



Volume 44, Number 3

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 2008

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson Troike

I am excited to come back for a third term as President. With the exception of Dan Dean, who we're honored to have joined as our Three-year Trustee, the slate of officers remains the same. We're also fortunate to have the same group of committee volunteers continue in their current positions. There are several new challenges for Darnestown in this next year, and we have more ideas and goals to accomplish than we have volunteers. I encourage anyone who wishes to actively participate to contact me or come out to a meeting.

The DCA officially started its 2008-2009 fiscal year on June 1, 2008. Our annual dues letters are being sent out. Dues can now be paid online through our website www.darnestowncivic.org. Thank you for your support. Membership still remains at \$25, and for those of you who would like to contribute more, we have two other options: \$50 friend and \$100 sponsor. Membership empowers you to vote at our Town Meetings, covers the cost of publication and mailing of this quarterly newsletter, and contributes to our "war chest" to provide legal aid, if needed, for issues of great concern to Darnestown.

(Continued on Page 3)


Next DCA Meeting

Thursday
September 18th
7:30 p.m.

On the agenda...

- **Alpha House Subdivision
Preliminary Plan**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road



**Darnestown's Annual
Hoedown**
Friday, Oct. 10
Don't miss out!
(See page 15 for details
and registration)

**BHR
takes the
season...
Again!**

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– DEADLINE –

All items for inclusion in the next issue of The Little Acorn are due to the Editor no later than November 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!

THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: Carolyn Thompson
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Balmar® Solutions in Print

The Darnestown Civic Association Board

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Trustee: Steve Ellis
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Recording Secretary: Bob Thompson

**The Darnestown Civic Association
Committee Chairpersons**

Compliance: Kurt Karst
Darnestown Village: Steve Ellis, Chris Collins
Darnestown Heritage Park: Chris Collins, Scott Mostrom
Database: Jean Jurgena
Directory: Sarah Scherer
Environment: Tim Wilson
Flag Program: Jim Clifford
Historical Society Representative: Greg Clemmer
Library: Elizabeth Cookson
Master Plan: Gerry Foley
Membership: Jean Jurgena
Monopole: Mike Bailey
Parliamentarian: Bruce Deppa
Roads: Brian McCollom
Safety: Alan Noznesky, Kevin Keegan
Social: Lisa Patterson Troike
Softball: Steve Ellis
Opinion Survey: Brian McCollom
Welcome: Lara Wibeto
Wildlife: Larry Zoeller
Zoning & Dev. Review: Pam DuBois, Steve Ellis

If you are considering starting a business that requires a Special Exception, start by contacting the DCA.

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

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Bruce Deppa	301-963-0567
Tina Kalil	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993
Frank Mielenz	301-987-7190

(Continued from first page)

Looking for a way to meet other Darnestownians? Come to our annual Hoedown at Smokey Glen Farm on October 10th, a casual evening of dinner, dancing, and hayrides. Don't dance? Don't worry, you will still have the time of your life!

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

Please make the following updates to your 2008 Directory:

IENZI, Nello & Georgiann (currently listed as Lenzi)

Change the listing for Jean Fox to:

FOX, John & Martyna
13511 Deakins Lane
301-330-8995

Please add new neighbors:

GOULD, Judd and Debby
14027 Berryville Rd
301-963-1107

Please contact me with other updates or for additional copies (for a donation of \$3.00 each). I can be reached by phone (240-683-8533) or by e-mail (sarahscherer@comcast.net). Thank you!

Membership Committee

by Jean Jurgena

The annual letter from the DCA president, which includes the 2008–2009 dues notice, is being mailed. If you have recently moved into a new home or pre-existing home in the Darnestown area you may use the form on the back of this publication to submit your dues. Unlike the Little Acorn, which is mailed to every residence regardless of the name, the dues notice is mailed to the name listed for that residence with a request to the Postal Service to return the mail if that name has changed. The Dues Notice is a once-a-year mailing which helps keep our database current and avoids duplicate mailings to the same address. This is a private database, used only to send DCA-related information to our residents and help in publishing our

local directory. **DCA does not share this list or any of the information with anyone else.** If you have any questions regarding membership please call me. Jean Jurgena, Membership, 301-840-1187.

Village Committee

by Steve Ellis

Harris Teeter

That occasional disturbing odor emanating from the front corner lot of the Harris Teeter should be absent. There is an aerobic treatment facility on site that churns, aerates and contains beneficial bacteria that breaks down wastewater particles from the store. The effluent is then pumped into the septic fields. The treatment plant and inside grease catchers were built into the septic system as a requirement for the Food Lion to operate. The purpose of these requirements is to significantly lengthen the life-span of the fields.

According to our knowledgeable source at the county Well & Septic division, Harris Teeter uses about 20 percent more water than the previous tenant. This excess apparently has been causing an overload and timing problem. The problem persisted on and off until in the late spring; when it was determined that the control panel was just not capable of making the necessary adjustments. A new control panel should be in place, and with proper settings, the system should be operating smoothly.

Office Building

Soft soils and power lines on the new retail/office building property have delayed construction. The unanticipated disturbed soils at depth necessitated a rerouting of some of the septic field trenches which had to be approved by county inspectors. Also, some of the footing holes had to be dug to 7 feet to reach solid soil. The general contractor for the roughly 9,800 sq.ft. building is a long time resident of Haddonfield, Nelson Riddle.

It appears that an amenable agreement will be reached with the Petruccellis for an official home for the DCA in the lower level of the new building comprising about 400 sq.ft. More info on this exciting (for the entire board) prospect will be elaborated in subsequent issues. Occupancy is projected for late winter.

Uncle Charlie's Backyard Barbecue

Todd and Tracy Wolhfarth Weinstein predicted operation of the Barbecue would commence by mid-August. While the business is/will be mostly carry-out

and event catering, we have been told that the county will allow up to 22 seats in the main building. Gonna try it! Their lease is until the end of the year, and might be renewable. However, the owner is more interested in selling the property. The lot with the 2-story brick house is being marketed separately.

New Temperature/Time Clock

Darnestown has acquired a new digital temperature/time clock which has been installed in the corner front wall of the 6-12 building, in the heart of the village.

Welcome Committee

by Lara Wibeto

It is my pleasure to welcome our newest Darnestown residents. Not long ago, my family and I moved here from the desert southwest. I know how daunting a task that moving into a new home can be. My family and I are happy to call Darnestown home. Our neighbors, friends, and Darnestown Civic Association members helped make our family's transition much easier by informing us about such topics as utilities, garbage and recycling pick-ups, park locations, local businesses, and other important community information. My goal as Darnestown Welcome Committee Chairperson is to share what I have learned about our area and Montgomery County with you. I will attempt to greet you in person with a welcome basket that I have put together.

What will you find in your Welcome Basket? Inside your basket you will find some items that I thought may be useful to you, such as local area information. Since I am someone who enjoys cooking, you will receive a seasonal recipe depending upon when your basket is delivered. Last month's batch of baskets included a favorite Maryland crab cake recipe. A packet of Black-eyed Susan seeds, Maryland's state flower, is yours to plant and enjoy for years to come. There is a copy of the most recent Darnestown Civic Association newsletter, *The Little Acorn*, a brief history of Darnestown, a Darnestown directory, and an interactive map of Washington, D.C. As a way to help you cut down on your transition-related costs, I am asking area businesses to offer discounted services to new residents. Our first local business to offer a new Darnestown resident discount is Mr. Sasha Nowrouzi, owner of My Bloom Florist and Landscaping, who has pledged discounted lawn cutting and floral services. Thank you very much to Mr. Nowrouzi for his generosity. If any local business

owner would like to help welcome our new Darnestown residents, please contact me.

Before closing, I must thank the wonderful families I met as they took a break from getting situated to speak to me. Thank you very much for your time, kindness, and pleasant conversations. Everyone at the Darnestown Civic Association welcomes you and invites you to our next meeting as well as upcoming DCA social events.

You may contact me by telephone at 301-926-4028 or by e-mail at lwibeto@verizon.net.

What's Happening On That Property In My Neighborhood?

by Bruce Deppa

The Special Exception Process (Cont'd.)

In the last *Little Acorn* newsletter (June 2008) I opened the topic of Special Exceptions and described the civic association's role in analyzing requests for special exceptions and in assisting the residents of Darnestown neighborhoods in either supporting or opposing such requests. Now, we'll look at the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, and specifically that portion of the ordinance which addresses Special Exceptions.

The Zoning Ordinance is contained in the Montgomery County Code, which is a compilation of laws and regulations passed by the County Council, as well as Maryland state laws that specifically apply to Montgomery County.

Both the County Code and the Zoning Ordinance are available at all Montgomery County libraries. They are also located on the web site of American Legal Publishing. Copies of the County Code and the Zoning Ordinance in print and on CD are available for purchase from the County Attorney's Office, 101 Monroe Street, 3rd floor, Rockville, MD 20850. Phone: (240) 777-6753.

You can view the Code online by going directly to the following URL: http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?f=templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:montgomeryco_md_mc or go to www.amlegal.com, click on "library," then select Maryland, and then Montgomery County.

Finally, click on "Frames" and then follow the directions about expanding and collapsing the sections of the document as you study the Code's table of contents.

The Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance is Chapter 59 of the Montgomery County Code, but it is so massive that

its online version is maintained separately from the rest of the Code. If you expand the icon for Montgomery County Code, and then expand Part II, you will see all of the 59 chapter titles and get an appreciation for the vast scope of the county's local laws, ordinances, resolutions, etc.

If you expand the icon for the zoning ordinance itself, and then the icon for Chapter 59 Zoning, you will see a list of the 8 Articles that comprise Chapter 59. Finally, click on "Article 59-G" to learn everything you always wanted to know about Special Exceptions in Montgomery County, Maryland.

(Hint: I found that it's necessary to first click on "Article 59-G" in the table of contents, and then wait patiently. Article 59-A will appear instantly, but there's a significant delay while the system retrieves article 59-G.) (Note also that it is apparently not possible to print a single page, a few pages, or an Article directly from the Ordinance. Instead, you will have to highlight any text you want to print, copy it to your clipboard, and then

paste it into your word processor, such as Microsoft Word, and print it from there.)

Reading Article 59-G will give you a great deal of information and a good background about Special Exceptions, but it will not teach you very much about the actual real-world Special Exception Process. As I mentioned before, the Special Exception Process in this county is fairly complex, in that it involves several different departments and includes at least two different public hearings, held by separate governmental boards. In my next installment, I will try to shed some light on the background work and coordination that are necessary throughout the special exception process.

Meanwhile, as before, the Office of the Peoples' Counsel can help citizens understand and participate effectively in hearings on land use decisions. See: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/peoplescounsel for more info.

American Legal Publishing - Online Library - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?templates&fn=default.htm&vid=amlegal:montgomeryco_md_mc

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Article 59-G. Special Exceptions, Variances, and Nonconforming Uses.* [Note]

Division 59-G-1. Special Exceptions - Authority and Procedure.** [Note]

Sec. 59-G-1.1. Authority to hear and decide petitions.

59-G-1.11. Board of appeals.

The Board of Appeals may grant petitions for special exceptions as authorized in section 59-A-4.11.

59-G-1.12. Hearing examiner.

(a) In addition to the authorization given to the Board of Appeals to hear and decide petitions for special exceptions under Section 59-A-4.11, the Hearing Examiner may hear and decide petitions for special exceptions for the following uses:

(1) Boardinghouses for 3 guests or fewer, in the R-30, R-20 and R-10 zones.

(2) Home occupations in the R-30, R-20 or R-10 zones.

http://www.amlegal.com/nxt/gateway.dll?templates&fn=doc-results.htm&3.0

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Update from the Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

UCAB Social Issues Committee Report on Out of School Activities in Positive Youth Development

Given that our youth are our future, the UCAB Social Issues Committee chose to concentrate its 2007–08 year on Positive Youth Development, defined to be “what is needed to promote a positive character and skill development environment for middle and high school students to help them achieve their short and long term goals.” The committee chose to examine the role of out of school activity participation in positive youth development. These activities are supervised, structured or unstructured, take place at school or place that offers activities, and occur any time school is not in session. The committee chose to focus on out of school activity participation for the following reasons:

- Perceived relationship among Out of School activity participation, Positive Youth Development, and youth achievement in school.
- Youth are more likely to get into trouble when not participating in Out of School Activities. Data shows the most frequent period for trouble is right after school, from 2-6pm.
- An Out of School survey determined that only 29% of middle school and 43% of high school youth participate in Out of School activities.

The committee felt that, while Out of School activities are available to youth, the survey indicated a significant opportunity to increase activity participation. The committee decided to concentrate on how to increase participation by reaching out directly to each key stakeholder (i.e. teachers, school administrators, activity providers, parents, and youth themselves) across the Upcounty, and conduct a series of focus group sessions at schools, where stakeholders would be most comfortable to participate. The Upcounty Regional Services Center coordinated with schools to set up the focus group sessions. During some sessions, the youth chose to expand the session scope to issues that take place during the school day that affected Positive Youth Development. The facilitator permitted these discussions, so as not to be perceived as steering the results. The committee decided that since students felt these discussions were important enough to voice, they would be included in this report. To close the session, the facilitator would ask each student the following question, “If I were the County Executive

and you could tell me anything about what you need to be successful, what would it be?”

Easiest to Implement/Best Value Recommendations

For the following recommendations, the UCAB Social Issues Committee recommended piloting at one high school and middle school, measure progress, and determined options for expansion.

- Conduct high school and middle school activity fairs to inform youth of out of school activity options
- Offer opportunities for youth to see impact of making “wrong choices”
- Invite Montgomery County businesses to sponsor out of school activities
- Share successful out of school activities among stakeholders
- Tailor out of school activity communication to reflect youth actions
- Increase advertisement of out of school activities in community and recreation centers
- Promote out of school parent-youth activities
- Extend number of after school activities past 4pm
- Add 6pm activity bus option
- Prepare youth for dealing with life challenges
- Prepare youth for future opportunities
- Prepare adults for dealing with youth challenges
- Volunteer credit for out of school activities

During the 2008-09 year, UCAB will be following up with the provider agencies to measure response to the recommendations and general progress of youth oriented programs.

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. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. As a representative representing Darnestown, I am committed to communicating issues of importance to our community up to the County government, and carry news and information back to our community. Questions or comments are always welcome 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.

County Offers Tips on Preventing Lyme Disease and West Nile Virus

With the recent discovery of two West Nile virus-positive mosquitoes in Gaithersburg and the growing incidence of Lyme disease, County health officials are encouraging residents to protect themselves from these illnesses by taking simple precautions.

West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans, birds and other mammals by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds. The virus can cause a range of illnesses – from mild flu-like symptoms to encephalitis, a brain infection and even death. Many people, however, can be infected and have no symptoms at all.

Getting rid of places where mosquitoes breed is the most important prevention measure to take, according to health officials who offer the following tips:

- **Eliminate standing water where mosquitoes breed.** Remove or empty all sources of standing water around the house and yard. Discard used tires, clean roof gutters and down-spout screens, eliminate standing water on flat roofs, turn over plastic wading pools, wheelbarrows, canoes and garbage can lids, fix dripping outdoor water faucets, eliminate puddles from window air-conditioners, and flush birdbaths and the bottom of potted plant holder trays once a week. Mosquitoes can breed in as little as one teaspoon of water that is at least one-quarter inch deep and stands for a week.
- **Protect against mosquito bites.** Avoid areas that are infested with mosquitoes, wear long sleeve shirts

and long pants outdoors, and fix or replace window screens that have holes.

- **Use insect repellents.** Repellants containing DEET last the longest.

For more information about West Nile Virus, visit Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Protection website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dep and click on "mosquito".

Lyme Disease is an illness caused by the bite of an infected tick. In 2007, Montgomery County had 348 reported cases of Lyme disease and the number of cases has been increasing each year.

The best defense against Lyme disease is to protect against tick bites. Ticks do not jump or fly onto humans, but wait on low vegetation and attach themselves to hosts (mice, deer, and humans) as they walk by. The following precautions will help protect against Lyme disease:

- Avoid tick-infested areas such as tall grass and dense vegetation.
- Walk in the center of mowed trails to avoid brushing against vegetation.
- Keep grass cut and underbrush thinned in yards.
- Follow directions carefully if chemicals are used for tick control or hire a professional.
- Eliminate the living places of small rodents. They can carry ticks.
- Wear light-colored clothing so that ticks are easier to see and remove.
- Tuck pant legs into socks and boots. Wear long-sleeved shirts buttoned at the wrist. Tuck shirts into pants to keep ticks on the outside of clothing.
- Conduct tick checks on yourself, your children and your pets every four to six hours for several days after you have been in a tick infested area.
- Apply tick repellent with DEET to areas of the body that may come in contact with grass and brush. Repellents without DEET are not effective against ticks. A repellent/pesticide containing 0.5 percent permethrin may be applied to clothing, but should not be used on skin.
- Follow directions carefully and do not overuse repellents. Some tick repellents can cause toxic or allergic reactions.

Ask your veterinarian to recommend tick control methods for your pets that are allowed to roam outdoors. Animals can get Lyme disease but they do not transmit these diseases to humans. Remember, however, pets can bring ticks into your house.

For more information about Lyme disease, go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/lymedisease.

County Office of Consumer Protection Alert: Buying a Used Car? Beware of “Curbstoners”

When you buy a used car from a private party, there is always the possibility that you are actually buying it from a “curbstoner.” A curbstoner is a person who is in the business of selling used cars but doesn’t want you to know that. The curbstoner wants you to think that he or she is a private individual selling his or her own personal car.

Why do curbstoners try to disguise themselves as private sellers? A person who is in the business of selling cars needs a license. The licensing laws protect consumers from fraud and abuse. Curbstoners do not have licenses to sell cars. They try to disguise themselves as private sellers so that you won’t complain to consumer protection agencies and licensing authorities when you have problems with the car you purchased.

Many cars sold by curbstoners have problems. Some won’t even pass inspection. Others may need expensive repairs. The Office of Consumer Protection has received complaints about curbstoners selling cars that have been wrecked, stolen, damaged in floods, or had their odometers rolled back to show lower mileage. Curbstoners don’t give warranties and may be difficult to find when you have a problem.

When you are looking at a vehicle being sold by a private individual, the following are signs that you may be dealing with a curbstoner:

- The title is not in the seller's name.
- The car is being sold in Maryland with out-of-state dealer tags.
- The seller is vague in response to your questions about the car's history.
- The seller has more than one car for sale.
- The seller meets you at a location that is different from the address on the title and registration, such as a repair shop or gas station, parking lot, or vacant lot.

- The car does not have tags on both the front and the rear, or the tags or vehicle serial number do not match the numbers on the registration card for the car.
- The newspaper has several classified ads with the same phone number, but for different cars.

Buying a car from a curbstoner can be a big mistake and cost you thousands of dollars in repairs. Protect yourself by asking questions, checking out the seller, or buying from a licensed car dealer. For more information, see:

<http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/pubs/consumer/autos/aut03.shtm>
<http://mva.state.md.us/VehicleServ/REG/curbstoner.htm>
<http://www.consumerhelpweb.com/auto/acurbston.htm>

Wanted: Volunteers for Committee to Push for Darnestown Zip Code

For quite some time, some time ago, the DCA fought for Darnestown to get its own post office. We finally “settled” for a “Darnestown” mailing address for residents living in the 20874 or 20878 zip code areas. Beyond that, the matter was dropped, because the Post Office Department was not interested in pursuing the issue any further. There is now a resurgence of interest in this matter, and the DCA is looking for volunteers to spearhead it. Interested? Please send an email to acorneditor@comcast.net with your full contact information and “Darnestown Zip Code” in the subject line, and we will form a committee.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

“Fall” in Love with Your Garden

If you're anything like me I find it hard to love my garden in August. It's difficult to muster up the energy or the excitement to tackle the never ending crop of weeds, fight the mosquitoes and tolerate the high temps and oppressive humidity. And just when I think that I will never garden again, September rolls around and as the days grow shorter, the smell in the air changes, the sky seems bluer and my love for my garden returns. So, now what do we do to prepare for Fall?

Autumn is a good time to divide and conquer your perennials that are getting so large that they have dead centers. If the plants are not too large, lift the entire plant and cut it in fourths, replant divisions in other parts of your garden or make a gift of them to a friend. Better yet, have the friend come over and help with the division and let him/her take home what they divide. Cut back

any dead or dying foliage to the ground to tidy up the beds and keep plants healthy through the winter.

If you've been composting, Fall is a good time to *top dress* your garden. *Top dressing* is the practice of putting a layer of compost on top of your existing mulch/soil. It is a great way to fertilize your plants naturally and it makes your beds look nice for the fall/winter season. If you can work the compost into the soil, that's even better.

If you haven't been composting, now is a perfect time to start. Your lawn will provide you with all the materials you will need. Find an out of the way spot in your yard for your pile and begin with all the leaves you collect from your lawn, then throw in your perennial clippings, grass clippings, small twigs, kitchen waste such as eggs shells, coffee grounds, fruits and veggies. Give it a good stir and nature will do the rest. Then next spring you can use this to top dress your beds.

Now is also a good time to rejuvenate your lawn. I strongly suggest aeration, after a long dry hot summer, aerating opens up the soil and allows water to penetrate deeper into the sod, giving the water and nutrients a chance to get down to the grass roots.

And don't forget that Fall is the best time of the year to plant, the air is cooler but the soil is still warm, perfect growing conditions for new plantings. Nurseries will start their sales to reduce inventory before winter, so take advantage of the low prices as well as the growing conditions.

Autumn is one of the prettiest times in a garden. Take advantage of cooler temperatures, low humidity, and perfect growing conditions, and go out and get your hands dirty. Then sit back and watch mother nature put on one of her most spectacular shows. Don't you just LOVE your garden? Me too!

From Our Schools...

Darnestown Elementary

by Kristen Crook

Darnestown Elementary welcomed back their students and staff on August 26th.

During the summer, the school received a new gym floor that the kids will most certainly enjoy. In addition, an architect team was selected for the feasibility study to come up with plans for an eventual school addition.

DES welcomed two new staff members this year:

Lynn Cavanaugh as a new Reading Initiative Teacher coming to us from Poolesville Elementary.

Deborah Sockol as a new Special Education Teacher who previously worked as a Special Education Resource Director at Hoover Middle School.

Some important dates to note:

- September 4 – Back to School Picnic
- September 18 – Back to School Night
- September 23 – PTA Kindergarten/New Parent Welcome Coffee
- November 11 & 12 – Parent Teacher Conferences

DES offers dozens of social events, community events and fundraisers to benefit the students and staff throughout the year. These events are led by many dedicated parent volunteers. There are still some volunteer openings for key events this school year. If you are interested in getting involved, look for the full list of opportunities in the PTA information packet during Back to School night or check out the newly created PTA website www.darnestownpta.com.

Thank you to Cathy Sharpe for her many years of reporting on behalf of Darnestown ES.

Lakelands Park Middle School

by Tassey Mariani

With other activities now on the horizon, I am seeking someone to take over writing the LPMS column. Interested parties should send an email to me (tmariani@comcast.net) or to The Little Acorn editor (acorneditor@comcast.net).

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

One More College Decision

Adora Nwankwo – Cornell University

Straight As from Darnestown

Cyrus Hashemi, Cody Hobelmann, Kailissa Santangelo, Kathryn Allaway, Cynthia Beard, Kyle DiPeppe, Jillian Hanley, Alsya Henshaw, Kristen Cornelsen, Nicholas Gummo, Cody Lang, Dana Motabar, Kyle Neumann, and Stefanie Zaner.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society inducted many Darnestown students: **Juniors** - Bob Norr, Kyle Neumann, Justin Fakler, Mick Wallerstedt, Kristen Cornelson and

Sophomores - Mary Norr, Kate Allaway, Katy Lang, Hillary Siegal, Kyle DiPeppe, Alex LeTarte, Jillian Hanley and Cindy Beard.

Checkmate Again for the Jag's Chess Team

The Northwest High School chess team took home the National Chess title at the U.S. Scholastic Chess Championships in Atlanta in April. This is the third time the team has won the title since 2005.

Spring Sports Awards

The Jaguar Award went to Kathy Aherne for Girls Track and Field. Becca Stinner was presented with a special recognition for earning 12 varsity letters (the maximum possible) in her athletic tenure at Northwest. She is only the fourth student to achieve this level in Northwest's history.

Football Schedule

Join us this fall for home football games on Friday nights at 6:30 p.m.

9/19 NW vs. Richard Montgomery
9/26 NW vs. Sherwood
10/10 NW vs. Churchill
10/17 NW vs. Gaithersburg (Homecoming)
11/7 NW vs. Walter Johnson

Madeline D'Alessio can be reached by email at dalessio@comcast.net.

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

Some of the regulars at the English language book club talked about books that they had been reading recently or enjoyed over the years. There is no particular order to the list and it is certainly varied with mysteries, food, old and new politics, life overseas, and my favorite children's book. Book sales are starting again on the first Saturday of the month.

Trevor Corso – *The Secret Life of Lobsters/The Zen of Fish*
James Herriot – *All Creatures Great and Small*
Jim Wight – *The Real James Herriott*
Donna Leon – *Death at La Fenice* (and others in her series)
Michael Ondaatje – *The English Patient*
Jill Ker Conway – *The Road from Courain*
Geraldine Brooks – *People of the Book*
Chris Bohjalian – *Skeletons at the Feast*
Patricia Kahn – *Vanilla*

Clair Aonghusa – *Civil and Strange*
Suzanne Berne – *The Ghost at the Table*
John Banville – *The Sea*
Jennifer Lee – *The Fortune Cookie Chronicles*
James Kunstler – *The Long Emergency: Surviving the End of Oil*
David Goodstein – *Out of Gas: The End of the Age of Oil*
Pearl Buck – *The Good Earth*
Elizabeth Kostova – *The Historian*
A.A. Milne – *Winnie the Pooh*
Gail Tsukiyama – *The Street of a Thousand Blossoms*
Kate Atkinson – *Behind the Scenes at the Museum/ One Good Turn*
Steve Ettlinger – *Twinkie: Deconstructed*
Orhan Pamuk – *Snow*
Suzi—Lori Parks – *Getting Mother's Body*
Claire Berlinski – *Lion Eyes*

BHR Repeats as Softball Champs

by Tom Wheeler

One of the hardest sports achievements is to repeat a championship, but that is exactly what the Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) team did in the 2008 Little Acorn Softball League. Coming off their 2007 league title, BHR “ran the table” in 2008, going undefeated in their nine-game season. BHR's closest scare came during an August 3 doubleheader, when the resurgent Highlanders had BHR on the ropes until the final inning. BHR pushed across two runs in the top of the seventh, and then held on for an 8-7 victory. The game ended with the Highlanders' tying run on first base. BHR also won the nightcap of the doubleheader, besting the Ancient Mountain Quails, 15-10. Over the season, BHR had some difficult games in the evenly-matched league, but survived with its record unscathed.



Members of the victorious BHR team are: left fielder Laura Wallerstedt, second baseman Hong McGill, shortstop Darren McCue, center fielder Kevin Ricci, pitcher Steve Groff, catcher Tracy Story, first baseman Mike Joyce, outfielder-first baseman Mike Cederholm, DH Dave Peoples, pitcher Tom Wheeler, outfielder Linda Ricci, infielder Jon Kaplan, outfielder-third baseman Becky Cederholm, outfielder Curtis McCormick, outfielder Bob Sonken, catcher Stephanie Yarmas, infielder Ed Macias, outfielder Christii Watkins, and scorekeeper Janet Wheeler.

By popular acclaim, the defensive play of the year goes to Dave Ruf of Western Darnestown, who laid out horizontally for a diving grab three feet off the ground in left field foul territory. The robbed batter Linda O'Sullivan could only exclaim, "I can't hit it any better than that." In fact, the quality of play has improved so dramatically that league coaches will consider next Spring what to do when balls are hit so far to left field that they become difficult to find among the evergreens and the fences. Even with men under 50 hitting opposite-handed, some players now can reach these distances. BHR's Laura Wallerstedt even does it once in a while.

The Darnestown Softball League has become an established community tradition. A new feature this year was a mid-season cookout under the Darnestown Park pavilion where teams interacted socially with Kevin Keegan's french fries while the games were played on the field. The six teams—BHR, Highlanders, Western Darnestown, Ancient Mountain Quails, Rollinmead, and Berryville Seneca—always are receptive of new players. Any Darnestown residents, new or old, are welcome to join for next season. Simply contact Commissioner Steve Ellis (301/330-0699) to be assigned to your neighborhood team. Thanks to everyone for another enjoyable year.



From left: Tom Wheeler (Captain), Tracy Story, Darren McCue, Laura Wallerstedt, Steve Groff (Captain), Jon Kaplan, Linda Ricci, Becky Cederholm, Mike Cederholm, Kevin Ricci, Mike Joyce, and Hong McGill

Standings and Stats

TEAM	W	L	T	PCT	RF	AVG	RA	AVG	RF/RA	GB
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	9	0	0	1.000	115	12.8	57	6.3	2.018	----
Ancient Mountain Quails	5	4	0	0.556	93	10.3	84	9.3	1.107	4.0
Highlanders	3	4	2	0.444	71	7.9	77	8.6	0.922	5.0
Western Darnestown	3	5	1	0.389	80	8.9	92	10.2	0.870	5.5
Berryville Seneca	2	5	0	0.286	45	6.4	62	8.9	0.726	6.0
Rollinmead	2	6	1	0.278	58	6.4	90	10.0	0.644	6.5

Darnestown Flag Program

Each year, Darnestown residents Jim and Carol Clifford erect American flags all over town in preparation for Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. Then they collect them after each holiday has passed. Jim also attends to any maintenance required on the flag brackets. Jim and Carol, we the DCA, along with our fellow Darnestownians, extend our heartfelt thanks. Your efforts towards this community with the Flag Program make a big contribution to that small-town-of-yesteryear charm that sets Darnestown apart from her neighboring communities.

We'd like to ask 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!



Are you interested in forming a Darnestown-area book club for evening meetings? Please contact Diane James (djames8000@hotmail.com) or call 240-252-5639.

Evergreen Sale Fund-Raiser for P.E.O. Philanthropies

by Carol Schnatz

P.E.O. Chapter AD, Darnestown, will hold an Evergreen Sale September 24 through October 25, 2008. Proceeds of the sale will support the P.E.O. philanthropies: P.E.O. Educational Loan Fund, a revolving fund that lends money to qualified female students; Cottey College, an accredited liberal arts college for women; P.E.O. International Peace Scholarships, which provides grants to foreign-born women to study in the United States and Canada; P.E.O. Program for Continuing Education, which provides need-based grants to women whose education has been interrupted; P.E.O. Scholar Awards, which provides grants to women pursuing advanced degrees or are engaged in graduate research; and The Star Scholarship, which provides a one-time grant to high school senior women pursuing post-secondary education.

Items for sale include a 22 inch noble fir wreath for \$20.00, a 28 inch noble fir wreath for \$30.00, a 30 inch long mixed evergreen door swag for \$19.00 and a mixed

evergreen centerpiece for \$18.00. The wreaths come with a pre-tied red velvet water repellent bow and snowy pinecones. The door swag has a pre-tied red velvet water repellent bow as well as natural and snowy pine cones. The centerpiece is approximately 14 inches in diameter and has natural and snowy pine cones.

Chapter AD is also offering Direct Delivery of several items. Evergreens make lovely gifts and are enjoyed by the recipients throughout the holiday season.

Orders will be available for pick-up between November 18 and 26, 2008. The Direct Delivery items will be shipped directly to the recipient with your personalized holiday message within the first two weeks after Thanksgiving.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood, founded January 21, 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan College, Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is a philanthropic and educational organization interested in bringing to women increased opportunities for higher education. There are approximately 6,000 local chapters in the United States and Canada with more than 250,000 active members. Chapter AD was organized in Darnestown in 1991.

For more information about P.E.O., please visit the web site www.peomaryland.org. To place an order, please call 301-926-4957 or email peoevergreens@msn.com.

Places of Worship

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

If your not-for-profit organization is hosting an event open to the public, and you'd like help getting the word out, send a paragraph with the relevant details to acorneditor@comcast.net before deadline, and we'll be glad to include it in the next issue of *The Little Acorn*.

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

Dawsonville Mennonite Church

16500 Whites Ferry Road, Poolesville, Maryland
301-874-8672

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

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

First Church of Christ, Scientist

300 E Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, Md. 20877
301-977-6544

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

Kehilat Shalom

9915 Apple Ridge Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20886
301-869-7699
mail@KehilatShalom.org
www.KehilatShalom.org

Or Chadash

23 W. Diamond Ave., # 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

Shaare Torah

1409 Main Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-9842

Temple Beth Ami

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

Another FABULOUS Seasonal Recipe from a Darne-Good Cookbook...

Chunky Chili

Recipe by Janet Gress, Page 54

2 pounds beef stew, cut into bite-size pieces
4 stalks celery, minced
1 medium onion, chopped
2 tablespoons oil
2 (28-ounce) cans tomatoes
2 (15 ½-ounce) cans dark red kidney beans
2 (15 ½-ounce) cans light red kidney beans
1 tablespoon sugar
2 tablespoons chili powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 lime, sliced
Sour cream
Grated cheddar cheese

1. Brown beef stew with celery and onion in oil.
2. Add rest of ingredients and simmer for 1 hour, or until meat is tender.
3. Garnish with grated cheese, sour cream, and sliced lime.

Yields 6-8 servings. Can be frozen.

Hi folks, Your Acorn Editor here...

I Love to cook, and I'm telling you...
If you don't already own a
Darne-Good Cookbook, order one today.
Trust me, it's worth it!

This thing is loaded with really great,
tried-and-true recipes, covering everything
from Tuesday night meatloaf to elegant
entrees, fabulous hors d'oeuvres, sinfully
delicious desserts, even cocktails!

\$15 each (including sales tax) or \$14
each when ordering 6 or more. We'll even
throw in free delivery to any address
within Darnestown.

Call or email me today to arrange
payment and delivery.

Carolyn Thompson: 240-683-0103
or acorneditor@comcast.net

Please make check payable to Darnestown
Civic Association or DCA.

And try this chili!

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)

Kehilat Shalom

9915 Apple Ridge Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20886 (301-869-7699)

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)

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

2008 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 10, 2008
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT

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

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

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

RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 26TH!

****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 9/19 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.)

Darnestown Civic Association Membership Form

Fiscal Year July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association and mail
with this completed form to

DCA Membership, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD 20874

____ Annual Dues \$25

____ Friends \$50

____ Sponsorship \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

____ New home/address
in Darnestown

____ New to Darnestown
(existing address)

____ Didn't receive notice
in mail

or join DCA on-line at www.darnestowncivic.org!

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

New Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org