



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 51, Number 3
September 2014

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES



Notes from the President
By Lisa Patterson-Troiike

DCA By-Laws Update

The DCA By-Laws have been updated to be consistent with our membership year and to better define the composition and responsibilities of the DCA Board. The By-Laws changes were presented at the DCA Town Meeting in June and were unanimously approved.

Hoedown October 17th !

The 44th Annual DCA Hoedown is set for Friday, October 17th. The adult only event takes place here in Darnestown at Smokey Glen Farm located at 16407 Riffle Ford Road from 6:30 pm – midnight. It is a one of a kind experience lead by a one of a kind square dance caller, Mac McCall. Mac has been calling at our Hoedowns for most of the 44 years we have been gathering. BBQ chicken and ribs, seafood bisque, potato salad, pasta salad, green salad, rolls, fruit pies, beer, wine, sodas, dancing, hayrides and more are included for only \$35! It is truly a memorable experience. Don't dance? Come and watch your friends and neighbors on the dance floor. You will laugh until your sides hurt! **RSVP form is located on page 13, and payment must be received by October 10th.**

....Continued on page 7



**DCA Hoedown
October 17th**

See page 13 for details!

Next DCA Town Meeting

Sept. 18th | 7:30 PM

**Darnestown Presbyterian
Church**

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this Issue

Notes from the President.....	1
Little Acorn Staff.....	2
The History of Darnestown.....	3
Softball	9
Boy Scouts	10
DSRC News.....	12
Homesteading Corner.....	14
School News & Events.....	16
Church News.....	19
Darne Bloomers Club	21
Community Interest.....	25
Service Providers.....	33
Darnestown Directory.....	34





THE LITTLE ACORN STAFF

Editor: **Susie Gooch** (wsgooch@comcast.net - *preferred*)
(acorneditor@yahoo.com)

Proofreader: Sarah Scherer (sarahscherer@comcast.net)

The Darnestown Civic Association Board (DCA)

President: Lisa Patterson-Troike (lisaapatterson@aol.com)
Vice President : Bob Thompson (bob.thompson@comcast.net)
Chairman: Arthur Slesinger (Arthur.slesinger@gmail.com)
Treasurer: Guy Armantrout (armantrout1@hotmail.com)
Trustee: Karen Hinrichsen (Karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com)
Trustee: Dick Jurgena (rjurgena@mailad.com)
Trustee: Chris Collins (cocollins@coarch.com)
Corresponding Secretary: Michael Gottlieb (michael@thegottliebfirm.com)
Recording Secretary: Susan Allaway (stallaway@gmail.com)

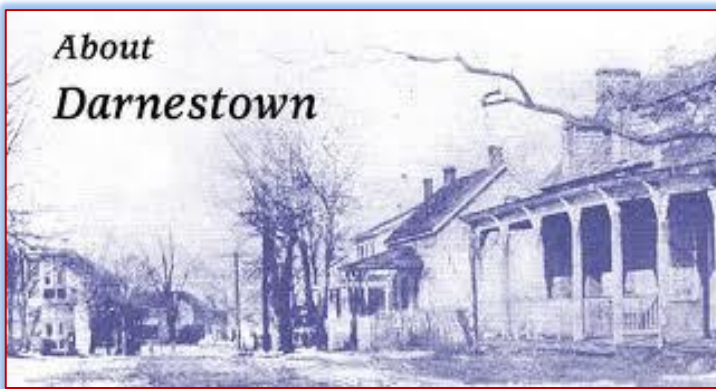
The DCA Committee Chairpersons

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)
Darnestown Village: Chris Collins (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Directory: Sarah Scherer (sarahscherer@comcast.net)
Environment: Arthur Slesinger (Arthur.slesinger@gmail.com)
Flag Program: Tim Sanders (timbosanders@netscape.net)
Historical Soc. Rep: *Vacant*
Membership: *Vacant*
Membership Database: Jean Jurgena (jmjurgena@hotmail.com)
Parliamentarian: Chris Collins (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Safety: Chair: Dick Jurgena (safety@darnestowncivic.org)
Co-Chair: Kevin Keegan (safety@darnestowncivic.org)
Seneca Forest Project: Karen Hinrichsen (karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com)
Social: Lisa Patterson-Troike (social@darnestowncivic.org)
Softball: Dave Bivans (ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net)
Utility Reliability: Art Slesinger (Arthur.slesinger@gmail.com)
Website: Guy Armantrout (armantrout1@hotmail.com)
Neil Agate (nagagte@4gateslic.com)
Zoning & Dev: Pam Dubois (pam.dubois@bolansmart.com)



Happy autumn to all
of our Darnestown
neighbors!!





Route 28, Darnestown looking west; late 1880's
Courtesy Montgomery Historical Society

Several years ago, The Little Acorn was honored to run a series of informational articles detailing the history of our charming town. It's always enlightening to revisit our past, and with new neighbors arriving every year, we thought that this would be a great time to run our historical series again. Here now, is Part Three of the series. Enjoy!

The History of Darnestown

Part Three



ROWSERS FORD (Violette's Lock, Lock #23, Milepost 20)

This was an important river crossing during the Civil War. John Mosby used Rowsers Ford on his raid up to Seneca. Jeb Stuart is thought to have crossed here just before the Gettysburg campaign in the summer of 1863. After the Union Army crossed at Edwards Ferry on June 25 and 26 in pursuit of the main body of Lee's Army, Stuart's cavalry came from Dranesville down to the banks of the Potomac at Rowsers Ford. The water was higher than usual – too high for artillery and ambulances – but Stuart decided to cross there anyway. His men unloaded and carried the boxes of ammunition across the river by hand. The guns and caissons were dragged across the river completely submerged. The night was dark and moonless, so the men could not see clearly where they were to enter and exit the water. They stayed close to each other, drifting down the river with the current until someone would appear from the Maryland shore to tell them how to straighten their lines. After they crossed

the river, the soldiers captured a number of canal boats in the area of Violette's Lock, turning one sideways to create a bridge for his soldiers to cross. They abandoned their plan to burn the other boats after the boat captains persuaded them to have mercy on small businessmen. Instead, Stuart's men transformed the boats into obstructions by turning them sideways and then draining the water from that section of the canal.

Violette's Lock was named for Ab Violette, the last lock keeper, whose house has disappeared. Standing on the lock looking toward Seneca, Violette's Lock is on the right, a lift lock that raised and lowered canal boats about eight feet. The lock on the left is a guard lock through which local grain boats were admitted to the canal. Both locks were built of Seneca sandstone. North of the locks was once the small village of Rushville, where thirsty canallers or quarrymen purchased moonshine whiskey from "Aunt" Pricilla Jenkins.

Crossing the river by Violette's Lock are the remains of a 2,500 foot-wide rock dam built by the C&O Canal Company around 1828 of quarry waste from nearby Seneca quarry in order to impound the water that fed into the 18-mile section of canal down to Little Falls. Waters impounded by this dam flowed into a five-mile pool known as Little Seneca Lake, which now supports heavy recreational use by people from the entire Metropolitan area (25 feet average depth; 70 feet max. depth; 505 acres; 15 miles shoreline). Violette's Lock is a haven for canoers and kayakers who use its shores as a launching site above the Seneca "breaks", or rapids. Boaters can cross to the Virginia side and enjoy mild whitewater through one of the original skirting canals excavated by George Washington's Patowmack Company.

C.M.E. CHURCH

On the hilltop to the left of Violette's Lock Road, a weathered clapboard shell was built about 1900 to serve the local Colored Methodist Church congregation. The African American community at Seneca was established as much as 125 years ago by ex-slaves who worked in the quarries.

DARNESTOWN

Darnestown was first settled about 1730, when Maryland was still a colony of England. The first settlers in its general area were Scottish or Irish frontiersmen, descendants of men who had fought in the Revolutionary War under Washington, who had helped put down the Whiskey Rebellion in Pennsylvania, and who had fought with General Braddock in the French and Indian War. They were mostly Calvinists. One of them was Ninean Beall, a tavern keeper, who came about 1750. He had a number of daughters who married community leaders, including Charles Gassaway, who built an estate to become known as "Pleasant Hills" (now known as the Kelley farmhouse in Spring Meadows). For a while, the town also took the name of the large tract of land on which it was built "Mount Pleasant". When a post office was later built, Charles Gassaway's son-in-law, William Darne, had become the largest landowner, and the town was renamed Darne, then later Darne's Town, and eventually Darnestown.

The Darnestown area became a town between 1815 and 1820, but tobacco farming in the area had so impoverished the soil that it didn't attract many farmers until the Quaker farmers of Sandy Springs introduced crop rotation and Peruvian guanos fertilizer. Residents continued to farm tobacco, which they sent on barges down the river to Georgetown. By 1820, the intersection of Seneca Road and Darnestown Road had a postmaster and merchant, a tavern keeper, a blacksmith, and a wheelwright. Nearby was Benjamin Edwards, a doctor (whose grandson married Elizabeth Todd, elder sister of Mary Todd Lincoln).

When the C&O Canal was constructed at Seneca, Darnestown began thriving as a commercial crossroads. By 1871, Darnestown had a population of 99 people and was the 9th largest town in the county. By 1879, its population had grown to 200, doubling in a ten-year veritable boom time. The community was very close-knit. In its heyday, between 1880 and 1890, farmers

from around the area would bring their grain to the mills of Darnestown to transport it directly from there down the canal to Georgetown. After the railroad came to Gaithersburg and Germantown in the early 1900's, there was no more need for the mills in Darnestown and they petered out by the 1930's.

In the 1800's, mail was brought by stagecoach from Rockville three times a week, and the people of the neighborhood rode out on horseback to be there when it arrived. The ladies dressed for this occasion in long riding skirts, hats with drooping feather, gauntlets, and always carried riding whips. As they cantered up the dusty road (Rt. 28, based on an old Indian trail) to Darnestown, dogs, chickens, and pigs flew out before them. They would arrive early and draw their horses under the shade of nearby trees where they gossiped and flirted with the young men of the community. After dropping off the mail, the stagecoach then continued on through Dawsonville to Poolesville.

Residents would sometimes take a "packet boat" to Washington or Georgetown for shopping. It took nearly all day to travel from Seneca to Georgetown, and the time could vary by several hours. Passengers would impatiently pace the canal bank or wait inside Johnny Riley's stone lock house. The packet boat had a saloon, captain's room, and a kitchen, and could hold as many as 50 passengers. It ventured out onto the river at points but was more frequently on the canal. The boats were drawn by two tandem horses driven by a boy who rode the rear horse. When the boat reached the wide, long levels known as the eight-mile level and the six-mile level, the horses galloped and their bells carried along the water. Later, the boats used steam engines, which often stalled. The boats could only run up to 8 mph to avoid damaging wakes.

When it was too cold for the packet boat to operate, residents made the trip to Washington by horse and carriage, slowly plodding through mud over the horse's ankles as they traveled along Old River Road, the shortest way to Washington.

When the Civil War broke out, the Federals immediately knew that the shallow waters of the Potomac River's Seneca Rapids were a natural point for the Confederates to cross in order to invade Washington from the North. Union encampments were soon positioned in Darnestown by Windsor School, Kelley Farm, Kirkhel Farm, Magruder Farm, as well as near the C&O Canal. The presence of troops of course boosted the economy. By guarding all of the fords as well as the C&O Canal, searching canal boats and wagons along area roads, and checking the passes of travelers through the area, the 18,000 soldiers were the main defense against attacks on Washington from the north. The troops were callow, and they "borrowed" what they needed from the beehives and orchards of local farmers, which did not make for a congenial relationship with the residents. When the army left, most of the fences had become firewood, and not a cow, hen, or hog remained. A number of newspapers throughout the nation had reporters stationed here, including the famous artist and novelist Daniel Strother. Using the nom de plume Porte Crayon, he wrote war stories and made sketches on the Darnestown area that were published in Harper's Magazine.

Maryland remained in the Union, but many Darnestown residents fought for the Confederacy:

- William Darne, a graduate of the US military academy and son of Alex Darne, a West Point graduate, joined Company B, 35th Battalion of the Virginia Calvary at the age of 16.
- Walter Peter Gibson, son of Major George Peter, grew up in a home still known as Montaverde on Berryville Road. He joined the 7th Brigade of the Confederacy, fought at Balls bluff, and was later caught with a cousin in Tennessee dressed as a Federal officer. They were charged with spying and subsequently hung.
- George Rice joined the 1st Maryland Calvary, CSA, and was captured twice by Federal troops. In 1866, he married Elberta Tschiffely, and in 1881, he built the Dr. Richard Beall house on Darnestown Road near Turkey Foot.

As one Yankee soldier put it, sympathetic as they were to the South, during the Civil War years, "Darnestown went to making money with more than Yankee shrewdness, and Darnestown was Union when the army came." He went on to describe the little village: "Most of its homes are of the log and mud style. It boasts no hotel, though some hospitable people would afford entertainment for man and beast. It has three country stores where hardware, dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, quack medicines, and whiskey are sold in rather small quantities – barring the whiskey as to the small. The few houses of more than usual pretention would hardly pass muster in a New English village, and the poorer ones were sadly dilapidated. Two or three houses were enclosed with fences, and had a few flowers in front, but as a whole the village of one street was of the Rip Van Winkle order."

The end of the C&O Canal spelled the end of Darnestown as a commerce center, and residents resorted to farming. One of the largest area milk producers was Kelley's "Pleasant Hills Dairy" which operated well into the late 1950's.

DARNESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

As the desire for worship centers developed, a log cabin church was built at what is now the corner of Route 28 and Route 118. This building was shared by Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and Presbyterians. It was called the "Free or Union Church". On May 12, 1855, under the direction of Rev. Daniel Motzer, the ten communicant members of the Presbyterian congregation decided to build their own church, as a "Missionary Point" of the Neelsville church. They formed part of the Presbytery of Baltimore, a conservative branch of the Presbyterian Church made up largely of Southerners who refused to take a stand against slavery. In 1858, a schism developed in the Presbyterian Church. The "Old School" churches became the Confederate Church. The "New School" churches became the Presbyterian Church USA. Darnestown Presbyterian Church joined the "New School", which first became part of the Presbytery of the Potomac, and later part of the Presbytery of

Washington City. The Presbyterian Church USA admitted blacks to the congregation, who sat in a small balcony at the back of the church.

A gift of three acres by John DuFief, a French immigrant who was a miller and landowner, provided a site from the Presbyterian Church. Having only meager funds, they chose a very simple design without a bell tower or stained glass windows. A side entry led to a basement room where a Sunday School was held (current location of the DCA members meetings). The cornerstone, which can no longer be located, was laid in 1856, and the building was dedicated on May 22, 1858. The iron fence along the cemetery at the back of the church was taken from the Rockville Courthouse. The stones for the foundation were rolled by the male members, and the women raised money by cutting long strips of cloth, which they sold to a manufacturer of braided rugs. At first, there was no heating, and each family provided its own rug for its pew, giving the church a look of Joseph's coat of many colors. Within three years, their membership had grown to 44 people.

The Manse was built on an adjacent, donated lot of twelve acres. The minister spent three quarters of his time at the Darnestown Church, and one quarter at the Neelsville church, to which they were still joined. A gift of \$5,000 from a Scottish businessman named Andrew Small, who was a contractor on the C&O Canal, and then a subsequent bequest by him for \$35,000 led to the construction of the Andrew Small Academy. This was the largest and finest academy in Montgomery County. It had boarding as well as local students, and went up through three years of high school. Up until 1892, the minister of the church was also the principal of the academy, and he received a salary of \$600. The school became the cultural center of the community with concerts, plays, recitals, and a literary society. In 1892, the academy got its first full-time principal. Then in 1907, it was taken over by the Montgomery County school system, and in 1927, it was changed into an elementary school. This ended its service as a cultural center. A new

elementary school (now Darnestown Elementary) was built to replace it in 1955.

MAGRUDER FARM

The North established a Signal Corps school on Magruder farm, where an especially large chestnut tree was fitted with platforms for signalers to use. Signal flags and telescopes were used to exchange information along a chain of signalers that stretched from Harpers Ferry to Georgetown (Signal Tree Lane). As one local resident stated, "Magruder overlooked the river, bristled with cannon and fortifications, just waiting for the Rebs to ford the Potomac at Seneca."

Mrs. Magruder's nephew, Colonel Nicholas Dorsey, joined the Confederacy and was captured at Baltimore (Dorsey Road, a street racing hotspot, near Baltimore). He escaped and took the back roads to Magruder farm, arriving the same day as General Banks of the Union, and was again caught. When confusion arose as the Federals were assigned to quarters, Dorsey, dressed in Mr. Magruder's civilian clothes, walked out, waving to the sentries, and then caught a wagon ride to Seneca where we was rowed across to safety.

Next: Pleasant Hills, Montevideo, Montanverde, and Towns and Areas Around Darnestown

Sources for this Series

Detail of Darnestown from Simon J. Martenet
Library of Congress, MSA SC 1213-1-464

www.mdslavery.net

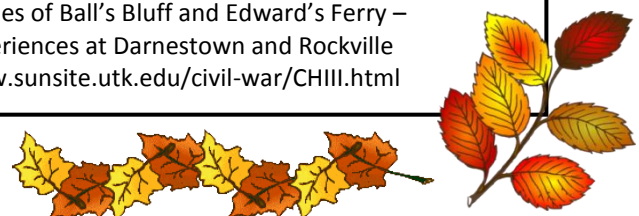
The Maryland Historical Society

Towns Along the Towpath by Kate Mulligan

www.gazette.net

Civil War History & Darnestown
www.sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/Mass19.html

Battles of Ball's Bluff and Edward's Ferry –
Experiences at Darnestown and Rockville
www.sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/CHIII.html



Notes from the President

Continued from page 1



DCA Thanks Long-Time Volunteers

On July 24th, DCA board members gathered in honor of three very special volunteers, Bruce Deppa and Jim and Carol Clifford. Bruce Deppa was DCA President for 13 years and accomplished many projects. Some of his accomplishments include: erecting the “Welcome to Darnestown” sign, starting our roadside flag program, preventing building of a strip mall where Harris Teeter stands, getting the land next to Harris Teeter for our Heritage Park, saving our two champion trees and attending numerous hours of County Council meetings. Darnestown is what it is today because of Bruce Deppa. Our community was foremost in his mind and he always kept an ear open for any plans or changes that would affect our peaceful and quaint little town. Bruce, Steve Ellis and Gerry Foley were instrumental in the development of the Darnestown portion of the Potomac Master Plan which included the original concept of a “village overlay zone” and prevention of sewer extensions. Thank you Bruce for all you have done!

At one town meeting, Bruce Deppa spoke of his experience driving through a small town in Pennsylvania that had American flags flying along the road. He was so moved by this experience, that he asked the meeting attendees if Darnestown could do the same patriotic presentation on such holidays as Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July, Labor Day and Veteran’s Day? The crowd thought it was a great idea. Then came the next question, “Who would volunteer to put up/take down the flags?” A young man sitting in the back of the room raised his hand and said, “I’ll do it.” That man was Jim Clifford. Jim and his wife Carol proceeded to be our “flag people” for the next 17+ years. There are 60 flags and it takes approximately one hour to put them up and one hour to take them down. Carol drove the car while Jim walked with a ladder to each telephone pole. Carol would repair the flags by hand and Jim would order and store the flags and flag brackets.

The DCA presented Bruce, Jim and Carol with a wooden box displaying a flag that had flown in Darnestown. There couldn’t be a more appropriate gift for these exceptional community volunteers!

Theresa’s Vulture

I have been assisting my friend and neighbor, Theresa Caryk, with selling her home. Theresa has lived on Esworthy Road for 37 years and we will miss her dearly. The new owners have already agreed to hold the 2014 Esworthy neighborhood party and Theresa will be our guest of honor! When we began the home selling process back in May, Theresa told me there was a vulture sitting on some eggs in one of her barn stalls in the back yard. Being a country girl, I marched out to the barn to see the situation first hand. Sure enough, there was a huge turkey vulture sitting on something. They were not eggs, they were two white fluffy chicks! Not wanting to disturb them too much, I took a few pictures and left. I proceeded to check on them every two weeks to photograph and document their progress. Each of my visits was met with hissing, wing flapping, bouncing and a low thudding noise. From the beginning, I noticed that one chick was much stronger and more aggressive than the other and unfortunately one of my visits revealed that only the strong chick survived. The other chick was nowhere to be found and most likely was taken by a predator.





During this time, I started to research about Turkey Vultures and found some amazing facts. Vultures have a 6' wing span, weigh 2-4 lbs and can live up to 30 years. They can only grunt and hiss because they lack a syrinx (vocal organ) and are gregarious, roosting in large community groups called a "wake". Contrary to popular belief, vultures do not kill their prey, they scavenge with their extraordinary sense of smell and sight. They have the largest olfactory (smelling) system of all birds and can smell carrion that is only 12-24 hours old from a mile away. You've probably wondered what vultures are doing when you see them perched with their wings spread out. Experts believe this behavior is to dry the wings, warm the body, and bake off bacteria. Groups often spiral upward to gain altitude and are called "kettles". They can rise as high as 20,000 feet, soar for hours without flapping their wings, and travel up to 200 miles/day. Adult and baby vultures can feign dead or projectile vomit if disturbed or harassed. Vultures perform a "cleaning" service and are very important in the animal kingdom. It is illegal to take, kill, or possess an individual, and violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$15,000 and imprisonment of up to 6 months.

EXTRA !! EXTRA !!

Election Results for the DCA Executive Board

Below are the election results for the 2014-2015 DCA Executive Board Officers from the June 19th Town Meeting:

1. President.....Lisa Patterson-Troike (Esworthy)
2. Vice President.....Bob Thompson (Brookmead)
3. Treasurer.....Guy Armantrout (Springfield)
4. Recording Secretary.....Susan Allaway (White Water)
5. Corresponding Secretary.....Michael Gottlieb (Pioneer Hills)
6. Chairman.....Art Slesinger (Tern)
7. Three-Year Trustee.....Karen Hinrichsen (Haddonfield)

All Executive Board positions are elected positions. Committee chairpersons are appointed by the Executive Board to assist with DCA business and administration and function in an advisory capacity. Only Executive Board members have a binding vote on issues brought before the board.



SHARE THE ACORN

A colorful, electronic version of the Acorn can be found on the DCA website at

www.darnewtowncivic.org

Share the news from our fair community with friends and family around the Country!





We are the Champions!

After a Quarter Century of Trying Really Hard to be Athletic, DCA Softball League Wraps-up a Highly Competitive 25th Season!

By Curt McCormick

After 12 weeks of close, competitive (and amazingly rain-free) play that featured tight contests and web gems galore, the DCA adult co-ed recreational softball season drew to a close on August 10th with Western Darnestown (WD) capturing its third title in four years.

The final standings hinged on the season's final game. With a win over WD, the hard-charging Seneca-Highlands-Berryville (SHB) could have forced a three-way tie for the championship. The game was tight early on, but the Western bats woke up and the squad rolled to a decisive 15 - 5 victory. Defending champions Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) had led in the standings for much of the season, but stumbled badly down the stretch, losing two of their three final contests, and could only watch and hope for a share of the title with an SHB win.

Much like this year's Boston Red Sox, the venerable Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ), struggled mightily this season, failing to win any games. ARMQ was much more competitive than their record indicated, as several games were decided late and could have gone either way. ARMQ ownership continues to express confidence in the future direction of the team, as is evidenced in the re-signing of team skipper Joe McIntyre to a new contract for 2015. A strong recruiting effort over the coming winter months promises to restore ARMQ to its former glory.

The 2014 season set records on two counts. First, there had never been a year with absolutely no rain-outs. Second, never before had three teams been so tightly packed throughout a full campaign. Regarding the final standings, astute readers will note that most



teams were "above average." This "Lake Wobegon" exemplifies the nature of Darnestown. "Next year we hope and expect ALL the teams will be above average," stated league commissioner, Dave Bivans, not understanding the statistical impossibility of such an outcome.

Many thanks to all who worked behind the scenes and came out to play. The 25th anniversary season was a big success. A tip of the hat to the league's legions of fans and supportive spouses and kids, who reliably showed up to cheer on the squads and renew acquaintances throughout the hazy, lazy Sunday summer afternoons

The 2014 Stats...

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>RF/RA</u>	<u>GB</u>
Western Darnestown	9	3	142	105	1.352	---
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	8	4	120	109	1.101	1.0
Seneca-Highlands-Berryville	7	5	111	109	1.018	2.0
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	0	12	91	141	0.645	12



Five Local Eagle Scouts Honored

By Eric and Corinne Nelson



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

On July 29, 2014, five scouts from Troop 1300 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Kentlands were recognized at an Eagle Scout Court-of-Honor held at Calleva Farm for earning the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts of America.

Those who were honored included Darnestown residents Sean Nelson, Jamie Hanson, and Nick Sutliff; and, North Potomac residents Eli Holmstead and Shayne Carver. In addition to completing over 21 merit badges, an Eagle Scout must display leadership while providing community service. Under the leadership and supervision of each of these young men, at least 80 combined hours of service by youth and adults were volunteered to complete each service project. Projects included painting and repairing drywall in a homeless shelter for Community Ministries of Rockville (Sean Nelson); Refurbishing a bike trail and building a bridge at Calleva Camp Farm (Jamie Hanson); Constructing a bridge at the Seneca Creek State Park along the Seneca Bluffs Trail (Nick Sutliff); Building benches along the Hoyles Mill Conservation Bike Trail (Eli Holmstead); and, Designing and constructing benches in the baseball dugouts at Quince Orchard High School (Shayne Carver).



Sean Nelson, Shayne Carver, Eli Holmstead, Jamie Hanson, Nick Sutliff

Greg Carver, the former Scout Master of Troop 1300, who led these young men through much of their scouting experience, gave a tribute to each Eagle Scout recognizing their achievements and contributions to the community. The keynote speaker at the Court-of-Honor was Bernie McMahon, a Navy SEAL who has served for 21 years in a variety of leadership capacities

such as Platoon Commander, Special Operations Task Force Officer, and Deputy Commander, gave a motivational speech about staying physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight as he related examples of courage among Navy SEALs. In a final charge to the scouts, Brian Zarchin, Lieutenant Colonel of Aviation Branch of the United States Army, gave each of the honorees a coin from his previous command which portrayed a spread Eagle as a symbol of leadership and loyalty to country with a charge to remember the values of the Eagle Scout as they progress through life. To remember that "great leaders inspire individuals and teams to become more than they think they can become" and to remember that "you can't be a good leader unless you are a good follower...". Lt. Zarchin concluded with a final charge for the Eagles to remember the words inscribed above the Eagle, "E Pluribus Unum", Latin for "out of many, one". Know that like the military where less than 1% of our nation serves, only about 2% of the boys who enter Scouting will achieve what you have been recognized for tonight, the rank of Eagle Scout. "Out of many – ONE". "From this day forward, you are expected to fulfill your DUTY to NOT ONLY uphold the honor, integrity, and good character expected of a scout, but to LEAD others to take initiative and provide purpose, direction and motivation to INSPIRE others to make the world a better place; One person and one task at a time." Such values and examples of courage and valor are the core of what make this, United States of America strong.



Lt. Brian Zarchin, Sean Nelson, Shayne Carver, Eli Holmstead, Jamie Hanson, Nick Sutliff, Bernie McMahon



More News from Our Local Scouts...

By Christopher P. Thomas

Boy Scout Troop 1094

Looking Forward to a Great 2014-2015

Our Darnestown Boy Scouts, Troop 1094, wrapped up an exciting 2013-2014 with a great Scout Camp week at Camp Liberty in western Pennsylvania. In addition to camping in the wilderness for six nights, the 34 Troop 1094 Scouts' activities included kayaking, swimming, archery, and fishing. The Scouts also had the opportunity to work on a myriad of merit badges from First Aide and Wilderness Survival to Cooking and Leatherwork. Over the course of just one week, the Scouts managed to earn a total of 72 merit badges. 10 of Troops 1094's newest Scouts earned the rank of Scout, a great achievement that included completing a 5 mile late afternoon hike. In addition to the merit badges and advancements earned by individual Scouts, Troop 1094 won Camp Liberty's Conservation Award for the week.

2013-2014 was a great year for Troop 1094 with countless Scouts earning merit badges and moving up in the ranks. The year was highlighted by five Scouts earning the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout projects included: scraping and painting the Our Lady of the Visitation storage barn, building benches and cleaning a path in Seneca State Park, building brick sign bases for information signs in Seneca State Park, and designing and building archery targets for the local Izaak Walton League youth archery program.

2014-2015 is going to be a terrific year for the Troop. In addition to smaller outings and events focused on merit badges and advancement, the fall calendar includes a trip into D.C. to help clean the Korean War Veterans Memorial, an overnight outing on Assateague Island, a canoe and kayaking trip on the Wye River, Scouting for Food for the Capital Area Food Bank, and overnight stay on a U.S. Navy Warship. Troop 1094 will also support upcoming Eagle Scout projects and conduct fall and spring grounds clean-ups at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

In addition to the many milestones achieved by Troop 1094 Scouts over the past 12 months, the Troop also experienced a change in adult leadership with Russell Johnson turning over Scout Master duties to James DelVecchio. Mr. Johnson turned over the reins for the Troop at the June 2014 Court of Honor noting the

Scouts' hard work and the great support the Troop receives from the community and the Scout families. Mr. DelVecchio assumed Scout Master duties after serving as the 2013-2014 Assistant Scout Master. Mr. Johnson will continue to work with the Troop, serving as the 2014-2015 Assistant Scout Master.

For more information about Troop 1094 contact Scout Master Jim DelVecchio at: sm@troop1094.org.



New Scout Master James DelVecchio



Scout Jack Thomas grilling steaks at Heritage



Scouts Kayaking at Heritage



Got a Question? Email us at
DSRCTennis@gmail.com
 Or visit the DSRC website at
www.dsclub.com



Your Community Pool – Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

By Janet Swisher

Another great summer at the club. Both our Demon Swim and Tennis Teams worked hard and represented Darnestown with true sportsmanship and determination. Our members enjoyed many social events, relaxing in the sunshine, and improving their tennis skills.

As the summer season winds down, our club prepares for our fall tennis programs lead by DSRC's Tennis Pro, Brad Jones. DSRC offers a full range of tennis programs for kids, teens and adults to include:

Junior Tennis:

Session 1: September 1st – 26th

Session 2: October 6th – 31st

- Tiny Tots (Ages 4-6) Tuesday & Thursday
4:00 - 4:45 PM
- Beginner (Ages 7-9) Monday & Wednesday
4:00 - 5:00 PM
- Intermediate (Ages 9-12) Monday & Wednesday
5:00 - 6:30 PM
- Advanced (Ages 9-16) Tuesday & Thursday
4:45 - 6:15 PM
- Tournament Drill (9-17) Friday 4:00 - 5:30 PM



Caleigh Wilson



Instruction & Clinics

September 1st - 27th

- Private Lessons with the Pro (All Levels)
Rates: \$65 – 1 hr; \$40 – ½ hr
(Prorated Group Rates too!)
- Weekend Warrior Adult Clinics
Intermediate/Advanced
Saturday 9:00 to 10:30 AM
- Beginner Clinics
Tuesday 6:30 - 8:30 PM
- Intermediate Clinics
Wednesday 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Stoke of the Day Clinic
Thursday 6:30 - 7:30 PM
- Cardio - Monday 6:30 – 7:30 PM

Gemütlichkeit - SOCIAL FUN at DSRC!

Be sure to join our fun and exciting Darnestoberfest (Adult Social) on Saturday, September 27th from 6:30 to 11:00 PM. Last year's Darnestoberfest was so much fun it'd be a shame to not do it again! Come sit in our Biergarten Gasthof and eat some Brats, sip some beer, and enjoy your friends! \$25/person in advance, \$30/person at the door. Non-Members are welcome!



DCA Hoedown

44th Anniversary

Join your friends and neighbors for a spectacular evening of dinner, dancing, drinks, desserts, and hayrides

All-inclusive for only \$35 per person!!!

**Friday, October 17, 2014
6:30 P.M. to MIDNIGHT**

**Smokey Glen Farm – Main Pavilion
16407 Riffle Ford Road
Right here in Darnestown!**

**Back by popular demand:
Darnestown's *favorite* caller, Mac McCall**

Serving Smokey Glen Farm's famous complete BBQ chicken and BBQ spareribs buffet dinner, starting with seafood bisque and ending with delicious smoked fruit pies. Included are sodas, apple cider, beer, wine, bar beverages, and coffee

ADULTS ONLY!

**Reservations with payment must be received by October 10th!
No refunds Payment will not be accepted at the door**

Please clip and submit this form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/10/14 to:

Lisa Patterson-Troiike, 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874

Direct any questions to Lisa via email (LisaAPatterson@aol.com) or phone (301-548-0999)

Full names of those in your group: _____

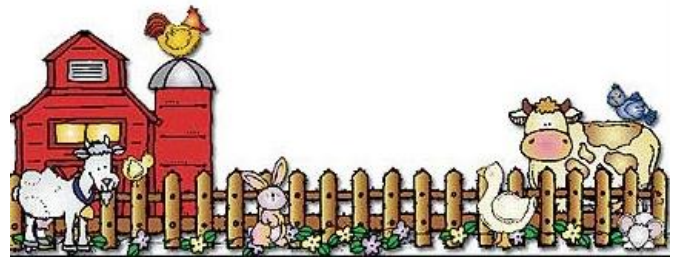
Phone #: _____ # of Reservations: _____ @ \$35.⁰⁰ each: Enclosed: \$ _____

Please list full names of those in your party. Nametags will be awaiting you at the door and will serve as your ticket.



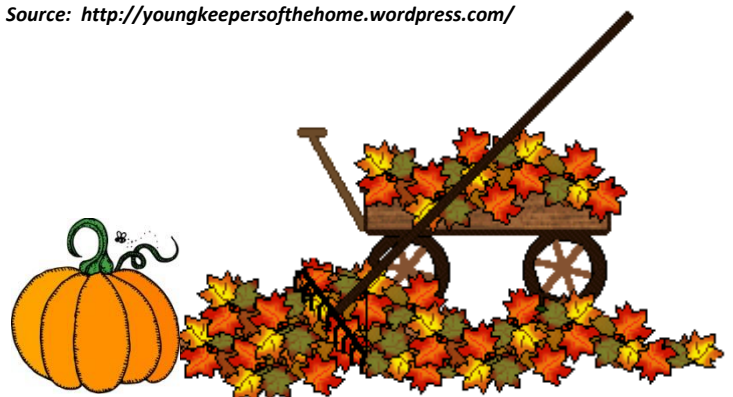
Homesteading Corner!

20 Fun Little Tips for Around the House



1. Take your bananas apart when you get home from the store. If you leave them connected at the stem, they ripen faster.
2. Store your opened chunks of cheese in aluminum foil. It will stay fresh much longer and will not mold.
3. Stuff a miniature marshmallow in the bottom of a sugar cone to prevent ice cream drips.
4. Spray your Tupperware with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato-based sauces and there won't be any stains.
5. To really make scrambled eggs or omelets rich, add a couple of spoonfuls of sour cream, cream cheese, or heavy cream and then beat them up.
6. To prevent eggshells from cracking, add a pinch of salt to the water before hard-boiling.
7. Heat up leftover pizza in a nonstick skillet on top of the stove, set heat to med-low and heat till warm. This keeps the crust crispy. No soggy microwave pizza.
8. Simple Deviled Eggs: Put cooked egg yolks in a zip lock bag. Seal bag, then mash until they are all broken up. Add remainder of ingredients, reseal, keep mashing it up, mixing thoroughly. Cut the tip of the baggy, squeeze mixture into egg. Just throw bag away when done for easy clean up.
9. When you buy a container of cake frosting from the store, whip it with your mixer for a few minutes. You can double it in size. You get to frost more cake/cupcakes with the same amount. You also eat less sugar and calories per serving.
10. To warm biscuits, pancakes, or muffins that were refrigerated, place them in a microwave with a cup of water. The increased moisture will keep the food moist and help it reheat faster.
11. Place a dryer sheet in your pocket. It will keep the mosquitoes away.
12. To keep squirrels from eating your plants, sprinkle your plants with cayenne pepper. The cayenne pepper doesn't hurt the plant and the squirrels won't come near it.
13. Pin a small safety pin to the seam of your slip and you will not have a clingy skirt or dress. Same thing works with slacks that cling when wearing panty hose. Place pin in seam of slacks and ... guess what ... static is gone!
14. Before you pour sticky substances into a measuring cup, fill with hot water. Dump out the hot water, but don't dry cup. Next, add your ingredient, such as peanut butter, and watch how easily it comes right out. (Or spray the measuring cup or spoon with Pam before using)
15. Hate foggy windshields? Buy a chalkboard eraser and keep it in the glove box of your car. When the windows fog, rub with the eraser! Works better than a cloth!
16. If you seal an envelope and then realize you forgot to include something inside, just place your sealed envelope in the freezer for an hour or two. Viola! It unseals easily.
17. Use your hair conditioner to shave your legs. It's cheaper than shaving cream and leaves your legs really smooth. It's also a great way to use up the conditioner you bought but didn't like when you tried it in your hair. ☺
18. To get rid of pesky fruit flies, take a small glass, fill it 1/2' with apple cider vinegar and 2 drops of dish washing liquid; mix well. You will find those flies drawn to the cup and gone forever!
19. To get rid of ants and other pests, use Borax and sprinkle around corners of home, under cabinets, near doorways and windows. You only need a very small amount. You can use a ketchup picnic bottle to squirt in small spaces.
20. Even if you are very diligent about cleaning the lint filter in your dryer, it still may be causing you a problem. If you use dryer sheets a waxy build up could be accumulating on the filter causing your dryer to overheat. The solution to this is to clean your filter with a toothbrush and hot soapy water every 6 months.

Source: <http://youngkeepersofthehome.wordpress.com/>





When pumpkin season is over, you might begin wondering what you should do with any leftover pumpkins you still have around the house. Before you toss them into the garbage, check out these three ideas:

Are you a nature lover? Cut up your old pumpkins and put them out in the backyard to attract wildlife critters.



Donate the pumpkins to a local farm or animal shelter.



Donate the pumpkins to the National Zoo for the annual Elephant Pumpkin Stomp!

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/>



Jessie Cohen, NZP photographer

Thank you
for helping the
animals!



School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary

By Janet Swisher



Summer time fun... who can beat it. Now that we are all relaxed and the children had a nice long break, it is that time of year again - BACK TO SCHOOL. Welcome back teachers, students, and staff!

We begin the year with our key fundraising event the DES READ-A-THON. The READ-A-THON is a reading incentive program designed to motivate our children to read, to keep them reading and to encourage a "lifelong" love of reading! 100% of the money raised will go to the PTA to support our school and community service programs. Prizes and other incentives will be awarded to the students who read for the most minutes; and/or collect the most funds!

Last school year the students raised \$21,231 which supported the following programs: implemented a new online school directory, including a mobile app.; \$4500 to support the media center; provided cultural arts programming for the students; purchased a mobile computer cart with 10 laptop computers; and much more. Be sure to stop by and visit the student MOSIAC art piece hanging in the "kiss and ride" entry way.

This school year marks the 14th year that Darnestown Elementary has partnered with Gaithersburg Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program. Gaithersburg Elementary is a Title 1 school of nearly 700 students, over 70% of who are in free and reduced meals programs. For the past thirteen years, the generous donations from our Darnestown families have helped the families at Gaithersburg Elementary prepare their children for a successful school year.

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

- ✓ Back To School Picnic: September 5th
- ✓ Back to School Nights: September 10th
- ✓ READ-A-THON: September 29th - October 24th
- ✓ Reading Night: October 16th
- ✓ Fall Fun Dress Up: October 30th
- ✓ Book Fair: November 7th - 13th

Our DES Scholastic Book Fair is the perfect place to purchase those holiday gifts for all ages.



The students, parents, grandparents and friends of the family drop by to browse and purchase books. Proceeds supply books for the teacher's classrooms, library, and PTA for other educational activities for the students of DES. Please drop by our **DES Book Fair** this year held from **November 7th thru 13th** to fill those holiday wish lists whether or not you have a student at DES – all neighbors and community members are welcome.

Parents please continue to remember the Gaithersburg Elementary students when you are "BACK TO SCHOOL Shopping" by contributing school supplies. Supplies needed include:

- ✓ #2 pencils
- ✓ ballpoint pens
- ✓ highlighters
- ✓ composition books
- ✓ pencil boxes
- ✓ erasers
- ✓ colored pencils
- ✓ crayons
- ✓ loose-leaf paper
- ✓ pocket portfolios
- ✓ 3-ring binders
- ✓ pencil sharpeners
- ✓ backpacks and lunch bags/boxes
- ✓ markers
- ✓ rulers
- ✓ scissors
- ✓ glue sticks and squeeze glue



Send your school supplies in any time! We have a collection bin at the front office. All contributions should be received by **September 10th – Back to School Night!**

Be sure to sign up for PTA email notifications on our NEW PTA website. You will find more information and calendar of events too!

<http://www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/>

Seneca Academy

By Brooke Carroll, PhD
Head of School

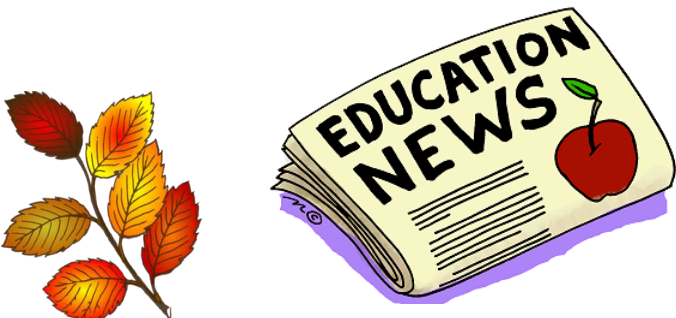


Seneca Academy is ready for another fabulous year of engaged learning! With our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program firmly established, we are supporting students to become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, balanced communicators and thinkers. Over the summer of 2014, Seneca Academy completed an 8-month strategic planning process. Two of our goals directly relate to the wider Darnestown community. First, we are seeking to more fully utilize our building and grounds. Did you know that the Seneca Academy playing fields, gazebo, gathering room and classrooms can be rented? We'd like to know if anyone in the community has any needs that we might be able to meet with our facilities. Also, we are working on creating partnerships and connections with businesses and organizations in the local and wider community. We welcome discussions with interested Darnestown community members who would like to strategically connect.

Seneca Academy now offers a Parent's Day Out program for 2-year-olds! Parents may drop their child off for a morning of play each week. Children who are 2 by June 1 are eligible- potty training not required. We are currently taking applications for an October start. More info and all forms can be found on our website at

www.SenecaAcademy.org/parents-day-out/

Seneca Academy will be hosting "Walk In Wednesdays" from 9:30-11am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting in October. We invite community members to visit! Find out more at www.SenecaAcademy.org or call us at 301-869-3728.



We're Going Back To School



Mary of Nazareth



Mission

Mary of Nazareth School prepares children for lives of service to God and neighbor, through a rigorous academic program rooted in the faith and teachings of the Roman Catholic Church, as professed in the Creed, celebrated in the sacraments, lived in Christian virtue and affirmed in prayer.

Philosophy

Mary of Nazareth Roman Catholic Elementary School is a Christ-centered environment where each child, nurtured by parent, parish and educator, is encouraged to follow the example of Jesus in all aspects of life. Our students thrive in an environment of regular worship, service, daily prayer, devotion to Mary, and consistent reference to the word of God. We welcome diversity among our inclusive student-body and stress the unifying concepts of tolerance, love and respect. Students are encouraged to seek knowledge through the teachings of the Catholic Church and apply those teachings to daily life.

Mary of Nazareth Roman Catholic Elementary School is comprised of three age-focused programs: early childhood, intermediate and middle school. Within these programs, teachers collaborate to develop and strengthen relationships. These interdependent relationships within the school community are fostered through the leadership of administrators.

We are dedicated to providing students with a well-rounded curriculum, which focuses on the spiritual, developmental, emotional, cognitive, and physical well being of our students. Recognizing the multiple learning styles and diverse needs present in each classroom, the educators differentiate with a variety of resources, teaching methods and assessments. Through reinforcement, praise and consequence, we foster an enthusiasm for education. As a result, our students develop the inner confidence to make choices that positively impact their world.

Contact Information

14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Main Office: 301-869-0940 ext 3
www.maryofnazareth.org/



Butler Montessori School

By Lisa Daly



Art Center Opening on Butler Montessori's School Campus

Butler Montessori is excited to announce the opening of The Ginny Wright Art Center on the school's 22-acre campus in Darnestown, MD. The 8,000 sq. ft. art center was built to support our 40-year history of providing excellence in Montessori education. The art center expands the school's emphasis on music and the arts with a music room, a dedicated art studio, two classrooms, and a huge multipurpose room for performances, community gatherings, and other indoor activities. Join us on Saturday, October 25 from 1:00-4:00 PM at Butler Montessori's Annual Fall Festival to celebrate the opening of this beautiful new space named in honor of one of the founders of the Alden-Wright Foundation, an organization dedicated to support non-profit efforts in the local communities of each of its board members. We would like to thank the Alden-Wright Foundation, as well as the many generous donors who helped make this art center possible!



Midway!



The Ginny Wright Art Center!



Breaking Ground

Butler Montessori is an Association Montessori International (AMI) accredited school for children ages eighteen months through eighth grade. Montessori education supports the development of the whole child through academics, music, arts, and physical education including our unique equestrian program. Our school guides children toward independence and social responsibility creating the basis for education as a lifelong process based on a solid academic foundation.

For more information about Butler Montessori call 301-977-6600, visit www.butlerschool.org, or enjoy our beautiful campus at 15951 Germantown Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874.



Church News!

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

By Jean Sansonetti

FUMC is proud to announce that we are now the official host organization for the Boy Scout Troop 291 as well as for Cub Scout Pack 1761!

Fairhaven VBS Welcomes Area Children

Nearly 100 children from the greater Darnestown community enjoyed a week of discoveries at Fairhaven's "Workshop of Wonders" Bible school July 28 to Aug. 1. The church was transformed into a center for creativity, with a giant workbench, shelves of craft and building supplies, a robot, and even a giant talking carpenter ant puppet. Bible dramas were presented by costumed performers and life lessons drawn from them. All week long sounds of enthusiastic singing rang through the halls and amusing scientific experiments were carefully explained. Games, snacks, and crafts were all carefully chosen to tie in with the daily themes. The children were challenged to think about how they can make this world a better place. They collected school supplies for less fortunate kids in our community and donated items needed by children in the foster care system for their outreach project.

The Bible school is non-denominational and children from many area churches attended. For many the highlight was Thursday evening's Friends and Family Celebration where the kids got to show how much they had learned and done in just the first four days. They put on an excellent show with lots of singing. The week of VBS concluded on Friday with the annual pizza party, then the group had to say goodbye to new friends and caring staff members until next year.

Please join us on Sundays for our worship opportunities:

- ❖ 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School and Middle & High School Sunday School
- ❖ 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ❖ 11:30 AM Coffee Hour
- ❖ 6:00 Youth Group

Contact Information

12801 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433
www.fairhavenumc.net



Rev. Esther Holimon



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

OUR VISION

In grateful response to the grace and love of God in Christ:

We are a spiritual home, a safe haven, grounded in Scripture and centered in life, where we are nurtured and challenged in our journey of faith. We welcome all people to join us in worship and prayer, and in joyful service to the community around us.

Our vision for St. Nicholas Church is captured in our slogan: "A Place to Belong! A Place to Become!"

When you come to St. Nick's, you don't just belong – you also become. Why? Because we know that God has planted in each of us a small part of God's image – through Christ's love God is calling a unique person into being in you. We want to be a place where you can experience that growth. We serve all God's people and transform the world with small deeds done with great love, one at a time.

Please check our website's "Upcoming Events" throughout the fall for all of the wonderful activities and events we have planned at St. Nick's Episcopal!

<http://www.saintnicks.com/wp/>

Contact Information

15575 Germantown Road
Germantown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
www.saintnicks.com
office@saintnicks.com



Rev. Ken Howard

ATTENTION ALL HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

If you've got news, updates, or special events to share, please email the Editor at

wsgooch@comcast.net

by November 1, 2014
for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Kathy Agate and Larry Ciorlorito

Annual Outdoor Service & Picnic on September 7th

DPC has its annual "homecoming" on the morning of September 7th, starting with an outdoor service on the church lawn at 9:30 AM, and followed by our annual picnic and barbecue. As always, the picnic will feature pony rides, games, plenty of great food and our ever-popular cakewalk. Seating is provided for the outdoor service, but families are welcome to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. The outdoor service is weather contingent, so we'll just move our family-friendly service indoors if necessary, and the picnic and barbecue are rain or shine! If so inclined you may sign-up for the picnic via the following link, but everyone is welcome regardless and we are always delighted by visitors: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a4fadab29a3f94-dpcchurch>



Annual Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar

Perhaps the biggest event of the year at DPC is our annual Bazaar sponsored by the Darnestown Presbyterian Women. This Bazaar is a genuine Darnestown institution. It starts at 8:30 AM, runs into mid-afternoon and offers something of interest to everyone. The Bazaar features several different rooms with a multiplicity of items, including crafts, home décor, holiday gifts, jewelry, our always popular Christmas room, pre-owned Books, Toys, and Sporting Goods, Vintage and Garage Sale Treasures, and designer Women's and Children's Clothing. We also offer a selection of home baked goods and homemade jams in our Country Kitchen. While you browse, you can also enjoy a hot lunch or delicious homemade dessert at modest prices in our Café. As always, the proceeds of the Bazaar will go to support multiple charities. Don't miss out on this fabulous opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors as you find one-of-a-kind treasures. Contact Kathy Agate at kathy@agate.us with any questions. Hope to see you there!



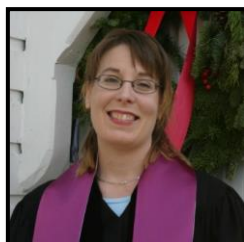
**Darnestown Presbyterian Church's
Annual Bazaar and Boutique on
Saturday, November 8, 2014
8:30 AM - 3:00 PM.**



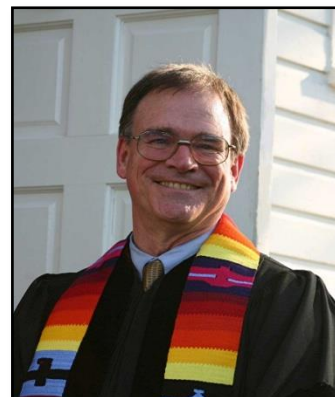
Return to standard schedule. Starting on September 14th, we leave summer behind and return to our standard schedule of Sunday services at 8:45 and 11:00, with Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 and Coffee Hour at 10:30 in our Fellowship Hall. Worship is child friendly. For information regarding upcoming events and our church in general, please visit our website at www.darnestownpc.org or friend us on Facebook. All those who seek God are welcome to our visitor and family-friendly services, and the church nursery is available starting 30 minutes before the first service.

Contact Information:

15120 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127
dpchurch@comcast.net



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara



Rev. Dave McNeilly

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

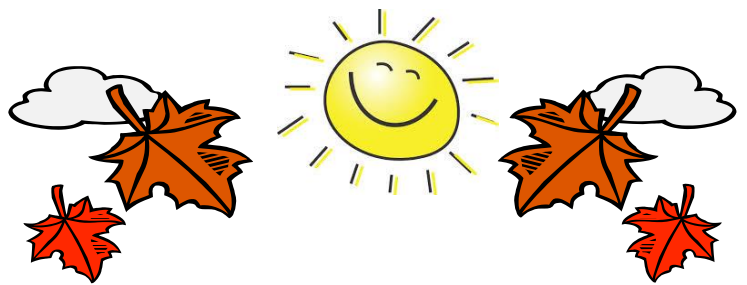


By Merikay Smith with photos by Susan Allaway

Summer began for the Darne Bloomers with a delightful garden tour at Pamela King's home (see photos from Susan Allaway). Her beautiful boxwood perennial garden in her front yard features formal geometric patterns. Her backyard pond surprised the group with the biggest fish many had seen.



Pamela King's Home



A second garden tour followed at Elizabeth Weaver's where her swimming pool with gorgeous natural stone insets and large waterfall were accented with potted plants galore. A putting green beyond the Weaver lawn was a welcome sight for our golfers. The garden tours were followed by a delicious pot-luck lunch.



Elizabeth Weaver's Home



In September we will resume our monthly meetings held each second Thursday of the month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. On September 11th we will hear from Barbara Glickman, author of *Capital Splendor: The Gardens and Parks of Washington, DC*. She will be sharing photographs by Valerie Brown from more than 30 area gardens and parks. This talk was originally scheduled last February but snowed out.

Our October meeting will be a bulb planting demonstration with each club member planting an urn with spring bulbs followed by a member plant swap.

Guests are welcome to attend our meetings but should contact our club president, Becky Hanley, in advance (301-330-5437).





The Real History of Halloween



The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the areas that are now Ireland, the United Kingdom, and northern France, celebrated their new year on November 1st. This day marked the end of summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark, cold winter, a time of year that was often associated with human death. Celts believed that on the night before the new year, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead became blurred. On the night of October 31, they celebrated **Samhain**, when it was believed that the ghosts of the dead returned to earth. In addition to causing trouble and damaging crops, Celts thought that the presence of the otherworldly spirits made it easier for the Druids, or Celtic priests, to make predictions about the future. For a people entirely dependent on the volatile natural world, these prophecies were an important source of comfort and direction during the long, dark winter.

To commemorate the event, Druids built huge sacred bonfires, where the people gathered to burn crops and animals as sacrifices to the Celtic deities.

During the celebration, the Celts wore costumes, typically consisting of animal heads and skins, and attempted to tell each others' fortunes. When the celebration was over, they re-lit their hearth fires, which they had extinguished earlier that evening, from the sacred bonfire to help protect them during the coming winter.

By AD 43, Romans had conquered the majority of Celtic territory. In the course of the four hundred years that the Romans ruled the Celtic lands, two festivals of Roman origin were combined with the traditional Celtic celebration of Samhain.

The first was **Feralia**, a day in late October when the Romans traditionally commemorated the passing of the dead. The second was a day to honor **Pomona**, the Roman goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona is the apple and the incorporation of this celebration into Samhain probably explains the tradition of "bobbing" for apples that is practiced today on Halloween.

By the 800s, the influence of Christianity had spread into Celtic lands. In the seventh century, Pope Boniface IV designated November 1 as **All Saints' Day**, a time to honor saints and martyrs. It is widely believed today that the pope was attempting to replace the Celtic festival of

the dead with a related, but church-sanctioned holiday. The celebration was also called All-hallows or All-hallowmas (from Middle English Alhallowmesse meaning All Saints' Day) and the night before it, the night of Samhain, began to be called All-hallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween. Even later, in A.D. 1000, the church would make November 2 All Souls' Day, a day to honor the dead. It was celebrated similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades, and dressing up in costumes as saints, angels, and devils. Together, the three celebrations, the eve of All Saints', All Saints', and All Souls', were called Hallowmas.

Source: www.history.com

And for the kids...

♪ *Humphrey the Blue-Nosed Pumpkin* ♪

Sung to the tune of Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

Humphrey the blue-nosed pumpkin,
had a very spooky nose.
And if you ever saw it,
you might even say it shows.



All of the other pumpkins,
used to laugh and call him names.
They never let poor Humphrey
play in any pumpkin games.

Then one foggy Halloween Eve,
the Great Pumpkin came to say,
"Humphrey, with your nose so blue,
you'll make all the ghosts say BOO!"

Then all the pumpkins loved him,
and they shouted out with glee,
Humphrey, the blue-nosed pumpkin,
You'll go down in history!

Design your own pumpkin faces to go along with this song!!

www.dltk-holidays.com/halloween/mpumpkinfaces.htm

*Site contains templates for a tall pumpkin,
a short pumpkin, 10 eyes, 5 mouths & eyebrows,
and 10 noses!*

Turkey Trivia!

How the Turkey Got Its Name

There are a number of explanations for the origin of the name of Thanksgiving's favorite dinner guest. Some believe Christopher Columbus thought that the land he discovered was connected to India, and believed the bird he discovered (the turkey) was a type of peacock. He therefore called it 'tuka,' which is 'peacock' in Tamil, an Indian language. Though the turkey is actually a type of pheasant, one can't blame the explorer for trying.

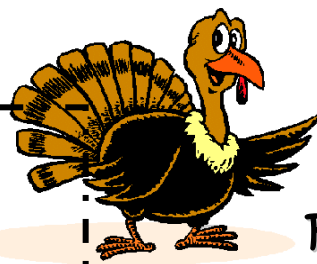
The Native American name for turkey is 'firkee'; some say this is how turkeys got their name.

Simple facts, however, sometimes produce the best answers - when a turkey is scared, it makes a "turk, turk, turk" noise.

A Few Fun Turkey Facts

- ❖ According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 45 million turkeys are cooked and eaten in the US at Thanksgiving.
- ❖ In 2011, more than 248 million turkeys were expected to be raised with an average live weight per bird of 28 pounds with nearly 6 billion pounds of turkey processed.
- ❖ A turkey under sixteen weeks of age is called a *fryer*, while a young *roaster* is five to seven months old.
- ❖ Turkeys are the only breed of poultry native to the Western Hemisphere.
- ❖ Turkeys have great hearing, but no external ears.
- ❖ Turkeys can see in color, and have excellent visual acuity and a wide field of vision (about 270 degrees), which makes sneaking up on them difficult.
- ❖ Turkeys have an excellent sense of taste, but a poor sense of smell.
- ❖ Domesticated turkeys cannot fly. Wild turkeys, however, can fly for short distances at speeds up to 55 miles per hour!
- ❖ Wild turkeys can also reach running speeds of 25 miles per hour on the ground.
- ❖ Turkeys sometimes spend the night in trees.
- ❖ Baby turkeys are called *poults*.
- ❖ The ballroom dance known as the *Turkey Trot* was named for the short, jerky steps a turkey makes.

Source: www.infoplease.com



Thanksgiving Fact or Fiction?

1. FACT OR FICTION: THANKSGIVING IS HELD ON THE FINAL THURSDAY OF NOVEMBER EACH YEAR.

Fiction! In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln designated the last Thursday in November as a national day of thanksgiving. However, in 1939, after a request from the National Retail Dry Goods Association, President Franklin Roosevelt decreed that the holiday should always be celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month (and never the occasional fifth, as occurred in 1939) in order to extend the holiday shopping season by a week. The decision sparked great controversy, and was still unresolved two years later, when the House of Representatives passed a resolution making the last Thursday in November a legal national holiday. The Senate amended the resolution, setting the date as the fourth Thursday, and the House eventually agreed.

2. FACT OR FICTION: BENJAMIN FRANKLIN THOUGHT THE TURKEY SHOULD BE THE NATIONAL BIRD OF THE UNITED STATES.

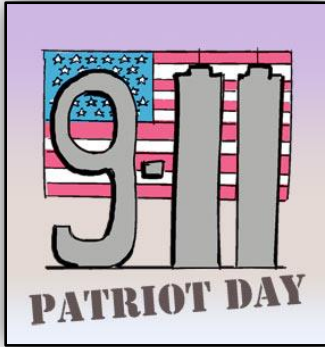
Fact! In a letter to his daughter sent in 1784, Benjamin Franklin suggested that the wild turkey would be a more appropriate national symbol for the newly independent United States than the bald eagle (which had earlier been chosen by the Continental Congress). He argued that the turkey was "a much more respectable Bird," "a true original Native of America," and "though a little vain and silly, a Bird of Courage."

3. FACT OR FICTION: ON THANKSGIVING DAY IN 2007, TWO TURKEYS EARNED A TRIP TO DISNEY WORLD.

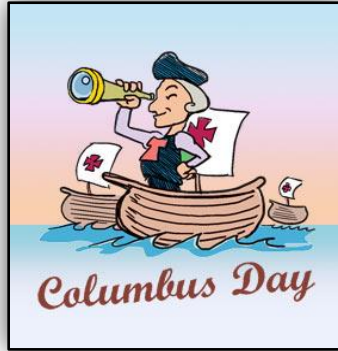
Fact! On November 20, 2007, President George W. Bush granted a "pardon" to two turkeys, named May and Flower, at the 60th annual National Thanksgiving Turkey presentation, held in the Rose Garden at the White House. The two turkeys were flown to Orlando, Florida, where they served as honorary grand marshals for the Disney World Thanksgiving Parade. The current tradition of presidential turkey pardons began in 1947, under Harry Truman, but the practice is said to have informally begun with Abraham Lincoln, who granted a pardon to his son Tad's pet turkey.



Important Dates, To Remember From September, Through November



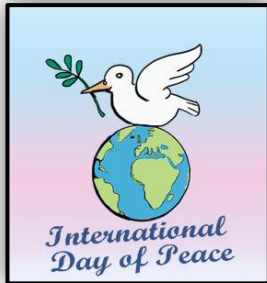
Thursday, September 11th



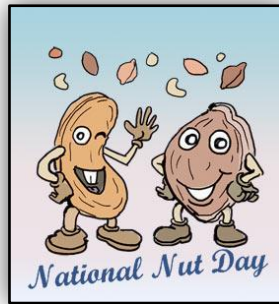
Monday, October 13th



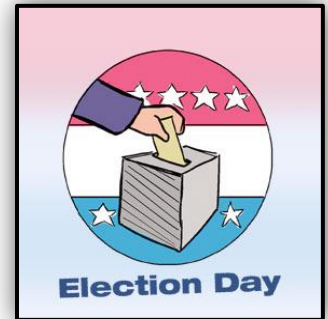
Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 2nd



Sunday, September 21st



Wednesday, October 22nd

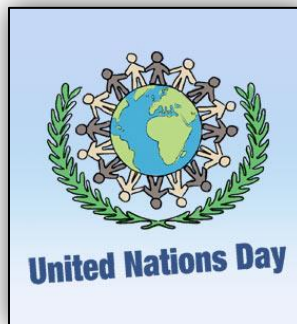


Tuesday, November 4th



Roshashana

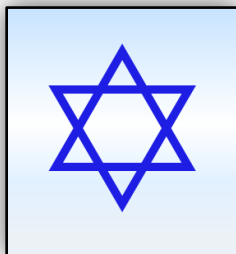
Wednesday – Friday
September 24th - 26th



Friday, October 24th



Tuesday, November 11th



Yom Kippur

Saturday, October 4th



Friday, October 31st



Thursday, November 27th

Community Interest

It's a Darne' Good Cookbook

DCA cookbooks are now \$10! This is a great deal considering some retailers sell them for over \$20. The recipes and artwork are all contributions from our residents. They make a great hostess and/or birthday gift. Contact me at lisaapatterson@aol.com to get yours today!

~~~~~

## Autumn Baking!!

### ***Pumpkin Bread***

*Page 69*

1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups sugar  
¼ cup brown sugar  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups flour  
1  $\frac{1}{3}$  teaspoons baking soda  
1/3 teaspoon baking powder  
1 teaspoon salt  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons nutmeg  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
2/3 cup vegetable oil  
3 eggs  
1  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups canned pumpkin  
2/3 cup water  
2/3 cup chopped nuts (optional)  
2/3 cup chopped dates (optional)

1. Sift dry ingredients together.
2. Add oil, eggs, pumpkin, and water to dry ingredients.
3. Mix until well-blended.
4. Stir in nuts and dates.
5. Pour into two greased loaf pans with the bottoms lined with wax paper.
6. Bake for 50 minutes.

Can be prepared ahead of time and can be frozen!



### ***Praline Pumpkin Pie***

*Page 255*

This pie has two advantages – it makes two pies at once and it freezes beautifully!

2 unbaked 9-inch pie shells

#### **Praline Filling**

2/3 cup butter, softened  
1 cup brown sugar  
1 cup chopped pecans

1. Combine butter and brown sugar, and divided into the two prepared pie shells.
2. Bake at 425\* until praline mixture is bubbling vigorously, about 5 minutes.
3. Sprinkle pecans over praline mixture and let cool.

#### **Custard Filling**

1 (4  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.) package Jello "Golden Egg" custard mix  
2 egg yolks  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups canned pumpkin  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  cups cream  
2  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons pumpkin pie spice  
 $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sugar

1. Combine all ingredients in a large saucepan.
2. Cook over medium heat, stirring until custard comes to a boil.
3. Remove from heat and pour into two pie shells.
4. Refrigerate until firm.



# Community Interest

## Burglaries and Thefts

Source: THE ROCK NEWSLETTER

Serving the 1st District of the Montgomery County Department of Police, Volume 3 Issue 1, July 2014

Since April 1, there have been several burglaries and thefts from vehicles in the Darnestown and North Potomac areas. The crimes, which are possibly related, have occurred during the day and night. Detectives have collected evidence and are working on identifying suspects.

To keep you and your property safe, we strongly urge you to follow the tips below.

### Burglaries

- ❖ **Lock it up.** Lock doors and windows every time you leave the house or go to bed. Do not forget the door between your garage and your house. Remove garage door openers from vehicles.
- ❖ **Know your neighbors.** This ensures an extra set of eyes on your house. If you will be away for long, do not allow mail, newspapers or flyers to build. Arrange with the post office to hold your mail or for a neighbor to take them regularly.
- ❖ **Set timers.** Use timers for lights, televisions, and radios to create the illusion that someone is home.
- ❖ **Get police help.** Report all alarm calls immediately when an alert activation happens at your house. We will dispatch officers to check your home right away.
- ❖ **Stay vigilant.** Report suspicious activity, vehicles, and people to the police by calling the non-emergency number **(301-279-8000)**. A detailed description of the suspicious person or vehicle is extremely helpful to the responding officers. Examples of descriptors are race; gender; approximate age; clothing type; hair color; vehicle color, make, model, tag number, and direction of travel.



### Thefts from Vehicles

- ❖ **Lock it up.** Lock all your windows and doors and take your keys with you when you park anywhere, including your garage and driveway. Lock all valuables in the trunk or take them with you.
- ❖ **Remove valuables.** Do not leave purses, wallets, laptops, expensive sunglasses, cell phones and other valuables visible in your vehicle. NEVER leave cash visible, even loose change.
- ❖ **Get police help.** Call the police if you notice anything odd in your neighborhood, such as a stranger looking in parked vehicles, someone tampering with vehicles, or an abandoned vehicle.
- ❖ **Report it.** If your vehicle is broken into or stolen, call police immediately. Stolen vehicles are often used in other crimes. Quick action not only helps in recovering your vehicle, it prevents its use for illegal purposes.



### Quote of the Quarter

*"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."*

*~ Benjamin Franklin*



# Community Interest

## **Pepco Update**

By Art Slesinger



### **Power Reliability Issues**

Three issues regarding PEPCO service are worthy of discussion. First, the Public Service Commission (PSC) did approve a small rate increase for PEPCO. Second, work is continuing on feeder 15238 (Jones Lane area), which is the worst performing feeder in PEPCO's service area. Third, a review of the annual reliability report filed by PEPCO is somewhat disturbing when one examines their progress to date.

The rate increase granted by the PSC, effective 7/4/2014, was an \$8,700,000 rise in the residential rate revenue base. This is about \$1 a month per customer. The PEPCO request filed in December of 2013, Case 9336, originally requested \$43,000,000. So the PSC rejected a substantial portion of PEPCO's rationale. In addition PEPCO neither requested nor received any further "trackers", which represent funds collected for future work. Last year the PSC approved \$24,000,000 to harden 24 feeders over the years 2014 and 2015. Why this money needed to be paid up front, when the PSC controls PEPCO rate of return on investment and can easily ensure recovery of the money after it was invested, is a mystery.

Last winter, after several outages on feeder 15238, the citizens with children in Jones Lane Elementary School requested a meeting with PEPCO. (More history on 15238 is explained in the next paragraph.) The issue was the continuing failure of electrical service, especially on very cold mornings. PEPCO explained that, after a more in-depth analysis of the feeder, they believe high winter power demand was causing the feeders to heat up, and with high winds, the wires would be blown into each other as they sagged. This summer they plan to replace the wires with a different variety that keeps the three high voltage lines separated. PEPCO now reports "construction activities continue in replacing 1.5 miles of existing overhead high voltage distribution lines with spacer cable that is less likely to sag and sway as much, and can operate in close proximity to each other in order to improve reliability on the community's feeder. Weather has been favorable and considerable progress has been made thus far. PEPCO is still on schedule to complete this work by August 15<sup>th</sup> or sooner. We will notify you when new spacer cables have been installed

and energized." This is directly from the engineering manager. It is certainly a dramatic improvement in the way the problem has been addressed in the past.

Each year PEPCO provides the PSC with a reliability report that identifies the 12 worst feeders in the company's Maryland service area. The report delineates what caused those failures, under both normal conditions and during severe weather, and the planned corrective action(s). The April 2014 report for the last year shows that feeders 15238 and 15237, both of which service Darnestown, were again in the top 5 most **unreliable** feeders. This is truly a dubious distinction. In fact, 15238 has been on the worst list for three of the last five years, and is the only repeat offender in the entire PEPCO system! Looking deeper into PEPCO efforts is not encouraging. Their system reliability is still in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quartile when outage frequency and durations per customer are compared to similar electrical distribution companies. Over 3+ years into a 5 year effort, more than \$238 million has been spent on system improvements, both on new equipment and vegetation management. With another \$200 million planned this year and next, one can only wonder how their system will suddenly rise to an adequate level of service if after well over 50% of the planned improvements are in place and have yet to yield better system reliability.

If you have questions or concerns, please email the author at [arthur.slesinger@gmail.com](mailto:arthur.slesinger@gmail.com).

### **UPDATE from PEPCO Vice President Jerry Pasternak**

On Thursday, July 24, 2014, ahead of schedule, Pepco completed the replacement of 1.5 miles of existing overhead high voltage distribution lines with spacer cable that is less likely to sag and sway as much, and can operate in close proximity to each other, in order to improve reliability on your community's feeder. The cables have been energized and are in service.






# Community Interest

## Darnestown Community Market and Other Updates from Nick's Pizza and Subs

By Sam Schroeder – General Manager

There have been lots of changes and some great developments at Nick's Pizza since the June issue of *The Little Acorn*! Thank you for allowing me to share them with the Darnestown community in this issue!

*Detailed Art* is now open in the building behind Nick's main building. *Detailed Art* provides everything from a full service automobile detail to a \$25 hand wash! *Detailed Art* is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Appointments are recommended for details, so please visit [www.detailedartnet](http://www.detailedartnet) or call 301-977-0400.

Nick's Pizza continues to serve the highest quality of ingredients for the good people of Darnestown, so we are very excited to announce that we will be providing all of the pizza for **Quince Orchard High School** this school year. This will include all of the home football games, fundraisers, and other sporting events! Go Cougars! 

Please don't forget that Nick's is hosting wine tastings from local vineyards on the first Thursday of every month from 6:00 – 8:00 PM and will include 10% off the wines that are featured that month!

And speaking of wine tasting and other fun events, the final **Darnestown Community Market** for the summer was held on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>. What a huge success! Many local vendors were here to sell their homemade jams and bread, farm fresh chicken and duck eggs, handmade jewelry, stained glass, water color paintings, and more. And perhaps best of all, we were honored to welcome a very gifted, local young band that is just starting out in their career, but their musical talent is undeniable!

Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for other specials and upcoming events:  
[www.facebook.com/pages/Nicks-Pizza-Subs](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Nicks-Pizza-Subs)



**Rick Janssen** on bass  
**Rick Kitchen** on lead guitar  
**Steven Mercer** vocals  
**Brendan O'Shaughnessy** on drums

[www.facebook.com/tuesdaystrash](http://www.facebook.com/tuesdaystrash)  
[soundcloud.com/tuesdaystrash](http://soundcloud.com/tuesdaystrash)

The band rocked out from 12:30 -1:30 in the parking lot while our neighbors and their friends enjoyed lunch at Nick's! A fabulous time was had by all! Please enjoy these great photos from the final Community Market of the summer...



*Tuesday's Trash with DCA President Lisa Patterson*





*Performing "Next June" - An original composition*



*Performing "Bad Moon Rising" by CCR*



*Fran Asbeck - Stained Glass*



*Ingrid Gooch - Fresh Eggs, Jam, and Baked Goods*



*Neighbors Paul and Donovan Spencer*



*Neighbors Rick and Mary Brooks*





# Community Interest



## A testimony to the honesty and caring of the Darnestown community

On Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, DCA President Lisa Patterson received the following email:

*Can you please help me get an email out to the community? My shih-tzu left our yard around 3pm today and went over to the Harris Teeter parking lot. It was about 5-10 minutes later that we realized he had escaped. Two women in the parking lot saw a man and a woman take our dog. They told the woman they were going to drive around searching for the owners. I stood in front of the Harris Teeter for 2 hours and they never returned. They also didn't leave their contact info with the staff at Harris Teeter. I had my kids wait on the driveway just in case they searched the surrounding homes. The only description I was given was that the woman has brown shoulder length hair and glasses and the man has brown hair. They are Caucasian and look to be in their upper 20's to early 30's. Maga is 8 years old, white/tan with a cataracts in one eye. I'm sorry to bother you but if you could possibly send out an email or direct us to the best way to get the word out that would be much appreciated.*

OH NO! Could there have been a dog-napping right here in Darnestown? But wait!! Later that afternoon, the following announcement was posted on the DCA website's Lost and Found registry:

*This afternoon, I was in the Harris Teeter parking lot. I found a male dog with a rabies tag, but no id, cataract in left eye visible. Please email or call as soon as you can. We have brought him to our home for safety.\**

Who was this good Samaritan who had gone out of the way to help a lost dog? Darnestown neighbor **Mary Green**! Mary was shopping at the Harris Teeter on the afternoon that Maga accidentally ran off. She saw the lost dog wandering around dangerously in the parking lot, but she was unable to locate the dog's owner. So, she brought Maga back to her home for his welfare and safety. The only information Maga had on his collar was his rabies tag, but the veterinarian's office was closed

for the holiday weekend! Mary's mom **Grace** thought that the Darnestown Civic Association's Lost and Found registry was the best chance they had of reuniting the little guy with his family on a holiday weekend.

Happily, Maga and his family were reunited later that day, thanks to the efforts of the Green family and the DCA's website!

This story has a happy ending, but sadly, this is not always the case. As a gentle reminder to all Darnestown neighbors, please make sure to have a tag with a contact name and a phone number on the collar of all of your pets (in addition to any rabies vaccine information). Tags are readily available at local pet vendors such as the PetSmart in the Kentlands. The goal is always to reunite families and their lost pets as quickly as possible - and proper ID tags makes it so much easier for everyone involved, especially the lost pet!

\*Editor's Note: The Green's phone number and email address appeared in the original DCA Lost and Found announcement, but they have been omitted from this article in the interest of general privacy.





# Community Interest



## *Those Who Serve*

By Madeline D'Alessio

[home.dalessio@gmail.com](mailto:home.dalessio@gmail.com)

Lt. Brandon M. Cooper, son of Roger Cooper and Alice Everette-Cooper, was promoted to the rank of 1st Lieutenant in the United States Air Force on June 13, 2014. Lt. Cooper currently works for Air Combat Command at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA, as a Cyberspace Officer, where he is Chief of Systems and Engineering for the Combined Air and Space Operation Center-Experimental. Last year, Lt. Cooper won the "Company Grade Officer" award for his division on two separate occasions as well as "Volunteer of the Year" for his division. Brandon is a graduate of Darnestown ES, Ridgeview MS, Northwest High School (Class of 2007) and Morehouse College (Class of 2012).

~~~~~

Capt. Ryan Swisher (US Army), son of Robert and Janet Swisher, was deployed to Afghanistan on Saturday, June 28th at 2100. He is expected to be deployed for six to nine months. He has settled into quarters and duties at his Forward Operating Base (FOB) in eastern (AFG), and is "super busy". Now that he is Company Commander, this deployment will not be as "exciting" as his last deployment in 2009 when he was a Platoon Leader. We wish Capt. Swisher a successful and safe deployment and speedy return to the USA!



Captain Ryan Swisher

A Note from Rob and Janet Swisher

We just wanted to let everyone know that Ryan was deployed to Afghanistan on Saturday, June 28th at 2100.

As a Company Commander with the 3rd Cavalry Regiment, his role will be to coordinate operations with the Afghan Interior and Defense Ministries. This is his second deployment to Afghanistan where he served as a combat platoon leader with the 25th Infantry in 2009.

I (Rob) spent a couple of days with Ryan at Fort Hood Texas [prior to his deployment], and he said that he and his men are well prepared and equipped for their mission. I saw some of his personal gear, and it is really impressive.

As of mid-July, Ryan had arrived successfully in Afghanistan (AFG), although he was very sick during the 6 day transit period. He has settled into quarters and duties at his Forward Operating Base (FOB) in eastern AFG, and is "super busy". He has told us that now that he is company commander this deployment will not be as "exciting" as his last deployment in 2009 when he was a platoon leader. We are very grateful for that!

He assures us that the FOB is very secure and that the 3rd Cavalry Regiment is fully prepared for any contingency. He says that several "care" packages have arrived from family and friends, and says he's received things he didn't know he needed, but now really needs them.

Below are Ryan's email address and postal address in Afghanistan. I know he would enjoy hearing from you. He will also be able to receive personal email while deployed. Please pass this information on to other friends and family. Thank you!

We wish him a successful and safe deployment and speedy return to the USA!

Ryan.Swisher14@gmail.com

CPT Ryan D. Swisher

HHT 1/3 CR

FOB Lightning

APO AE 09354



Community Interest

Recently, the DCA received a very nice communication from Darnestown resident Betsy Luecking, who is also the Manager of the MoCo Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Dear DCA,

Chris Thomas emailed me *The Little Acorn* today and I was very impressed with all the veteran projects and information. I live in 20878 aka Darnestown, Gaithersburg, Travilah or Gaithersburg. I was wondering if I could join your association as I shop at Harris Teeter, have gone to Darnestown Presbyterian, and belong to the DAR chapter off of Esworthy.

I was quite impressed with *The Little Acorn* newsletter. Since I staff the Commission on Veterans Affairs, I was delighted to see all the information about the association's great work on behalf of veterans and their families. I think it is important to highlight that Montgomery County now has a full time Veterans Benefits Specialist from the Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs who is housed at Montgomery College and the Silver Spring Vet Center. He can assist veterans in applying for benefits. We strongly urge all veterans who are eligible to enroll in the VA health Care system at www.va.gov/health. We also have VA staff at the Crisis Center 4 days a week. In addition, you may want to include the data that Darnestown is home to 376 veterans. Many people do not know that surviving spouses who need assistance in eating, bathing or dressing may be eligible for the VA Aide and Attendance Program. I have attached my key contact information for you to share. Please feel free to contact me with any veteran related questions and I will try to put you in contact with the right people

Kindest Regards,

Betsy Tolbert Luecking, Manager

Commission on Veterans Affairs - Commission on People with Disabilities | Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services|
401 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850
Direct: (240) 777-1256 | Cell: (240) 418-4865
betsy.luecking@montgomerycountymd.gov



Montgomery County, MD Veteran Demographics

The 2008-2012 United States Census Quick facts site has provided data on each of the cities within Montgomery County on veterans at:

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/24/24031.html>

Of the 49,600 veterans who live in Montgomery County here is a breakdown from the US Census 2008- 2012. The remaining must live in areas that are less than 5,000 people, such as Barnesville, Beallsville, Brookville, Boyds, etc. Our most populous area is Germantown but the highest concentration of veterans is in Bethesda.

Ashton-Sandy Spring 390

Aspen Hill 2,364

Bethesda 3,494

Burtonsville 336

Chevy Chase 650

Clarksburg 505

Damascus 917

Darnestown 376

Four Corners 487

Gaithersburg 2,737

Germantown 3,056

Glenmont 594

Kemp Mill 764

Layhill 337

Leisure World 1,586

Montgomery Village 1,477

North Bethesda 2,289

North Kensington 643

North Potomac 929

Olney 1,170

Poolesville 285

Potomac 2,692

Rockville 3,169

Silver Spring 2,964

South Kensington 479

Takoma Park 550

Travilah 680

Wheaton 2,162





Service Providers

Thank you to everyone who emailed with updates and changes to this important list! This is an ever-evolving list, so please continue to send all corrections and additions to the Editor at wsgooch@comcast.net for inclusion in the next Acorn!

BABY SITTERS

Marian de Almeida	age 21	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida	age 19	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Rachel Cone	age 15	301-330-1154
Chris Helmey	age 19	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey	age 21	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 16	301-519-3814
Geri McCarthy	Adult	301-926-7886
Mackenzie Meyers	age 15	301-525-6239
Sydney Meyers	age 16	301-525-8167
Chloe Rourke	age 15	240-671-8764
Sydney Rourke	age 14	240-671-8764
Emily Pohl	age 16	301-467-8801
Kerry Pullano	age 14	301-525-8658
Logan Staton	age 14	240-912-7765
Megan Strickler	age 16	301-330-3956
George Vargas	age 16	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 13	301-208-6614
Kelsey Warren	age 17	301-216-1919

MOTHERS' HELPERS

Emily Pohl	age 15	301-467-8801
------------	--------	--------------

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Tina Kalil	301-948-5364
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Marian de Almeida	age 21	240-252-1776
Alex de Almeida	age 18	240-252-1776
Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Gwynne Cafaro	age 15	301-963-7178
Rachel Cone	age 15	301-330-1154
Chris Helmey	age 19	301-519-3814
Jordan Helmey	age 21	301-519-3814
Kiersten Helmey	age 16	301-519-3814
Ben Kaplan	age 15	301-997-8027
Hanne Kaplan	age 12	301-997-8027
Mackenzie Meyers	age 15	301-990-6660
Sydney Meyers	age 16	301-990-6660
Mac O'Rourke	age 13	301-947-5487
Emily Pohl	age 16	301-467-8801
Kerry Pullano	age 14	301-525-8658
George Vargas	age 16	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 13	301-208-6614

MATH TUTORING

Mark Zic	age 16	301-977-3112
----------	--------	--------------

MUSIC LESSONS

TJ Callahan	Guitar	301-379-5646
Brandon Corydon	Guitar	301-221-0456
Justin Fakler	Guitar	301-814-5111
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
David Tony	Drums	301-990-6550
Michael Waddell	Trombone/Horn	301-990-6770
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319



DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT LITTLE ACORN

November 1, 2014

Deadlines will remain firm!

Please send articles to

wsgooch@comcast.net



Darnestown Directory

Every two years, the DCA publishes a community directory of residents' names, addresses and phone numbers, and mails the directory to every residential address in our database.

The most recent edition (2013) is currently available! To obtain a copy of the Directory, call Sarah Scherer at 240-683-8533 or email her at

sarahscherer@comcast.net

Directories are only available while supplies last.

Organizations, Clubs, Groups, PTAs, etc., provide much of the social interaction that give any area its sense of community.

Below is a list of these groups:

Barnesville School

21830 Peach Tree Road
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
John Huber, Head of School

Boy Scout Troop 1094

Scout Master Jim DelVecchio
sm@troop1094.org

Butler Montessori

15951 Germantown Road
Laura Manack, Head of School
(301-977-6600)

Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Dr. Brooke Carroll, Head of School
(301-869-3728)

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Becky Hanley, President
(301-330-5437)
Barbara Andreassen Membership
(301-330-4485)

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Lisa Patterson-Troiike, President
(301-548-0999)

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
Laura Colgary, Principal
(301-840-7157)

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P. O. Box 3574
Darnestown, MD 20885
Dave Hardy, General Manager,
davidhardy27@hotmail.com
(301-330-9616)

Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter

Membership, (Vacant)

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Carole Sample, Principal
(301-840-8160)

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Deborah Higdon, Principal
(301-670-1400)

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Michael J. Friel, Principal
(301-869-0940)

Quince Orchard Community Library

15831 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
(240-777-0200)

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Road
Germantown, MD 20874
Lance Dempsey, Principal
(301- 601-4660)

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Ms. Carole Working, Principal
(301-840-4686)

Ridgeview Middle School

16600 Raven Rock Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878 Mrs.
Monifa McKnight, Principal
(301-840-4770)

Trout Unlimited

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369
website:
www.senecavalleytu.org
Charles August, Secretary
csaugust@comcast.net
(240-401-8669)



www.darnestowncivic.org





Darnestown Civic Association 2014 Membership Form



Darnestown Civic Association – 2014 Membership Form

Make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA), and mail to:
Darnestown Civic Association, 15711 Pagano Lane, Darnestown, MD 20874

Dues \$35 ____ Friend \$50 ____ Sponsor \$100 ____ Acorn \$150 ____ (For this level check: Wine ____ or Cookbook ____)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Primary Phone #: _____ Primary E-Mail: _____

Include e-mail address only if you would like to receive
mass e-mails from DCA regarding important community happenings and alerts

☐ New Home/address in Darnestown ☐ Moved to existing address in Darnestown

Not sure if you have paid already?

Contact the Membership Chairman or Jean Jurgena - Membership Database Chair listed on page 2 of this issue



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org
Website: www.darnestowncivic.org

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban MD
Permit No. 4889



DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

