

Helping Aspiring Young Musicians

by John W. Croft

Three aspiring young musicians no longer have to dream of playing instruments in the Beltsville Academic Center's band thanks to a new program initiated by community businessman John Anna and Angie Como, school board member for District 1.

Kids that wanted to join the band but could not afford music store instrument rental rates — typically \$15 per month or more according to BAC's instrumental music teacher Alan Oresky — were asked to submit essays on what instrument they wanted to play in the band. Reviewers balanced the merit of the essays with individual student performance and selected the three winners.

According to Anna — donor of the used trumpet, clarinet and flute — the instruments were getting a music store checkup for delivery to the school around Thanksgiving. Anna said the goal is to donate three instruments to the school every year.

Students at the Academic Center, a kindergarten through sixth grade school on Wicomico Avenue in Beltsville, can enter the school band in the fourth grade. The donated instruments will be used exclusively by the winners but remain the property of the school when the students leave.

Oresky invited Beltsville residents to come out and hear the band during the school's Winter Concert '97, an instrumental and choral program on Wednesday, December 10, starting at 7 p.m. The Beltsville Academic Center is located at 4300 Wicomico Avenue. Call the school at 301-572-0630 for details.