



Volume 48, Number 3

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

September 2012

[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

## Civic Association News & Notes

### *Notes from the President*

by Lisa Patterson-Troike

### **Darnestown Heritage Park Opening Celebration**

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC) has selected **Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012**, as the day to celebrate the opening of Darnestown's Heritage Park! Have you been wondering what the construction is next to Harris Teeter's parking lot? A one of a kind park is being built about the history of our quaint town. As we get closer to opening day, we will send out a "blast" email to inform you about the events taking place. Be sure to make a note on your calendar, we need you to show your support for Darnestown!

**IT's HOEDOWN TIME!**

**October 12<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 p.m. - midnight**

**Don't miss it!!!**

**Next  
DCA Town Meeting  
Thursday, September 20  
7:30 p.m.**

Darnestown Restaurant Update

Darnestown Presbyterian Church  
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

## **Darnestown Heritage Park Opening Celebration**

**October 27, 2012**

**Time to be announced.**

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 Safety: Dick Jurgena [rjurgena@mailad.com]  
 Kevin Keegan [kkeegan1@hotmail.com]  
 Seneca Forest Project: Steve Ellis (pending replacement)  
 Social: Lisa Patterson-Troike [lisaapatterson@aol.com]  
 Softball: Dave Bivans [ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net]  
 Opinion Survey: Brian McCollom  
 [brian@mccollomconsulting.com]  
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 Welcome: (Vacant)  
 Wildlife: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]  
 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)

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

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

For age, use month/year of birth. **Send changes to  
acorneditor2@gmail.com or call 240.383.9146.**

### BABY SITTERS

Emily Agate <sup>1</sup>	age 15	301-417-0980
Sarah Agate <sup>1,3</sup>	age 17	301-417-0980
Marian de Almeida <sup>1</sup>	age 18	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida <sup>1,2</sup>	age 16	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe <sup>1</sup>	age 13	301-977-4247
Rachel Cone	age 14	301-330-1154
Hannah Crook	age 14	301-216-2383
Chris Helmey <sup>3</sup>	age 18	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey <sup>3</sup>	age 20	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 15	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan <sup>1,3</sup>	3/1996	301-977-8027
Allison Long <sup>1,3</sup>	age 16	301-990-7511
Betsi Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Blake Micholas	age 13	301-990-0221
Drew Micholas	age 14	301-990-0221
Mackenzie Meyers		301-990-6660
Sydney Meyers		301-990-6660
Mitchell O'Rourke <sup>1</sup>	age 13	301-947-5487
Claire Pohl	age 16	301-467-8801
Emily Pohl	age 14	301-467-8801
Trish Poulos	adult	301-208-1007
Kelsey Warren	age 16	301-216-1919

### MOTHER'S HELPERS

Hannah Crook	age 14	301-216-2383
Allison Long <sup>1</sup>	age 14	301-990-7511
Emily Pohl	age 14	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 Helmey	age 18	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey	age 20	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 15	301-519-3814
Ben Kaplan	9/1998	301-997-8027
Zoe Kaplan	3/1996	301-997-8027
Mackenzie Meyers		301-990-6660
Sydney Meyers		301-990-6660
Mac O'Rourke	age 12	301-947-5487
Emily Pohl	age 14	301-467-8801
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
Tina Kalil	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993
Frank Mielenz	301-

<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.  
 Summer only.

## Notes from the President

(Cont'd from p.1)



Progress on Heritage Park adjacent to Harris Teeter  
Photos by Bob Thompson

### Hoedown 2012

The Hoedown is being held at Smokey Glen Farm on **Friday, October 12, 2012!** Please be sure to fill out and mail the registration form located in this *Little Acorn*. People talk about this event all year long and ask when the next one is.....so mark your calendar now! Let's have another big and enthusiastic crowd again this year!

### Derecho

The Wikipedia definition of derecho "is a widespread, long-lived, straight-line windstorm that is associated with a fast-moving band of severe thunderstorms." Wind gusts of up to 200 mph have been reported in the most extreme cases. The June 29, 2012 derecho took out power to more than 3.7 million customers starting in the mid-west, across the central Appalachians, into the mid-Atlantic. It started as a small thunderstorm cell in central Iowa and by 3 pm had become a derecho when it reached Fort Wayne, IN. In the aftermath, Maryland suffered 900,000 customers without power. This has been called one of the most destructive and deadly fast-moving severe thunderstorm complexes in North American history.

### Pepco

Pepco's response was, as always, less than desirable. Some of my neighbors, here on Esworthy, lost power for 8 days in 100+ degree weather. There seemed to be no coordination between the county and Pepco to identify dangerous situations and what should be tackled first. Pepco

didn't start recruiting outside help until Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3 days after the storm. Tom Graham, President of Pepco, said in a press meeting, "Are people really that mad about losing power for that long?" What planet did he come from? The lack of empathy is the icing on the cake. Pepco wants a rate increase? They lost profits during the storm and will be reimbursed. Read Art Slesinger's article in this *Little Acorn* to learn more. I am simply too angry to keep writing about this topic.

### Board Elections

At our June Town Meeting, we held elections for the 2012-2013 DCA board. We are pleased to announce the following slate was voted on and approved: President – Lisa Patterson-Troike, Vice President – Bob Thompson, Treasurer – Guy Armantrout, Recording Secretary – Susan Allaway, Three-Year Trustee – Dick Jurgena. We also want to thank, in alphabetical order, Dave Bivans (softball), Jim Clifford (flags), Chris Collins (Trustee/historical park/village), Bruce Deppa (Chairman), Pam DuBois (zoning), Steve Ellis (Seneca forest project/master plan/village) Betty Foley (Acorn editor), Bill Gooch (village), Michael Gottlieb (compliance), Karen Hinrichsen (Trustee), Jean Jurgena (membership), Joe Jurgena (email blasts & database), Kevin Keegan (safety), Scott Mostrom (environment/historical park/DT sign), Vicki Mostrom (proof reading), Sarah Scherer (proof reading and directory), and Art Slesinger (utility/science city/all around activist). I'm sure that I have missed others, and for that, I apologize. Without these phenomenal volunteers, the DCA would not be what it is today!

### 2013 Membership Drive

Sometime in October you will receive a letter about membership for 2013. We have 821 members for 2012 and are aiming for 900 in 2013! We need you to help us get there! Your support goes directly to the DCA's expenses and interests: *The Little Acorn* quarterly newsletter, bi-annual telephone directory, Spring Social, Hoedown and Holiday Tree Lighting gatherings, American flags for our roadside holiday flag program, monitoring of issues that impact Darnestown and, last but not least, maintenance of the DCA "Contingency Legal Fund," money to



battle issues that could negatively impact us, i.e., an interstate expressway through Darnestown with a bridge connecting I-270 into Virginia creating an outer beltway. This last item keeps some of us up at night whenever it rears its ugly head.....

## ***Utility Reliability***

by Art Slesinger

After the utility debacle of June 29<sup>th</sup>, PEPCO is once again under a great deal of scrutiny for the quality of its service. While the County government gets aggravated, the reality is the Public Service Commission (PSC) holds all the cards.

Since the 8 day outage, the PSC has rejected a majority of the PEPCO rate increase request. That process started in December of 2011 and was finally resolved in July of 2012. In the PSC announcement, they rejected more than half of the PEPCO justification. PEPCO rationale was not supported by increases in reliability. Costs associated with defending itself during the 2011 investigation case initiated by the PSC in 2010 (following extended outages caused by snow and summer storms) were not allowed. PSC started a new action, case 9298, which is examining the July 2012 outages. Hopefully, Darnestown citizens made their disappointment clear during the August 7th public hearing. The DCA filed its response in writing before the formal PSC hearing on 9/14 in Baltimore.

Once again the PEPCO customers are angry that our system seems fragile and PEPCO takes several days to get the imported power restoration crews up and running. Keep in mind that the PSC does not and cannot run the utility on a daily basis or focus on one area or feeder. By the middle of August, after this update was written, all the power companies will have filed their storm reports that detail how much damage was done and how they went about restoring power.

Intuitively, PEPCO always seems slower and less organized. The flow of information to the impacted community was slow and of little value. All too often restoration times were global system estimates and not feeder specific. If you phoned in, you may

or may not have gotten a knowledgeable, live person. Others reported having trouble getting a response for an immediate crisis of a live line on a public highway. Certainly, the Esworthy residents have the most to complain about as they were nearly the very last area restored. It is unclear why that was case, but in reality, someone is last. PEPCO continues to spend significant sums of our money upgrading the system and removing vegetation. At some point the \$900 million, five year improvement program will be completed and PEPCO will petition the PSC for a rate adjustment to cover their costs.

## ***Environmental Issues***

by Art Slesinger

### **Septic Tanks and Zoning**

Annapolis recently passed a change in the water pollution statute to require that new or upgrade septic tanks include Best Available Treatment (BAT). (See COMAR 26.04.02) Maryland Department of the Environment is in the process of changing the regulations. The genesis goes back to a Federal EPA Watershed Improvement Plan for the Chesapeake Bay that required **all** sources of pollution be better controlled. Annapolis figured this was a great back door to zoning changes that will limit growth to areas where there are municipal sewage treatment plants and make development in areas without sewers more expensive.

The bottom line is, if you have a septic tank and it fails or you have a major improvement to your property that uses a septic system, the County government can demand that your revised septic tank use BAT. BAT adds between \$8000 and \$13,000 to the cost of the tank. It also requires annual maintenance by a certified service person. The sorry side of this is that BAT will address less than 5% of the human waste component going to the Bay and the cost per pound removed is extravagant. One could argue that it would seem a holistic approach would be more economical than spending large sums of money to chase down very small sources of pollution.



## ***Historic Property Reported to DCA***



Photo by Mike Dwyer for M-NCPPC

### **Two Hundred Year Old Treasure in Darnestown!**

Many of you may have heard the story of a family home that provided accommodation to Abraham Lincoln. Not only is that true, but our further investigation revealed the impressive history of **Montanverde**, the residence of Major George Peter.

Major Peter (1779 – 1861) was the last military officer commissioned by George Washington. During the War of 1812, he commanded a battalion in which Francis Scott Key was a private. His Georgetown Artillery was one of the few militia units to fight heroically at the Battle of Bladensburg in August 1814. Returning to civilian life, Major Peter was the first Democrat elected to the U.S. Congress from the Sixth Congressional District, which included Montgomery County, serving from 1815-19. A member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1819-27, he then returned for a final term in Congress.

While an impressive house in Georgetown was Peter's official residence, Montanverde was constructed (1809-1812) as a family summer retreat. In 1827, Major Peter and his third wife, Ann Plater, moved permanently to Seneca and continued their social and political obligations at their country home. In 1848, a barbecue for 600 guests was held on the lawn to support the political campaign of presidential hopeful Zachary Taylor. It is in this context that the young congressman from Illinois, Abe Lincoln, was invited and stayed over

night in the west wing, now referred to as the 'Lincoln Bedroom.'

Major Peter passed away in 1861 and Montanverde stayed in the Peter family for more than a century. Since 1916, it has been owned by two generations of the Harman family, who used it as a summer home and later rented out the houses and barns. An outstanding example of early 19<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse design, Montanverde retains much of its original architectural character and materials. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places as a featured property in the Seneca Historic District. It is also designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

Regrettably, in September 2011 the main house and tenant cottage were condemned for occupancy by Montgomery County, and both lie vacant and in a vulnerable state. The Harman family subsequently placed the house and adjoining land (two parcels) up for sale.

Residents of Darnestown have a unique opportunity to protect this local legacy. A group of concerned citizens – including neighbors, preservationists, members of the Peter family, and other interested parties have organized to rescue Montanverde. While efforts to secure the property are in progress, our main concern is to stabilize the house, which will require a major outlay of funds. The longer term goal is to find a responsible private or public owner who will respect, restore, and maintain the property for now and future generations.

If you are interested in helping save and restore Montanverde in any way, please contact Eileen McGuckian ([phileen3@verizon.net](mailto:phileen3@verizon.net)) or Ingrid Fraley ([ifraley@aol.com](mailto:ifraley@aol.com)).

### ***DCA Bids Adieu to Kathy & Steve***

By Bruce Deppa

Long-time Darnestown residents Steve and Kathy Ellis recently sold their home on Ancient Oak Drive and retired to their beach house in Ocean Pines, Maryland. This news prompted me to reflect on the critical roles that Steve has played during the



transformation of Darnestown from rolling pastures to suburban residential neighborhoods.

Kathy and Steve moved to Darnestown in 1984, and Steve very quickly became active in the Greater Darnestown Civic Association. In fact, Steve was one of the three Darnestown residents who created and recorded the association's re-write of its *Articles of Incorporation* in 1984. (The others were Marsha Crowley and Gerry Foley; this followed their discovery that the original *Articles* had been allowed to expire.) Steve held various positions on the association's Executive Board for more than 25 years, including terms as Vice-president and President. He focused especially on Montgomery County's updating of its *Master Plan for the Potomac Subregion*, related to controlling development in the Darnestown/Potomac area. His diligence and his encyclopedic knowledge of the county's development review process were key to achieving the association's goals during the master plan revision process.

On a lighter note, Steve established the Darnestown Civic Association's softball league in 1989 and served as the Softball Commissioner for 20 years. For years Steve, along with Bob Cangelosi, managed the decoration and lighting of the community Christmas Tree at the intersection of Darnestown Road and Ancient Oak Drive. Also, for many years, Kathy and Steve were instrumental in planning the Darnestown Hoedown held annually at Smokey Glen Farm.

One of Steve's favorite projects was the Maryland Scenic Byways Program. Steve worked with Maryland Delegate Judith Toth and with Governor William Donald Schaefer to designate portions of Darnestown Road and Seneca Road as Maryland Scenic Byways. More recently, Steve masterminded the establishment of two deer "exclosure" plots in Seneca Creek State Park. He worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and with Darnestown volunteers to construct these fenced plots which are now being monitored to assess the severity of damage caused by grazing deer, and to determine how many "deerless" years it might take for natural recovery of the flora in such protected forest plots.

Over the years, Steve has been a tireless advocate for the Civic Association and for the residents of Darnestown. He constantly testified for the GDCA at public hearings before such Montgomery County governmental bodies as the County Council, the County Planning Board, the County Board of Appeals, the County Board of Education, the County Hearing Examiner, the County Department of Transportation, as well as the Maryland State Highway Administration, the Maryland Department of Transportation, and the Maryland State Department of Education.



Dick Jurgena, Bruce Deppa, and STEVE ELLIS

Steve recently received a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to him by the Darnestown Civic Association in honor of his many years of civic activism. We wish Steve and Kathy a happy retirement! We will miss them.

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## Community Interest

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### ***JUST DARNESTOWN***

**A little local history from the Acorn Archives**

**June 1999**

by Steve Ellis

Historically, Darnestown was considered to be the area roughly within a half-mile radius from the intersection of Darnestown and Seneca Roads. For this reason the residents in the newer developments of Ancient Oak, Mountain View, Ridgefield, and other areas outside of the traditional Darnestown



Boundaries called their new association, ‘The **Greater** Darnestown Civic Association. “Carter Hubbel, Maurice Landers, and Mary Anderson signed incorporation documents officially creating ‘The Greater Darnestown Civic Association’ in October 1969. The title GDCA has served us well. It has true sentimental value and it’s easy to say. But is it accurate and useful any more? As the years and issues have occurred, the greater Darnestown area has simply become Darnestown. County and State officials refer to us as Darnestown. Several years ago at the persuasion of John Kos and Bruce Deppa, the State Highway Administration put up new **Darnestown** signs at some of our actual boundaries.

The **Darnestown Planning Area** includes all of the area east of Jones Lane and south of Route 28 to the Muddy Branch Creek. Some, including myself, consider the Fox Hills area, Willow Ridge, the Quince Orchard High School and Shopping Center as part of the general Darnestown area though not within our civic association boundary. There may have been an unintended consequence of the term **Greater**. While having legitimate inclusionary meaning, it also connotes exclusion. For example, people moving into the newer developments in the late 70’s and 80’s east of Jones Lane found themselves outside of “Greater” Darnestown. This may not have mattered to some, but it must have been important to others. The Pulte developers had told the new residents that their young children would be going to Darnestown Elementary School. The school was small and on a septic system and would become quickly overcrowded. The suggestion was made that to alleviate overcrowding at Darnestown, some neighborhoods north of Rt. 28 could be sent to Diamond Farms Elementary. This created a very disruptive boundary dispute (not helped by our friends at the county public school system). However, all areas did attend Darnestown under crowded but mostly congenial circumstances until Jones Lane elementary school was opened in 1987. I believe that a lasting resentment by some in the Jones Lane area prevented a united front with Darnestown in the recent high school debacle.

The primary reason for this article is to suggest that we change our name to the **Darnestown Civic Association**. By doing so, the notion of a broader,

larger more inclusive greater Darnestown area *could* emerge in the future. This is not to suggest in any way that our current civic association boundaries be altered beyond what makes sense. One of our primary objectives has been to keep the sewer out of the area. This maintains the large lot, semi-rural area that has attracted us. Our citizens past and present have demonstrated the willingness in time, work, and in significant financial campaigns to help protect this place. We really cannot expand our civic association boundaries to the east. Would people living in more densely populated areas served by WSSC be willing to spend tens of thousands of dollars to prevent unwanted intrusions (e.g. sewer or larger than desired shopping centers) into our part of Darnestown? I think not. Could their sheer number of votes outside our traditional boundaries defeat motions to exercise some of our most basic goals? Yes. These are true reasons why we cannot expand our civic association boundaries, not some artificial or perceived differences.

To acknowledge the fact that we are “Darnestown” and to open the general area to the possibility of a broader Darnestown coalition or alliance in the future that can unite us all, we need to officially change our name to the **Darnestown Civic Association**. This would require a change in the by-laws and our Incorporation documents – all subject to votes by the membership. This change should be completed soon so that any reference to our association in the year 2000 Potomac Sub-Region Master Plan would be the Darnestown Civic Association.

*This change was ratified and we are now the DCA (Darnestown Civic Association) as a result.*

### ***Those Who Serve...***

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



Captain Simon Youngblut, of the 82nd Airborne Division based at Fort Bragg NC, married Ms. Luciana Amodeo on June 29 at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Washington DC. Simon is the son of Larry and Christine of Darnestown. Both Simon and Luciana graduated from Good Counsel HS in



2004. Simon graduated from West Point in 2008 while Luciana graduated from Syracuse University in 2008. Luciana is presently working at the Defense Intelligence Agency in Washington.

## ***Darnestown Directory***

by Sarah Scherer

We welcome some of our newest neighbors to Darnestown. With all these sale and sold signs around, I know there are lots more newbies. Please let us know about changes in your neighborhood so our Directory is up to date. Thank you! Sarah Scherer ([sarahscherer@comcast.net](mailto:sarahscherer@comcast.net) or 240-683-8533)

Amir & Carrie Assili  
15637 Haddonfield Way

Eric & Elissa Balsley  
14517 Brookmead Dr

Dan & Nina Wendling  
15629 Haddonfield Way

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

by Merikay Smith

Many of us in Darnestown have relatively large areas of lawn. We have the opportunity to create a more environmentally-friendly landscape by replacing at least some of that lawn with native trees, shrubs and perennials. Fall is a great time to plant—particularly trees and shrubs. A remarkable abundance of life is supported by a relatively small investment in native landscaping. More home owners are choosing to reduce their lawn areas (reducing mowing pollution and lawn-care chemicals), creating life-sustaining landscapes instead. This reduces stormwater runoff, directly improving local streams and rivers. You may have noticed that much of the undergrowth in our woods is now alien invasive species. When we plant (and protect from the deer) native trees, shrubs and perennials in our yards, we can collectively make a significant difference in habitat availability, as well as improve water and air quality. Montgomery County has a RainScapes program--a funding and

information resource if you want to create a rain garden or convert a lawn area to conservation landscaping. For more information contact [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rainscapes](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rainscapes).

I recently applied for a RainScapes grant to do conservation landscaping to replace part of our front lawn. I was curious about the process and wanted to be able to report from experience on this program (I'll provide more details next spring, once the project is completed). I have been awarded the grant and will be installing the landscaping this fall. If you are interested in talking with a local gardener about this program, please contact me at [merikays@verizon.net](mailto:merikays@verizon.net).

Our September meeting of Darne Bloomers will be on "Growing and Cooking with Herbs" with Jeff Eng, Executive Chef at Clyde's Tower Oaks Lodge, as our guest speaker. Chef Eng completed his culinary degree from L'Academie de Cuisine in Bethesda and has served as the Executive Chef to Clyde's of Georgetown prior to Clyde's Tower Oaks.

The Darne Bloomers meet at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church on the second Thursday of each month. Please contact the president, Elizabeth Weaver, at 240-388-3651 prior to attending the first meeting as the club would like to welcome attendees by having appropriate supplies and materials available.

## ***Around the Neighborhood***

by Anne Marie Brown

I wanted to share this photo of our neighbor, Jeff Ratnofsky.



Every year we count on Jeff as an enthusiastic participant in our Ridgefield 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. This year was the 12th Annual parade! We put on our red, white, and blue; decorate our bikes, mowers, ride on toys; adorn our dogs and gather every Independence Day on Green Meadow Road.

We parade through our neighborhood and then gather at our lake for a cook out and celebration of our precious freedom!

With the new park coming, it may be time for a Darnestown Community celebration and 4th of July Parade!

## ***Membership Report***

by Jean Jurgena

The following is a supplemental list of Darnestown residents who have paid their dues for the calendar year 2012. The list is alphabetical by last name, followed by a membership category. (M)=\$25 Member; (F)=\$50 Friend and (S)=\$100 or more Sponsor. The dues letter for calendar year 2013 will be mailed separately this fall. If you have questions, please contact me at [jmjurgena@hotmail.com](mailto:jmjurgena@hotmail.com) or call 301-840-1187.

Angeles, R. (M)  
Ballestero, Florencio & Josefina (M)  
Balsley, Eric & Elissa (M)  
Boone, Theodore & Yvette (M)  
Brown, Lawrence & Jiraphan (M)  
Campbell, Frank & Karen (S)  
Cheripko, Darrell & Becky (M)  
Fournier, Rich & Karen (M)  
Gottlieb, Michael & Sue (F)  
Hart, Kevin & Sara (M)  
Hinrichsen, Erik & Karen (F)  
Hilbert, Steve & Lou (M)  
Jobe, MaryAnne (M)  
Manley, Evelyn (M)  
Mariani, Thomas & Tassey (M)  
Mozaffari, Shaheen & Christina (M)  
Neighbor, Charles, (F)  
Rajan, Jai & Tara (M)  
Robertson, Scott (M)  
Schneider, Stanley (M)  
Sherrin, R. W. (M)  
Skucas, Tomas & Ruta (M)  
Smokey Glen Farm (Betty Sweet) (S)  
Sukumar, Mike & Tina (M)  
Wagner, Steve & Ernette (M)

## ***St. Nicholas Episcopal Church***

by Rev. Ken Howard, Rector

St. Nicholas Church is revving up for an exciting new program year.

**September 9 (2nd Sunday in September) is "Welcome back from Summer Sunday."** At our main service at 10:00AM we will have a "Blessing of the Backpacks (and Briefcases)," in which children and adults receive the church's blessing as they return from their summer vacations and set about their daily work. After the 10:00AM service, we will have Sunday School registration, a Gifts and Ministries Fair where interested people can sign up to help with the ministries of the church, and other fun activities. At 5:00PM we will have our usual Evening Prayer service.

**September 16 (3rd Sunday in September) is "Kick-Off Sunday."** On this Sunday we "kick-off" our church activities in earnest, with full choir at our 10:00AM, Sunday school, and fellowship following the services. And our 5:00PM service continues.

**September 30 (Last Sunday in September) is St. Francis Day Blessing of the Animals.** At our 10:00AM service we bless "all creature great and small." Past participants have included gold fish, salamanders, turtles, parakeets, cats, dogs of all kinds, horses, and a Vietnamese Potbellied Pig. Bring your pet for a blessing this year.

### **Worship Services**

#### **Sundays - 10:00AM - Holy Eucharist**

This is our main Sunday service. Great music and liturgy is provided in an informal and friendly atmosphere that is suitable for all ages. Sunday school during the service is available for Pre-K - 3rd Grade. Fellowship and other Christian Formation activities follow the service

#### **Sundays - 5:00PM - Evening Prayer with Communion**

A more quiet and meditative service is held. It is open to all but is especially appropriate for those who want a more intimate worship experience.



### **Wednesdays - 7:30PM - Evening Prayer Plus**

On Wednesday evenings we will be having shorter Evening Prayer service followed by various Adult Christian Formation activities.

### **Christian Formation Programs**

We offer Christian Formation activities throughout the program year (September - May, paralleling the school year) for all ages:

- **Pre-K - 3rd Grade: Godly Play.** A fun, playful, story-based program designed to help younger children gain a working knowledge of the Bible.
- **4th - 6th Grade: Messy Church.** Hands-on Christian education for the slightly older kids.
- **7th Grade and Up: Youth Group.** A mix of educational and social activities for tweens and early teens.
- **Adults and Older Teens: Adult Christian Formation.** We schedule a variety of Christian Formation activities for adults and older teens on a regular basis throughout the year: shorter programs on Sunday after church, more in-depth programs on Wednesday evenings.

If you're looking for a Church, come check us out!  
[www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com) or call [301-240-6800](tel:301-240-6800)

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## **Sports News & Events**

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### ***Darnestown Softball***

by Dave Bivans

What a year – the DCA co-ed recreational adult softball season started off slowly with a one-week rainout delay to opening day followed by hot, hot weather and multiple re-scheduled games and unfortunate forfeits (a record-tying six!). The latter, along with another weekend washout led to an abrupt close of the 2012 season, finding Western Darnestown (WD) on top. Until the final week, the Ancient-Rollin-Mountain-Quails (ARMQ) were positioned only one-half game behind with their

hopes hinging on a Highlanders (HL) season-ending win to give them a share of the league championship.

### **Western Darnestown DCA Softball Champs!**



MONSTER BURGER' -- Coaches Brian Lang, (seated); and Jim Rill (standing behind Brian).

But a HL win was far from a sure thing. Injuries, illnesses, vacations, and other absences kept HL off the field once again, bringing their season to a winless close, a far cry from last season's 3-0 start! During the off-season HL will be taking a page from WD's playbook (as well may the other teams) sparing no expense recruiting to bolster their lineup. This may require the creative accounting skills of CFO and relief pitcher/third baseman Steve Waechter to stay within the team salary cap! A critical HL recruit will be to replace 7-year All-Star second basewoman Chiharu Saito; Chiharu will be returning to Japan having completed her degree here in the U.S.A.

WD continues to reap the benefits of their recruiting campaign and off-season training camp as they dominated the season repeating as DCA league champions, a feat they previously accomplished in 2004/2005. WD had a near perfect season, losing but a single game to fourth-place finishing Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) mid-season.

On behalf of the coaches and players, I wish to thank the DCA and our fans for their support this season, and we look forward to a successful off-season of recovery and recruiting, and everyone's healthy return next year.



	Wins	Losses	RF	RA
Western Darnestown	7	1	86	43
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	6	2	91	42
Berryville Seneca	4	4	55	51
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	3	5	67	72
Highlanders	0	8	25	116

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## School News & Events

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### ***Butler School***

by Susan J. Mitchell

#### **42 Years and Counting!**

It is hard to believe that this new school year is Butler School's 42<sup>nd</sup> year of operation! We are pleased that Butler alumni are out in the world contributing to society in meaningful ways. We are also proud of our longstanding presence in Darnestown, as Butler School was founded three years after the Darnestown Civic Association was formed in 1967.

Perhaps the most noticeable change to our campus is obvious right from the start! Thanks in large part to Butler School's generous extended community, we are starting the school year with a newly paved driveway! In the spirit of teaching moments, our students supported this initiative by using their math skills to map and measure our (long and curved) driveway's square footage.

Also new this school year is the formation of the Butler Parent Connection (BPC). The BPC is open to all current parents, and the newly-formed group elected officers in June. Together, the BPC and staff will create an even richer experience for our students and families.



With select openings in our Primary Program (ages 3-6), we expanded our Open House calendar to

include select Friday mornings from 9:30AM - 10:30AM, starting in October. With the start of Fall, the Butler Equestrian Program is also in full swing. Riding and vaulting lessons are available to the public for both children and adults.

#### **OPEN HOUSE DATES**

Select Fridays starting in October 9:30AM-10:30AM

Sundays at 2:00PM: Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> and Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>  
RSVP appreciated.

Please come for a visit and learn about the unique benefits of a Montessori education for your children, tour our 22-acre campus, and observe a classroom. Call 301.977.6600, or visit [www.butlerschool.org](http://www.butlerschool.org) to learn more about us.

### ***Darnestown Elementary School***

by Janet Swisher

Construction, Construction, Construction! Darnestown Elementary is receiving a much needed "make over!" If you have driven by lately, you have probably noticed the construction going on almost around the clock to prepare for the new school year. Our improvement project consists of a new school front, office expansion, an outdoor courtyard, and new additional classrooms to replace the classroom portables. Construction will continue throughout the school year to be completed by the fall of 2013.

Welcome back! Our students, teachers, and staff are very excited to be back and experience the new school spirit that comes with any reconstruction project. We also have a new D.E.S PTA President, Mindy McCue, and Vice President, Michelle McKee. Together with the PTA board, they have planned fabulous fun-filled events for the entire school.

We begin the year with our key fundraising event the D.E.S READ-A-THON. The D.E.S READ-A-THON is a reading incentive program designed to motivate our children to read, to keep them reading and to encourage a "life long" love of reading! 100% of the money raised will go to the PTA to



support our school and community service programs. Prizes and other incentives will be awarded to the students who read for the most minutes; and/or collect the most funds!

#### **Other Upcoming Calendar of Events:**

Back To School Picnic:	September 7
Back to School Nights:	September 12 & 13
READ-A-THON:	October 1 thru 19
Book Fair:	November 12 thru 16

This school year marks the 12<sup>th</sup> year that D.E.S has partnered with Gaithersburg Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program. Gaithersburg Elementary is a Title 1 school of nearly 700 students, over 70% of whom are in free and reduced meals programs. For the past twelve years, the generous donations from our Darnestown families have helped the families at Gaithersburg Elementary prepare their children for a successful school year. Please drop off the much needed school supplies to our front office bin by September 14<sup>th</sup>. Every little bit makes a huge difference in a child's life.

Be sure to check out both the school and PTA websites for more information and calendar of events:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/darnestownes](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/darnestownes)  
[www.darnestownPTA.com](http://www.darnestownPTA.com)

Way to go D.E.S parents and family members! Last year D.E.S won the 2010/11 "Engage It" award for accomplishment of achieving the greatest PTA members/student ration in elementary school and came in 2nd place in the county overall. Well done! Let's keep our good reputation going!!!!

**Back to School – Safety's the Rule!**

### ***Mary of Nazareth School***

by Heather Long

#### **The Katie Fitzgerald Center at Mary of Nazareth School**

We are pleased to welcome the new director of The Katie Fitzgerald Center at Mary of Nazareth School (KFC), Mr. Rich Huelbig. Mr. Huelbig has taught

Physical Education to our kindergarten through grade five students for the past nine years. He has been a valuable asset with the KFC and has worked numerous hours improving service and upgrading the facility. The KFC can be rented for banquets, special parties, receptions, camps and fundraisers. Feel free to email Mr. Huelbig at [rhuelbig@maryofnazareth.org](mailto:rhuelbig@maryofnazareth.org) or by calling (202)841-1151. Schedule information can be found on our website at [www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org).

### ***Northwest High School***

by Tracy Callahan

Wow, it's been a good run for Northwest High School. Last May the baseball team, under 2<sup>nd</sup> year Head Coach Todd Varesco, won the Maryland State 4A title. Tony Cianci (P-3B) was selected All-Met. Max Banks was selected ESPN High School player of the week. The Baseball team won the State Semi and Final Championship in dramatic extra inning games! Way to go Jags!

Theresa Dethlefsen was selected 2012 MCPS Counselor of the year! And to stay on top of other breaking school news, follow Principal Lance Dempsey on twitter @NorthwestJags as the 1<sup>st</sup> Day of School, August 27<sup>th</sup> arrives. Other items to monitor by following her are the Boosters silent auction, Back to School night dates, Teacher awards, upcoming events and general school news. Northwest Student and Darnestown resident, Brian Rourke just signed up to follow her!

Please pay attention to the new traffic pattern in the back of the school designed to get students dropped off closer to the door. Principal Lance Dempsey has made many positive changes at Northwest. We are lucky to have her.

The Buzz this Fall is the football program. Previous seasons of 1-9 and 5-5 have pushed the program to new heights! Under the Direction of Head Coach Michael Neubeiser, the Jaguars just missed the playoffs last season! They are back with a high powered offense led by senior quarterback Matty Callahan and tailback Simon Michnick. Matty tossed 26 TD's and threw for 2,300 plus yards while Simon ran for another 500 plus yards. The first



home game is Friday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:30PM against Blake.

Ninth grade or new student orientation is Thursday, August 23rd at 7:25AM. Back to School night is Thursday, August 30th. All students will be issued "ID" cards and must have them at all times. The first one is free; after that they are \$5.

## ***Thomas Jefferson Preparatory***

by Z. Harabatch

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory is excited to be kicking off the 2012-2013 school year on September 5th. This year brings new advances in technology. Students from grades 3-8 will be introduced to Chrome Notebooks and use Google Apps. Grades K-2 will continue using laptops.

Some important upcoming dates:

September 4	Back to School Night
September 28	Uncle Ralph's Cookie Dough Fundraiser Begins
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Community Yard Sale
	Open to everyone.

Mark your calendars.

TJP will also be hosting Open House events this year for prospective students. Scheduled are:

Sunday, September 16	3:00-5:00PM
Sunday, October 28	3:00-5:00PM

Be on your way to join TJP in an educational program where a child can grow and flourish by scheduling a private tour. For more information log on to [tjprep.org](http://tjprep.org) or call 301-330-7550.

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## **Newcomer's Corner**

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### ***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 in this section should be helpful and will introduce you to some things that give Darnestown a sense of community.

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

The membership year of the DCA is January 1 through December 31, and annual dues billing statements are mailed out at the end of December each year, although

dues may be paid any time during a given year. Current officers of the DCA are listed on Page 2 of *The Little Acorn*.

#### ***Mailing Address:***

Darnestown Civic Association  
14132B Darnestown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874

***Boundaries:*** Since Darnestown is not incorporated, it has no official boundaries. The activities and focus of the DCA include an area of some 12 square miles, centered approximately at the intersection of Maryland Routes 28 and 112 (Darnestown Road and Seneca Road). Maps are available at Town Meetings.

***The Little Acorn newsletter*** is published quarterly, in March, June, September and December. Its name derives from its origin as a tiny newsletter in the Ancient Oak subdivision more than 20 years ago. Now it is mailed (3rd class) to every residential address that we have in our DCA data base. Volunteers, based on information from membership remittance form and our Welcome Committee, maintain this name and address file. The newsletter should arrive in your mailbox early in each of the above months. If you don't receive an issue, please contact the editor or any DCA officer. Publication of *The Little Acorn* is entirely a volunteer effort except for the printing and mailing.



**Town Meetings** are held quarterly by the DCA, usually on the 2nd or 3rd Thursday of March, June, September and December in the Fellowship Hall of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church at the intersection of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Road. Meetings are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., but are not called to order until 7:45 to allow some time for meeting neighbors, etc. Each issue of *The Little Acorn* features an announcement about the upcoming Town Meeting.

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

**Telephone Directory:** Every two years, the DCA publishes a directory of residents' names, addresses and phone numbers and mails it to every residential address in our database. To obtain a copy of the Directory, call Sarah Scherer at 240-683-8533 or [sarahscherer@comcast.net](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 Michael Joyce (301-926-0526)  
[sm@trooop1094.org](mailto:sm@trooop1094.org)

**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**  
Elizabeth Weaver, President  
Betsy Kingman, Membership (301-921-1988)

**Darnestown Civic Association**  
14100 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874  
Lisa Patterson-Troike, President (301-548-0999)

**Darnestown Elementary School**  
15030 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown, MD 20878  
Laura Colgary, Principal (301-840-7157)

**Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club**  
P. O. Box 3574, Darnestown, MD 20885  
Jeannie Tucker, Membership ([Jeannietucker@aol.com](mailto:Jeannietucker@aol.com))

**Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter**  
Membership,

**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](http://www.tjprep.org)

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

## **ATTENTION PLEASE!!!**

*It's time for the*

## **DARNESTOWN DIRECTORY**

The next edition of the Darnestown Directory is in the works. As in past years, we welcome support from advertisers. If you are interested in placing an ad in the Directory, please contact Sarah Scherer. Our rates are great, the Directory is in effect for 2 years **and** your neighbors will appreciate your support. In turn, your neighbors will support you. Thank you!

[sarahscherer@comcast.net](mailto:sarahscherer@comcast.net) or call 240-683-8533



# DCA Hoedown

## 42nd Anniversary

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

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

**Friday, October 12, 2012  
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT**

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

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

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

### **ADULTS ONLY!**

**Reservations with payment must be received by October 5th!  
\*\*No refunds\*\* Payment will not be accepted at the door**

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

Please clip and submit this form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/5/12 to:  
**Lisa Patterson-Troike, 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874**  
Direct any questions to Lisa via email (lisaapatterson@aol.com) or phone (301-548-0999)

Full names of those in your group: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.<sup>00</sup> each: Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874

[dca@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)

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

