



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 50, Number 3
September 2013

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

Notes From the President
by Lisa Patterson-Troike

It's Hoedown Time!

The 43rd Annual DCA Hoedown is set for Friday, October 18th from 6:30 pm – midnight at Smokey Glen Farm located at 16407 Riffle Ford Road, right here in Darnestown! For just \$35/pp, you get: seafood bisque, salad fixings, bbq chicken and ribs, vegetables, smoked pies, open bar, and hay rides with music, dancing and entertainment provided by Mac McCall. Many Darnestownians look forward to this event each year because it is such a memorable experience. The RSVP form is located on page 3. We look forward to seeing you there!



Continued on Page 4

IT'S HOEDOWN TIME!
OCTOBER 18TH
6:30 pm - midnight
RSVP FORM ON PAGE 3

Next DCA Town Meeting

September 19th | 7:30 pm
DCA 2013-2014
Board Elections

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this issue...

DCA Hoedown RSVP Form.....	3
Hiking Around Darnestown.....	4
DCA Website News.....	5
Nominations for Elections	5
DCA Related News & Reports.....	6
Those Who Serve.....	7
See Something, Say Something.....	8
Darnestown Pool & Racquet Club.....	9
Darne Bloomers Garden Club.....	10
Darnestown Softball League News.....	13
School News & Events.....	14
Darnestown Boy Scout Project.....	17
Newcomers Club.....	18
Darnestown Directory.....	19

THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: Tanya Slesinger [acorneditor@yahoo.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-Troike [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: Michael Gottlieb
 [michael@thegottliebblawfirm.com]
 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 [compliance@darnestowncivic.org]
 Darnestown Village: Chris Collins [village@darnestowncivic.org]
 Directory: Sarah Scherer [sarahscherer@comcast.net]
 Environment: Scott Mostrom [environment@darnestowncivic.org]
 Flag Program: Tim Sanders [timbosanders@netscape.net]
 Historical Soc Rep: Greg Clemmer [yorkst@2aol.com]
 Membership: Vacant
 Membership Database: Jean Jurgena [jmjurgena@hotmail.com]
 Parliamentarian: Bruce Deppa [brucedepa@comcast.net]
 Safety: Kevin Keegan [safety@darnestowncivic.org]
 Seneca Forest Project: Steve Ellis (pending replacement)
 Social: Lisa Patterson-Troike [social@darnestowncivic.org]
 Softball: Dave Bivans [ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net]
 Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger [art.slesinger@comcast.net]
 Welcome: Susan Dorozinsky [dorozinsky@comcast.net]
 Website: Guy Armantrout [armantrout1@hotmail.com]
 Neil Agate [nagate@4gateslic.com]
 Wildlife: Bruce Deppa [wildlife@darnestowncivic.org]
 Zoning & Dev: 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
--------------	--------------

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



DCA Hoedown

43rd Anniversary

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

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

**Friday, October 18, 2013
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT**

**Smokey Glen Farm – Main Pavilion
16407 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 10th!
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 10/10/13 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: _____ @ \$35.⁰⁰ 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.



Notes From the President
Continued from Page 1

New Crime Initiative

Darnestown is still considered a relatively safe and wonderful place to live in Montgomery County. The DCA has learned, however, that many residents are not requiring the police to file a report after a crime has occurred. The DCA needs your help. We ask that all crimes, no matter how small, be reported to the police, a case number given, and a courtesy email to me at lisaapatterson@aol.com or the DCA Safety Committee at Safety@DarnestownCivic.org. For example, outgoing mail thefts from mailboxes is much more widespread than we thought. After an article was published in a previous issue of The Little Acorn, several residents informed us that it had happened to them. This is a federal crime and the USPS is taking it very seriously. Please take the time to read "See Something, Say Something," written by Matt Quinn, and a notice from a Riffle Ford Road resident about an incident involving yard equipment being removed from his shed, in this issue. One of our Safety Committee members, Dick Jurgena, emails crime reports a few times a month from www.spot-crime.com. If you would like to be on this list, contact either myself or the Safety Committee at the emails provided above. The DCA is trying to monitor police reporting and look for crime patterns that may be occurring. Please be advised that there always seems to be a fresh wave of crimes at the start of the school year and we want everyone to be vigilant.

Dogs, Peacocks and Bearded Dragons, Oh My!

Oh, yes! We have had a rash of lost pets here in Darnestown! Thanks to our email "blasts,"

we have reunited several owners with their beloved pets. Many Darnestown residents, includ-

ing myself, are animal lovers and it's amazing the various species that live under our care. If you would like to receive email alerts, send me an email at lisaapatterson@aol.com.



Hiking Around Darnestown **By Pam DuBois**

We had a beautiful day for our DCA hike on June 22nd. Many thanks to The Butler School for clearing trails, hosting and providing refreshments. A good time was had by all. Hope to see you out there in the fall. Mark your calendars for the next hike on Saturday, October 19th. RSVP to Lisa Patterson at lisaapatterson@aol.com for more details.



DCA Web Site News

Do you ever wonder what is happening in our Darnestown community? Do you wonder who lost that scared dog you found in your back yard? Did you want to check an article in a past Little Acorn? Do you want to know about the Hoedown, Softball, or Spring Social?

Check out and bookmark our DCA web site! It has information about our community, softball schedules and scores, pictures of events, churches and schools, history, how to contact your legislators, DCA board members and contacts, how to sign up for DCA membership, calendar of events, issues of the Little Acorn for the past 10 years (and then some), a lost and found page, and a segment of items of interest or concern for Darnestown residents.

The web page is:

<http://www.darnestowncivic.org>

Take a look!!



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; however, a quorum was not available. If a quorum is not in attendance at the Sept 19th Town Meeting, The Board will approve the slate in accordance with the Association By-Laws.

- **President**
Lisa Patterson-Troike* (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

Reliable Utility Committee

On July 12th, the Public Service Commission (PSC) handed down its ruling from the November 2012 petition by PEPCO for a \$60.8 million rate increase. Included in that petition was a request to forward fund certain reliability improvements some of which were recommended by the Maryland Department of Energy. In written submissions, the writer, on behalf of the Darnestown residents, opposed the PEPCO position. Considering the dismissal service performance, prepaying PEPCO for any potential improvements is a great leap of faith.



In its ruling the PSC granted PEPCO a \$27.8 million rate increase and altered the return on investment to 9.36% from the current 9.31%. Considering the total rate structure returns almost a billion dollars a year to PEPCO, the increases are rather small. One should understand much of the reliability improvements being undertaken

by PEPCO in their 5 year program are paid retrospectively, and PEPCO does appear to be committed to making vast improvements to the MoCo system. The PSC heard testimony that the interruption frequency and duration of outages had been improved by about 37%. Our experience in Darnestown supports those statistics. That probably gets PEPCO closer to mediocrity when compared to other distribution utilities. Just a side note, the annual utility report on system reliability lists the 12 worst PEPCO feeders in MoCo. For the first time in at least 5 years, it appears that none of the big offenders were in our area. Since it is a “national security issue”, PEPCO will not tell the writer exactly which feeders are involved in Darnestown service. We figure it out by inference. Bottom line, your rates will go up about \$5 a month.

It is worth noting that the PSC did agree to pre-fund \$24 million for hardening of 24 feeders over the next two years. PEPCO will be required to provide detailed description of the work, the objectives, milestones and costs for each project. The DCA comments opposed the Governor’s grid resiliency task force suggestions on the grounds that throwing money at the problem wasn’t necessarily going to lead to improvements. First, do we know if PEPCO even has the resources to take on more projects? And if there are projects of importance, why is the current system not an effective tool for getting those improvements? The writer was disappointed that the PSC drank that kool aid and assumes PEPCO needs more time, money or direction from others to become more reliable especially when the money is provided before the work is completed.

We will continue to monitor the efforts of both the PSC and PEPCO to keep our lights on.



What is your well water and what does it mean?

So you decided to have your well tested. Lisa found a good lab. They give you some clean containers and off you go. A few weeks later you get a list of analytical results and you are happy. Or are you?

Keep in mind that the things you see reported are most likely the parameters for which there are standards. Like lead or copper. For these older parameters, the standards may have been around for several decades. The EPA sets standards under the Safe Drinking Water Act. The original numbers came from US Public Health Service before there was an EPA. It takes years for new parameters to be added to the list. So what does not get reported could be important.

Some of the results are indicators, like E. Coli, bacteria from warm blooded animals. These are suggestive of open communication between your well and the bad things that are on the surface. In theory your well casing, if not rusted through, is a steel insulator that protects the water from contaminants that can reside in the water near the surface. Near surface ground water is typically never used as a drinking water source because of these contaminants. Even something as simple as chlorides could suggest road salt or water softener discharge are getting down the well. Also keep in mind, if you sampled in the winter the ground was frozen, you may have gotten only a partial picture of the well's health.

That you are below numerical criteria is not the complete answer. For some parameters there are no standards. In addition the analysis can easily overlook many compounds for which there are either no established methods or no current standards. You can look at other parameters that are nonspecific but can be suggestive. A parameter like total organic carbon detects organic material which could be as innocuous as leaf degradation or as dangerous as a herbicide. If you have tastes

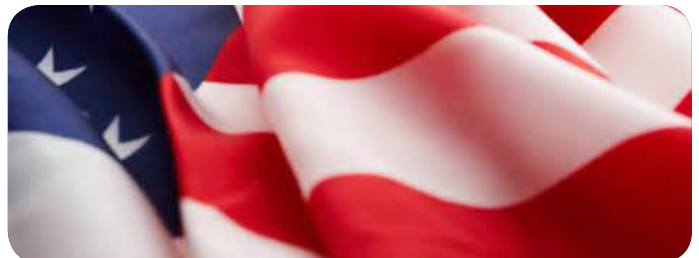
and odor concerns, consider having such a parameter added.

Lastly, you probably have a fractured bedrock aquifer well. This means that nobody knows with certainty exactly where the water comes from. There is an up gradient and down gradient but the specifics become very vague after that. So should the well develop an undesirable characteristic, it may be hard to determine the source. Speaking to neighbors may help and the nature of the problem may also be suggestive e.g. road salt, agriculture, dry cleaner etc. If it tastes like kimchee, that may also be informative. In the end, an environmental specialist or a government office may assist in your understanding risks and options.

COMMUNITY INTEREST

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

Missy Bateman successfully completed the Army's Green to Gold Program and was commissioned on July 15th as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U. S. Army. The commissioning took place at Joint Base Lewis- McChord In Washington State. She is awaiting her assignment.



See Something--Say Something!

By Matt Quinn

(By calling 9-1-1 or non-emergency 301-279-8000)

The primary mission of the Darnestown Civic Association's Public Safety Committee is to work in partnership with both the community and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), with the objective of identifying and resolving issues that impact public safety. The Committee's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for ALL who live and work in Darnestown.

At a June 2013 DCA meeting, the First District Police Commander made a presentation where he discussed a variety of topics, including the recent realignment of police district boundaries, which should significantly enhance communication between DCA and MCPD. The entire Darnestown community is now exclusively serviced by the First District, where previously three separate police districts responded to calls throughout Darnestown. The Commander discussed the types of reported crimes occurring in Darnestown, and also provided a summary update as to the ongoing investigation of the serious crimes committed during the Spring of 2012, in the eastern portion of Darnestown.

Emphasized during the Commander's presentation, is the challenge for every community to realize the importance of timely reporting ALL incidents of crime. During the meeting, DCA was acknowledged for its commitment and ongoing efforts to identify and resolve issues impacting public safety throughout the Darnestown community.

In furtherance of this vitally important partnership, DCA and its Public Safety Committee strongly encourage all those who reside and work in Darnestown, to continue their vigilance in identifying and reporting ALL crime related incidences occurring within Darnestown...and to report same in the following manner:

1. Timely notify MCPD, via 911, regarding a crime in progress or any situation YOU believe to be an emergency crime related matter, OR;
2. Timely notify MCPD, via 301-279-8000, of those situations YOU believe to be a non-emergency crime related matter, AND;
Note: Please refer to MCPD's website for the process and criteria for filing select crimes online; <http://www.mymcpnews.com/resources/how-to/file-a-report-online-2/>)
3. Timely notify DCA's Public Safety Committee, via safety@darnestowncivic.org, of ALL (emergency and non-emergency) crime related matters reported to MCPD. Please include your contact information, which will permit a DCA Public Safety Committee member to contact you, if further information is needed.
4. With the community's committed support and response, this DCA public safety initiative (See Something--Say Something!) will serve to effectively enhance the partnership between DCA, MCPD and the community; resulting in the collective, ultimate goal toward continuing to improve the quality of life for ALL who live and work in Darnestown.

Thank you for your support in this vitally important initiative and please do not hesitate to contact DCA , YOUR community civic organization.



Your Community Pool: The Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club

By Janet Swisher

Our members enjoyed another wonderful summer season. June and July were busy, busy, and busy with swim and tennis team events. August was full of lazy days lounging pool side and watching our children splash along with their friends.

The Tennis Team enjoyed another season of learning match play and basic tennis concepts. The team model at DSRC includes many facets: Pre Team, which has two hours of clinics each week for children under 10 years of age. They scrimmage other local clubs in a modified match format. JV takes part in four hours of clinics per week with the goal of playing for the varsity squad in Thursday afternoon matches. Our Varsity group practices twice per week, and in addition to their Thursday contests, play a year end tournament with each club sending their strongest representatives. Regardless of age category, each child learns basic skills of tennis and match play. We encourage them and work to impart lifelong skills.

Demons finished their first season in the A division proudly. The team, led by new head coach Pat Tozzi, competed in the highest division of Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL) and did themselves proud. Our swimmers competed against the best swimmers the county has to of-

fer and came away with many races won, best times achieved, a winning attitude and a show of sportsmanship and a sense of spirit that let the rest of the division know how great we are as a team and community! We are proud of all of our Demon swimmers and look forward to another great season in 2014 with Pat and all of our swimmers in the B division! Both Demon tennis and swim team members hold a spirit of enthusiasm and a love for the sports they are dedicated too. Our coaches receive compliments regarding our young member's sportsmanship and posi-

tive attitude throughout the season. Your community is proud of you and can't wait to see what you do next summer season. Go Demons!

Our Tennis Director, Bob Denham, strives to show improvements each year in all of our programs. Bob is building DSRC Tennis into one of the most comprehensive programs in Mont-

gomery County. No matter age or skill level, there is a tennis option for everyone in your family. He is a USPTA Elite 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 from the ground up. Programs continue throughout the fall months to include: Youth Tennis Tuesday through Thursday from 4:30p to 6p; Thursday 6 pm ladies clinic, as well as private lessons for all ages. Adult Tennis Socials continue every other Friday through October. In addition, our Saturday Weekend Warrior tennis clinic will run until the weather is no longer conducive to tennis.



Continued on Page 12



Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Merikay Smith

Our thanks to outgoing club president, Elizabeth Weaver. Under her leadership the Darne Bloomers launched a website, continued a legacy of excellent monthly programs, and maintained a strong membership base. We welcome new president Becky Hanley and her Board: Lisa Ruf, vice president; Diane Romney, secretary; Susan Allaway, treasurer; Barbara Andreassen, membership; and Debbie Wetzler, programs. Our club currently has a membership of 39, the most recent new member being Heather Zindash.

Plans for upcoming events include a field trip in October to the Black Ankle Winery, and presentations on vertical gardening, making a changeable topiary, herbs for medicinal uses, container gardening, Washington DC gardens, and a luncheon/tour of River Farm in Alexandria. Our meetings are held the second Thursday of each month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church generally starting at 9 a.m. with breakfast followed by a club business meeting at 9:30 and presentation/demonstration at 10 a.m. Guests are welcome; but, should contact the club president in advance of the meeting.

NOTE for all Darnestown Residents: In an effort to protect the Chesapeake Bay from excess nutrients entering streams and rivers from fertilizers used on lawns, new restrictions will become law October 1, 2013, in Maryland. Nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers contribute to the growth of algae blooms which in turn rob the water of oxygen and threaten underwater life.

Beginning in October, homeowners will be required to follow University of Maryland recommendations for lawn fertilizing. The basics of the law are summarized below.



The new law requires lawn fertilizer products sold in Maryland to include directions to ensure that no more than .9 pounds of total nitrogen is applied per 1,000 square feet per application. At least 20 percent of this nitrogen must be in slow release form. Lawn fertilizer will no longer contain phosphorus with certain exceptions (starter fertilizer and organic products). Lawn fertilizer will no longer be labeled for use as a de-icer. The following statement will be included on fertilizer products:

"Do not apply near water, storm drains or drainage ditches. Do not apply if heavy rain is expected. Apply this product only to your lawn and sweep any product that lands on the driveway, sidewalk, or street, back onto your lawn."

There should be no fertilizer applications within 15 feet of waterways (10 feet if a drop spreader, rotary spreader, or targeted spray liquid is used). No fertilizer may be applied between December 1 and March 1, with only water soluble nitrogen applied from November 16 - December 1.



Lawn care providers must be certified in order to apply fertilizer in Maryland and are required to take soil tests for clients and follow University of Maryland fertilizer recommendations.

Violators are subject to fines of up to \$1,000 for the first violation and \$2,000 for subsequent violations. For more information contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture, Nutrient Management Program, 410-841-5959.

For most lawns, one annual application of slow



release fertilizer is adequate—and fall is the best time for this. Many of us use more fertilizer than our lawns require—resulting in excess lawn growth (more mowing, greater risk of lawn disease/pests), excess runoff into our waterways, and wasted money. The use of herbicides on lawns is another area where our lawn care choices have implications for the environment. For an increasing number of people, it is preferable to have a lawn which includes some weeds (particularly clover which is good for the pollinators, drought resistant, and natural nitrogen fixing) than to use herbicides. This is a shift in perception and practice which has significant implications for a community like Darnestown where many properties have massive lawns.

RAISING AWARENESS OF DARNESTOWN RESIDENTS ABOUT PERSONAL AND PROPERTY SECURITY IN OUR AREA

This morning, I looked out my back window as I was getting ready for work and noticed that a section of split rail fence was down near the back of our property. We live at 16121 Riffle Ford Rd and back to Smokey Glen Farm. When I went out to investigate, I looked over to the lot next door and noticed a pile of items sitting in the middle of a parking / turnaround area in front of my neighbors storage barn. The items were mine and had been removed from my shed. The items were the type of things that could be sold quickly and easily such as a power washer, golf clubs and a gas weed whacker. A neighbor came out as I was starting to repair my fence. While we were talking, an old pickup truck came down the dirt path to the barn, saw us, did a quick U-turn and bolted back up the driveway. Unfortunately our backs were to the driveway and when we turned neither of us saw anything more than a glimpse of the back of the truck. We realized afterwards that it was likely the person(s) coming back to pick up my items. The only description I can provide is that it was an old, American-made pickup, white with a red tailgate, circa 1970's.

I reported it to the Montgomery County Police but the officer said there wasn't a lot he could do without the tag number. He did say that they'll be vigilant about the described vehicle and will maintain a presence in the area.

We were very lucky this time because I didn't have locks on my shed. I do now and we'll be pursuing motion sensors on our outdoor lighting. I probably will pursue outdoor cameras as well. The officer mentioned that there are inexpensive sensors with alarms that are perfect for mounting on the insides of shed doors because they don't require electricity and are very loud.

He also mentioned that there haven't been any burglary reports in Darnestown for "a little while". When I asked him how long "a little while" is, he said not in the past 2 or 3 weeks. He seemed pleased that it had been quiet for that long. I was expecting him to say 2 or 3 months!

- Scott Tompkins
Stompkin59@yahoo.com



Your Community Pool
Continued from Page 9

Weekend Warriors is a clinic taught by Bob and other quality assistants. Two separate classes (9-10:30 am for stronger intermediate to advanced players, 10:30 to noon for more beginner/low level intermediate players). Both classes focus on strong fundamentals of stroke execution and doubles concepts. Visit our club website for more information www.dsclub.com.

DSRC Aqua Ventures (Day Camp) was full of aquatic and multi sport adventures. The children were taught fitness is an essential part of a healthy childhood and they thrived on having an active body and mind. Campers learned healthy habits as well as improved their small and large motor skills. The campers enjoyed a wide variety of agility courses, speed, relays, tournaments and much more! The Aqua Ventures camp will continue next season, so please keep DSRC in mind when signing up for summer camp in 2014. Exclusive to DSRC members only! Cost is \$235 per child per week. Visit the dsclub.com website for registration or more information.



For those tennis enthusiasts, DSRC offers a summer camp dedicated to tennis as well. DSRC Tennis Camp has full day and half day sessions. Cost is also \$235

per child per week and lunch is included. Drop-in campers are accepted, as we know sometimes you need childcare for a day or two, and you would rather it be somewhere you know and trust, as well as cost efficient. Tennis camp includes two hours of court time in the morning, followed by a half hour in the pool before lunch is served. The afternoon session is a little more

flexible, and sometimes includes a little more pool time to accommodate for the heat. We want their summer to be fun. And with the extra court time, as compared to Day Camp, you will see a demonstrated improvement in your child's tennis skills.

Besides sports our members enjoyed several community socials to include the first DSRC Prom, Teen Highlighter Party, Movie and Raft Night, and summer time Luau.

Be sure to join our fun and exciting adult social "Darnestoberfest" held on Saturday, September 28th at 6:30pm to 11pm.

This year we say "goodbye" to Jay Crowley who has served as DSRC Board President for over 10 years. He is moving out of the Darnestown area and as such, is stepping down from his duties. "Thanks Jay for your years of volunteer service. You will be sorely missed!"

If you are not a member yet, 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.

"Like" the Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club Facebook Page so you can keep up with us online!



Darnestown Softball League Wraps-up Successful 24th Season

By Curt McCormick

After 11 weeks of close, competitive play that featured late comebacks and web gems galore, the DCA adult co-ed rec softball season drew to a close August 4th with the crowning of Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) as town champions. BHR edged out hard-charging, two-time defending champion Western Darnestown (WD), clinching in the final week. The two teams were closely matched throughout the campaign, splitting their four-game set.

In winning its record 15th title, BHR rebounded strongly from consecutive sub-.500 campaigns. Team skipper Steve Groff noted that the squad's marked improvement on the field stemmed from a strong class of recruits and a re-commitment to sound fundamental play, and was in no way connected to the performance enhancing drug scandal currently enveloping major league baseball. "For us, it wasn't about being on the juice," Groff stated, "it was all about hitting the cutoff." The team survived a mid-season departure of star shortstop and co-captain Darren McCue with the emergence of rookie Andy Swick, who stoutly shored up the team's defensive middle.

Notable also during the 2013 campaign was the strong rebound of the Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville (SHB), who regained their edge and showed great resilience after suffering through a winless campaign last year. Historians will note that the Highlanders' marked on-field success against WD in 2013 (2 out of 3 wins) was a key factor in BHR's march to the championship.

This year, the successes of the other three teams came primarily at the expense of the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ), who struggled through a one-win campaign (defeating WD their first game of the season) after having posted consecutive runner-up finishes. Yet, as with all teams, the Quails were highly competitive in almost every game, and the historical track record of Darnestown league clearly shows that whenever any team is down, it is never down for long. We can expect great things from the ARMQ and SHB squads in the years ahead.

Many thanks to Commissioner Dave Bivans and the coaches and players, to the DCA, and to the league's legions of fans and supporters, whose energy and enthusiasm helps make our co-ed league a staple of many summer Sunday afternoons and a unique, much-beloved part of the fabric of life in Darnestown.



TEAM	W	L	T	RF	RA	RF/RA	GB
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	8	3	0	114	100	1.140	----
Western Darnestown	6	5	0	133	99	1.343	2.0
Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville	4	4	1	96	105	0.914	2.5
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	1	7	1	87	126	0.690	5.5



SCHOOL NEWS & EVENTS

Darnestown Elementary

By Janet Swisher

Wow did the summer go fast! Too fast!
Welcome back!

You may have noticed the construction continuing over the summer months. New for the 2013-2014 school year is a courtyard, state of the art music and art room, as well as a whole new kindergarten suite of classrooms. Needless to say, the new “look and feel” adds to the excitement of the beginning of the school year for both staff and students.

This school year marks the 13th year that Darnestown Elementary 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 who are in free and reduced meals programs. For the past eleven years, the generous donations from our Darnestown families have helped the families at Gaithersburg Elementary prepare their children for a successful school year.

Parents please continue to remember the Gaithersburg Elementary students when you are “BACK TO SCHOOL” shopping by contributing school supplies. Supplies needed include:

- #2 pencils
- ballpoint pens
- highlighters

- composition books
- pencil boxes
- erasers
- colored pencils
- crayons
- loose-leaf paper
- pocket portfolios
- 3-ring binders
- markers
- pencil sharpeners
- backpacks and lunch bags/boxes
- rulers
- scissors
- glue sticks and squeeze glue



Send your school supplies in any time! We have a collection bin at the front office. All contributions should be received by September 12, 2013 – Back To School Night!

We begin the year with our key fundraising event: The DES PTA READ-A-THON. The 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: *Sept. 6*
- Back to School Night: *Sept. 12*
- PTA READ-A-THON: *Sept. 30th thru Oct. 16*
- Reading Night: *Oct. 16*
- Fall Fun Dress Up: *Oct. 31*
- Book Fair: *Nov. 6 thru 13*



Our DES Scholastic Book Fair is the perfect place to purchase those holiday gifts for all ages. The students, parents, grandparents and friends of the family drop by to browse and purchase books. Proceeds supply books for the media center, teacher's classrooms, and other educational activities. Please drop by our DES Book Fair this year, held from November 6th thru 13th, to fill those holiday wish lists whether or not you have a student at DES – all neighbors and community members are welcome.

Be sure to sign up for PTA email notifications on our NEW PTA website. You will find more information and calendar of events too! <http://www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/>

Seneca Academy *By Brooke Carroll*



Seneca Academy is excited to be celebrating 30 years in the Darnestown community this year! Jodi Thurmond started us off as a small preschool in her basement in 1983, and we have grown to be a robust preschool through elementary program on 6 ½ acres of land! Seneca Academy will be opening our doors to the community for several “Walk-In Wednesdays” and Open Houses over the next few months, so that prospective parents and community members can visit our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program World School (IB/PYP) school. We invite you to observe our classes “in action” and to talk with

teachers and administrators. At Seneca Academy, you will find students asking and answering relevant questions about meaningful subjects. You will observe scientists, historians, mathematicians, readers, writers, and presenters engaged in “real life” activities. You will see young people working together to solve problems (both social and academic) and you will hear them speaking knowledgably and respectfully with their peers and the adults around them. Please join us!

Our Walk Ins will be on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays from 9:30-11:00am, November through March.

Our Open Houses will be on Saturdays:

- January 11th from 9:30-11:30am
- February 1st from 9:30-11:30am

We invite both parents and interested community members to Walk-Ins and Open Houses. You may RSVP through our website www.SenecaAcademy.org or by calling us at 301-869-3728. We hope to see you soon!

Butler School *By Diane Long*

Butler Montessori welcomes Laura Manack as the new Head of School!

Most recently Ms. Manack has been a lower elementary teacher but, during her 23 years at Butler Montessori, she has also been a primary teacher, barn manager, and equestrian instructor. Ms. Manack completed her AMI primary training in 1983 and her AMI elementary training in 2001. In 2002 she received her M.Ed. in Curriculum Development from Loyola College of Maryland. Before teaching at Butler Montessori, Ms. Manack





was a primary teacher at Evergreen Montessori in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Over the years, Ms. Manack has become known as an excellent teacher and enthusiastic equestrian. She is also a parent who has seen two of her three children complete their Butler Montessori educations and move on to graduate from high school and college; her youngest is still finishing his Montessori education at Butler. Through her many and varied experiences, Ms. Manack has become an accomplished Montessorian with a vision for Butler Montessori students that includes a focus on the performing arts and a dedication to community service.

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.

The German School By Susanne Rosenbaum

Ready! Set! Bratwurst!



The German School Washington D.C. and the German Language School will jointly host their second annual 5K Oktoberfest Run on Saturday, September 28, 2013 in Potomac, MD. The event will start off with a 5K run followed by a 1K fun run and will culminate in a traditional Oktoberfest celebration in an authentic German biergarten atmosphere.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 5K team, the top overall male and female runners as well as the top male/female of each age group. All fun runners are winners! Wheelchairs are more than welcome on the USATF certified course. Strollers and dogs are allowed as well.

Everyone is invited to join the traditional Oktoberfest celebration with a performance by the Bairisch and Steierisch Dancers. Feel free to wear your traditional German outfits such as Dirndl and Lederhosen. Guests can win incredible prizes during the silent auction.

For more information visit:
www.dswashington.org/run



DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:
November 1, 2013

Please send articles for The Little Acorn to:

acorneditor@yahoo.com
or call Tanya at 202.304.7805



DARNESTOWN BOY SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT

My name is Bradley Bridge. I am currently working on my Eagle Scout project for The Boy Scouts of America. My project includes collecting older or used American flags and retiring them in a proper American flag ceremony with my troop assisting. I am trying to collect 100 used flags and retire them. Every year in this country American flags get thrown away or burned without being retired properly. My Eagle Scout project is trying to limit that and give back to our country. If you have any old, used or damaged American Flags, would you please donate them to my Eagle Scout project. I will be glad to pick them up. Just give me a call on my cell phone 240-751-6458 and we will arrange a time. If you prefer, you can drop the flags off at my grandparent's house, Bruce and Luanne Deppa. Their address is 14804 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown. I plan to complete this project by November 15, 2013. For any questions, please call my cell 240 751 6458. *I thank you in advance for helping me with this project.*

- Bradley Bridge

DCA allows current paid members a one time write-up and does not support nor endorse advertisements.

Dear Neighbors,

We're excited to announce the long awaited launch of BUYHOOD.com. What exactly is BUYHOOD.com and how does it differ from its competition, you may ask? Great question!

BUYHOOD.com is an ecommerce website designed from a consumer's perspective. We all like to save money. How great would it be to also support our local community in the process?

As a Seller, BUYHOOD.com offers a low one-time listing fee (as low as \$5) for as long as it takes for the item to sell. We don't nickel and dime you. We charge a fair price for a great service. It only takes 3 steps to create a listing.

As a Buyer, the interactive map makes it easy to locate the item(s) you're looking for. You can search based on zipcode, item name, item description, dollar amount, or any combination thereof. You can even change the search radius to keep it local or global. It's very easy to use.

As a community member, we promote local transactions, which mean no shipping fees. When was the last time you found something using other services but noticed it was more expensive to have it shipped than what the item actually cost?

Instead of telling you more about it, we invite you to stop by and check it out for yourself. Use code BH2013 to list your items at no cost. Hurry, offer expires 10/5/13.

We're at www.BUYHOOD.com

You may also visit us on
twitter @buyhood and Facebook.
BUY Local -- SELL Local -- SAVE Money
We look forward to seeing you.

- Ali Vafa, of Chestnut Oak Drive



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 forms 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 DCA.

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 available. 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 & 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
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)



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

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



DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

