

Tree Tops - *President's Message*

by *Nathalie Noon, HOA Board President*

Dear Community:

It was nice to see so many neighbors at the Annual Picnic in September. The weather was perfect.

The Board recently approved a palette of siding and trim colors that should be used within our community. The color palette will provide additional guidance to homeowners when planning exterior projects. Please contact the Architectural Review Committee to see the color palette before submitting your application for approval. The Board is also seeking additional volunteers to serve on the ARC. The ARC is comprised of community volunteers that are charged with the important role of maintaining the architectural harmony of the community. It is an important function and is made easier when there are more members on the committee. Please email arc@dufief.org if you are willing to volunteer.

As the leaves continue to fall from the many trees within our neighborhood, please be advised that the HOA does not have a leaf collection service. Montgomery County will pick up leaves but only on trash days in designated yard waste bags. And remember that it is better to remove the leaves only from your lawn but not from underneath the trees. The leaf layer protects the tree roots during the winter and serves as hibernation site for a multitude of beneficial insects. The decaying leaves also add nutrition to the tree roots.

As we approach winter, please be mindful that all sidewalks in front of or adjacent to any homes must be shoveled within 24 hours of the end of any snow event. While there are limited sidewalks within the community, the sidewalks need to be clear for pedestrians and children walking to school and bus stops. No one should have to walk in the street if a sidewalk is available. It is also helpful to park cars in driveways to keep the streets clear for snowplows, especially on a cul-de-sac and other tight passageways within the community.

Stay warm as the colder weather arrives, and I hope everyone has a safe, healthy and happy holiday season.

Nathalie Noon

**The Annual Homeowners Meeting
will be held at the DuFief School
Thursday, February 20, 2020
Potluck Dinner at 6:30 pm—Meeting at 7:30 pm
Please email board@dufief.org to RSVP for the Dinner**

Inside this issue:

DuFief President's Message	1
Kayaking around DuFief	2
Swimming Pool Memberships	3
Gardening and Composting	4
ARC Affairs—Color Palettes	5
Treasurer's Report	6
DuFief Community Picnic	6

Special points of interest:

- *Kayaking*
- *Westleigh Pool Membership*
- *Recipe: Roasted Vegetable Pasta*
- *DuFief Community Picnic*

Kayaking Around DuFief

by Pam and Gene Foley

Have you ever walked or driven down Happy Choice Lane and looked inside one of the garages only to see what appears to be a kayak warehouse? That would be Pam and Gene Foley's place; they have taken up the sport of whitewater kayaking. "We were runners before, but our knees are not what they used to be," says Pam. "Kayaking is a good way to get strength and conditioning without the strain on the knees."



We got our first taste of whitewater paddling with our kids on the Lower Youghiogheny River. Eventually for more excitement, we transitioned to double duckies.

Instruction is important and learning to roll a kayak a must. Luckily, we live in a hotbed of whitewater opportunities. For those just beginning, there is the George Washington canal loop, which starts and ends at Violette's lock. The loop uses the C&O Canal for the upstream portion.



From there we progressed to kayaking in the DC area's training center, the portion of the Potomac River across from Old Angler's Inn. With



all the different drops and features, this area offers loads of opportunities to develop your skills.

Once you have honed your skills on these local rivers you are ready to venture further afield. The Lower Yough, where we started our whitewater adventure is a classic next stop.



continued on page 3

With further training, a whole range of rivers opens up, from the North Branch of the Potomac River at Barnum, MD, to the Cheat and the Gauley Rivers in West Virginia.

We are by no means expert kayakers, having been paddling for only three years or so. And we are surrounded by folks much better than ourselves, even in our neighborhood (*John Su, we are looking at you!*) However, it has been quite an adventure, and we are looking forward to many more years on our rivers.



Announcement **Swimming Pool Memberships Available to DuFief Residents**

by **Leilani Micalizzi**



Summer may be over but the fun at Westleigh Recreation Club isn't! Westleigh Recreation Club is a private pool, tennis and recreation club open for year-round membership. In addition to our summer swimming programs, we have tennis, basketball, volleyball, tetherball, pickle ball, gaga pit, and a disk golf course. Our outdoor tennis courts are lighted and accessible all year. Westleigh also hosts several classes and various social activities throughout the year. In addition, as a member, you can rent the facilities for your own parties and events. Interested in learning more? Visit <https://www.westleigh-club.org/> or email membership@westleigh-club.org.





Cardinal Flower

Eco-friendly gardening is alive and well in DuFief! Following my paragraph in the Spring Readwood seeking neighbors interested in gardening for pollinators with native plants, several people got in touch. We have visited each other's gardens and shared what we each hope to accomplish, as well as our successes and failures. We have kept in touch over the summer to swap plants (so far, milkweed, cardinal flower, blue lobelia, aster and rushes). If you would like to participate in our informal group, contact me at moiradavenport@gmail.com.

There are many wonderful resources locally to learn more about Maryland's native plants. Two of my favorites are:

- **The Maryland Native Plant Society** organizes field trips to local natural areas to identify plants native to the region. Their schedule is at mdflora.org. The walks in the Spring along the C&O Canal are particularly worthwhile.
- **The Audubon Naturalist Society** in Chevy Chase has a demonstration garden of plants native to our area. The ANS also offers a full schedule of programs and field trips on every nature-related topic. Sign up at anshome.org.

Composting in DuFief

by Leilani Micalizzi

Perhaps you saw, on Nextdoor DuFief, my message about Community Composting in the Travilah-DuFief-Kentlands area. Composting, of course, is a good idea as a matter of principle. It reduces the garbage that goes into landfills or will be incinerated. Maybe you already have a compost bin in your yard where you throw your kitchen scraps, yard waste, grass clippings, etc., and know that in time you end up with this amazingly fresh-smelling, dark, crumbly soil that your plants love.

If you haven't gotten around to doing your own composting, here is a chance to have it done for you: I, and others in DuFief, are trying to organize a weekly curbside pick-up of organic waste, in the Travilah-DuFief-Kentlands area by the *Compost Crew*, run by the Walt Whitman grad, Ryan Walter, and his friends. After an initial trial period of two months, at a cost of \$17.50 per month, the price will be adjusted (hopefully downward), depending on the number of participants who sign up. Twenty-five participants are required to sign up initially for the pilot program to start. If all 306 DuFief households participate – either individually or through the HOA – the price per household will be around \$5.00 per month. Once a year you will get a delivery of compost at a reduced price.

You can sign up at www.compostcrew.com/Travilah-DuFief. If you have questions, you may call me at (301) 996-4328 or contact the *Compost Crew* directly at info@compostcrew.com or (301) 202-4450.

The DuFief Homeowners Association Board recently approved three color palette boards updated by volunteers from the ARC and the Welcoming Committee. The last time the color palette was updated was December 6, 1989! It was badly in need of updating because of wear, fading, and unavailability of named colors from 1989. Also, vertical vinyl siding and Hardie Plank have been approved since the previous update.

The new siding-color board specifies allowed siding colors from the major manufacturers (CertainTeed Board and Batten, NAPCO, and Hardie Plank). There are two other new color palette boards for house staining (Cabot's colors) and trim colors (Valspar paint). The new color palette boards capture the earth tone colors that had been previously established by the builder and expanded in 1989 by the ARC committee with colors currently available.

Homeowners do not have to use the brands represented by the color palette board if they closely match a color within the spectrum, as determined by the ARC when reviewing applications.

The palette boards shown below are for illustrative purposes only. The actual, full-sized boards will be made available by ARC member Lori Levine (levinel@verizon.net) during the approval process of an ARC application.

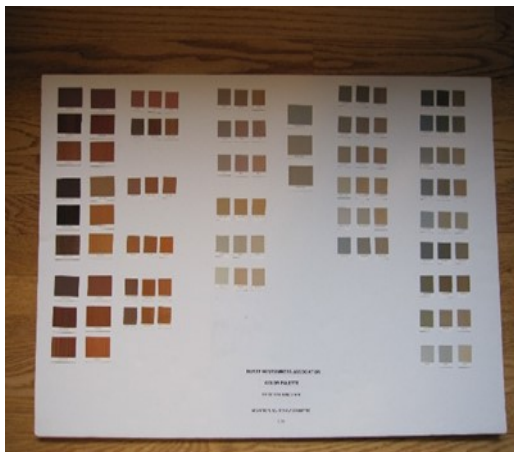


Figure 1: House Stain Colors



Figure 2: Siding Colors



Figure 3: House Trim Colors

Before doing exterior work to your home, please go to

www.dufief.org Architectural Review

to apply for prior written approval for additions, alterations, and/or improvements

DuFief Community Picnic

As every year, everyone seemed to have a good time at the picnic: grown-ups, kids, visitors, helpers, musicians, and even the family dogs. It's so enjoyable to see people there that you don't normally see around the neighborhood, but you know them from living here. It's fun to catch up with the latest family news, see their children or grand-children and marvel at how much they have grown in one year. The food is always delicious, the band something to look forward to; it's like a big family reunion and makes you feel that you are lucky to live in DuFief.

Many thanks to the board members and neighbors who make it possible: for ordering the food and the drinks, signing up the band, renting and setting up the tables and chairs, the moon bounce, and staying afterwards to clean up. Hope to see you there next year.



Treasurer's Report on Annual Assessments

by **Brian Frank**, *DuFief HOA Treasurer*

Dues Notices for 2020 are expected to be sent out by email in early January.

If you have not provided us with an email address, your invoice will be sent by first-class mail.

As of November 18, 2019, the Board has collected annual dues from 267 of the 306 homes in our neighborhood (roughly 87 %). 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 2019 dues was sent to all homeowners at the beginning of January 2019.

Any homeowners who have not paid their dues are subject to 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 homeowner that has not paid dues for 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, two homeowners that have not paid 2017 dues, and six home-

owners that have not paid 2018 dues. The Board does not enjoy having to take neighbors to court. However, the homeowner assessments are not any different from having to pay real estate taxes on your property. If you owe more than one year of dues, a lawsuit is likely to be filed.

To those of you who have paid your annual assessments in a timely manner, "THANK YOU". For those of you who have not yet paid the 2019 dues in the amount of \$213.85, please do so as soon as possible in order to avoid additional costs, and a potential lawsuit.

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

Brian Frank

***We have collected
87 % of 2019 dues.***

RECIPE Roasted Vegetable Pasta

by Linde Fuller

(from Parade Magazine, Jan. 1996)

The firmer vegetables will take longer to roast than the thinner, finer veggies. So, remove them to a bowl when they're finished baking, then continue with a second batch. That way, no veggies will be overcooked. Season to taste when they are tossed together.

- 2 carrots, trimmed, halved lengthwise and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 red bell peppers, cut into 1/4-inch slivers
- 1 small eggplant, trimmed and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 medium-sized fennel bulb, halved, cored, and slivered
- 1 red onion, slivered
- 8 shallots, peeled and left whole (optional)
- 2 T finely minced garlic
- ½ cup olive oil
- 2 T fresh thyme leaves (or 1 t dried thyme)

- 8 ripe plum tomatoes, quartered lengthwise
- 1 zucchini, trimmed, halved lengthwise and cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 yellow squash, trimmed, halved lengthwise and cut into 1-inch pieces
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper, to taste

- 8 ounces penne or rigatoni pasta, uncooked

1. Preheat oven to 375 F.
2. Place carrots, peppers, eggplant, fennel, red onion, shallots (if desired) and garlic in a bowl. Toss with ¼ cup oil and 1 T fresh thyme (or ½ t dried). Place vegetables in a single layer on a baking sheet; bake for 1 hour, or until tender. Remove to a bowl and set aside.
3. Place the tomatoes, zucchini and yellow squash in a bowl. Toss with the remaining oil and thyme. Place in a single layer on the baking sheet and bake for 30 minutes. Add to the bowl of reserved vegetables and season with salt and pepper.
4. Just before serving, bring a pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta for 10 to 12 minutes, or until tender. Drain and remove to a large, shallow serving bowl. Add the vegetable mixture and toss well. Serve immediately.

Serves 6. Per serving: 425 calories, 20 g fat, no cholesterol.

Note: Pastas are ideal for entertaining, because any meal featuring a pasta course can be dressed up or down. When preparing the sauce, feel free to add a little of this and a little of that as the mood strikes you. Serve with a crusty bread warm from the oven and a green salad with your favorite vinaigrette. Then all you need is a bottle of wine.

DuFief Homes Association

DuFief Homes Association Board
board@dufief.org 240-242-9678

Mailing Address:
PO Box 3034
Gaithersburg, MD 20885

www.dufief.org



DuFief HOA Board Members:

President: Nathalie Noon — nathalienoon@gmail.com
Vice President: Keith Shenk — shenk24@gmail.com
Treasurer: Brian Frank — treasurer@dufief.org
Secretary: open
Fred Mingo — fmingo12@gmail.com
John Su — poohlo10@yahoo.com
William Washington — bobmotku@gmail.com
Linde Fuller — (*Readwood Editor*) fullersk@verizon.net

ARC Committee: ARC@dufief.org.

William Washington (Chair) — bobmotku@gmail.com
Lori Levine — levinel@verizon.net
Leilani Micalizzi — leilanik@gmail.com
Pooja Rathore — pkprathore@gmail.com
Jean-Louis Staudenmann — jlstaudenmann@comcast.net

Welcoming Committee :

Helen Don — helen@helendon.com
Sandra Shapiro — shapiro2@gmail.com

Webmaster: Barbara Brenkworth — brenkworth@gmail.com

Announcement

The election of board and committee members is scheduled to take place at the Annual Homeowners' meeting on February 20, 2020. Please consider running for office. Being of service to the community is a valuable activity. Your organizational and diplomatic skills will be put to good use and will be greatly appreciated by your fellow board members and the DuFief homeowners.

Note: For the homeowners who do not have email, the *Readwood* was printed at cost as a community service by **Alpha Graphics Shady Grove** in Gaithersburg (agshadygrove.com).



The DuFief Pond photographed
by Jean-Louis Staudenmann