



Volume 50, Number 1

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

March 2013

www.darnestowncivic.org

Civic Association News & Notes

Notes from the President

by Lisa Patterson-Troiike

DCA 2013 Membership Drive

We've had a fabulous response to our 2013 membership drive! Thank you, thank you, thank you! A letter was sent back in November to every address in Darnestown asking for support. If you have not sent in your membership, it is not too late! There are three membership levels: Basic at \$25, Friend at \$50 and Sponsor at \$100. You will be listed in an upcoming issue of the Little Acorn. The DCA has ongoing expenses and needs your membership to help pay for many items, including but not limited to, social events and operating costs.

(Continued on page 3)

Next DCA Town Meeting

March 21st | 7:30pm

**Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road**

SPRING SOCIAL

May 8, 2013

See page 4 for details and RSVP.

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THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: Tanya Slesinger [acorneditor2@gmail.com]
 Proofreaders: Vicki Mostrom [mvmostrom@comcast.net]
 Sarah Scherer [sarahscherer@comcast.net]
 Production/Distribution: Balmar® Solutions in Print
 Lisa Merhi, Acct. Mgr. [lmerhi@balmar.com]

The Darnestown Civic Association Board (DCA)

President: Lisa Patterson-Troiike [lisaapatterson@aol.com]
 Vice President: Bob Thompson [bob.thompson@comcast.net]
 Chairman: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]
 Treasurer: Guy Armantrout [armantrout1@hotmail.com]
 Trustee: Karen Hinrichsen [Karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com]
 Trustee: Dick Jurgena [rjurgena@mailad.com]
 Trustee: Chris Collins [cocollins@coarch.com]
 Corresponding Secretary: (Vacant)
 Recording Secretary: Susan Allaway [stallaway@gmail.com]

The DCA Committee Chairpersons

Advisory Committee: Jim Clifford [JimC@debelius.com], Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net], Steve Ellis [smre45@yahoo.com]
 Compliance: Michael Gottlieb [mgottlieb@apaoffpeters.com]
 Darnestown Village: Chris Collins [cocollins@cocarch.com]
 Scott Mostrom [scottmostrom@hotmail.com]
 Darnestown Heritage Park: Chris Collins [cocollins@cocarch.com]
 Scott Mostrom [scottmostrom@hotmail.com]
 Database: Joe Jurgena [jjurgena@joehost.net]
 Directory: Sarah Scherer [sarahscherer@comcast.net]
 Environment: Scott Mostrom [scottmostrom@hotmail.com]
 Flag Program: Jim Clifford [JimC@debelius.com]
 Historical Society Representative: Greg Clemmer [yorkst@2aol.com]
 Library: (Vacant)
 Master Plan: (Vacant)
 Membership: Jean Jurgena [jmjurgena@hotmail.com]
 Parliamentarian: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]
 Safety: Dick Jurgena [rjurgena@mailad.com]
 Kevin Keegan [kkeegan1@hotmail.com]
 Seneca Forest Project: Steve Ellis (pending replacement)
 Social: Lisa Patterson-Troiike [lisaapatterson@aol.com]
 Softball: Dave Bivans [ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net]
 Opinion Survey: Brian McCollom [brian@mccollomconsulting.com]
 Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger [art.slesinger@comcast.net]
 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-Troiike (301-548-0999) DCA, 14132B Darnestown Road, Darnestown, MD 20874.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

May 1, 2013

The deadlines will remain firm.

Please send articles for *The Little Acorn* to **acorneditor2@gmail.com** or call Tanya at 202.304.7805

BABY SITTERS

Emily Agate ¹	age 16	301-417-0980
Marian de Almeida ¹	age 20	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida ^{1,2}	age 17	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe ¹	age 16	301-775-2887
Rachel Cone	age 14	301-330-1154
Hannah Crook	age 14	301-216-2383
Chris Helmey ³	age 18	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey ³	age 20	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 15	301-519-3814
Zoe Kaplan ^{1,3}	3/1996	301-977-8027
Allison Long ^{1,3}	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 ¹	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
George Vargas ¹	age 15	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas ¹	age 12	301-208-6614
Kelsey Warren	age 16	301-216-1919
Karlie Stanford	age 13	301-628-7260

MOTHER'S HELPERS

Hannah Crook	age 14	301-216-2383
Allison Long ¹	age 14	301-990-7511
Emily Pohl	age 14	301-467-8801

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Briana Boothe ¹	age 16	301-775-2887
Gwynne Cafaro ⁴	age 14	301-963-7178
Rachel Cone ⁴	age 16	301-330-1154
Chris Helmey	age 18	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey	age 20	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 16	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
George Vargas ¹	age 15	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas ¹	age 12	301-208-6614
Grace Wallerstedt ⁵	age 20	301-590-0698

MUSIC LESSONS

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

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Tina Kalil	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993
Deborah Billings	301-926-8409

¹ Completed babysitting certification program. ² Boys only. ³ Certified lifeguard, CPR. ⁴ All animals, including horses. ⁵ Summer only.



Notes from the President

(Cont'd from p.1)

Spring Social at Smokey Glen



The DCA Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm; located at 16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD; is set for 6-8 pm on Wednesday, May 8th.

Prices are \$15/adult, \$10/children ages 3-11. Children under 3 are free! World famous barbeque fare, drinks, hayrides, games and playgrounds are all included. This is a wonderful opportunity for our residents to get out and enjoy the fresh spring air, as well as, meet some of our fabulous residents! Fill out the RSVP form on page 4 and mail in with a check to reserve your place!



Thank You and Welcome!

The DCA wants to thank Betty Foley for helping us, for over a year, as editor of *The Little Acorn*. A longtime resident of Darnestown, she has been very good about sending us reminders about each deadline and including all of our articles and pictures. **Thank you Betty and stay in touch!**

The DCA would like to welcome our new editor, Tanya Slesinger! If she is anything like her dear old dad, Art, we will be very happy! I know that Tanya will enjoy getting to know all of us; we are a very fun and lovable bunch. Welcome on board!

Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony a Success!



How many Darnestowner's does it take to string lights on the Heritage Park evergreen for the Tree Lighting? Answer: 4 adults and 4 children. Scott Mostrom with his three kids, Rob and Lisa Troike with their daughter and Grampop Dave Patterson all participated with decorating the tree. Each of the adults had various ideas and equipment for the job while the children supervised. We appreciated the supportive honks and yells when you drove by while we performed this task!

The Tree Lighting was held at 6:30 pm on Sunday, December 16th. It was a chilly evening with spits of rain, clouds and mushy ground. Scott Mostrom set up a tent strung with lights to cover the sugar buffet in the event of a downpour and the Troike family brought a container of hot cocoa, cookies and paper products. We wondered, "Will they come?" Well.....they came. Over 50 people joined us for our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night, will keep Darnestownians from gathering to show their support. Thank you all for a wonderful evening!

Special thanks goes out to Billy Herrington, a.k.a. Santa, for coordinating a perfectly timed appearance with the tree lighting. Santa listened to gift requests while handing out candy canes to all the good little boys and girls. Next year, rumor has it, Santa may play silent night on his guitar and Korin Wilson will lead us in caroling!



DCA Spring Social

A Darnestown Community Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception

at **Smokey Glen Farm**

16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD

6-8 pm Wednesday May 8, 2013

**Serving their world famous barbeque fare
with all the trimmings, drinks and dessert!**

RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 30TH!

SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO DCA TO:

LISA PATTERSON, 13925 ESWORTHY ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874

Please list full names of those attending.

Nametags will be awaiting you at the door and will serve as your ticket.

Full names of those in your group : _____

adults @ \$15 each _____

children 3-11 yrs old @ \$10 each _____

Children under 3 free!

Phone # _____

Enclosed \$ _____

****NO REFUNDS** PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR!**



DCA Related News and Reports

by Art Slesinger

Science City Development

In 2013 construction will accelerate for projects associated with the 2009 Master Plan for the Greater Seneca Science City. The 50,000 square foot expansion of the Shady Grove Hospital has already begun. Three residential units, all on the north side of Key West from Shady Grove to Great Seneca Highway are finishing the permitting process. These will add close to 900 new residential apartments.



The most noteworthy development remains the lack of funding for the CCT, Corridor Cities Transit. The Master Plan stops development at the 11 million square foot threshold until the CCT is funded. However, even though the light rail plans are being dropped in favor of dedicated high speed bus lines, the Governor still does not have the money to fund the rapid bus line project. So, we remain on hold for the remaining 6 million square feet of development.

The largest uncertainty revolves around the Belward Farm and plans by its owner, Johns Hopkins. The family of the prior, now deceased owner, Mary Banks has lost the first stage of their litigation to stop JHU from proceeding with a 4.7 million square foot mega research center. The sale agreement contained a clause limiting site development and the number discussed at that time was 1.8 million square feet. The lower court ruled the agreement permits the unlimited project JHU desires. The family is appealing that ruling claiming it was

clearly not the wishes of the gifted property owner to have a pentagon sized building placed on the Civil War vintage farm.

Environment



Muddy Branch
Alliance

Two organizations for improving local streams are working for the betterment of both Muddy Branch and Watts Branch. The latter covers the central part of Darnestown while Muddy Branch is on the very eastern part of Darnestown. The Muddy Branch Alliance has been around for several years. It has sponsored many clean up days and recently removed a large refrigerator style cabinet from the creek. Watts Branch Watershed Alliance recently formed and is seeking new members.

Of late the WSSC has held public meetings on their program to improve the streams where their sewer lines have encroached on the course of the brooks. This effort is part of multimillion dollar settlement that WSSC entered into to improve their sewer lines in order to minimize infiltration and leakage.

The most aggressive plan is to rebuild the stream bank near the origination point of Muddy Branch in Gaithersburg. At the point in question a man hole, once at grade, now stands on its concrete base 12 feet above the creek due to massive storm water erosion. If you doubt why storm water controls are needed, this is a poster child for managing storm water scouring.

Utility Reliability

Several pending cases before the Public Service Commission address PEPCO related issues. The derecho investigation action (case 9298) has gone through the process of formal hearing before the PSC. The PSC has yet to rule. We are hoping the PSC demands that PEPCO do a much better job of communicating with their customers during massive outages. The automated



response system and use of outside operators as far away as Alabama was a dismal failure. Getting an accurate time to restoration was unavailable, inaccurate and fundamentally wrong.

Another PSC case (9311), brought by PEPCO, is the rate increase petition. The company seeks to recover money spent on improvements, which per regulation they are clearly entitled. However, PEPCO is asking for a rate increase to cover future reliability improvements that they claim represent recommendations from the Maryland Department of Energy. No one wants to prepay for improvements regardless of the justification. We believe PSC will stand tall and deny the rate request for future efforts.

Community Interest

Those Who Serve...

by Madeline D'Alessio
home.dalessio@gmail.com



Private First Class Aron Cone, son of Andrea and Barry, has joined the Wyoming Army National Guard and is entering basic training at Ft. Benning, GA in February. He will return to the University of Wyoming in the Fall of 2013.

Brandon M. Cooper, 2nd Lt., U.S. Air Force, successfully completed and graduated from the Cyber Training program at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, MS on January 16, 2013. He will assume his first position as a Cyberspace Security officer at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, VA on February 28, 2013.

Captain Ryan Swisher, U. S. Army, assumed command of Apache Troop, of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment on February 14, 2013. Apache Troop is a Stryker infantry company based at Ft. Hood, Texas. Captain Swisher previously served as an infantry platoon leader in Afghanistan with the 25th Infantry Division.

Maj. Kevin Marmillion USAF passed his Defense Language Proficiency Exam in December, and has

moved from Monterey, CA., to just outside Bonn in Germany with his wife Janet and son Jonathan. They will be there for 2 years as part of a military exchange program with the German Air Force.

Security Committee Report

by Richard Jurgena

The following information is being made available not to frighten you; but, to alert you that even relatively safe neighborhoods can have unsavory outsiders occasionally pay us a visit. It is important that we keep alert for something or someone unusual in our vicinity. Three things bad guys hate ~ homeowners with guns, noisy dogs, and nosy neighbors.

Mailbox Thefts

Although none of these locations are in Darnestown and of course, they are spread over a three month period before the police let anybody know, it may be something for us to keep an eye on.

Published on January 4, 2013 by mcpnews in Press Releases:

The Montgomery County Police Department and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service are investigating a series of thefts involving U. S. Mail Boxes that have occurred throughout the county beginning in October 2012. The locations of these incidents include:

- 500 block of Sunrise Hill Road in Derwood on January 2, 2013.
- 900 block of Willow Tree Terrace in Rockville on December 11, 2012.
- 10000 block of Tynewick Terrace in Silver Spring during November 2012.
- 9000 block of Charlie Farm Court in Gaithersburg during October 2012.

The thefts occurred after victims placed their outgoing mail into their mailboxes. In many cases, the mail contained checks to pay bills. The suspects have been stealing the mail, removing the checks,



then altering and cashing, or attempting to cash, the altered checks at area banks. A gray sedan-like vehicle has been observed in the area of several of these thefts, and it is believed that this may be the vehicle that is driven by the suspect(s).

Police are recommending that citizens drop important outgoing mail at local post offices or in a U.S. Postal Service mailbox.

Please report any suspicious situations, vehicles, or person(s) to police by calling 9-1-1 or the non-emergency line, 301-279-8000. Callers may remain anonymous.

There is a blue box at the 6-12 in Darnestown and there is a blue box in the Potomac Valley Shopping Center. There is a blue U.S. Mailbox in the Quince Orchard shopping center...specifically on the side of Rt. 28 where Starbucks is...and located in the center of the parking lot, next to a FedEx receptacle.

Attempted Assault

As reported by a neighbor on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2013, at approx 6:30 pm, a 17yr old girl was jogging down Ancient Oak and took a left onto Chestnut Oak. A small car was parked at the corner, and the girl noticed a person waiting inside the car. Shortly after she passed the car, she heard the car door slam and a man was following her. She ran down Chestnut Oak and the man chased her. The girl then ran up the long driveway to a house that is actually vacant and banged on the door, but no one answered. Then she ran around back, jumped the fence and rang the doorbell of one of the houses on Scarlet Oak. Fortunately a Dad was home, helped the girl, and called the police. Later that night, patrol cars with flashlights were observed searching the woods.

Attempted Robbery with a Firearm

As reported by the victims, the week before Thanksgiving, 2012, a couple living on Kelley Farm Drive, returned home from a shopping trip at a grocery store in the Quince Orchard area. While the wife went inside, the husband began removing groceries from the rear of their vehicle parked in driveway. Two youngish men, in ski masks, approached the homeowner from the rear and demanded money. Surprised, the husband spun

around with a heavy bag of groceries and in doing so struck one of the men, knocking him off balance. The assailant recovered his balance and struck the homeowner on the side of the head with the butt of a handgun again demanding money. The wife having returned to the garage and observing the situation ran back into the house and called 911. The men then fled the scene with one of them saying, "I should have smoked you." Police later told the homeowners they believe the perpetrators followed them home from the shopping center and parked behind a neighbor's house before making their move.

Your Community Pool: Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

By Janet Swisher



As summer vacation looms, you may be wondering just what to do this summer. How are you going to keep the children entertained? How will you stay motivated to keep active and physically fit? Will you be able to connect with your friends and make new friends this summer? We have the answer: the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC). If you are already a member, you know that our community pool is the just the place your children want to be; and the best place for you to unwind with friends and family.

If you are unfamiliar with our community pool, DSRC is a nonprofit, member-owned swim and racquet club. The club is located on Spring Meadows Drive about a mile west of Darnestown Rd. DSRC draws its membership from families in the greater Darnestown area. Because the club has a limited number of members, the atmosphere is one of friendliness and relaxation. Families can swim in the spacious pool, play tennis on one of six lighted courts, or relax with a picnic under the trees. DSRC



offers a variety of social and sports activities and programs for children, teens and adults. Some of our more recent social events have included family picnics, safe and supervised swim parties for youngsters and teens, a summer Luau, dedicated swim and tennis social nights, and a fall Darnestoberfest that you do not want to miss.

This year we have a limited number of available memberships! If you or anyone you know are interested in joining please visit us online at www.dsclub.com If you have questions, please contact our Club Manager, Dave Hardy at davidhardy27@hotmail.com or 301-330-1340; or our Membership Director, Bonnie Lane at BonnieLLane@yahoo.com or 240-683-8206. Dave or Bonnie will be happy to answer any questions you may have. We will be continuing our “refer a friend” program. Any member who brings in a friend or neighbor as a new member will receive a \$100 check from the Club in return for their recommendation.

Club News & Upcoming Events

Opening Day

Join us May 25th for our annual Opening Day Summer Celebration!

Spring Clean-up

All members are welcome to help the board with our Spring Clean up event held on May 12th from 12 noon to 5p.m. It is a great way to meet new members, and get the children involved in a community project.



Swim Team

GO DEMONS! MCSL's A Division Future Champs! Darnestown resident and RMSC coach Pat Tozzi joined the Demons as we compete in MCSL's A Division. It is sure to be an exciting

summer. Swim team members or new members; be on the lookout for information from the swim team leadership in the coming weeks regarding registration. Please direct any question regarding the swim team to John Cohen at (301) 926-8625 or jcohen31@earthlink.net. Please also contact John if you would like to be added to the swim team email distribution list.

Tennis Program

The DSRC tennis program offers something for every age and skill level. From team play, to instructional clinics, to (of course) our ever popular tennis socials.

Social Events



Our social director, Susan Vafa, has been working hard to plan our many family as well as adult social events that will be kicked off with our Opening Day party

on the Saturday, May 25th. We offer a total of 6 official social events during the course of the season ranging from a “school’s out party” for the kids to celebrate the official beginning of summer to our adult summer luau and fall Darnestoberfest. We also offer the reservation of our covered pavilion to our members at no extra charge for use for birthday parties, team sports parties or any other gathering of family and friends you may want to have at the Club.

Communication

Check out our NEW website at www.dsclub.com where you will find our detailed club calendar with important event information. As responsible community citizens, we are committed to going “GREEN” to protect our environment. Please be sure to provide us with your accurate email address. We will use email and our website as our pinnacle method of communication. The pool bulletin board will remain up to date as well. Other exciting avenues of communication include our splash into the social media environment. Become a “friend or follower” of the Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club



Facebook Page as well as our Twitter Account @DSRC. Keep up with us on-line!

Have a great spring! We look forward to seeing everyone on May 25th, Opening Day, to enjoy our annual celebration.

Players Wanted!

by: Dave Bivans, Highlanders



As I write this you'd think spring training is just around the corner, and maybe by early March winter will be but a distant memory.

Our neighborhood softball league will kick off the 2013 season by mid-April with game play extending through July. Games are played at our neighborhood Cliff Bland Park Sunday afternoons/evenings.

We continue to look for new (or returning) players, men and women, to bolster team rosters. I'm hopeful we'll continue to be able to field five neighborhood teams, but a successful recruiting campaign, which could include signing bonuses, may be necessary to avoid some team restructuring or consolidation this year.

So, if you have an interest in playing or any questions, please contact me at 301-977-4734 or dnlbivans34@verizon.net. I'll be glad to sign you up; no experience necessary.

Looking forward to seeing everyone, soon!!



Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Darnestown, Maryland

Guided by the light of Christ, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish invites you to the fellowship, grace and love of God. Mass is celebrated at 9:15 a.m. Monday through Friday in the Thomas More Chapel in the Parish Barn (14135 Seneca Road); and in our Church (14139 Seneca Road) Saturday at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

We welcome you to join us for Holy Week services.

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY March 23 and 24, 2013

Solemn Entrance

(Long Form of the Passion).....5:00 p.m.

Family Liturgy

(Short Form of the Passion)..... 9:00 a.m.

Simple Entrance

(Long Form of the Passion).....11:00 a.m.

SACRED TRIDUUM SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday.....March 28, 2013

Mass of the Lord's Supper.....7:00 p.m.

Good Friday..... March 29, 2013

Celebration of the Lord's Passion.....7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday.....March 30, 2013

The Easter Vigil.....8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday.....March 31, 2013

Sacred Liturgy.....7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.

If you have questions, please call (301) 948-5536 or visit our website at olv.org.

The Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fecteau, Pastor
The Rev. Mathew Punchayil, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Robert Fischer



School News & Events

RECOGNIZING HONOR STUDENTS!

Rachel Townsend, daughter of Bruce and Janet Townsend, made Dean's List for the Fall semester of 2012 at High Point University in North Carolina.

Dean's List is reserved for those who have attained a 3.5 GPA or above.



The Butler School

By Diane Long



The fall semester saw the *inauguration* of a new Equestrian Director and a new riding curriculum for Butler Montessori students. Jennie Garraffa stepped into her official role as the Equestrian

Director in November, and helped to create the new Equestrian Curriculum.

The Equestrian Curriculum allows Butler students, ages 4 through 8th grade, to join a four week session where they have the opportunity to ride and learn about “all things horses”! The younger Primary students vault on horseback and learn the different colors of the horse, about their food, grooming, and how to feel comfortable around a horse. The Elementary children have lessons on safety, correct leading of the horse, how to correctly tack up and enjoy walk-trot riding lessons, while the Intermediate students do the same plus learn about

cleaning tack, correct fitting of a bridle, and different gaits (movements) of the horse.

The year round Butler Equestrian program continues to offer both riding and vaulting on horseback lessons to interested students ages 6 years and older, including adults. Jennie said the program offers students, as well as the local community, to acquire different skills in the saddle as well as



off the horse, as they gain independence with handling the horse, tacking up and grooming. Developing a personal relationship with a horse, she feels, is an important goal of the program for riders and vaulters, children and adults.

Butler Equestrian accommodates young new riders and vaulters up to the more experienced equestrians who are ready for competition. Riding lessons focus on the hunter/jumper style along with developing equitation skills. In fact, for the first time, Intermediate students are competing as a team representing Butler Montessori in the interschool horse show series.

“One of the exciting things about working at Butler is being able to teach different ages...to be able to teach all [program] levels of students at Butler,” Jennie remarked recently when asked about the particular enjoyments in her new role. “It’s been fun to learn along with the Primary students about vaulting”, to take on a new equestrian discipline and a new challenge.

Jennie is looking forward to her second summer at Butler Camp, which offers three equestrian programs for campers, ages 6 through 14. She will be the lead instructor for the Young Olympians program.

To read about Jennie’s professional background and experience, and to find more information about Butler Equestrian and Butler Camp, visit the school website at www.butlerschool.org.



Darnestown Elementary School

By Janet Swisher

As we wind down the Darnestown Elementary third semester, I am amazed by how many action packed events took place over the winter season. DES enlivened our science curriculum by dedicating February to “Science”. Inspiring young people to become interested in science and encourage participation in our EXPO; parent/staff scientists conducted experiments and lessons in each classroom. In addition, the Maryland Science Center's travelling assembly visited and added to the excitement. Finally, our successful Science EXPO allowed individual students and/or groups to share their love of science, theories, research, and knowledge to our student body and parents. A great and educational time was shared by all!

Generosity filled the hearts of many this February. DES students and families contributed to our annual “Pennies for Patients” fundraiser to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The Pennies for Patients program reinforced our school’s character education message and gave children an opportunity to help other children and make a difference in the lives of others. Our PTA sponsored an “ABC Book Drive” allowing children and parents to donate gently used or new books to the families of Gaithersburg Elementary. Each activity placed smiles on many faces; including those students whom donated so generously.

Come join the DES International Celebration which will be held on Thursday, March 14 at Lakeland Parks Middle School from 6:30-8:30. Entertainment, songs from the DES chorus, and student artwork provided by our devoted art teacher, Mrs. Koehn will be proudly displayed. You are guaranteed to learn something about many of the places around the world! You may even win a prize or two during our Silent Auction.

Upcoming Calendar of events:

International Night..... Thursday, March 14
Spring Break.....March 25 - April 2
Colonial Day.....Monday, April 19
Take your Child to Work Day....Thursday, April 25

Kindergarten Orientation.....Tuesday, May 7
Northwest Variety Show.....Friday, May 10
Summer Picnic.....Friday, June 7

Darnestown Elementary School Kindergarten Orientation & Registration

WHEN: Tuesday, May 7, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Children who will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2013 are eligible for enrollment for the upcoming school year. Parents/guardians should notify the school at 301-840-7157 to schedule an appointment time to participate in the Orientation Program.

Seneca Academy

By Brooke Carroll



It is re-enrollment and camp sign up time at Seneca Academy! Our Open Houses are over for the year, but we are still scheduling weekday tours. If you are interested in preschool (3 or 4 years old) through 6th grade at a small, independent school with a focus on thinking deeply, interacting positively, and communicating effectively, now is the time to contact us! We also have a one-day-a-week Parents’ Day Out program for 2-year-olds.

In addition, Seneca Academy is busily preparing for the warmer summer months and camp. We welcome all community members to join in the fun at Seneca Summer Camps! This summer our youngest campers (ages 3 through rising kindergarteners) will participate in ***Storybook Adventures***. Held from 9 am to 1:30 pm, this camp allows campers to explore different countries



around the world through stories, art, games, and with in-camp “field trips”!

Our older campers (rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders- or rising 8th graders for Film/Theater and Band camps) have several camps to choose from including *Art and Adventure*, *Computer Programming and Adventure*, *Mad Science® and Adventure*, *Band and Adventure*, and *Film Making/Theater and Adventure*. In addition, we are partnering once again with *Harrington's Sports and Adventure Camp* to offer a 2-week full-day adventure camping early July! Adventure camps are held from 9 am-3:30 pm. Campers will engage in their chosen activities for half the day at Seneca Academy, and will take the school bus on adventures around the county for the other half of the day. There are a variety of adventures planned for all!

Camp begins June 17th and runs through July 26th. More information and applications can be found on our website www.SenecaAcademy.org or by calling our office at 301-869-3728. Hope to see you at camp!

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

By Michelle Wentz

As TJP students look forward to spring school life and activities are keeping our students very busy. In the month of February the students celebrated Valentine's Day with a Secret Pal Exchange. They also dazzled their parents and friends with a Talent Show/Dinner Hoe Down. As a school we celebrated the 100th Day of School by bringing in a wide assortment of 100 items.



In March TJP will host a fundraiser on Monday March 18th at Potomac Pizza in the Kentlands from

4pm-9pm. Please come and join us and tell your friends.

Mark your calendars for TJP's upcoming events:

Sunday, March 3rd, Open House 3-5

Monday March 18th, Potomac Pizza Fundraiser

Sunday, April 7th, Open House 3-5

Friday, May 3rd, Annual May Fair 4-8

We are accepting applications for the upcoming 2013-2014 school year.

School tours may be scheduled by calling the school office at 301-330-7550 or visit the website at www.tjprep.org

DCA Membership

by Jean Jurgena

Thank you to all of the members who have paid their 2013 dues!

So far a total of 742 dues payments have been received. If you have not received a dues notice, you may use the form in this issue of the Acorn.

Please contact me at:

jmjurgena@hotmail.com

or

[301-674-1741](tel:301-674-1741)

if you have any questions.



Newcomer's Corner

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: The information on this page should be helpful and will introduce you to some things that give Darnestown a sense of community.

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

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

Mailing Address:

Darnestown Civic Association
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874

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

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

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



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



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

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

Barnesville School

21830 Peach Tree Road
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
John Huber, Head of School

Boy Scout Troop 1094

Scoutmaster Michael Joyce (301-977-0526)
sm@troop1094.org

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
Dr. 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)

Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter
Membership, (Vacant)

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
Mrs. Monifa McKnight, Principal
(301-840-4770)

Thomas Jefferson Preparatory

12801 Darnestown Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20878
Zorianna Harabatch, Head of School
(301-330-7550), www.tjprep.org

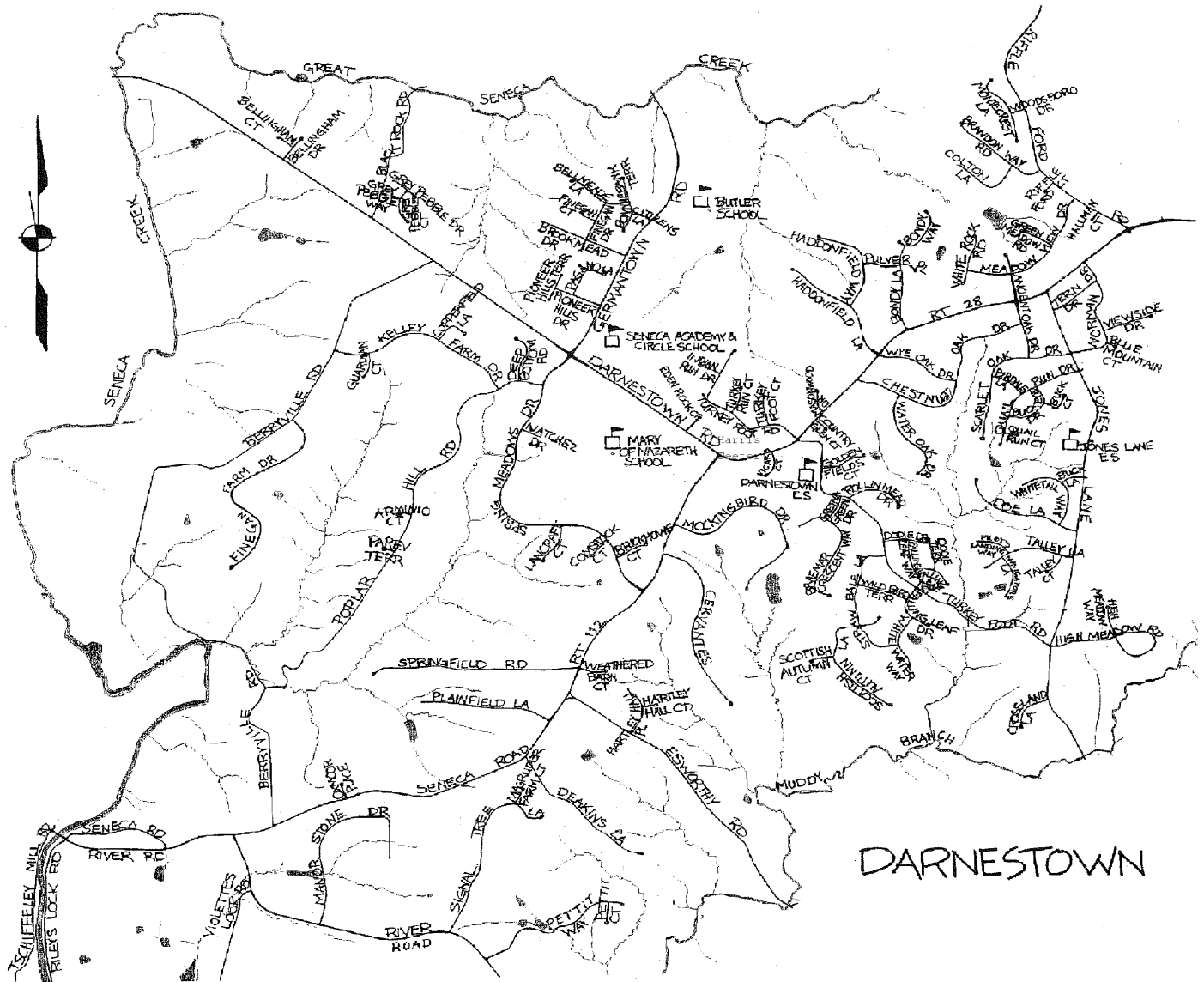
Trout Unlimited

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

***If you are a new resident of Darnestown,
WELCOME to our neighborhood!***



DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION



DARNESTOWN



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

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban MD
Permit No. 4889



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

Darnestown Civic Association – 2013 Membership Renewal Form

(If you have already responded to the Membership Letter mailed in November 2012, do not duplicate your membership with this form.
Contact the Membership Chairperson listed on Page 2 for additional information.)

Please make **checks payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)** and **after completing this form.**

Mail your check with this form to:

DCA MEMBERSHIP, 15711 PAGANO LANE, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874

___ Annual Dues **\$25** OR ___ Friends **\$50** OR ___ Sponsorship **\$100**

Name _____

Address _____

Primary Phone _____ **Primary Email** _____

(Only include phone number if you want your number to be listed in the Darnestown Directory.)

(Only include email if you want to receive important DCA mass email communications)

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

