



Volume 46, Number 4

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

December 2010

Civic Association News & Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Happy Holidays! I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving and autumn and are ready for a mild winter. It's not an official prediction, just my prediction. We are staying ever vigilant on the reliability of our utility companies, specifically, Pepco. One of our board members, Art Slesinger, has kindly volunteered to be on a special Pepco task force set up by County Executive Ike Leggett. They've only met a few times, but I'm sure Art's polite persistence will get them on the right track to make sure Pepco is doing the right things to improve the quality of our service. I don't know about you, but I'm fed up with power outages.

Our last Town Meeting in September had the MNCPPC crew discuss the latest developments with our Heritage Park, next to Harris Teeter. We were blown away, some of us in tears, over how spectacular this park is going to be. The artist, Cheryl Foster, will be creating six sculptures: William Darne, Native American, Civil War soldier, grain miller, tobacco picker, teacher; and how they are a part of Darnestown's History. Project Manager Heidi Sussman hopes that the park will bring not only local residents, but school buses and people from other areas to learn about our heritage. Construction of the park may begin as early as next spring.

Our next Town Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 9, 7:30 pm at the Fellowship Hall of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church located on the corner of Turkey Foot and Darnestown (Rt. 28) Roads. We will have two guests: Luther Reynolds, 5th District Police Commander, and a representative from the 1st District talking about recent crime and what they are doing to prevent a recurrence. We will also be presenting the
(Continued, page 3)

Volunteers Needed!

- Welcome Committee
- Quince Orchard Library
- Social Activities

Email acorneditor@comcast.net for more information.

Next DCA Town Meeting Thursday, December 9th 7:30 p.m.

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this issue...

DCA News	1
Community Interest.....	6
School News.....	8
Congregational News	11
Newcomers' Corner	12
Election Results.....	14



- D E A D L I N E -

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

February 1, 2011

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!

THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: Carolyn Thompson
Proofreaders: Vicki Mostrom
Sarah Scherer
Production/Distribution: Lynn Hoffman
Balmar® Solutions in Print

The Darnestown Civic Association Board

President: Lisa Patterson-Troiike
Vice President: Bob Thompson
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Membership: Jean Jurgena
Parliamentarian: Bruce Deppa
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Softball: Dave Bivans
Opinion Survey: Brian McCollom
Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger
Welcome:
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-Troiike (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)

winner of this years' softball trophy. Come out, meet other Darnestownians and find out what's going on in your neighborhood.

I view our Civic Association as being of service to ALL the residents of Darnestown, with the primary goal of preserving and improving this place we call home and providing a forum to discuss items of mutual interest. As such, we must always remain neutral in matters where there are legitimate differences of opinion. Our country is based on individual freedoms to believe and act as we wish provided we don't infringe on the rights of others. This certainly applies to our Civic Association.

Thanks to all of you who made this year's DCA Hoedown such a success. You put your heart into it and it showed. I laughed so hard, so often, that my facial muscles ached. It is such a great way to get together and meet new people. Mark your calendars for the DCA annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 12th. Please read more in my social article in this Little Acorn.

We have started our 2011 membership drive! Letters were sent to all Darnestown residents in November. If you didn't receive one, or have misplaced it, the letter and form are included on page 15 of this Little Acorn.

May everyone have a healthy and happy New Year!

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

We have had a few updates to the 2010 Directory. Please update telephone numbers for the following:

LEVINTON, Philip
Robin Gross
301-208-9175

BALSAM, Frtiz & Elaine
301-926-0084

Please also add in long time Darnestown neighbor, Lowell Christy, who was inadvertently left out of the Directory.

CHRISTY, Lowell Jr.
14919 Berryville Rd.
301 869-9098

We would like to welcome new neighbors:

CAROTHERS, Peter & Lisa
15812 Ancient Oak Dr
240-426-5406

WAECHTER, John
15608 Norman Dr

VERONE, Darleen & Greg
12812 Talley La.
(301) 761-1930

As always, please keep me up to date on changes in your neighborhood. I can be reached at 240-683-8533 or sarahscherer@comcast.net.

Membership Committee

by Jean Jurgena

Thanks to all residents who paid their dues for 2010. The 2011 DCA membership dues notice was mailed in November. Any checks received from now on will be applied to January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011.

When paying your dues please correct any necessary information on the return form and include this with your payment. Returning this form with any changes enables DCA to keep our database accurate and up to date. A new Directory was recently mailed to all residents, and the database is the primary source of information for the directory.

The database is used for DCA mailings and printing the directory. DCA is the sole user of this database information and does not sell or rent this information to anyone. Include your e-mail address if you wish to receive mass e-mails regarding important information that may be of concern to residents before the next printing of The Little Acorn Newsletter. The dues mailing responses also help identify residents who have moved to or from the area. This is an ongoing job, so in between mailings, if you know a neighbor has moved from your neighborhood, please pass the information along to either myself or the Directory Chairperson, Sarah Scherer.

DCA Social Activities

By Bruce Deppa

The DCA Executive Board needs your help! We would like to explore some new ideas for DCA-sponsored social activities.

Traditionally, our major role has been defender of our open spaces, restrictor of sewer service expansion, and limiter of development. We still have plenty of issues



that require our watchfulness and attention. In the meantime, we should have more fun in activities that will enhance our sense of community.

Our civic association boundary includes nearly 2,000 homes, and our population is approximately 6,000 people. (See the centerfold map in the 2010 Darnestown Directory.) Over the next few months, the Board will be actively working to apply creative thinking and expand our current range of social activities to include lots more of these residents.

Please contact our DCA President and Social Committee Chairperson, Lisa Patterson-Troike, or any other member of the Board, with any ideas you may have that will help us jump-start this effort. Lisa can be reached at 301-548-0999, or by e-mail at lisaapatterson@aol.com.

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Hoedown Lowdown!

The 40th annual DCA Hoedown on October 15th was a huge success! What a beautiful night it was for enjoying

delicious food, fun people, hay rides and square dancing. Special thanks goes out to Sue Tayman who recruited 14 friends and neighbors to partake in our special annual event.

Mac McCall, our square dance caller, and his wife Phyllis came dressed in western attire, complete with matching red cowboy boots! Mac has quite a history with him. Did you know he used to call dances at the White House while President Reagan was in office? Mac's voice is amazing, and his patience with teaching us the correct moves is much appreciated.

Smokey Glen, once again, out did themselves. The staff orchestrated the night in perfect harmony. The food was cooked to perfection, and there were very few left-overs to take home. The seafood bisque, ribs, grilled chicken, salads, sides and pies were out-of-this-world!

Remember, you don't have to dance to have a good time at the Hoedown. Watching us left-footed people on the dance floor can be entertainment enough. If you've never been, give it a try next year. You'll be glad you did!



Holiday Tree Lighting News

The annual DCA Holiday Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 12th at 6:30 pm. The event takes place at the corner of Darnestown Road (Rt. 28) and Ancient Oak Drive at the big tree. The tree has grown so tall that it is difficult to put lights on it. It won't be long before our new tree is planted in our town park next to Harris Teeter. We usually hear sleigh bells and prancing hooves in the distance and to our surprise a right jolly old elf named Santa shows himself to the attendees and brings a bag of candy canes for all to enjoy. Hot cocoa, cookies, firepit and music/singing also provided. Come and enjoy the wonder and merriment of the season!

Utility Reliability

by Art Slesinger

The County Executive's committee examining PEPCO will have met 4 or 5 times by the time you read this article. The writer was appointed to the committee by Mr. Leggett to represent civic associations. The Committee of 12 volunteer members hopes to complete its examination of PEPCO service and reliability by January of 2011 and issue a series of recommendations to Ike Leggett.

This is ambitious, as the Maryland PSC is undertaking a similar examination and has required PEPCO to hire and pay for an independent consultant. This latter effort will be completed mid 2011. In many ways, both efforts will be looking at the same data. There is a great deal of work to be done, and the two examinations may not reach the same conclusions.

PEPCO President Tom Graham has promised to tour our community with this writer; hopefully he will find time in his hectic schedule to honor the commitment. The bottom line is clear and not contested; nationally PEPCO service is in the bottom quartile based on reliability but not so in price. How and if the Public Service Commission will resolve this inequity remains to be seen.

In the meantime, what the writer has learned that you must know is as follows. Until smart meters are installed ~2013, you must call into PEPCO's system to report outages. When there are widespread outages, there is the possibility that your house will experience a primary and secondary outage during the same event. This occurs when a major interruption occurs in your feeder as well as a second, smaller break closer to your home. PEPCO cannot see both causes. They repower the feeder at the major break, but until calls are again received from further down the feeder, they do not know power was NOT fully restored along the entire circuit. If you note

others near you getting their power but you are still in the dark, call again please: 877-737-2662.

It is with great sadness that I must report that Bruce Coyle of Verizon has been reassigned to another responsibility. During the last 6 months Bruce has been diligently and effectively repairing the Verizon phone line system in Darnestown. We expressed to his management our sincere thanks to the only person we found in Verizon who gets the job done. Bruce is truly a saint and a great man with whom to do business. Hopefully his replacement, Russ Chandler, can fill the large shoes of his predecessor.

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

Welcome Committee

by Carolyn Thompson

On behalf of the Darnestown Civic Association Board, I would like to extend our appreciation and gratitude to Lara Wibeto for her years of service as the Welcome Committee Chairperson. Lara brought such zeal, enthusiasm, and community spirit to this town, the Board meetings, and particularly to her role in welcoming new families to Darnestown. We wish her much success and happiness in her new endeavors.

Zoning Committee Update on Land Developments

by Pam DuBois

The Darnestown Civic Association Zoning Committee has been monitoring several area land developments through the site plan approval process, some dating back to application submissions in 2002. An update of five of the more prominent parcels is summarized below.

1. Cornelius Property at 13710 Esworthy Road. This property comprises 35.65 acres with RC (rural cluster) zoning. It is currently improved with a single family home and a barn / shed with cattle grazing in the pastures. The property was subdivided into seven lots approximating five acres each (allowable given the RC zoning). Lot 1 (improved with the existing house and barn) and the adjacent Lot 2 were bequeathed to Frank Cornelius by his mother. Frank, who lives next door, purchased Lots 3 and 4 from the family's estate. The Maryland National Park and Planning Commission purchased the remaining three lots, approximately 16.5 acres for \$1.35 million, to augment the Blockhouse Point Conservation Park. If you enjoy the vista of rolling hills, cattle and



woodlands along this section of Esworthy Road, it looks like it is here to stay for quite some time.

Estates. Visit www.wormald.com for more information.

2. Butz Property at 15330 Darnestown Road. This property comprises 258+ acres with RC zoning. It is located on the west side of Berryville Road along Darnestown Road. Subdivision plans were approved for 43 residential lots on approximately 94 acres with varied lot sizes that average slightly more than two acres a lot. Access to 39 planned homes will be directly across from Black Rock Road and there is a planned four home cul-de-sac across from Bellingham Drive. Elm Street Development is the developer and Winchester Homes is one of the builders. Lots are also available to individuals interested in building their own home. Infrastructure improvements along Darnestown Road have been completed and home sites are currently being marketed. Visit www.reserveatblackrock.com for more information.
3. Clubs Farm Property is located in the northwest corner of the intersection of Darnestown and Germantown Roads (Rts 28 and 118). Three homes were approved for the 19-acre site, infrastructure was put into place and the development is being marketed as Seneca Riding. The property is owned by the Magruder Companies, who reportedly has a contract pending to construct a home by their home building division, Black Rock Development. Visit www.blackrockdevelopmentllc.com for more information.
4. Miller Property at 13635 Darnestown Road. Despite the listed address, this property has no frontage along Darnestown Road. It is situated eastward behind the Paddocks subdivision between the Turkey Foot and Indian Run cul-de-sacs (Seneca Highlands), the Seneca State Park and the Haddonfield common area along the Colonial Pipeline Easement. The 15.7 acre parcel is zoned RC. The site has approved septic percs and Preliminary Plan approval to subdivide into two home sites (5.4 and 2.4 acre lots) and an outparcel which is not developable at this time subject to future county review. The property is listed with Long and Foster.
5. Schooley Property at 13700 Darnestown Road (across from Masonwood Drive). The property was subdivided from a single 5.89 acre parcel into four residential lots for the construction of four one-family detached dwelling. The lot size average is 1.5 acres. Robert K. Wormald, Inc. is the developer and builder for the project, known as Bridlewood

Any Darnestown residents with questions and/or concerns regarding any zoning and development matters are encouraged to contact the DCA Zoning and Development Review Committee.

Community Interest

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio



Staff Sergeant Daniel Clark, son of Vicky and Brent Clark, has returned to Maryland after his second tour in Iraq. While he was in Iraq, he was in charge of basic communications. He was the cable site administrator in charge of three teams. He ran site surveys and updated maps for infrastructure on Al Asad Air Base. He went on a special mission that flew him all around Iraq where he climbed towers that were over 300 feet tall in order to remove radio communications and put up temporary communications. SSgt. Clark was raised in Darnestown and now serves in the Army Reserves' 392nd Battalion. Two of his three daughters were born while he was deployed. He was allowed to come home for two weeks for each birth. Daniel is looking for employment in this area in the ITT field.

Private First Class Missy Bateman is currently serving with the Army's 18th Airborne Corp in Iraq. As I write this another Darnestown serviceman is awaiting deployment to Afghanistan.

Captain Ryan Swisher was recently awarded the Army Achievement Medal for meritorious service as the Acting Jump Operations Officer for the 1st Squadron, 40th Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division at Joint Base Richardson-Elmendorf in Anchorage, Alaska. He also earned the designation as an Army Jumpmaster. He is currently planning for joint training and exercises with an Airborne unit from India.

If you would like to help send a care package for the holidays to the two Darnestown Servicemen currently serving in a military theater, please contact me to contribute.

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

STINK BUGS....What are we going to do with them?

Those hard shelled creatures are flying everywhere. They are eating our plants, flowers, vegetables, fruits, and shrubs outside of our house. Not only do they do our gardens a lot of harm, but they hibernate in the structures of our houses for the winter months. They will work their way under siding, into soffits, around window and door frames, under roof shingles and into any crawl space or attic vent.

They will come inside your house on your clothes or as soon as a door is opened. Once inside a warm room, they will be active all winter. They are attracted to light and will find their way into homes when the porch and deck lights are on and doors are being opened and closed. Stink Bugs can live a few years. When outside, the odor they release enables them to avoid getting eaten by several species of birds and lizards.

There have been many articles in newspapers, magazines, and on the internet about how invasive they are and how to help get the infestation under control.

The usual reliable garden insect pesticides do not work for these bugs. The front wings of the resting adult Stink Bug are folded into a protective shield which effectively prevents garden sprays from penetrating and killing them. Our local garden center has an organic essential oils product that is supposed to help with outside plants. It's called Flower Pharm, and consists of Cinnamon Oil, Cotton Seed Oil, and Rosemary Oil.

One of the suggested ways to help keep them from entering your house is to vacuum them up. Here's what my husband came up with, and we have found it really has worked for us for our front porch, deck, and all entrances into our house.

- 1) Buy a small container of "moth crystals" and read the cautions on the label.
- 2) Use any vacuum cleaner, keeping in mind that even a small hand-held vacuum cleaner will hold a lot of stink bugs.
- 3) Empty the machine of any debris from prior use, and put in a new bag if the vacuum uses bags.
- 4) Attach an extension wand to the machine's hose so that you can reach easily.
- 5) Turn on the machine and simply vacuum up a small amount of moth crystals (about one teaspoon). The

trapped moth crystals will very slowly release paradichlorobenzene over time as they change from a solid state to a gaseous state in a process called sublimation.

- 6) Catch as many bugs as you have time for.
- 7) Since most modern vacuums have a flexible rubber or plastic seal or valve of some sort to keep vacuumed stuff in the bag or vacuum chamber, the bugs will be trapped in the bag or chamber with the moth crystals, and will be dead in a few hours.
- 8) It's not necessary to empty the machine after each collection, since the bugs will not release their stinkiness, and the moth crystals will stay active until they have completely sublimated. The vacuum cleaner should be stored some place where the faint smell of paradichlorobezene will not bother anyone. A garage, basement, or shed is ideal.
- 9) After the bug season has ended (or when they are hibernating) simply dispose of the vacuum cleaner contents as household trash.

We keep the little vacuum handy and go out often. I found the stink bugs hiding under the cushions on my porch and deck, and inside the grill covers. I did not bring my ferns and potted plants in the house this winter for fear the bugs may be hibernating in the soil. Happy vacuuming and good luck!!!

Outdoor Winter Plans

You can fertilize your lawn during the winter. Proper seeding and aerating the soil before winter is good, and grass seed should have a chance to germinate before any snowfall. As the winter's snow melts, it will water the new grass.

Don't forget to keep the leaves off the lawn. Most of them are too acidic and will damage the grass. Brown patches may occur on your lawn if leaves are not removed.

It's okay to mow your lawn in winter. Keeping the grass short will help the root system to grow for the spring.

Indoor Winter Plans

Those seasonal plants need special care for them to last longer. Poinsettias should be placed near a sunny window, away from cold drafts and in a room where the temperature is in the 70-75°F range. The soil should be kept uniformly moist.



If you are planting amaryllis bulbs, place them with one inch sticking out of the soil and two inches between the bulb and the rim of the pot. Water thoroughly once, place in a sunny window and do not water again until green leaves appear. Your beautiful flowers will appear in 6-7 weeks. Using thin green bamboo garden stakes will help support these tall plants.

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club October meeting was a field trip near Culpepper, Virginia to visit Fresh Tulips USA, the company behind the tulips we purchase at our neighborhood grocery stores. They are the largest hydroponic supplier on the east coast. The group also enjoyed a tour of Old House Vineyards nearby.

For the November meeting the members and guests enjoyed a presentation of Winter Landscaping. Other programs in the future will include Gardening with Native Plants, a field trip to Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville, MD, and a tour of Georgetown's Dunbarton Oaks.

Darne Bloomers welcome new members. We meet on the second Thursday of each month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Please call the president, Sandy Hribar, at 301-258-5249 prior to attending the first meeting. The club would like to appropriately welcome you by having supplies and materials prepared for you if the program for the meeting is a demonstration, or if the program is a field trip for that meeting.

Quince Orchard Library

by Carolyn Thompson

QOL is saying goodbye to a long-time friend, Elizabeth Cookson. Elizabeth has been involved with QOL since before its ribbon-cutting ceremony some 12 years ago. She has held positions of responsibility on both the Library Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Library, and has also been a part of the library's Penny Theater. Library friends say it will take two or three volunteers to cover all of Elizabeth's contributions. Her husband Alan has also been an active volunteer for many years. The Cooksons are moving to Texas later this month. We wish them well and send them off with a heartfelt thank you.

Like many libraries, QOL has been hit hard by recent budget cuts, and desperately needs volunteers, gently used books, memberships, and donations. To learn how you can help, please contact Linda Raden at folqoc@gmail.com.

School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary School

by Kristen Crook

School is in full swing at Darnestown Elementary! We've had lots of great events already and we are looking forward to plenty more in the months to come.

Our second annual Read-A-Thon raised just over \$21,000 this year! We had an 89% participation rate and our students read for a combined total of 322,935 minutes. This money funds many programs we do throughout the year so thank you for your support and enthusiasm for this event!

What a fantastic display everyone put on at International Night on Thursday October 14.

A big thank you to the 21 families who took the time to set up booths representing their countries. The wealth of our cultural diversity and heritage provided hands on experience for our children to learn geography, history, language, cuisine and more.

Upcoming Events

December 7 th	Gift wrapping for the Dwelling Place during recess
December 14 th	Winter Instrumental Concert
December 16 th	Winter Choral Concert
Dec. 24 th –Jan 2 nd	Winter Break
January 13 th	Muffins for Moms
January 21 st	Bingo and Raffle Night
February 15 th	Science Expo

The planning and design phase for the school addition is underway. The addition will include eight classrooms, an art room, a music room and multiple spaces for support personnel. The construction phase of the project is scheduled to begin in January of 2012 and will last for approximately 18 months. The new space will be open for fall of 2013. Have a safe and happy holiday!

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



Mary of Nazareth

By Mary Stefanelli

Rockets, Rockets Everywhere!

Stroll down the halls of Mary of Nazareth School on any given day, and you will witness engaged children, actively learning. Depending upon the program of study, you may observe a Pizza Cell Lab, an erupting volcano, or feel as if you are back in Medieval Times. Lately, however, the talk through the hallways has been about Newton's Laws of Motion.

It has been a long standing tradition for the eighth grade students to build rockets from scratch with a cardboard cylinder and fins. Then, they host a rocket fair for the entire school and get to put their rockets to the test. This year's rocket fair was held on Friday, October 22nd. "We were a little worried about the wind that day, but it actually worked in our favor," said Mrs. Kowansky. "We shot rockets into the wind which allowed the audience to enjoy the entire show from countdown to rocket landing."

Interest in rockets and hands on learning inspired Mrs. Kowansky to start a Rocket Club for interested fifth grade students. They meet after school once a week and have built the same rockets they watched the eighth grade students launch. Their launch is scheduled for Friday, November 5th, weather permitting

Several of these rockets may be on display for our Open House on January 30, 2011.

Northwest High School

by Tracy Callahan

Quick facts about Northwest High School

- Northwest opened in 1998.
- The current Principal is Mrs. Lance Dempsey, in her second year at Northwest.
- The current student enrollment is 2,044 students, with 51% male students.
- With a faculty of 113, the student-teacher ratio is 18 to 1.
- The Graduation rate for students is 96%.

Darnestown Resident Earns Title of County Male Athlete of the Week

Chris Miller (Darnestown Resident) from Northwest High School was County male athlete of the week 10-24-10. Miller won the Montgomery County title with a

time of 15:37.31. Two Walter Johnson runners, Alex Willett and Nick Regan were in hot pursuit when Miller re-entered the Gaithersburg High School grounds, but he took off in the final half mile for the win. 15:37 is the third fastest time ever run on the Gaithersburg course behind 15:27 by Andrew Palmer and 15:11.62 by Solomon Haile in 2008. In the last four county championships, Miller placed 12th, 11th, 2nd, and 1st. Girls Cross Country Britt Eckstrom placed 8th, Christine DiNardo placed 33rd, Sarah Sekscienski placed 48th and Kal Santangelo place 59th in the Huge Glory Days Invitational run in Bull Run, Virginia.

Late news update: At the State Championships on November 12, Chris Miller won 1st place in Men's Cross Country. The NWHS Girls Cross Country team placed second in the State. Congratulations!

A special "Shout out" to Northwest Cross Country and Track Coach Beth Muehl. Coach Muehl a wonderful and dedicated teacher, transferred from Northwest and is now teaching at Walter Johnson H.S. Coach Muehl drives back to Northwest almost everyday as she coaches Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor track. Coach Muehl always has some of the most competitive teams in the County, and draws raves from her runners.

I had the good fortune to sit down and chat with Coach Muehl. It's easy to see her passion for running and coaching. Her recall of races, students and the stories that go with them is phenomenal. Northwest harriers are lucky to have her!!! Northwest girls tennis had several Darnestown girls on the court this year, Emily Rost – 3rd Singles, Hanna Spongberg – 4th Singles, Becca Crowley – 1st Doubles, Katie Crowley – 3rd Doubles, Katelyn Spongberg – 3rd Doubles.

By the time you read this, the football season at Northwest will be over, and while the Jaguars may not have had as many wins as they wanted, the Jaguars are a young team on the move. The future is bright for Northwest Football. Sophomore Varsity Quarterback Matty Callahan gained much valuable experience, and was one of the County passing yardage leaders. Simon Michnick, also a sophomore, was a stalwart on the JV until a broken collarbone sidelined him for the season. Fellow sophomore Varsity Linebacker Michael Shannon led the team in tackles even though he didn't play on defense till the third game. Northwest football opponents lookout next year... it's payback time!

Fundraising is always a struggle at any school, but you can help Northwest. Dena Nicholas, Booster President, has many projects on her agenda requiring lots of money. If you can help or make a donation, please send her an email [randan4@verizon.net]. Signage on the lower field scoreboard with prime viewing on Great



Seneca Highway is also available. Contact Tracy@tracycallahan.net for details.

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

Seneca Academy

by Brooke Carroll

Seneca Academy will be opening our doors to the community for several Open Houses over the next few months. These dates and times are:

- Sunday November 14th from 2-4pm for Preschool-6th Grade
- Wednesday November 17th from 9:30-10:45am for Kindergarten-6th grade
- Saturday January 8th from 9:30-11:30am and 1-3pm for Preschool-6th Grade
- Wednesday January 19th from 9:30-10:45 for Preschool-6th Grade
- Saturday February 5th from 9:30-11:30am for Preschool-6th Grade
- Wednesday February 23rd from 9:30-10:45am for Preschool-6th Grade

At our Open Houses, visitors will learn about how Seneca Academy is implementing the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB/PYP) including how teachers plan collaboratively, teach using inquiry-based methods, and assess student progress as an integral part of their lessons. At the Saturday and Sunday Open Houses, visitors will be able to hear an overview of our school's philosophy and programming, meet with teachers, and take a tour of the school. At our Wednesday Open Houses, visitors will be able to hear an overview of our school and to see classrooms "in action" with students.

Recently our 5th and 6th graders completed an IB/PYP unit on "Water." The central idea they explored was "Water is essential for life and is a limited resource." To further focus this study, they investigated the "lines of inquiry"

- There are many types of water that sustain life.
- Water cycles are varied and continuous.
- In many places distribution and availability of water is a problem.
- Humans have a responsibility to ethically and justly control water usage

In order to explore this topic in depth, as well as to develop a sense of class cohesion, the students went on an overnight field trip to the Anita Leight Nature Center at Otter Creek. This nature center is on the Chesapeake Bay north of Baltimore. Students learned about the estuary, the properties of water, and human issues threatening the bay. They went out on a pontoon boat and took water samples and then studied the samples in a lab. After cooking their own dinner, they went on a full moon hike and then slept in the center. Back in the classroom, the students applied their new-found knowledge to real-world problems as they explored and implemented ways to conserve water.

We invite both parents and interested community members to our Open Houses to learn more about our progressive programming. You may RSVP through our website www.SenecaAcademy.org or by calling us at 301-869-3728. We hope to see you soon!

Seneca Academy is an International Baccalaureate Candidate School. For more information, please visit our website: www.SenecaAcademy.org

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Michelle Wentz

It has been an action-packed, fall season at Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School (TJP) for the students, their families, and the staff. TJP, which is housed in the Fairhaven United Methodist Church at 12801 Darnestown Road, added Pre-K and Kindergarten, technology, and Spanish to their curriculum this school year. Head of School, Zorianna Harabatch, and Director of Admissions, Michelle Wentz, have facilitated an environment that promotes academic excellence, enrichment activities, and community awareness for the pre-k through eighth grade students.

All students, even those in Pre-K, have a challenging slate that includes the core subjects: creative writing, language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, Spanish, and technology. Also, as TJP's philosophy strongly promotes the development of the "whole child," its curriculum includes a full complement of art, drama, music and PE. A recent visitor observed with awe as the first graders completed Power Point presentations on "The Life Cycle of a Pumpkin" in technology class, the middle school presented Halloween skits, and a class decorated cookies for the party. Later, sounds like "thud", "pow", and "let me hit it" were heard as students attempted to crack the Piñata holding lots of treats for all! Teachers, also, shared in the special day by dressing in costumes and bringing goodies. Everyone had an awesome time.



Students, staff, and several parents enjoyed a field trip to Cox's Farm for their annual pumpkin picking. They listened and sang along to songs performed by Patty Reese, a multiple winner of the Washington Area Music Association, Best Female Vocalist Award.

And, "Wow," "Thanks," "Kudos" for the community's participation and support in the successful September Car Wash and October Yard Sale. Both events will assist to fund the new Pre-K-Kindergarten classroom and future student activities. (See <http://northpotomac.patch.com/events/thomas-jefferson-preparatory-car-wash> and <http://northpotomac.patch.com/articles/thomas-jefferson-preparatory-school-holds-fundraiser-yard-sale>.) Up-coming festivities are TJP's traditional Thanksgiving Feast in November and Grandparents/Parents Day in December.

TJP has been participating in Community Service Events with Annie's Adoptions at BARK in the Kentlands and will participate with the Giving House in Gaithersburg for a BBB drive. This is a Book, Bear and Blanket to be donated by each TJP child to a child at the Dwelling Place.

Other upcoming events include several TJP Open Houses:

- **Pre-K – K:** November 11th and December 3rd from 9-11
- **Pre-K – 8th:** November 14th, from 3-5 pm and January 8th and February 5th from 12-2 pm

TJP is a non faith-based, non-profit, private school, in its fourth year. To receive information or schedule a tour, please log on to tjprep.org or 301-330-7550.

Congregational News

St. Nicholas Day and Beyond

by. Rev. Ken Howard

Every church is busy at this time of year, but at St. Nick's things are hopping!

One of the reasons is St. Nicholas Sunday, when we celebrate the feast day of Nicholas of Myra, our namesake. Then there is Christmas, with three services on Christmas Eve and Lessons and Carols services the following Sunday. Then in early January, a visit from the Bishop of Washington, the Rt. Rev. John Bryson Chane, and the dedication of our organ.

Here are the details...

Special Advent-Christmas-Epiphany services:

- **December 5 – 9am, 11am, & 5pm – St. Nicholas Sunday.** St. Nick's celebrates the feast day of its patron saint, with special hymns, special snacks, and a visit from Bishop Nicholas at the 9:00am service.
- **December 24 – 5pm, 7pm, & 9pm – Christmas Eve Services.** 5:00pm Children's Service, 7:00pm Family Service, and 9:00pm Late Service (with a name like St. Nicholas, our Christmas services have to be good.
- **January 2 – 9am, 11am, & 5pm – Lessons and Carols.** All Christmas carols, all the time, interspersed with reading of the nativity story.
- **January 9 – 11am – Visit by the Bishop of Washington and Dedication of Organ.** A lot of people have been waiting for this.

St. Nicholas now offers three services every Sunday:

- **9:00am Holy Eucharist – Child Friendly.** Our most experiential service, perfect for families with young families.
- **11:00am Holy Eucharist – Traditional.** A somewhat more traditional service, yet still has that warm and friendly St. Nick's atmosphere.
- **5:00pm Evening Prayer with Communion.** Our most contemplative service. A great way to end/start your week.

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.

Contact Information:

Ken Howard, Rector

15575 Germantown Road, Germantown, MD

rector@saintnicks.com

www.saintnicks.com 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

KWS is a constantly updated and comprehensive catalog of singles' events in the DC area. KWS is not a match site, but a network of local area singles eager to reinvigorate their social lives by doing the things they love. 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 please join us...it's Free! For more information, please visit 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 gives any area a sense of community. Below are many of Darnestown's:

Barnesville School

21830 Peach Tree Road, Barnesville, MD 20838 (301-972-0341)
John Huber, 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

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
Zorianna Harabatch, 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

Darnestown Area 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



Maryland Election Results Pertaining to Darnestown

Governor / Lt. Governor

O'Malley/Brown,
Democratic
1,043,724
56.24%

Comptroller

Peter Franchot
Democratic
1,086,578
61.07%

Attorney General

Douglas F. Gansler
Democratic
1,348,553
98.18%

U.S. Senator

Barbara A. Mikulski
Democratic
1,138,282
62.18%

Congressional District 08

Chris Van Hollen
Democratic
152,878
73.23%

Senator

Legislative District 15

Rob Garagiola
Democratic
25,619
63.7%

State Senator

Legislative District 39

Nancy J. King
Democratic
17,962
64.59%

House of Delegates Legislative District 15 (Vote for No More Than Three)

Kathleen Dumais
Democratic
23,449
20.74%

Brian J. Feldman
Democratic
23,095
20.43%

Aruna Miller
Democratic
21,332
18.87%

House of Delegates Legislative District 39 (Vote for No More Than Three)

Charles Barkley
Democratic
18,035
23.54%

Kirill Reznik
Democratic
16,173
21.11%

Shane Robinson
Democratic
15,936
20.8%

Judge, Court of Special Appeals At Large (For continuance in office)

Peter B. Krauser
Yes
1,217,831
83.92%

Albert J. Matricciani, Jr.
Yes
1,214,925
83.67%

Alexander Wright, Jr.
Yes
1,218,617
84.61%

Judicial Circuit Court 06, Montgomery County (Vote for No More Than Six)

Sharon V. Burrell
183,013
17.21%

Cynthia Callahan
182,838
17.19%

Richard E. Jordan
175,344
16.49%

Cheryl A. McCally
177,852
16.72%

Joseph M. Quirk
170,915
16.07%

Steven G. Salant
170,062
15.99%

Judge, Court of Appeals Appellate Circuit 07 (For continuance in office)

Mary Ellen Barbera
Yes
193,109
87.32%

Question 01 - Maryland Constitutional Convention

NO and "no vote"-
51.5%,

Question 02 - Trial by Jury minimum damages raise to \$15,000

Amendment Total
For 1078472 (66%)

Question 03 - Qualifications for Baltimore City Orphans' Court Judges Amendment

For 1348637 (83%)

Montgomery County County Executive

Ike Leggett
Democratic
183,901
65.58%

County Council At Large (Vote for No More Than Four)

Marc Elrich
Democratic
178,821
17.33%

Nancy Floreen
Democratic
177,388
17.19%

George L. Leventhal
Democratic
169,734
16.45%

Hans Riemer
Democratic
165,960
16.08%

County Council Councilmanic District 002 (Vote for One)

Craig L. Rice
Democratic
33,356
59.37%

State's Attorney

John McCarthy
Democratic
217,480
98.87%

Clerk of the Circuit Court

Loretta E. Knight
Democratic
214,159
99.2%

Register of Wills

Joseph M. Griffin
Democratic
185,840
70.93%

Sheriff

Darren Mark Popkin
Democratic
215,228
98.86%

Board of Education At Large (Vote for One)

Shirley Brandman
120,347
62.63%

Board of Education District 001

Judy Docca
131,892
69.42%

Board of Education District 003

Patricia O'Neill
129,348
67.45%

Board of Education District 005

Mike Durso
112,104
58.3%

County Question 1 Ambulance and Emergency Services Fees

FOR
126675
46.03%
AGAINST
148512
53.97%



Darnestown Civic Association Board

14132B DARNESTOWN ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874



Lisa Patterson Troike, President
Bob Thompson, Vice President
Bruce Deppa, Chairman
Guy Armantrout, Treasurer
Dan Dean, Trustee
Dick Jurgens, Trustee
Scott Mostrom, Trustee
Susan Allaway, Recording Secretary

November 15, 2010

Dear Darnestown Neighbor:

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) will begin a new fiscal year on January 1, 2011.

As a paid DCA member, you are empowered to vote at Town Meetings and support the DCA's participation in numerous issues affecting our area.

More importantly, your support helps provide important financial backing for the DCA's ongoing expenses and interests:

- *The Little Acorn*, our quarterly newsletter
- Bi-annual telephone directory
- DCA Hoedown and Holiday Tree Lighting gatherings
- Darnestown Historical Park
- Champion tree park maintenance
- DCA Web Site- www.darnestowncivic.net
- American flags for our roadside holiday flag program
- Monitoring of issues that impact Darnestown: power and phone outages, village development, zoning, crime, cell towers, Montgomery County Master Plans, road construction and safety, hiking/biking trails, deer population, and environmental issues; to name a few
- Maintenance of the DCA "Contingency Legal Fund," money for legal battles against issues that could negatively impact the quality of life in Darnestown

Please be sure to verify that your information below is correct, including your email address. We will only utilize the email information for special notification of upcoming events and issues.

Annual dues remain at \$25. For residents who wish to contribute more, we have the Sponsor program at \$100 and the Friend of Darnestown program at \$50. All current members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.

Darnestown is a very special place. The DCA is committed to keeping the residential, commercial, and road development in balance to preserve this place we call home. We are always looking for volunteers to help with our many issues.

Please feel free to contact us to see how you can help. Our Executive Board usually meets on the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the DCA office located at 14132B Darnestown Road.

Please use the attached form to remit your dues. Thank you for your support!

Lisa Patterson-Troike, President
301-548-0999

Bruce Deppa, Chairman
301-963-0567

Darnestown Civic Association — 2011 Membership Form

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association and mail with this completed form to
DCA Membership, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD 20874

☐ Annual Dues \$25 ☐ Friends \$50 ☐ Sponsorship \$100

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Include e-mail address only if you wish to receive mass e-mails from DCA of important community happenings.

☐ New home/address in Darnestown ☐ New to Darnestown (existing address) ☐ Didn't receive notice in mail




Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

dca@darnestowncivic.org



A cup of joe and an Acorn...
Life is sweet.



This holiday season,
you've got one less gift to worry about.

When you purchase a Darne-Good cookbook,
not only do you get a proverbial slice of Americana Pie,
you also benefit your community.

Always free delivery, and this December
we'll even deliver it gift-wrapped... Our gift to you!

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

Tried and true recipes worth sharing.
What a warm and wonderful holiday gift.

