



Muddy Branch Greenway Trail

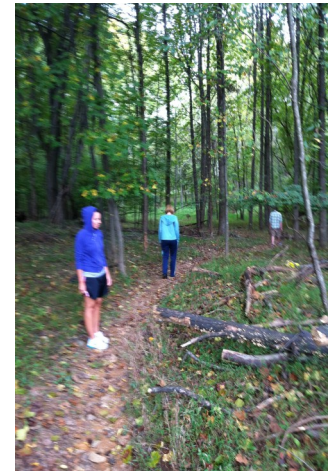
Want to get out and enjoy nature this fall? A new adventure is as close as your back yard! The Muddy Branch Greenway trail is one of the newer trails in the County and is undergoing several improvements including new signage, bridges, and parking. And you can pick it up right in our own neighborhood! The trail starts in the woods on the northwest side of the Dufief Drive and Darne-

stown Road intersection. It runs in the woods parallel to Brandy Hall and then continues along the



er. If you take the whole 9 mile hike, you'll see remnants from some of the old mills, rocky upland forest, stream banks and meadows. Blue blazes on the trees mark the well-worn trail. It crosses Quince Orchard, Turkey

Foot, Epworth, and River Roads, so you can pick up and end the trail at several points for smaller 2-3 mile hikes. For more information, follow the link on the dufief.org website or "google" Muddy Branch Greenway Trail. Enjoy!



Muddy Branch Greenway Trail

DuFief Traffic Light Update

In response to several requests at our annual meeting last year, the DuFief HOA submitted a request for the State Highway Administration to consider placing a traffic light at the intersection of Rt. 28 and DuFief Dr. Here are their findings:

"Our signal studies conducted in 2004 and 2006 concluded that this location did not meet the requirements for the installation of a traffic signal. Recently we re-visited this location to determine the feasibility of this modification. It was found that the motorists along Dufief Drive and Alderwood Drive can complete their maneuvers onto MD 28 within a reasonable amount of time.

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Artist in Residence — Fiber Art in Dufief

By Gertrud Goping
Dufief Resident

When I was five years old, I learned how to knit in our German Kindergarten. It was an “extra” activity for those girls who were interested. In a special room we were watched carefully at all times during “knitting hours”. It was dangerous apparently for the little ones to handle the metal needles; there were no bamboo or wooden needles in those days.

Our first project was a potholder made with cotton yarn. The teacher started each girl’s project by casting on the stitches, the hardest part for beginners. Then the teacher showed us how to wrap the yarn over the fingers of both hands and how to loop the yarn through each one of the stitches. Another hurdle for beginners was to not drop any of the stitches and to turn the work correctly at the end of each row. I

also worked at home on these projects and was sometimes very surprised when overnight the piece



grew miraculously. My mother would tell me “the Heinzelmännchen” (the fairy-tale dwarves) worked on it. I wanted this story to be true and hoped that things would always get done while I slept.

Girls also learnt to embroider and to crochet in Kindergarten. But I still, to this day, embroider with my left hand, which means I must have learnt it on my own because in those days no teacher would have allowed me to do anything with my left hand.

It did not take long to graduate from potholders to scarves and then socks and hats and sweaters, and from following instructions to designing my



own pieces. I am glad that I was taught to knit when I was little, and I am trying to pass this skill on to my granddaughters. Knitting is a very creative enterprise; there are endless possibilities for designing your own, unique pieces of clothing, or art, creating them from an amazing variety of fibers in all colors, textures,

weights, and combinations. Knitting is relaxing – it’s not unlike meditation; it probably slows down arthritis in your hands as well, and I have always felt that it helped me develop the dexterity that served me so well in my profession as an electron microscopy technician.



And don’t think that knitting is something only grandmothers do. Even though it is no longer taught as consistently as in my time to Kindergarten girls, knitting has come out of its granny corner. Knitting clubs are springing up all over. There is a new trend among

the 18- to 24-year-olds (women and men) in Europe, and also here in the U.S., to slow things down a bit, to reduce the hectic in our lives by creating something slowly, with our hands, something unique that no one else has. It makes you feel luxurious to wear something handmade. There are college students who knit for charities; who knit sculptures to decorate the urban landscape – lamp posts, trees, park benches – as do, for example, the “guerilla” groups in some German and British cities. There are even “stitch



ambulances” that you can call if you encounter an inextricable knitting accident. And not only in Europe but also here in the U.S. knitting is becoming more and more popular. All you need to do is go to Woolwinders on King Farm Boulevard any day of the week, and you will find a group of women sitting around a table, knitting and chatting and exchanging ideas and taking lessons. The Internet is full of free knitting patterns, at ravelry.com or at knitty.com, for example. Practically no preparation or investment is required to start a knitting project: A set of needles and a ball of yarn are all you need. And here and there, even in Dufief, you will find a granny like me who would be more than happy to lend you a knitting hand.

Are You Prepared for the Next Disaster?

By Chris Saah
DuFief HOA President

Earthquakes in August, snow in October. While we've been fortunate and have not suffered any consequences from these unusual events, authorities caution us that when it comes to preparing for disaster, the question is not IF, the question is WHEN.

Last month, first responders, government employees and hospitals in Montgomery County tested their ability to respond to a terrorist attack with a large number of victims. The exercise simulated the movement of mock victims to area hospitals for treatment with some of the mock victims being transported by helicopter.

Whether a disaster is man-made or natural, preparedness is vital to the safety of your family and the community. The website www.ready.gov is a great resource for emergency preparedness and has a simple motto: *Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.*

The site has a check list for things each family should have. As you might expect, food, water, flashlights, and batteries are at the top of the list. But you might not have thought of items such as copies of your bank account and insurance policy information, food for your pet, and games for your kids. Having these items on hand helps to insure you are safe and can recover more easily. It also helps the community. The more prepared you are, the less you will be taxing community resources and infrastructure because you are not on the road trying to find supplies or calling 911 because you are stranded.



Consider using the coming snow season as a reason to evaluate your own situation and get ready. Remember, it was just a couple of years ago that many of us were stranded for days by 50+\" of snow!

Plan. Prepare. Stay Informed.

Announcing a DuFief Moms' Group

Join the brand new DuFief Moms' Group! Dad's are welcome too. We'd like to invite parents of children around 3 years old and younger (pregnant mummies as well) to get together for regular play dates in the neighborhood. If you have slightly older children and would like to come, that's fine too! A moms' group is a great way to meet other new moms in our neighborhood, build lasting friendships for ourselves and our kids, share the ups and downs of parenthood, and participate in play groups and other events with parents who have children the same age as your own. If you are interested in the group, please send Helen John, the group's organizer, an email at helenjohnphotography@gmail.com, and she will make sure you are informed about future events. We look forward to meeting you and your little ones!

Helen John has been a resident of DuFief for almost one year. She lives by the DuFief pond with her husband and two sons - ages 2 years and 4 months.

Treasurer's Report

By Brian Frank
DuFief HOA Treasurer

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community for paying your annual assessments in a timely manner. As of November 9, 2011, the Board has collected annual dues from 302 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 99%). The annual assessments are used to maintain our common areas in order to keep the DuFief neighborhood a popular area for homebuyers.

For the handful of homeowners who have not paid, please be advised that the Board will take any necessary steps in order to obtain payment for those dues, plus interest and attorneys fees, which may include filing court cases, filing liens on properties and in some cases garnishing wages and bank accounts.

The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court, however, the home-

owners assessments are no different from having to pay real estate taxes on your property.

We have collected approximately 99% of dues.

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

The DuFief Architectural Review Committee

By Dominic Santopietro
DuFief HOA and ARC Member

This article is about your Architectural Review Committee (ARC) function, duties and obligations. The DuFief Homeowners Association (HOA) has a set of by-laws created in 1972 and amended in 2001, which contain the ARC guidelines as amended on October 25, 2001. These ARC guidelines dictate how the ARC operates, which presently has three (3) appointed/volunteer members.

Article V : Architectural Control of the ARC Guidelines outlines some of the restrictions in place for the community. These are the standards and conditions by which we must abide as members of the DuFief HOA. Our website www.dufief.org contains the by-laws in their entirety as well as the ARC Guidelines.

The three active members of the current ARC are Jean-Louis Staudenmann, Marcia Arieira and myself, Dominic Santopietro. All are residents of DuFief and are available for questions and information to guide you in your exterior home improvements. The ARC is to assist you in maintaining the general look of the community as it was originally intended by the developer back in the early 70's. While there have been some changes to the ARC Guidelines with respect to the usage of vinyl siding and more recently

with the approval of a cement board siding (which has a vertical groove similar to that of the T111), we basically try to approve and work with you while maintaining general harmony our



unique community within Montgomery County.

When you are contemplating changes or improvements to the exterior of your home (e.g., new siding, painting, re-roofing, new windows and so forth), you are required to obtain the approval of the ARC **BEFORE** the start of any work. Not adhering to this requirement could possibly have an effect upon the salability of your home or the very least delay the settlement process should there be a violation of the Guidelines.

The ARC asks that DuFief residents work with us so we can help with home projects or improvements. The ARC Guidelines grant the Committee thirty (30) days for review and decision from receipt of a written application. An ARC application can be found on the DuFief website (www.dufief.org) or be provided by any member of the ARC or DuFief HOA

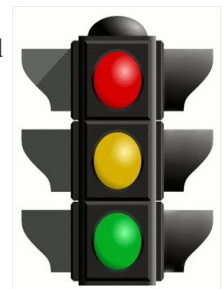
Board. Should you apply for and be granted a building permit for your improvement project by Montgomery County, this does not negate the requirement to submit an application to the DuFief ARC for its approval as well. The converse applies if you receive approval for your application from the DuFief ARC, the necessary county building permits are still required. In no way does approval by either one of the convening authorities give you permission or the right to proceed without the approval of the other.

In closing, please consult with your DuFief ARC. We are here to assist you, not hinder your home improvement projects. Our goal is to maintain the harmony of the community while attempting to please you and your neighbors. Remember, a good neighbor is an informed one. Be sure to discuss your home improvements with your neighbors, they will be asked if you did.

Dufief Traffic Light Update (continued)

The field observations also revealed that, with consideration given to the prevailing speeds, there is adequate sight distance along all approaches. In addition, a review of the most recent three year police reported crash history did not reveal a crash pattern that would be correctable by the installation of a traffic signal.

We share and understand your concern, but must emphasize that unwarranted traffic signals often adversely affect intersections by creating problems such as excessive delay, higher crash rates, and violation of the red light. Regretfully, we cannot comply with your request for a traffic signal installation at this time as it is not warranted at the subject location. We will, however, continue to monitor this location for possible future action as part of our transportation surveillance program." We will revisit the issue in the future if circumstances change. Thanks to those who expressed their concern.



DuFief CommUNITY Picnic a Success

The weather was just about perfect, with a light breeze coming from the pond, as a large number of residents gathered at the DuFief Park. Celebrating DuFief as a great place to live, work and play, residents had a very good time on the beautiful Fall afternoon. An inflatable Moon Bounce kept the children giggling, while adults ate and listened to the Steel Band. There was plenty of barbeque and everyone was merrily chit chatting with long-time residents and newcomers to DuFief. Much fun was had by all!

This event has grown over the years and we hope it continues to grow. Thank you to all who attended. The DuFief Board members were glad to see so many people enjoying the day. The picnic is a great way to draw people together and celebrate our community. To volunteer and be a part of this wonderful yearly event, please contact any Board member or email Jeanette Repie at Jmrepie@aol.com.

Anything that you can do as DuFief residents would be much appreciated. Let's keep our community strong and growing!



The Transition to Solar Home Energy

By Esther and Richard Brockert
Dufief Residents

Our home is all electric and the energy bill kept climbing. We searched for a solar energy company that would explain our possibilities for some time but the companies would tell us that we had three strategically misplaced trees that would minimize our effort. We did not find a company that was serious about the project until the tree in our front yard had to come down in February 2010. We had that tree taken down and two others severely pruned so that they did not shade the roof.

The salesman, an engineer, came to the house and measured our roof, the angle, and area and position related to the sun. He did drawings and took notes. We had a long discussion about rebates, savings in utility bills and return on investment. We had room on the roof for 70 panels but according to

calculations of our past and projected usage, we needed 40. We decided that we could make the investment and save money in the long run and it would pay for itself in just over 4 years.



Shortly thereafter, the panels were ordered and the install completed timely and efficiently by Solar Energy World techs in October 2010. After the county inspection, we began generating and using our own power on sunny days and somewhat less on cloudy days. We waited for our reversible meter to be installed. The meter counts the power

we generate and use; the excess to be sold back to the power company. There are no batteries and when the power is off in the community ours is off too because we cannot generate on the same grid that the workmen use.

However, the power company did not install the new meter until the end of January 2011. They continued to estimate our current usage on the prior year's numbers. We were a little frustrated until April 2011.

During the six months of April through October 2011, we used 4,000 kWh less power than shown on our power bill; we generated and sold 6,000 kWh over our usage. In addition, we received tax rebates from the State of Maryland and the Federal Government.

We are delighted!

DuFief Homes Association

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Announcements

Save-the-Date: Dufief Annual Meeting

The 2012 Dufief Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, February 16th. In addition to providing updates about our community and electing new board members, we will be hosting a pot luck dinner. So dust off your favorite pot luck recipe and stay tuned for more information!

New Ideas Welcome

If you have an idea or suggestion for future editions of the Readwood, please send them to Danielle Shostal at d_mo14@hotmail.com or Linde Fuller at fullersk@verizon.net.

