



Volume 47, Number 4

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

December 2011

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## Civic Association News & Notes

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### *Notes from the President*

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

Season's Greetings! It is time for our annual DCA membership drive! We sent out the membership letter in November and have placed a copy in this *Little Acorn*. We need your support! Look at a few of the great things we are doing:

- Quarterly *Little Acorn* newsletter
- Bi-annual telephone directory
- DCA Spring Social, Hoedown and Holiday Tree gatherings
- Darnestown Historical Park
- Monitoring power and phone reliability, village development, zoning, crime, road construction and safety, hiking/biking trails, environmental issues and more!

We also have a DCA "Contingency Legal Fund" for legal battles against issues that could negatively impact our quality of life. The idea of an interstate

*(Continued, page 3)*

**Next  
DCA Town Meeting  
Thursday, December 15  
7:30 p.m.**

**Brush Fire Update from  
Investigators  
Darnestown Presbyterian Church  
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road**

**Holiday Tree Lighting  
Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm  
See p13 for details**

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**Volunteers Needed for Welcome Committee,  
Quince Orchard Library, and Social Activities**  
 Email [acorneditor2@gmail.com](mailto:acorneditor2@gmail.com) for more information.



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 Karen Hinrichsen [Karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com]  
 Zoning & Development Review: Pam DuBois  
 [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.

Providers listed below are residents of the  
 Darnestown area. They are included here as a  
 service to the community.

**They are not endorsed by the Darnestown Civic  
 Association or its Executive Board.**

### BABY SITTERS

Emily Agate <sup>2</sup>	age 15	301-417-0980
Sarah Agate	age 17	301-417-0980
Marian de Almeida	age 17	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida	age 14	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe	age 13	301-977-4247
Chris Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 17	301-519-3814
Jordan Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 19	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 15	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan <sup>1,3</sup>	age 15	301-977-8027
Allison Long <sup>1</sup>	age 14	301-990-7511
Betsi Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Drew Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Claire Pohl	age 15	301-926-8801
Emily Pohl	age 13	301-926-8801
Katie Pohl <sup>3</sup>	age 17	301-926-8801
Trish Poulos	adult	301-208-1007
Kelsey Warren	age 16	301-216-1919

### MOTHER'S HELPERS

Zoe Kaplan <sup>1</sup>	age 15	301-977-8027
Allison Long <sup>1</sup>	age 14	301-990-7511
Emily Pohl	age 13	301-467-8801

### PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Gwynne Cafaro <sup>4</sup>	age 14	301-963-7178
Rachel Cone <sup>4</sup>	age 14	301-330-1154
Chris Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 17	301-519-3814
Jordan Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 19	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helme <sup>3</sup>	age 15	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan	age 15	301-997-8027
Mac O'Rourke	age 12	301-947-5487
Emily Pohl	age 13	301-926-8801
Trish Poulos	adult	301-208-1007
Grace Wallerstedt <sup>5</sup>	age 20	301-590-0698

### MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan <sup>5</sup>	Guitar	301-379-5646
Brandon Corydon	Guitar	301-221-0456
Justin Fakler	Guitar	301-814-5111
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
David Tony <sup>5</sup>	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 Kalil	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993
Frank Mielenz	301-987-7190

<sup>1</sup> Completed babysitting certification program.

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



## ***Notes from the President***

*(Cont'd from p. 1)*

through Darnestown, connecting to a bridge over the Potomac to Virginia, is rearing its ugly head again. The "2030 Group" states that this is their #1 goal. Do not be mistaken. The road and bridge would devastate our community. Several of the proposed "paths" cut through our very own neighborhoods, schools and places of worship. This is not to be taken lightly and it is the DCA's #1 priority to halt any progress.

We've been getting quite a few emails and calls wondering what is happening to the land located on the east side of Harris Teeter. Do not fret! The DCA has been working for nearly 20 years to make a special historical town park, and construction has finally begun.

The park will finally give Darnestown a "town center" where we can come together as a community. It will give the history of DT through interpretive plaques and busts of important figures from our past. There will be places for visitors to sit down, relax and contemplate. Did you know that there are an estimated 30 graves here? The people buried at the park include Civil War soldiers, travelers, William Darne and family. A new evergreen will be planted for our annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony. The current "holiday tree" has gotten so tall that it is quite hazardous for Pat Beautz to put up the lights! This park will be the key focal point of our community!

In closing, I would like to thank our active volunteers: Bob Thompson, Steve Ellis, Bruce Deppa, Susan Allaway, Dick, Jean and Joe Jurgena, Art Slesinger, Guy Armantrout, Betty Foley, Chris Collins, Karen Hinrichsen, Pam DuBois, Sarah Scherer, Michael Gottlieb, Jim Clifford, Greg Clemmer and Kevin Keegan. Without you, none of our accomplishments would be possible. I also want to "officially" welcome two new volunteers: Bill Gooch and Rob Swisher!

**I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season with a bright, healthy and prosperous 2012 ahead!**

## ***Darnestown Directory***

by Sarah Scherer

Welcome to new Darnestown neighbors:

Matt and Sara Bechard  
15712 Pagano Lane  
301-990-6662

Karen and David Danoff  
15804 White Rock Rd  
301-740-3279

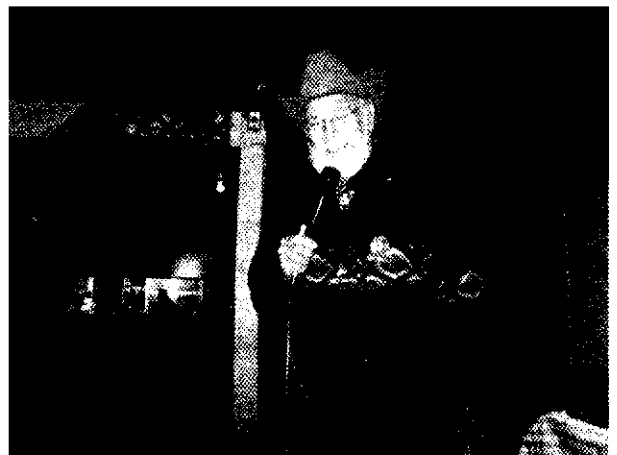
As always, please keep me up to date on changes in your neighborhood. I can be reached at 240-683-8533 or [sarahscherer@comcast.net](mailto:sarahscherer@comcast.net).

## ***Social Committee***

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

## **Hoedown Lowdown**

The 41<sup>st</sup> annual DCA Hoedown on October 14<sup>th</sup> was a success with 120 people celebrating in good 'ole Darnestown fashion. Hours before the big event, the weather was crazy. Sudden downpours, gusts of wind and wild clouds. But everything changed a few hours before the big shindig and we ended up with a beautiful fall evening. Special thanks goes out to the Sullenger's for bringing 20 folks to help celebrate Gene's 60<sup>th</sup> in Hoedown style!



Mac McCall, our square dance caller, was there right on cue. He always warms us up with popular line

dances and then moves on to the square dancing. Remember, you don't need a "partner" to join the fun. We always need extras! Mac's wife Phyllis couldn't join us this year, but promises to add to the fun in 2012. By the way, we already have our date for next year.....October 12<sup>th</sup>. Yes, you have to book Mac a year in advance!

Smokey Glen, once again, proved to be the best. The staff orchestrated the night in perfect step with the music. The food was cooked to perfection with seafood bisque, ribs, grilled chicken, salads, sides and pics. All was finger lickin' good!



When thinking of a special event for a birthday, celebration or company gathering, think of Smokey Glen and Mac McCall. We've been using them both for over 40 years and are obviously very pleased!

***News from the Upcounty Citizens  
Advisory Board***

by Bob Thompson

**VOTE ON MONTGOMERY YOUTH  
CURFEW SET FOR EARLY DECEMBER**

The Montgomery County Council is scheduled to vote on youth curfew legislation Dec. 6 and may also take up a loitering bill that some county officials see as a counterproposal the following week. On November 11, 2011, Council member Phil Andrews (D-Gaithersburg-Rockville), who chairs the public safety committee, said the panel will vote

on both bills on Dec. 1 and send them to the council. He also said there would be a public hearing on the loitering bill Nov. 15 and a committee meeting to discuss that bill two days later. Some officials have been waiting for a vote on the curfew for months. County Executive Isiah Leggett (D), who has pushed for the curfew since July and has accused Andrews of delaying the process, wrote a letter to the County Council this week urging legislators to vote on the curfew before the December recess.

The curfew legislation, which Leggett originally proposed in July, would cover people younger than 18 and would start at 11 p.m. during the week and just after midnight Friday and Saturday. However, the Leggett administration opposes the loitering bill, which targets people who behave suspiciously outside or on county property, and Leggett has asked County Attorney Marc Hansen to weigh in on its constitutionality. Similar bills have been upheld by courts in at least three states but have been struck down in other states. Council members and County Executive Branch officials have butted heads over the intent and effectiveness of the curfew. Supporters say the bill could protect youth and serve as a deterrent to youth crime. Critics say the bill is too vague to be enforceable or effective. Montgomery County Police Chief, J. Thomas Manger, supports the curfew but is critical of the loitering bill. In his first public remarks to legislators on the latter, Manger suggested that, among other things, it could compel police to target the mentally ill.

For instance, the law describes suspicious behavior as "a manner not usual for law-abiding persons." Manger said mentally ill people could fit that definition. Andrews said he would be interested to hear any specific amendments that Manger might suggest for the loitering bill. The current proposal "is a very good logical starting point," he said. "It doesn't mean that it can't be improved upon." This issue has been debated at all levels in all communities throughout the County, and the population seems to almost be split evenly down the middle, however the Advisory Board did vote in favor of the County Executive's recommendation at its October meeting. The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board represents more than 300,000

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## Community Interest

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### *Security Committee*

By Kevin Keegan

In the grand scheme of things, Darnestown is a very safe place to live; however, crime is increasing in our area. I hope the following will give each of our residents some ideas to help secure their family and property.

#### **THINGS YOUR BURGLAR WON'T TELL YOU:**

1. Of course I look familiar. I was here just last week cleaning your carpets, painting your shutters, or delivering your new refrigerator.
2. Hey, thanks for letting me use the bathroom when I was working in your yard last week. While I was in there, I unlatched the back window to make my return a little easier.
3. Love those flowers. That tells me you have taste ... And taste means there are nice things inside. Those yard toys your kids leave out always make me wonder what type of gaming system they have.
4. Yes, I really do look for newspapers piled up on the driveway. And I might leave a pizza flyer in your front door to see how long it takes you to remove it.
5. If it snows while you're out of town, get a neighbor to create car and foot tracks into the house. Virgin drifts in the driveway are a dead giveaway.
6. If decorative glass is part of your front entrance, don't let your alarm company install the control pad where I can see if it's set. That makes it too easy.
7. A good security company alarms the window over the sink. And the windows on the second floor, which often access the master bedroom-and your jewelry. It's not a bad idea to put motion detectors up there too.

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 of 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.

Bob Thompson, 240-683-0103,  
bob.thompson@comcast.net .

Additionally, the Board is staffed by the Upcounty Regional Services Team. The Director, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240-777-8040 or via email at [catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov). Visit the Montgomery County web site at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/index.asp> for a wealth of information and available services for residents.



8. Its raining, you're fumbling with your umbrella, and you forget to lock your door-understandable. But, understand this: I don't take a day off because of bad weather.

9. I always knock first. If you answer, I'll ask for directions somewhere or offer to clean your gutters. (Don't take me up on it.)

10. Do you really think I won't look in your sock drawer? I always check dresser drawers, the bedside table, and the medicine cabinet.

11. Here's a helpful hint: I almost never go into kids' rooms.

12. You're right: I won't have enough time to break into that safe where you keep your valuables... But if it's not bolted down, I'll take it with me.

13. A loud TV or radio can be a better deterrent than the best alarm system. If you're reluctant to leave your TV on while you're out of town, you can buy a \$35 device that works on a timer and simulates the flickering glow of a real television. (Find it at [faketv.com](http://faketv.com).)

"If you would like to be included in future emails advising of crimes or arrests in Darnestown, email Dick Jurgena at [rjurgena@mailad.com](mailto:rjurgena@mailad.com)."

You may also wish to take a more personal look at your neighborhood by subscribing to the Crime Spotters and define a distance around a specific address. Web site is <http://spotcrime.com>.

## *A Darnestown Timeline*

by Bruce Deppa

We now have 160 entries in our timeline spreadsheet. This edition of The Little Acorn includes entries 121 through 160. We will continue listing blocks of 40 entries in successive Acorns. As I have 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, I only need the line number in the left-most column and your info about that event or milestone.

With the help of Joe Jurgena, I finally completed the formatting of the spreadsheet, and Joe loaded it into the official Darnestown Civic Association website, [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org). The online version will be updated monthly. I will welcome comments, suggestions, corrections, additions, etc.

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#	YR	MO	DY	EVENT OR MILESTONE
125				<i>Establishment of Boy Scout Troop 1094</i>
126				<i>Opening of Northwest High School</i>
127				<i>Opening of Seneca Valley High School</i>
128				<i>First Darnestown Elementary School PTA Horse Show</i>
129				<i>Last Darnestown Elementary School PTA Horse Show</i>
130				<i>First measurement of all streets within the boundaries of the Darnestown Civic Association: Total mileage=</i>
131				<i>Second measurement of all streets within the boundaries of the Darnestown Civic Association: Total mileage=</i>
132				<i>Official removal of all gravestones from cemetery on Kelley farm near intersection of Darnestown Road and Germantown Road</i>
133				<i>Construction of Ace Esworthy's garage by Ace and his wife</i>
134				<i>Demolition of Ace Esworthy's garage on the site of the Darnestown Historical Park</i>
135				<i>Demolition of Drive-in Bank behind Shell station on Seneca Road Park</i>



- 136 Assumption of *right-of-way* by Maryland State Highway Administration for preservation of two champion trees
- 137 Erection of rail fence around two champion trees as Eagle Scout Project of Troop 1094
- 138 Decision of State Highway Administration to not widen Darnestown Road west of Riffle Ford Road
- 139 Change by SHA to not provide for future 4-lane width of new bridge carrying Darnestown Road over Great Senea Creek
- 140 1997 6 Bill and Hillary Clinton attended high school graduation party at home of Frank and Janet Cornelius on Esworthy Road
- 141 2005 12 31 Johnson's Nursery closed
- 142 2006 7 Exxon Gas Station closes after 41years at Quince Orchard Road intersection on Darnestown Road
- 143 Food Lion grocery store closes in Darnestown
- 144 Harris Teeter grocery store opens in Darnestown
- 145 Darnestown residents convince Montgomery County to buy 3,500 gallon tanker fire truck for Station #31
- 146 Demolition of Russell Roberts' home and start of Roberts Landing subdivision
- 147 2007 2 Demolition of Johnson's Nursery
- 148 2007 2 Demolition of Mr. Washington's old original house (across from Country Glen Court)
- 149 First annual Christmas Tree Lighting at Ancient Oak Drive, sponsored by the Civic Association
- 150 First Christmas tree, grown too big to decorate, replaced by 2nd tree at same location
- 151 Second Christmas tree, grown too big to decorate, replaced by 3rd tree at same location
- 152 2007 8 18 Demolition of small green house on Darnestown Road behind the 6-12 Convenience Mart
- 153 Landow Company obtained permit to demolish several old houses on property planned for grocery store in village center
- 154 Demolition of several old houses in village center by Landow Company
- 155 Civic Association works to quell pressure for a new bridge across the Potomac River in the Darnestown area
- 156 New-home purchases began at "Ancient Oak North" at Woodsboro Drive, Brandon Way Road, etc.
- 157 1970 New-home purchases began at "Ancient Oak West" at Chestnut Oak Drive, Wye Oak Drive, etc
- 158 New-home purchases began at "Ancient Oak" at Ancient Oak Drive, south of Darnestown Road
- 159 New-home purchases began at "Blackrock Mill Estates"
- 160 New-home purchases began at "Blue Mountain Court" off Norman Drive

## Those Who Serve...

by Madeline Dalessio  
[home.dalessio@gmail.com](mailto:home.dalessio@gmail.com)



Captain Ryan Swisher is attending the Captain's Career Course in Ft. Benning, Georgia, through December of 2011. This training provides rigorous instruction for young Army leaders in the areas of tactical problem solving, full spectrum operations, and counter insurgency. Following his training he will

be eligible to assume a company command or serve on a battalion or brigade staff. In January 2012 he will be assigned to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment in Ft.Hood, Texas.

Brandon M. Cooper, Cadet/Major, Air Force ROTC, has received his duty assignment upon graduation from Morehouse College in December, 2011. He will be a newly commissioned Cyberspace Officer, and will train at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. for 115 training days before

receiving his final base assignment. Brandon is a graduate of Northwest High School, Class of 2007.

## ***Darne Bloomers Garden Club***

by Luanne Deppa

Suffering from those cold winter blues? Lots of folks feel better if they have beautiful plants in the house. Indoor winter plants can be something as

simple as having a terrarium. Start your terrarium by choosing a clear glass container with a wide opening and a lid. It can be as small or large as you desire, but usually it depends on the number of plants or size of the plant you want to use. Fill the bottom of your selected terrarium with fine gravel about an inch thick. Top with a thin layer of aquarium charcoal. (You can find both of these at a pet store.) Then add moist potting soil. Some good plant choices are small ferns, peperomias, succulents, begonias, Irish moss, miniature orchids, kalanchoes, and African violets. Do not place the terrarium in direct sun; they will do better in diffused light. The plants will grow toward the light source, so rotate the terrarium occasionally. Be careful not to over water. A mist sprayer works best. You can just leave the lid off for a few hours if the container appears to be too moist.

One of the most popular winter indoor plants is the Poinsettia. They range in colors from the familiar red to pastel yellow and vibrant bi-colors. They are beautiful in our homes for several months. Caring for these beautiful plants presents the biggest challenge. Below are some helpful tips:

- When you first bring the plant home, place it near a sunny window, with as much direct light as possible.
- Keep the temperature in the room between 65-75 degrees F. during the day and not below 60 degrees at night. Extreme temperatures or cold drafts will cause leaf drop to your plant.
- Water the plant whenever the surface feels dry to the touch. Water until it drains out the bottom, but too much water will cause leaf drop.

- With the lack of humidity in houses during winter and the poinsettia in direct sunlight, you may have to water it every day.



Another beautiful winter plant is the Amaryllis. Again, the favorite color is bright red, but they also come in pink, whites, and picotee-edged varieties. The bulbs can be planted in soil-filled pots as early as October, but any month after that is fine. If you wait until December, you may want to buy the already budding plants. Follow the care instructions provided on the bulb package and you will have a tall flowering plant all winter.

A bowl of Paperwhite Narcissus blooming on the kitchen counter or a table can really chase your winter funk away. They are very pretty and especially suited to bright areas with good light. They are the easiest of the seasonal flowers to grow. It's as easy as plopping a half dozen bulbs into a pot with decent potting soil, adding a little water, and letting them soak up the sun in a south facing window. Four weeks later, you have flowers.

Christmas Cactus is one of those winter indoor plants that can be a bit trickier, but offers spectacular results. Keep them on the cool side, out of drafts, water moderately, and make sure they get plenty of light during the day. Avoid moving them. They really like to stay put. Once the beautiful red flowers are gone, you can keep your cactus alive for years.

For the Darne Bloomers September meeting the speaker was Andrew Walker, a Maryland Tree Expert and certified arborist. His company is called "The Care of Trees." His talk was very informative, especially with all the tree damage many of us have had for the past several months with the storms in our area.

In October our garden club members traveled to Surreybrooke Gardens in Middletown, Maryland for





a Mudcrete Container workshop. Everyone made one large or two small containers. Under the direction of Ron and Nancy Walz, owners of Surreybrooke, we mixed cement, perlite, peat moss, and sand, and then poured this mixture into fiber pot molds. We left the molded containers for Ron and Nancy to "cure," and a group picked them up the next week. They are beautiful! We all look forward to planting herbs, succulents, or flowers in them soon. If you are interested in this workshop, give Nancy a call at 301-676-8263 or check out their website [www.surreybrooke.com](http://www.surreybrooke.com). It was fun!!

For the November meeting, our speaker, Michael McConkey, from Ashton, Virginia, gave us an interesting presentation on Edible Landscaping. We learned that many plants other than our herbs can be eaten, including some of our pretty flowers. Our salads may become very different looking.

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, Elizabeth Weaver, at 240-388-3651 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.

### ***St. Nicholas Church -***

By the Rev. Ken Howard

#### **With a name like ours, December has to be good!**

December is special for every Christian congregation, but with a name like St. Nick's, we always have to have a few more tricks up our sleeves.

We kick off the month with a celebration of the Feast Day of Bishop Nicholas of Myra, patron saint of our church (and also children, sailors, and pawnbrokers.) Our 10:00am Festival Eucharist service includes a visit from the old bishop himself, who brings special "gold" coins (chocolate, actually) for the young ones (the other services that day have special activities, too).

Other December activities include: a traditional *Greening of the Church*, a *Children's Christmas Gift Shop*, a *Family Christmas Wreath Shop*, and more. Check our website for more information: [www.SaintNicks.com](http://www.SaintNicks.com)

**Christmastide Services** at St. Nick's are at the following dates and times:

- Dec 24 - 3:00pm - Children's Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 24 - 7:30pm - Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25 - 10:00am - Christmas Day Carol Service (no evening service)
- Jan 1 - 9:00am & 11:00am - Traditional Lessons & Carols Service with Communion
- Jan 1 - 5:00pm - Evening Prayer with Lessons & Carols

Come and join us... And bring a friend!

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## **School News & Events**

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### ***Mary of Nazareth School Earns National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence***

By Mary Stephanelli

It was with tremendous excitement that Mary of Nazareth School received confirmation of being named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School, a distinction by the U.S. Department of Education that ranks it among the highest achieving schools nationwide.

"Receiving the Blue Ribbon School Award is a testament to our hardworking students, committed faculty and staff, and supportive parents," says Principal Michael Friel. "The entire School community is pleased to receive this recognition, and is even further motivated toward continuous improvement by implementing our newly adopted Five Year Strategic Plan. We are thankful for the vision of His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl and the support and leadership of the entire Catholic



Schools Office of the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. As we celebrate achieving this goal, we will strive to continue meeting the standards required of Blue Ribbon Schools."

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their state or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. As a high performing school, Mary of Nazareth School students have tested among the highest in the nation in reading and mathematics on the nationally normed tests. All tested grades were among the top fifteen percent of scores for the past five years.

"It is with sincere pleasure that I applaud your receipt of this prestigious honor," says Barbara Mikulski, U.S. Senator. "I know that you prevailed over hundreds of other schools from around the nation to be chosen for this coveted award." In fact, The Council for American Private Education reported that only forty-nine private schools were among the awardees this year.

The words of Rosemary Adams, Mary of Nazareth School's Vice Principal and Blue Ribbon Committee Chair, speak for much of the school community: "I am so proud of our students, parents, faculty and staff, and immensely pleased that they are receiving the recognition they richly deserve. Our dedicated staff and faculty work so very hard in concert with the parents to bring out the best in each of our students. The support and generosity of the entire Mary of Nazareth community contributes greatly to our success. This award is a compliment to all, and I am pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of this community and share their success."

## ***The Butler School***

By Diane Long

### **BUTLER SCHOOL'S (RE)NEW(ABLE), GREEN LOOK FOR THEIR 40<sup>th</sup> YEAR**

Students and their parents were pleasantly surprised by an "environmentally friendly," beautifully

remodeled facility, upon returning to Butler School this fall.



Children and parents visited their classroom and their teachers, and wandered throughout the school enjoying Butler's "new look." Dedicated parents and a 2002 alumnus decided that a remodeling gift was needed to honor the many great gifts they received as part of the Butler School community and to support its mission to provide a Montessori environment where children think, choose, and act to realize their full potential.

During the past summer, Sandy Wright and David Therriault, parents of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader and a 2011 graduate, began plans for remodeling many areas of the building, which was built in the early 1980's. In their own words, they wanted to support, "a place and its people whose mission is to help children identify and love themselves," and because they were, "able to give back to a place and its people that [we] have depended on for a decade to help [us] raise happy and respectful children." They facilitated obtaining resources for the remodeling through a family foundation.



One goal in the renovation was to use durable, natural, renewable, recycled and/or recyclable materials. Extensive research (with the help of Amicus Green Building Center in Kensington) went into experimenting with various environmentally "green" products.



New building features were constructed, old furniture was reupholstered, and used furniture and art work was purchased, ("reupholster, reuse, recycle"), to welcome the community back to school. During the back to school open house, the students and parents painted their own flowers onto the artwork that now hangs in the new student reading area outside of the library. Several parents, staff and Board of Trustees members helped install wool carpet tiles to replace the "tired" carpeting in the classroom. Finally, a stone garden sculpture on loan from David Therriault Stone Design adorns Butler School's main entrance.

The remodeling plans began last spring when alumnus Artin Afsharjavan visited the school and noticed that little had changed from his time at Butler. His family business, Stone Surfaces, Inc., generously donated granite counters (another natural, renewable material) for the front desk and classrooms, providing a practical as well as beautiful area to these working environments. Mr. Afsharjavan's gesture was the catalyst and inspiration to creating a safe, sustainable, and environmentally-friendly place of work for the Butler School community.

Families who are interested in seeing these recent improvements and discovering more about a Montessori education are welcome to attend the upcoming Open Houses at 2:00 PM on Sundays January 22 and February 12. You can also find more about Butler School by visiting our website at [www.butlerschool.org](http://www.butlerschool.org) or calling the main office at 301-977-6600.

## ***Darnestown Elementary School***

by Kristen Crook

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

Our third annual **Read-A-Thon** broke records this year and raised just over \$22,456! We had a 94% participation rate and our students read for a combined total of 345,102 minutes. This money funds many programs we do throughout the year

including several whole school assemblies coming up that include a singer/songwriter, a magician and a West African dance company. Thank you for your support and enthusiasm for this event!

DES supports the community in so many ways. In October, our families collected over 300 pairs of shoes to donate to children and adults who live in the Appalachian Mountains. In November, we participated in our usual Thanksgiving food basket and clothing drive to benefit the families of our adopted school, Gaithersburg Elementary. The first week of December, we will be collecting new toys and books for the children of the Dwelling Place. Our students will have the chance to come in one day during recess and help wrap the gifts for the children. Not only is our community able to assist so many who need a helping hand, we are also teaching our children a wonderful lesson in giving back. Thank you for supporting these activities.

Upcoming events:

Dec. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Gift wrapping for the Dwelling Place (during recess)
Dec. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Muffins for Moms
Dec. 26 – Jan 2	Winter Break
Jan. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Bingo and Raffle Night
Feb. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Science Expo

Have a safe and happy holiday!

## ***Seneca Academy***

By Brooke Carroll

Several of our elementary students were nominated by their teachers last year to attend the National Young Scholars camp program. Four of our students attended.

We invite interested families to visit our website [www.SenecaAcademy.org](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org) to gain more information about our programs, philosophy, and curriculum. We are hosting several Open House Tours in the fall and winter, where parents can tour our school, meet our teachers, and speak



directly with Seneca Academy administrators.  
They are:

Tuesday, December 6, 9:30 – 10:45 am  
Saturday, January 7, 9 – 11 am  
Wednesday, January 11, 9:30 – 10:45 am  
Saturday, February 4, 9 – 11 am

We hope you will visit us and see for yourself how we help students “*Turn Experience Into Knowledge.*”

### **Thomas Jefferson Preparatory**

By Michelle Wentz

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory students are involved in two life learning adventures. TJP’s Middle School students are participating in a yearlong community service project. The activity involves student interaction at the Winter Growth Assisted Living Facility in Olney, Maryland. The students are reading, playing games, singing, participating in arts and craft projects while bonding and getting to know some new friends. The student are enjoying this time away from school while developing their character traits: **trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.**

The other experience that TJP is embracing is an exchange family from Costa Rica. The Bustos Wilbur family is in Maryland visiting family and friends from Costa Rica. While here, their daughter, Kaleena, is studying at TJP in our Kindergarten class. Along with the missionary work, Robyn Wilbur de Bustos has taught our students about the language, culture and cuisine of Costa Rica. Although this is temporary, the memory and teaching that this experience has brought our students and faculty will remain with us forever. We look forward to having Kaleena and her family visit with us in the future.

TJP has started its open enrollment for students for the 2012-2013 school year. If interested, please plan on attending one of our Open Houses: December 4<sup>th</sup>, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and February 26<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 5pm. If you would prefer, call our office for a private tour – 301-330-7550.

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## **Newcomer’s Corner**

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### **Gaithersburg Area Newcomers Club**

By Linda 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.

Annual Meeting and Election of DCA Officers coincide with the Town Meeting in June. Nominations are announced in the 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](mailto: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, 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)

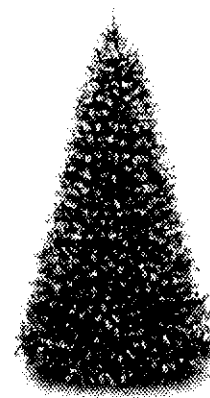
**Darnestown Civic Association**  
14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874  
Lisa Patterson-Troike, President (301-548-0999)

**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](mailto:Jeannietucker@aol.com))

## Holiday Tree Lighting

By Lisa Patterson-Troike



The annual DCA Holiday Tree Lighting is scheduled for December 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. The event takes place at the corner of Darnestown Road (Rt. 28) and Ancient Oak Drive at the big tree. Do you think Santa will arrive with a pillow case full of candy canes? You'll have to come to find out! Hot cocoa, cookies, fire pit, entertainment and music/singing also provided. Come and bring in the season with good cheer



**Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter**  
15831 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
folqoc@gmail.com

**Jones Lane Elementary School**  
15110 Jones Lane, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Carole Sample, Principal  
301-840-8160

**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

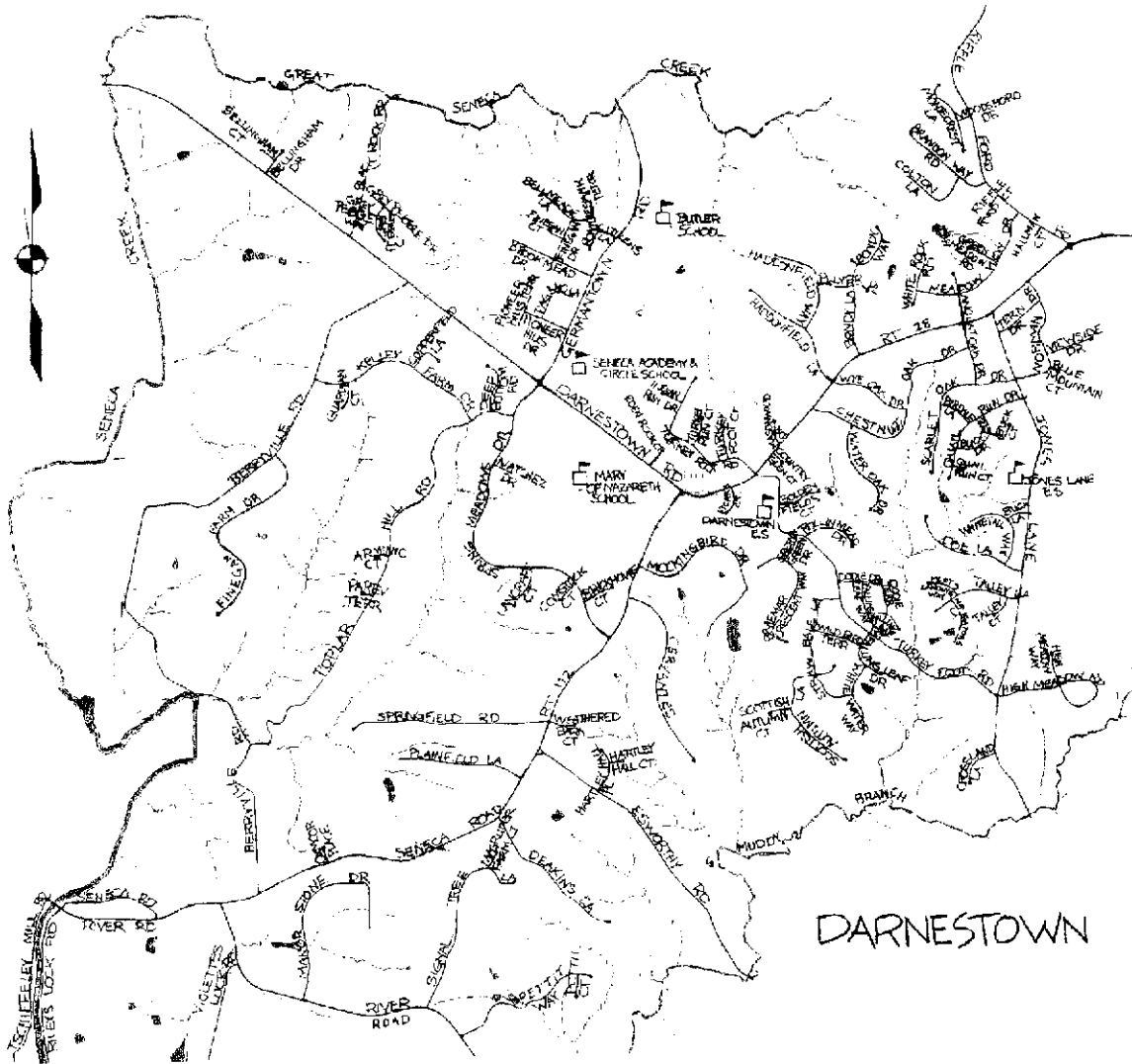
**Quince Orchard High School**  
15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Ms. Carole Working, Principal  
301-840-4686

**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://senecavalley.tu.org>  
Charles August ([csaugust@comcast.net](mailto:csaugust@comcast.net)), Secretary  
240-401-8669

DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION



D A R N E S T O W N

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD

14132B DARNESTOWN ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874



Lisa Patterson-Troike, President  
Bob Thompson, Vice President  
Bruce Deppa, Chairman  
Guy Armantrout, Treasurer  
Karen Hinrichsen, Trustee  
Dick Jurgena, Trustee  
Chris Collins, Trustee  
Susan Allaway, Recording

November 1, 2011

Dear Darnestown Neighbor:

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) will begin a new fiscal year on January 1, 2012.

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 Spring Social, Hoedown and Holiday Tree Lighting gatherings
- Darnestown Historical Park
- Champion tree park maintenance
- DCA Web Site [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)
- American flags for our roadside holiday flag program
- Monitoring of issues that impact Darnestown: power and telephone reliability, village development, zoning, public safety, cell towers, Montgomery County Master Plans, road construction and safety, hiking/biking trails, deer population, the Agricultural Reserve 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 information on the membership letter that was mailed to you 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.

Thank you for your support!

Lisa Patterson-Troike, President  
301-548-999

Bruce Deppa, Chairman  
301-963-0567

If you did not receive this membership letter, please contact Jean Jurgena @, [jmjurgena@hotmail.com](mailto:jmjurgena@hotmail.com) (3018401187).



**Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.**  
14132B Darnestown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
**dca@darnestowncivic.org**

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Suburban MD  
Permit No. 4889



\*\*\*\*\*ECRLOT\*\*R018  
DARNESTOWN NEIGHBOR  
14801 SPRINGFIELD RD  
DARNESTOWN MD 20874-3419

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

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:**

**February 1, 2012**

**The deadline is firm.**

**Your cooperation is appreciated.**

Articles for *The Little Acorn* may be mailed to  
14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown MD 20874 or  
[acorneditor2@gmail.com](mailto:acorneditor2@gmail.com)

Please follow-up by phone or email to confirm receipt.  
The editor can be reached at 240.383.9146.

