



## Tree Tops President's Message

By **Bill Golumbskie**

As your newly elected president of the DuFief HOA, I would like to introduce myself. I have been living in the DC metro area for almost six years and currently work for the US Navy as a civilian materials engineer at NSWC Carderock (formerly known as David Taylor Research Center) in Bethesda.

My wife and I grew up in rural areas (Minnesota and Pennsylvania respectively), so when we began looking for a home, our top criteria were finding a neighborhood that had green space and a healthy dose of peace and quiet. As soon as we set foot into DuFief, our home search became simple; there was nowhere else worth looking. We have been living in DuFief, our first home, for almost four years now, and I can truly say it is our oasis in the hectic insanity that is the DC metro area.

I wish everyone a wonderful summer and I hope you all take advantage of all our community has to offer. Spend a little more time at our pond, explore some new trails in our back yard, domesticate a herd of deer...well, maybe not that last one! Lastly, if you have any questions, concerns, or wonderful ideas to improve our neighborhood, do not hesitate to contact the HOA Board.

## Nextdoor DuFief

By **Pam Weld**

As you know, we are always looking for ways to stay connected with friends and family. This web site is intended to be a tool to connect to our neighbors - in Dufief as well as other nearby communities. In order to join, you must be referred by a neighbor, which limits access by unknown persons. The site has multiple options including classifieds, crime and safety concerns, free items, lost and found, as well as recommendations regarding services such as handyman, construction, etc.

There are no fees involved. If you try it and find you do not want to continue, it is very easy to unsubscribe. Messages that come to your e-mail will only involve DuFief residents unless you choose to also read those from other nearby communities. Please e-mail me at [brandyhallpam@gmail.com](mailto:brandyhallpam@gmail.com) if you are interested, and I will be glad to invite you. Or ask your neighbors about it. Any DuFief resident who is already a member can issue an invitation.

To learn more, check out <https://nextdoor.com>.

### Inside this issue:

Musicians in DuFief	2
DuFief Treasurer's Report	3
Dufief Architecture—Aging Gracefully	4
<b>2014 Community Picnic Date</b>	<b>5</b>

### Special points of interest:

- *Nextdoor Dufief*
- *Artist in Residence Column*
- *Invasive Plants in Dufief*
- *Dam Repair*



## Artist in Residence – Musicians in DuFief

by **Jeff Carmella and Lucia Lima**

I have lived on Silent Valley Lane since 1987. I raised my daughter here along with one Corgi and five cats. The beautiful oak and poplar trees in my backyard have been an inspiration for my life and music. Guitar playing is my passion as well as my daily craft. I also play slide guitar, mandolin, lap steel guitar, banjo, harmonica, and some hand percussion.

I started out playing guitar in Pennsylvania at the age of 17, as a self-taught ear player, on a Montgomery Wards acoustic guitar that I received as a present from my older brother Ron. My cousin, Floyd Dorazia (aka Tyk) showed me my first few chords on that acoustic guitar, and I haven't stopped since.

My first band, in 1979, was a country rock/southern rock band called "The Good Neighbors Band." We started out jamming in my mother's garage, just for the fun of it. After encouragement from our friends, we transitioned into a working band and gained local-area recognition by winning a music contest sponsored by a local Pittsburgh radio station. Our original



composition, the one that won the contest, was called "Kentucky Whiskey and Pennsylvania Women.," written by a fellow band mate, Keith Wilson, a Kentucky native.

Since living in Maryland I have been a part of several different bands, "J.C and the HepCats" being the most long-lasting—over 20 years. I also began my own band, "The Jeff Carmella Band". We play for swing dances in the Washington metropolitan area and for other community events. We enjoy playing a variety of genres: jazz, swing, blues, country and rockabilly as well as my original music. We have shared the stage with and/or opened for such names as Leon Russell, Link Wray, Bill Kirchen, Johnny Castle (The Nighthawks/The Thrillbilly's), Seth Justman (The J. Geils Band), Dave Elliott (Danny Gatton/Redneck Jazz) and Mark Noone (The Slickee Boys).



More recently I have been playing guitar for the "Batuque Band", a Brazilian music band. The word "batuque" means a gath-

ering of dancers and musicians



where singing and percussion are the essence of the occasion. Lucia Lima, my girlfriend, is the lead singer and percussionist. Lucia, a native Brazilian, brings a variety of musical experiences to the repertoire. She sings music from the Brazilian northeast such as forró, frevo and samba de roda. She founded the band along with drummer Bruce Bond. Playing Brazilian music with its rich Bossa Nova chord progressions and syncopated rhythms has been an exciting challenge for me. Our most recent performances have been at Westover Market in Arlington, VA, "J Marie's" in Gaithersburg, and Whole Foods in the Kentlands.

[www.jeffcarmella.com](http://www.jeffcarmella.com)

# DuFief Architecture—Aging Gracefully

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By Carolyn Carlson

*“No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be **of** the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together each the happier for the other.”*  
Frank Lloyd Wright

If DuFief houses have been maintained with the original concept in mind of blending into their natural setting, Frank Lloyd Wright might say, “Nice house.” Earth-toned colors are used for siding and trim, including doors and windows. Lawns and gardens are weeded and mowed and landscaping maintained. Trash cans are kept out of sight and mailboxes are upright and in good condition. Attention to these details helps the house blend into its setting and gives a cohesive look to the neighborhood. It’s the little touches, and adherence to the DuFief style of mid-century modern, that will help keep the neighborhood appealing even as it ages.

On the other hand, things such as white trim and doors, unmowed lawns, unpruned or dead trees, visible trash and trashcans, cars covered with tarps and permanently parked in driveways, and rag-tag mailboxes send another message. Visitors to the neighborhood or potential buyers see those things and might say “old” when referring to DuFief.

If you are unsure of DuFief HOA covenants, please check them out on the website or in the back of your DuFief Directory. Leaning and broken mailboxes contribute to a neglected appearance. Although wooden mailboxes are not specified in the covenants, there are several attractive styles in use in the neighborhood. Trashcans will be moved and other problems resolved if you speak nicely with your neighbor about the issue. Can DuFief age gracefully? It’s up to all of us.

## Treasurer’s Report

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By Brian Frank, DuFief HOA Treasurer

As of July 17, 2014, the Board has collected annual dues from 291 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 95%). The annual assessments that we use to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers **are not optional**. Every household must pay the annual dues. The original notice for 2014 dues was sent to all homeowners at the beginning of January 2014.

Any homeowners that have not paid their dues are subject to a potential lawsuit, which will include a request for interest and attorneys fees and may result in a lien on the property.

We have been very successful in collecting dues. All assessments have been collected for 2010 and all years prior. There is one home that has not paid dues for 2011,

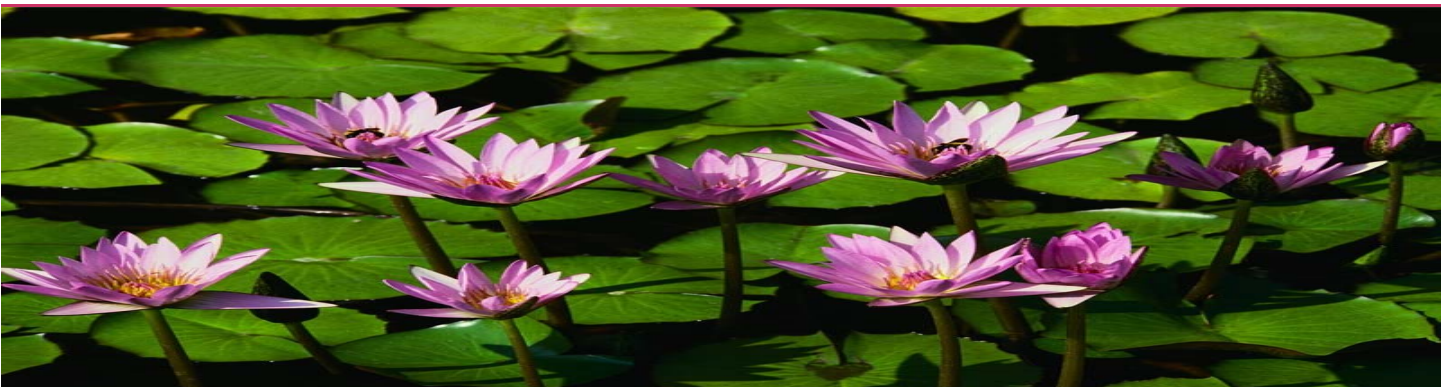
three homes that have not paid dues for 2012, and eight homes that have not paid dues for 2013.

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

For those of you who have paid your annual assessments in a timely manner, “THANK YOU”. For those of you who have not paid the 2014 dues in the amount of \$165.00, please do so.

If you have questions or would like to discuss your annual assessments, please feel free to contact me at 240-606-5100.

**We have collected  
95% of dues.**





## New ARC Members—Introductions

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By **Herman Basra—ARC**

The Basra Family moved into the DuFief community in September of 2012. We came to Maryland in 2008 from Michigan. We had built and owned our home in Michigan, and were there for eight years before the economy went into recession and jobs in Michigan became scarce. After four years of renting in this area, we chose to invest in another home, preferably close to an elementary school for our daughter, hence the DuFief community. At the last HOA meeting, it was mentioned again that the Architectural Review Committee consisted of only one person and that more volunteers were needed. Being the spontaneous person that I am, I volunteered! I figured it was a good learning opportunity and a good way to get to know my neighborhood and my neighbors.

## Dam Repairs

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By **Brian Frank**

Depending on when this Readwood is issued, you may notice that there is (or has been) some construction going on at the pond. This construction is related to a sink-hole which has developed at the dam that separates our pond from the Muddy Branch Park. We have had the dam inspected; the affected area is limited to the area where the sink-hole has formed.

Due to safety concerns, the Board has hired American Landscaping to lower the water level in the pond, dig out a portion of the dam, bring in new dirt and clay and repair the dam. It is expected that the repairs will take approximately a week from start to finish (depending on the weather). After this repair has been completed we will likely be installing fencing at the water line along the dam shore of the pond in order to avoid any future problems.

Moreover, in order to avoid any future issues, please notify us if you see any muskrats, hedgehogs or groundhogs in the pond area.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this repair, please feel free to contact Brian Frank at 240-606-5100.

By **Pooja Rathore—ARC**

I am the mother of a teenager and a pre-teen, and I work at a local non-profit organization. My husband works for the Federal Government. We moved to DuFief in 2012 after spending several years living in the Bethesda and Rockville areas. DuFief became our home for many reasons—great schools, safe, peaceful and secluded neighborhood surrounded by woods with nice walking trails—and I truly fell in love with the unique architecture of the homes in our community. I enjoy being part of this neighborhood and decided to volunteer as a member of the Architectural Review Committee. In my spare time I enjoy reading, gardening and cooking. I look forward to many more years of living here happily.

## Community Beautification

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By **Jeanette Repie**

### Let's start a Volunteer Neighborhood Beautification Project!



A pleasant community appearance adds to our home values! Allentuck Landscaping, one of our neighbors, will be improving the DuFief curb appeal this fall. The first area to be worked on is the area in front of the stone wall as you come into our community. We could use some volunteers to help with the preparation and planting of the site. If you can spare a few hours, please sign up. It could be a fun project.

**Look for the neighborhood beautification  
and clean-up date soon to be announced!**

[jmrepie@aol.com](mailto:jmrepie@aol.com)

# Invasive Plants in DuFief

By Carolyn Carlson

## Japanese Stilt Grass

Now here's a plant you all probably have somewhere in your yard. You don't want it! Although it's nicely green and well-behaved at first, it spreads rapidly and chokes out native plants. According to a Washington Post article, the toxins in its roots even change the composition of the soil so that our native plants can no longer grow there, which adversely affects the wildlife in our woods. The seeds are produced in the fall on plants up to 3.5 feet high. If you allow it to go to seed, the seeds can remain viable for 3 years. It thrives in full sun or full shade.

The plant came to this country from Asia around 1919, probably as a packing material for porcelain.

To control it, pull it out as soon as you see it and put it in your yard waste bin. Don't let it go to seed.

*Japanese Stilt Grass*



## Garlic Mustard

Now isn't this plant pretty! You might think so, but you don't want it in your yard or in the woods near you. It is a highly invasive biennial, which means that the first year the plant grows and then the second year it flowers and produces seeds. Native plant species don't have a chance when this takes over. One plant can yield up to 600 seeds and the seeds stay viable for up to 5 years.

Garlic mustard was brought to this country from Europe and Asia over 150 years ago, probably for medicinal purposes or food. It is able to propagate even in forest under stories. You will see it in the Muddy Branch woods.

If you see it in your yard, don't wait for it to bloom. First-year plants are whorls without flowers. Pull it out and put it in your yard waste bin.

Now, how can we train the deer and groundhogs to eat it?

*Garlic Mustard: First Year*



*Second Year*



## 2014 DuFief Community Picnic



**SAVE THE DATE:** Saturday, September 27, 2014  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

**RAIN DATE:** Sunday, September 28, 2014  
1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Gather the family, come join your neighbors,  
and celebrate DuFief at our community pond!*

**SET-UP AND CLEAN-UP HELP NEEDED!**  
(SSL hours provided to high-school students)

GET INVOLVED!

Please contact Jeanette Repie at [jmrepie@aol.com](mailto:jmrepie@aol.com)

**DuFief  
Homes  
Association**

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## Announcements

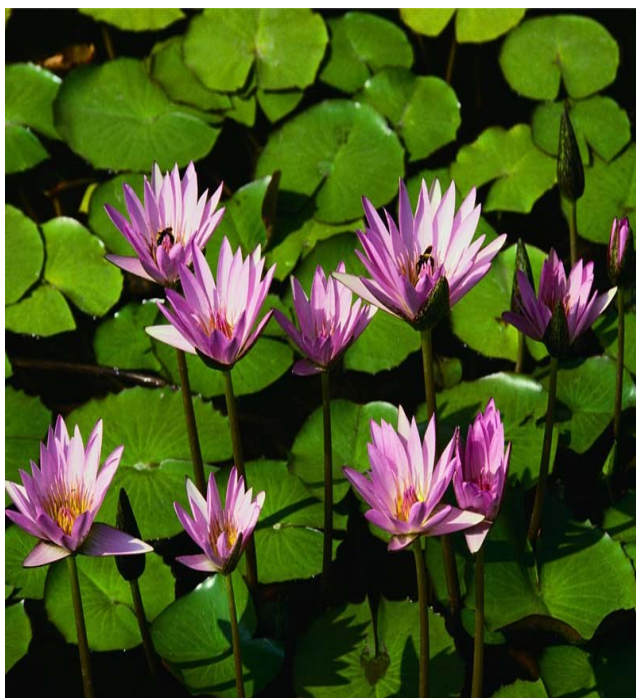
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### Welcome New ARC Members!

Two new members—Herman Basra and Pooja Rathore (see introductions above)—were appointed to the DuFief Architectural Review Committee at the Annual HOA Meeting in March. They will be assisting Jean-Louis Staudenmann. The two still open positions on the Board will be filled shortly.

Bill Golumbskie was elected to serve as current President of the Board. We would like to thank William Washington, the immediate past president, for his service and for continuing as a member of the Board.

We also have, for the first time, an official webmaster for the DuFief web site. Barbara Brenkworth agreed to take over from Chris Saah who took care of it in his “spare time” and who will help with the transition. We thank Chris for his efforts all these years. If you have ideas for adding to the content of the HOA web site, please let Barbara know.





We Want You to Know About

## ***The MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION ON COMMON OWNERSHIP COMMUNITIES***

Montgomery County recognizes that a substantial proportion of all its citizens now live in condominium and homeowner associations, and in housing cooperatives, generally called "common ownership communities." In order to serve better the special needs of these communities, to act as their advocate, and to maintain and improve the quality of life in these communities, the County created the Commission on Common Ownership Communities. The Commission operates under the authority of Chapter 10B of the County Code.

The Commission has 3 basic duties:

***Education:*** the Commission provides free information to both members and to governing bodies about their rights and duties under Maryland law, as well as advice on how to properly operate the association and to avoid complaints. Among other tools, it offers a "Manual and Resource Guide" for boards of directors, and detailed information on architectural control, assessments, and meetings. It publishes a newsletter summarizing recent developments affecting common ownership communities. Commissioners will also speak to communities and their boards on request and welcome invitations to do so.

***Legislation:*** the Commission advocates for common ownership communities concerning proposed laws and regulations at the local and State level.

***Dispute resolution:*** the Commission can hear and resolve certain disputes between members of the communities and their governing bodies, and its decisions are legally binding on the parties. Copies and easy-to-read summaries of its decisions are posted on its website and reviewed in its newsletter.

The Commission is composed of 15 volunteers who are appointed for 3-year terms. 8 members must be residents of common ownership communities and the other 7 must be professionals who work with the communities, such as property managers, lawyers, developers and realtors. Every Fall, the County publishes a request for applicants to the Commission to replace those whose terms are due to expire.

For more information on the Commission and its services, visit its website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccoc](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ccoc). If you have questions, CCOC prefers to be contacted by email at: [CCOC@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:CCOC@montgomerycountymd.gov). To receive information by email about CCOC news and events, sign up for them by going to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov) and following these links: 1. "I Want To;" 2. "Register, reserve, enroll;" 3. "eSubscription;" 4. "Create an Account;" 5. "Consumer Protection;" 6. "CCOC."