



Volume 44, Number 4

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

December 2008

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson Troike

We are excited that downtown Darnestown, at the intersection of Route 28 and Seneca Road, is coming together! By now, you have seen the progress on the new building under construction. It will bring more services and opportunities to Darnestown and surrounding area residents. The DCA will finally have a place to call home. A small area has been dedicated near the back of the building for the DCA to have an office to hold meetings and store documents. We are very grateful that we were able to “squeeze” into the plans. We hope to start holding our board meetings at this location sometime in Spring 2009.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to Darnestown residents, friends, and the staff at Smokey Glen Farm for yet another spectacular Hoedown on October 10th. We couldn't have asked for better weather or more enthusiastic participants! Earlier that week the weather was calling for rain on our big day but suddenly everything changed and we had a beautiful evening. The refreshment stand opened promptly at 6:30, dinner started at 7:00, Mac McCall started the music at 8:00, and dancing started at 8:30. Everything went off without a hitch! Many people took advantage of the ever so popular hay ride around the grounds to view the wildlife and night sky.

(Continued on page 3)

Next DCA Meeting

**Thursday
December 11th
7:30 p.m.**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

**DCA Annual
Membership Drive**
See membership form on
back cover!

**Holiday
Tree
Lighting
Sunday
Dec. 14
6:30pm**

**With one
very
special
guest!**



– DEADLINE –

All items for inclusion in the next issue of The Little Acorn are due to the Editor no later than February 1, 2009
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

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Trustee: Scott Mostrom
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Darnestown Heritage Park: Chris Collins, Scott Mostrom
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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
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.

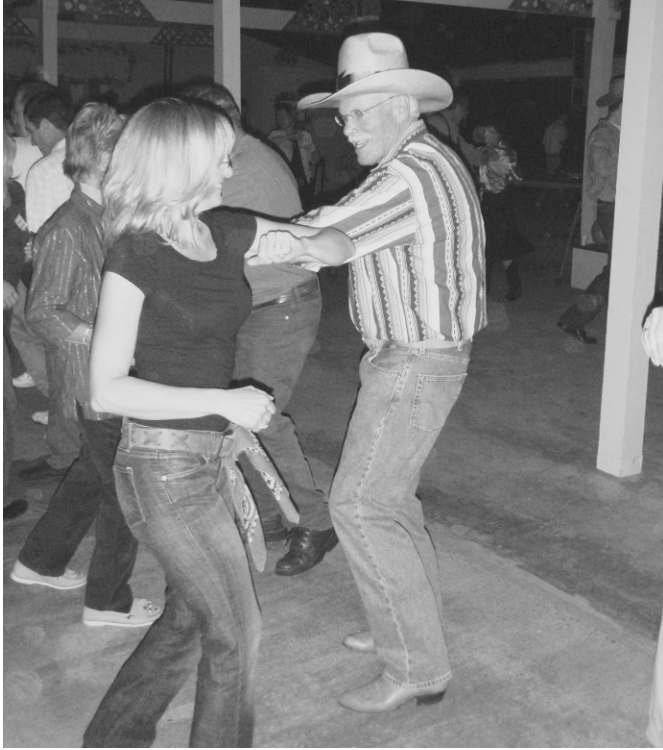
MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan	Guitar	301-990-8811
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
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)



Hoedown photographs courtesy of Mark Ludder.

We have a lot going on in Darnestown during 2009 and are looking forward to helping our community. Don't hesitate to contact us should you have a question, concern or suggestion. We are here to help and are always looking for volunteers to help us.

Have a happy, healthy holiday season and new year!

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

Please add the following new neighbors to your Directories:

Tara & Jerry Kavadias
12825 Talley Lane
Darnestown, MD 20878

Roberta Long and Frank La Vigne
15708 Pagano Lane
703-925-0014



Thank you to those of you who have sent in your annual dues. The DCA is one of the oldest, most respected and powerful associations in the county, and it is wonderful to have a community that cares as much as all of you do. If you haven't sent it in, please do. A membership form is printed on the back of this issue of *The Little Acorn*.

Scott and Jennifer Suess
14120 Berryville Road
301-977-2605

Be sure to keep us up to date with neighborhood changes. Thank you!

Sarah Scherer can be reached at 240-683-8533 or by email at sarahscherer@comcast.net.

Membership Committee

by Carolyn Thompson

Just a reminder to renew your DCA membership.

The annual letter from the DCA president, which includes the 2008–2009 dues notice, was mailed in September. Membership dues are \$25, \$50, and \$100, for Member, Friend, and Sponsor, respectively.

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. You may also submit your dues online at www.darnestowncivic.org.

Membership in the DCA 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.

Welcome Committee

by Lara Wibeto

Welcome to all of our new Darnestown neighbors, quite a few since our last Little Acorn issue was sent out. I hope you enjoy the autumn welcome baskets. I will make every attempt to meet you in person. It is my goal to be a resource to you when I visit regarding our organization and this beautiful community. In this season’s baskets, you should receive my personal recipe for Apple Brandy Pie. Rum flavoring may be substituted for brandy for new neighbors who do not use alcohol in their baking. I hope you enjoy making this huge apple pie. You may want to keep your pie a secret because it may be heavily requested after the first taste test. Fall themed cookie cutters are also included in the autumn season basket. Winter baskets will contain their own seasonal items for you to enjoy.

Informational materials in your welcome baskets will change throughout the year. For example, theater

production schedules and Washington D.C. guides change every few months. It is my goal to provide you with the most up to date information to properly welcome you to the many sights, sounds, and community events that are bountiful in Maryland, Montgomery County, and the entire Washington D.C. Metro area. Also, any local businesses who would like me to add their business card to the baskets or to offer new residents a discount should get those to me as soon as possible.

Each basket in the future will contain the annual DCA Resident Directory. New Darnestown Civic Association Resident Directories have just come in! I will catch up with all of you in a quick follow-up visit with a directory in the near future. Sarah Scherer works very hard to put the directory together and depends on our new residents to call her with names and addresses to be added to our next directory. Please see her article in this edition and contact her as soon as possible with this information. Thank you.

Enjoy your autumn welcome baskets. I look forward to meeting you again at a DCA meeting, event, or around town. Do not hesitate to become a member of the Darnestown Civic Association. Annual dues help to benefit all of us who wish to maintain our excellent quality of life here and help pay for fun community events such as the DCA Hoedown. Please try to attend a DCA meeting or event in order to better get to know your neighbors and the community in which you live. We welcome you, our new neighbors, to a pleasantly peaceful and charming place called Darnestown.

Do not hesitate to call me at 301-926-4028 or e-mail me at lwibeto@verizon.net with a good general time to stop by with a welcome basket. Thank you very much.

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson Troike

The Darnestown Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on Sunday, December 14th at 6:30 pm at the corner of Ancient Oak and Darnestown Road. I personally went up to Santa’s Workshop in North Pole, NY, this summer to talk with Santa and his reindeer about coming to Darnestown. He thanked me for planning so far in advance and sent a note to his elves to mark it on his calendar. I also bought treats to feed his reindeer. They looked very healthy and rested for their big flight in December. Let’s keep our fingers crossed that they won’t forget!



Photograph of Blitz by Lisa Patterson Troike.

Zoning and Development Review Committee

by Pam DuBois and Steve Ellis

The M-NCPPC Planning Board recently approved the preliminary plan for the Miller property located at 13635 Darnestown Road which has been in the planning process for over two years. This 16.11 acre property is has no frontage along Darnestown Road and is situated between the Paddocks subdivision, the Turkey Foot and Indian Run cul-de-sacs (Seneca Highlands) and the Haddonfield subdivision along the Colonial Gas Easement. It was purchased in 2005 from Gerald Christner by Guelda Miller.

The site plan originally submitted in 2006 had three dedicated lots but was revised to include only two buildable lots (5.4 acres and 2.4 acres) because without any street frontage (property is land locked), County regulations only permit two lots on a private road. The subdivision plan also includes two outlots: 1) Outlot 1, with 1.8 acres, will remain unbuildable until such time that the County's laws regarding frontage change (if it were to happen), or provisions are added to allow private streets with more than two lots in the RC zone; and 2) Outlot A, which is 5.57 acres and will be reserved as rural space to help satisfy the 60% open space requirement for property within the Rural Cluster zone using the optional cluster method of development. If you do your math, you'll realize that these four lots do not total the reported 16.11 acres because just under an acre is accounted for by gas line easement.

The location of Outlot A was the former home of Mr. Christner. After he sold the property, his dwellings and other belongings (including abandoned cars and buses) were subsequently cleaned up and removed by the

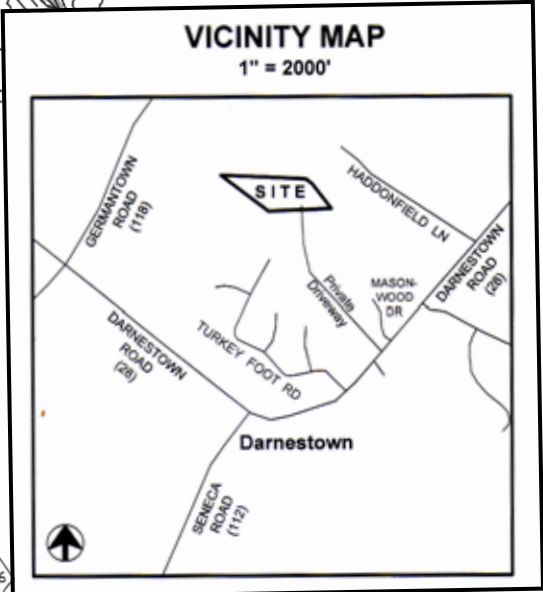
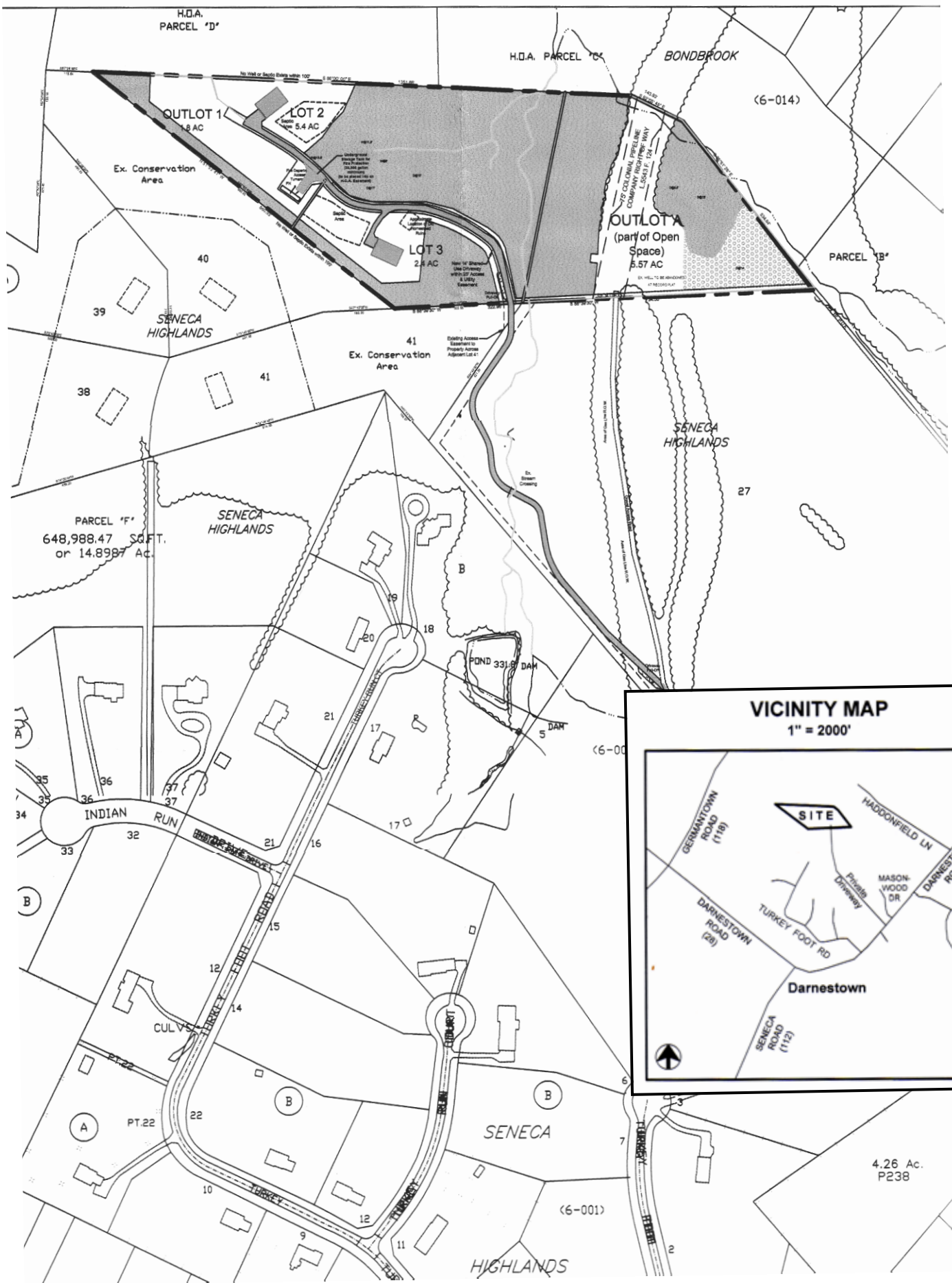
Millers. This outlot occupies the eastern most portion of the property and is separated from the remainder of the parcel by a 75-foot wide Colonial pipeline right-of-way. As such, the two buildable lots are clustered on the western two thirds of the wooded site despite having to traverse over a tributary to the Great Seneca Creek. Other development complications include complying with stream bed and other environmental requirements in addition to maneuvering through steep slopes and topography challenges. Finally, getting there is via a 3,300 foot long 12 foot wide private driveway easement from Darnestown Road that traverses private property from a land owner in the Paddocks.

With all the development related nuances associated with this property, we applaud the owner who is trying to coordinate with an adjacent home owner association (with an existing open space outlot) to get the State or County to buy both the adjacent outlot and his property in its entirety for parkland.

The DCA Zoning and Development Review Committee have also been busy attending pre-preliminary plan submission meetings. The County now required applicants to hold community meetings several months prior to submitting subdivision plans to the County. The three properties include:

- 1) The Weaver Property at 13931 Esworthy Road was originally deeded as a 7.68 acre parcel and not a recorded lot. To amend this situation and make the property a recognized building lot, submission of a preliminary plan is required. No additional building lots other than the one for the existing house are planned. This process is required so that the property owner can obtain a building permit.
- 2) The Steben Property at 14811 Poplar Hill Road comprises two legally recorded lots (14815 Poplar Hill Rd) with approximately 43 acres zoned rural cluster (RC). The purpose of this plan submission is to relocate the common boundary line that exists between the two lots so that no new lots can be proposed (lot consolidation).
- 3) The Lynn Property at 13701 Deakins Lane is approximately 10 acres in an RC zone. Two lots are being planned for the property including one for the existing house (5.6 acres with the existing house and a proposed 4.6 acre building lot). The lot(s) are reported to be intended for use by the children of the property owner.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Pam DuBois at 301-947-9550.



Abandoned/Empty/Foreclosed Houses

by Bruce Deppa

During the past few months, several vacant houses in Darnestown have been vandalized and some used for inappropriate and undesirable purposes. The vandalism has been moderate to severe. In one case, squatters moved into a vacant house near the Harris Teeter store, and were discovered only when police arrived one night and broke up a large party.

Property owners should protect their property and help to keep the community safe, but what about transition times? If a renter moves out without notifying the landlord, protection of the property is still the landlord's responsibility, even if he/she is unaware of the vacancy. In the case of a foreclosure, the bank or other mortgage becomes responsible for the protection of the property, but the increasing incidence of foreclosures has stretched mortgagees' resources. In the rare case of a property being simply abandoned by its owner, the property still needs to be maintained to protect neighborhood safety and values.

There is no easy way to determine the causes of the vacancies, but the symptoms are the same: un-mowed grass, extra newspapers, lack of vehicles, lack of activity, lights all off, etc. However, all of these can simply mean that the residents have gone on vacation. Residents planning an extended absence should arrange with a trusted neighbor or friend to help avoid the perception of an unoccupied home by picking up newspapers, mowing grass, etc.

The overall problem is not easy to solve, but neighborhood vigilance is the most important key. Montgomery County officials have some resources that will help, but only if they are aware that there is a specific case to be addressed.

To help coordinate protection of property, the DCA is taking action to set up and maintain a list of properties that the county should be watching. Kevin Keegan, chairman of our Public Safety Committee, is the point of contact for this effort. Kevin recently retired from District of Columbia Police Department, and will interface with concerned neighbors, the Montgomery County Police and the county's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA). This list of properties will be kept confidential and shared only with law enforcement agencies.

Depending on the situation, there are several courses of action that neighbors can take:

Call 911 if there appears to be criminal activity in progress.

Call the police at 301-279-8000 to report a non-emergency situation. Note that police coverage of the Darnestown area is split along Darnestown Road, with everything to the south included in the 1st District (Rockville), and everything to the north in the 5th District (Germantown). Nonetheless, non-emergency calls should all be made to the above number. The police department may recommend contacting a Community Outreach Police Officer, who can provide guidance and tips about crime prevention and public safety. Residents should warn their children to stay away from these problem properties because such properties often attract undesirable persons and the police and DHCA will be checking on these locations.

Contact the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) to report problems such as code violations, broken doors and windows, unsecured access, vandalism, un-mowed grass and weeds, or to report that a house appears to be vacant. DHCA's website provides easy-to-use online forms for these two different reports (violations and vacancies). Violations are reported via the Online Complaint Form, and vacancies are reported via the Online Vacant Property Report, both at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/dhca/index.asp>. Both kinds of reports may also be made by telephone to the department's intake line at 240-777-3785. Both reports will be treated confidentially if so requested.

In any case, please send an e-mail message to Kevin Keegan (kkegan1@hotmail.com) about the issue, and provide the address of the property and the status of any complaint, report, etc. Or, simply explain the situation and let Kevin take the above action(s), as appropriate.

A website that can be used to research a property by street number and street name to see if DHCA has a record of violation open on the property is http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/DHCA/pdm_online/pdmfull.asp. Tip: When entering a street address, do not include labels such as street, road, drive, lane, way, etc.

Springfield Road Weathers Bad Weather

by Dan Dean

For Guy Armantrout, two towering Blue Spruces were hardest to lose.

For Steve and Marylou Schwartz, seeing their fallen 80-year old Cherry tree was the most difficult loss.

But for some 45 families living along Darnestown's Springfield Road, perhaps the hardest loss of all was their feeling of safety and protection after a sudden and violent storm June 4 seemed to single out their quiet cul-de-sac, and left their lives and property in chaos.



Although unofficially there were no eyewitness accounts of tornados striking on the street, there is much evidence that tornado-strength winds, estimated to have been in excess of 80 mph, helped turn people's property into debris-strewn fields, and felled more than one hundred trees along the street. The falling trees brought down utility poles and wires, and in at least one instance, rendered one home uninhabitable.



Residents returning home from afternoon shopping or from work were met by a street rendered impassable by a chaotic collection of broken trees and downed utility lines. Many residents immediately abandoned cars, and made their way home, only to return wearing work

clothes and carrying chainsaws and ropes. An hours-long community tree clearing effort allowed residents to access their homes through winding path of limbs and tree trunks. Upon arriving home, however, another challenge awaited homeowners who faced days without power or water. Most residents faced long days of assessing storm damage, contacting tree removal services, and cleaning up from the effects of the sudden maelstrom.

Residents Guy Armantrout and Susan Keyes surveyed their property in the storm's aftermath and could only feel sadness and relief: sadness at the loss of nearly one dozen mature trees from their property, one of which destroyed their car, but also relief that their residence was largely spared the full brunt of the storm's ferocity.



Further down the street, however, one resident wasn't so fortunate. Longtime Springfield Road resident Randy Erdley's home was severely damaged by a falling tree. The home, one of the street's oldest, was declared uninhabitable by Montgomery County officials of the Department of Permitting Services. In a cruel twist of fate, Eardley had only two days earlier signed a contract

to sell his home of 36 years. Eardley and the buyer are presently attempting to salvage the deal and negotiate an agreement. The winds also felled more than a dozen mature hardwoods and pines on his lot, leaving the property looking like a battle zone.



Other residents lost sections of fencing, sheds or other personal property, but all lost power, telephone and cable service for at least 48-hours as utility crews summoned by PEPCO's mutual aid request arrived from such distant points as Indiana and Long Island, New York. Working round-the-clock shifts, the workers were able to raise new utility poles and re-string power and phone cables to return service to the street's residents in an unexpectedly short period, given the extent of the damage.

Residents Steve and Marylou Schwartz looked on at their property in helpless amazement at the storm's ferocity. Around their two-acre lot lay some nineteen fallen trees, including four cherished fruit trees. Sections of their wooden fence lay crushed, and vinyl siding violently wrenched from their home. The overhead power lines to the house had been forcefully yanked away by a falling tree, and gutters and downspouts dangled free in the air. What they found most surprising was the sudden, intense nature of the storm.

"It lasted all of about ten minutes, then it was gone!" said Steve. But a mere ten minutes was all that nature needed to undo decades of careful cultivation.

Bills for tree removal services for residents ranged from the modest (\$500), to the surreal (\$25,000+). As is typical in cases of such storm related damages, insurance companies normally cover damage to an insured's home or vehicle when a falling tree causes damage, but will not cover the cost associated with removal of trees in the yard or the collateral damage the trees may cause, such as damage to fences or grounds.



Montgomery County officials reported having removed more than 30 large roll-off dumpsters worth of storm related debris. Approximately one thousand cubic yards of storm-related debris were hauled off by a collection of county and private contractors.

Despite the tremendous loss of trees and damage to homes and property, the residents were most relieved that nobody had suffered personal injury. But what the storm *did* accomplish was to remind the residents of Springfield Road of the awesome power of nature, and of importance of neighborhood cooperation when dealing with such unexpected events.

"Mother nature is in charge!" said Steve Schwartz. "Never forget that."

Photographs in this article courtesy of Guy Armantrout and Bob Thompson.

Update from the Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

Montgomery County Council Committee Tables Ambulance Fee; Recession Worsening County Budget Gap

On October 23, 2008 Montgomery County Council members shelved County Executive Isiah Leggett's plan to create an ambulance transport fee after an onslaught of opposition, particularly from senior citizens in the politically powerful community of Leisure World in Silver Spring.

Montgomery's neighboring jurisdictions, including the District and Fairfax and Prince George's counties, charge for ambulance service. Leggett (D) stressed that his plan was designed to charge health insurers, not residents, as

a way to increase funding for fire and emergency services. But opponents, encouraged by the county's volunteer firefighters organization, contended that any charge might discourage residents from calling for help. Leaders of the volunteer organization, who say charging for service is fundamentally at odds with their mission, declared victory October 22 after the Public Safety Committee's action. The three-member committee's unanimous vote to postpone action on the measure complicates Leggett's plans to close a projected \$250 million shortfall for fiscal 2010. Leggett has said he will not seek to exceed the county's limit on property tax revenue, and he was counting on \$13.8 million from the proposed fee to help balance the books. Despite the committee vote, Leggett said he would continue to press the council to create a fee because he wanted to avoid severe budget cuts.

Under the legislation, county residents would not be billed, even if they don't have health insurance, and they would not be responsible for a co-payment or deductible. An insured patient who does not live in the county would be billed for a co-payment or deductible but could seek a waiver.

The total fee would range from \$300 to \$800, depending on the service provided, plus \$7.50 per mile traveled. Leggett's team made the case that the fee was necessary to keep pace with demands for ambulance service from a population nearing 1 million and that opponents would essentially leave money on the table that other local governments collect from insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid.

In recent weeks, the measure appeared to have gained traction with council members. But the volunteer firefighters organization turned up the pressure after winning over the Democratic Club of Leisure World. On October 18–19, two dozen volunteer firefighters handed out 1,500 fliers urging Leisure World residents to call council members. The president of the club, Jordan Harding, wrote to the County Council that “the fee creates unsettling concerns among those who use the ambulance service the most, our senior population.” Committee member Marc Elrich (D-At Large), a supporter of the fee finally moved to table the bill. He said he hopes that his colleagues will come around as they confront tough choices to make up the budget shortfall. Elrich also said he would try to counter what he called “misinformation.” A flier distributed by volunteers, for instance, does not disclose that the legislation is intended to charge insurers, not residents. “There was nothing we could do at this point to effectively change the public perception,” he said. “I

think it's shameful to call a bunch of elderly people and scare them.”

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board has been following this issue with great interest. We have had several meetings with The Fire and Emergency Services Department regarding their proposed fee, and discussed the fact that no county resident will be billed for Ambulance Transport. Communication is the key, and it makes sense that the issue was tabled for the time being, because it is obvious that message had not yet been clearly enough gotten out to all the constituencies and affected communities. County Executive Isiah Leggett plans to submit a sustentative list of possible budget cuts to the County Council on November 11. The County Government is facing a possible \$250 million budget gap for the year 2009–2010. Mr. Leggett is now working to address part of that through expense reductions in County Government totaling up to \$50 million.

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, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. The 20-member Board advises the Director of the Upcounty Government Services Center, the County Executive, elected officials, and government staff. It provides input on which services and programs should be provided and how they will be delivered. The Board reviews and comments on the County's capital and operating budgets and master plans; assists with strategies to tailor services to regional needs; and conducts workshops and forums. Some members represent the Board on other ad hoc committees. Members serve three-year terms without compensation, meeting certain Monday evenings of every month and occasionally on Saturdays.

Members are expected to serve on at least one subcommittee, which meets approximately one evening every month on its own schedule. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. We are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural Reserve, this is particularly relevant to Darnestown, as our community is immediately adjacent to it and the rural village nature reflected in planning and zoning is directly influenced by the Agricultural Reserve.

As a representative of 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.

Darnestown Zip Code Committee: Status Update

By Carolyn Thompson

In last quarter's issue of *The Little Acorn*, we solicited volunteers to form a Zip Code Committee. We've had a good response but would like to add just a few more names to this committee. Therefore, we'll hold off on calling a Zip Code Committee meeting until after January 1st to allow time for more to respond.

If you're interested in participating in the endeavor, please send an email to acorneditor@comcast.net with "Darnestown Zip Code Committee" typed in the subject line. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks to those who have already responded. Your services are both greatly needed and appreciated, and we look forward to getting this committee into action.

Commuter Parking at Harris Teeter

by Richard Hess



Thinking about commuting to work? So you have seen the 76 Ride-On bus heading down Route 28 to the Shady Grove metro station, and maybe you've thought of getting to work that way. The trouble is you realize you can't walk to the bus stop at Route 28 and Seneca Road. If you were to drive to the bus stop, where would you park?

Well, Harris Teeter has come to the rescue of current and future commuters with an offer to permit us to park in their parking lot. The only restriction is that we park in spaces at the periphery of the lot, and leave the spaces closer to the store for shoppers.

The Ride-On bus and Metro rail is a reasonable alternative to driving, with multiple advantages and savings. Here are a few:

- Save gas money, wear and tear on your car, and parking expenses
- Catch up on your work-related reading (or fun reading)
- Have one less car on the road to reduce pollution
- Federal government employees may be eligible to participate in the Transhare Program in which the government will pay for your Metro and bus expenses
- Persons age 65 and older are eligible for free passage on Ride-On busses and half-price fares on Metro

Ride-On stops at Seneca Road and Poolesville area stops during morning and evening rush hour periods only, so potential riders should first check the schedule at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/tsvtmpl.asp?url=/content/DOT/transit/index.asp>.

For information about Metro fares and passes, visit <http://www.wmata.com/> and click on Schedules and Fares (in the upper left hand corner). The Metro SmartTrip card, a form of commuter credit card, makes paying for the bus and Metro Rail a breeze. I hope to see you on the #76 Ride-On bus in the near future.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

Last Minute Garden Tips for 2008

Here are a few tips for gardeners before winter.

Clean your garden tools before you put them away for winter. Give them all a good wash with the hose and dry them thoroughly. Sand off any rust, sharpen any that are dull, and oil the wood handles. You'll be glad you did when that first warm day rolls around next spring, your tools will be ready.

Let your lawnmower run down all the fuel, clean the blades and remove any grass under the deck. Check the

spark plugs too, while you're at it. It will run better, cut grass better, and use less fuel in the process, which is good for the environment and your wallet.

Last but not least, wipe off all your lawn furniture and either store it away or cover it to protect it from winter's harmful elements. Does it have rust or mold? You might want to sand those areas, and paint or wipe it down with a mold-targeting cleanser before storing for the winter... one less thing to do next spring. Then sit back and dream about spring. You'll be ready for it in 2009.

From Our Schools...

The Barnesville School

by Nicole Campbell

The Barnesville School will be hosting a Bone Marrow Donor Drive on Saturday November 22, 2008 for one of our alumni and current student at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, Justin Thornton. Justin was diagnosed with T-Cell Acute Lymphatic Leukemia and needs a bone marrow transplant to eradicate the cancer. The drive will be held at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, Room B, at 12900 Middlebrook Rd., Germantown. We really, really want the whole community to come out to help us find a donor for Justin. Anything that you can do to promote this event would be extremely welcome. For more information about the drive, please contact Vickie Roos, our Middle School Director, at vroos@barnesvilleschool.org or myself at ncampbell@barnesvilleschool.org. We appreciate anything that you can do.

The Butler School

by Lisa Daly

Now in its second year, **Kaleidoscope** is a wonderful new way for Butler School students to spend their time after school. Kaleidoscope activities have included karate, arts & craft workshop, chess club, a babysitting basics course, dance, yoga, vaulting on horseback, mountain biking, soccer and a fitness program. Activities vary each session, and some are offered all year long. More than half of Butler's students participate in one or more programs each session, and adults can even enroll in the fitness program.

We believe that Kaleidoscope provides convenience for parents and enrichment for our students while also alleviating some of the "hustle and bustle" from family life by incorporating after school programs into the school environment. It is designed to be a comfortable, secure, and convenient way for children to participate in

a wide variety of activities without the scheduling and transportation issues that occur with off campus programs.

Most of all, Kaleidoscope is *fun!*

Along with Kaleidoscope, we have also introduced the **After School (or Camp) Drop-In** program which is designed to provide occasional or short-term after school care for children following school or activity dismissal. Children who need consistent care for the entire school year are enrolled in PM Extended-Day.

Drop-In is ideal for parents who have an appointment and fear they will not be finished in time for dismissal; if a parent will be out of town for a week and needs additional after school support; or if one child is participating in a Kaleidoscope activity but the sibling is not, Drop-In is the answer.

As the weather has turned colder, we are savoring happy memories of another great summer at Butler Camp. Looking ahead, we are busy preparing to begin enrollment for summer 2009, in January. This year families will be able to enroll their campers online! Check the camp section of our website for additional information.

To find out more about Butler School or Camp, log on to www.butlerschool.org or call 301-977-6600.

Darnestown Elementary

by Kristen Crook

Darnestown Elementary is having a great year so far! We held our main fundraiser in September by selling Innisbrook products. Just a few days before the deadline we had only reached a little over 30% of our goal. However, once word of the low numbers got out, everyone pitched in to help boost sales. In the end, DES exceeded its sales goal of \$18,000. It is so heartwarming that even in these times of budget cuts the parents, families and friends of DES pulled together to enrich the students' lives at school. The monies raised in this fundraiser help the PTA to support advanced technologies for the classrooms, Colonial Days, Science Day, Reading Night, Darnestown History Day, Back To School Picnic, Movie Night, Bingo Night, Sock Hop the Talent Show and much more! Thank you for your support!

Speaking of events, International night was a huge hit! Over 100 students and their families attended the annual event October 16th which featured 16 booths from different countries including Zambia, Iran, Bolivia,

China, Vietnam, England, Greece, Ireland and more. Live entertainment and food booths from local international restaurants rounded off the event and made it a worldly experience.

The architectural firm of Gauthier, Alvarado & Associates has been chosen by MCPS to conduct a feasibility study for future expansion of DES to relieve overcrowding. The on-going study, along with four public meetings recently held to solicit community input, will determine the best options for an addition to the school. The final product of these meetings will be a brochure presenting the preferred option(s) and budget required for the project for submission to the Superintendent's office for consideration in the next capital improvements budget cycle.

Happy Holidays are on the way! School will be out from Dec. 24 until January 5th. Have a safe and wonderful New Year!

Lakelands Park Middle School

Reporter wanted. Interested parties, please send an email to acorneditor@comcast.net with "LMPS Reporter" in the subject line.

Mary of Nazareth School

by Christine Priznar

Play is Learning and Learning is Play

At school this month young voices are heard reciting, "God will always love me, no matter what I do. He will take good care of me and take good care of you." The little voices are those of the students attending the newly opened preschool at Mary of Nazareth School. Twenty-six children, our precious gifts from God, attend the three year old and four year old programs. These students begin their school career arriving at a tranquil setting among acres of nature; they walk through the preschool door and are embraced by love and caring; they then encounter a vibrant learning center focused exactly upon their needs and their growth. Most importantly, these students will grow while embedded in a faith filled and faith lived learning environment.

Mary of Nazareth School's Preschool curriculum is designed to promote child development through hands-on learning while immersed in a spiritually rich environment following the teachings of the Roman Catholic faith. The class plans allow for individual differences to allow every child reach his/her potential and feel successful.

During a casual conversation with several Preschool parents, one parent described the tremendous growth her child achieved in fine motor skills and creativity after only three weeks of classes. Another parent expressed her gratitude and sense of security that her child is in a loving environment with faith directed learning. An additional parent remarked that her child learned a prayer so quickly and was sharing it at home.

This fall semester, the preschool looks forward to activities that enhance the classroom learning. For example, a representative from The Home Depot will come to Mary of Nazareth Preschool to lead the students in building bird houses. Later in the season, the students will take a field trip to the pumpkin patch at nearby Homestead Farms. Close to Thanksgiving the student will make "Stone Soup" for which each student will bring a can of food to contribute to the community soup.

Preschool Director, Mrs. Amy Ebner expresses her thoughts about the new program, "preschool is one of the richest learning environments to teach in. As a teacher I am expected to teach the three "R's" but, as a preschool teacher, I get the privilege to enhance the three "P's": play, prayer, and partnership. I am very blessed to be a part of MoN's new preschool program as well as member of the MoN community."

Mary of Nazareth School Goes Wireless

Teacher's lecture notes appear upon a screen in the front of the classroom; students watch an educational video streaming from Discovery Channel; interactive web sites are used in classroom learning; a single science experiment can be projected for viewing by the entire class; students with different learning styles have a new tool. All this and more is happening at Mary of Nazareth School.

This past summer under the guidance of Mr. Tom Yarmas, who is a parent volunteer, and the Technology Committee, the school implemented a wireless technology system. The entire building has wireless Internet access and communications between equipment. Also this summer, Mr. Michael Lerche, who is a parent volunteer, along with a team of helpers assembled the technology carts.

The school has eight movable technology carts which each have a PC with a DVD player, a flat screen monitor, a wireless keyboard and mouse, and an NEC projector with 2000 lumens. These projectors present clearly viewable images regardless of the brightness in the room. No more shutting the blinds!

The carts are used by all classes. The opportunity for streaming from the Discovery Channel, which is directly related to our curriculum standards, and Internet access provides teachers with greatly expanded tools. Mrs. Lynn Ferrell's First Grade Class has been viewing videos about American symbols. They have been inside the Statue of Liberty, visited the Liberty Bell and learned about the Bald Eagle through streaming from the Discovery Channel. One student said the videos are "awesome." Mrs. Ferrell commented that, "the technology not only positively impacts the students, but impresses the parents as well."

In eighth grade, Social Studies teacher, Mr. Daniel Duvall uses interactive videos with pop quizzes for his students. Mr. Duvall shares, "Coming from one of the most wireless universities in the country (Sacred Heart University) it is nice to be able to experience the wireless atmosphere first hand. The new wireless projectors just make the classroom capabilities expand. I now can show streaming videos, show PowerPoints and get the kids actively engaged in visual as well as audible learning. I personally believe it is one of the best things that could have happened to the school because again, its getting the kids ready for future learning techniques and giving them something different to learn from rather than the typical book and white board routine."

In middle school science classes, Mrs. Michele Kowansky uses a document camera to project a page for a book so all students are on the same page. The technology vastly helps students with learning differences.

Several future applications of this state-of-the-art technology include students having the option to complete assignments in a Power Point presentation format, the opportunity to create videos for their projects through the video camera and editing equipment in the computer center.

Ms. Laura Davidson, computer teacher, with the Technology Committee has arranged for a series of instruction for faculty and staff in using this new technology. Ms. Davidson indicates that, "use of this technology in elementary and middle school prepares our student for their future high school and college classes where the technologies used will be even more sophisticated."

Election Education

The third grade class at Mary of Nazareth has been learning about the upcoming election. They reviewed and discussed the laws that govern the process, the candidates, key issues and the political process itself. They concluded the curriculum with a mini Convention

in the school's multi-purpose room. The children made posters supporting their candidate, received hats and flag pins and made election button stickers to create an exciting Convention atmosphere. Then the children listened to speeches from each candidate and cast an individual and electoral vote. Each child participated, either giving a speech or presenting their assigned state and then casting their electoral vote. They topped off the event with the National Anthem and a small celebratory snack.

Third grader Emma Carpentier took her understanding of the election process to the airwaves. Emma called in to XMKids radio and was selected to participate in XMKids Radio's "Goobernatorial" campaign for the fictitious state of Califloridia. She was the campaign manager for candidate "Judy Gumsmacker." Emma participated in radio coverage and the station's blog, <http://xmkidsfans.blogspot.com>, which detailed opinions of the fictitious candidates, covered a town hall meeting and held a mock election.

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

Congratulations to those inducted into the Science National Honor Society: Danielle Dhillon, Alyssa Henshaw, Joseph Santangelo, Joshua Santangelo, and Daina Sisson. They join returning members: Nick Gummo, Stefanie Zaner, Anna D'Alessio and Edward Krasniewski.

Lauren Michnik was inducted into the National Honor Society last spring. Sorry we missed her name previously.

Dereck Paul was one of 18 seniors in Montgomery County named a semifinalist in the National Achievement Scholarship Program for African American students.

Cross Country – Girls won both the Montgomery County Championship and 4A West Regional Championship. Boys came in 2nd in the Region. Both teams will compete for the state championship in early November (after this goes to press). Runners from Darnestown include Captains Anna D'Alessio and Nick Gummo, and Joshua Santangelo, Joseph Santangelo, Bob Norr, Bobby Sonkin, Daniel Romney, Dereck Ruf, Rita Donson, Lexi Widmayer, Corey Norris, Kevin Nguyen, Tommy Johnson, Taylor Johnson, Chris Miller, Zach Weaver, Kai Santangelo, Hillary Seigall, Kate Allaway, Alyssa Henshaw, Molly Blewett, and Manager Sam Hairston.

Varsity Girls Soccer – Captain Shannon McGuire, Chelsea Hoggle, Kelsey Hudler, Cindy Beard, Katie Lang and Ashley Theurer. The girls scored a 7-4-1 season.

Girls Tennis Team – Stefanie Zaner and Marlena Juberts are captains of the girl's tennis team. Other members: Jackie Floyd, Hannah Sponberg and Emily Rost.

Stefanie Zaner is a Maryland Distinguished Scholar Semifinalist.

Class of 2009's first college decision - Sydney Watts has been accepted to Temple University's, Tokyo, Japan campus for the fall 2009/10 school year where she will be majoring in Asian studies with a minor in Japanese.

Sarah Agate, Alison Baer, Christey Bryan, Arianna Dastvan, Gabby Smiga, Catherine Paul and Mary Schaeffer performed in the NW drama club production of *Aladdin* in October. Dereck Paul was a student director, and Sydney Watts was in charge of the stage crew.

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

Ridgeview Middle School

By Holly Parker

Fall is always a busy time in school and this fall has been no exception at Ridgeview Middle School. Many parents and staff have worked so hard to get school started on a positive note and complete all of the back to school activities.

Back to School Night was a successful evening for the whole school community. The Staff Appreciation Committee has been busy making sure our staff knows how special they are. A Hispanic cultural celebration was held in September. The Sally Foster sale, the book fair, and three restaurant nights were all part of the fundraising efforts completed to support PTSA programs.

This year's PTSA Board members consist of:

President – Holly Parker

1st VP – Elana Hoopes

2nd VP – Lisa Konecke

Secretary – Dohi Shin

Treasurer – Dorothy Eyerly

In May, Ridgeview was one of three middle schools in Montgomery County to be recognized for our outstanding volunteer program. Those incredible efforts on behalf of school continue this year with hundreds of parents working on committees to support the PTSA and educational programs.

This fall Ridgeview has launched the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS). PBIS is a program that recognizes and rewards good behavior, readiness for learning, and acts by students that help and

support other students. We are excited about the start of this program.

We continue to work with the QO Cluster representatives to advocate for the building improvements that are needed at our school at the county and school board level.

Seneca Academy/The Circle School

by Brooke Carroll

Seneca Academy/The Circle School has had a busy fall filled with engaged learning activities, fun community building events and productive outreach. We have explored our region from Frederick MD to Washington D.C. We began the fall with a mini-Walk-for-the-Homeless in our own backyard- a National Federal Wildlife certified Schoolyard Habitat! We raised over \$2,000 as well as donated over 200 pounds of food to the WUMCO food pantry. Our families and friends joined together at Noodles & Co. for a Fall Social in mid-October. We look forward to our Winter Social at Barnes and Noble in RIO on Thursday Dec 11th from 3:30-7pm. All are welcome to join us!

Our students from preschool through 8th grade continue to "Turn Experience Into Knowledge." Our focus of engaging students in the learning process translates into exciting educational experiences both in and out of the classroom. At school our preschoolers sort leaves and other objects found in nature to practice math skills; 1st graders put on mini-plays to reinforce reading skills; our 3rd graders work together with manipulatives to demonstrate math concepts; our 7th and 8th graders engage in classroom debates to understand civics. Recent field trips have included preschoolers going to the pumpkin patch, Kindergarteners going to the recycling center to better understand our use and re-use of resources, second graders exploring our own community of Darnestown including a visit to the Seneca one-room schoolhouse, fourth graders enhancing their study of Native Americans by participating in an educational Pow Wow; fifth graders adding to their knowledge of rocks and minerals by visiting the Museum of Natural History, and 7th and 8th graders getting an up close look at government on their personalized tour of the White House.

We have limited room to add new students to our community of active, engaged learners. Our K-8 Open House in November was well attended and we continue to accept applications as part of our rolling admissions process. We anticipate many visitors at our preschool Open Houses on January 24th, 9:30–11:30am and 1–3pm, and February 7th, 1–3pm. For more information,

please visit us online at www.senecaacademy.org. We invite all to visit us!!

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

The Home section of the Washington Post featured Quince Orchard Library on October 9. It was exciting to read the headlines, "*The Library Scene (Shh...)*."

Last winter, Kathie Weinberg, young adult librarian at the Bethesda Branch, sent an e-mail to the House Calls column of the Washington Post newspaper asking for help in redesigning teen areas in the public library. Four designers were challenged to redesign teen areas in the Bethesda, Chevy Chase and Quince Orchard Libraries. Teens appointed to the libraries' Teen Advisory Groups were asked to participate in redesigning the teen areas in each of these branches. The teens gave their opinions so that the designers would understand their needs and tastes. There were certain guidelines including library budgets, the need for durable furniture, and a look that would attract and please teens.

In June, Michele Sellars, QO Agency Manager, attended the American Library Association's Annual Conference in Anaheim, California. On behalf of MC Public Library and the QO Branch, she entered and won a \$10,000 Room Makeover Contest sponsored by Demco Library Interiors. There were 262 entries in the contest. Participants were asked to write about their vision for redesigning an area of the library. Ms. Sellars submitted a project to remodel the overall reading and study areas of the library into a new "*Teen Zone*" "that meets the unique needs and interests of teens." The prize includes \$10,000 worth of library furniture which will be used in the newly designed teen area. In addition, the QO Friends of the Library have contributed some additional money to cover extra items.

The Library was painted from top to bottom in October with special attention given to the teen area. This area will be completed sometime in December. The teens are very happy with the proposal and the young adult collection has been relocated to the new teen area so that all of the young adult materials are conveniently located together.

Cake and punch will be served to all patrons on December 13 in celebration of the QO Library's 9th birthday. Hope to see you there!

Homestead Hosts Autism Fundraiser

by Amy Allnutt

Homestead Farm hosted a Fundraiser on September 27, 2008, for the Montgomery County Autism Program. More

than 200 people attended to go on a hayride or two, eat s'mores at the bonfire and listen to great music from 2nd Sole. Bob and Amy Allnutt hosted the fundraiser to help the Autism Program and increase the training for the teachers and staff in the program. Their son Jack, who has autism and is non verbal, attends the autism program at Strawberry Knoll ES. The fundraiser helped to benefit the 200+ kids in the autism program throughout the county and raised over \$25,000! For more information on the autism fundraiser or to make a donation, please contact Bob Allnutt at bob@areapropertiesllc.com.

Block Party Season...

Pioneer Hills Sunset Cul-de-Sac Party

By Tim and Korin Wilson

With the annual Labor Day Block Party canceled due to rain, the families of Pioneer Hills decided to try hosting the ever famous event in October. It proved to be a GREAT decision and the best party ever. The perfect autumn weather drew over 200 guests who enjoyed music and fun at the annual Darnestown gathering on October 4th.

The party was kicked off by entertainment from Mark's Music Factory during which a kid's dance contest was held and won by Justin Weinberg. The night really got going when the main event took stage. Performing at the party for the first time, but sure to be back every year, was an exciting band led by Darnestowners Larry Harris and Robbie Kasunic. They kept the crowd moving with their eclectic sets and played well into the night.

The traditional volleyball game of Pioneer Hills families vs. the guests was hotly contested as usual, however, ended with an untraditional outcome. The guests kicked it to the neighborhood team. But there has been talk in the neighborhood of late night practices so look out next year!

Surely the largest egg toss competition on the east coast, as well as the favorite game of all attendees, was won by the sure-handed team of Bob Bradecamp and Karen Esposito.

For the second year, the Montgomery County Fire Department provided fire trucks and an ambulance for the kids to climb on and take the wheel. The Fire Dog Moon Bounce had a line of anxious children awaiting their turn the whole day. What a great addition to this family event!

Andy's Parties was on hand painting faces as the kids also played relay games highlighted by a whipped cream eating contest won by Debra Winberg and Jack Rost.



In between the music, games and activities, everyone enjoyed BBQ provided by Darnestown's own Uncle Charlie's BBQ, as well as beverages provided by Harris Teeter, kept cold by ice from the Six-Twelve store.



The Bryans, Denhams, Eldridges, Harrals, Litchfields, Millers, Pauls, Scherers, Wagners, Winbergs and Wilsons of Pioneer Hills would like to thank the following organizations for their generous contributions, helping to make our 8th Annual Sunset Cul-de-Sac Party a huge success: Harris Teeter, Papa John's Pizza, Uncle Charlie' BBQ, Black Rock Communications, Six-Twelve Store, Andy's Parties. Again, many thanks to these Darnestown businesses for your help in making this annual Darnestown party a great event.



Photographs courtesy of Steve Wagner.

Brookmead Neighborhood Block Party

by Carolyn Thompson

The Brookmead Neighborhood Block Party took place on September 20th at the Bonniebank Terrace cul-de-sac. Now in its fourth year running, it has become a much anticipated event, largely due to the efforts and leadership of Rebecca Tzou.

Each year, the event grows in both numbers and spirit. More than 45 families from Brookmead Drive, Bonniebank Terrace, Bellmeade Lane, Finegan Drive, Finegan Court, and Germantown Road joined the festivities this year. A donation of \$15 per family is collected. Contributions of food and beverages, tables, canopies, and coolers are coordinated by a handful of volunteers. A portion of the collected funds is used to provide plasticware, paper goods, garbage bags, and a rental port-a-potty. Fried chicken is also purchased to provide a main dish. The rest of the food spread consists of pot-luck contributions which are more elaborate and decadent every year. A few of the items gracing this year's buffet were ceviche, stuffed mushrooms, crab spread, spinach-watercress salad, Mexican pasta salad, a spicy Guam chicken and couscous dish, and homemade cheesecakes, pies, and fudge brownies. The kids burned off some of their sugar intake with facepainting, chalk drawing, and a bike parade.



In the past, music for the event was provided by a loaner boom-box. This year, we stepped it up to live (and, best of all, free) entertainment provided by the Brookmead Band, a neighborhood garage band in dire need of a better name (...anyone?). Rumor has it they may soon be available for weddings and bar mitzvahs. Members of this elusive group include Robbie Leftwich (lead vocals and bass guitar), Deno Photinakis (lead/rhythm guitars and vocals), Rob Kasunic (lead/rhythm guitars and vocals), Rebecca Tzou (lead vocals and tambourine), and Larry Harris (drums and percussions). Their repertoire was comprised of classic rock, with many popular hits from the 1980s.



Photographs courtesy of Bob Thompson.

Some of the benefits derived from our block party include a neighborhood directory and email distribution list. When one family discovered their home had been robbed, they were able to alert the whole neighborhood very quickly with one blast email. A list of recommended contractors has also been developed. One table is generally designated for all this information, as well as fliers for soccer league signups, scouting events, various promotions, and other items of community interest.

The block party serves to welcome new families and helps us all get to know our neighbors better. A closer-knit neighborhood has emerged because of it, making for an overall nicer place to live.

Darnestown Flag Program

Just a reminder to prune your trees and shrubs located near flags to hopefully prevent damage to the flags. If you find a flag that's been damaged or a bracket that needs repair, please call Jim Clifford at 301-605-6464. Thanks for your assistance!

Beallsville Fire Department Teaches Pre-K Kids About Fire Safety

Students stopped, dropped, and rolled when the Beallsville Fire Department visited the Pre-K and Early Childhood classes at The Barnesville School on Thursday, October 30, 2008.

Beallsville's Captain Reda sent six firefighters to the school, including one female firefighter named Miss Lisa. She spoke directly to the students about fire safety, while Firefighter Jimmy dressed in a complete firefighter's outfit. The children watched carefully as he put on all his gear including his boots, helmet and tank. Jimmy had all the children crawl on all fours and stay low as they would do in case of a fire. They also discussed calling 911 in case of an emergency. Prekindergarten teacher Rose Lovesee had shown the children how to use the phone and call this number earlier in the week.

After the demonstration, classes went outside to see the fire truck and ambulance used during emergencies. The children were invited to go inside and inspect both vehicles and the supplies each contained. Each child was also dubbed an honorary firefighter with a red firefighter hat.

The firefighters' visit was a wonderful conclusion to the week where each class discussed fire safety at home and at school. The highlights of the visit, according to the students included, "Going inside the fire truck," "watching Jimmy dress up," and "seeing the lights flash on the fire truck."

The Barnesville School is an independent, coeducational PS (3's) to 8th grade school in Barnesville, MD, with a mission to provide a joyful and supportive learning environment for the development of excellence. For more information about the school, please visit www.barnesvilleschool.org.



A new twist on some old favorites...

Straight from that Darne-Good Cookbook you've been hearing about!

Chocolate Bourbon Pie

Unique flavor will please both chocolate and non-chocolate lovers.

Filling

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup sugar | 1. Combine sugar, eggs, cornstarch, butter and bourbon. |
| 2 eggs | |
| 4 tablespoons cornstarch | 2. Stir in chocolate chips and pecans. |
| ½ cup (1 stick) butter, melted | |
| 3 tablespoons bourbon | 3. Pour into pie shell and bake for 30 to 35 minutes until brown and puffy. Cool. |
| 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips | |
| 1 cup chopped pecans | |
| 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell | |

Topping

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup whipping cream | 1. Whip cream with powdered sugar and bourbon until stiff peaks form. |
| 2 tablespoons powdered sugar | |
| ½ teaspoon bourbon | 2. Spread whipped cream over filling and serve. |

Temperature: 350 degrees Time: 30–35 minutes Yield: One 9-inch pie
Recipe submitted by Deborah Stolz

Walnut Crunch Pumpkin Pie

Pumpkin with a crunch... It's a hit!

Filling

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 (16 ounce) can pumpkin | 1. In a large bowl, combine all ingredients. |
| 1 (13 ounce) can evaporated milk | |
| 2 eggs | 2. Pour mixture into 9-inch pie shell. |
| ¾ cup packed brown sugar | |
| 1 ½ teaspoons cinnamon | 3. Bake for 40 minutes, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool. |
| ½ teaspoon salt | |
| ½ teaspoon ginger | |
| ½ teaspoon nutmeg | |
| 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell | |

Topping

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1 cup chopped walnuts | 1. In a small bowl, combine all ingredients. |
| ¾ cup brown sugar | |
| 4 tablespoons butter, melted | 2. Spoon evenly over pie. |
| | 3. Broil 5–7 inches from heat until topping is golden and sugar is dissolved. Serve with whipped cream. |

Temperature: 400 degrees Time: 40 minutes Yield: One 9-inch pie
Recipe submitted by Sara Wade

Date-Nut Torte

A classic combination in a new presentation.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 cup sugar | 1. Combine first four ingredients. |
| ½ cup chopped nuts, walnuts or pecans | 2. Beat egg whites and vanilla until stiff peaks form. |
| 15 dates, chopped (scissors work nicely) | 3. Combine egg whites with date mixture. |
| ½ teaspoon baking powder | 4. Spread into lightly greased 9-inch Pyrex pie plate. |
| 3 egg whites | 5. Bake for 30 minutes. Cool. |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla | 6. Serve with whipped cream. |
| Whipped cream | |

Can prepare ahead.

Hint: Torte will puff up with baking and fall as it cools.

Temperature: 350 degrees Time: 30 minutes Yield: One 9-inch pie
Recipe submitted by Donna Booth

Perfect Pecan Pie

You have never tasted one better!

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1/3 cup butter | 1. Cream butter with brown sugar. |
| ¾ cup packed brown sugar | |
| 3 eggs | 2. Beat in eggs, one at a time. |
| 1 cup light corn syrup | |
| 1 cup broken pecans | 3. Stir in syrup, pecans, vanilla, and salt. |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla | |
| ¼ teaspoon salt | 4. Pour into pie shell. |
| 1 unbaked 9-inch pie shell | 5. Bake for 35–45 minutes until filling is firm. |

Temperature: 350 degrees Time: 35–45 minutes Yield: One 9-inch pie
Recipe submitted by Kay Sponberg

Stock up on a few copies of a Darne-Good Cookbook to bring along for the hostess at your next social event, or to welcome a new neighbor.

Pair it with one of these delectable desserts or another Darne-Good dish for an extra special gift.

Still just \$15 each (\$14 when ordering 6 or more) and free delivery within Darnestown.

**To order your copies and arrange payment and delivery,
call Carolyn Thompson (240-683-0103) or email acorneditor@comcast.net.
Please make checks payable to Darnestown Civic Association.**

From the members of the DCA Board and the staff
of *The Little Acorn* to all of you...

Happy Holidays!



Darnestown Civic Association Board Members, left to right: Bob Thompson, Dan Dean, Tim Wilson, Lisa Patterson Troike, Lara Wibeto, Chris Collins, Guy Armantrout, Pam DuBois. Not present for the photograph were Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis, Scott Mostrom, and Mary Stefanelli.



Little Acorn Staff, left to right: Vicki Mostrom, Sarah Scherer, and Carolyn Thompson

Information for Newcomers

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)

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

Smokey Glen Invite Here

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