



Volume 45, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2009

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson Troike

Happy 2009! Looks like this is going to be another exciting year for Darnestown. The Town Center is really shaping up with the newly constructed building on the northwest corner of Seneca and Darnestown Roads. One of the tenants of that building will be none other than the DCA! For the first time, we will have a home... a Town Hall of sorts. We hope to be able to occupy our new space by March or April. If you have a conference table, computer, chairs, file cabinets, etc., that you would like to donate, let us know.

The DCA will be busy with numerous projects in 2009. A few are listed below:

- Coordinating Darnestown Heritage Park
- Improving electric and phone service reliability
- Assisting Town Center commercial owners
- Policing zoning and development applications
- Testifying at county hearings
- Updating Darnestown Directory for 2010
- Facilitating Darnestown Zip Code Committee
- Coordinating Hoedown and Tree Lighting gatherings

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers for their energetic and tireless contributions to our association: Guy Armantrout, Pam DuBois, Chris Collins, Bob Thompson, Carolyn Thompson, Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis, Lara Wibeto, Dan Dean, Tim Wilson, Sarah Scherer, Vicki Mostrom, and Jean Jurgena. We wouldn't be able to function without dedicated people like you. I would also like to welcome two newer volunteers: Art Slesinger and Richard Hess. We really have a great team and are always looking for more players. If you are interested,

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Next DCA Meeting

**Thursday
March 19th
7:30 p.m.**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

DCA Membership See back cover!

**It's not too late to pay
your FY 2008 dues**



- DEADLINE -

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

ATTENTION!

The following referral lists (Baby Sitters through Notary Services) will be updated in each June issue of *The Little Acorn*. Please email your (or your child's) updated information to acorneditor@comcast.net prior to the May 1st deadline to be included in the June issue.

THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: Carolyn Thompson
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Sarah Scherer
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The Darnestown Civic Association Board

President: Lisa Patterson Troike
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Chairman: Bruce Deppa
Treasurer: Guy Armantrout
Trustee: Dan Dean
Trustee: Steve Ellis
Trustee: Scott Mostrom
Corresponding Secretary: Carolyn Thompson
Recording Secretary: Bob Thompson

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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
Safety: Alan Noznesky, Kevin Keegan
Social: Lisa Patterson Troike
Softball: Steve Ellis
Opinion Survey: Brian McCollom
Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger
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; lisaapatterson@aol.com) or mailed to DCA, 14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874.

MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan	Guitar (summer)	301-379-5646
Brandon Corydon*	Guitar	301-221-0456
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
Michael Waddell	Trombone/Horn	301-990-6770

*Free lessons for SSL Hours

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)

send me an email, call, or just show up at one of our board meetings. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm in the basement of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church at the corner of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Roads. Below, please find our schedule for 2009:

Board Meetings

Mar 5	Jul 30
Apr 2	Sep 3
Apr 30	Oct 1
Jun 4	Oct 29
Jul 2	Dec 3

Town Meetings

Mar 19	Sep 17
Jun 18	Dec 10

Contact Lisa Patterson-Troike by phone 301-548-0999 or email lisaapatterson@aol.com.

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

Welcome new Darnestown neighbors!

Niki and Charles Eloshway
14828 Poplar Hill Road
301-926-0945

Tara and Jerry Kavadias
12825 Talley Lane

Aubrey Bursch-McIntyre and Jon McIntyre
14609 Dodie Terrace
301-926-9171

Kristin and Pat Sweeney
15605 Indian Run Court
301-540-4115

Please keep me up to date with changes and additions. Thank you!

Contact Sarah Scherer by phone 240-683-8533 or email sarahscherer@comcast.net.

Membership Committee

by Jean Jurgena

To date we have 824 paid members, friends and sponsors. Your support as a paid member helps provide financial backing for the DCA's many ongoing expenses. It is not too late to pay for the 2008 fiscal year, which ends June 30. If you did not receive or have misplaced your membership notice, you will find one on the back cover of this issue of *The Little Acorn*. Please remember to include any updated information to keep the database accurate. This information is used for mailing *The Little Acorn*, the Annual dues notice, and also for publishing the Darnestown Directory. We do not publish e-mail address in the directory and you may request not to have your phone number listed.

For questions regarding membership or to check to see if you have paid, please feel free to contact me by e-mail at jmurgena@hotmail.com or by phone at 301-840-1187.

Welcome Committee

by Lara Wibeto

Welcome to our new Darnestown neighbors! We are excited to welcome you to our community. We hope you have been enjoying the welcome baskets. I will be doing follow up visits to deliver directories in the coming months. The winter baskets will continue until the first official day of spring. In addition to the goodies and events within the basket, be sure to look in the Montgomery County edition of The Gazette to find other local groups dedicated to welcoming new residents to our part of the county.

You are encouraged to attend one of these events to meet more of your neighbors as well as other new residents.

All new Darnestonians are welcome at town meetings and other DCA sponsored events. Your attendance and input is needed and appreciated. Be sure to read your Acorn for a list of upcoming activities.

Finally, if you are a business owner or know of an area business who would like to include a brochure, business card, or discount for our new neighbors; do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to give our local businesses some recognition.

I look forward to meeting you and your family as we endure the remaining chill of winter in anticipation of the warmth and renewal of the spring season.

Lara Wibeto can be reached at 301-926-4028 or by email at Lwibeto@verizon.net.

Social Committee

Spring Social Update

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

We regret to inform you that we will not be holding a Spring Social this year. Due to the unstable economic times, Smokey Glen Farm needed to do what was necessary to tighten their budget. The Spring Social has been hosted entirely by Smokey Glen at no charge, and we thank them for their generosity. We wish Smokey Glen a prosperous 2009 and hope to be able to attend another Spring Social in the future.

If you are looking for an unforgettable venue to host your family gathering, or company's summer picnic or celebration, think of Smokey Glen Farm!

Smokey Glen Farm
16407 Riffleford Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-948-9170
www.smokeyglenfarm.com

2008 Christmas Tree Lighting 2008

by Sarah Beautz

The annual Darnestown Christmas Tree lighting was on December 6, 2008. This year, there was a fantastic crowd, despite the freezing cold weather. The fire pit helped keep everyone close to the action, but warm and comfortable.

Christmas isn't Christmas without Santa Claus. Santa showed up right on time this year, and everyone counted down together to the official lighting of the tree. With the lights of the tree shining brightly, Santa gave out candy canes to everyone.

We would like to give a special thanks to the Beautz family for their spread of cookies, hot chocolate with marshmallows, and the fire pit.

We would also like to thank the families who donated extra cookies as well. We were able to ensure treats for everyone. Thank you to all and we look forward to seeing you again next year for another great tree lighting.

The DCA Office—A Qualitative Change

by Steve Ellis, AO

(appreciatively, on behalf of the Board)

After a great deal of thought and discussion over the last year, our Executive Board decided to establish an actual physical location for the entity we all call the Darnestown Civic Association. By the time you receive this Acorn we should have executed a 10 year lease for a small office space in the lower rear portion of the new building in the Darnestown Village center. Hopefully, by the end of March we will have painted the walls, installed a rug or carpet, moved in the file cabinets, begun to adorn the walls with maps, drawings and photos that illustrate our town and history, and have started holding meetings at "headquarters".

It should be noted that almost all members of the Board are pleased and some elated at this big move and commitment. Several past presidents and other previously active officers and members over the years, when queried, have indicated approval in establishing a real office. This decision has been percolating for almost a decade and we do not frivolously consider spending your dues money without weighing the benefits and necessities with the costs of our financial and other decisions. The annual dues from our members, friends and sponsors have contributed to an unheard of civic association treasury of over \$100,000 for the past several years.

On behalf of our Board may we extend to you, our faithful past and present members and active participants, our utmost appreciation of your commitment to supporting this purely voluntary effort over these past four decades. You have allowed the current board to elevate our existence to a new level.

There is nothing that assures that any organization will last indefinitely. We are speculating that the DCA will continue to function for at least the next ten years. Our lease with the Petruccellis allows those involved in the future decision in 2018 to terminate the lease agreement or renew for a 5- or 10-year period. Nick and Vanda Petruccelli have been dedicated members of the DCA since the late 1970's, including terms as trustees. Nick has gone out of his way to accommodate our request for this office space and at a very good price. We greatly appreciate the very attractive new building and our opportunity to locate there. Thank you, Nick.

We want to thank Frank Cornelius for his help in drawing up the final lease agreement. The lease agreement was signed by Guy Armantrout, Chris

Collins, Bruce Deppa, Steve Ellis and Lisa Patterson-Troike on January 27.

So How Did We Get Here?

In 1965 the new residents in the 2-year old Ancient Oak development formed the Ancient Oak Civic Association. Their newsletter accordingly called the *Little Acorn*. In 1967 as these folks began to meet others in the area including the new Mountain View and Ridgefield neighbors, they decided to enlarge the membership area, and rename the association the Greater Darnestown Civic Association. An article in the November, 1967 issue of the *Little Acorn* by Mary Lou Anderson of Ancient Oak (family members still reside here) states ‘*There are 111 families in the latest directory of Ridgefield, Mountain View and Ancient Oak, and if we are to be called ‘Greater Darnestown’ ...we need everyone’s help and interest when we vote to support or oppose zoning changes...discuss school problems... plan community activities and improvements. This Association can grow and should grow.*’ This paragraph, in part, is from the June 1992 *Acorn* by Janet Marszalek.

In October 1969 Carter Hubbel, Maurice Landers and May Lou Anderson signed incorporation documents officially creating the Greater Darnestown Civic Association. The “Greater” was removed in 1999 to be simply called the Darnestown Civic Association.

The dues were \$10 a year until 1989 when the GDCA voted to raise them to \$15. Darnestown was confronted with a number of challenges and a larger treasury was needed. The *Little Acorn* contained advertisements for much of its publication history and the revenue paid for the printing and mailing. By the 1990s, half of the average 40-page editions were ads. This became unruly and too large a burden for the editors to lay out. So in December 1996, it was decided to go to \$25 per annum dues to cover the cost of publication for the *Acorn* without advertisements. Sometimes some members would actually send in more than the required amount. Since the removal of the ads, the *Acorn* has consisted of 16–28 pages.

A Darne Big Treasury

The DCA got a major financial boost in the mid-1990s when the profits from the *It’s A Darne Good Cookbook* started accumulating. The community cookbook idea was borrowed from a Rochester, NY, cookbook of recipes from its local citizens, and brought to Darnestown by Carole DeMinco. Carole pursued her idea and convinced the DCA board to explore the possibilities. Carole and Ann (Doodie) Sullivan became co-chairs of the cookbook committee. This became a

tremendous community venture. Bruce Deppa, president at the time, Carole and Ann put in hundreds of hours; many others volunteered dozens of hours, and hundreds of people submitted recipes. Twenty-five hundred copies of the 1992 First Edition were published and in a couple of years the sales had covered the costs. The remaining copies were sold out by about 1998, and the cookbook proceeds had swelled our treasury. (A Second Edition of 2,500 copies was published in 2000. We are closing in on the break-even point for the new edition, and we still need to sell several hundred books.)

These cookbook funds along with an increase in dues-paying members had allowed the DCA to set aside a minimum of \$50,000 for problems that may be encountered in the future; especially, for the anticipated Potomac Sub-Region Master Plan. The last Master Plan for our area was completed in 1980. The recent 2002 Plan was begun in 1998. Darnestown’s Master Plan issues went so well with the County and our land owners that very few items were in dispute. When the Executive Board found reason to employ an attorney, Jim Clifford helped us *pro bono* on a couple of major items. Amazingly, by the end of the Master Plan process, the DCA had spent very little money.

In the early 2000s, we did contribute large amounts for the water tanker and to *Solutions Not Sprawl/Smart Alternatives for Regional Transportation* during the Techway scare.

Need For An Office

Meanwhile, during Bruce’s 12 years as president (he wanted to step down after 10 years, but no one was willing to replace his dedicated effort), he had amassed several file cabinets of records. Gerry Foley cheerfully acquiesced to relieving Bruce in June 2001 for a one year term. There were other important papers and materials that should be kept in a central DCA repository that were held by Steve Ellis and others, including a number of past presidents going back to the 1970s. These past documents record much of our history over the last 40 years and need to be saved. Furthermore, we needed a location that could be accessed when needed, and not in someone’s home. Also, there was a need to have a meeting place during the Master Plan period. Nick Petruccelli arranged for the DCA to sub-lease a meeting room and space for the files in 2000 from George Hartner (Haddonfield) on the second floor of the 6-12 building. We paid \$400 per month. When Michael Fox rented the top floor, Nick required that the DCA continue access for storage and use of the meeting rooms. We paid \$100 per month. For the last 3–4 years, we have been paying Dave Simmons \$300 per month.

for storage, copying and meeting privileges. Again, Nick asked that Dave continue to accommodate the DCA. There have been many important meetings held at the office (affectionately known at times as the *World-Wide Headquarters of the Darnestown Civic Association*) over the years, and those who have met with us often admirably comment how sufficiently organized we are to actually have an office; even if shared.

OK, the damage... The rent plus shared property maintenance, taxes and insurance starts at about \$742 per month. The annual increase will be held at 3 percent. Believe it or not, this is a good deal for us, and the only location for the foreseeable future. We will pay for electricity, and have an individual meter.



These two photographs, taken February 2, 2009, depict the new building with construction nearing completion. The above photograph shows the building front, which faces Darnestown Road, directly across from Harris Teeter. Below, off the parking lot behind the building is an enclosed walkway leading to the DCA office. The windows in the concrete brick wall will allow a view of a community bulletin board.



Sponsors and Friends

Since some families were already sending in more than the \$25 dues, and we needed to cover the expense of the office; we created the \$100 Sponsor category for

the fiscal year starting July 1, 2001. The DCA has greatly benefited from generosity of 80 to 100 sponsors for the past 8 years. The \$50 Friends category began in 2005. Total membership has been from 700–900 for most of this decade. The board has determined that the DCA can afford the expense of this office. The treasury reached over \$130,000 this fiscal year. Even if a major schism occurred within the community reducing membership for a time, we still have ample funds to cover rent for the term of the lease, and employ assistance in fighting unwanted intrusions, if necessary.

We think that having our own office will significantly benefit the work of the civic association. We hope that you are or will be pleased that your DCA is strong enough to establish a real physical presence in our town. We intend to have an open house day at the office to be announced in the June issue of *The Little Acorn*. You, of course, can drop by anytime someone is there. We think it's going to be a pretty neat place.

Aging Septic Tank Systems?

by Bruce Deppa

Instead of public sewers, almost every house in Darnestown is served by its own septic tank and absorption field. As the years go by, such systems eventually reach a point where they need some serious and expensive attention, especially in our area of high-clay-content soils. This usually happens after 20 to 30 years, and there are lots of variables, better-documented on the Internet than I can do in this space. What I haven't found is much information about homeowners' experiences with septic system repair contractors.

Septic system service ranges from simply pumping out the tank to replacing the entire system. Since the system is almost entirely out of sight, its true condition is usually very difficult to determine, and accurate diagnosis of any system problem is even more difficult. This situation puts the homeowner in a tenuous position during discussion with a contractor.

The Civic Association can shed some light on this situation by collecting and organizing data about specific septic system repair experiences in our area. If we can build a simple database of info about septic system failures and good and bad experiences with septic system contractors, and make that data available to the community, it could be helpful to those of us who have yet to face this problem.

If you have such an experience to share, please contact me by phone (240-876-3244) or email (brucedepa@comcast.net).

Does the DCA Always Support Residents Who Are Opposed to a Development Plan or Land-Use Change?

by Bruce Deppa

Short Answer: Not always.

Long Answer: If a property owner plans to do something that is within his rights, and that is permitted by virtue of being in compliance with county and state regulations and with the Montgomery County Zoning Ordinance, then the Civic Association very seldom opposes the property owner, even if nearby residents may do so. Outright opposition to such plans is usually futile. In such cases, the DCA has often worked with residents and developers to modify plans and craft compromises to address issues raised in opposition to the plans. In the best cases, developers have presented plans to the DCA for review and comment prior to submitting their plans to the county, and in some cases, prior to purchasing property.

On the other hand, many kinds of development and land-uses are not permitted by right, but only by conditional approval by the county government. In these cases, which are usually applications for Special Exception, the concerns of nearby residents and civic associations are given considerable credence during the government's review and approval process. This is also true of proposed re-zoning of land, extension of sewer service, highway widening, and changes to the county's Master Plan. Historically, Darnestown residents have almost always opposed such changes, and have been actively supported by the DCA in doing so.

None of the officers and committee chairmen of the DCA are zoning attorneys or land planners or development consultants. However, through hands-on experience during years and years of participation in the county's zoning and development processes, many of us have learned a great deal, and each year it is gratifying to see new folks joining the Board, learning the ropes, and stepping up to ensure the continuity of purpose and action that keeps our association strong.

Update from the Montgomery County Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

Strategic Plan for Montgomery County Facilities and Services Headquarters

County Executive Isiah Leggett has proposed a bold new long-range initiative designed to make County government more effective and invest our public monies more

wisely. His "County Property Use Initiative" will implement important land use and economic policies while using land values for certain sites to offset the costs of new or better facilities and thus avoid long-term reliance on tax funds for needed facilities. This plan will efficiently bring together on the same site our public safety agencies and move other County facilities to other properties to enable the County to retain and grow our higher paying jobs through expansion of our biotech efforts. It will save at least an estimated \$5 million dollars each year by moving County agencies out of rental space and obsolete facilities and onto sites that can serve us efficiently for decades to come. And it will open up the area around the Shady Grove Metro for transit-oriented housing – including much needed affordable and workforce units.

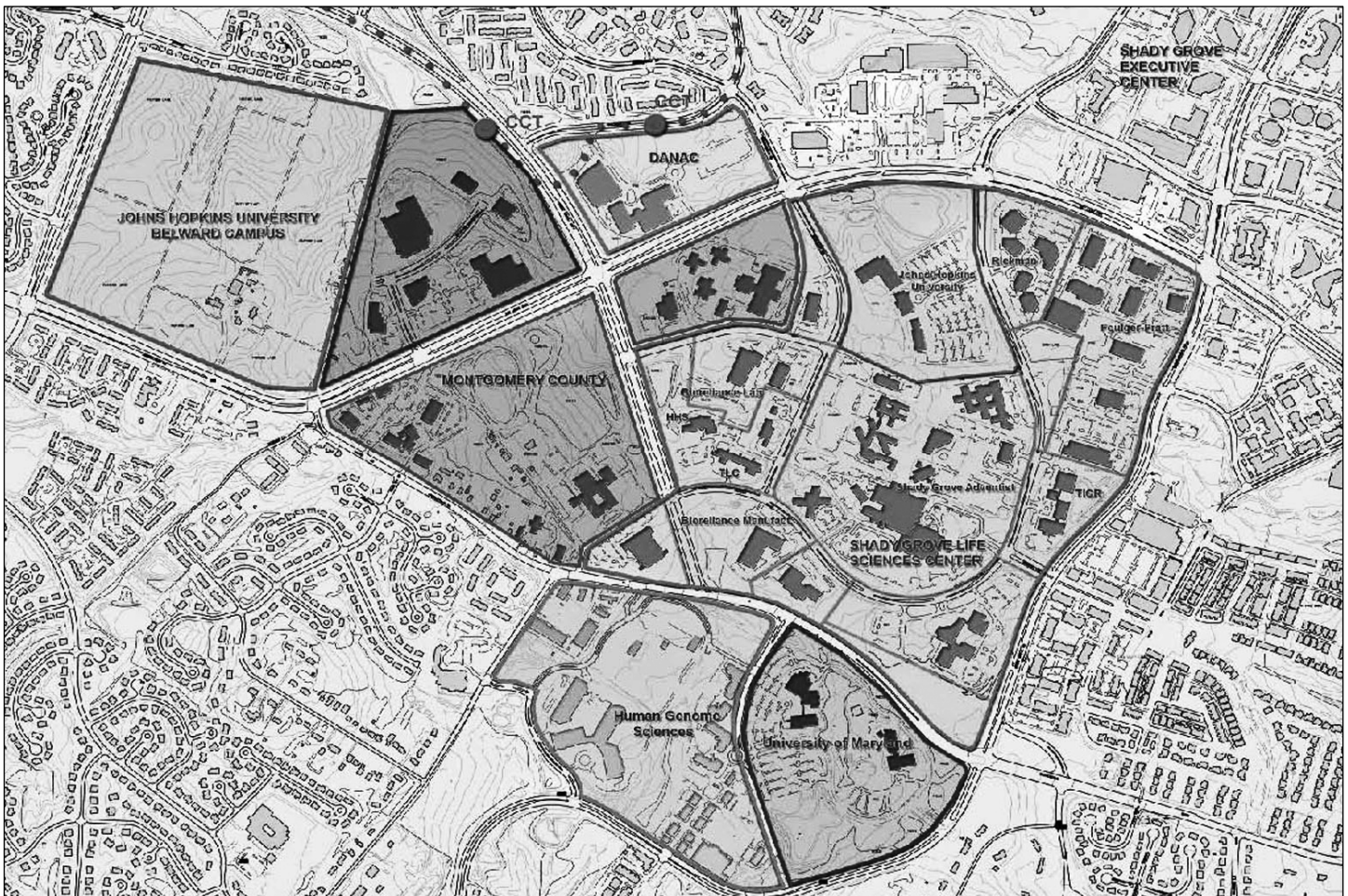
The Public Service Training Academy (PSTA), located on Route 28 and Great Seneca Highway only a couple of miles from Darnestown, was located at its present location nearly 40 years ago and presently requires an investment of \$24 million to overhaul the existing, aged facility. Even with the significant investment of funds at the current location, all of the PSTA needs cannot be satisfied at the existing site, and due to the configuration of existing improvements, the site has little-to-no expansion capability thereby limiting the ability of the site to fully support the County's long-term needs for public safety training. These monies could be better spent to create a new PSTA with a longer useful life at a different location that can be used for decades to come. The PSTA is surrounded by the Life Sciences Center, Johns Hopkins University Belward campus to the north and the University System of Maryland Shady Grove campus to the south. (see illustration) Johns Hopkins has been actively engaged in looking at the overall area to determine how to enable the higher education uses that have begun in that area to grow into a world class research and education center. The PSTA site is uniquely located to provide key uses to support the realization of a world class research and higher education campus and corridor in this area. Johns Hopkins Belward campus is subject to land use restrictions limiting the site to agricultural, academic, research and development, delivery of health and medical care and services, or related uses only. Similarly, covenants recorded against the properties comprising the Life Science Centers contain use restrictions limiting the kinds of uses that can go onto the Life Sciences site. There are ongoing discussions about potential shifts in the Corridor Cities Transitway to better serve the Hopkins facilities and the Life Sciences Center that would position the PSTA site for transit-oriented development. The PSTA site can be

utilized to help create a world class research and higher education community in which researchers and students can live near where they work. As we look to the future and watch our scientists being drawn away, creating this world class science community is critical to grow and retain higher paying jobs in the County. Furthermore, the County needs more receiving areas for transferable development rights (TDRs) including building lot termination TDRs to help preserve our agriculture reserve. The PSTA site could be designated a receiving area for such rights.

Another important objective is the County's need to create a new home for the Police Department. The Police Department's headquarters are crammed into an aging, undersized building in need of extensive work. Because of the lack of space at the current site, the Police Department has many of its functions dispersed to other locations in rented space. We need to move forward with a new police headquarters that will be large enough to meet its needs and consolidate many of its currently dispersed functions at a single location. We recognize that there is significant ongoing interaction between the Police Department, the Department of Fire and Rescue Services and Homeland Security. These public safety agencies would benefit from co-locating their

administrative functions to facilitate their ongoing interaction and collaboration and enable the sharing of resources and support services. The GE Global Exchange Building (former National Geographic) is being considered for this purpose. This co-location will be efficient operationally and will eliminate regular travel between agencies.

The County Council has gone through a comprehensive effort to adopt a plan for the County Service Park that would capitalize on the existing investment in mass transit by creating a transit-oriented development community. Like the PSTA, the County Service Park was built decades ago and most of the facilities located at the County Service Park need large capital investment to be able to meet current needs. The Department of Liquor Control needs a larger warehouse with conditioned space. The Finnmarc warehouse near Lakelands is being considered for this use. The Equipment and Maintenance Operations Center (EMOC) is in need of expansion to handle existing fleet needs. Available areas East of Route 355 are under consideration for these requirements. Relocation of the uses at the County Service Park will enable the County to realize both the transit oriented development intended for the area and to address unmet needs.



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 member 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; Catherine Matthews, Director, 240-777-8000, upcounty.citizen@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Darnestown Zip Code Committee

by Carolyn Thompson

In the past two issues of *The Little Acorn*, we solicited volunteers to form a Zip Code Committee. To date, we've heard from a total of 14 Darnestown residents offering their time and talents toward this effort. A kick-off meeting is planned for Thursday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. Members will be briefed on the history of this endeavor, and a chairperson will be selected. Updates on the committee's progress will be published in *The Little Acorn*.

Utility Reliability Committee

by Art Slesinger

The DCA is starting a more concerted effort to improve the reliability of electrical and land line phone utilities and has asked me to head this group. Information requests have been filed with PEPCO and the Maryland Public Service Commission, which regulates both electrical service and land phone lines. To better prepare our case we need information on the date, time and duration of outages by address. If you have been keeping such records, please forward them to me at art.slesinger@comcast.net.

The objective at this time is to compare our reliability with other areas of state and with any standards that may be applicable. The PEPCO engineer for the area has been helpful, but more outage information would help direct our questions. While the issue of trees falling on lines and aging equipment may not be easily remedied, it is possible that more circuit isolation investment would minimize the outages to a smaller area.

Thank you for your assistance, and if you desire to participate, please e-mail me at the above address.

Loss of Telephone Service

by Barton J. Gershen, M.D.

Over the past year several homes on Plainfield Lane have experienced a total loss of Verizon telephone service during Pepco power outages. (I refer specifically to telephones that are hard-wired into the house. All portable phone systems will, of course, lose signal since they require electricity to operate their base stations.)

When we first encountered this unusual problem, I was puzzled as to its genesis, but assumed that whatever its cause, it was probably a one-time event. However, since Darnestown loses electrical power rather frequently, I have had ample opportunity to relive this event on multiple occasions, and have made some observations. The scenario is as follows: when loss of Pepco power occurs, dial tone is initially retained and one can make and receive calls for approximately 45 to 90 minutes thereafter. Then, suddenly and with no warning, dial tone disappears and the telephone system is functionless. When electrical power is restored, the dial tone reappears and telephone service is re-established.

Troubled by the potential hazard of absent telephonic communications, I began a series of inquiries to Verizon. After numerous calls, during which I was routed from one

official site to another, speaking entirely with telephonic robots, I finally reached a live person. Ultimately, a technician with some experience came to our home and explained the problem.

Over the last several years, Verizon has upgraded their equipment, removing the original copper wiring and replacing it with electronic technology. Unfortunately, in contrast to the earlier more primitive system, this upgraded structure now requires electrical power in order to work. Recognizing that a power failure would result in simultaneous loss of telephonic connections, the telephone company concomitantly added a back-up battery to its new technology. This battery, which is in a state of constant charge, is supposed to maintain the integrity of the telephone system for approximately 8 hours of electrical outage. After that time, the average battery will fail and telephone service predictably disappears with it.

Unfortunately, as I learned, the battery back-up does not always last the expected 8 hours. In our case, telephone service ended within 45 to 90 minutes following loss of Pepco power. Clearly, there is a potential here for a disaster. If a house fire or a medical emergency were to occur during loss of telephone communication, the results might be catastrophic. Furthermore, cellular telephone communication is inadequate or simply unavailable in many areas around Darnestown, thus making it an imperfect alternative for safety.

I am alerting the Darnestown community to this recent problem. If you experience a loss of dial tone on your ordinary home telephone during an electrical outage, please contact the Darnestown Civic Association. If sufficient numbers of residents are affected by a loss of telephone service, Verizon should be compelled to revise and improve their system.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Nettie Koepenick

Life Support for Holiday Plants

So many of us had grand illusions when we bought that gorgeous flowering plant at the holidays and thought that we would be able to keep them looking like that long after the boxes of Christmas decorations would be packed away.

But here it is March and many of us are watching our plants die a slow death. First of all, most of these plants are 'Tropical' plants, and with our abbreviated day light these plants will struggle to stay alive. Unless you can

locate them in a window with a southwestern exposure they will continue to struggle. Also, after the plant goes through such an impressive bloom cycle they need time to regenerate. But, if you are determined to put these plants on life support here are some helpful hints.

Poinsettias – Move to a window with southwestern exposure, cut plant back and keep it watered but not soaked. Start fertilizing it again with a basic fertilizer that will encourage flower bloom in late summer to encourage blooms in December. Remember to place it in a container that will not show tell tale signs that it is a Christmas plant during the off season.

Amaryllis – Cut back the stalk that supported the flower, as close to the leaves as possible. Then let the leaves die naturally. When leaves start to yellow, cut back on your watering so the bulb won't have too much water in it while storing. Once leaves start to shrivel and die, cut them off, and wrap entire container and bulb in a brown paper bag and store in a cool dry place until next fall. Then bring it out and start watering, use a little bulb booster and watch it grow. It's hard to predict when it will bloom, but you can control this to some degree by how soon you bring it out and how much light it gets. Follow the same rules for Paper White Narcissus.

Christmas Cactus – This plant is very sustainable. It will look good all year long. Just don't let it get too scraggly. It is a good idea to cut back any extra long stems during the year to encourage new, bushy growth. Just don't trim too close to the holidays. You could cut off next year's blooms.

Last but not least, remember that all these flowering plants, like your Christmas tree, are 'seasonal' plants and it is perfectly fine to throw them out after they have passed their prime. Don't feel guilty about this. When you buy cut flowers, you know they have a finite life span. Think of your holiday flowers as temporary decorations, and you got your money's worth.

And if it will make you feel better when you throw them away...COMPOST!

Darne Bloomers Looking for New Members

Do you want to find out more about plants and gardening? Meet people in your community who have a similar interest in plants? Or just want a morning out to learn something new and have fun doing it? The DarneBloomers Garden club is looking for new members. If you are interested, feel free to come to one of our meetings. We meet the second Thursday, September–May, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the

Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Questions? Please call me at 301-330-8311.

From Our Schools...

The Barnesville School

by Nicole Campbell

Book Event: Steve Vogel

The Barnesville School will welcome Steve Vogel, author of *The Pentagon: A History*, February 19th, at 7pm to discuss his book as part of our Klingenstein Lecture Series. Following time spent in the classroom with our students during the school day, we invite all members of the community to come and listen to Steve read from his book and invite questions from the audience. RSVPs are welcome at 301-972-0341 or at rsvp@barnesvilleschool.org. We hope to see you!

Barnesville Places Second in MATHCOUNTS Open

The 2009 Barnesville MATHCOUNTS team participated in the 20th annual Frederick County MATHCOUNTS Open on January 10th. The official school team consists of the following 8th graders: Jonathan Kordell, (captain), Alexander Lee, Matthew Gherman, and Tyler Maroulis.

This team finished in 2nd place at this competition. All four individuals finished among the top 16 at this event.

Also participating were 7th grader Paul Malinauskas and 6th grader James Huber.

Students Celebrate Grandparents Day

Students at The Barnesville School found a little something extra to be thankful for the day before Thanksgiving as nearly 200 grandparents and other relatives joined them for the school's 24th annual Grandparents Day.

The special day started with a reception in the school's gym, featuring musical performances from many of the school's students and a warm welcome from Head of School John Huber.

"It's wonderful to take the time at Thanksgiving to share family stories. I love inviting the grandparents to come and share their experiences with their grandkids on this day."

Awards were handed out to the grandparents who have attended the event the most years in a row (13) and who have the most grandchildren currently at the school (4).

Neal and Swele Wooden picked up the award for the farthest distance traveled, having come nearly 4,800 miles from their home in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to spend the day with their sixth-grade grandnephew Bradley Andres and his sister, fourth-grader Catherine Andres.

After the awards and the singing, the grandparents headed off to class where a variety of different activities awaited them. And while some grandparents had it easy – being read to in first grade or watching their grandkids put on a Thanksgiving play in second grade – others had to reach back to their own school days and work on algebra problems side-by-side with their grandchildren.

"It's very heartwarming that they include the grandparents," said Michael Wells, whose granddaughter Leah is in the second grade. "It's extremely special."

The Butler School

by Lisa Daly

Butler School will offer two programs this summer: a Summer Primary Montessori class for the younger students and the ever-popular "Butler Camp." The Summer Primary class is open to Butler students as well as children who are enrolled for Fall 2009. This ten-week program, staffed by experienced Montessori teachers, allows our youngest students to remain in a familiar, beautifully ordered environment where they continue to learn and enjoy summer activities, such as daily swimming sessions.

Butler Camp, for children age 3½–13, takes pride in providing a great outdoor program while giving individual attention to our campers. The popularity of our camp can be attributed to the particular care given to each child by our experienced staff, and to a well-planned schedule of varied fun activities and adventure.

Our on-campus attractions include an equestrian program, swimming pool, soccer clinic, hiking trails, ropes course, archery range, and arts and crafts. Some of our older campers travel off campus for canoeing, rock climbing, fishing, whitewater rafting, tubing and mountain biking.

Soccer, swimming, art and games are all part of the Backyard Explorers, Young Adventures, Outdoor Adventures and Equestrian programs. The soccer staff will coach sessions that mix fun and skills at each level. Our campers love to spend time with the Art Director, who will teach a variety of "arts" (art, craft projects, story-telling, and drama) during their daily sessions under the shady trees of the "Art Area". The "arts" this year will draw upon history, culture and our natural

environment as campers create various projects. These camp groups will also join the Activity Director for fun, challenges and games and spend time daily at our campus pool for light instruction and to cool off. The Outdoor Adventures and Equestrian campers will have a Cookout evening each session.

Extreme Adventures is geared for our older campers who are ready for new adventure activities and an overnight each session.

Young Olympians is designed for experienced riders, ages 8–13, especially those equestrians who ride year round.

For more information and for on-line registration, visit our website at www.butlerschool.org or call us at 301-977-6600. Butler School/Butler Camp, 15951 Germantown RD, Darnestown, MD 20874.

Darnestown Elementary

by Kristen Crook

Darnestown Elementary has held several fun events this winter including Muffins for Moms, Bingo Night and the Winter Concert featuring the 4th and 5th grade band and chorus.

The Annual Colonial Day is planned for Friday, February 20th. Fifth-graders will go back in time and spend the day in the gym which will be filled with colonial-time activities including music, a school house, apothecary, games, a blacksmith, storytelling, colonial food and more. The other grades will visit the gym to see what it was like during colonial times.

We'll round out the remaining three months of school with lots of exciting activities including:

- March 13 – Sock Hop (Northwest HS)
- April 20 – Science Fair
- April 29 – Donuts for Dads
- May 4-8 – Staff Appreciation Week
- May 11 – Kindergarten Orientation for students attending in Fall of 09
- May 15 – Talent Show (Northwest HS) Come cheer on your favorite DES students! All are welcome.

Expansion Project

Last Spring, a project planner from Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) was sent to assess DES against the standard for elementary schools with our projected enrollment. In June, a DES feasibility study committee and MCPS staff selected the architectural firm to prepare site development plans for a building addition to meet the needs of our school. The architects and engineers

met with the DES committee to fine-tune their plans to reflect the input from DES staff and community, and come up with a 'preferred option' and projected costs for the design of an addition.

The plans include seven new classrooms, a 'real' art room and music room, staff pull-out spaces and offices, a conference room, storage, expanded parking, a secure courtyard to use as an outdoor learning space, and a new front entrance that is secure and accessible to people with disabilities. The overall plan increases our building space from 37,700 square feet, to 63,200 square feet.

The feasibility study was funded, but there are no guarantees that the construction will be funded. In late spring, MCPS Superintendent Dr. Jerry Weast will meet with MCPS staff from the Divisions of Long-Range Planning and Construction Services and decide what capital improvement projects need to be funded in the next budget. His recommendations will be presented this fall to the Board of Education for their input, and finally to the County Council for funding.

If we receive budget approval in the Fall, a 1.5-year planning and 1.5-year construction timeline would allow for the addition to be open for the school year beginning August 2013, when our current kindergarteners are 5th graders. If funding is not approved, the project will be reconsidered in the next CIP budget cycle (2011).

Lakelands Park Middle School

By Kathy O'Rourke

Lakelands Park Middle School has been busy this year. This fall our own Mr. Kuhn (Educational Support Team) and the family he nominated were featured on Extreme Home Makeover, on ABC. They are a family whose new home was built in Poolesville, MD. Mr. Kuhn is a former Kingsview Middle School teacher. He taught four of the Jackson family children for whom the home was built. Mr. Kuhn and his service is an inspiration for all children earning those SSL hours!

After thirty two years with MCPS and four years with LPMS, Principal Sacco retired this winter. Mr. Sacco has taken a new job as Educational Director for the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington D.C. Our new interim principal is Dr. Jerome Lynch. Dr. Lynch comes with a vast amount of experience as a former MCPS principal. The selection is under way for a new permanent principal to start in the fall of 2009. A parent meeting to help with selection will take place in early spring.

Even in the midst of this transition, parents and teachers continue to work on the Cadres (A group of staff, students,

and parents who want to create a model middle school). The topics for the Cadres are: Rigor, Student Engagement, Achievement Gap, Student Behavior and Staff Engagement.

Students at LPMS continue to study hard and participate in a variety of activities. In December, both the instrumental students and chorus students put on a fabulous concert. A display of student art was on hand to add to the talent. Students involved in a variety of sports continue to excel. Softball ended their season on a high note and represented LPMS very well, as did the cross-country team. Basketball is upon us and both boys and girls teams are well underway to exceed athletic expectations!!! In March tryouts of LPMS soccer will take place.

Our own PTSA sponsored Fright Night in October! It was very popular, and fun and fear were had by all. The PTSA continues to raise money through direct appeal this year. So far it is a great success and a great relief from the dreaded magazine/cookie dough/wrapping paper sales. The PTSA is able to contribute to a variety of student and staff activities both educational and cultural. It is due to the tremendous efforts of both parents and staff that our children continue toward making LPMS a model middle school!

Contact Kathy O'Rourke by email at burtonbeach@comcast.net.

Mary of Nazareth School

by Christine Priznar

Mary of Nazareth School Serves Others

Since the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year the students, faculty/staff and families of Mary of Nazareth School have been reaching out to support those in need. The students participated in a Help the Homeless walk, a raffle to raise money for a water buffalo for needy Filipino villages through the Heifer Program, and sent cards to wounded soldiers. Members of the school community donated to food and coat drives for St. Martin's Pantry and Coat Collection, respectively. Members of the school community also participated in Adopt a Turkey and helped assemble turkey dinners for the needy in the D.C. Metro area. With the support of Cub Scout Pack 26, the school collected Toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves Toys for Tots Program. The faculty Sunshine Committee organized the collection of Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners, as well as a baby clothes drive, for a needy family. The middle school students who served breakfast at the school's "Breakfast with St. Nick," donated their tips to Germantown Help.

The Kindergarten classes sponsored a school wide collection of aluminum can flip tops for Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. Mrs. Nancy Dewitt's second grade class filled shoeboxes with items for children in different countries such as Africa, Russia and Romania who may not know Jesus and His mercy. The second graders earned money at home by doing chores around their home. They then used their earnings to purchase items like socks, hats, gloves, scarves, soap, crayons, coloring books, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toys and candy.

American Sign Language Club

Currently in its second year, the Mary of Nazareth School Sign Language Club teaches students American Sign Language (ASL). Led by first grade teacher, Mrs. Lynn Ferrell, twenty three students ranging from first grade to seventh grade, meet once a week for one hour after school to learn and practice signing. Ms. Megan Belden (Kindergarten teacher) who is presently taking ASL is supporting the club this year. The club consists of beginners and students with more experience. For example, the older students help younger students and often "hellos" are being signed in the hallways as club members see one another. Mrs. Ferrell, who has seven years of signing experience, began learning this language when her niece became hard of hearing. Mrs. Ferrell offers this club for the students because she wants children to understand that sign language is a way to communicate and that everyone should be comfortable around those who sign. She also teaches club members about deaf culture. Mrs. Ferrell believes sign language builds an understanding that makes sense because many of the words imitate their purpose. Also, she believes that signing helps students to broaden social skills and make new friends.

escape to the MEDITERRANEAN

**Join the Mary of Nazareth School community and
enjoy an exciting evening at our 14th Annual
Benefit Auction**

**Saturday, March 28, 2009, 6–11pm
Katie Fitzgerald Center, Darnestown**

Auction begins at 6pm. Dinner served at 8pm

**For donation, advertising or sponsor
opportunities, visit the Development section of
the school's Web site: www.maryofnazareth.org**

Questions?

**Email us at auctions@maryofnazareth.org
or call 301-869-0940, ext. 6**

Northwest High School

by Madeline D'Alessio

NWXC exceeded their academic goal. Over 25% of the Cross Country team earned straight A's first semester during their running season. The athletic season was pretty impressive too. The Girls team came in 2nd in the state. The Boys team earned 3rd in the state.

Hillary Seigall participated in the 4A Maryland State Cross Country Championships at Hereford High School on November 8, 2008. She placed 72nd overall in the state. In addition, Hillary is on the honor roll for the fall semester.

Anna Mariani, a freshman, has participated in four Debate Team competitions since joining in the fall. She won her first debate in December.

Jake Fakler, a freshman, played for the JV football team (the team ended the season with a 5-4 record), and is now playing for the JV basketball team.

The Jaguar Award goes to the student-athlete who best represents his/her program on and off the field. Fall Jaguar Award winners from Darnestown: Girls Tennis – Stefanie Zaner, Boys Cross Country – Nick Gummo, and Girls Cross Country – Anna D'Alessio.

Swim & Dive Team came in first in Division III and will be moving up a division next year. The swim team includes Anna D'Alessio and Bob Norr (captains), Chelsea Hoggle, Rita Donson, Bobby Donson, Andrew Haberman, Lily Doerfler, Hannah Spongberg. Divers are Kyle Neumann, Bobby Waffle, and Brenna Haberman.

The NW Poms came in first in their division. They have performed so well they will be moving up a division next year.

Remi Jeffrey-Coker is a NW Varsity cheerleader and her All Star cheerleading team, the Maryland Twisters Reign, based in Glen Burnie won first place at a national competition, earning them an all expense paid trip to compete at the Worlds Cheerleading Championships at The Wide World of Sports Complex of Disney World in April.

Marching Band had its most successful year in the history of the school! Darnestown Musicians include Drum Major - Derek Paul as well as Andrew Haberman, Amanda Shapiro, Catherine Paul, Nicole Haberman, and, Cody Hobelmann

Sean Gordon was invited to participate in this year's National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) Youth Orchestra Concert. The NSO hosts the event annually, and this was

Sean's second year to be invited. This performance featured some of the greater Washington D.C. area's most promising high school students, performing side-by-side with the NSO musicians. This free concert was held in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, as a Millennium Stage presentation in February.

Seniors who participate in the Ulysses Signature Program presented their research in January. Darnestown projects include: Anna D'Alessio – Title IX and Its Effect on Athletes and Coaches; Edward A. Krasniewski – A Study of 20th Century Latin American Militarism; Alex Pyser – A Bite for Success: Nutrition for the Student Athlete; and Amanda Shapiro – Creating Mind Slaves.

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

Ridgeview Middle School

by Holly Parker

After enjoying the winter holidays, things are back to a busy pace at Ridgeview Middle School. Students, staff, and parents have gotten right back to work to help make the second part of the school year a great success!

In December, Ridgeview was recognized with a GREAT award by the City of Gaithersburg. The GREAT award, which stands for Gaithersburg Recognizing Educational Achievement Today, was created to honor best practices in Gaithersburg area schools. The Ridgeview Boutique was organized by Debra Hogan and raised over \$800 to benefit Ridgeview families in need during the holidays. Deb spent many hours working to put this event together and many Ridgeview families donated items and worked on the day of the Boutique. Padres in Accion is a monthly outreach program that is offered in Spanish for parents. The group is exploring topics like Internet safety, parents' role in school, and what to expect in the adolescent years. Ridgeview Spanish teacher, Magdalena Yanes, and MCPS Parent and Community Coordinator, Sylvia Jarquin, are facilitating the group.

Part of the 6th grade class enjoyed a wintry experience at Outdoor Ed in January. However, the second half of the 6th graders were scheduled to go during our week of snow and ice when school was canceled for two days. This group of students will go to Outdoor Ed sometime in the spring.

On February 20th, Ridgeview will hold the second annual Heritage Café in honor of Black History Month. The NAACP council is planning and sponsoring this event. This is a celebration with the Ridgeview family that includes great food, music, cultural presentations

and performances from talented students. The theme of the celebration this year is "Dreams are Real!"

March will be a busy month at Ridgeview with MSA testing. Dr. Levine will hold a principal's coffee following the PTSA meeting on Tuesday, March 10th. The PTSA is celebrating the end of testing with a fun Family Game Night on Friday, March 27th. Come join in the fun!

Holly Parker can be reached at Cobbparker@aol.com.

Seneca Academy/The Circle School

by Brooke Carroll

Life is humming along at Seneca Academy/The Circle School! We have had 3 very well-attended Open Houses and many tours these past few months. Our enrollment looks strong even in this tight economy. We invite any residents who might be interested in our school to call us at 301-869-3728 and schedule a visit.

I want to highlight our music program this month. For a small school we are making a big sound! Our music teacher, Asya Mirvis, teaches 4 year olds up through 8th graders music, movement, rhythm, music history and theory. They sing in a variety of languages and play an assortment of accompanying instruments. Our Winter Concert, held in late February at the Christian Life Center featured each class singing a selection of songs. This highly anticipated event was a delight to the family and friends who were in the audience.

The Winter Concert also highlighted our amazing Seneca Fox Band and Seneca Fox Choir. Our 12 student band began last year with students in 5th through 8th grades and already has developed a wonderful sound. They play contemporary music and school band classics. Our 19 student choir includes students in 1st through 8th grade and sings show tunes, international music and classic songs. Both groups have several performances under their belts. They performed at the Giant supermarket grand reopening in September, at our Barnes and Noble Family Fun night in December, for the school holiday sing in December, and most recently at our Winter Concert. Also the choir sang for residents at Asbury Methodist Retirement community and both groups are also looking forward to performing and competing against other school bands and choirs at Hershey Park in May.

We believe that the arts, including the performing arts, are a valuable part of a student's education. Our musicians learn and practice valuable skills as they work together as a group, learn a new language (music notation), practice call and response, and perform in

front of an audience. We invite you to come hear our joyful noise!

Brooke Carroll can be reached at 301-869-3728.

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Susie Gooch and Michelle Wentz

Thomas Jefferson Prep School, or TJP, as we like to call ourselves, is enjoying our second year here in Darnestown. TJP students have had a full plate so far this year. Our students have been active learners in all subjects at all class levels. The older students have been writing, editing and publishing the "TJP OWL" our student newspaper, and conducting experiments and dissections in science class. 2nd and 3rd grades journeyed to the Discovery Theatre in Washington DC to participate in "Catch the Beat" about the music of Puerto Rico, then had lunch at California Tortilla to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The entire student body participated in a spelling bee in union with Score! Learning programs and a first grade student won the grand prize! TJP students collected canned goods for our community service project at Thanksgiving and enjoyed trick or treating at Safeway for Halloween.

Many fun and interesting activities are scheduled for 2009 at TJP. First, second and third grades will be taking in a show at the Kennedy Center next month. 2nd, 3rd and 4th will be going to the Frederick Douglas Home in honour of Black History month, while our middle school students practice and play lead roles in the school spring production of "Annie". As part of the Darnestown community we are especially looking forward to our Spring Mayfair – a whole family and community event! This will be held on the school grounds on May 9th from 9am to 3pm. There will be food, games, arts and crafts, booths and vendors of all kinds. (For those interested in vending at the fair or running a booth, please call Michelle Wentz at 301-330-7550).

**Save the date for
TJP Community May Fair**
All Darnestown families are welcome.
Saturday, May 9th, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
Arts/crafts, music, food, games...
Fun for the whole family.

TJP is looking forward to adding 8th grade to our school for the 2009-2010 school year and beyond. This will fulfill our dream of being a non-denominational, affordable elementary through middle school and an active part of the Darnestown community. We aim for individual academic mastery and a distinctive educational, technological, and social environment for our students.

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

by David Hardy

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) has started getting ready to open for 2009 and the Club is better than ever! Of course, what makes DSRC such a special place is its diverse membership, its volunteers, family-friendly nature and social events for all ages.

The Club's six fully lit tennis courts are looking good and ready for warm weather! We have a full tennis schedule this season run by our professionals with clinics, teams and social events for all ages. The popular Women's Tennis program meets on Tuesday nights and the Men's Tennis program get together on Wednesday evenings. Several "Adult Socials" are already on the calendar of events (www.dsclub.org). Our new windscreens add a great look to our courts and ensure our members a great playing experience. With 6 courts to choose from you can almost always get a court without a wait! Our courts are open to our members until 10pm and 12 months out of the year, for no extra charge.

DSRC has undertaken a number of improvements in the past 3 seasons including renovating our snack bar, enlarging our pool deck and adding new, large, "funbrellas" for that much needed shade in the hot summer. All of these improvements make DSRC the beautiful club that it is. With our 16 acres of land set in the woods it is the perfect club for you and your family to belong to. Our recent additions and renovations make it one of the most updated pools in Montgomery County. All of this plus, the fact that we have a limited membership number, guarantee that when you come to the pool you will not only have a great environment for you and your family to relax but you will not be overwhelmed by crowds.

Our swim team remains in the upper echelon of the Montgomery County Swim League and will be competing in Division E this year. We have hired a new swim coach, Mark Schoenfelder, who will be leading our team into a new era of success. Mark joins us from the Curl Burke Swim Club where he has coached athletes all the way up to Olympic caliber for many years. Mark will also be leading our group swim lesson program for our younger swimmers who are not quite ready for the team. Swim and tennis team registration will take place in May with events scheduled to begin in June.

If you are new to the Darnestown area and interested in DSRC or have a friend or neighbor that you would like to see at the pool or on the courts this summer, our waiting list to join is as short as ever. Contact the DSRC membership director, Jeannie Tucker, via email at Jeannietucker@aol.com today.

We are also in the process of hiring employees for the 2009 season. We are looking for teenagers aged 14 years old and above who are responsible individuals and are looking for part- to full-time employment. You do not need to be a member of DSRC in order to work for at the club. We have multiple open positions. Please visit www.dsclub.com and click on the 'employment opportunities' tab.

New items are added to the Club's schedule almost every week. Our social schedule and other important announcements as well as contact information for Board members and management are all available on our Web site: www.dsclub.com. See you all this summer!!!



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!

Brunch, anyone?

Warm weather just lends itself to casual patio entertaining, especially when the menu includes easy make-ahead dishes like these... **Darne-good? You're Darne-right they are!**

Salmon Zucchini Quiche

- 1 (8-ounce) can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 ½ cups coarsely shredded zucchini
- ½ cup chopped onion
- 3 eggs, slightly beaten
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ¼ teaspoon sweet basil
- ½ teaspoon black pepper
- 1 (6 ½-ounce) can salmon, drained and flaked

1. Separate dough into eight triangles.
2. Place in ungreased 8- or 9-inch pie pan.
3. Press over bottom and sides, forming a crust.
4. In large frying pan, combine oil, zucchini and onion.
5. Cook and stir until vegetables are tender.
6. Remove from heat.
7. In medium bowl, combine eggs, Parmesan cheese, basil and pepper.
8. Stir into zucchini mixture.
9. Fold in flaked salmon.
10. Pour filling into pie crust.
11. Bake for 25–30 minutes until crust is a deep golden brown and knife inserted in center comes out clean.
12. Cool for 5 minutes before serving.

Olga Sorensen

Temperature: 375 degrees
Time: 25–30 minutes
Yield: 6 servings

Huevos Rancheros with Hard Boiled Eggs

Sauce

- ½ cup chopped onion
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 (16-ounce) can tomatoes, diced
- ¼–½ cup diced green chilies
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 2 chicken bouillon cubes
- ½ cup water

1. Cook onion in oil until soft.
2. Stir in tomatoes (including liquid), chilies, chili powder and salt.
3. Dissolve bouillon cube in ½ cup water and add to sauce.

4. Bring to a boil, reduce heat, simmer for 5 minutes.
5. Remove sauce from heat.

Layers

- 6 hard boiled eggs, sliced
- 1 ½ cups corn chips
- 1 ½ cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Additional corn chips, for garnish

1. Set aside one egg for garnish.
2. In a 1-quart baking dish, layer half the sauce, half the corn chips, and half of the eggs and cheese.
3. Repeat layers ending with cheese.
4. Bake for 20 minutes or until cheese is melted and mixture is thoroughly heated.
5. Garnish with reserved egg slices and corn chips.

Jean Bethke

Temperature: 355 degrees
Time: 25 minutes
Yield: 4 servings

Mandarin Orange Salad

Salad

- 1 head iceberg lettuce, torn into pieces
- 1 head Bibb or Romaine lettuce, torn into pieces
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings
- 1 (8-ounce) can Mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 (2.5 ounce) package sliced almonds, toasted

Sweet-and-Sour Dressing

- 1 cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup tarragon vinegar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon tarragon leaves
- ½ tablespoon Dijon mustard
- ½ tablespoon salt
- ⅛ teaspoon white pepper

1. Combine salad ingredients in a large bowl.
2. Combine dressing ingredients in blender and blend for 30 seconds.
3. Toss salad with sweet-and-sour dressing just before serving.

Jennifer Salandi

Yield: 4–6 servings

Purchase a Darne-Good Cookbook today... Good for you. Good for the DCA.

Still just \$15 each (only \$14 when ordering 6 or more)

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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.

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 on Page 2 of *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:

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 Colgaty, Principal (301-840-7157)

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P. O. Box 3574
Darnestown, MD 20885
Jeannie Tucker, Membership (Jeannietucker@aol.com)

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 Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20886
301-869-7699

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Jerome Lynch, 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, Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-777-0200

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Road, Germantown, MD 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

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100 Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

dca@darnestowncivic.org

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!

