



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 50, Number 2
June 2013

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

Notes From the President *by Lisa Patterson-Troike*

Is Your Well Water Safe?

When we purchased our home on Esworthy Road in 1998, I really didn't think about the well water. Being a real estate agent myself, I did what the sales contract requires, a minimal water and septic inspection. Last year, while assisting a Darnestown resident with selling their home, we encountered some problems with the quality of their well water. It would not respond to chemical treatments and an ultraviolet light system was installed that solved the problem.



Continued on Page 4

Next DCA Town Meeting

June 20th | 7:30 pm
DCA 2013-2014
Board Elections

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
August 1, 2013

Please send articles for The Little Acorn to
acorneditor@yahoo.com
or call Tanya at 202.304.7805

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 Parliamentarian: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]
 Safety: Dick Jurgena [rjurgena@mailad.com]
 Kevin Keegan [kkeegan1@hotmail.com]
 Matt Quinn [mmtquinn@gmail.com]
 Seneca Forest Project: Steve Ellis (pending replacement)
 Social: Lisa Patterson-Troike [lisaapatterson@aol.com]
 Softball: Dave Bivans [ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net]
 Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger [art.slesinger@comcast.net]
 Welcome: Susan Dorozinsky [dorozinsky@comcast.net]
 Wildlife: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]
 Karen Hinrichsen [Karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com]
 Zoning & Development Review: Pam DuBois
 [pam.dubois@bolansmart.com]

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 16	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	age 14	301-963-7178
Rachel Cone ⁴	age 16	301-330-1154
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	301-990-677
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

TUTORS

Dessi Daniel	240-353-6637
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1 Completed babysitting certification program. 2 Boys only.
 3 Certified lifeguard, CPR. 4 All animals, including horses.
 5 Summer only.





SAVE THE DATE:
DCA Hike Saturday, June 22nd at 9:30am
starting from Butler Montessori.

*To RSVP and for more details, send emails
to lisaapatterson@aol.com.*

Security Tips

by Matt Quinn, DCA Security Committee

Put your car keys beside your bed at night. If you hear a noise outside your home or someone trying to get in your house, just press the panic button for your car. The alarm will be set off, and the horn will continue to sound until either you turn it off or the car battery dies.

It's a security alarm system that you probably already have and requires no installation. Test it. It will go

off from most everywhere inside your house and will keep honking until your battery runs down or until you reset it with the button on the key fob chain. It usually works if you park near your home, in your driveway or garage.

If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break into your house, odds are the burglar/rapist won't stick around. After a few seconds, all the neighbors will be looking out their windows to see who is out there and sure enough the criminal won't want that. And remember to carry your keys while walking to your car in a parking lot. The alarm can work the same way there.

Elderly or infirm people can carry car keys with them in case of a fall when nobody is near. They can activate the car alarm and allow others to know there's a problem.



Notes From the President
Continued from Page 1

I realized that I hadn't tested my own well water for over 10 years. I always brag to my "city" friends about how great our water is: clear, cold, delicious and free of chlorine, fluoride and additives that you regularly find in public drinking water. I started to panic, wondering what my family and I were ingesting on a daily basis. I immediately did a full spectrum water analysis that included testing for: aluminum, bacteria (coliform/e. coli), calcium, chloride, fluoride, hardness, iron, magnesium, manganese, nitrates, nitrites, ph, phosphorus, sodium, sulfates, turbidity, and zinc. There were other substances I could check for, but decided these were the most important (they came as a package deal from the testing company). Unbelievably, my water was perfect.

If it has been more than 5 years, think about testing your water. Just because mine is perfect, doesn't mean yours will be. Send me an email at lisaapatterson@aol.com if you would like the name of a testing company. One of the main objectives of the DCA is to help protect our residents – safe drinking water is one of them. Read the list in the back of this Acorn to learn more about what could be in your water and why it is important to test for it.

Mega Church = Mega Well Water Problem?

A large percentage of DT residents rely on well water as their sole water source. The groundwater that feeds our wells is part of a massive aquifer system that feeds from PA through MD into VA. I have just learned that a potential church being built on Old Hundred Road near the Frederick County/Montgomery County line,

will locate its septic system on top of this aquifer. The church would be one of the largest in the world (approximately 120,000 sq. ft.) and the septic would be a sand mound system built over fractured rock. What's the problem, you ask? Well, sand mound septic systems are known to have problems when over used and this would be the second largest system of its kind in the state of Maryland! The septic location has thin soil cover over fractured rock which could allow septic contaminants to easily and rapidly be introduced into our water. Please read the article written by Darnestown resident and Vice President of Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Oakley Johnson, in this Little Acorn. To me, this is the biggest threat to Darnestown residents since the bridge to Virginia!



Coyotes and Bears, Oh My!

Oh, yes! Coyotes and bears have been spotted in Darnestown over the past few years and recently there have been several coyote sightings in the Spring Meadows neighborhood. Just a few months ago, I received an email about two beagles (42 and 30 lbs.) that were harassed by two coyotes. They were "circled" and the larger beagle chased them out of the yard. The coyotes stood in the neighbors yard and watched as the owner brought her dogs inside. They were described as extremely large and not afraid of humans. I found an interesting article "Co-Existing



with Coyotes" at www.rockvillemd.gov/residents/coyote.html . Please alert the DCA if you see any unusual animals in your area!

SOCIAL NEWS!

As luck would have it, the skies opened up and poured rain one hour before the DCA Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm. We had well over one hundred RSVP's and most braved the rain and came! We ate at a fabulous new location that was renovated and opened five years ago, called "The Barn". The huge red barn with slatted sides was a great space for the social. The rain didn't stop the kids from playing miniature golf, climbing on playground equipment and splashing in puddles. Smokey Glen put together a fabulous spread with bbq chicken and beef hot off the grills, fresh garden salad, pasta salad, two kinds of potato salad, green and baked beans. We finished off our meals with a slice of fruit pie that was piping hot from being smoked on the grill. The social was a fabulous success and just goes to show that DT residents know how to have a great time rain or shine!



Nominations for Election to DCA Board

All board positions are composed of elected members and committee chairpersons who are appointed by the elected members of the board. Board members have one vote on issues before the board, but only elected members have a vote on personnel matters.

Below is the slate of candidates for the 2013-2014 DCA officers to be voted upon at the June 20th Town Meeting:

President

Lisa Patterson-Troiike* (Esworthy)

Vice President

Bob Thompson* (Brookmead)

Treasurer

Guy Armantrout* (Springfield)

Recording Secretary

Susan Allaway* (White Water)

Corresponding Secretary

Michael Gottlieb (Pioneer Hills)

Three-Year Trustee

Chris Collins (Springfield)

**Currently occupying this position*

Karen Hinrichsen (Haddonfield) and Dick Jurgena (Pagano) will continue as Trustees for one and two years, respectively. A Chairman (not a required position) is appointed by the elected members of the new board by vote each year.

Thank you to all our dedicated, hardworking volunteers. Without you, Darnestown wouldn't be as special a place!



DCA Related News & Reports

by Arthur Slesinger

Public Safety – Fires

There have been 2 significant brush fires in the last 2 years. The February 2011 brush fire was a major County event starting near PEPCO substation 118 with all available equipment and resources being summoned, both from within the County and via mutual assistance programs. In March of this year a second brush fire occurred but not nearly as wide spread as the earlier one. We have examined the official records for both of these events. Understanding the cause and nature of the response might help DCA determine what improvements within the MCFR service we should encourage. Bottom line, we really do not know the underlying causes. Many suspect the 2011 event was initiated by Pepco electrical equipment failure, but this cannot be proven. The more recent event records make absolutely no attempt to definitively determine the cause. The real issue is transparency of government and the quality of the post event investigations. Right now the take away seems to be that in both of these areas; the county residents are being inadequately served.



Reliable Utilities

The Public Service Commission issued its final order on Case 9298 which was the state wide investigation into utility restoration following the June 2012 derecho event. This order was directed at all electrical providers in the state, not just PEPCO. The result is a series of demands to study how to improve a number of issues. By September of 2013 the PSC will try to amend Maryland statutes to improve the current regulatory demands. The issues include better means to identify special need clients, e.g. those with medical conditions or perhaps the aged. The PSC suggested that the current performance indicators that are traced, interruption frequency and outage duration, currently exclude major events like the derecho. Hence new statistical markers including major events appear necessary. Most importantly the PSC is asking for man power and costs to improve response such that 40% to 95% restoration efforts could be understood. The writer finds this a little abstract, different storms can have the same outage effects with dramatically different damage to the system. Not sure what they will learn from this effort. The power companies are also to look at the process by which they estimate and report the time to restoration. Many found the effort by PEPCO to be so broad as to be useless and so poorly communicated, one wonders why they bothered. Most importantly, the Maryland Department of Energy independently suggested that the state wide system needs to be more resilient and suggested PEPCO accelerate expenditures to get a better system, sooner. One has to question whether throwing money at the problem will be effective. Does PEPCO have the management team and resources to spend more money? If so, why do they need to be encouraged to do so?



Update about the Deer Enclosures in Seneca Creek State Park

By Karen Hinrichsen

In the spring of 2011 the DCA, in partnership with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Seneca Creek State Park, established a project to monitor vegetation recovery shielded from deer browsing.

There are two sites; each site is about 0.5 acre large and protected by a heavy-duty eight feet high deer enclosure.



The “Upland” site is in Seneca State Park bordering Haddonfield. The “Creek” site is near the Route 118 bridge crossing Seneca Creek. Both sites are checked and evaluated regularly. The “Upland” site is already showing a wonderful recovery of Mountain Laurel.

Unfortunately, last year’s storms damaged both sites substantially.

The “Creek” site could be repaired last year but the devastating destruction at the “Upland” site needed major replacements and repairs. Last fall temporary fencing was set up to prevent deer

from entering the protected area.

This March, an energetic group of Darnestown volunteers got together and worked tirelessly to reinforce and repair the enclosure:

Steve Ellis (still considered a Darnestown resident), Dick Jurgena, Kevin Keegan, Art Slesinger, James Wheeler, Jay Wallace, Bob Thompson, Tim Sanders and Karen Hinrichsen spent a weekend at the Haddonfield site to remove trees, limbs and branches, replace posts and attach new netting.

Now, both sites are again protected from deer and hopefully even more plant varieties will recover from decades of deer browsing.

If anybody would like to volunteer or has any questions about the project, please contact me at Karen.hinrichsen@gamil.com.

COMMUNITY INTEREST



Those Who Serve
by Madeline D'Alessio
home.dalessio@gmail.com

Aron Cone, son of Barry and Andrea, has graduated from basic training and will begin his individual training in communication at Ft Gordon in Augusta GA. He will return to the University of Wyoming in the fall to continue his education while serving in the ROTC program and National Guard.



Your Community Pool: The Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club *By Janet Swisher*

Our summer season is in full swing at the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club. The Opening Day Celebration was a huge hit for both the adults and children. What a wonderful way to start off the summer!

DSRC is offering a new and completely revamped summer camp, Aqua Ventures, run by a professional camp counselor with years of experience designing, organizing, and managing youth camp operations. Aqua Ventures will be full of aquatic and multi sport adventures. Fitness is an essential part of a healthy childhood and we thrive on having an active body and mind. Campers will learn healthy habits as well as improve on their small and large motor skills. There will be a wide variety of agility courses, speed, relays, tournaments and much more!

The camp specializes in tennis, swim, crafts and other outdoor activities. Aqua Ventures camp will run daily, Monday-Friday – 8:30a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (with the opportunity for morning and aftercare) from June 17th thru August 9th – Exclusive to DSRC members only! Cost is \$235 per child per week. Visit the dsrclub.com website for registration or more information.

Come out and support your local swim team.

Our DEMON swim team competes in the MCSL A division and is ranked 6th out of 75 teams for 2013. This season the Demons welcomed a new head coach, Pat Tozzi and Assistant Head Coach Lauren Nickerson. Be sure to check out the dsrclub.com calendar for swim meet events so you can cheer and support your local team. The Demon Grill is a great way to feed a hungry appetite during the meets, and there is always plenty of Demon sportswear to purchase.

DSRC Tennis continues to offer exciting programs, events, and activities for both adults and children. Our junior program has successfully developed a number of players who have reached their goals of becoming high school and college players. The turnout for all of our adult activities continues to grow, as many former players return to the game. In addition, our Tennis Director,

Bob Denham, strives to show improvements each year in all of our programs. Bob is working on building DSRC Tennis into an area leading Tennis Program. He is a USPTA certified Tennis Professional and brings with him a strong background in program development and a proven history of working with and developing high performance players. Programs for 2013 include youth programs, tennis teams, social events, private lessons, tennis camps, and more.

Be sure to join our fun and exciting social programs for all ages.



THE DARNESTOWN SWIM & RACQUET CLUB EVENTS

Mark your calendar for these special events for members only!

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| • New Member Happy Hour: | Saturday, June 8th 6pm to 7pm |
| • DSRC Prom (Adult Social): | Saturday, June 8th 7pm to 11:30pm |
| • All Members School's Out Party: | Friday, June 14th 2pm to 4pm |
| • Highlighter Party (Teen Social): | Thursday, June 27th 9pm to 10:30pm |
| • Movie/Raft Night: | Thursday, July 11th 8:30pm to 10:30pm |
| • Luau (Adult Social): | Saturday, July 13th 6:30pm to 11pm |
| • End of the Year Party: | Monday, September 2nd 12 noon to 2pm |
| • Darnestoberfest (Adult Social): | Saturday, September 28th 6:30pm to 11pm |

Captain John Questers Presentation By Bettye Wolfe

Captain John Questers was pleased to have a most informative presentation on Montanverde by Ingrid Fraley at their February meeting in Darnestown. The members enjoyed Ms Fraley's extremely thorough documentation on this historic site. More than one local Questers' chapter is hopeful the stars rightly align to make this a preservation and restoration project and look forward to visiting the site when it is accessible.

Questers International is a national study club formed in April, 1944 by Mrs. William G. Bardens of Fort Washington, PA. One of the organizations objectives is to encourage the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. Local chapters are dedicated to this objective in the State of Maryland. There are several chapters in Montgomery County who have or are looking for a P&R project.

To learn more about the International organization, see the website at www.questers1944.com. If interested in learning more about the local chapters, please contact the state 1st VP at dptrovinger@yahoo.com.

REQUEST FOR DCA LOGO IDEAS

The DCA board has created an exciting community opportunity for any DCA resident with artistic inclinations to create and submit new ideas for a DCA logo. The new logo will get visibility on DCA administrative items (i.e. letterhead, website, etc.) in addition to planned DCA initiatives (i.e. T-shirts, labels, etc.). Very limited parameters: suggest the logo size be approximately 2 inches in height by 4 inches in length and you get bonus points for using local icons (i.e. acorns).

Submit any questions and / or your artistic creations to lisaapatterson@aol.com.

Logo submissions are due no later than Wednesday, June 26th.





Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Merikay Smith

We hope that a quick recap of this year's garden club activities may entice a few more Darnestown gardeners to join our ranks. Darne Bloomers opened 2013 with a demonstration of Ikebana, Japanese flower arranging, by Patty Painter. Mrs. Painter is a certified teacher in the Sogetsu, Chiko, and Kiku Schools of Ikebana, an ancient Chinese art form brought to Japan in the 6th century. Originally these formal flower arrangements were placed in Buddhist temples, but by the 15th century the Japanese began displaying Ikebana in their homes. Mrs. Painter created freestyle Sogetsu arrangements for us in a variety of dramatic containers. For contrast, Mrs. Painter also demonstrated the Chiko school of Ikebana which uses plant material and natural items to recreate a scene or memory. One arrangement featured handmade kimekomi dolls walking a path of pebbles toward a cluster of evergreen branches.

Japanese art, a yukata (summer kimono), and dozens of origami were complemented by simple arrangements of bamboo, nandina, and pachysandra to create an Asian ambience for our

meeting. Hosts for the Ikebana demonstration were Diane Romney, Karen Campbell, Barbara Andreassen, and Merikay Smith.

Valentine's Day was a time to gather with gardening friends for a festive brunch. Hosts Barbara Blum, Lisa Carothers, Carol Carter and Nettie Koepenick decorated with a topiary motif using pink and red colors as accents. We enjoyed a hearty brunch of chocolate dipped strawberries, French toast casserole, whitefish salad canapes, fruit salad, Valentine cookies, and a pink punch. The heart of our meeting was learning the art of pruning from Audrie Whitney, of the Landscape Design Council for the National Capital Area Federation of Garden Clubs.

According to the University of Maryland extension office, "correct pruning is one of the most necessary but least understood of all common gardening practices." Pruning is a gardener's opportunity to shape plants for symmetry, balance and size. Removing dead branches stimulates new growth. It opens plants which reduces disease and insect problems. Different plants benefit from different styles and timing of pruning. For general tips on pruning, see the 9-page fact sheet "Pruning Ornamental Plants" from the University of Maryland extension office, www.umd.edu or 14-page "Pruning Ornamental Trees and Shrubs" bulletin 150. Since plants must heal any cuts made, it is important for the long-term health of a plant to prune properly. The following diagrams show the proper cuts for pruning tree limbs. This cutting technique, of first making a partial cut from below, allows you to protect the tree. If you do only one cut, and start from the top of the branch, the weight of the branch often causes tearing, leaving a ragged



and extended wound. The final cut is at an angle and just beyond the collar of the branch—also a technique to minimize damage done by the cut.

We celebrated spring by creating lettuce boxes

under the able direction of Master Gardener Mary McKnight. Each member took home a lettuce box hand built by Barry Cone from old barn wood. Since lettuce thrives in cool temperatures, the boxes can be set outside in early spring and late fall—extending the growing season. There are many varieties of lettuce which can be grown—including “cut and come again” types. Leaves can be cut and eaten, and the plant produces new leaves. A fresh salad with delicious greens is always at hand. (By the first of April I was enjoying fresh salad greens from our box—and have had enough to share with a neighbor too.) Directions and a video on making a lettuce box or salad table can be found at <http://growit.umd.edu/saladtablesandsaladboxes/index.cfm>.

March hosts were Sandy Hribar, Russ and Laura Turner, Andrea Cone, and Elizabeth Weaver. They not only created an amazing array of garden-themed decorations and delicious treats but also grew from seed the lettuce, spinach, cab-

bage and other plants used to fill the salad boxes. They are due special thanks for taking on such a labor-intensive hands-on project for our club.

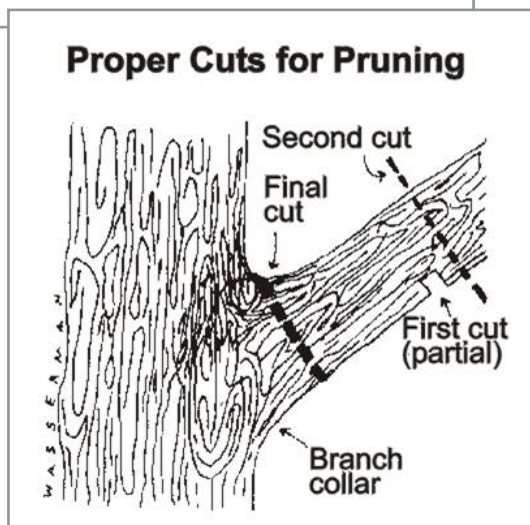
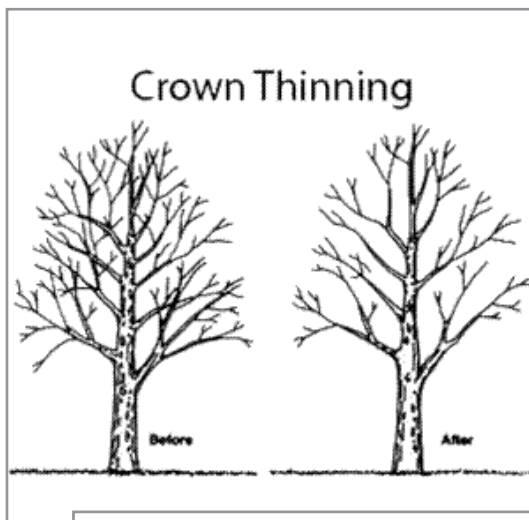
“Growing Up!” was the theme of our April meeting with a presentation by James Dronenburg on

vines and other climbing plants. Mr. Dronenburg has invited members of our club to visit his home garden to see a variety of climbing plants within a landscape. Our April hosts, Karen Hinrichsen, Rita Howard, Dave McClung and Tina Calhoun, created a central arbor pyramidal trellis with climbing jasmine and other plants as well as decorated the tables with fresh

spring blooms in large glass containers. Tina shared her trick for painting the large glass vases which was to pour paint into them and rotate the vases so the paint coated the interior.

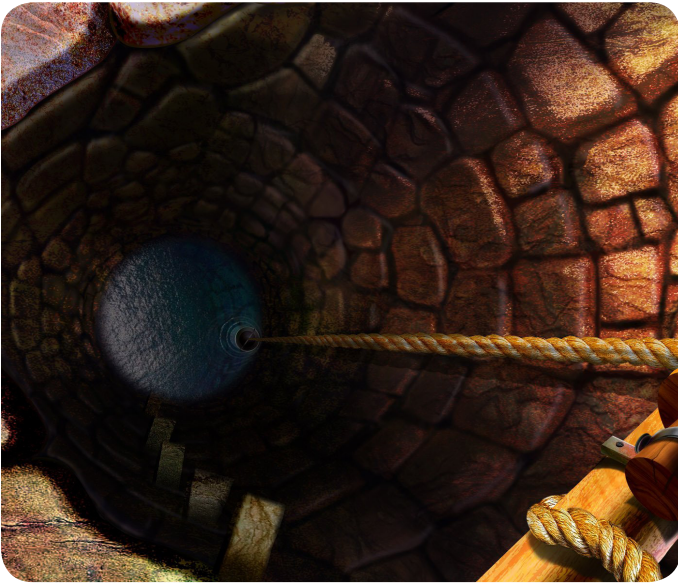
A tram tour of the National Arboretum and lunch at Mrs. K’s Tollhouse in Silver Spring on May 9 will complete this year’s garden club calendar. Looking ahead, next year’s Darne

Bloomers executive board is Becky Hanley, President; Lisa Ruf, Vice President; Diane Romney, Secretary; and Susan Allaway, Treasurer. If you are a Darnestown gardener consider joining us in September. Visitors are welcome to attend a Darne Bloomers meeting but must contact the club president in advance. We meet the second Thursday of each month, September to April, at 9 a.m. at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.



Are You on a Well? Mega Threat From a Mega Church Up the Road *By Oakley Johnson*

You have probably heard something about the ongoing effort to construct one of the largest churches in the world (approximately 120,000 square feet) with a potential occupancy load of 5800 just across the Frederick County line from upper Montgomery County.



This massive undertaking proposed by the Global Mission Church now outgrowing its buildings in Silver Spring would be the size of the Nashville Convention Center. As such it threatens the historic vistas from Sugarloaf mountain; the only water source for thousands of Montgomery County residents; longstanding farmland preservation plans; congestion on state and safety on rural roads; and the degradation of the water quality of pristine Little Bennett Creek and potentially the wells of all Darnestown residents.

Our well water in Darnestown comes from one source - an aquifer called the Piedmont Sole Source Aquifer-- that is formed by highly fractured rock

geology interconnected over a large geographic area.

In designating the ground water areas in Montgomery County (Poolesville and the Route 28 corridor), the EPA stated that:

1. The Piedmont Sole Source Aquifer services the area population with 50% or more of its drinking water needs.
2. There are no economical alternative drinking water sources, or combination of sources, to supply the designated service area.
3. While the quality of the area's ground water is considered to be good, it is vulnerable to contamination due to the relatively thin soil cover and rapid movement of ground water in fractured rock, coupled with increasing development and other land uses. Thin soil cover may allow contaminants to be rapidly introduced into the ground water with minimal assimilation into the soil. Rapid movement of ground water through fractured rock can allow contaminants to spread quickly, once introduced.
4. Cleanup of contaminated fractured aquifers is usually difficult to achieve and is an expensive, long term effort.

The Global Mission complex would not only draw from the same water source that supplies Darnestown wells, but it would also release waste water and sewage into a massive untested sand mound system sitting atop highly fractured geology. At 2 acres in size this type of standalone septic system -- which have a history of failures-- would be the second largest of its kind in the state of Maryland.

The Montgomery Countryside Alliance and other



local groups have been challenging, over several years, Frederick County's approval of the project on both legal and environmental grounds. A number of appeals are pending requiring additional legal support. In addition, neighbors near the proposed site have filed suit against a secondary access road required by Fire and Rescue that, if constructed, would greatly alter the tranquility of their neighborhood and violate long standing covenants. Concern has always centered on the massive scale of the project and on the incompatibility with available water and transportation resources.

Darnestown residents are encouraged to:

1. Have your well water tested to establish a base line for possible future damage claims should the Church be built and the septic system fails —
2. Write County executive Ike Leggett (ocemail@montgomerycountymd.gov) and urge him to recognize the adverse environmental, transportation and quality of life effects on Montgomery county residents and urge him to help find a more suitable location for the church.
3. Learn more and send a tax deductible contribution to the Montgomery Countryside Alliance (www.mocoalliance.org) to help support its Legal Fund at: Montgomery Countryside Alliance, P.O. Box 24, Poolesville, MD 20837



Last Chance Cat Rescue

by Girl Scout Junior Troop 3303

Cats are great pets! You need to treat them well. They will be nice to you if you're nice to them. All they need is love, food and a place to go to the bathroom. You can show your love by taking good care of them, and by petting them of course. Also, don't forget they sometimes like to play. They need water and cat food (wet or dry is okay) plus they love treats! Also just so you know, most cats only need to be fed breakfast and dinner. You will need a litter box for the cat's bathroom, and you need to clean it out every so often.

Shelter cats need adoption. Every time a cat is adopted, you save another cat's life. A spot will then open up for another cat to live in a shelter. At PetSmart, there is a shelter called the Last Chance Cat Rescue. They have many cute cats that need adoption. We met some that were available and were very nice. There was one cat named Choo Choo that was very cute and fun. There was also a kitten named Gracie that was very sweet.

Cats are great companions. They can teach your kids responsibility. They can be crazy, fluffy, cute, nice, and epic! Kids have fun playing with cats. I think you will love a cat, and they will love you. So come down to your local PetSmart and save a cat's life!



SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

Darnestown Elementary *By Janet Swisher*

Schools out for the summer! That's right and as you know, "all good things must come to an end!" It was hard for both the school staff and student body to watch the DES 5th graders count down their days at Darnestown Elementary, but graduation went off without a hitch and all were proud of their accomplishments through the years.

This spring our PTA, parents, and students joined together to deliver a wonderful DES Staff Appreciation week. Each staff member was pampered with a visit from the 'Java Cruiser', chocolate surprises, catered luau lunch and most memorable - random acts of kindness! Our staff works hard to ensure everyone is safe, encouraged, and supported; so we enjoyed giving a little back to each of those caring souls.

Watch out American Idol, our DES students "let their STAR shine" during the DES Variety Show held in May. The audience was filled with laughter by our talented MCs, not to mention the amazing amount of energy and talent our student body delivered. Well done everyone who participated!

Upcoming Calendar of events:

Don't miss our Summer Picnic: Friday, June 7

Last day of School: Friday, June 14th

Our school modernization construction project is progressing nicely. Construction will continue through the summer and our new addition will be open next fall! Everyone's anticipation and excitement is building for our school's "NEW look" starting off the 2013-14 school year this August.

Seneca Academy *By Brooke Carroll*

Our graduating students at Seneca Academy are currently engaged in "Exhibition," a culminating 6-week unit of inquiry and independent study. The exhibition represents a significant event in the life of an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB/PYP) World School, enabling students to synthesize the essential elements of the PYP, and share them with the whole school community. It is an opportunity for students to exhibit the attributes of the learner profile (being inquirers, thinkers, communicators, knowledgeable, risk-takers, principled, caring, open-minded, balanced, reflective) that they have developed during their engagement with the PYP. Throughout this process, students are required to engage in a collaborative, trans-disciplinary inquiry process that involves their identifying, investigating and offering solutions to real-life issues or problems. At the end of this process, students provide a written and oral presentation to their peers, faculty, parents and community members. We invite Darnestown community members to attend our exhibition presentations on Thursday, June 6th. Please call the office for more information.

We welcome all community members to join in the fun at Seneca Summer Camps! This summer our youngest campers (ages 3 through ris-



ing kindergarteners) will participate in Storybook Adventures. Held from 9am to 1:30pm, this camp allows campers to explore different countries around the world through stories, art, and games.

Our older campers (rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders- or rising 8th graders for Film/Theater and Band camps) have several activity camps to choose from including Art, Computer Programming, Mad Science®, Band, Cooking, and Film Making/Theater. In addition, we are partnering once again with Harrington's Sports and Adventure Camp to offer a 2-week, full-day adventure camp in early July! We also have local "field trip" camps where campers take the school bus on trips around the county. There are opportunities for half-day or full-day activity and trip camps.

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!

Butler School

By Diane Long

The first-ever Butler Montessori Talent Auction took place on March 16th at Seneca Lodge and was truly an amazing success! The event raised more than \$24,000, and all of the proceeds will be used towards the construction of a new, much-needed Multipurpose Building on the campus of Butler Montessori.



Not only was the Talent Auction a highly successful fundraiser, it was also a memorable, community-building event that all attendees greatly enjoyed. There were current as well as former long-time Butler parents at the event, along with teachers, staff, and members of the Butler Board of Trustees. Professional auctioneer, Robert Wilson, kept everyone entertained and engaged while promoting the competitive bidding on more than 50 donated talent items.

Another fun, successful "first" fundraiser at Butler this spring was the "Jump-a-thon", that was held at Butler on April 21st. Organized by the parents of the Butler Equestrian riders, this event raised over \$4300 towards the cost of replacing the footing in the outdoor ring. Pony rides, carnival games, bake sale, clothing swap, ice cream sales, and a moon bounce provided family fun while adding dollars for the fundraiser. About 25 riders were successful gathering sponsors to pledge amounts for every jump that the individual equestrian completed, as they each took a turn over a course of jumps or poles in the outdoor ring.

Another "first" for Butler Montessori this spring was a presentation by David Kahn, on "Montessori: Education for the 21st Century" at St. Nicholas' Church on May 7th. Butler invited the local community and schools to hear this nationally known Montessori educator discuss how aspects of a Montessori education prepare students for the challenges of today's world, especially in the work environment. Discussion and questions were a lively part of this informative evening.

For more information about a Montessori education and Butler Montessori, visit our website at www.butlerschool.org, or contact our school at 301-977-6600.



Georgetown Hill

By Diane Long

We are pleased to announce that our Georgetown Hill, Darnestown Campus will begin offering a school age program for before and after care elementary age children starting this Fall, 2013 for students enrolled at Darnestown Elementary School. We are conveniently located next door to Darnestown Elementary School, just a few stepping stones away. You drop off and pick up at our school and we will walk your children to and from school each day. We hope you will help us to share this exciting news and information with your friends and neighbors.

*Register by August 1, 2013 and we will waive the \$50 registration fee! (This also applies to drop-in care.)

School Age Before & After Care Program for Darnestown Elementary School

Our school age program recognizes that children in kindergarten through fifth grade need support and plenty of choices as they learn about themselves, their interests and their place in the world. Our morning care program provides a nurturing environment which helps children build personal self esteem and a positive attitude to start the day. Our aftercare program includes snack, homework support, indoor and outdoor play, field trips, extra-curricular activities such as art, sports, cooking (and more!) for children to enjoy after school. We ensure that children are offered quiet time and independence as well as social time to develop friendships. Schedules are offered on a part-time, full-time and drop-in basis.

For more information, please contact:

Kristen Raymond

Georgetown Hill

Darnestown Campus Director

301-527-1761

Kristenraymond@georgetownhill.com

NEWCOMERS CLUB

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

The Darnestown Civic Association, Inc. is a non-profit 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.



Darnestown 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. The 2013 edition is currently being printed and should arrive in the next few weeks. 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 is a list of these groups:

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-Troiike, President
(301-548-0999)

Darnestown Elementary School

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

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P. O. Box 3574
Darnestown, MD 20885
Dave Hardy, General Manager,
davidhardy27@hotmail.com
301-330-9616

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
www.tjprep.org
(301-330-7550)

Trout Unlimited

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

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



DCA MEMBERS

DUES PAID AS OF 4/30/13

Membership

Thank you to the 781 Darnestown Residents who have paid their 2013 membership dues. They are listed below by level paid. Sponsor - \$100.00, Friend - \$50.00+, and Member \$25.00. If you have any questions please contact Jean Jurgena at jmjurgena@hotmail.com or 301-674-1741.

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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.



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Hugh & Elaine Rial
Kevin & Linda Ricci
Richard & Winnie V. Ricker
Harry & Carolyn Ridenour
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Scott Robertson
Charles Robinson
Dan & Rosanne Roe
Maria Roe
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14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
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