



Volume 47, Number 2

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

June 2011

Civic Association News & Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Glancing over my article from the March 2011 issue of the The Little Acorn, I noticed that I used the words "drastic cutting of trees and limbs" when the President of Pepco was driven around Darnestown and shown the tree entangled electrical lines on Springfield, Esworthy and Darnestown Roads. Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought they would clear cut stands of 100+ year old trees on Black Rock and Berryville Roads.



**Next
DCA Town Meeting**
Thursday, June 16th
7:30 p.m.

Special Guests
Sen. Rob Garagiola and
Dist. 2 Council Member Craig Rice

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Volunteers Needed!!!

Little Acorn Editor
QO Library

Welcome Committee
Social Activities

Email acorneditor@comcast.net for more information.

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 [pam.dubois@bolansmart.com]

**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.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

August 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 to confirm receipt.**
 The editor can be reached at 240-683-0103.

BABY SITTERS

Emily Agate ¹	age 15	301-417-0980
Sarah Agate ^{1,3}	age 17	301-417-0980
Marian de Almeida ¹	age 18	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida ^{1,2}	age 16	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe ¹	age 13	301-977-4247
Rachel Cone	age 14	301-330-1154
Chris Helmey ³	age 17	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey ³	age 19	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 14	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan ^{1,3}	age 15	301-977-8027
Allison Long ¹	age 14	301-990-7511
Betsi Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Blake Micholas	age 13	301-990-0221
Drew Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Mitchell O'Rourke ¹	age 13	301-947-5487
Claire Pohl	age 15	301-926-8801
Emily Pohl	age 13	301-926-8801
Katie Pohl ³	age 17	301-926-8801
Trish Poulos	adult	301-208-1007
Kelsey Warren	age 16	301-216-1919

MOTHER'S HELPERS

Zoe Kaplan ^{1,3}	age 15	301-977-8027
Allison Long ¹	age 14	301-990-7511
Emily Pohl	age 13	301-467-8801

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Gwynne Cafaro ⁴	age 14	301-963-7178
Rachel Cone ⁴	age 14	301-330-1154
Chris Helmey	age 17	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey	age 19	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 14	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan	age 13	301-997-8027
Mac O'Rourke	age 12	301-947-5487
Emily Pohl	age 12	301-926-8801
Trish Poulos	adult	301-208-1007
Grace Wallerstedt ⁵	age 20	301-590-0698

MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan ⁵	Guitar	301-379-5646
Brandon Corydon	Guitar	301-221-0456
Justin Fakler	Guitar	301-814-5111
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
David Tony ⁵	Drums	301-990-6550
Michael Waddell	Trombone/Horn	301-990-6770
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Bruce Deppa	301-963-0567
Tina Kali	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993
Frank Mielenz	301-987-7190

¹ Completed babysitting certification program.

² Boys only. ³ Certified lifeguard. CPR. ⁴ All animals, including horses. ⁵ Summer only.



Notes from the President

(Cont'd from p.1)

According to one Black Rock Road resident, "Guess how many power outages from 1999 to 2006 were the result of fallen trees?" Answer: ZERO. Wouldn't you think Pepco would look at their records and spend time where the most outages occur? I guess that would be too much to ask. I am a defender of our beautiful, healthy trees and am very upset by this complete and utter destruction. It took several emails/phone calls to stop this recklessness. It is irreversible and as the same Black Rock Road resident commented, "Sadly, the only tornado to ever come down this road was Pepco itself." PLEASE alert the DCA immediately if you see this ridiculous mass stripping.

Just weeks earlier, I was thrilled when I received the brochure "Tree Line USA" from Pepco. It explained a program of the National Arbor Day Foundation that evaluates electric utility company's vegetation management programs on several aspects of environmental stewardship. It described the difference between directional and lateral pruning, and why it needs to be done. I met with the Utilquest reliability workers while they were examining my trees and helped them pick and choose which trees needed to be trimmed and which were unhealthy and needed to be removed. I thought this was wonderful. Obviously, they didn't give the same consideration to all parts of our community. Through the help of our concerned residents, we have alerted the appropriate county and state officials and have, for the time being, stopped the devastation. Please keep an eye out for tree trimming vehicles and watch what they are doing.

Darnestown Directory

by Sarah Scherer

Thanks to you all for keeping the DCA apprised of changes in your neighborhood. Following is some new information you can add to those blank pages in the back of your 2010 Directory. We have some new neighbors, a change, and some not-so-new neighbors we are just hearing about.

Please continue to forward address updates to me at 240-683-8533 or sarahscherer@comcast.net. Thank you!

Kely and Mimi Chipman
14801 Braemar Crescent Way
301-963-0175

Leslie Ford
13617 Esworthy Road
301-412-8177

Atul and Bharti Roy
13701 Darnestown Rd
301-916-6226

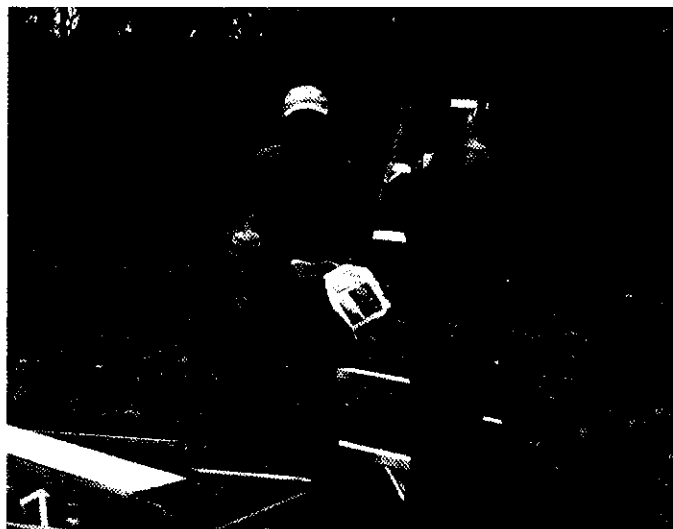
Tom and Sarah Scherer
15644 Haddonfield Way
240-683-8533

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.

Seneca Forest Project

by Steve Ellis

The members of the Darnestown Civic Association have built and paid for 2 deer exclosures in the Seneca State Park. Our group installed all necessary posts last November. This February we cleared both areas of most of the fallen trees and branches within the sites. We were working at the Creek site on February 19th. That was the day of the historic brush fire that burned an area not more than 200 yards from the lowland Seneca Creek site, but we never even noticed the smoke, since it was not blowing in our direction. After several work sessions in late March and early April both fences were completed. To our great joy the experimental laboratory begins!



Steve Ellis and Dave Bivans building the deer exclosure at the upland site. Photo taken by James Wheeler.

Some appreciation is deserved.

- First, to Lisa Patterson Troike and the DCA Executive Board who supported from the beginning this idea of Bruce Deppa and me, and to the



members of the DCA who voted to fund the project at a town meeting in the autumn of 2009.

- Kim Lloyd, Manager of the Seneca State Park, and Kerrie Kyde, Habitat Ecologist/Invasive Plant Specialist with the Department of Natural Resources for their permission and support.
- To Major Daryl Anthony of the Central Region Office of the DNR for his final approval.
- To our construction crew for the excellent job performed. In order of time served and enjoyed: James Wheeler (and truck), Dave Bivans, Scott Mostrom (and truck), Kevin Hanley, Jay Wallace (2,000 ft. roll of steel wire specialist), Dan Dean, Dick Jurgena, Pete Carstensen, Larry Zoeller, Kevin Keegan, Bob Thompson, Bruce Deppa, Joe McIntyre and Art Slesinger. Special thanks to Barbara Bossard of Haddonfield Way for allowing us to use her yard to transport the construction materials to the Upland/pipeline site.
- Deerbusters of Frederick, Maryland [<http://www.deerbusters.com>] for being in the business, and for Jason's willingness to give us a significant discount on the fencing and other materials.

The total cost to the DCA has been about \$5,300. We had a special \$500 donation from Gary Kahn for the project.

Kerrie Kyde will be giving (anyone able to make it) a non-native invasive plant tour of the sites in early June. It will be our mission to properly remove all these invaders on a continuous basis. Montgomery County Park & Planning offers a 3-4 hour non-native invasive plant course called the weed warriors—very worthwhile.

You are welcome to visit these sites at any time, but walk carefully and keep the gates closed. The tape and white cloth on the fence is there to help alert the deer that something is there. This was recommended to us by several reliable sources, and will be removed after a few months. Someone removed some of these cloth strips from the upland site within the first couple of weeks! If you ever find the fence is breached; please call a board member, and our volunteers will repair the damage.

A Seneca Forest Project Committee is forming. If you are interested in joining, please call someone on the board or me at 301-330-0699. We think that many in the Darne Bloomers and other nature lovers will become fascinated by the growing future within these sites.

Social Committee

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

The Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm was a success! After a day filled with periods of rain, rumbling thunderstorms and humidity you could cut with a knife, the evening turned out perfect. Temperatures in the low 70's, blue skies with puffy white clouds, bright sunshine and low humidity made it an exceptional gathering. Over 150 Darnestownians came out to celebrate their love of our great community, meet new friends and reacquaint with old ones. The hayrides, mini-golf and tug-of-war were just a few of the activities enjoyed by young and old alike. Special thanks goes out to Smokey Glen Farm who helped make it such a memorable occasion with outstanding food, facilities and service.



The next DCA social gathering is set for Friday, October 14th. The Annual DCA Hoedown. Mark your calendars now! The same delicious spread of bbq chicken, ribs, potato salad, tossed salad, baked beans, and more will be on the menu. Oh, and don't forget the delicious smoked pies. Apple, cherry, peach or blueberry. Take your pick!



News from the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board

by Bob Thompson

April 26, 2011—Pepco Work Group Presents Final Report to County Executive Leggett; More than 50 Recommendations Address Range of Issues

The Pepco Work Group, appointed last October by County Executive Ike Leggett to investigate causes for Pepco's frequent and lengthy electricity outages in Montgomery County, has presented its final report to the Executive. Included in the 192-page document are 30 recommendations for Pepco, six to local governments and 20 for the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) that regulates public utilities in the state.

In summary, the Work Group recommends that:

- The Maryland Public Service Commission establish stringent standards and utilize its authority to impose remedies sufficient to align Pepco's financial interests with the interests of the community. Pepco should be measured against publicly-disclosed best-in-class performance, should adopt industry best practices, and should proactively seek continual improvement. In support, the state should assure that the PSC is appropriately staffed to implement such a process.
- Pepco adopt, fund and execute a multi-year plan for system inspection, maintenance and enhancement that, with appropriate measures of results, would replace its current largely reactive process of responding to failures and to public scrutiny. Pepco's proposed Six-Point "Reliability Enhancement Plan," while constructive, falls short of meeting this requirement in both scope and urgency.
- Pepco upgrade both its human and automated processes for providing timely and accurate information to customers and government representatives during both major and non-major events.
- Pepco also implement processes and procedures to assure that sufficient personnel (employees and contractors) are available to successfully undertake all preventative maintenance necessary to assure reliable electric service on an ongoing basis and to restore service in a timely manner during outages.
- In order to help create a more customer-oriented culture, Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI/Pepco's parent

company) should establish an ombudsman activity relating to Pepco that reports directly to the Chairman and CEO of PHI.

- Montgomery County and other local governments work with Pepco to provide the authority needed to implement more effective vegetation management programs while respecting, to the greatest extent possible, customer concerns in this area. The Darnestown Civic Association and the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board extends its appreciation to DCA Board Member Art Schlesinger who was a key member of the Pepco Work Group and who has labored hundreds of hours addressing Pepco reliability issues on all of our behalf!

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board represents more than 300,000 residents in the Upcounty area, north of Shady Grove Road and including the communities of Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville.

The 20-member Board advises the Director of the Upcounty Government Services Center, the County Executive, elected officials, and government staff. It provides input on which services and programs should be provided and how they will be delivered. The Board reviews and comments on the County's capital and operating budgets and master plans; assists with strategies to tailor services to regional needs; and conducts workshops and forums. Some members represent the Board on other ad hoc committees.

Members serve three-year terms without compensation, meeting certain Monday evenings of every month and occasionally on Saturdays. Members are expected to serve on at least one subcommittee, which meets approximately one evening every month on its own schedule. We work with a wide range of social, land use, infrastructure, and public safety issues. We are committed to rational development planning and protection of the Agricultural Reserve, this is particularly relevant to Darnestown, as our community is immediately adjacent to it and the rural village nature reflected in planning and zoning is directly influenced by the Agricultural Reserve. As a representative representing Darnestown, I am committed to communicating issues of importance to our community up to the County government, and carry news and information back to our community. Please feel free to contact me with your questions or concerns by email at bob.thompson@comcast.net or by phone at 240-683-0103. 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, please visit the Montgomery County web site at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/index.asp>.

Utility Reliability

by Art Slesinger

PEPCO continues with their efforts to improve reliability in Darnestown. I do not know who did or did not lose power on Sunday April 24th when the violent thunderstorms swept through, but I anticipated an outage but it never happened. Perhaps things are improving??? Four noteworthy issues are:

1. The PEPCO tree trimming effort seems to have switched into hyper-drive. Trees along Berryville and Black Rock were not trimmed as much as they were simply clear cut. In theory PEPCO has authorization from either the property owner or the government arborist to undertake tree removal. In either case, a great deal of effort was spent, unsuccessfully, trying to get the program back into a trimming mode versus a removal mode.
2. The County Executive Work Group on PEPCO has completed its report and it is available on the County web site. The writer and the other dozen volunteers spent many hours listening to testimony, interviewing individuals and reviewing a multitude of documents to arrive at the final work product. The 100+ page report gives a number of strong recommendations to improve both the level of service and the restoration program after a major event. The report will be sent to the PSC and to the executives at PHI and PEPCO. The bad news is that the County has decided to withdraw from the PSC Case 9240, which the PSC started in order to address PEPCO's poor performance. The County got standing only because it claimed to represent not only the residents, but the commercial and industrial members of the County. In theory, the Office of People's Counsel represents you and me. How well is open to discussion. As such, the Work Group report is not formal testimony before the PSC and they are free to ignore the pleadings.

A side note about case 9240 is in order. The case required PEPCO to fund and hire an independent engineering firm to evaluate PEPCO practices. While in some ways supportive, that report notes that neither PEPCO nor the consultant were able to find an assignable cause for the many blue sky outages and the enhanced reliability program seemed

to be a hastily prepared report cobbled together to meet their immediate needs... not a glowing recommendation by any means.

3. The State legislature did pass a utility penalty bill that gives the PSC authority to set performance targets and impose penalties for failure to meet those targets. The maximum penalty is \$25,000 per day which pales when compared to the PEPCO revenue from Maryland which is in excess of \$800 million. Over the next year PSC must develop the performance metrics and penalties can begin in 2012. The penalties don't go to you, they go to the general Maryland state fund. This bill looks weak and ineffective and will probably not drive improvements.
4. Recently residents in the area on Turkey Foot experienced a day long period of multiple outages. After a lengthy period of looking, PEPCO finally found a cable hanging too low and hitting another cable. Those along feeder 15237 might receive a letter apologizing and explaining the issues. May be not, I was not aware that PEPCO had the ability to isolate customers by feeder in order to communicate via mail.

In parting I am sorry to report the writer gave up and has contracted for a full house generator. After listening to PEPCO discuss their plans, I could not convince myself we are headed the right way. Having invested, my neighbors can thank me; as usually happens, the outages will drop off precipitously as I am now fully prepared.

Community Interest

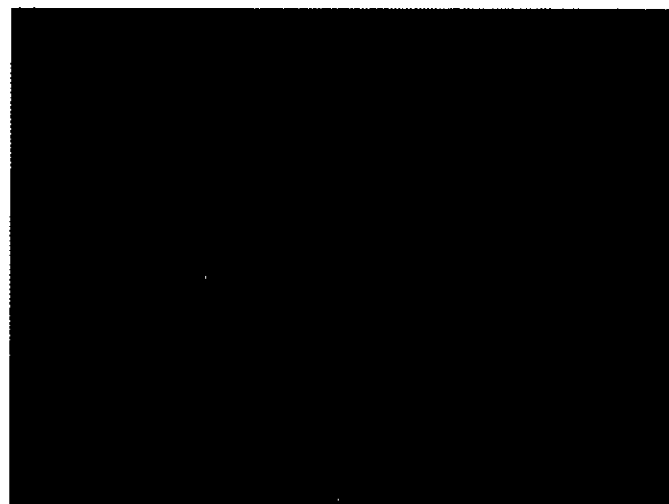
Tremendous Brushfire Fueled by Wind Sweeps Through Darnestown

by Bob Thompson

February 19, 2011 - Literally in minutes a brush fire spread from nearby the PEPCO Substation off RT118 in Germantown, to Seneca Creek in Darnestown, it then "jumped the creek and traveled another half mile to Brandon Way/Colton St in just 15 minutes" per Eric James of 13108 Brandon Way Road. It spread so far that Montgomery Fire and Rescue Service still had crews on the ground near the area of Clopper Lake on Sunday morning. Assistant Fire Chief Scott Graham said "We worked quite an extensive geographic area (on Saturday)...A lot of the brush fire was following the power lines." In total, crews estimated the fire had



burned 30-40 acres. A clubhouse for the former Trap and Ski club was burnt, and Mr. James's attached two-car garage was destroyed, though the house itself was not seriously damaged. Several other families along the right-of-way also suffered less dramatic damage to their homes and property. Several agriculture buildings were lost as well as many residential fences and storage sheds bordering the PEPCO right-of-way. The Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service has not determined a definitive cause of the fire.



Photos this page:

Upper left, Montgomery County Firemen at 13108 Brandon Way Road, where the fire destroyed the James family's attached garage. Lower left, the fire also destroyed a two-storey Amish barn at 13104 Brandon Way Road (background). Many of the properties backing up to the area of the powerline corridor were left completely charred. Above, Seneca Creek State park burning.

A Darnestown Timeline

by Bruce Deppa

Since the last edition of *The Little Acorn* in March, I have received good information about significant dates and milestones in Darnestown's history from several long-time residents. In March, we published the first 40 time-line entries in our spreadsheet. This edition (below) includes entries 41 through 80. We will continue listing blocks of 40 entries in successive *Acorns*. As I mentioned before, the list is in no particular order yet – that will happen after we have lots of dates filled in, so that we can sequence it by date.

Please contact me by e-mail or telephone, and help fill in the blanks. For reference, all I really need is the line number in the left-most column and your info about that event or milestone.

In March, I announced that the spreadsheet was available for viewing on the Darnestown website at www.darnestown.org. I was wrong about that, and if you went looking for it and couldn't find it, please try again now! The online version will be updated monthly. I will welcome comments, suggestions, corrections, additions, etc.

#	Yr.	Mo.	Day	Event/Milestone
41	1990	8		Rachel Carson Elementary School opened
42	1855			Darnestown Presbyterian Church built
43	2003			Darnestown Road widened to 4 and 6 lanes southwest of Riffle Ford Road
44	1999	12		Quince Orchard Public Library opened
45	1993	2		New Safeway store opened on Darnestown Road
46				Fire Station #31 opened on Darnestown Road
47	1990	5		6-12 Convenience Store opened at 14100 Darnestown Road
48				Demolition of original homes by the Landow Company at the intersection of Darnestown and Seneca Roads
49				Demolition of original home on Darnestown Road, beside the Shell gas station
50				Adrian's Market opened, on the site of an oil delivery company on Seneca Road
51				New Darnestown Road bridge constructed over Great Seneca Creek near intersection of White's Ferry Road
52				Cellular telephone tower/antenna proposal for the Butler School property defeated
53				Cellular telephone tower/antenna proposal for the Catholic Archdiocese property defeated
54				Cellular telephone tower/antenna proposal for the Greenberg property defeated
55				Cellular telephone tower/antenna proposal for the Pioneer Hills Terrace property defeated
56				Cellular telephone antenna array approved for steeple of the Catholic Archdiocese church
57				Cellular telephone tower/antenna approved for the Petruccelli property behind the 6-12 Convenience Mart
58				Darne Bloomers Garden Club formed
59				100-dog Vet Clinic near River Road/Seneca Road intersection defeated
60				Demolition of Esworthy Road bridge and construction of new bridge by Montgomery County DOT
61				River Road bridge over Great Seneca Creek replaced by Maryland State Highway Administration
62				Last retail store closed by the National Park Service on park land in Seneca at the Potomac River
63				Clark's Store destroyed by fire at Darnestown Road/Seneca Road intersection
64				Public meeting/presentation by Landow Co. at Ridgeview Junior H.S., proposing 18-acre commercial dev in Darnestown
65				Construction of four 400-foot radio towers on Blackrock Road
66				Change from white strobe lights to red lights on 400-foot radio towers on Blacktop Road
67				First Annual Hoedown at Smokey Glen Farm, sponsored by the Greater Darnestown Civic Association
68				First Annual Darnestown Appreciation Day spring family event, sponsored by Smokey Glen Farm
69				Valentine's Day Dinner-Dance at Izaak Walton League in Travilah, sponsored by the Civic Association
70				Donation of by the Civic Association towards purchase of new tanker truck for the fire department
71				Donation of by the Civic Association to the new Quince Orchard Library
72				Donation of \$10,000 by the Civic Association toward opposition to a new Potomac River Bidge in Darnestown area



73				Dedication of "Cliff Bland Recreation Area" in honor of Captain Cliff Bland, Jr., lost in the Gulf War in 1991
74	1991	5	31	Opening of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish Catholic Church at 14139 Seneca Road
75	1994	9		Opening of Mary of Nazareth School at 14131 Seneca Road
76				Purchase of 189-acre tract by the Bullard family for construction of a school
77				Purchase of 189-acre tract by the Archdiocese of Washington for construction of a church and a school
78				Opening of Victory Youth Center on the Archdiocese property in Darnestown at 14139 Seneca Road
79	1989	10		Parade through Darnestown, sponsored by the Darnestown Historical Society

Darnestown Day

by Elisabeth Monaco Kraft

Darnestown Day was celebrated at Saint Nicholas' Episcopal Church on Saturday, May 14th. All of us at St. Nick's are hoping that each year Darnestown Day grows with more and more of our neighbors and friends participating in this community event. As I write this article two weeks before the event, we are planning to make this year bigger than last year. This year many craft vendors have promise to attend and area businesses have arranged to set up booths to welcome old customers and greet new ones. Among the entertainers on the program are "Soul Easy" and "Harmony Express." Helicopter rides are a new addition this year for those brave enough to try it out. Once again there will be children's games. Pony rides will be provided by Farmer Larry of Good Life Farm. Food vendors will include Rita's Italian Ices, Mt. Musser Kettlecorn, Potomac Pizza and Branded '72 Pit BBQ. Two new areas of participation are being added this year: a Fifty-Fifty Raffle with drawings held every hour and a silent auction. A thank you goes out to all businesses and individuals who purchased advertising, rented a vendor space, and donated to make this event possible. Another thank you goes out to all of our neighbors who came to Darnestown Day and celebrated along with us.

Because all of us at St. Nick's want to make Darnestown Day an annual neighborhood event, we will be announcing the date for next year's Darnestown Day in the next Acorn.

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio

Paul and Linda's son, Kevin Marmillion, returned in early May from another deployment



supporting our troops in Afghanistan. He'll be preparing to deploy again later this summer.

Army First Lieutenant Simon Youngblut, 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Brigade, 319 Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, at Fort Bragg, NC recently completed jumpmaster training and will be deployed to Iraq in May. He is currently the Battalion (S-6) Signal Officer.

Army Second Lieutenant Hannah Youngblut is the Personnel Officer, Battalion (S-1) Adjutant for a military intelligence battalion at Fort Gordon, Georgia. The Battalion supports a military/civilian intelligence gathering organization that conducts continuous signals intelligence operations.

Simon's and Hannah's parents are Larry and Christine Youngblut.

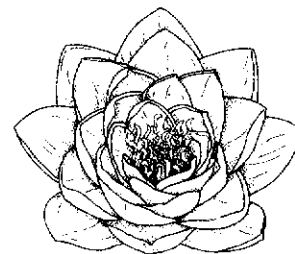
Captain Ryan Swisher, U. S. Army, was recently awarded the designation as a Senior Jump Master after completing over 30 Airborne jumps from assorted Air Force and Army aircraft. He also earned the Expert Infantry Badge after a unit wide competition that had a success rate of only 8%. This summer he will attend Captain's Command School at Ft. Benning, GA.

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

Spring has finally arrived after what seemed to be a very long and cold winter, and summer is just around the corner. With this in mind, have you thought about planting an herb garden? It is not too late! Just buy plants instead of



seeds, unless of course, you have already started them. By growing the herbs you use most often, you will save yourself a lot of money and a lot of time by not having to run out to the grocery store every time your recipe requires the use of a small amount of fresh herbs.

Planting your herbs can be done in a small fenced area in your yard, or the newest way is to plant them in "earth boxes" on your deck. This protects them from the deer and little rabbits that love them too. Planting in boxes on your deck not only protects them, but makes them easier to gather for cooking.

When asking yourself, "What kind of herbs can I grow," you need to remember that your list of garden herbs can be limited to your recipe box ingredients. When planting your own herbs, be creative and plant what you know you will use in your cooking.

If your family enjoys eating Italian or Greek foods, you might choose basil, oregano, rosemary and parsley to get your garden started. For French Cuisine you might choose tarragon, chervil, thyme, marjoram and fennel. For Asian dishes you may want to grow cilantro, also known as coriander, and lemon grass. Herbs used in Mexican cooking would include sweet basil, spearmint, Laurel (bay) and lemon verbena.

Herbs for cooking are annual or perennial. Some considered to be annual do come back in the spring such as parsley, rosemary, tarragon, and sage. It depends on how severe your winter is or whether your planted area is protected from the cold. Some of the most popular herbs are listed in the two groups below:

Annual Herbs

- Sweet Basil is quite a popular herb. It is used in tomato sauces, and other tomato dishes. It requires a lot of sun, and demands that you pinch off leaves so it will continue to get bigger.
- Dill is one of the common herbs that is not only great in dips and salad dressings, but is a wonderful smelling plant to have in the garden.
- Oregano is a must for those Italian dishes.
- Parsley (the curly or flat) is most often used to decorate a dish, but also good on those fish or chops dishes. It adds a flavor to soups and sauces. The curly kind is the most flavorful.
- Chervil likes a little shade. Use the fresh leaves as you would parsley, but particularly good in soups.
- Sweet Marjoram is used on any fresh vegetables to help give them a little lift or a different flavor. It's great mixed with parsley, olive oil, and garlic.
- Fennel is a tall herb. Its seeds are great for flavoring salmon or halibut steaks, or add to lemon juice and oil as dressing for cucumber to be served with lobster or trout. The leaves have a faint licorice taste.

Perennial Herbs

- Chives are great in potatoes, dips and even as a garnish to a lot of creamy soups. They grow up like a tall grass and are easily clipped when needed.
- Garlic is a great addition to your herb garden. It is one of the most edible herbs and used in many family dishes.
- Sage has velvety grey leaves that are particularly good in sausages, dressings for all kinds of fowl, and in cheese fondue.
- Mint leaves are at their best before the flowering begins. There are many kinds of mint... spearmint, chocolate mint, or peppermint add a delicious flavor to both drinks and recipes. Mint sauce is a popular addition to roast lamb, and sprigs are often used in many teas and cocktail drinks. They are wonderful chopped over cucumbers in a sandwich or just add a pinch into fresh peas as they cook
- Thyme comes in many varieties. You only want to use the leafy tops of the stems and the just-opening flowers, so keep cutting them back to induce new shoots. Great on cooked carrots.
- Tarragon likes a little shade and must have good drainage at the roots. Super on scrambled eggs, duck, shellfish, chicken and artichokes. It also makes excellent herb vinegar for salads.
- Rosemary needs to be pruned back each spring for more leafy shoots. Tuck the leaves into slits in roast pork: mix with a pinch of thyme and marjoram for an omelet, and great sprinkled on fresh or frozen green beans as they cook

At the end of the growing season you may want to freeze or dry some of your herbs for use during the winter months. Dried herbs can be kept for months in airtight jars, plastic containers, or plastic bags. Dried herbs do lose some of their flavor over time, so be sure to adjust your recipes accordingly. Frozen herbs also can be kept for extended periods of time as long as they are kept in airtight, plastic containers or bags to prevent breakage.



For the Darne Bloomers March meeting a trip was planned to the beautiful Homestead Gardens in Davidsonville MD. Our speaker, Gene Sumi, gave the members an interesting talk on small plot vegetable/herb gardening and concluded telling how to use Earth Boxes.

The April meeting speaker was Kacy Paide, and she demonstrated how to make an indoor terrarium. Each member made a beautiful terrarium with plants specifically for terrariums.

The Darne Bloomers May meeting was a tour at Dunbarton Oaks in Georgetown, and concluded with a luncheon at Old Anglers Inn at Great Falls, MD.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club welcomes 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.

Questers Promote Local Historic Preservation

by Bettye Wolfe

Please accept this invitation to become a member in an outstanding international organization called Questers. This non-profit organization, founded in 1944, now has 13,000 members throughout the United States and Canada. The primary purpose of Questers is to promote the preservation and restoration of existing historic buildings, landmarks and artifacts. In 1973, the organization broadened its contribution to society by adding a scholarship program. Since that time, Questers has assisted 36 students to succeed in education and to work in their chosen fields. Maryland chapters contribute annually to the Columbia University Scholarship Fund in the graduate program of Architect and Historic Preservation and have given over \$100,000 toward restoration and preservation of historic sites within the State. There are 22 chapters in Maryland. The Captain John chapter is open to membership for the Darnestown community.

If interested in learning more about the organization or becoming a member, please view the international website at www.questers1944.org or contact yateswolfe@comcast.net.

School News & Events

The Butler School

By Diane Long

A "Different Kind of Middle School"

Learning is engaging and satisfying in Butler School's combined 7th and 8th grade class known as the Intermediate. Group work; outdoor activities for recreation and studies; plays that involve students in all its aspects; constructing buildings to serve the functions of the class community and a micro-economy that relies on raising chickens, growing gardens of vegetables, herbs and flowers are all aspects of this "different" and exciting program...And then there are the class trips.

A perennial highlight and memorable experience is the class trip each year that is an integral part of the students' academic studies during the year. This past winter, the focus of the trip was immigration in American history in the 1900's. The students planned, mostly themselves, a four day trip to New York City. The immigration study included four ethnic groups from which each student chose one to explore and plan for the trip. Ms. Angela Molfese and Mr. Kevin Lang, the two teachers, supervised the preparations, but basically allowed the students to do all the "legwork" and organization for interviews, excursions and logistics of transportation.



The trip began with a sleep-over at school to be ready for their early departure to Union Station and the train ride to NYC. Once in the city, the students broke into their



four groups, chaperoned by their teachers, as well as Ms. Becki Hardie, Head of School, and Ricky Normoyle, their PE instructor, as they traveled to interview various people and visit sites to collect more information about the "waves" of immigration that impacted New York City almost a hundred years ago. What good study on different cultures would not include sampling the ethnic foods at the city's neighborhood restaurants, or attending a play? These, of course, were particular delights for the Butler's middle school group.

Following their trip, the class invited parents and school families to an evening presentation of their studies and trip. The students had turned their classroom into an Immigration Museum, complete with artifacts, models and examples of food. They presented their findings on why immigrants came to the United States and how their culture shifted as they integrated into American society. The evening ended with the students leading a debate with their parents about whether the United States should keep its immigration door open today.

For more information about Butler's middle school program, contact us at 301-977-6600, or visited our website at www.butlerschool.org.

Darnestown Elementary School

by Kristen Crook

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

As expected, Colonial Day was a big success! The 5th graders once again transformed our gym into a miniature colonial village and spent the day living like they would during colonial times. They are ending their studies by taking an overnight field trip to Williamsburg at the end of May. Thank you to all of the countless volunteers that worked so hard to make this happen. We also received some great local media coverage in the Gazette and the online newsletter the North Potomac/Darnestown Patch.

Speaking of, if you haven't heard of the Patch, take a few minutes to check it out <http://northpotomac.patch.com>. It's dedicated to our local area and is filled with interesting stories, happenings, photos, school news and more.

During this economy with school budgets so tight, it's more important than ever that we have a correct enrollment number for the fall. If you are new to the area or plan to send your child to Darnestown Elementary as

a new student in the fall and didn't go to Kindergarten orientation, please take a minute to call the school to learn how to enroll your child. The sooner the better! (301) 840-7157.

Work will begin over the summer on some upgrades planned for the school. First improvement will be a new septic system. Then, its full speed ahead for our new expansion! The teachers have had the opportunity to view the layout and they love it!

Finally, we are sad to say good-bye to Tamah Graber, our librarian of 20 years who is retiring in June. The school won't be the same without her. Thanks for everything Ms. Graber!

Calendar of Events:

- Spring Picnic: Friday, June 10
- Kindergarten and 5th grade promotion ceremonies: Wednesday, June 15
- Last day of school for students: Thursday, June 16

Have a safe and FUN summer vacation! See you back at school on Monday, August 29th!

Seneca Academy

by Brooke Carroll

Our International Baccalaureate/Primary Years Program is being fully implemented this year in all of our classrooms as we work towards full authorization. Our students have enjoyed being able to spend more time on each unit of study, delve deeply into topics and explore them through all of their subjects. One example of this was our recent 3rd grade unit on the diversity and interdependence of species. This class read many books about a variety of plants and animals and looked specifically at bats and how these often misunderstood animals have a major impact on a variety of species. They wrote essays on an endangered species of their choice, describing how it adds to and benefits from other species as well as what would happen if it became extinct. They drew webs of life cycles depicting many animals and plants and how their lives intersect. They had an in-school field trip with a bee keeper who taught them about the importance of bees to many species. These 3rd graders also explored humans' responsibilities in maintaining balance in our natural world. At the end of the unit, the 3rd graders were very knowledgeable about the interdependence of species, several even talking with their parents at home about the use of pesticide in their gardens!



We welcome all community members to join in the fun at Seneca Summer Camps and continue to accept applications. This summer our youngest campers (ages 3 through rising kindergarteners) will participate in Amazing Animals Camp. Our older campers (rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders- or rising 8th graders for Film and Band camps) have several camps to choose from including Art and Adventure, Craft & Cooking and Adventure, Field Games and Adventure, Mad Science® and Adventure, Band and Adventure, and Film Making and Adventure. More information and applications can be found on our website www.SenecaAcademy.org or by calling our office at 301-869-3728. Hope to see you at camp!

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

by Michelle Wentz

Students at Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School in Darnestown, Maryland are thinking BIG! Big ideas, big projects, and big hearts. The non-profit school in Darnestown celebrated the winter season of giving by creating a "Books, Bears, and Blankets" drive to donate to local homeless children.



Each Pre-Kindergarten through Eighth Grade student donated a new or gently-used book, bear, and blanket to benefit children at The Dwelling Place. This organization provides transitional housing opportunities and support services in Montgomery County for families experiencing homelessness. The Dwelling Place aims to help them achieve and maintain self-sufficiency. Each TJP student and teacher selected a child from The Dwelling Place to bundle a book with a bear, wrapped in a blanket for the winter. The cozy bundles were delivered to the Dwelling Place prior to the winter break. Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School students were eager and considerate to make sure every child-in-need on the list was provided a caring gift for the holiday season. Thank you to the Dwelling Place, and especially Executive Director Miriam Gandell, for helping TJP students understand and help an important issue facing our community and world.

Another "egg-citing" activity at TJP has been an experiment in embryology...using chicken eggs! Elementary students led by Mrs. Evans set up an incubator and cared for twelve fertilized chicken eggs. They learned valuable lessons about the life cycles of chickens and other living organisms. The incubation period for a chicken is twenty-one days, so students cared for their eggs daily by gently turning them and maintaining the temperatures and humidity needed for chickens to hatch. The students (and teachers!) watched in awe as six of our eggs hatched before our eyes into chicks! We then became mother and father hens, as we continued to raise the chicks until it was time to return them to a friendly farm. The six eggs that did not hatch became a perfect hands-on opportunity for TJP's Middle School students to explore and investigate embryos at various stages.



The TJP Middle School students recently spent a NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM that is the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The students participated in a walking tour of Philadelphia, visiting the Liberty Bell, Independence Hall, the famous Rocky Steps and along the way ate some Philadelphia Cheese Steaks. As the evening approached the students arrived at the Franklin Institute for a Camp In where they enjoyed the larger-than-life live science show, took part in hands-on workshop activities and learned about the elements and explored the many forces-natural and manmade-that impact our globe in the new Changing Earth and Electricity exhibits.

Our Elementary School students enjoyed a day visiting The Mount Vernon Estate, the home of our First President, George Washington. The students participated in a scavenger hunt; toured the Mansion house and more than a dozen outbuildings including the slave quarters, kitchen, stables, and greenhouse; strolled four different gardens; hiked the Forest Trail, and explored the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site, a four-acre working farm that includes a re-creation of Washington's 16-sided treading barn. They concluded their visit by visiting Washington's Tomb and final resting place for both George and Martha.



Thomas Jefferson Preparatory School is delighted to provide meaningful learning opportunities for its students and has many more BIG ideas to come! To receive information or schedule a tour, please log on to tjprep.org or 301-330-7550.

Sports News & Events

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

by Dave Hardy

Summer is here already!! It seems like just yesterday we were just ringing in the New Year and now it is already time to catch some rays pool side or find the perfect back hand you have always said you would have. The Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (www.dsclub.com) has kicked off the 2011 summer season and is looking forward to a lot of fun in the sun, social events and some good old fashion good times at the pool over the new few months!

Luckily, for those new to the Darnestown area we have memberships still available for this season. Our club offers some of the best facilities in Montgomery County plus we offer great swim and tennis programs. There are no additional costs for court time and we have lap lanes available for lap swimmers at all times when we are open. DSRC has a very active social calendar providing many events for adults and children alike where you can meet your neighbors, have fun and relax at the pool or on the courts. Our social calendar is available on our website.

Our swim team, which competes in C division, is in the water training and hoping to follow up last year's undefeated season with another great showing. Head Coach, Kate Ulicny, is busy teaching our little guys how to swim and getting the older kids in shape and ready to swim fast. We have swim lessons and programming for all levels and ages from minnows all the way up to the most advanced swimmers. Please see our website for programming and scheduling information.

With our tennis courts newly refurbished and looking great our tennis pro, Bob Denham, is under way teaching lessons and getting ready for tennis team to begin when school is out. Last season we had some of the best participation ever and we look to follow that up with another great season. Like swimming, we offer lessons and programming for all levels and ages of children and adults. We also have a very active adult tennis program with weekly men's and women's tennis nights, Wednesday and Tuesday respectively, and biweekly

adult tennis socials on Friday night with food, drinks and doubles tennis for our adults. For more info please visit our website or contact Bob directly at bobdenham1@verizon.net.

Please stop by our website, see what we to offer and come on down to the Club and talk to a manager and see how great the facility is and how your family can be a part of the DSRC family.

If you have questions please call General Manager Dave Hardy at 301-330-1340 and he will be happy to talk to you and get your application submitted today!

Newcomer's Corner

Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club

by Lynda Slesinger

Expand social connections and make new friends...
The Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club welcomes *new residents* and those in *life transition* (lifestyle changes, retirement, etc.). We offer an extensive variety of fun social activities. For more information or to receive a Newsletter, contact DCA Member, Lynda Slesinger, at 301-990-1067.

Information for Newcomers

If you are a new resident of Darnestown, welcome to our neighborhood! The information on this page should be helpful and will introduce you to some things that give Darnestown a sense of community.

The Darnestown Civic Association, Inc. is a nonprofit corporation originally formed in 1967, which represents the interests of Darnestown area residents in all matters pertaining to the welfare of Darnestown and its residents. The general purposes of the DCA are explained in its bylaws and Articles of Incorporation. Payment of annual dues (\$25 per individual or family) enables you to vote on issues during Town Meetings.

The membership year of the DCA is January 1 through December 31, and annual dues billing statements are mailed out at the end of December each year, although dues may be paid any time during a given year. Current officers of the DCA are listed on Page 2 of *The Little Acorn*.

Mailing Address:

Darnestown Civic Association
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874



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

Purchase a Darne-Good Cookbook today...

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

These are tried-and-true recipes worth sharing.

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

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

Please make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association

Annual Meeting and Election of DCA Officers coincide with the Town Meeting in June. Nominations are announced in June edition of *The Little Acorn* in advance of the Annual Meeting in accordance with the bylaws of the GDCA.

Telephone Directory: Every two years, the DCA publishes a directory of residents' names, addresses and phone numbers and mails it to every residential address in our database. To obtain a copy of the Directory, call Sarah Scherer at 240-683-8533 or sarahscherer@comcast.net. They are only available while supplies last.

Organizations, Clubs, Groups, PTAs, etc., provide much of the social interaction that give any area a sense of community. Below are many of Darnestown's:

Barnesville School

21830 Peach Tree Road
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
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, Head of School (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, Maryland 20878
Zorianna Harabatch, Head of School
301-330-7550, www.tjprep.org

Trout Unlimited

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

DCA Members, 2011 Dues Paid as of April 30, 2011

Don & Cyndi Abbott

Theodore & Allison Abromavage

Brian & Lori Abt

Mariana Teresa Acevedo

Joseph & Mary Adamik

Michelle Adams

Richard Adamson

Ed & Christy Adelman

John & Joan Aherne

Matt & Heather Ahrens

Saeed & Longina Akhtar

Graham & Susan Allaway

Mike & Michelle Allen

Bill & Cheryl Amick

Mansour & Lynn Aminzadeh

Roger Anderson

Rosemary Anderson

Bill & Sharon Anderson

David & Margaret Andreadis

Jack & Chib Andrews

Sue Andrews

R. Angeles

Steven Arabia Kelly Koontz

Guy & Susan Keyes Armantrout

John Armentrout Cheryl Clausen

Paul & Peg Arnold

Bill & Gloria Askins

Brian & Melissa Astill

Bob & Pam Baer

Stella Bahry

David & Dorothy Bailey

Matthew & Joyce Baker

Joe & Therese Ballard

Florencio & Josefina Ballesterro

Fritz & Elaine Balsam

Joe & Beth Barbera

Ronald & Sondra Barbour

John & Karen Barkley Jr.

Michael & Connie Barnhart

Jeffrey Bartlett

John & Patricia Barun

Jeff & Susan Bateman

Hisham & Suki Baz

Will & Jane Becker

Marvin & Sharon Beitler

Carl & Ann Berger

Ron & Sue Betson

Surendra & Kanta Bhasin

Harry & Anne Bird

James & Debra Bitonti

David & Laura Bivans

Peter & Irene Bjerke

Andrew & Diane Blake

Marc & Robin Blass

Rick Blewett Mary Ellen Rose

Jim & Lee Blue

Gordon & Terri Bodnar

Robert & Ilene Boorman, Jr.

Paul & Maxine Botting

Chip & Peggy Bowen

Joan Abell William E. Bowman

Peter Boyd Ellen Klosson

Nick & Myrtis Brame

Walter Braun

William & Jo-Ellen Brayer

Michael & Jamie Brezovec

Jeffrey & RoseMarie Briggs

Samuel & Elizabeth Brightman

Delwin & Alicia Brockett



Roy & Sharon Brooks
 Spencer & Kristine Brott
 Jim & Anne Marie Brown
 Timothy & Gretchen Brown
 David A. Brown, Jr. & Scott A. Lane
 Dave & Janet Buchanan
 Paul & Holly Buehler
 Nicole Bunting
 Susan Burgan Janet Sidebottom
 William & Cornelia Burr
 Scott & Joy Burton
 Butler School
 Eric Cada
 Dan Cafaro Marjean Murray
 Tracy & Julie Callahan
 Frank (Ted) & Karen Campbell
 Jim & Dana Campbell
 Joann Cangelosi
 Bob & Ann Cangelosi
 Gian-Paolo & Anna Maria Cantarella
 Jim & Joan Carlberg
 Charles Carlson
 Peter & Lisa Carothers
 Robert & Lucy Carroll
 Peter & Gerie Carstensen
 Brad & Carol Carter
 James & Janet Cash
 Sean & Sharon Cassidy
 Bob & Beverly Celotta
 Chris & Karrie Cerone
 Eugenio & Sarah Cerutti
 Christina Chan
 John & Chio Chang
 Ron Chesemore Sue Tayman
 Richard & Nancy Chiapparoli
 Chinese Alliance Church
 Ruth Choi
 Steve & Bobbi Christiansen
 Richard & Donna Christner
 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, The

Larry & Sue Ciorlorito
 Douglas Clark
 Laurence & Alice Clarke
 Bill & Laurie Clay
 Heidi Clemmer
 Jay & Lori Clogg
 Andy & Chris Cocozzella
 Janice Long Coe
 Paul & Stephanie Coffin
 Tom & Nancy Coffman
 John & Lisa Cohen
 Len & Marilla Cohen
 Donald & Cathy Coleman
 Bob & Beth Collins
 Mike & Marie Collins
 Chris & Mary Collins
 Ed, Cheryl, & Trevor Combs
 Susan Compton-Maddox
 Bill & Roberta Connors
 Peirce & Melbalynn Cook
 Michael & Veronica Cooper
 Roger & Alice Cooper
 Wayne & Barbara Copeland
 Sam & Kathleen Coriell
 Frank & Janet Cornelius
 Keith Cornelius Susan Economos
 Robert & Ruth Cornelsen
 Doug & Susan Cowart
 Donald & Bernadette Crehan
 Scott & Julie Cress
 Steve & Kristen Crook
 Mike & Bonnie Crough
 Randy & Liz Crow
 Marsha Crowley
 Jay Crowley
 Craig & Keren Cummins
 Steve & Madeline D'Alessio
 Mary D'Amico-Vaughan
 Don & Carrie D'Antona
 Darnestown Shell
 Craig & Laveda Dart
 Farhad & Julie Dastvan

John & Lynne Davies
 Fernando & Nancy de Almeida
 Steve & Carole De Minco
 Ken & Mary Alice Deahl
 Dan & Monica Dean
 Cliff Dean Janice Raburn
 Gene & Ann Del Tatto
 James & Pamela Del Vecchio
 Sean & Donna Delaney
 Bob & Katie Denham
 Bobby & Lita Deonarine
 Muniram Deonarine
 Thelma Deoudes
 Tom & Cindy Deoudes
 Bruce & Luanne Deppa
 Victor & Susie Der
 Tommy Dercola
 Anil & Sarala Dhingra
 Carlos & Caroline Diez
 Vic & Dee Dillon
 Jerry & Sue Dingess Andy Dingess
 Joe & Karen DiPeppe
 Joe & Carmen DiPietro
 Ted & Sophie Dmuchowski
 James (Pete) & Barbara (Bobbie) Dobson
 Steve & Marsha Dolinsky
 Gene & Jo-Ellen Domalski
 Keith & Marilyn Donson
 Robert & Patricia Dooling
 John & Bernice Doran
 Donald & Margaret Downing
 Paul & Elizabeth Drazek
 Michael Dry & Beth Canale
 Maureen Dufresne
 Jeff & Karen Duncan
 Frederick & Cecilia Duque
 Glenn & Glenda Dura
 Chuck & Ruth Duvall
 Morris & Margery Edmundson
 Worth & Karen Edwards
 Richard & Janice Edwing



Carl & Vicki Einsel
 Gregory Elerick
 Fuad & Nancy El-Hibri
 Steve & Kathy Ellis
 Steve & Sylvia Ellis
 Tom & Chris Engleman
 Dave & Beth Erdman
 Rosemary Eshman
 Leo & Kathy Eskin
 Sam & Karen Esposito
 John & Louise Evans
 Edward & Terrie Fakler
 Joseph & Kathleen Famulare
 Jin & Jenny Fang
 Ronald & Nancy Farhood
 Daniel Feisel
 Scott & Tami Feldman
 Thomas & Barbara Feliu
 Richard Felner
 Jean Felts
 Christa Fenimore
 Ken & Fran Finkelstein
 Harvey & Lisa Fischer
 William & Eileen Fishbein
 Gene & Charlotte Fisher
 Guy & Libby Fisher
 David & Liz Fitzgerald
 Robert & Vivian Fitzgerald
 James & Paula Fitzpatrick
 Bill & Liesel Flaig
 David & Jennifer Flinchum
 Pearl Flowers
 James & Lynn Flynn
 Pat Foley
 Bob & Hilary Foley
 Michael & Audrey Forshey
 Ronald & Nancy Foulds
 Edward & Gracie Fowlkes, Sr
 Craig & Debra Frame
 Hal & Laurie Freed
 Andrew Fregly Susan Allewet
 Cliff & Lorice Frost

Linda & Felix Frueh
 Bob & Nan Fuhrman
 Robert & E. Ann Gallagher
 Matthew & Elizabeth Garagusi
 Jim & Karen Garner
 Paul & Beth Gaukler
 Rudolph & Betty Gaum
 Joseph & Deanna Gazda
 Andrew & Teresa Gerber, Jr.
 Eileen Gerohristodoulos
 Barton & Enid Gershen
 Lewis & Lynn Gertz
 Larry & Marilee Giebel
 Melvin Gienau
 John & Bobbie Gill
 Stephen & Elizabeth Girard
 Mark & Darci Glass-Royal
 Warren & Anita Glodshine
 Ed & Bobbie Goldstein
 Lori & Fabrizio Golino
 Jeffrey Goodie
 Jeff & Sandra Goodman Second
 Chance Farm
 Richard Gordon
 Bob & Marlynn Goren
 James & Nicole Gorman
 Michael & Sue Gottlieb
 Brian & Leslie Grant
 Joe Greaney Nancy Becker
 Paul & Stephanie Greco
 Charles & Grace Green
 Thomas & Kelly Greenawalt
 Bill & Sondra Gregory
 Peter & Nancy Grenier
 Ron & Janet Gress
 Margaret M. Griffin
 Rick & Linda Griffin
 Steve & Sharon Groff
 Jeffrey & Ashley Grolig
 David & Rosanne Grolman
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A Tribute to a Beloved Neighbor

By Susie Gooch

Those of us in the Esworthy, Hartley Hall, and Weathered Barn area have lost a dear friend. Our treasured neighbor, Virginia Lee Swartz Wilber, died quite unexpectedly this past February 22nd. In the tradition of the Old South, where affection for one's elders was tempered with great respect, those of us who knew and loved her always referred to her as "Miss" Virginia.

Miss Virginia was born on September 13, 1936. Her parents, John and Martha Ray Swartz, built the house on Esworthy Road in which they all resided, and to which Miss Virginia returned upon her father's death.

An only child, Miss Virginia attended Gaithersburg High School and later earned a teaching degree from the American University in Washington, DC. She was the only member of her family ever to attend college. After Miss Virginia graduated, she began working for American University as a Research Analyst, a position that she maintained until she retired 40 years later.

In 1957, Miss Virginia met and immediately fell in love with a dashing young man named Paul Wilber. They married on July 26, 1958. Sadly, after just three short years, Paul died of cancer, and Miss Virginia became a widow at the tender age of 25. She never remarried, claiming that she'd already been blessed with "the best husband in the world."



Miss Virginia in 1960

Miss Virginia loved everything about the outdoors, especially the wildlife. She was fond of naming every deer that wandered across our adjoining yards, which was no small feat given the number of deer we have out here! She spent many pleasant hours tending to her flower, blueberry, and raspberry gardens, and she lovingly fed the birds and squirrels every day and in every kind of weather. She loved pet animals as well, and they certainly loved her! Our pet pigs Frederick and later Wilbur used to love to wander over to her as she worked in her gardens because she always had a warm greeting and a special treat for them. And she never missed an opportunity to play with our various dogs over the past 25 years. Indeed to this day, our dog Henry sits along the border between our houses every morning, patiently waiting for Miss Virginia to come by on her daily walk.

Miss Virginia was a huge baseball fan, too. She especially loved the Baltimore Orioles and never missed a game on either television or the radio. Because she didn't have a computer (and never wanted one), she would come to me every so often to ask me if I would look up a key player or a piece of baseball news on the Internet for her. She was always keen to stay informed about all of the new draft picks and other important baseball matters.

And Miss Virginia was quite an accomplished painter! Her favorite subjects were, of course, nature and animals. She was also very skilled with puzzles, both crossword puzzles and masterpieces. She was happiest when she was sitting at her kitchen table, working on a puzzle or a painting, listening to a baseball game on the radio, and occasionally glancing out the window at the birds and squirrels in her bird feeders.

Those of us along Esworthy Road, Hartley Hall Place, and Weathered Barn Court will miss seeing Miss Virginia on her morning walks as we tend to matters in our kitchens or in our gardens. Many of the seniors in Darnestown will miss seeing her at Harris Teeter every Thursday for Senior Discount Day. Friends and neighbors will miss her at the various summer and fall deck parties. Certainly the birds and other wildlife will miss her gentle and loving presence in their lives.

Miss Virginia was and will forever remain a dearly loved and truly cherished friend.



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