



Volume 46, Number 3

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

September 2010

Civic Association News & Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

As I was pondering what to write about in this issue of the *Little Acorn*, Mother Nature blew through and sparked some ideas. Literally. Many, if not most, of us were affected by the sudden thunderstorm and microburst just after 3pm on Sunday, July 25th. It was amazing to see the destruction caused in under 15 minutes. I lost a few trees, an electrical pole snapped at the base and, of course, power. I knew this was no ordinary storm. I walked up our driveway to Esworthy Road and viewed the damage up and down our street. It was impassable both ways. Trees, wires and our pole were blocking the street. The next day I toured Darnestown, Germantown, Gaithersburg and Boyds. Darnestown got hit the worst by far. I knew it would be days before we got our power back.

Coincidentally, the DCA had held a meeting with Pepco representatives 10 days prior. It was a well attended meeting that lasted 2.5 hours. The DCA and its residents wanted answers. We want to know why tree trimming hasn't been done, why Pepco doesn't know our power is out unless we call them, why homes on well & septic aren't more of a priority than homes on public water & sewer, why trees marked for removal were never removed, why our electric line feeders are the worst in the state, why our outages are much more frequent and of much

longer duration than 7 other utility providers in Maryland, I could go on and on. We learned that within a few years, smart meters will be installed at each and every house, eliminating the need to call Pepco. A few auto-closures will be added to help isolate power problems and reduce number of residents affected. The head tree trimmer stated that he would drive around Darnestown and locate areas where more trim work was needed. This is not good enough. *(Continued, page 3)*

Next DCA Town Meeting Thursday, September 16 7:30 p.m.

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

See page 4 for details

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- DEADLINE -

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

November 1, 2010

The deadlines will remain firm.

Articles for *The Little Acorn* may be mailed to
14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874
OR 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!

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Welcome: Lara Wibeto
Wildlife: Bruce Deppa
Zoning & Development Review: Pam DuBois

**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
Brandon Corydon	Guitar	301-221-0456
Justin Fakler*	Guitar	301-814-5111
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
Michael Waddell	Trombone/Horn	301-990-6770
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319

**Summer only.*

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)

Art Slesinger, our Utility Reliability Chairman, is doing an outstanding job. He has raised some very important questions. The Public Services Commission (PSC) appears to do absolutely nothing to make Pepco improve reliability. We need to amend the "Road Side Tree Act" to include more than just a radius around the power lines. What about relocating or burying problematic lines? Springfield Road is a perfect example. They suffer the longest durations of loss of power compared to anyone. Why not bury the lines and be done with it? Please read Art's article in this issue to learn more.

My problem with the latest storm is not about the time it took to restore power (72 hours here on Esworthy) but about the lack of coordination and communication for public safety. The county is as much at fault as Pepco is. I called Pepco's "life threatening emergency" line 20 times over that 3 day period and only got through 4 times. It rang busy or was unable to be connected most of the time. What good is an emergency line when you can't get through? There were 4 specific life threatening emergencies within eye shot of the end of my driveway. To the left, there were trees and wires down in two places, directly in front was an electrical pole snapped at the base, hanging over the road by its wires alone; and to the right, an enormous tree and wires down. Each made only a single lane by which traffic could negotiate through. I would listen to the screeching of cars day and night as they travelled through the maze. There was nothing to warn them of what was ahead. A tree caught on fire and neighbors called 911. A lone fireman stood and watched the blaze until it stopped. Was it going to take a fatality for something to be done? Esworthy Road should have been blocked off except for residents. Eventually, an orange cone and some yellow police tape marked the dangling pole at the end of my driveway. What did the morning and evening commuters do? Drove through the yellow tape and continued on their merry way. Blockade fences and/or vehicles should have been used to prevent these breaches. Both Pepco and the County were told of these problems and no one did anything to protect the unsuspecting motorists and people who use our road. Luckily, there were no fatalities that I know of, but we can not let this happen again.

I want you to know that we worked the phones during the storm to get the help you needed. Again, Senator Garagiola assisted. We are going to continue to get answers, improve reliability and push for public safety so that this fiasco is handled better next time. We've been

through a lot this year with record snow fall, an earthquake and now this 15 minute microburst. What's next?



Storm damage along Esworthy Road, a highly traversed commuter route, caused hazardous, potentially life-threatening conditions, yet clean-up efforts were less than responsive. Top, a snapped electrical pole resting on wires. Bottom, one of many examples of debris blocking lanes.

On a happier note, mark your calendars for this year's DCA ANNUAL HOEDOWN ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15TH! Please see the notice inside this Little Acorn.

Purchase a Darne-Good Cookbook today...

Darne-Good recipes are contributed by your neighbors...
real people with busy lives who cook with staples
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 checks payable to Darnestown Civic Association



Town Meeting Update

Our next Town Meeting is scheduled for 7:30 pm September 16, 2010 at the Fellowship Hall of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. There will be several topics for discussion:

Heritage Park – The artist and representatives from the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission will discuss progress of our very own Heritage Park just to the left of Harris Teeter.

Verizon Cell Tower – Verizon is exploring a possible new cell tower shaped as a silo, for camouflage, on Our Lady of Visitation Church next to the barn.

Election of Officers – The DCA will be voting on election of officers. This was to occur at the last Town Meeting in June, but there was less than a quorum present.

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

The Directory is at the printer now and will be arriving shortly... I mean it this time! Thanks to all who have helped in the process, especially Jean Jurgena who spends so much time tracking dues and managing the database. We have new cover art this year, recommended by Rick Griffin and Greg Clemmer, which recalls our Civil War history. It is a line cut drawing of "Mrs. Bell's House" which stood "at the curve" of Darnestown Road. It appeared in the October 1866 edition of "Harpers New Monthly Magazine" with an article entitled "Personal Recollections of the War. By a Virginian." The article contains many references to Darnestown and other local areas.



MRS. BELL'S, DARNESTOWN.

We want to welcome --

Sue & Michael Gottlieb
15812 Pioneer Hills Terrace
(301) 977-9495

Grace & Ralph Kopp
16013 Finegan Drive
240-683-0918

As always, please keep me up to date on changes in your neighborhood. I can be reached at 301-977-9495 or sarahscherer@comcast.net.

Village Committee

by Steve Ellis

The DCA Office

Crime befell our DCA office this June. Two males drove a fairly new large pick-up truck into the parking lot behind the new building around 11:30 P.M... One criminal got out and cut the electric cable and the refrigeration cable to our air conditioning unit. After waiting for the gas to expel, the truck moved closer to the unit, and the two criminals put the unit onto the truck and drove out the lower end of the parking lot. No arrests thus far?

Mr. Petrucci had the unit promptly replaced, and a week or so later 5 steel posts about 5' high filled with concrete were implanted around the new unit at considerable cost. The DCA board approved the sharing of the cost of the crime by paying half of the deductible of \$250. We also had a heavy steel bar with 2 slots that slip over the eye hooks in the concrete at the top of the posts that allow the bar to be locked down with 2 heavy duty padlocks. Check it out. The bar was fabricated by Blair Welding in Hyattstown for \$70 and the padlocks were \$20. Hopefully, this will deter a repeat offense.

We want to thank Frank Cornelius, again, for the donation of our sturdy, relatively new and very useful oval conference table and 8 padded chairs. Late comers get to sit on the hard seats.

Franklin Press & Possible Compact Postal Unit

The DCA is supporting the owners in their initiative to operate a compact postal unit in their business location at the lower end of the new building. Letter below.

United States Postal Service
Attn: Tiffany Dudley
900 Brentwood Road, NE
Washington, DC 20066-7205



Re: Compact Postal Unit for residents in parts of 20874, 20878, 20837, 20841 & 20854

Dear Ms Dudley,

We in the Darnestown area think that the location of a Compact Postal Unit in our commercial village center would be an ideal spot. Geographically, the convergence of Rt. 28 and Rt. 112 in Darnestown has become a center of activity for miles around. The Franklin Press business location offers the best choice in our town center. The Darnestown Civic Association, representing this community since 1967, hopes that the Postal Service will give us an opportunity for friendly and convenient postal service right here in the Village.

Incidentally, in the early-mid 1990's the DCA discussed and met with some regional postal officials about a small post office for the Darnestown Village. Some of these representatives were located at the Gaithersburg Bulk Mail center at that time. The answer was no, of course, and we understood that decision. This compact postal unit sounds like a great compromise answer to our previous request.

Grateful for your consideration,

*Stephen Ellis, Village Committee Chairman
Lisa Patterson, President*

Utility Reliability

by Art Slesinger

Representatives of DCA have met with both Verizon and PEPCO staff in July. The meeting with Verizon has been very productive. The Western Maryland manager for Verizon, Mr. Bruce Coyle has taken a personal interest in improving the Darnestown Verizon infrastructure. Under his direction, many lines have been re-spliced, many connection boxes and risers cleaned out and at least one major cable replaced from its start on River Road. Hopefully you have seen an increase in the quality of the phone lines and of the service. I strongly recommend that you let the writer know if an outstanding issue exists about your phone line. Mr. Coyle has really been very responsive to our inquiries and requests and we owe him a thank you for his efforts. Previous myths that the lines are beyond repair have vanished under his leadership.

The meeting with PEPCO has not been as productive. The massive, cross county outage from the July wind storm has distracted any attention we may have been anticipating. With two major storm outages this year, many in Darnestown and the rest of the county are going

to be demanding improvements from PEPCO. They would like us to believe that the extensive tree canopy makes Montgomery County a difficult utility assignment. However, facts would suggest otherwise. First, the Office of People's Counsel reviewed the snow storm outage reports from all 7 Maryland electricity suppliers. PEPCO was the worse with respect to outages per mile of circuit, lowest number of respondents per outage customer and longest average outage. So there is room for improvement. The issue of how much tree trimming is needed and how much is allowed is open to debate. The Maryland Roadside Tree Act is the controlling statute. It inhibits PEPCO from aggressively cutting back trees. However, PEPCO never mentions relocating power lines or raising poles above the tree canopy as a solution. There are those who desire that we maintain the tree canopy in Montgomery County but the right of way trees are a small percentage of the full tree canopy. We would like to have the Act relaxed where trees and power lines have consistent conflicts. PEPCO's response of trim the tree or change to tree wire (insulated wires that minimize incidental tree/line contact) are clearly inadequate. We hope that after the dust settles, a forest manager from PEPCO will finish his review of our lines and perhaps suggest improvements.

In the meantime other pressures will be applied to PEPCO. We owe a thanks to Senator Garagiola for setting up the meetings with Verizon and PEPCO.

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

Community Interest

Darnestown Couple Announces Grand Re-opening of Woolwinders: A Knitting Salon!

by Paige Waffle

Join us August 27–29th as **Bob and Paige Waffle**, the new owners of **Woolwinders: A Knitting Salon** yarn shop located at 404 King Farm Blvd., Rockville, MD 20850, welcome you to the store's grand re-opening!

The store will be open from 10 a.m.–7 p.m. August 27, 28, and 29 with opportunities to purchase yarn, books, and needles from our new Fall season inventory. Meet the talented staff, sign up for Fall classes, and enjoy refreshments and giveaways in our newly renovated store. We hope to see you there!

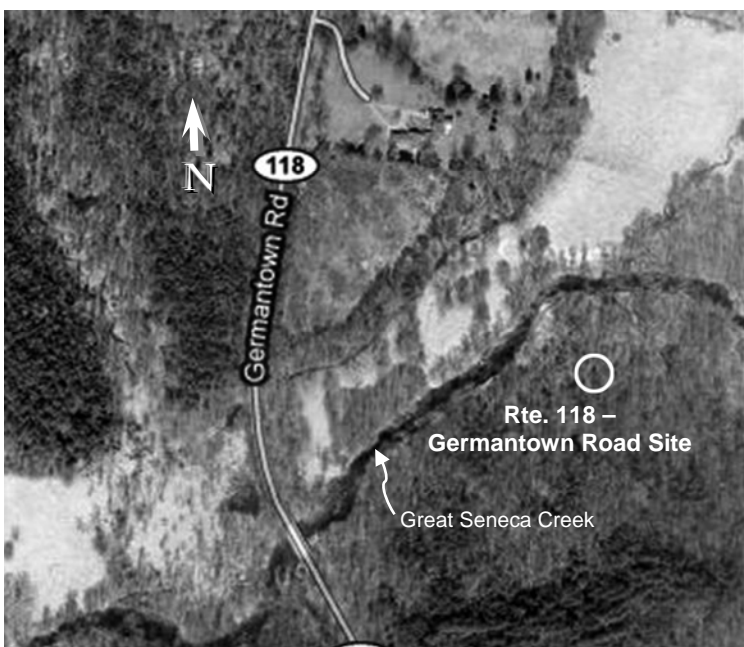


For more information, please visit our website at www.woolwinders.com.

Seneca State Park Forest Project

by Steve Ellis

A reminder... We will be cementing in the posts for the 2 exclosures in late October–early November. Will need some volunteers and wheel barrows. We would like to know if anyone has a gas powered auger for drilling the holes for the posts. Contact: Steve Ellis 301-330-0699. The exclosure locations on map.



Montgomery County Residents Face Primary Elections on September 14, General Election on November 2

by Bob Thompson, UCAB

This year's general elections are regarded by most as pivotal and critical as an evaluation of President Obama and Congress' performance for the past two years. For those of us in Montgomery County they are even more important because we will be electing our entire local government in addition to U.S. Congressman and U.S. Senator. For those representatives who determine our taxes and make decisions affecting our daily lives, we will be voting for the following: 1) U.S. Senator, 2) Governor of Maryland, 3) Lt. Governor of Maryland, 4) Comptroller, 5) Attorney General, and our State Senators and Representatives to the Maryland House of Delegates. The Lt. Governor is a critical position, as we have seen in a number of other States the past few years; if a Governor leaves his/her position for any reason, the Lt. Governor takes his place.

Traditionally Montgomery County has been regarded as the "richest in the State" (this is no longer true), and as a result Montgomery County receives considerably less in aid from the State than its residents pay in taxes. We should keep that in mind as we review candidates for State offices. Locally we will be electing the County Executive, the entire County Council, Sheriff, and other offices. There are two forces at play this election season that voters should consider. First is that the Federal Government is at "legal war" with the States regarding jurisdiction over a) Health Care, b) Same Sex Marriage, and c) Immigration Reform. These issues are being argued in the courts and the ballot boxes. The results will affect our children and their children for decades to come. Second, the Federal Government has been adding to the National Debt at a dizzying and unprecedented rate to try to exit the recession and pay for new programs. This is being debated endlessly and everywhere, but the truth will be realized in the world economy over the next 20 years. These elections are a referendum on these issues. On a more local level Mike Knapp, who has been most of Darnestown's 2nd District Representative to the County Council for the past eight years, is not seeking re-election. So we will be voting for his replacement, as well as all four County Council-at-large positions.

Montgomery County is a huge, richly diverse set of communities. I urge all voters to closely examine the Council Candidates and their positions to see who best represents your view. We are still in the middle of the



worst economic crises in this country in more than 60 years. Just as the actions in the 1930's and 1940's effected the following 50 years, our actions today will similarly affect the future.

In summary please make sure that you research the issues for yourself. Get your news from a variety of sources. Take a serious look at alternative candidates and proposals. Check the following for a list of candidates; <http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2010/candidates/index.html#local>. Please make your voice heard at this critical time.

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 bob.thompson@comcast.net. Additionally, the Board is staffed by the Upcounty Regional Services team. The Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240-777-8040 or via e-mail at catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov.

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

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio

Patrick Ledgard, a Northwest 2009 graduate, has been awarded an Air Force ROTC scholarship. He is majoring in Aeronautical Engineering at Embry Riddle University in Flagstaff, Arizona.



1st Lt. Ryan Swisher was recently promoted to the rank of Captain. He is currently the Jump Operations Officer for his Airborne unit at Ft. Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska. In addition to his military duties he is enjoying climbing glaciers, salmon fishing, and midnight golf.

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 Luanne Deppa

As I am writing this, everyone in the Darnestown area is still cleaning up their yards from the damage of a recent powerful storm. Many trees were uprooted or broken, and now have to be cut down. The clean-up is a laborious job, and often very expensive.

With the unusually high temperatures this summer many of our flowers and shrubs have suffered, but there is hope for some beautiful fall foliage.

During the cooler months is a perfect time to propagate many of our perennials by dividing them. You can do this by simply sectioning out a chunk of roots and planting it in a new area leaving the "mother" plant undisturbed. Use a sharp spade for most perennials. However, Siberian Iris form a dense mat of roots that sometimes requires an ax or hatchet to separate. Two spading forks are helpful on daylilies (if you are lucky enough to have any with our ever present deer problem). Lift out the entire clump, place forks back-to-back and pry them apart. On perennials that have new growth around a center that has died out (either because of overcrowding or because it is its nature to grow outward), remove six or more pie-shaped sections out about 4-6 inches and replant each section anew.

Peonies (and the deer don't eat them) have a special propagation request. Each section must have 3 or 4 "eyes" or pink buds, that will be the growth for next spring. Lift out the whole clump and wash off the dirt so you can see the eyes. Using a sharp knife, slice the sections. When resetting the peony roots, care must be given to their proper depth, or the result will be lots of foliage but no flowers. Set them in no deeper than one or two inches below the soil surface. Allow for settling by tamping the soil down. It's easier if you lay a straight stick across the hole and measure the depth from it to the roots.

Don't forget to fertilize your plants and trees in the late fall and use slow release material so the plants can use the nutrients to keep up their strength over the winter.

Believe it or not, coffee grounds can provide a valuable source of nutrition for your garden. The proper amount to be used depends on the condition of your soil and what you are growing. If you are not sure, check with a local gardening expert to see what is best for your garden. The coffee grounds can be applied directly as a top dressing to nitrogen loving plants like azaleas, most perennials, and allium plants. Adding brown material such as leaves and dried grass to the mulch will help balance the nutrition of your soil.

Try mixing your coffee grounds in your compost. Coffee grounds act as a green material with a carbon-nitrogen (C-N) ratio of 20-1. Combined with browns such as leaves and straw, coffee grounds generate heat and will speed up the composting process.

Most of the acidity in coffee is removed during the brewing process. So used grounds have an average pH



of 6.9. Use your grounds within 3 weeks to capture the most nutritional value. Why not try this inexpensive way to recycle and improve our gardens!

The first meeting of the DarneBloomers Garden Club for the year 2010-2011 will be held on Thursday, September 9th and the program will be a lecture on Shade Gardening.

The meetings are held in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church social hall. It begins at 9:00 a. m. with refreshments, followed by a brief business meeting, and then the program. All meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month, September through May. We welcome new members!

Quince Orchard Library

by Elizabeth Cookson

The Library is very busy all through the summer. Although there is no Summer Reading Program this year due to the staff cuts, the Library hopes everyone is enjoying some good books. Gaithersburg Library closed which means that a lot of their patrons are using Quince Orchard. Unfortunately, the staff cuts are affecting the running of the Library so that there may be lines at the check-out and for the latest publications.

The Book Sale is continuing once a month. Due to the shortage of staff, the Manager has requested that book drops can only be at certain times when the staff are free to sort. Please do not feel upset if you cannot leave the books at that time, but try again later. It is very inconvenient for everyone but the staff are extra busy. We do need your books and donations in order to help with programming.

Community Day went well with a different format this year mainly geared to the youngsters. Penny Theatre will start again in October. Check the activities lists at the Library for more information. You may also like to know that the library is now open Wednesday mornings.

School News & Events

The Barnesville School

by Nicole Campbell

This fall, the Barnesville Middle School Faculty is introducing new technology to our students through "tablet teaching." These Tablet PCs will be linked to classroom LCD projectors, giving teachers the ability to walk around their classrooms wirelessly, typing or

writing as they go, using touch screen technology. As they do this, their lessons will be projected to the front of the room using the projector.

Head of School John Huber notes, *What I like best about this technology is that it frees up the teacher from the front of the room, and allows for more face-to-face interaction with the students. Unlike a conventional chalkboard, or even a new smartboard, the tablets are mobile technology.*



Barnesville is using the newest technology from HP and Hitachi to provide access to students for about a third of the cost of similar systems just two years ago. According to Jim Snider, Barnesville's Technology Director, *this means we're spending tuition dollars wisely and bringing more technology to the students than ever before.*

Once Barnesville examines how this first step into using Tablet PCs works for our middle school teachers, the goals will be to expand the use of this technology throughout the school, and then consider plans for students to use similar technology.

Huber adds, *How soon until we have paperless "papers", e-textbooks, and fully organized electronic notebooks?*



Before all of this can happen, the teachers need to explore the strengths (and weaknesses) of these tablets, and ensure that any new technology bolsters the educational goals they've held all along for their students - taking notes, organizing a calendar, reading critically, researching, and composing original reports.

The Barnesville School is an independent, coeducational Pre-K to 8th grade school in Barnesville, MD, with a mission to provide a joyful and supportive environment for the development of excellence.

For more information about the school, please visit www.barnesvilleschool.org.

Darnestown Elementary School

by Kristen Crook

Welcome back! We hope our students and families are geared up and ready for another successful year at Darnestown Elementary!

While many event dates are still being scheduled as of this writing, a couple of key dates already scheduled for the fall are:

September 24th: Back-To-School Picnic

October 14th: International Night

Our Read-A-Thon is back!! Last year, instead of the usual gift wrap selling fundraiser, we decided to be creative and hold a Read-A-Thon to raise money to support the many PTA programs we offer our families throughout the year. It was a HUGE success with a 91% participation rate and over \$18,000 in funds raised. We hope to repeat our success this year so get your kids ready! The event kicks off in early September.

Once again, we will be collecting school supplies to benefit our adopted school Gaithersburg Elementary. Keep these students in mind while shopping for your kids. Our donations are much needed and greatly appreciated. A collection box will be set-up during Back-To-School night. Here's to a great year!

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

Northwest High School

by Tracy Callahan

Northwest kicks off the 2010 Football Season with Darnestown resident Bob Hampton as the Head Coach in his 1st year with the Jaguars. *I am eagerly excited about getting started with this fine young group*, said Coach Hampton. *We had a strong showing in the Summer Passing league*, Coach Hampton noted as he prepared

his High School team to travel to Frostburg State University for Pre-Season Football Camp.

Coach Hampton, longtime Wooton Head Coach and Sherwood assistant, has a terrific resume and a passion for the game. He takes over a 3-7 Jaguar team and needs your support on Friday nights to help turn it around. Friday night football is great Family Fun. The Jaguars open Friday September 3rd vs. Walt Whitman at Home 6:30PM, See you there!!!

Northwest always gives out Jaguar Awards to the student athlete who epitomizes the best drive, spirit and dedication of the team. Spring Sport winners are as follows: Baseball, Nick Karis, Boys Lacrosse Tyler Graham, Girls Lacrosse Katy Lang, Softball Ayana Hilton, Boys Tennis Brian Bollman, Boys Track and Field Oliver Poulain, Girls Track and Field Cindy Beard, Boys Volleyball Kamron Redding, Co-Ed Volleyball Austin Adams. Over the last Spring Break, Northwest's Olivia Ekpone qualified to compete at the World Youth Olympic Games in Singapore. The Competition is taking place in August 2010 as we go to press. Good luck Olivia.

The Northwest Girls Track and Field team came up ten points shy of becoming the first girls team from Montgomery County to win a 4A State title. CH Flowers won with 81 points, Northwest had 71, Churchill had 58 for third place and Wooton had 53 for fourth place. Northwest sprinter Olivia Ekpone had the best day to this point in her career. After qualifying for the 100 and 200 finals on Friday, she won the 100 in 11.94 on Saturday morning. It was not her fastest time, but she won by 0.36 seconds. She ran a tremendous personal best of 53.60 to win the 400. She ran 23.89 to beat rival sprinter Aurieyall Scott of Eleanor Roosevelt with a late burst of speed. It was her personal best wind-legal time (23.64 in Texas this spring was considered wind-aided, +2.4). She topped everything off with a split of 53 seconds en route to a State #2 all-time time of 3:48.28 in the 4x400 relay. Northwest also won the 4x200 meter relay without Ekpone. Sheridan Allen, Britt Eckerstrom, India Knight, and Camry Torian ran 1:41.88, which is the fastest time by a county team this year. Next up for Ekpone is the Carribean Scholastic Invitational in Peurto Rico. She will represent Team USA in the 100, 200, 4x100, and 4x400. Then she will look towards the Youth Olympic Games in Singapore in mid-August.

Northwest also hired a New Head Baseball Coach, Todd Varesco, who will lead the Jaguar Varsity after a long and successful run with the JV team. *We will be Hustling, Hungry and Motivated this Spring*, Todd was heard to say at a meet the Coach get together. Northwest also hired a new Field Hockey Coach. Michele Heyl, who won the Jaguar award as a student playing Field



Hockey for NW, and returns to Coach the team. In her first meeting with the squad she was well received and looks forward to a big season. The Team is currently getting ready for the season at the University of Maryland Field Hockey Camp.

It is very important that you notice the new traffic pattern at Northwest High School. The lower lot, (near the football field) now has one entrance closest to the football field, and one exit, closest to the school. If you are a student who will drive to school, you may want to take a look before the first day of school. A special thanks to Darnestown resident, Kelly Cameron for her service and dedication to the NWHS Boosters club. Through her leadership and the efforts of many, a lower field scoreboard for Field Hockey and Baseball will be in place for the 2010–11 season.

Please pass on any Northwest news to Tracy Callahan at Tracy@tracycallahan.net.

Seneca Academy

by Brooke Carroll

The International Seneca Academy is proud to be an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Candidate School. We are the first independent school in Montgomery County to partner with the prestigious International Baccalaureate program to offer globally focused, inquiry-based elementary education in a small, nurturing environment. Baccalaureate's Primary Years Program (IB/PYP) combines research and experience from schools worldwide to create a relevant, engaging, challenging and significant educational framework for all children. Seneca Academy's existing curriculum for Preschool through 6th grade fits perfectly into the IB/PYP framework. Within this partnership, Seneca Academy students are able to *think deeply* about critical and relevant issues; *communicate effectively* using a variety of verbal, non-verbal, artistic and technological media; and *interact positively* with peers and adults to acquire information, solve problems, and promote friendships. In addition, Seneca Academy's tuition is one of the lowest in the county, making it an affordable option for many families. Seneca Academy is in its 27th year of providing exception education and is delighted to be aligning with the International Baccalaureate as we continue *Turning Experience Into Knowledge*.

Come visit us and see what the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program looks like in practice. Our 2010-2011 Open House dates are:

- Sunday November 14th from 2-4pm for Preschool through 6th grade
- Wednesday November 17th from 9:30-10:45 for K-6th grade

- Saturday January 8th from 9:30-11:30am and 1-3pm for Preschool through 6th grade
- Wednesday January 19th from 9:30-10:45 for Preschool through 6th grade
- Saturday February 5th from 9:30-11:30am Preschool through 6th grade
- Wednesday February 23rd from 9:30-10:45 for Preschool through 6th grade

For more information, please visit our website: www.SenecaAcademy.org

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Michelle Wentz

The new and improved Thomas Jefferson Preparatory (TJP) is pleased to announce their transition into their fourth year as a private establishment. Thomas Jefferson is a fairly new, non faith-based, private school, which is continually growing and now offers PreK through 8th grade. Under the leadership of the new Head of School, Zorianna Harabatch, TJP looks forward to an enriching and fulfilling year for its students and families. TJP offers a challenging academic curriculum with an emphasis on Technology and prides itself in teaching to individual mastery.

Back to school for the 2010–11 school year will begin September 1st. TJP is currently enrolling and accepting applicants for all grade levels and is enthusiastic to meet prospective families. Schedule a tour by calling 301-330-7550, and be on your way to join TJP in a new educational program where a child can grow and blossom. For more information log on to tjprep.org. or call 301-330-7550.

Local Sports

Darnestown Softball Championship Returns to BHR

Dave Bivans – Go Highlanders!

On April 25th, a slightly renovated Cliff Band Park opened Darnestown's Sunday afternoon/evening co-ed recreational softball league play. The County did an outstanding job replacing the backstop and baseline fencing just prior to "the first pitch." Unfortunately, the re-grading of the infield didn't make the cut, and while the baseline fencing was raised and extended quite a bit, it proved insufficient at times with some throws still going out-of-play! The opening game had the defending



champions, Berryville-Seneca (BS), knocking off the Highlanders by a score of 8-4. Certainly it looked as though BS was going to have another terrific season. The end-of-season standings:

NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	RF	RA
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	7	1	88	47
Western Darnestown	5	3	60	40
Highlanders	4	4	56	66
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	3	5	81	74
Berryville-Seneca	1	7	18	76

While not due solely to residual infield puddles, once again the season was interrupted and extended by several rainy Sundays. This extended throughout the season, and threatened the afternoon of the final scheduled games. Fortunately, for the players (and perhaps our electric service!) the storm passed to the south allowing

a smooth conclusion to the season. Notching wins over the Ancient-Rollin-Mountain-Quails and Berryville-Seneca, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield once again secured the league championship (BHR's most recent championships were in 2007 and 2008). Additionally, a substantial number of games were cancelled or forfeited on account of limited player availability. Hardest hit was last year's first-time champions, Berryville-Seneca, with a particularly disheartening forfeit to Western Darnestown while ahead when a critical seventh player injured a knee and could not continue play.

Several teams could benefit by expanding their rosters to account for the inevitable alternative summer-time commitments and vacations. Some playing ability is desired, but not absolutely necessary. Contact me (301-977-4734, dnlbivans34@verizon.net) if you are interested in getting on a team. Enjoy the off-season and we'll see you at Spring Training!



The 2010 Champs, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR). From left: Hong McGill, Darren McCue, Frank Osborn, Lee Story, Dave Peoples, Lori Peoples, Tracy Story, Mike Cederholm, Laura Wallerstedt, Kevin Ricci, Mark Ludder, Steve Groff, and Bob Sonken.

Congregational News

St. Nicholas Church... Settling In, Reaching Out

by Rev. Ken Howard

The people of St. Nicholas are looking forward to another great year in 2010. At the same time that the congregation

has been getting more and more settled into its new "home," it has continued to share that home with the greater community. Last Spring's highly successful Darnestown Day Festival was just one example of the congregation's community outreach efforts, and they look forward to more such activities in the future.

If you've been thinking about visiting St. Nick's, mark your calendars for one of these upcoming dates:



September 12 (10am, 5pm) Homecoming Sunday. St. Nick's celebrates the last Sunday of its summertime service schedule with special activities for both members returning from vacation and visitors seeking a church in which they can feel "at home," including Sunday school sign-up, a special time of fellowship, and more.

September 19 (9am, 11am, 5pm) Kick-Off Sunday. St. Nick's returns to its regular Sunday services schedule, with Sunday school, youth group, adult Christian formation, and more.

October 3 (11am) Blessings of the Animals. Bring your cats, your dogs, your parakeets, even your horses for a special service of blessing on St. Francis Sunday.

October 3 (2-4pm) Book Signing Celebration. The Rector's new book "Paradoxy: Creating Christian Community Beyond Us and Them" will be released in September, and the St. Nick's community will be celebrating the occasion with a book signing party. A limited supply of free copies will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

So if you've been looking for "a place to belong" and "a place to become," St. Nick's invites you to check them out and see if they can be that kind of place for you. We're located at 15575 Germantown Road in Darnestown, MD. E-mail Ken Howard, Rector, rector@saintnicks.com. Visit us at www.saintnicks.com and www.facebook.com/saintnicks.

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.



Kites Without Strings – The Social Site For Singles

By Ruth Choi and Laraine Goldberg

KitesWithoutStrings was started by two Darnestown women – Ruth Choi and Laraine Goldberg, who met in a support group made up of separated and/or divorced

people. They developed a friendship and made a pact to attend single's activities together in order to give each other support through the nerve-racking experience of meeting new people. During this time, they scoured the newspapers and the internet searching for things to do. What they discovered was there was no centralized source of information - an organized and comprehensive database detailing activities and events suited for those who were looking to start the second acts of their lives by becoming social, again. So they decided to build their own website which would serve as a portal to single events in the DC metropolitan Area. Thus the birth of KitesWithoutStrings – the social site for singles.

What is KWS? KWS is not a match site—we know how well these don't work! The potential to meet your soul mate is enhanced by doing the things you love. KWS is a network of local area singles eager to reinvigorate their social lives. Through a number of easy applications, you can learn about upcoming activities, host and post an event of your own, discuss topics related to your life, exchange facts and opinions and learn through each other's experiences, and stay in contact with friends. So if you're looking to have some fun and meet some new people, welcome to the party. It's FREE!

If you're interested in becoming a sponsor, please email us: KitesWithoutStrings@ymail.com. We greatly appreciate your support! For more information, visit us at www.KitesWithoutStrings.org.

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 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
John Huber, Head of School 301-972-0341

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-Troiike, 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
Deborah Higdon, 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
Lance Dempsey, 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

Messiah Lutheran Church

13901 Clopper Road
Germantown, MD 20874
301-972-2130, www.MessiahGermantown.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, www.shaaretorah.org

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

Gerard F. Foley

Gerard F. Foley passed away on Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at the age of 65. He is survived by his wife, Betty, his children, Kerry, Richard, Jennifer, Tim and Katherine; his sons- and daughters-in-law, Greg, Janice, Jeff, and Shannon; and his eight grandchildren.

Gerry and Betty moved from Mt. Vernon, Va. to Darnestown in 1986. Gerry's employer, the National Association of Securities Dealers, Inc, assigned him to manage the design and construction of NASD headquarters building on Key West Avenue. Gerry was a vice-president there for many years and retired in 2002. He was then hired to be a consultant to NASAA, the securities industry regulatory association for the individual states.

Gerry soon became active in the Darnestown Civic Association. He became parliamentarian in 1988, VP from June 1989 to 1997, and chairman of the long range planning committee beginning in 1990 until the Potomac Sub-region Master Plan was opened up in 1998. Gerry was one of 2 representatives from the DCA on the Master Plan Citizen Advisory Board. The 2002 Master Plan consumed a great deal of time and effort during that 4 year period. His diligence and attention to detail in the draft master plan studies and negotiations were key to achieving the association's goals during the master plan revision process

related to controlling development in the Darnestown/Potomac area. He became president in June 2001 for one year and a Trustee from June 2003 to 2006. Gerry brought good sense, vibrancy and humor to the DCA's meetings and activities.

The Foleys are founding members of Our Lady of the Visitation Church, and Gerry was on the original parish financial board. Gerry served in many capacities at Visitation; including emcee, bingo caller, St. Patrick's Day party organizer, Christmas tree sales coordinator.

Gerry was a founding and long term member of various groups; e.g., a poker club, the continuous president of the still existing Darnestown Investment Club started in 1993, the Ancient Mountain Quails softball team serving as the spiritual advisor some years. He was an assistant coach of Tim's soccer team the Darnestown Demons from 1988-1992, and assisted Katherine and Betty in the Seneca Valley and Potomac Pony clubs.

May he be with us in spirit.

Contributions may be made in memory of Gerry Foley to St. Charles' Borromeo Housing Fund, c/o Betty Foley, 13508 Darnestown, MD 20878.

Bruce Deppa & Steve Ellis



DCA Hoedown

40th Anniversary

Join your friends and neighbors for a really fun evening of dancing,
dinner, drinks, desserts, and hayrides

All-inclusive for only \$35 per person!!!

**Friday, October 15, 2010
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT**

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

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

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

ADULTS ONLY!

Reservations with payment must be received by October 8th!

****No refunds** Payment will not be accepted at the door**

"DARNE GOOD COOKBOOKS" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE HOEDOWN

Please clip and submit this form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/8/10 to:

Lisa Patterson-Troike, 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

Direct any questions to Lisa via email (lisaapatterson@aol.com) or phone (301-548-0999)

Full names of those in your group: _____

Phone #: _____ # of Reservations: _____ @ \$35.⁰⁰ each: Enclosed: \$ _____

(Please list full names of those in your party. Nametags will be awaiting you at the door and will serve as your ticket.)

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

dca@darnestowncivic.org

