



## DuFief—Let’s Keep it a Showplace!

In the April 2004 issue of the Washingtonian Magazine (Volume 39, Number 7) appeared an article about

*Great Places to Live: 50 Neighborhoods where living is easy.*

The DuFief neighborhood was described as one of them. The article is reprinted with permission of the Washingtonian Magazine:



### DUFIEF

#### *That ‘70s Showplace*

Who would have thought that early-1970s earth tones and vertical siding would mellow into classic design? DuFief’s contemporaries look so good after 30 years that a Greenwich Village transplant declares her home the perfect setting for her midcentury modern furniture.

This North Potomac neighborhood of about 300 homes (from \$400,000 to \$600,000) does more than

show well: It’s a rare, relatively affordable entrée to the popular Wootton High School cluster.

An annual picnic, a trail network, a fishing pond tucked onto acres of parkland, and an active homeowners’ association keep the community close, and an active architectural-review committee keeps things looking cool. The area is buffered by woods and Muddy Branch Park, so not even the expansion of Route 28 intrudes on DuFief’s serenity.



*Article provided courtesy of Mary Bell, Pebble Hill Lane*

## Farewell to Our Chief Editor

Danielle Shostal and her husband Eric and son Leo have moved to Warwick, N.Y. We will miss Danielle as the editor of the Readwood. It took on a new and sophisticated look under her guidance. We very much appreciate the work she put into it during the last several years, and we will try very hard to carry on what she started. All the best to Danielle and her family, which is looking forward to the addition of twins.

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# Artist in Residence — Botanical Art and Pottery in DuFief

By Molly Diamond  
*Brandy Hall Lane*

I came to Dufief with my family in 1972. While desperately looking for a home in Maryland at very short notice, I was immediately drawn to this earth-toned house set in woodland. Memories of my own rather muddy childhood in rural England surfaced. Our children were also charmed and called it “The Little Brown House in the Great Big Woods.” They loved the trees and the stream and said that if we moved here they would never come indoors. Who could resist? My husband and I are now one of the three remaining original households in our cul-de-sac. Members of the other two, Laura Huff and Joe Jacobs, have already written on this page and now it is my turn.

For a long time, the demands of four children, graduate study, a career, and six international moves left me little time for hobbies except for an occasional evening class in ceramics. We kept our house in Dufief throughout this peripatetic period and eventually moved back in 1990. However, by 2000 I had retired and when I accompanied my husband on a two-year contract in England, for the first time in



*Dogwood*

my life I had very little to do. Every day I went for long walks in the countryside. Throughout that first spring and summer I watched all the wild flowers that I remembered so well come to life. I set out to identify and draw them all, as I did as a

child. This became an obsession and I had nearly two hundred drawings by the time I came back home.



*Helianthus*

Then I enrolled in a Botanical Art program at the Corcoran School of Art and U.S. Botanic Garden and began to look at the flora around me in Dufief. My garden grew larger and my relationship with the local fauna began again: groundhogs, deer, squirrels, opossums, foxes, tortoises, toads, snakes, raccoons, slugs, birds and insects sharing my habitat, and, more particularly, my vegetables.



*Autumn Fruits*

I must confess to being a bit of a dilettante and I have stopped drawing (on paper at least) for a while. I have returned to my earlier hobby of ceramics and again studied at the Corcoran, continuing more recently at Visarts in Rockville.



In the early days of motherhood I had attempted vessels for the children’s use - mugs and bowls, etc., and I am still drawn to functional ware. The surroundings here in Dufief inform my work – the natural scenery, the clay-colored earth, my fertile garden. My children and grandchildren seem to appreciate my drawings and pottery and there is more of my work on view in their homes than in mine.



Now I am working on ways to imprint my drawings onto clay, thus combining the two media. Ceramics is a physically demanding hobby and I anticipate being unequal to it at some point, but I hope then to revive my passion for drawing plants. There is so much to learn.

# President's Message

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By William Washington, *President*

*DuFief Homes Association*

My family arrived in North Potomac in 2005, shortly after we relocated to Montgomery County. We found the area to be extremely welcoming and open. When we began looking for a home, we knew we wanted to stay in the area and found the DuFief community to be a hidden treasure. The beautiful old-growth trees and the abundant wildlife give the neighborhood a rural feel while being situated near urban necessities. We are extremely pleased with the neighborhood and the vicinity to excellent public schools. Although we have lived in DuFief only since 2010, we feel a sense of community as if we had lived here much longer. During my tenure as President of the DuFief Homes Association, I hope to honor and respect that feeling. At the same time, I would like to impress upon you that maintaining a sense of community here in DuFief depends also upon you, the members of that community.

The Annual Meeting of the DuFief Homes Association is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7:00 pm at DuFief Elementary School. The meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner beginning at 5:00 pm. During the meeting we will elect new board members, and I hope that you will consider being a candidate. We also need volunteers to serve on various committees, as for example the Architectural Review Committee and the Welcoming Committee, and to help with planning our annual picnic in September. I invite you to attend the Annual Meeting if you are interested in issues affecting the neighborhood or if you just simply want to meet your neighbors. And, of course, we would love to put some of your skills and talents to work. We need you. Your personal involvement makes all the difference in protecting and improving the quality of life in DuFief!

We always appreciate hearing your comments and suggestions or questions. Please email us at [board@dufief.org](mailto:board@dufief.org) or call us at 240-262-9678.

community.

## Treasurer's Report

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By Brian Frank

*Dufief HOA Treasurer*

### *Payment of Annual Assessments*

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for paying your annual assessments in a timely manner. As of October 18, 2012, the Board has collected annual dues from 300 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 98%). The annual assessments are used to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers.

Several invoices have been provided to the homeowners who have not paid, by e-mail, mailed statements and hand-

delivered statements. Unfortunately, in the past, it has been necessary to file lawsuits against homeowners who continuously fail to pay their annual dues. The filing of the lawsuit subjects those homeowners to additional damages including interest, attorneys fees and court costs.

The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court; however, the homeowners assessments are no different from having to pay real estate taxes on your property.

**We have collected  
98% of dues.**

### *Results of the Motion to Increase Assessments*

As you may remember, on May 10, 2012, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting to vote on an increase of the Annual Assessment. At that meeting, an insufficient number of members appeared in person, or through proxy, to satisfy the Quorum requirements set forth in Article IV, Section 5 of the Declaration of Covenants. As such, another meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2012. The number of members present at that meeting in person and through proxy was 170, which satisfied the quorum requirements.

The final vote on the Motion to Increase Assessments was 118 in favor of the Motion to Increase the Annual Assessment and 52 against the Motion to Increase the Annual Assessment.

Pursuant to the Declaration of Covenants, "the annual assessment may be increased above 3% by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of each class of members who are voting in person or by proxy, at a meeting duly called for this purpose."

As a result, the Motion to Increase the Annual Assessment was passed and your Annual Assessment for 2013 will be \$140.00. The Annual Assessment for 2014 will be \$165.00 and the Annual Assessment for 2015 will be \$190.00.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 240-606-5100.

## Recipe: Cranberry-Orange Tart (from *Cooking Light Magazine* - November 2002)

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Serves 10

### **Ingredients:**

#### **Crust:**

1-1/2 cups all purpose flour  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
6 tablespoons chilled butter, cut into small pieces  
Ice water  
Cooking spray

#### **Filling:**

1/3 cup orange juice  
2-1/2 tablespoons cornstarch  
1 cup sugar  
1/4 cup orange marmelade  
2 tablespoons chopped walnuts, toasted  
1 tablespoon grated orange rind  
1 (12-oz.) package fresh cranberries

#### **Submitted by**

Linde Fuller, *Happy Choice Lane*

### **Directions:**

Preheat oven to 425°F. To prepare crust, lightly spoon flour into dry measuring cups; level with a knife. Combine flour, 1 T sugar, and salt in a bowl; cut in butter with a pastry blender or 2 knives until mixture resembles coarse meal. Sprinkle surface with ice water, 1 tablespoon at a time; toss with a fork until moist and crumbly (do not form a ball). Gently press mixture into a 4-inch circle on plastic wrap. Cover and chill for 15 minutes. Slightly overlap two lengths of plastic wrap on slightly damp surface. Unwrap and place chilled dough on plastic wrap. Cover dough with 2 additional lengths of overlapping plastic wrap. Roll dough, still covered into a 14-inch circle. Place dough in freezer for 5 minutes or until plastic wrap can be easily removed. Remove plastic wrap; fit dough into a 10-inch round removable-bottom tart pan coated with cooking spray. Fold edges under or flute decoratively. To prepare filling, combine juice and cornstarch in a large bowl; stir well with a whisk. Add remaining ingredients; stir well. Pour mixture into prepared pan. Bake at 425°F for 20 minutes. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F; (do not remove tart from oven); bake an additional 35 minutes or until crust is lightly browned. Cool completely on a wire rack.



## Copperhead Snakes in DuFief

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By Chuck Caldwell

*Happy Choice Lane*



As you may already be aware, Copperheads are venomous snakes that are common in this area. However, for the first time that I know of, a nest of baby copperheads was found in a small bush in the front yard of my next-door neighbor. This was not a wooded area, but a small bed in the middle of a front yard, surrounded with grass. Other neighbors were surprised too to hear about this. Normally the Copperhead prefers to live in wooded areas, among rocks, under decaying stumps, or under large flat stones, and near streams or ponds because prey is more plentiful in such locations. This snake will be seen basking during the day when the weather is cool but not cold. During the heat of summer, it will stay hidden during the day and become active at night.

In late October the Copperhead retreats to its underground den to hibernate until late February or early March. Baby copperheads are born between late summer and mid-October. The babies are often confused and are more aggressive than the adult snakes. They are notorious for getting “everywhere.” The copperhead bite is not usually fatal, but very painful, and often lasting ill effects are the result. Of course, all snakes have their place in the ecosystem. Avoid the Copperhead, but don't kill it.

# DuFief Community 40th Anniversary Celebration!

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By Jeanette Repie

The DuFief Annual Picnic was another hit, with barbecue, music, moon bounce, Italian ice, and visiting with new and old neighbors. The Band is getting better every year and it alone is worth coming to the picnic. The oncoming thunderstorm did not stop us from having fun, even though some of us who stayed to the very end got a little wet on the way home. Many thanks to the volunteers and our neighbors who stayed to help pack up and clean up. We look forward to next year's annual picnic.

## *DuFief President's Note:*

Jeanette deserves special thanks this year. She practically organized the picnic single-handedly, with infinite grace and hardly a complaint, after her email appeal for help went largely unheeded. It's well worth the effort it takes to help out in the interest of fostering a sense of community, which does enhance the quality of our lives. Expect an early reminder about signing up to help with next year's picnic.



## Moving Vans

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By Carolyn Carlson

### *DuFief Welcoming Committee*

There was an editorial in the Charlotte Observer many years ago titled "The Lady and the Moving Van."

The gist of the article was this: when a family moved, the husband (breadwinner) already had connections to the community with his work, whereas the wife was left to sort out all the particulars involved with a move... unpacking, helping kids make friends, connecting with neighbors, finding doctors and dentists, getting involved in schools and community, and so on.

Times have changed. It's not always the wife who meets the moving van; now and then it may be the husband. There are many two-career

families. Nannies are prominent in helping with the transition. One thing, however, remains. The moving vans still come, and they come also to DuFief.

Have you seen a van on your street recently? If so, how have you welcomed your new neighbor? Do you



step out of your door and onto their doorstep to tell them that they have moved into a wonderful community? Are you available to answer their questions, to take in their mail or newspaper while they are away on vacation? Feed their pets? Give them information (and the lowdown) about the neighborhood?

The DuFief Welcoming Committee greets your new neighbors too. We deliver a packet of information concerning the area along with a potted plant and home-baked treats. We make ourselves available to answer questions and give support. If you would like to help with "officially" welcoming new neighbors, please contact Carolyn Carlson at [carolyncarlson4@aol.com](mailto:carolyncarlson4@aol.com). Building a strong, caring community is everyone's business. Won't you make it your business too?

**DuFief  
Homes  
Association**

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## Announcements

### Welcome New Board Members

Three new members—Bill Golumbfskie, Senthil Jyothi prakashan and Leudvig Sardarian—were elected to the DuFief Board at the Annual Meeting in March. We welcome them and thank them for serving our community.

We would also like to thank Chris Saah, Allyn Saah and Marcia Ariera for their competent and devoted past service on the Board. With his calm, self-assured and friendly demeanor, Chris Saah, as the Board's president, elevated the interactions of the Board to a new level of competence and professionalism, which we hope will serve as an example for present and future members of the Board.

**SAVE THE DATE— SAVE THE DATE— SAVE THE DATE**

The Annual Potluck and Member Meeting will be held on

**February 21, 2013**



*Photo provided courtesy of George Candler  
Pebble Hill Lane*