announcements, please visit "www.dsrclub."

Local Girls Are on the Run!

By Kristen Crook

This fall, a unique program was introduced for girls at Darnestown Elementary School called Girls on the Run. Girls on the Run is a nationwide, not-for-profit after-school program that combines training for a 5K running event with self-esteem enhancing and uplifting workouts for girls in 3rd through 5th grades. The weekly lessons prepare the girls physically for a 5k (3.1 mile) running race, and mentally for various life issues pre-teen girls typically face.

Darnestown was one of eleven Montgomery County Schools that participated in the fall session of this program that began in Charlotte, North Carolina in 1996.

Fifteen girls from Darnestown Elementary School participated in the program: Hannah Crook, Courtney Haberman, Alexandra Johnson, Casey Kahalas, Sydney Meyers, Erica Orem, Caroline O'Rourke, Caroline Stiger, Bridget Garagusi, Madison Pfarr, Emily Pohl, Amelia Stone, Jaycee Yegher, Claire Beautz, and Emily Gazda. The girls were led by three local coaches: Katie Johnson, Kristen Crook, and Becky Martel. The group met twice a week for 10 weeks after school to learn about healthy eating, making healthy choices, how to avoid gossiping, and more. In addition, each session included a challenging running workout.



At the conclusion of the program on November 17th, the DES girls joined the other 200 Girls on the Run for the final 5k race at the Soccerplex in Germantown. Even though it was tough, each girl crossed the finish line with a smile on her face and they were met with thunderous cheers from the crowd. What a site to see!

GOTR is being offered at over 23 Montgomery County Schools this spring. For more information, visit www.girlsontherunofmoco.org/index.html.

Darnestown Gift Basket Company

by Annamaria Zanello

Darnestown has a new cottage business in town, open for business to serve the community. The Darnestown Gift Basket Company offers speciality gift baskets for any gift giving occasion. Each basket is unique, custom-designed as a special gift.

After a long career in veterinary medicine and receiving many gift baskets herself, owner Annamaria Zanello wanted to design baskets the way she remembered them as a child, filled with lots of surprises and, of course, less straw. Her objective for each basket is to bring that element of surprise to those who receive it. Darnestown Gift Basket company approaches each gift basket as a new and unique one. They can create gift baskets for any occasion, person or event, interviewing each client before assembling their gift to make sure the message is appropriate.

Testimonials

I needed a Thanksgiving gift for my boss. His family is very dear to him and I wanted to let him know that I am thankful he is my boss. I called Darnestown Gift Basket Company and gave them my budget. I did not have to worry about a thing. Within 24 hours the basket was delivered, and I received a very gracious call from my boss thanking me for thinking of his family. —Melissa Kelly, Darnestown

My brother and my dad are very important to me and my family, every year I struggle on the right gift to send them. This year for their Christmas gift I was fortunate to have worked with the Darnestown Gift Basket Company and I sent them both tailored gifts that they both would enjoy! All I did was call Darnestown Gift Basket Company and let them know a bit about my family members. Each received a gift specially designed for him. —M. Michelson, Darnestown

I needed party favors for my Christmas party this year. I called Darnestown Baskets and got 80 hot chocolate favors for my guests with no hassle. They were delivered to my front door the morning of my party and they were the HIT of the evening! —Faith Gritzer, Darnestown

Whatever the occasion for your gift—holiday, birthday, new baby, hostess gift, student care package, or to say "I love you,"—Darnestown Gift Basket Company will help you make that occasion more special and more meaningful.

For more information or suggestions for your next special gift basket, call Darnestown Gift Basket Company at 240-687-5549.

Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club

If you are new to the Gaithersburg area, the Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club can help you get acquainted with stores and services in the area and offer opportunities to meet your neighbors. For more information, please contact Bev Frey at 301-330-6197 or visit www.GEOcities.com/gancmd.



Places of Worship

Additions to the places of worship listed here are most welcome. Please send relevant contact information to acorneditor@comcast.net.

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

The Damestown Civic Association Presents the 9th Annual



Hosted and Sponsored by SMOKCY CHEN FAITH

Wednesday, April 23, 2008 6pm=8pm

AtSmokey Clen's Main Pavilion Area

World Famous Barbequed Chicken with All the Trimmings Refreshments Served No Charge — Bring the Family

Please RSVP by Monday, April 14 with DCA's Social Director Lisa Patterson by phones (801) 548-0999 OR by e-mail: lisaapatterson@aol.com

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 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 Brooke Carroll, Head of School (301-869-3728)

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Karen Hinrichsen, 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 Ms. Carole Working, Principal (301-840-4686)

Ridgeview Middle School

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

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

12801 Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20878 Susie Gooch, Head of School (301-330-7550)

DCA Membership for FY 2007–2008

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