

Volume 46, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION www.darnestowncivic.org March 2010

Civic Association News & Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

The last deadline for submitting articles for the Little Acorn was just before our record snow fall. Many of us were without power, telephone or water for several days. I went four days without any of the above and my home reached 44 degrees. It was strange to wake up and see your breath in your own home. During this blizzard emergency, I was on the phone with DCA Board members, utility companies and Senator Rob Garagiola to help speed up restoration. I do believe my actions quickened the response, but I do not know by how much. I just wanted you all to be aware that we were taking action! If any of you had your mailbox damaged by one of the snow plows, the county will install a standard post and mailbox at your residence. Call them at 240-777-8920.

The DCA learned something very important during the last storm. If you do not call Pepco to report a power loss, Pepco will think you have power. They respond to areas with the most outages first. Springfield Road, for example, only had a few people call in for power assistance. Pepco didn't know the entire street was affected and waited several days before responding. The other problem we encountered was that restoration "times" were given when you called in. This "time" is actually created by a computer and is not to be used as an exact estimate. Call Pepco through their automated service at least twice a day when your power is out at 877-737-2662. Place this number on your refrigerator. With the summer thunderstorms on their way, you will need it!

As of late, we have not heard of any new home invasions over the past few months. If you or someone you know in Darnestown has been burglarized, please contact the DCA. We need to be more vigilant and report suspicious vehicles directly to the police. I noticed activity one afternoon on Esworthy Road and immediately called it in. Call the non-emergency police line at 301-279-8000. (Continued on p.3)

Next DCA Town Meeting Thursday, June 17th 7:30 p.m. Darnestown Presbyterian Church Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

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– DEADLINE –

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

August 1, 2010 The deadlines will remain firm.

Articles for *The Little Acorn* may be mailed to 14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874 OR <u>acorneditor@comcast.net</u>. Please follow-up by phone or email if you do not receive confirmation from the editor that your submission has been received. The editor can be reached at 240-683-0103. *ALL NEWS IS WELCOME!*

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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-Troike (301-548-0999; lisaapatterson@aol.com) or mailed to DCA, 14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874.

MUSIC LESSONS TJ Callahan* Guitar 301-379-5646 Guitar Brandon Corydon 301-221-0456 Justin Fakler* Guitar 301-814-5111 Jennifer Suess Voice 301-977-2605 Michael Waddell Trombone/Horn 301-990-6770 Clarinet 240-678-8319 Stefanie Zaner *Summer only.

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Notes from the President

(Cont'd from p.1)

We had a well attended Town Meeting on March 18th and appreciate Pepco and our Police Officers taking time out of their busy schedule to talk with us. Pepco was asked and answered several questions about their power restoration during the blizzard. The Police spoke about the recent string of burglaries and what to look out for. Something for all of you to consider is setting up a "Neighborhood Watch" program. A manual is available at <u>www.montgomerycountycrimestoppers.org</u>.

We wish you a happy, healthy and power filled summer!

Residents are encouraged to sign up for Alert Montgomery to have emergency alerts, notifications and updates sent to a cell phone, email address, PDA, Twitter or Facebook.

DCA Board Nominations

by Scott Mostrom

As the outgoing Trustee (a 3 year term) I'm tasked with presenting the new slate of proposed candidates to fill the elected positions on the DCA Board. The Board is composed of elected members and committee chairpersons who are appointed by the elected members of the Board. All Board members have one vote on issues before the Board, but on personnel matters only the elected members have a vote.

In accordance with the DCA By-laws, the following slate of candidates was proposed and approved at the May Executive Board Meeting for the election of the 2010-2011 DCA officers at the June Town Meeting:

President......Lisa Patterson-Troike* (Esworthy) Vice PresidentBob Thompson* (Brookmead) TreasurerGuy Armantrout* (Springfield) Recording Sec'y....Susan Allaway* (White Water Way) Three-Year TrusteeChris Collins (Springfield)

*Currently occupying this position.

Welcome Committee

by Lara Wibeto

I am happy to report a recent trend of families with young children moving to Darnestown. Thank you to all of our new neighbors who welcomed me into your homes as you work to get settled in here. Welcome to Darnestown! Please feel free to contact me to let me know that you are moved in and I'll stop by with your Welcome Basket. Thank you. 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 <u>lwibeto@verizon.net</u>.

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

We are working hard on the Directory—hopefully it will arrive in your mailbox very soon. Thank you to everyone who has helped, especially Jean Jurgena, who manages the database, and Rick Griffin, who provided help with the cover.

Please continue to update me with changes in the community. While it will be too late for this edition of the Directory, I will be sure they appear in subsequent editions of the Acorn.

Welcome New Darnestown Neighbors!

Harsh & Cherry Marwaha 15728 Pagano Lane 240-631-0315

Gene and Charlotte Fisher 12931 Meadow View Dr 301-540-9121

Email Sarah Scherer at sarahscherer@comcast.net.



Utility Reliability

by Art Slesinger

This winter certainly raised the volume on the less than ideal performance of both Pepco and Verizon when it comes to the reliability of their services. The Public Service Commission has finally resolved, after 3 years of negotiation, an agreement to have Verizon improve their service level. The plan revolves around economic incentives to you and Verizon but places no obligation on Verizon to invest in better copper line phone service equipment. If you have had extended out of service periods, you may receive a credit for your misery.

The PSC also open a case on service quality with Pepco that focused on the February storm and the extended outages many in the community experienced. Pepco continues to state it did a pretty a good job of getting over 90,000 outages repaired. Clearly it was a challenging storm. The real issue we are trying to advance is whether or not the tree trimming program is appropriate or should be changed. Perhaps hardwood trees should have a different standard than the pine trees that seemed to be at the root of many outages. The current Roadside Tree Care regulations are convoluted and not really helpful for power utility issues. Pepco is attempting to improve the trimming program.

Bottom line for both Pepco and Verizon, is that Senator Rob Garagiola is attempting to set up a community meeting with leaders of both utility companies. If he is successful, we may have chance to get repairs or changes to the utility equipment in Darnestown. We will let everyone know when the meeting(s) are scheduled.

Email Art Slesinger at art.slesinger@comcast.net.

Community Interest

Community-Supported Agriculture at Good Life Farm

by Larry and Laura Ledgard

Fifteen years ago, we began growing grapes at our small Darnestown farm in hopes of one day becoming winemakers. But hordes of deer invaded each September, stripping our vines of their fruit, so in 2007 we shelved our dreams of bottling fine upcounty Chardonnay and instead switched our attention to tomatoes, lettuce, melons, and the like.

In mid-May we kicked off our third season of selling fresh-picked produce to the community, beginning with such early-season crops as asparagus and spinach. We'll soon add corn, cucumbers, peppers, and a variety of summer staples to our weekly offering, and we'll end our year with pumpkins, squash, spinach, and other fall favorites, including some pick-your-own crops.

For us, Good Life Farm is truly a family affair: since we've been at it, our children have helped with everything from planting and harvesting to hand-crafting the wooden signs that have lured passers-by to our roadside stand. And given our community's rich agricultural heritage (the famous Kelly Corn stand sat just south of our property), we also take pride in engaging with our neighbors to help continue that tradition. So each summer we employ students as interns, helping a new generation learn about farming with organic methods. Recently, a local troop of Girl Scouts built a new coop for our chickens. Schoolchildren who tour our farm not only learn about how their food is grown, but they also interact with our mini-horses and other animals. And each week, autistic students from the Rockville campus of Baltimore's Kennedy Krieger Institute spend a morning working on our land—a program that will hopefully teach them some useful life skills.

One other important connection to Darnestown and surrounding towns is our Community Supported Agriculture program, which permits subscribers to help fund our operations, in return for months' worth of the fresh, nutritious produce we harvest. Because our CSA memberships are designed to accommodate the needs of both individuals and families, we've received an enthusiastic response to this new program. But to ensure that we can provide everyone with their anticipated weekly offerings, we'll be limiting this year's roster of subscribers.

For details, including costs and a fuller list of our produce, visit www.goodlifefarm.com. If you still have questions, e-mail us at farmerlarry@goodlifefarm.com.

Green Cup Polo Fundraiser

by Pam DuBois

On Sunday, June 27th The Capitol Polo Club will host the 4th Annual Green Cup Polo Match at the club grounds just few miles from Darnestown at Hughes and River Roads.

The Green Cup is a charity event that raises funds and awareness for several environmental and alternate energy organizations. The three beneficiary organizations, all locally-based, are Equestrian Partners in Conservation

(EPIC), American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and the Cousteau family's foundation, EarthEcho.

The gates open at noon and there will be two main matches at 1:00 and 3:30p.m. The first match will comprise of local club members and several visiting guests and the second match (the Green Cup) will be between two high goal regional teams. As a bonus for the second year there will be a celebrity exhibition match played on a small field directly in front of the grandstand. This year the players will include several ambassadors and other local celebrities.

In addition to raising fund for Green causes the Green Cup is also the first sporting event on the East Coast to be certified as a Green Event by the Leonardo Academy, which is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to advancing sustainability through the competitive market.

Food and refreshments will be provided by several environmentally focused organizations including Whole Foods Market and Honest Tea.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit the Green Cup website at <u>www.greencuppolo.com</u>.

Smokey Glen Introduces Summer Family Dining by Jim Sweet

This summer, Smokey Glen Farm invites families to enjoy a crab and barbeque feast. Doors are open to the public every Friday evening from June through August, 5:30–8:30p.m., with the last seating at 7:30.

The activities will include an all-you-can-eat buffet, playground, horseshoes, and miniature golf. The buffet fare will feature steamed spiced crabs and shrimp and Smokey Glen Farm's famous barbequed chicken and spareribs. Side dishes will include baked beans, macaroni and cheese, Kosher style hot dogs, corn on the cob, a big salad bar (including cole slaw and potato salad), fresh baked breads, and of course the Farm's famous charcoalbaked pies. The buffet also includes unlimited sodas, iced tea and lemonade. Beer and wine are available for a perperson charge for the entire evening.

Smokey Glen Farm is located at 16407 Riffleford Road, Gaithersburg. For pricing and additional information, please visit <u>www.smokeyglenfarm.com</u> or call 301-948-6097.





Seneca State Park Forest Project

by Steve Ellis

You may want to read the previous article on this topic in the March 2010 Little Acorn.

The DCA has received permission from the Department of Natural Resources to install 2 or 3 fenced exclosures in the Seneca State Park on our side of the Creek. These

1/3–1/2 acre sites will hopefully prevent deer from eating the saplings and other plants within the exclosures. Volunteers will also remove all nonnative invasive plant species as recommended by DNR personnel. Anyone who walks these woods would recognize the almost total lack of natural understory and the disappearance of most wild flowers.

The anticipated purpose of the project is to:

- 1. Demonstrate that the enclosed area will become (if properly maintained) an example of the regeneration of a natural native woodland with a growing diversity of flora and fauna.
- 2. A sanctuary for surviving species that may in time be eaten out of existence in our park.

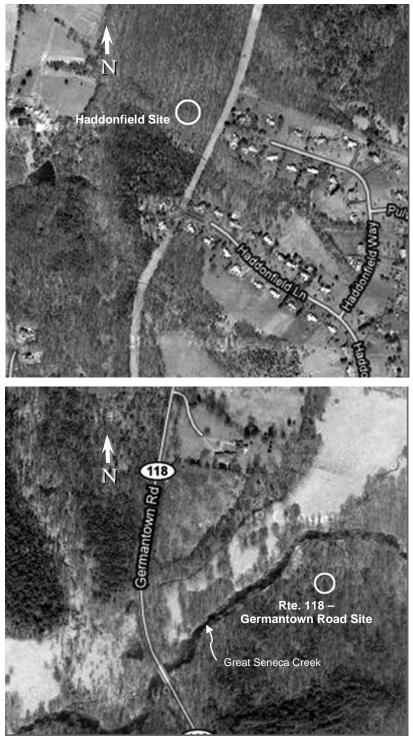
We have located two suitable sites as indicated on the maps below. The sites were chosen because the areas were the best at meeting the location criteria listed. The sites will need final approval of the Seneca Park management. The locations were selected with the help of Steve Ellis, Scott Mostrom, Karen Hinrichsen and Bob Thompson.

Location Criteria

- A. Accessibility to the site to bring in construction and fencing materials.
- B. Consideration of location for future monitoring.
- C. Not in a flood plain.
- D. Relatively flat area with no steep slopes, no creeks or trenches within area.
- E. Diversity of tree species.
- F. At least a third or more of tree canopy at low and medium height.
- G. The presence of special plants, such as, wild Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Mountain Laurels and other natural understory plants that are still surviving.
- H. Minimal amount of non-native invasive ground cover; e.g. Japanese stilt grass and garlic mustard.

I. Low amount of newly fallen debris.

Our goal is to have one fenced area by summer, and if all goes well, the other this fall. The materials will cost about \$3,000 for each exclosure. We will need to utilize volunteer Darnestown labor and commitment for construction, repair and monitoring. The Haddonfield site is our first priority. See below for the proposed locations of both sites.





Final County Council Decision on "Gaithersburg West" Master Plan and Future of Belward Farm

by Bob Thompson, UCAB Chairman

The Montgomery Council voted unanimously on May 4, 2010 to approve the "Great Seneca Science Corridor" Master Plan. The long-term plan—formerly known as the Gaithersburg West Master Plan—will allow the area near Shady Grove Road and Darnestown Road to develop into one of the nation's premier areas for scientific research and development.

The Council has studied the proposal intently since last fall. A major portion of the plan involves the former Belward Farm that was purchased by Johns Hopkins University. The university has sought to incorporate that land as part of the area's development. On April 13, the Council reached key agreements on the plan, including reduction of the maximum allowable existing and proposed commercial space in the plan from the proposed 20 million square feet to 17.5 million square feet. An amendment was added to require the County's Planning Board to work with existing neighborhoods to monitor evolving transportation issues of the plan.

According to the approved plan, the Great Seneca Science Corridor would allow a maximum of 9,000 dwelling units and approximately 52,500 jobs. Most of the new development cannot proceed until funding is obtained for the Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT). The CCT would be either a light rail or bus rapid transitway transportation system extending from the Shady Grove Metro Station to Clarksburg.

Included in the Great Seneca Science Corridor plan is the proposed creation of a 21st Century Life Sciences Center. The area will include housing and retail uses with the hope that many of those who work in the Life Sciences Center Zone will elect to live nearby and reduce regular use of automobiles.

The plan calls for creation of a Muddy Branch Park that would be a minimum of 12 acres, with a minimum width along Muddy Branch Road of 100 feet. Mission Hills Preserve will create a 200-foot wide buffer between the rear property line of the nearest Mission Hills homes and any buildings on the northern side of Belward. Darnestown Promenade will include a three-acre landscaped buffer (60 feet wide) along Darnestown Road that maintains vistas to the historic farmstead, includes the landmark sign and creates a tree-lined pedestrian path that connects to the on-site path system and the Life Sciences Center Loop. Approximately 44 to 46 percent of the Belward Farm will be maintained as open space.

The plan recommends reinforcing and expanding the use of green buildings with development seeking to maximize energy conservation and increase renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal.

The new community would be chiefly served by I-270 and the proposed Corridor Cities Transitway (CCT), which would be either a light rail or Bus Rapid Transit extension from the Shady Grove Metrorail Station. The plan calls for the Urban Square at the CCT station to be "a hub of daily activity with space for special events and gatherings, as well as some community retail for the convenience of CCT riders, workers and area residents."

UCAB and the Darnestown Civic Association extend a special thanks to our own Art Slesinger, who diligently followed the deliberations by Park and Planning and the County Council, and worked closely with residents in the affected areas to point out deficiencies in the original plan, these efforts resulted in a 13% reduction in overall size and a strict staging requirement which limits development prior to full funding for the CCT.

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 threeyear terms without compensation, meeting certain Monday evenings of every month and occasionally on Saturdays. Members are expected to serve on at least one subcommittee, which meets approximately one evening every month on its own schedule. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. We are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural Reserve. This is particularly relevant to Darnestown, as our community is immediately adjacent to it and the rural village nature reflected in planning and zoning is directly influenced by the Agricultural Reserve.



As a representative of Darnestown, I am committed to communicating issues of importance to our community up to the County government, and carrying news and information back to our community. I can be reached by phone at 240-683-0103 or via e-mail at <u>bob.thompson</u> <u>@comcast.net</u>. Additionally, the Board is staffed by the Upcounty Regional Services team. The Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240-777-8040 or via e-mail at <u>catherine.matthews@montgomery</u> <u>countymd.gov</u>.

For a wealth of information and available services for residents, visit the Montgomery County web site at <u>http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/index.asp</u>.

A Deer Hit by an Auto... What To Do? by Bruce Deppa

My intent when I started to write this was to provide the correct phone number to call after a collision between a motor vehicle and a deer. However, I quickly learned that, as the movie title says, *It's Complicated*.

Before you dial a phone number, you need to know the street address where the deer is, whether the street or

road is a county road or a state road, whether the deer is dead or seriously injured, and whether the deer is in the right-of-way. Each state road in the Darnestown area has a route number. There are only 4 of them:

- Route 28 Darnestown Road
- Route 112 Seneca Road
- Route 118 Germantown Road
- Route 190 River Road

All other Darnestown roads are county roads, except for Deakins Lane and a portion of Poplar Hill Road, which are private property.

The chart below is based on information mostly obtained during telephone conversations with folks in the various agencies and departments during the past couple of weeks. To the best of my knowledge, this is the first time that all of this information has been collected and reduced to a concise single-page format, suitable for clipping out of *The Little Acorn* and keeping near the telephone.

Special thanks to Ken D'Loughy, Central Region Manager, Wildlife and Heritage Service, and to Bill Hamilton, Principal Natural Resource Specialist, M-NCPPC, for their help with this effort.

SITUATION	ACTION	MORE INFO
An injured deer is alive but likely requires euthanasia, and is on any state or county roadway	 Call the Montgomery County Police at 301- 279-8000. They will not remove a euthanized deer, but they should notify the appropriate agency. A citizen's phone call per this chart might help ensure prompt pick-up. 	 If the county declines to provide service, then call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service at 301-258-7308 (M-F 8:00am-4:30pm, or 410-260-8888 after hours).
An injured deer is alive but likely requires euthanasia, and is on private property	 Do not call the Montgomery County Police, since police will not euthanize deer on private property. 	Call the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildlife and Heritage Service at 301-258-7308 (M-F 8:00am-4:30pm, or 410- 260-8888 after hours).
A dead deer is on a county roadway	 Call Montgomery County's Animal Shelter at 240-773-5960 and request pick-up. This phone is monitored 24-7. 	 The Animal Shelter telephone line is designated as an emergency line, so you should state immediately that this is not an emergency.
A dead deer is on a state roadway	 Call the Highway Maintenance Division of the Maryland Department of Transportation at 301-948-2477 and request pick-up. This phone is not monitored 24-7. 	 Unfortunately, the Highway Maintenance Division is closed on weekends, starting at 3:30pm on Friday; nothing will be picked up until sometime the next week.
A dead deer is on private property	 It is difficult to get government help in this case. If the deer is moved to the roadside and reported to the appropriate agency, it will likely be picked up. 	 The DNR maintains a list of private deer salvagers who are authorized to remove a deer carcass from private property for a fee. See http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/Plants_Wildlife/deer_salvage_search.asp

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio

1Lt Ryan Swisher is safely back from his yearlong tour in Afghanistan. He earned several



medals including a Bronze Star. His father Rob and Janet Swisher hosted an all American Barbeque to congratulate Ryan and welcome him home. It was heartwarming to hear the toasts from his family and neighbors. He is currently stationed in Alaska.

PFC Missy Bateman is assigned to the 18th Airborne Corp in Ft Bragg NC. She is providing Geo-Spacial Engineering support to the 18th.

PVT Ryan Bentley completed Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, NC and transferred to Pensacola, FL to attend Class A school. Upon graduation PVT Bentley was promoted to PFC and is now attending Class C school in Oceana, VA.

Brendan Warshauer will be attending Mercersburg Academy's Post Graduate program in preparation for his induction to the United States Naval Academy's class of 2015 where he will be playing Division I soccer.

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

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

by Luanne Deppa

Just as we thought the snow would never go away, out came the first sign of spring with daffodils and forsythia coming out from under the snow. Most of us have spent the last month cleaning up from the damage the heavy snowed caused. Our white pine trees and shrubs suffered the most. We have been amazed, however, at some of our shrubs and bushes straightening up. We thought we would have to replace them, but the warm weather has brought them out.

After mulching the flowers beds, some of us have some bunnies that enjoy our young plants. If you think placing wire around the bed is not what you want, then try soaking small sponges in apple-cider vinegar and placing them around the beds or plants. The mulch can help hide them. Someone has suggested mothballs hidden just under the mulch also works.

Our bigger concern with our plants, trees, shrubs, flowers, is our deer friends. Two books that may help you are: *Outwitting Deer* by Bill Adler Jr. He is the same author of the book *Outwitting Squirrels*. Another book is

Deer Proofing Your Yard and Garden by Rhonda Massingham Hart.

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club does not meet over the summer months, but we all look forward to our next meeting in September. Darne Bloomers Garden Club began in September of 1988. The club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month September–May. The meetings begin at 9:00 a.m. with a breakfast prepared by the members, and the meetings are held in the Fellowship Hall of Darnestown Presbyterian Church. As a thankyou to the church, the garden club helps maintain the beds surrounding the Andrew Small building and the Sanctuary.

For the March meeting the garden club speaker was Greg Lee from the Two Frogs Healing Center in Frederick, MD. He spoke on Lyme Disease. In April, the garden club had a demonstration and workshop with artist Beth Cartland. Each member and guest came home with a beautiful spring flower arrangement. For May, the annual luncheon was held at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, PA. After a tour of the beautiful gardens and lunch, new officers were installed for next year.

The garden club is very socially active and the meetings are very informative. There are a few openings for new members. If you are interested in joining Darne Bloomers next September, you may contact Sandy Hribar at 301-258-5249.

School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary School

by Kristen Crook

Spring has sprung at Darnestown Elementary! We've had lots of fun events and activities over the past few months including field trips, Donuts for Dads, Kindergarten Orientation, the Talent Show, Darnestown History Day and more!

Thank you to everyone who donated healthy snacks to the food drive for our sister school, Gaithersburg Elementary. They were in desperate need to refill their pantry in order to provide their children with healthy snacks for the weekend. We were able to collect 3 full car loads of food!

In April we held a "Children for Chile" clothing drive for the victims of the Chilean Earthquake. As winter arrives in Chile, thousands of children who were left without winter clothes are in need. DES families came to



the rescue we were able to collect two enormous boxes of warm clothes to ship to the country. Thank you for your generosity!

As expected, Colonial Day was a big success! The 5th graders once again transformed our gym into a miniature colonial village and spent the day living like they would during colonial times. Thank you to all of the countless volunteers that worked so hard to make this happen.

During this economy with school budgets so tight, it's more important than ever that we have a correct enrollment number for the fall. If you are new to the area or plan to send your child to Darnestown Elementary as a new student in the fall, please take a minute to call the school to learn how to enroll your child. The sooner the better! (301) 840-7157.

Calendar of Events

- Choral Concert: Friday, May 28
- PTA Meeting: Tuesday, June 1
- Instrumental Music Concert: Tuesday, June 8
- Spring Picnic: Friday, June 11
- Kindergarten and 5th grade promotion ceremonies: Tuesday, June 15
- Last day of school for students: Wednesday, June 16

Have a safe and FUN summer vacation! See you back at school on Monday, August 30th!

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

Northwest High School

by Tracy Callahan

Chess Champions at Northwest High School

The Team of Melaap Patel, Vickie Inthsone, Josh Stewart, Denadre Jenkins, David Poch, Reyjon Reji, Tarun Lava, Caleb Zhou, Danny Kim and Sheldon shocked the Nation and became our schools National Champions of Chess.

And the school had more surprises as the Jags placed third out of 79 teams in another section and received a trophy as well. Then the Jags placed in the top 20 in one more section led by Mikey Martinez, Cyrus Cordero, Deeptanchu Kumar and Jake Clark.

Shane Mazuk placed second out of over 250 players as he led the Jags 1200 rated team to its third place finish. This was one of the best performances our school has ever had!

But get ready for this....have you ever heard of the Track star Sheldon Trotman? Yes, he won the county long jump title in indoor track. Well, let's all stand and salute Sheldon Trotman and give this man a round of applause and more as he placed first overall *and is our school's national chess champion*. Yes, Sheldon crushed all the competition in his section and took the *top individual title* to lead his squad to the Team Title.

Danny Kim and David Lee also placed in the top 25 to lead the way.

Northwest High School at the Penn Relays

India Knight, a sophomore, ran the fastest split on Northwest's 4x800-meter relay team at the 116th Penn Relays, helping to spark the Jaguars to the third fastest time in the country and a spot in the Championship of America. Northwest's team of Knight, Olivia Ekpon, Alyssa Henshaw and Britt Eckerstrom -- froze the clock in 9:8.74 seconds, a school record by 16 seconds and good enough for second place in its heat. Jamaica's Edwin Allen was first, posting the fastest overall time (9:01.34). Of the 72 schools in the race, only 12 qualified for Friday's championship. Knight did her part, with a split of 2:14.3 and moving the Jaguars out of fifth place and into third. Her previous best time in the 800 meters was 2:21 -which caused her teammates to playfully wonder why she hadn't been running faster all along."She's a slacker," Eckerstrom teased. Knight's explanation for the whopping seven-second improvement was simple: At local weekend invitationals, Northwest establishes such big leads early that she's already in first place when she gets the baton. At the Relays, she had to do a little chasing. "It's the quality of the runner's in front of you... gotta catch them," she explained. The girls came back later that day and clocked 3:51.85 in the 4x400 a time that placed 13th among all High School Teams in competition. The following day they shaved a little more off their 4x800 time to place 6th in the Championship of America race in 9:08.47. It is believed to be the fastest 4x800 ever run by a county girls' team and currently ranks fourth in the Nation ... what a *fantastic* effort!

Northwest Jaguar Baseball "Red Hot"

The Bash Brothers, Nick Karis and Bobby Donson have propelled a surge in Jaguar Baseball with big-time home runs. Nick Karis hit a 3-run homer to left at Shirley Povich field Saturday, April 24th, to tie the game against Walter Johnson. The Jaguars went on to win that game behind the solid pitching of Bobby Donson and Matt Cononie. The Jaguars won their next game against Magruder on April 30th when Bobby Donson smashed a monster three-run homer to strait away centerfield, pulling them up from behind to defeat the visiting Magruder Colonels. "That has to be one of the farthest home runs ever hit at Northwest," Mike



Shannon was heard to say. Northwest Baseball is heating up just in time for the Playoffs!

Northwest High School Seeking Donations for Lower Field Scoreboard; Needs Your Help!

Our school baseball, field hockey and softball teams have been raising funds to purchase a scoreboard for our lower field and a portable one for our upper softball field (as this is county land and we are not permitted to put a permanent scoreboard on this land). The county does not provide this for schools and it is something that we believe would enable the fans to more easily keep track of our game. We are one of the few schools in Montgomery County that does not have a lower field score board. We, as athletes at Northwest High School would like to assist in bringing these items to our school. It would fill us with pride to know that we were responsible for enhancing Northwest High School with something that would be used by athletes in the many years to come.

This is a collaborative fundraising effort between the Athletic Department, each athlete on the above teams and the Boosters Club. Each student athlete is responsible for contributing to these score boards. I am writing to ask if you would be willing to contribute a donation to help make our scoreboards a reality that will be in use by the beginning of next school year (2010-2011).

We would greatly appreciate any contribution that you wish to make, any contributions should be mailed to Northwest High School Athletic Department (please make check out to NWHS Athletics, please note lower scoreboard in the memo as these monies will go into a separate fund for this purpose only). We are also selling advertising space on the lower scoreboard (contact Tracy tracy@tracycallahan.net Callahan for pricing at information). The score board will be located between the baseball and field hockey fields and be entirely visible by all who drive on Great Seneca Highway. This is a great way to recognize your company. Remember, no donation is too small. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Dena Nicholas: 301-515-5203 or randan4@verizon.net. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Please pass on any Northwest news to Tracy Callahan at <u>Tracy@tracycallahan.net</u>.

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Dionne Spear

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School (TJP) is happy to be back from spring break and enjoying the crazy weather! With the spring comes many exciting events at school. Our second week back brought our Earth Day celebrations, where we all wore our "Going Green" tshirts and celebrated with a school wide assembly. Within each class students learned about the history of Earth Day and the importance of keeping our atmosphere clean. Recycling was discussed and the possibility of getting new and more recycling bins in the building to promote our efforts at recycling.

Our 2nd annual Mayfair is fast approaching! On Friday May 7th, from 4 to 8pm, the TJP grounds will be covered with a moonbounce, dunk tank, auction tent, and lots of games. A dune buggy will be there for rides and, of course, there will be great food! Rain date is Saturday May 8th.

TJP students once again take to the stage with their spring production of Peter Pan. The performance will take place on June 3rd at 6pm in the All Purpose Room at Fair Haven United Methodist Church. This event is open to everyone in the community. Come join us as we fly to Never Never Land with Darnestown's own Gabe Persels as Peter Pan!

Our last day of school is June 11th and is a half-day for our students. This school year's end we will be celebrating our first 8th grade graduates, Bailey Booth, Michael Yeh and Asad Zaidi. TJP is pleased to announce that Michael Yeh was accepted to the International Baccalaureate Program at Richard Montgomery High School. Michael and Bailey Booth were accepted to the highly regarded Science, Math and Computer Science magnet program at Poolesville High School, and Asad Zaidi will be attending Wooten High School. Congratulations to our wonderful 8th graders!

Open enrollment is available, so visit us in person or on the web at www.tjprep.org. We're looking forward to a wonderful, fun filled and highly educational 4th year here at TJP.

Contact Susie Gooch or Michelle Wentz at (301) 330-7550 or visit <u>www.tjprep.org</u> for more information.

Darnestown Student at Davidson Elected to Honor Council

By Ginny Evans, Davidson College

DAVIDSON, NC – A junior at Davidson College, Anne K. Wailes, has been elected to the Honor Council as a defense advisor. She is the daughter of Richard and Kathleen Wailes of Haddonfield Lane, and is a 2007 graduate of Holton-Arms School.



The Honor Council is a student-led disciplinary body that serves as the primary judiciary organ of the college, responsible for hearing cases involving alleged violations of the Honor Code and the Code of Responsibility. The defense advisor enters the proceedings on behalf of the charged student and must prepare a case on his or her behalf.

Wailes is a double major in classics and art history. She holds the Julius Dobson Neely and Joseph Dobson Merit Scholarship for Latin and is a member of the Eta Sigma Phi honor society for classical studies. She also serves on the executive board for Warner Hall Eating House and is involved with Patterson Court Council.

Davidson College is a highly selective independent coeducational liberal arts college for 1.700 students. Since its establishment in 1837, the college has graduated 22 Rhodes Scholars and is consistently ranked among the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

Local Sports

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club by David Hardy

The Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) will soon 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.

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 has begun 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 has also begun on Wednesday and Tuesday night respectively. This will continue through the official opening of The Club, Memorial Day weekend. 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 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 for DSRC on our website at www.dsrclub.com. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Club Memorial Day weekend!

Congregational News

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Mark Your Calendars for Darnestown Presbyterian Church's Vacation Bible School!

The theme this year is Egypt: Joseph's Journey From Prison to Palace. Vacation Bible School will be held July 12–16, 2010 in the evenings, 5pm to 8:30pm at Darnestown Presbyterian Church, 15120 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown, MD 20878.

For Registration or questions contact Cara Garretson at (301) 527-8587; <u>cgarretson@starpower.net</u> or Kathy Simmons at (301) 424-8338; <u>kathybrian@comcast.net</u>.



Newcomer's Corner

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 14132B Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874

Boundaries: Since Darnestown is not incorporated, it has no official boundaries. The activities and focus of

Luscious Lobster Bisque (Darne-Good, of course!)

Quick and delicious for those special occasions.

- 2 (10 ¾ ounce) cans condensed green pea soup
- 2 (10 ¾ ounce) cans condensed bisque of tomato soup
- 1 soup can of milk
- 2 cups light cream
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 3 (5 ounce) cans lobster meat, drained and broken apart
- 1/3 cup dry sherry, or substitute with 1/3 cup milk

- 1. Combine all ingredients except lobster meat and sherry in large saucepan.
- 2. Beat with rotary beater and heat through.
- 3. Stir in lobster meat and sherry and heat again.

Must serve immediately

Yield: 8–10 servings Recipe submitted by Marcia DeMinco

Purchase a Darne-Good Cookbook today...

Darne-Good recipes are contributed by your neighbors... real people with busy lives who cook with common ingredients from their fridge and pantry, just like you.

These are tried-and-true recipes worth sharing.

Still just \$15 each (only \$14 when ordering 6 or more) and FREE DELIVERY anywhere in Darnestown... right to your door!

To order your copies and arrange payment and delivery, call Carolyn Thompson (240-683-0103) or email acorneditor@comcast.net.

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association

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 (<u>csaugust@comcast.net</u>), Secretary 240-401-8669

Places of Worship

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

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 <u>acorneditor@comcast.net</u> 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 <u>mail@KehilatShalom.org</u> 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 <u>office@saintnicks.com</u> 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 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville, MD 20852 301-340-6818 www.bethami.org

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville, MD 20850 301-762-7666 www.uucr.org



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874

dca@darnestowncivic.org



