



Volume 46, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2010

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News and Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

The DCA board has been and will be busy with the following items in 2010:

- Working with police and residents about crime
- Assisting MNCPPC with our Heritage Park plans
- Tracking the status of the Belward Farm/Johns Hopkins development
- Coordinating a forest "preserve" with DNR
- Attending Town Hall and other county meetings
- Monitoring property development
- Reporting power and phone problems
- Recording 2010 membership contributions

Crime in Darnestown has unfortunately increased during the past year. Several of our residents have been burglarized and we are seeking your help with preventing, reporting and assisting with this problem. Kevin Keegan has written an article in this issue of The Little Acorn. Please take the time to read it and be sensitive to any activity that seems out of place in your neighborhood. Be neighborly. If you know/see that someone in your neighborhood is out of town; pick up their paper, hold their mail and drive up their driveway if there is fresh snow. These thieves are bold and know the signs when a homeowner is away. Be extra vigilant. Even the smallest thing, such as a car description, could break the case wide open. Please know that the DCA is actively working

with police and residents to help stop/catch these criminals. A representative of the police department will speak at our next Town Meeting (March 18th) about the recent crimes in Darnestown. Additionally, we have compiled a list of members' email addresses to disseminate information relative to crime activity. Become a member today. Give us your email address and we will keep you apprised of crime activity and other important information. (Cont'd. p.3)

**Next
DCA Town Meeting**
Thursday, March 18th
7:30 p.m.
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Attention!
Babysitters, mother's helpers, pet/house
sitters, music instructors, and notaries...
Referral list updates next issue. See p.2

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- D E A D L I N E -

All items for inclusion in the next issue of The Little Acorn are due to the Editor no later than May 1, 2010

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!

UPDATE REMINDER!!

The following referral lists 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

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Darnestown Heritage Park:	Chris Collins, Scott Mostrom
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Library:	Elizabeth Cookson
Master Plan:	Gerry Foley
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Parliamentarian:	Bruce Deppa
Safety:	Alan Noznesky, Kevin Keegan
Social:	Lisa Patterson-Troiike
Softball:	Dave Bivans
Opinion Survey:	Brian McCollom
Utility Reliability:	Art Slesinger
Welcome:	Lara Wibeto
Wildlife:	Bruce Deppa
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-Troiike (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
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319

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



Notes from the President

(Cont'd from p.1)

Thanks to all who have sent in dues for 2010. For those of you who have yet to join the DCA, our membership application can be found on the back cover of this issue of *The Little Acorn*.

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

We are getting to work on the 2010 edition of the Darnestown Directory so this is a last call! Please forward any changes or neighborhood news to me at sarahscherer@comcast.net or 240-683-8533.

In addition, now is your big chance to feature your business in the Directory and help support the DCA at the same time – through a Directory advertisement! To check on availability and our GREAT rates call or email me. Thank you for your support!

Please welcome our new neighbors to Darnestown!

Steve & Alison Boynton
12912 Buckeye Dr.
301-355-8035

Chris & Karrie Cerone
15110 Rollinmead Dr.
301-977-2356

Membership Committee

by Jean Jurgena

A list of 800 Darnestown residents who have paid their dues for the 2010 year is listed in the back of this issue of *The Little Acorn*. The DCA Board voted to change the dues year end to December this year so the next dues notice will not be mailed until late 2010. A membership form found on the back cover of this issue can still be used to pay your dues for the year 2010 if your name does not appear on the list (see page 20). If you believe your payment for 2010 has been made and you are not on this list, please contact me or anyone on the board and we will be happy to check it out.

Returning this form with any changes enables DCA to keep our database accurate and up to date. A new Directory will be printed this spring and the database is the primary source of information for the directory. Your dues help to cover the printing and mailing costs of the Directory. DCA recently sent out mass e-mails concerning important information regarding Darnestown. Your e-mail addresses are not printed in the directory or shared in anyway. If you do not wish to receive mass e-mails from DCA, do not include your e-mail address on the membership form.

Contact Jean Jurgena, Membership Chairman, at jmurgena@hotmail.com or 301-840-1187.

Welcome Committee

by Lara Wibeto

It is my pleasure to welcome our newest Darnestown families. I understand how hectic moving into a new home can be. Welcome to this beautiful, peaceful community. My goal as Darnestown Welcome Committee Chairperson is to share what I have learned about our area and Montgomery County with you as well as to deliver a welcome basket.

What will you find in your Welcome Basket? Inside your basket you will find some items that I thought may be useful to you such as local area information. You will likely find a scented candle and/or food related item. Some area businesses are offering discount cards or ads for services that can be found in your basket. Mr. Sasha Nowrouzi, owner of My Bloom Florist and Landscaping, has continued his commitment of discounted lawn cutting and floral services. Thank you very much to Mr. Nowrouzi for his generosity. If any local business owner would like to help welcome our new Darnestown residents, please contact me.

I appreciate your kindness and pleasant conversations at each visit. Everyone at the Darnestown Civic Association welcomes you and looks forward to seeing you at the next town meeting and DCA event.

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

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

The DCA Hoedown was attended by approximately 100 participants this year and went off without a hitch! It was a misty rainy night, but that didn't stop our fun-loving folks. Smokey Glen Farm put out a fabulous buffet with grilled chicken and ribs with all the trimmings and their famous smoked pies for dessert. Mac McCall was on top of his game, teaching us "two left foot students" the ways of square dancing. Believe it or not, we got pretty good by the end of the night. The rain cooperated and we were able to get in some of those unforgettable hay rides. There's nothing like sitting on hay, listening to the engine, smelling tractor fumes and wet straw on a starry night. I've already booked this year's Hoedown—yes, it does have to be booked this far in advance—for Friday, October 15th. Be there or be square!





Our DCA Annual Holiday Tree lighting was a great success! Special thanks goes out to the Beautz family for all their help in decorating the tree, supplying the goodies and tending the fire pit. There were plenty of homemade cookies and hot chocolate for everyone. As if right on cue, Santa emerged from the darkness with his bag of candy canes just as the enormous evergreen lit up. How does he find the time to fit us in his busy schedule? Thanks Santa, we hope to see you next year. The night was extra special with a Girl Scout troop, lead by Korin Wilson, caroling the holiday classics. We hope they will join us each year.



2009 Holiday Tree Lighting

Village Committee

by Steve Ellis

Alpha House Senior Housing Facility

The undeveloped 8-acre parcel on the east side of Seneca Road in the Village is owned by the Metropolitan Washington Orthodox Senior Housing (MWOSH) organization. They received a special exception for a 35-unit senior housing facility, Alpha House, in early 2006. The land is zoned RE-2 or residential estate – 2 acres. The DCA and MWOSH met numerous times to construct an advantageous agreement for both parties. For Darnestown, the MWOSH organization agreed to sell (at a reasonable price) a minimum of 20,000 sq. ft. of septic area for use by any future restaurant that, hopefully someday, will be built adjacent to the MWOSH property and south of the gas station. This additional septic capacity should accommodate a 100-seat restaurant. Ownership of the land above the septic easement area remains with MWOSH.

A special exception is valid for 3 years, but if it is not acted upon within that period the SE expires. The applicant can petition for a one year extension. An

extension was granted by the county last year. MWOSH is again applying for another one year extension of their special exception. New storm water management rules have been implemented since the original SE was approved. Thus, changes will have to be made to their plan.

The county is also taking a second look at the tree preservation requirements. Art Lafionatis, project manager for Alpha House, informs us that a contractor and a lender have been chosen, and the details are being worked out. If all goes relatively smoothly, the groundbreaking will commence in mid to late summer. One of the requirements is the construction of a sidewalk along the entire frontage of Seneca Road. The DCA's view is that Alpha House will be an attractive and meaningful facility that will enhance our community's Village area.

The DCA will not need to be involved in this process unless someone or a group at Park and Planning or other county agency requires any major change to the site plan that would be (in our view with concurrence by MWOSH) unwarranted and unnecessarily costly and/or time consuming.

Suntrust Bank

The opening date of the new branch in Darnestown has not been determined at this time. According to a conversation with the regional sales and marketing department of Suntrust, they are coming but their policy is to not even estimate a proximate period until a date is certain.

Franklin Press

The Surrey and the DCA have a new neighbor! The Franklin Press has moved from Wisteria Dr. in Germantown to a 1,200 sq. ft. ground floor location in our new building. Art and Lucille DeGraba Brown own this family business. In fact, they tell us that the Franklin Press was founded in 1822 by Scott Duvall, and the Browns are the fifth family to own the business. It is the second oldest continuously family-owned print shop in Maryland. They offer in house graphic design, full color digital printing, off-set printing and can make booklets, newsletters and programs.

Contact Steve Ellis by email at smre45@yahoo.com.

Darnestown Is Not Immune To Crime

by Kevin Keegan

Darnestown has experienced an increase in crime over the past few months that has caused many of us to be concerned, as well as attracted some media attention. One



area of particular concern is burglaries. Hopefully by the time this article is published, the burglary problem will have been resolved. In the past several months burglaries have seen an increase due in part to a rash of daytime burglaries occurring in the Potomac and Darnestown communities. Unoccupied homes have been entered by force and small valuable items such as cash, jewelry and gold have been taken. Approximately five or six of these related burglaries have occurred on the Rockville Police Station side in Darnestown with many more having occurred in the Potomac area. As of this writing, no injuries have been reported. I bring this matter to your attention not to disturb you, but to provide you with information regarding a serious concern to all of us in this community. Hopefully, the sharing of this information is powerful, and we can do some things that will make our properties less of a target and strengthen our partnership with the Montgomery County Police to resolve this and other crime issues. We need to be the eyes and ears of our community to make it a safer place to live.

The recent burglaries have been committed mostly during the daytime hours; it is suspected in this case and studies suggest that burglars routinely ring door bells to confirm residents absence. If the door happens to get answered, the burglar may have a readymade reason or excuse for being at the door, such as selling a product, service, or that their vehicle broke down. If the door is not answered, and the home appears to be absent of people, dogs and alarm systems, then the burglar proceeds with finding a way to enter the home and steal high-end items.

The Montgomery County Police have issued a press release on this issue subsequent to it being reported on NBC News. For your information, I have provided that press release below. At this time, the Montgomery County Police have no helpful descriptions to release that they would be confident may not mislead the public. In addition to the suggestions in the press release, I have compiled a list of safety tips to help keep your property, family, and community safe.

Darnestown is provided police service by three different Montgomery County Police Stations, the 1st District in Rockville, 5th District in Germantown, and the 6th District in Gaithersburg. Since most of the burglaries in Darnestown have occurred on the Rockville side, the 1st Police District has agreed to have a representative present at Darnestown's next Town Hall meeting on Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. A segment of

this meeting will be dedicated to discussing crime in Darnestown and allow questions within that time period.

Montgomery County Police Press Release

Police Continue to Seek Public's Help to Identify Suspect(s) for Daytime Burglaries in Potomac

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police 1st District Investigative Section continue to investigate recent daytime residential burglaries that have occurred in the Potomac and Darnestown areas.

Since November 18 of last year, there have been residential burglaries in several Potomac and Darnestown neighborhoods that are believed to be related. Most of the burglaries have occurred on weekdays during the daylight hours. In all of the burglaries, force was used to gain entry into the house either through a window or a door. In each burglary, jewelry has been the target of the suspect(s).

Residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows and make sure that their garage doors are secure when they are not at home. Residents are also asked to notify their neighbors, and encouraged to have a caretaker stop by the house when they are away for extended periods of time. In addition, residents are encouraged to use timers on their lights, radios, and televisions, and to hold their mail and news subscriptions while they are away. We ask that all residents report any and all alarm calls immediately when alerted of alarm activations at their residence. Officers will immediately be dispatched to check the residence.

Residents should promptly report suspicious activity, vehicles, and individuals to the police by calling the non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. A detailed description of the suspicious person or vehicle is extremely helpful to the responding officers. Descriptors may include race, gender, clothing-type, and hair color. Obtaining the vehicle's color, make, model, tag number, and direction of travel will also assist responding officers.

Anyone who may have information about these residential burglaries and/or the involved suspect(s) is asked to call the 1st District Investigative Section at 240-773-6084.

Additional Burglary Prevention Safety Tips

Keep your home, family and neighbors safe by following some helpful burglary prevention tips. Don't make it easy for a burglar; it is referred to as target hardening.



Check Your Locks

- Make sure every external door has a strong, well-installed dead bolt lock—door knob locks alone are not enough—AND USE THEM.

Check Your Doors

- If your doors don't fit tightly in their frames, have them adjusted.
- If door knobs are loosened, tighten screws and think about installing metal stripping around your locking mechanism.
- Make sure all locks are secure and, if you have an alarm system, remember to activate it while home and prior to leaving. Never disregard an alarm that's been tripped.

When Leaving Your Home or Going on Vacation

- Increase what is referred to as occupancy indicators. When it comes to your home, the secret is to make it appear as though you never left.
- Keep shades and blinds in their normal position.
- Stop mail and news paper delivery, or ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- Put several household lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- Arrange to have grass mowed or snow shoveled when you are gone.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway intermittently.

Check the Outside

Take a look at your home from the outside, and keep in mind the following tips to help make your home as safe as it can be:

- Burglars hate bright lights. Install outside lights and keep them on at night. Motion-detector lights can be particularly effective.
- If you have security cameras, use them and record data if possible.
- Prune shrubbery so it doesn't hide windows or doors. Cut back tree limbs that a burglar could use to climb to an upper-level window.

- Always keep your garage door closed and locked when not in use. Open garages doors are inviting.
- Keep ladders that could be used by burglars locked or otherwise inaccessible.

Burglars Can Do More Than Just Steal

While most burglars prefer to strike when no one is home, intruders can commit other crimes such as robbery or assault if they are surprised by someone entering the home.

- If something looks questionable – an unknown vehicle parked nearby, a slit screen, a broken window or an open door – do not go in. Call the police from a cell phone, business or a public phone (911).
- At night, if you think you hear someone breaking in, leave safely if you can, then call the police (911). If you can't leave, lock yourself in a room with a phone and call the police.

A question regarding how to easily identify employees of utility companies came up recently. According to a PEPCO representative, Pepco meter readers are required to wear a bright orange shirt and brown pants with a PEPCO picture identification on them. Also, your PEPCO bill will indicate to within a day, when the meter reader will be coming to your home.

For additional safety tips and crime prevention information such as having a Home Security Survey performed or Operation Identification (marking personal property) contact the Montgomery County Police web site through: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact any of the following agencies/organizations for more information:

1st District	240-773-6070
1451 Seven Locks Road	
Rockville, MD 20854	
5th District	240-773-6200
20000 Aircraft Drive	
Germantown, MD 20874	
6th District	240-773-5700
45 West Watkins Mill Road	
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878	
Gaithersburg Police	301-258-6400
Rockville City Police	301-309-3100
M-NCPP (Park Police)	301-949-3010
Maryland State Police (Rockville)	301-424-2101
Montgomery. Co. Sheriff's Office	240-777-7000



Gaithersburg West Master Plan

by Art Slesinger and Bob Thompson

The County Council has postponed any action on the proposed massive expansion of the area around the Belward Farm and the nearby hospital. The current proposal calls for 20 million square feet of mixed used space and an expected 40,000 additional workers. This is essentially equivalent to the last 20 years of growth in Montgomery County. We will let the DCA members know what the final plan looks like and when the council is about to vote on the proposal. Our concern is that this growth will overwhelm road capacity and cause grid lock. As it is, the path of the proposed CCT line, see below, and the needed improvements in roads will cause the taking of so much private property that the quality of life for all nearby communities will suffer. Succinctly put, the County Council is willing to sacrifice the quality of life around the proposed Life Science Center to satisfy the desired growth in tax base for most of the county.

The County Council did take action in two significant areas. First, the Council recommended that Corridor Cities Transit plan should be executed as a \$1 billion light rail system. This conflicted with Parks and Planning recommendation that the CCT be a dedicated bus route costing half as much. The issue goes beyond cost. A dedicated bus route allows buses that are going down your street to easily move passengers to a common mass transit point. With rail service, that option does not exist, and you either walk to the rail station or take a separate short haul bus. The other action taken by the Council was to approve a new 2009–11 Growth Policy which rejected the County Planning Board suggestions. One part would have allowed greater school crowding before developers had to pay for local school improvements. A suggestion to allow greater traffic congestion near mass transit hubs before mandating mitigation was also rejected.

Contact Art Slesinger at art.slesinger@comcast.net or Bob Thompson at bob.thompson@comcast.net.

Sign Thieves

by Steve Ellis

The DCA puts out temporary signs along our roadways to inform people of various community events such as the Hoedown, the quarterly town meetings and the tree lighting. From time to time throughout the years some of these signs go missing. This past December was notable in that we had 3 town meeting signs including one at Seneca and Esworthy, and a freshly printed tree lighting sign stolen. Our signs are usually 2x2 or 2x1.5

feet and cost \$40–\$60. The sign replacement necessitates going through the process of composing, ordering, picking up and paying for new signs. As you can understand, this becomes a costly and time-consuming task.

At first thought the delinquent types who destroy mailboxes are prime suspects, and this is likely true in some instances. If you find a sign around your house, please bring it to the office and leave it by the door. However, there is good reason to believe that the recent thefts were done by the State Highway right-of-way “illegal” sign enforcers. After talking (Jan.29) with Greg Edwards, supervisor at the Gaithersburg SHA maintenance facility, it’s probable that a diligent crew of state employees picked them up on a week day. What do they do with these signs? Well, if they are not substantial metal signs, they toss them away.

Darnestown road has a 120’ right-of-way. Certainly, it is understandable that when “illegal” signs are left in the right-of-way for an extended period, they do become a nuisance and should be removed. The Welcome to Darnestown sign past Riffle Ford was placed out of the right-of-way on the church property by permission. This was negotiated in 2001 between the Formosan Evangelical Church and Bruce Deppa.

So, we will do better in placing them farther from the road where possible, and some may even locate on someone’s property. The hope is that they will be useful for a long time.

Is it too much to ask that the DCA should be free to use our signs for the brief amount of time that they are needed, and not be penalized by government employees?

Along Darnestown Road’s 120 foot right-of-way from Riffle Ford Rd. to Seneca Road, there are an astonishing 111 state and county highway legal posts (some with multiple signs). Is it conceivable that our temporary community notifications could truly *interfere with, *detract from or *diminish the scenic aspect of these many utilitarian legal signs? Perhaps, we can persuade or plead that the SHA maintenance crews save our signs for retrieval or just not take them.

Darnestown Civic Association Forest and Field Restoration Project – 2010

by Steve Ellis

The following is a letter sent by the DCA to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources on February 4, 2010.



The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA), which has been incorporated since 1967, is bounded on the north and west by the Seneca State Park. Our community is fortunate to have such a large natural area nearby. We are very interested in the health and well-being of “our” parkland and the Great Seneca Creek. For many years our members have been on the citizen advisory boards dealing with the operations and expansion of the WSSC Seneca Wastewater Treatment Facility. The DCA has been particularly concerned with the impact of the effluent into the Creek.

You may recall our initiative along with the Agricultural community to establish the Deer Bow Hunt season within the Park adjacent to Darnestown. We are fully aware of the detrimental effects that the over-population of deer and many of the non-native invasive plants are having on our nearby natural areas.

Proposal for a forest restoration project

The DCA is requesting that the Maryland Department of Natural Resources allow our community to build 3 exclosures totaling approximately one acre of land on our side of the Seneca Creek State Park for the purpose of a forest restoration demonstration. We have allotted an initial \$5,000 for the fencing materials, and construction and installation would be provided using community volunteers. The DCA will fence, maintain and monitor this space for a period of no less than 5 years and hopefully until an “oasis” is no longer necessary. The DCA will, during the term of this agreement, maintain the fence and regularly remove all invasive species using recommended disposal procedures. The DCA is also willing to sign an agreement stipulating our responsibility for removal of the fencing if the project loses interest and/or is no longer viable.

Within a period of perhaps 5 years the protected ecosystems will hopefully demonstrate to all how a natural Piedmont forest and field develops without the destruction caused by the overpopulation of deer and invasive plant species. It is also anticipated that various plant species will survive at least in these exclosures, and hopefully spread by seed or other means to other areas. As the project begins to achieve its objective, DCA will photograph and advertise to the broader community the location and nature of the preserves.

Locations need to be determined

We will be consulting with natural area specialists to aid in determining locations that provide the best plant diversity that we can access without too much difficulty.

We will, of course, consult with Park personnel on these locations.

We have discussed this proposal with Park manager Kim Lloyd and wildlife and heritage specialist Kerrie Kyde. We are also in contact with persons familiar with the Catoctin Mountain Park exclosures that will help guide us in fence construction. Our hope is to have at least one exclosure built before early summer.

Thank you for your consideration, [signed Lisa Patterson-Troike, President, and Steven Ellis, Project Coordinator].

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio

Hannah Youngblut was commissioned a 2Lt in the U.S. Army on December 12 upon her graduation from Tulane University in New Orleans. She is awaiting her initial training assignment date. Hannah's brother, 1Lt Simon Youngblut, assigned to the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg NC, administered the oath of office to her.

Pvt Ryan Bentley graduated from Marine Boot Camp on Jan. 8th. He will be attending Combat Training in North Carolina for the next month and then on to Aviation training in Florida.

If you would like future columns to include your child, spouse or self, please contact Madeline D'Alessio at dalessio@comcast.net.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Sandy Hribar

As I sit down to “think garden thoughts” it is cold and blustery outside with the threat (or hope) of snow on the way. Yesterday was warm and sunny and it would have been a great day to clean up some of the winter debris that the winds have strewn all around the yard and are collecting in the planting beds. But instead, I found myself immersed in a new gardening book that celebrates the use of more color in the garden; it challenged me to daydream beyond my standard palette. I'll share some of my lessons learned.

Start with one “theme” color that most appeals to you and visualize how that color can move through your garden space. Add harmonious colors on the warm and cool sides of that theme color. For depth and interest, add a contrast color pleasing to your eye. Then, look to



the green that works best with your choices for the backdrop of foliage.

Once you have expanded your theme color into a vibrant palette, consider the other elements that introduce color. Garden art adds through sculpture, ceramics, and even painted pots and urns. Yesteryear's planters can be just a coat of paint away from tomorrow's garden art! Think to include the trees, foliage, and stem and stalk colors as well as the flowers, working in tandem with the hardscaping elements such as patios, walkways, walls, fences, water features and the like. Outdoor furniture and your home's exterior play important roles as well.

How will the colors of your garden progress with the seasons? Will your plantings also attract the birds and butterflies that bring not only life but their own color contributions to the garden?

All in all, for novice and experienced gardeners alike, now is a great time to escape the winter drab by planning to expand your palette of not only spring's colors but also those for summer and fall – why not also consider adding plantings with winter color interest, say in colorful bark or bright berries so that next winter's garden view has more vitality?

Ah, daydreaming in color!

Darne Bloomers Looking for New Members

We are very happy to have welcomed some new members this year, but we are still looking to welcome more new members who would like to meet others in our community with a shared interest in gardening and learning about new practices and resources – and those who enjoy having fun doing so! We meet at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church on the second Thursday of each month from September through May from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. If you are interested, or think you may be interested, please contact me, Sandy Hribar, at 301-258-5249 so I can welcome you to come to one of our meetings and see for yourself!

From Our Schools...

The Barnesville School

by Nicole Campbell

The Barnesville School has been focused on Community Service! As part of our Peace Week celebration in January, students prepared poems, posters, and songs related to service. They also presented a slideshow of the many community service activities done throughout the year to support local organizations. The school kicked

off a "Pennies for Peace" campaign, based on the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. In addition, the school is holding a Read-a-thon to raise money for the people of Haiti.

Contact Nicole Campbell at Barnesville School by email at ncampbell@barnesvilleschool.org.

The Butler School

by Loraine Koepenick

Rare is the child who does not enjoy creating with Legos! But participation in the FIRST Lego League (FLL) has taken students at Butler School to a new level of awareness, creativity and discovery. FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology. An international organization founded in 1989, it's mission is "to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders, by engaging them in exciting mentor-based programs that build science, engineering and technology skills, that inspire innovation, and that foster well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership."

The goal of FIRST is not only to inspire kids to be interested in science and engineering but also to promote what they call "Gracious Professionalism". Gracious Professionalism is a way of doing things that encourages quality work, emphasizing the value of others, and respect for individuals and the community. With Gracious Professionalism, fierce competition and mutual gain are not separate notions. Gracious professionals learn and compete with passion, but treat one another with respect and kindness in the process. Knowledge, competition, and empathy are comfortably blended. Gracious Professionalism is part of pursuing a meaningful life, one where integrity and sensitivity are valued.

The FLL has the same kind of activities each year, organized around a particular theme. The team activities are centered around two main activities: Designing, building and programming a robot using LEGO Mindstorms robotics systems to complete specified challenges in a specified environment and researching and developing a report or presentation on a specified theme. Each team is judged in four required categories: Research Project, Robot Design, Teamwork and the Robot Competition.

Butler School's FIRST Lego League team, The Mighty Acorns, was established last year. The theme was climate. The theme this year is transportation safety and efficiency. The assignment was to research transportation and identify a problem related to transportation safety or efficiency and come up with a solution. The team then prepares a presentation. Butler's Mighty Acorns identified



excessive traffic as both an efficiency and safety problem and identified increasing carpooling as their solution.

Based on their research The Mighty Acorns created a fun, theme based, rap song to use as part of their presentation. They won the trophy for Best Research Project at the regional qualifier tournament, which qualified the team to go to the state tournament. This is the first year that Maryland has had qualifier tournaments. The Maryland FLL activities have become so popular they had limit the number of participants.

The Mighty Acorns braved another weekend snowfall and made their way to UMBC to compete among 64 teams. Although they did not bring home another trophy, they were satisfied with their accomplishment and most impressed with the spirit, camaraderie and “gracious professionalism” demonstrated among all the participants. They agreed that this experience was great fun and a valuable experience. They look forward to participating in next year’s competition.

For more information about Butler School or to register online for Butler Camp visit www.butlerschool.org.

Darnestown Elementary School

by Kristen Crook

Darnestown students haven’t let this cold weather stop them from enjoying themselves this winter! Many fun events took place in January and February including Muffins for Moms, Bingo Night, the winter choral and band concert and the Sock Hop.

In February, in response to the earthquake in Haiti, DES students participated in the Maryland Kids Care Campaign - Operation Haiti, a fundraiser to benefit the American Red Cross. Students were encouraged to collect pennies and change to support the relief effort.

Also in February, science was the hot topic! Students started the month with an assembly by the Maryland Science Center, Science Day followed soon after with special presentations in each class and we ended the month with the annual Science Expo, an event that always boasts lots of students showing off their latest science creations.

As part of their study of Colonial times, our 5th grade students are preparing for Darnestown’s Annual Colonial Day scheduled this year for Friday, April 9th. The gym is transformed into a Colonial Village and the children spend the day living in Colonial times. This event is open to the public in the evening and it’s well worth the visit! Then, on May 19 and 20, the 5th graders

will have an overnight trip to Williamsburg to complement their studies of this period.

Upcoming calendar of events is as follows:

March 29 – April 6	Spring Break
Friday, April 9	Colonial Day
Friday, April 30	Donuts for Dads
Friday, May 14	Talent Show at NWHS
Thursday, May 20	Darnestown History Day

Finally, we are excited that the funding for the much-needed expansion of the school has been included in the County Executive's proposed budget. The last hurdle is approval by the County Council in May, so we will keep our fingers crossed!

DES 2003 Reunion

The DES 2003 Reunion will be held on Friday, March 12, 2010 at DES from 7pm-10pm in the cafeteria. Marilyn Donson is organizing the event and can be reached at 301-948-4458 or kdonson@aol.com for any further details.

Contact Kristen Crook by email at kristencrook@msn.com.

Lakelands Park Middle School

by Kathy O’Rourke

It was a tough fight at LPMS on November 20, 2009 but the staff prevailed in our first annual Staff Basketball Night. The gym was packed and the spirit was high as a good number of staff members from LPMS took to the court against Kingsview Middle School. It was a nail bitter to the finish and our wonderful staff made us proud to win the game! Congratulations!

LPMS also celebrated the arts with a beautiful Art Show and an amazing Instrumental and Chorus concert in December. Our school is brimming with artistic talent and it shows in so many ways. Three 6th grade students made the MCPS Middle School Honors Chorus, Zachary Williams (Darnestown) Bridgette Barbour (Darnestown) and Toni Walker will all perform in a concert at Watkins Mill HS on February 24th 2010. Our PTSA sponsored a Coffee House Talent Show in January which featured more of our LPMS talent and was a great success.

Sixth grade students celebrated their success in studying the ancient civilization of Greece with a Greek Day. All 6th grade students dressed in the ancient Greek toga and enjoyed active participation in the Olympics, Greek government and the arts for an entire day. They will soon start focus on 6th Grade Outdoor



Education which is an overnight field trip to study the environment adding to the science curriculum. 7th Grade Students enjoyed their trip to Medieval Times to reinforce concepts learned in class about life in Medieval Europe. This field trip is always a favorite with students.

The 8th Grade is preparing for High School with visits from Northwest High School Counselors. It is time for our students to start thinking about classes for high school and mapping the future. As a parent it can be overwhelming to think about, but the kids are very excited, and so, too, must we be.

Darnestown has successful, motivated, and hard-working kids, and they shine everyday at LPMS!

Email Kathy O'Rourke at burtonbeach@comcast.net.

Northwest High School

by Tracy Callahan

Northwest announced Bob Hampton as its new football coach, giving the longtime assistant his first head coaching position since his 14-year stint at Wootton ended in 1996.

Hampton, 66, had been the defensive coordinator at Sherwood since 2004, when Al Thomas took over the program. Hampton, who is a retired Montgomery County Public Schools teacher, stayed on this season after Thomas retired and helped the Warriors reach the Maryland 4A semifinals. Hampden also worked under Bob Milloy from Good Council as a defensive Coordinator. Hampton commented at a "Meet and Greet," with Northwest Jaguar football Players and Parents that he has been on the staff of 11 State Championship football teams. Darnestown resident and JV Linebacker Simon Michnick said, "After meeting Coach Hampton, I can't wait to get started. He impressed me at the meeting and told us we have a bright future for Jaguar football." Athletic Director Jim Tapley and Principal Lance Dempsey both commented on what a good hire Bob Hampton was for Northwest and their desire to see the program return to one of the State's top teams.

Hampton hopes to hit the ground running, as football will be his "Full Time," profession. He will have an office in the school and football will be his only duty. Hampton will replace Mark Maradei who resigned after one season.

The Northwest Girls Soccer team received the 2009 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Team Academic Award. Only 261 girls high school teams in

the Nation received this award. Several Darnestown girls were on the Fall 2009 team.

Special thanks goes out to Darnestowner Kelly Cameron who is President of the NWHS Boosters Club. Kelly is leading the Boosters with a great charge, while volunteering a great deal of her time. It seems any event that goes on at Northwest, Kelly is in attendance. She has rallied the school with her energy and enthusiasm. Where would Northwest be without her?

Northwest High School Principal Lance Dempsey is getting great reviews in her first year at Northwest. She has changed the attitude of the students, enforcing discipline and respect. She is a hands-on principal who is very accessible to students, and parents alike. Her Sunday night email and phone messages give the news of the "Week Ahead" at Northwest.

Have some news or notes about Northwest? Send them to tracy@jaguarbaseball.net.

Ridgeview Middle School

by Holly Parker, PTSA President

Those of us in the Ridgeview School Community are thrilled that after many years, multiple public meetings, and a great amount of community pleading for help, the Montgomery County Board of Education finally approved the necessary construction funding for Ridgeview Middle School's capital improvements.

The planned improvements include: replacing and updating the existing HVAC mechanical system, relocating the administrative offices to the front of the school, decentralizing the existing locker banks, replacing the existing interior ramp with a staircase, renovating the existing science laboratories, enclosing and acoustically isolating the cafeteria, and upgrading the electrical system, and the technology infrastructure. The school will also be repainted and the flooring replaced during the project.

During the construction period classes will be relocated inside the school and to four portable classrooms located on the school property. We expect the construction to begin this summer and to be completed by August 2012. Much of the work will occur during the summers and from 3-11:00 pm during the school year to minimize any learning disruption for the students.

Many teachers, administrators, parents, and cluster representatives have worked diligently to make this project a reality. We now believe the path is finally set to transform Ridgeview into the kind of learning environment that our children deserve.



Thank you to everyone who has helped along the way. The approval for this project could not have been obtained without your support!

To contact Holly Parker, email cobbparker@aol.com.

Seneca Academy/The Circle School

by Brooke Carroll

Seneca Academy students and their friends are fortunate to have a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities after school and in the summer. Our after-school clubs extend our daily learning in fine arts, music, and physical movement, as well as provide enrichments in other areas. Our clubs are taught by our teachers, parents, and outside experts. For the 2009-2010 school-year, our clubs have included: Sculpture, Drawing, Choir, Broadway Review, Magic, Film Making (using green-screen technology!), Cooking, Hip-Hop Dance, Karate (taught by Kick's Karate instructors), Field Games, and Soccer. In addition, the Seneca Community Fox Band practices here, with students from several area schools participating.

Our clubs provide a wonderful launching pad for our summer camps. This summer we will be running four camps for elementary students: Art & Adventure, Drama & Adventure, Film Making & Adventure and Band & Adventure. All are shaping up to be exciting! In addition, we will also run our ever-popular younger children's Camp Seneca for students aged 4 to rising kindergarteners. Our camps are taught by our own teachers and provide the same nurturing, engaging environment as our school-year programs. Please check us out on our website www.SenecaAcademy.org or call us at 301-869-3728 to find out more how you can experience Seneca Academy's clubs and camps!

Contact Brook Carroll, Head of School, by email at BCarroll@senecaacademy.org.

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Susie Gooch and Michelle Wentz

Here at Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School we are glad to be back from winter break. And it truly was a winter break this year! Did everyone enjoy the snow? TJP students were working and entertaining right up to our break. There was Grandparent's Day, where our grandparents visited TJP to experience a day in our midst. There were games in the classrooms, friendly competition about knowledge that spanned generations and then grand performances in the all purpose room. Each class sang their favorite holiday songs and individual students entertained by playing instruments

or singing. Daishalyn Satcher, a first grader sang a Christmas song in Chinese. Madison Middleton and Bhuvana Pandalai performed festive holiday tunes on their violins. Several others, Hannah Fedorov, Alina Nikitina, Brian Zhu, Gabe Persels and Michael Yeh entertained the crowd with piano solos. Then the entire school performed the original composition "The 12 days of TJP" much to the delight of the audience!

Upon our return, TJP teamed up with Kaplan Educational Services for the Second Annual Spelling Bee, in which 3rd grade Gabriel Balannik placed first for the lower school and 8th grader Michael Yeh placed first in the upper school. Congratulations boys! There will be a Kaplan sponsored Math Bee on February 26th.

Due to the current economic times we have changed our tuition rates. Please visit our website for current information for the upcoming 2010-2011 year. We are also accepting applications for the upcoming school year and school tours can be scheduled by calling the school to set up an appointment. There's more to come before the school year is out!

Contact Susie Gooch or Michelle Wentz at (301) 330-7550 or visit www.tiprep.org for more information.

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

by David Hardy

As February turns to March, longer days and warmer temperatures remind us that Memorial Day is right around the corner. Which means the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) will be opening its doors for the 35th season in the Darnestown community. All winter long we have been working hard to make improvements that include a main pool that is completely refinished with new tiles, new entry coping stones and a new whitewash pool surface. Mosaic fish in the shallow end will add a splash of color to the bottom of the pool.

This season we welcome a new face to the head swim coach position: Kate Ulicny will be joining us from the Germantown Torpedoes. Kate comes to us with many years of experience both as a swimmer and as a swim coach; we are very excited to be welcoming her to our community. The Darnestown Demons will be competing in the 'D' division this year and looks to build on an undefeated 2009 season.

Our tennis season starts shortly with spring daytime, afternoon and evening clinics. Bob Denham returns to DSRC for his 5th season where he oversees the tennis program, including a daytime tennis camp, team



practices as well as private and semi-private instruction. Our unofficial men's and ladies night tennis season will begin when weather permits—typically 50 degrees and higher (Wednesday and Tuesday night respectively). This will continue through the official opening of The Club. Check the DSRC website for our many social tennis events. Our tennis courts remain open to members on a year round basis and members will find new lighting and parking areas for off-season tennis an enjoyable addition to our 6 lighted courts.

Our social director has been working hard to plan our many family as well as adult social events that will be kicked off with our Opening Day party on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 29th. We offer a total of 6 official social events during the course of the season ranging from a “school's out party” for the kids to celebrate the official beginning of summer to our adult crab feast and end of season party. We also offer the reservation of our covered pavilion to our members at no extra charge for use for birthday parties, team sports parties or any other gathering of family and friends you may want to have at the Club.

DSRC keeps its membership capped at 450 families so that our members can enjoy the facility without concern of overcrowding. This year we have a limited number of available memberships so if you or anyone you know are interested in joining please act quickly and contact our Membership Director, Jeannie Tucker at jeannietucker@aol.com or our club manager Dave Hardy at 301.330.1340 or davidhardy27@hotmail.com.

We will be continuing our “refer a friend” program that we started in 2009. Any member who brings in a friend or neighbor as a new member will be receiving a \$100 check from the Club in return for their recommendation.

You can find additional information as well as contact information for DSRC on our website at www.dsclub.com. Have a great spring and we look forward to seeing everyone at the Club Memorial Day weekend!

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

by Reverend Ken Howard

St. Nicholas Church Continues to Grow

St. Nicholas Church continues to grow as it settles in to its new building.

Christmas Eve Services. More than 250 people were in attendance for its three Christmas Eve services—95 at its children's service alone—the first Christmas Eve services in its new space.

Epiphany Concert Begins Concert Series. A great recital by the **h2** saxophone quartet drew more than 90 people and raised nearly \$800 for Haiti disaster relief. We hope this will be the first of many programs in our planned “Concerts for Cause” series, which we hope to host on a quarterly basis for the larger community.

11:00am – Service to Begin in Holy Week. The addition of a late morning service of Holy Eucharist this spring will allow St. Nick's to offer three services which will have common threads, but will have unique qualities that make them appropriately comforting (and appropriately challenging) to people with different needs and interests.

- ***9:00am—Holy Eucharist.*** Casual, slightly less traditional service, especially suited for children and young families (but welcoming to all).
- ***11:00am—Holy Eucharist.*** Informal, more traditional service, for those who like a slightly quieter church experiences (precise time is tentative).
- ***5:00pm—Evening Prayer.*** A somewhat more formal service for those who like to end their weekend/prepare for their work-week with prayer.

Want to learn more about St. Nick's? Come by for a visit... or pay us a virtual visit online:

Church Website: www.SaintNicks.com

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/SaintNicks

Facebook Mobile: m.facebook.com/SaintNicks

Contact Reverend Howard at rector@saintnicks.com.

Writing of Kehilat Shalom's New Torah Has Begun

by Jill Alexander

Congregants and Community Have Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity to Write in Torah

February, 2010, Montgomery Village – Kehilat Shalom has embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity by commissioning the writing of its own brand new Sefer Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament painstakingly inked on parchment and attached to two wooden rollers. Kehilat Shalom celebrated the commencement of its Torah Program, “Mitzvah 613: Elevating our Spirit, Energizing our Congregation,” on Sunday, January 24, 2010 where one family from each of Kehilat Shalom's five decades wrote letters in the Torah with the instruction and support of facilitating scribe, Rabbi Menachem Youlus and under the watchful eye of Kehilat Shalom's own Rabbi Mark Raphael.



Writing a Sefer Torah, according to the great 12th century philosopher and Rabbi, Maimonides, is one of the 613 commandments of the Jewish tradition. Mitzvot (mitzvahs) are the rituals, ethics, and spirituality by which a Jew feels God. In a letter to his Kehilat Shalom congregation and community, Rabbi Raphael explained that “the very last mitzvah in the Torah is to write a Torah scroll. By [writing and] endowing a letter, word, or sentence for yourself, your children, family members, and friends, it is as if you have written your own Torah scroll.... Despite millennia of upheaval, not one of the Torah’s 304,805 letters has [ever] been changed. The words we read in the synagogue today are the same [ones that we have read] throughout our long history.” So, the inking of these letters can connect us to past “simchas” or happy events and loved ones as well as helping to ensure the future of Torah in our community. Rabbi Raphael continued, “It is amazing to realize that you, your children, and your grandchildren will be reading from this [same] scroll for the next 200 years or more.”



Current Kehilat Shalom President, Larry Froehlich, accompanied by his family

Please join Kehilat Shalom over the next nine months for what promises to be a remarkable, educational, and spiritual journey for its entire Upper Montgomery County community, as they write their very own Sefer Torah. Following the January kickoff, Rabbi Youslus will visit monthly providing educational programs and Torah writing opportunities for congregants, families and friends in the community. Rabbi Raphael also said in his letter that “[t]hrough these programs we will have the opportunity to experience the holiness of our sacred scroll. Powerfully, in [Kehilat Shalom’s] new Torah, thousands of letters will be outlined, but not filled in. We will be [allowing]... individuals and families to spend [time] with Rabbi Youslus to actually fill in [those] letter[s].”

A very wide variety of other events and programs is planned – ranging from understanding more about the

Torah to learning calligraphy and even including a treasure hunt for preschoolers. Events open to the public that have been planned include:

March 3: Preschool Treasure Hunt, “The Mystery of Mr. Munchy’s Footprints”

March 21: Drawing God’s Lines: Intro to STaM Calligraphy and Writing

April 11: The Wisdom of the Hebrew Alphabet: What is behind the Creation and Formation of the Hebrew Letters and Let’s Write a Mezzuzah

May 16: Making God a Local Call

September 26: Torah Dedication and last Torah Writing Opportunity



If you would like more information about these future events or would like to attend, please call our synagogue office at (301) 869-7699.

Kehilat Shalom, an egalitarian conservative synagogue affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, offers Religious School and youth groups for kindergarten through 12th grades and operates an Early Childhood Center. Working with Partnership for Jewish Life and Learning, Kehilat Shalom was selected to embark on an innovative adventure called “Congregational Education for the 21st Century”, a process to transform learning at Kehilat Shalom in new and exciting ways for all ages and backgrounds, not confined to the classroom setting. Our campus includes a main building and a separate building dedicated to educational programming for our Religious School and Early Childhood Center with an indoor playroom. A very active Active Retirees group joins Sisterhood and Men’s Club in supporting synagogue life. Kehilat Shalom also offers a variety of Adult Education and social programs and is extremely active in community service at many levels. Kehilat Shalom is located near Watkins Mill High School in Montgomery Village with a 355-seat sanctuary that expands to accommodate 1,200 and a Kosher kitchen. For more information on



synagogue life, please call the office at 301-869-7699 or visit their web site at www.KehilatShalom.org.

If you'd like more information about Mitzvah 613 programming, please call Judi Kranz at 301-869-7699 or email her at JKranz@KehilatShalom.

Play Ball!!

by Dave Bivans



While a Winter Storm Watch may be in order at this writing, it'll be none too soon by publication time to start getting ready for the Darnestown Softball 2010 season. Berryville Seneca will be defending their first championship season against the other four neighborhood-based co-rec (ed) teams. Games are played from April to July (extending to August if there are an abundance of rainouts) Sunday afternoons/evenings at the local Cliff Bland Park. With the five teams everyone should be scheduled for eight games, playing each other twice.

The League is open to adult homeowners/renters within the general Darnestown boundaries (if you're receiving The Little Acorn chances are good you are qualified to play!). This is a recreational league, mostly for fun, but with some neighborly bragging rights); some playing ability is desirable, but not absolutely necessary. If you are not yet on a team roster and are interested in playing, please contact me (301-977-4734, dnlbivans34@verizon.net) and I will get you in touch with your neighborhood coach. I'm looking forward to the new season and seeing everyone out on the ball field (and some warmer weather!).

Speaking of the ball field; Steve Ellis and I met with Ken Ferrari, Parks manager for our area, and the parks facility supervisor early last November. The field is scheduled to have installed a new backstop and 6' high fences along the first and third base sides extending about 15-20 feet beyond the existing fence terminuses. Also, the infield should be graded to elevate the low areas where the most persistent puddles form around the first base side. We anticipate that this renovation will be completed before our permit begins.

Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club

by Lynda Slesinger

Expand social connections and make new friends...

The Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club welcomes *new residents* and those in *life transition* (lifestyle changes, retirement, etc.). We offer an extensive variety of fun

social activities. For more information or to receive a Newsletter, contact DCA Member, Lynda Slesinger, at 301-990-1067.

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 membership year of the DCA is January 1 through December 31, and annual dues billing statements are mailed out at the end of December 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

Sandy Hribar, 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
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

Trout Unlimited

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369
website: <http://senecavalleytu.org/>
Charles August (csaugust@comcast.net), Secretary
240-401-8669



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, MD 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

4800 Kings Valley Road, Damascus MD 20872
301-482-1025

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

15575 Germantown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
office@saintnicks.com
www.saintnicks.com

Seneca Community Church

13900 Berryville Road, Germantown, MD 20874
301-869-9326
www.senecachurch.org

Shaare Torah

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

Sugarloaf Congregation of Unitarian Universalists

16913 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD 20874-3013
301-540-0575
www.scuu.org

Temple Beth Ami

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In Memory of Paul Kelly

Longtime Darnestown resident Paul Kelly died Sunday January 24, 2010, at the age of 79. Born on March 3, 1930, in Washington, DC, he was the son of the late Thomas C. and Catherine M. Kelley.

Paul served in the Air Force during the Korean War 1951–1955, was past president of the Monocacy Lions Club, Lifetime Member of the American Legion Post 104 and co-owner of Anderson and Kelley Auto Parts in Boyds.

Surviving are his children, Justin H. Kelley and wife Kathleen, Christopher M. Kelley and wife Dawn, Kurt A. Kelley, Katie E. Soeder and husband Gregg; one sister, Elizabeth L. Kelley, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Paul was preceded in death by one son, Paul M. Kelley, Jr., and one brother, John Thomas "Tom" Kelley.

Paul grew up on the Kelley farm, which had been purchased by his grandfather shortly after the Civil

War. As a child, and while raising his own children, he was an active member of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

He made a donation to the church recently for the refurbishing of the stained glass windows. The original library of the church was partially supported by memorial donations on the death of Paul's father, Thomas C. Kelley, in 1961. Six generations of the family are buried in the church cemetery, as will be Paul's remains.

Paul was the last Kelley to live in the Darnestown area, although he has sons living in Boyds and Germantown, and one in Hagerstown. His brother Tom died in 1996; he had been well known in the community earlier for his "Kelley corn" stand near the intersection of Routes 28 and 118.

Donations may be made in Paul's memory to the Lions Club Eye Bank.



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100 Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

dca@darnestowncivic.org

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