



Est. 1965

THE LITTLE ACORN

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 52, Number 1
March 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

Notes from the President
By Lisa Patterson-Troiike

Spring Social

The annual DCA Spring Social is set for Wednesday May 6th, 2015 at Smokey Glen Farm (SGF) from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Smokey Glen Farm is located in Darnestown on Riffleford Road and is a family-run business that has provided a unique, one-of-a-kind venue for special events for over 50 years. For only \$16/adult and \$10/child (and free for children under 3 years old) there will be Smokey Glen's world famous BBQ buffet with chicken, ribs, potato salad, pasta salad, garden salad, baked beans, bread, smoked pies, drinks, and more. Hayrides and mini-golf included! Come and spend a spring evening with family and friends.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND MAIL THE RSVP ON PAGE 6!

....Continued on page 3

Happy Spring,
Neighbors!



Spring Social May 6th

See page 6
for details and RSVP

Next DCA Town Meeting

March 19th | 7:30 PM

**Darnestown Presbyterian
Church**

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

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The Little Acorn

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April showers
bring May
flowers



Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



Expand the ICC through Darnestown?

On January 4th, 2015, the *Washington Post* ran an op-ed article entitled "Expand the ICC" authored by Alan E. Pisarski and Peter Samuel. They suggest that "a westward extension of the ICC in Gaithersburg to a Potomac River crossing just upstream of McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area would be a simple-to-engineer, 15 mile link" to connect Virginia's Fairfax/Loudoun counties to Maryland's Montgomery/Frederick counties.

The DCA sent the following rebuttal to the *Washington Post*. Unfortunately, the *Post* chose not to publish it.

Letter to the Editor

Not Worth the Cost to Communities or Taxpayers

Highway advocates Alan Pisarski and Peter Samuel are pretty cavalier when it comes to proposing a destructive highway through our communities (Post, Opinions, Jan 2). Proposing to extend the Maryland Intercounty Connector (ICC) to Virginia they state: "A westward extension of the ICC in Gaithersburg to a Potomac River crossing just upstream of the McKee-Beshers Wildlife Management Area would be a simple-to-engineer, 15-mile link." Really?

They conveniently ignore thousands of homes and tens of thousands of residents in West Gaithersburg, North Potomac, Darnestown, and eastern Loudoun, and the impact to streams, parks, natural areas, and historic C&O Canal. There is nothing "simple-to-engineer" about 15 miles of highway, as we learned with the ICC -- the most expensive highway project in Maryland history, which had destructive impacts on forests, parks, streams, and neighborhoods.

The last time this crossing was studied, at the request of Virginia Congressman Frank Wolf, planners tried unsuccessfully to find a route that worked. Wolf pulled the plug stating according to the Fairfax Times that "communities in northern Fairfax and Loudoun counties and those in southern Montgomery County, MD - particularly on the proposed bridge corridors--were simply too densely packed with homes," and that "moving the route farther west put the bridge into Maryland's agricultural preserve and too far out to make a difference for commuters."

Let's not travel this destructive road again.

Signed by:

Lisa Patterson

Darnestown Civic Association

Annual Tree Lighting

The DCA Annual Tree Lighting ceremony is not just for kids, as evidenced by all the adults who attended this year! While attendees were enjoying hot cocoa, marshmallows and cookies, our own Santa, aka Billy Herrington, donned a big red suit, big red hat, and big white beard and arrived in a surprise method of transportation. We watched the sky for reindeer and a sleigh but Santa zoomed in with a bright red and very loud hot rod! Kids and adults alike "ooooed and aaaaaahed" at the one-of-a-kind vehicle. After the grand entrance, candy canes were given to anyone who said "hi" to Santa. I'm sure he helped make many wishes come true for those who were good boys and girls. Thanks to all of you for making this Tree Lighting the most well-attended one yet!



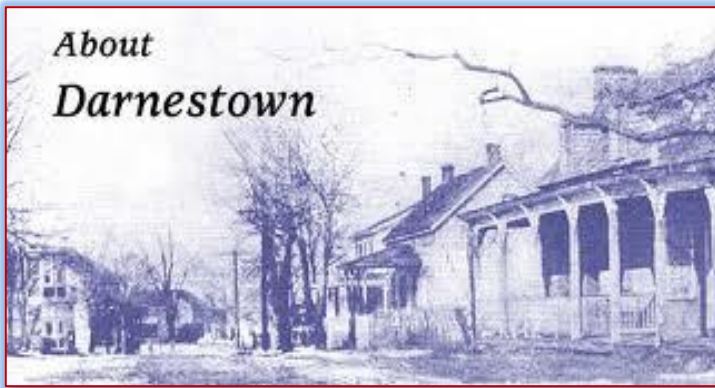
Darnestown Directory

The DCA will publish an updated 2015 Darnestown Directory this year! Please send any changes to your information as well as changes in your neighborhood ASAP so we can be sure the Directory is accurate and up-to-date!

Send to Sarah Scherer at
sarahscherer@comcast.net
or call 240-683-8533

If you are interested in advertising in the Directory please be in touch, too! The Directory has great visibility in the community at reasonable rates.
Thanks for your support!

About Darnestown



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 NEW and additional original information for the series. Enjoy!

The History of Tobytown

Tobytown is located in Potomac/Darnestown five miles west of Potomac Village on River Road, across River Road from the end of Esworthy. Tobytown is an historic property that was originally purchased in 1875 by former slaves following the Civil War. Many Tobytown residents to this day can trace their ancestry back to the original owners of the land, William Davis, Sr. and Ailsie Martin.

In March 1967, the Montgomery County Council declared Tobytown an urban renewal area, and allocated funding to upgrade the homes on site and construct new ones. By December 1972, 26 units had been built to house Tobytown residents. These units range in size from one to six bedrooms. Today, many residents of Tobytown own their homes, and a few are rentals.

The Tobytown community is bounded by River Road and Pennyfield Lock Road. The Tobytown Cemetery, which contains the remains of its founders, is the last original site remaining in the community.



Tobytown was established in 1875 by William Davis, Ailsie Martin, and Emory Genus. Davis was given four acres of land by John and Susan Rouzee (for consideration of \$8.00) in 1875. According to a grandson, Davis was a Tennessee native who was an emancipated slave working on a farm in the vicinity of Seneca Road at the time of the purchase. Martin and Genus bought a five-acre parcel from the Rouzees for \$100. The land was part of a tract known as Brackenridge.

The community's first residents were former slaves. With the exception of one two-story house, all of the original fifteen houses were one-story houses with one, two, and three bedrooms. The community had no post office or school and classes were held in the Baptist Church.

The community requested its own school in 1917, after the church burned, but Montgomery County denied residents' requests to construct a school so it was never built. After construction of the second church, it undoubtedly was also used for classes. By the early 20th century, most other black communities had their own school buildings, however inadequate, and many, unlike Tobytown, also had a post office. Tobytown still had neither.



Tobytown Today



But the community began to prosper as most of the residents worked on surrounding farms as laborers, gardeners, domestics, and cooks. However, in the 1950s and 1960s, demand for rural labor declined as the area developed with exclusive residences. With limited job and educational opportunities, Tobytown began to suffer; the standard of living dropped and living conditions declined. By 1965, the community was impoverished. The majority of the 75 residents lived without benefit of electricity, indoor plumbing, or garbage collection. Meals were prepared on wood stoves, drinking and cooking water came from a single well and sanitary facilities consisted of one outdoor privy

In 1965, the County health department issued an order to improve sanitation conditions, including wells and outhouses. The County Council designated Tobytown as an urban renewal area in 1967 and directed the Housing Authority to establish a nonprofit development corporation. Thus, the Tobytown Development Corporation, consisting of residents, interested citizens, and government staff, was appointed.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development approved the Development Corporation's housing plan in January 1972 and new townhouses were occupied by December 1972. Today, Tobytown has approximately 125 residents in 26 townhouses on 16 acres of land. These residents have a marked sense of pride and community.

The Tobytown Cemetery

The Tobytown cemetery is located on the parcel which was owned by Ailsie Martin. By 1878, Tobias Martin had a residence in this vicinity. Emory Genus lived on the opposite side of Pennyfield Lock Road. The cemetery can be found at the rear (north) of a group of houses on Tobytown Drive. Approximately rectangular in form, the cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence and contains about two dozen scattered reddish sandstones, which may be headstones or footstones. The Tobytown Cemetery is the only

historical resource remaining connected with the early black kinship community of Tobytown. All other structures associated with Tobytown were demolished in the early 1970s and replaced with a townhouse community in which descendants of many of Tobytown's original families still live. The cemetery contains the remains of former slaves and their descendents. Among those believed to be buried in the cemetery are:

- Charles Davis (d1914),
- Father of Henson Davis (b1893)
- The grandfather of Henson's wife
- Henson's brother (William Davis)
- Henson's son

Most graves are, unfortunately, unmarked.



The Tobytown Cemetery

Next: Montanverde

Sources for this Series

www.hocmc.org/Properties/Tobytown.aspx

www.msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/017000/017500/017526/pdf/msa_se5_17526.pdf

www.wamu.org/programs/metro_connection/13/02/15/md_kinship_communities_embrace_past_work_to_improve_present

www.mc-mncppc.org/master_plans/potomac/landuse.pdf





Spring Social

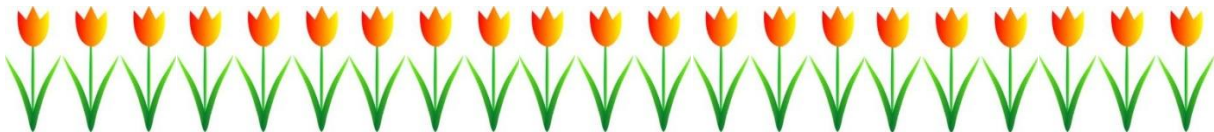


A Darnestown Community Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception

**at Smokey Glen Farm
16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD**

6-8 pm Wednesday, May 6, 2014

**Serving their world famous barbeque fare
with all the trimmings, drinks, and dessert!**



RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 30th!

SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO DCA TO:

LISA PATTERSON, 13925 ESWORTHY ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874

Please list full names of those attending.

Nametags will be awaiting you at the door and will serve as your ticket.

Full names of those in your group : _____

Adults @ \$16 each _____

Children 3-11 yrs old @ \$10 each _____

Children under 3 free!

Phone # _____

Enclosed \$ _____

****NO REFUNDS** PAYMENT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR!**

Community Interest



By Rob Swisher

With the snowy weather we've had, aren't you already dreaming about fun in the sun this summer? If you are, have we got a place for you: The Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club! It is hard to imagine now, but in less than 3 months, the DSRC pool will be full of laughter and activity, with the little ones happily splashing in the kiddie pool and the big ones hitting overhead smashes across the tennis court!!!

If you are already a member of DSRC, you know that our wonderful community pool is the just the place that you and your children want to be; and the best place for you to unwind and relax with friends and family.

If you are unfamiliar with our community pool, DSRC is a nonprofit, member-owned swim and racquet club. The club is located on Spring Meadows Drive about a mile west of the intersection of Seneca Rd. and Darnestown Rd. DSRC draws its membership from families in the greater Darnestown area. Because the club has a limited number of members, the atmosphere is one of friendliness and relaxation. Families can swim in the spacious pool, play tennis on one of six lighted courts, or relax with a picnic under the trees. DSRC offers many social and sports activities and programs for children, teens and adults. Some of our more recent social events included safe and supervised swim parties for youngsters and teens, a summer adult Luau, swim and tennis social nights, and a fall Darnestoberfest that will have you looking for your lederhosen.

This season we have a limited number of available memberships. We would love to have you join! If you or anyone you know are interested in joining please visit us online at www.dsclub.com If you have questions, please contact our Club Manager, Dave Hardy at gmdsrc@gmail.com, 301-330-1340, or our Membership Director, Bonnie Lane at 240-683-8206 or BonnieLLane@yahoo.com. Dave or Bonnie will be

happy to answer any questions you may have. We will be continuing our "refer a friend" program. Any member who brings in a friend or neighbor as a new member will receive a \$100 check from the Club in return for their recommendation.

CLUB NEWS & Upcoming Member Events

OPENING DAY: Join us Saturday May 23th for our annual Opening Day Summer Celebration!

SWIM TEAM: Head Coach Pat Tozzi is returning to lead the Demons as we compete in the "C" Division of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL). It will be a fun and exciting year as we look to take the Division title! Swim team members or new members: be on the lookout for information from the swim team leadership in the coming weeks regarding registration. As usual, please direct any swim team questions to our team co-chairs, Terry Brown at tbrown@browntg.com or Christy Adelman at Christy_Adelman@yahoo.com. GO DEMONS!

TENNIS PROGRAM: The DSRC tennis program looks to continue its successful adult, teen and kids programs, offering both fun and competition for every age and skill level. Our Tennis Pro, Bradley Jones, and Tennis Director, Peter Carothers (DSRCTennis@gmail.com), are both eager for the new outdoor season to begin.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Our social directors, Elissa Balsley and Molly Imming, are planning many family and adult events. Those events are kicked off with our Opening Day party on the Saturday, May 23th, soon to be followed by the "School's Out Party." Our covered pavilion is available for reservation to our members at no extra charge for birthday parties, team sports parties, or any other special gathering of family and friends at the Club.

COMMUNICATIONS: Check out our website at www.dsclub.com where you will find our detailed club activity and event information. Become a "friend or follower" of the Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club Facebook Page, as well as our Twitter Account @DSRCCLUB. Keep up with us on-line!

We look forward to seeing everyone on May 23th, Opening Day, to enjoy our annual celebration of the new summer. Have a great spring and we'll see you poolside!!!



Community Interest



The Maryland Questers

By: Bettye Wolfe

President, Maryland Questers



If you harbor a desire to leave a footprint for posterity, become a member of the International organization that is leaving some impressive footprints across the United States and Canada.

Captain John #517, a local chapter of Questers was notified by the C&O Canal Trust that their \$2,000 donation in September was used for the purchase of two radios. The radios are retrofit with Ipods containing period programs. The first, a 1953 Emerson radio was installed in Lockhouse #6. The second, a 1953 Silvertone was installed in Lockhouse #10. The only sounds you usually hear at most lockhouses are the noises of nature and the voices of your companions. Now, with the addition of the radios you can also hear the sounds of the past.

The chapter stepped into another area of historical significance in 2010, donating \$2,500 to *Friends of the Maryland Archives* to be used toward the construction of a cabinet to house *The Friends* recently acquired (in 2010) draft resignation speech written by General George Washington resigning his commission from the Continental Congress. The cabinet and document are being unveiled in the Annapolis State House on February 16th at the Maryland Senate's Annual Presidents' Day ceremony. Because the \$2,500 contribution was important in achieving the goal of displaying this historic document to the public, Captain John members are being invited to the ceremony.

Maryland Questers has 20 chapters and is strongly committed to growth supporting preservation, restoration, and education. Through new members and new chapters the organization will leave more and more footprints.





Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Christopher Thomas

Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 continued a great 2014-2015 Scouting year with a flurry of winter activities including community service projects, cold weather outings, merit badges and advancement.

December 6th and 7th, Troop 1094 Scouts and adult leaders went to the Michaux State Forest in south central Pennsylvania for a cold-weather camping and hiking trip. The hike covered 8 miles of rugged terrain, but the Scouts persevered and were rewarded with a hearty meal that they cooked when they returned to camp. The group then had a great evening of talking and laughing around the campfire before settling down to camp in their tents on a frigid night. In spite of the cold, the Scouts and adults had a terrific time.

To close out 2014, Troop 1094 conducted their bi-annual Darnestown Presbyterian Church grounds clean-up day on December 13th. The church has been Troop 1094's chartering organization since 1961 - over 53 years, and every fall and spring, the Troop says "thank you" by cleaning the church grounds. In addition to raking and removing leaves, the Troop removed broken tree limbs, and cleared out other debris. Over 30 Scouts, parents and siblings participated. "The church has sponsored and supported our troop for over five decades", remarked Assistant Scout Master Russell Johnson. "It's nice to be able spend a few hours showing them our gratitude. Troop 1094 will do their spring clean-up April 4th."

Troop 1094 took their annual winter trip to Fallen Springs Hunting Lodge in the foothills of the Allegany Mountains January 23-25. In addition to exploring the area and practicing Scouting skills, the Scouts received firearms safety, first aid, and knots and lashing instruction. They also learned about various weapons and honed their archery, rifle and shotgun skills. The hunting lodge trip is a highlight of the Troop's winter calendar for Scouts and parents alike. Participating in his third trip to Fallen Springs, Scout Jack Thomas said, "This is the best outing of the year; I really enjoyed shooting the shotgun!"

On January 23rd, after many years of hard work and dedicated service in several Troop leadership positions, Evan Joyce earned the Eagle Scout Rank. Eagle Scout is the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting — to become an Eagle Scout, one must earn 21 merit badges, progress through six prerequisite ranks, serve in a troop leadership position, execute a community

service project and complete a board of review. In recent years, only approximately 7 percent of all Boy Scouts in America earned the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout Project, Evan planned, developed, and led a bench renovation project in Seneca Creek State Park refurbishing and replacing bench bases and tops. Other recent Troop 1094 Eagle Scout Projects included Brandon Wolfe's additional Seneca Creek State Park renovations and Jack Beautz's reforestation effort in an area near Saint Nicholas Church. Troop 1094 took great pride in congratulating these Scouts' for their achievements.

The Troop took an evening to recognize Scouts of all ranks for recent achievements February 2nd with their winter Court of Honor. During the event, 13 merit badges were presented to 10 different Scouts and 12 Scouts were advanced in rank. The Court of Honor also marked changes in Scout leadership during which new Scouts assumed key leadership roles for the spring semester.

Another Troop 1094 winter highlight was the annual trip to Seven Springs Mountain Resort. This year over 40 Scouts and parents hit the slopes for two days February 6-8. The outing included snowboarding and skiing lessons for the beginners and access to the resorts 33 slopes and trails for all. Additionally, the Scouts had the opportunity to go tubing and to enjoy the resort's other amenities.

Troop 1094's annual mulch sale kicks off March 2nd. Continuing this great Darnestown tradition, the Troop will be selling the best quality triple ground mulch March 2nd to March 16th. Mulch will be delivered March 28th, just in time for spring yard beautification. As always, the Scouts deliver the mulch to your doorstep (ok, driveway). Prices are the same as last year: \$5.25 per bag for 20 bags or more, \$5.50 > per bag for less than 20 bags — delivery is FREE.

The Troop's spring calendar is chock full of great events including orienteering, back-packing, and other outings in March and April, and an exciting rock climbing trip in May.

With many local Webelos earning the Arrow of Light in the coming months, now is the time for them to start planning for their transition to Boy Scouts. For more information transitioning to Boy Scouts or Troop 1094:

Contact Scout Master Jim DelVecchio at

sm@troop1094.org



Community Interest



Infrastructure & Electric Power Updates

By Art Slesinger

The DCA met with Pepco recently to hear their plans for a new substation at the corner of Riffleford Road and Route 28. The new substation will be housed in a residential style building and will be remotely operated; hence there will be no routine traffic in and out of the substation. Many details are still to be decided.

The reason for the new substation is to redistribute power demands in the area caused by growth around Crown and Key West Highway. The new substation will be fed by three high voltage lines, two of which will come down Riffleford and one along Route 28. About 12 existing local feeders, several of which come into Darnestown, will be served by this new substation. It will improve reliability for our community. However since the supply lines still come down Riffleford Road, there is still the opportunity for disruptions along that tree lined road. The new high voltage feed lines will probably require higher and more substantial power poles.

The schedule for the substation is for construction to begin in mid-2016 and in service by mid-2017. Pepco must still get a permit from the County and a zoning change for the property to allow this intended use. For neighbors, the time to be most active is during the permitting and zoning change process. At that time, the County can hear concerns from those most impacted.

We appreciate the management of Pepco coming forward early in this process to explain their plans and how DCA can interact with Pepco during the development and design of the substation.

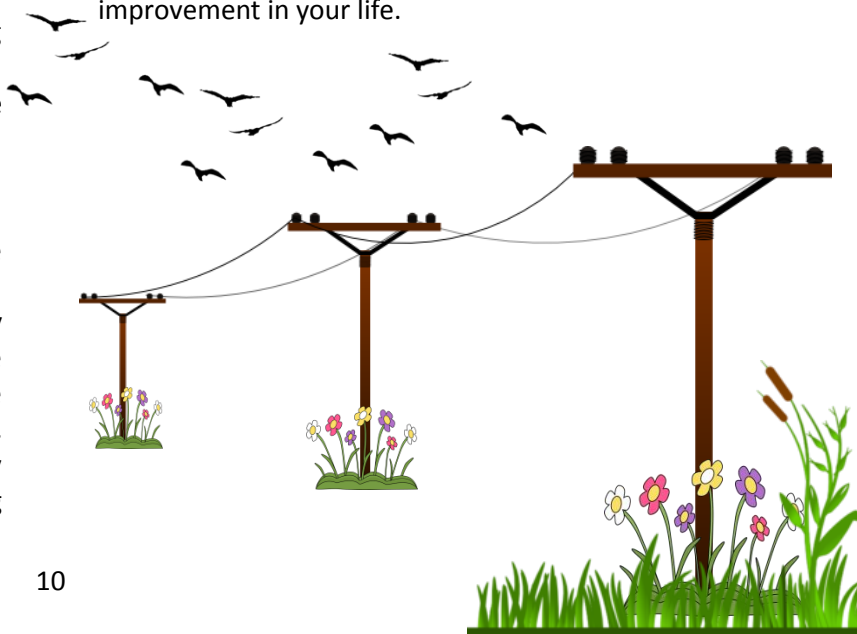
CCT & the ITA - Will They Happen?

The rapid transit bus line (CCT) proposed by the State is still being designed but its fate is anything but clear. Local residents along Muddy Branch have been heavily lobbying for an alignment that would take the dedicated bus route off Muddy Branch and enter the Belward Farm property off of Great Seneca Highway. The State seems to favor making a mess of the Muddy Branch median even though the County objects noting the State's plans are inconsistent with the Master Plan

for Muddy Branch. The DCA filed comments with the State supporting the local desire to use an alignment other than Muddy Branch.

The most telling development is the recently released plan by County Executive Ike Leggett to set up an Independent Transportation Authority (ITA) within the County to fund, build and operate the CCT and other county billion dollar rapid bus plans (BRT). The County Department of Transportation has authority for such projects but lacks money. The ITA would have to be set with State legislative approval (bill MC24-15) and would be an independent taxing authority with no citizen oversight. It would be run by Leggett appointees and funded by new property taxes. Surprisingly, as a new agency, it would not come under any current Charter budget limitations on growth of the County tax structure. The bill received a great deal of attention and many were opposed to the uncontrolled nature of the ITA's taxing and spending authority. Leggett withdrew the bill but is clearly working on a second draft that might not set off the fire storm experienced by the original version.

Clearly this suggests some believe that Governor Hogan has little appetite or money to fund the CCT and the County needs to go its own way. The budget for the CCT has not been updated from the 2013 \$545 million number which is probably closer to \$750 million today. The CCT remains heavily flawed with no local parking, a very circuitous route and almost 20 crossings of major County and local roads which will further constrain county traffic. For those coming out of the DCA area and driving east, the CCT is not an improvement in your life.



Community Interest

Those Who Serve

By Madeline D'Alessio

home.dalessio@gmail.com

Lieutenant Melissa (Missy) Bateman, daughter of Jeff and Sue, has been promoted to First Lieutenant. Her promotion ceremony will occur in February. 1LT Bateman is Battalion Staff Intelligence Officer in Charge for the 323rd Military Intelligence Battalion, Fort Meade, MD. In November 2014, as a Second Lieutenant, she was awarded The Army Achievement Medal for outstanding achievement while serving as the tactical convoy OIC for the 323rd. Her contributions and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon herself, the 323rd military intelligence battalion, and the United States Army.

Captain Ryan Swisher (US Army),
son of Rob and Janet,

just completed his 5th month of a 9 month Tour

Captain Ryan Swisher (US Army) is scheduled to return to the United States in mid-February from his 2nd deployment to Afghanistan. Ryan will be engaged in post deployment activities at Ft. Hood in Texas through the early summer. In the fall of 2015 he will attend the Sloan School of Management at MIT where he will begin coursework toward an MBA. Following his studies at MIT, he has accepted an appointment to the faculty at the U. S. Military Academy (West Point) in the fall of 2017 where he will teach economics. His family and friends are thankful that he returned safe and sound to the USA. We appreciate all the support he received during the deployment and all the care packages and letters that were sent his way from the Darnestown community and from Darnestown Elementary School. *As a postscript:* The last two soldiers killed in Afghanistan in Operation Enduring Freedom were from Ryan's unit, the 3rd Cavalry Regiment. Sgt. First Class Ramon Morris and Specialist Wyatt Martin, were officially the final casualties of the 13-year Afghan war. Our thoughts and eternal gratitude go out to them and their families.



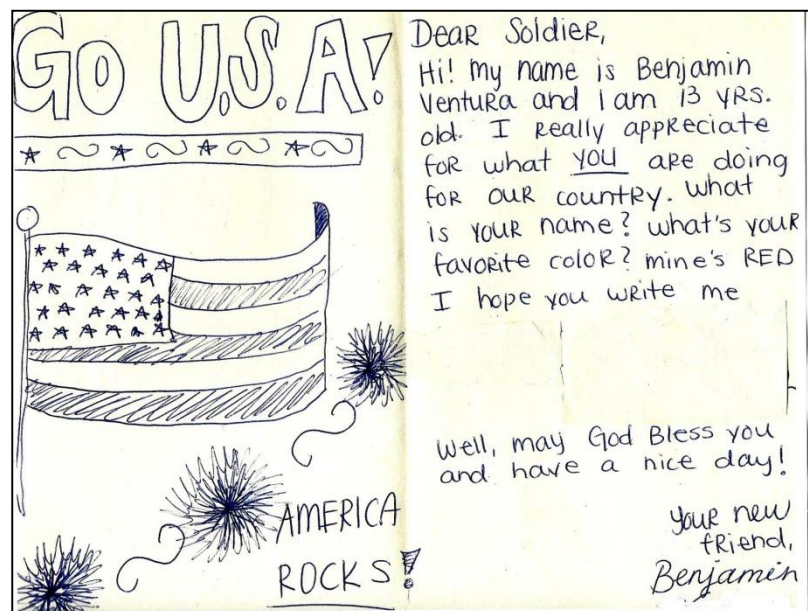
Letters to Soldiers

Kids have the most creative, fascinating imaginations. They have no filter and no problem saying exactly what's on their minds! It's that wide-eyed curiosity, honesty, and love that brighten the days of so many soldiers. While honoring those lost this Memorial Day, let's also salute the kids who have shared words of encouragement and kindness to the military.

Organizations such as **Kidz4Troops** and **Operation Gratitude** are just two of the many organizations that help make this possible. Below is one of the thousands of letters sent every year to those serving to protect the United States. Parents and teachers, if you would like to begin a letter-writing project at home or in school, here are two great sites to help you get started!

Kidz4Troops: www.kidz4troops.com

Operation Gratitude: www.operationgratitude.com



Thank You

Meet the Neighbors!



Sue Moses – Local Artist



Light and shadows, strong values and composition define Maryland artist Sue Moses' watercolor paintings. Animal and people portraits are favorite subjects for the accomplished sketch artist. Her involvement in art goes back to second grade when her award winning art was published in the local paper! Encouraged by and painting with her artist mother, she focused on art throughout school, earning a Master of Fine Arts Degree at Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. Teaching art and industrial arts in the NY & MD public schools, Sue honed her art skills, eventually channeling her energy to painting exclusively in watercolors. She has studied with accomplished artists such as Carolyn Gawarecki, Sterling Edwards, & Don Andrews.

An awarding winning artist with work in private collections in the US and Europe, Sue is a signature member of the Baltimore Watercolor Society & exhibits throughout the Mid-Atlantic region as well as being represented by several galleries. Recent exhibits include Rockville Artists League, winning 1st in Watercolor, Potomac Valley Watercolor Anniversary Exhibit at The Workhouse Arts Center, Brookside Gardens and St. Andrews Shows, solo show at Glenview Mansion, and the prestigious BWS Mid-Atlantic Regional Watercolor Exhibition.

Other artistic endeavors include:

- Conducting workshops in MD and CO
- Painting demonstrations for the *Annapolis Watercolor Club*, *Olney Art Association*, and *Rockville Art League* in Rockville Town Square
- Murals, graphics for T-shirts and posters
- Publishing an illustrated book of poetry
- Work published in an art book
- Advertizing magazines

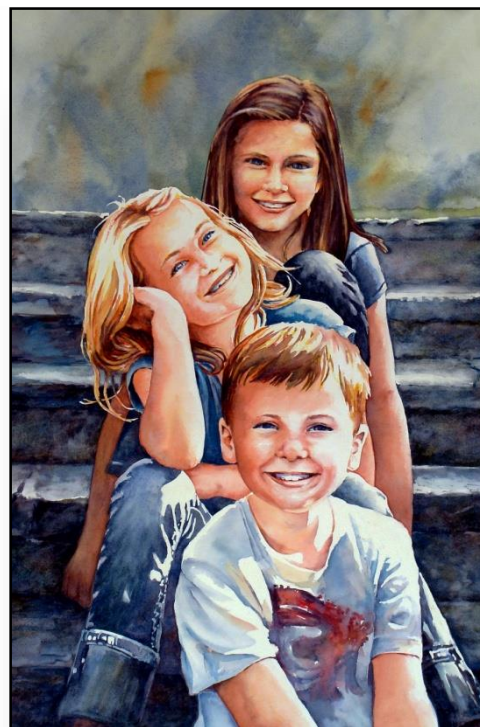
She now devotes her God-given talent to painting for shows, sales and commissions, as well as teaching watercolor in her home studio.

Sue Moses

mosesfineart@gmail.com

moseswatercolors.weebly.com

www.tidewatergallery.com

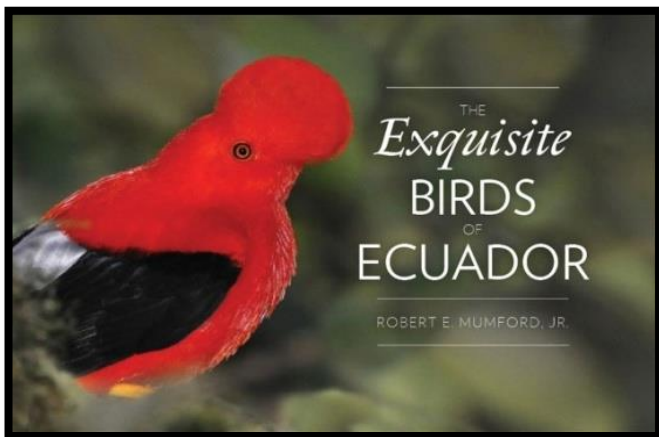




Bob Mumford Local Photographer

Long time Darnestown resident and retired Navy captain, Bob Mumford, has created a 252-page photographic coffee table book entitled *The Exquisite Birds of Ecuador* that resulted from 16 trips to that Andean country over the past seven years.

The book includes 322 images and 239 species, ranging in size from tiny hummingbirds to huge raptors and flamingos. Bob visited over 60 sites from the Napo River in the east to the Pacific Coast on the west and from the Columbian border in the north to the Peruvian border in the south.



The foreword to the book was written by former US Ambassador to Ecuador, Heather Hodges, and the book was endorsed by Dr. Bob Ridgely, the author of *The Birds of Ecuador Field Guide*.

Please feel free to visit Bob's website at
www.naturalim.gs.com
 or contact him via email at
bobmumf@aol.com



Rocklands Farm

Rocklands Farm is 34 scenic acres located on an authentic, historical property in the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County, just 10 minutes from the heart of Darnestown.

The Glenn family moved to the Rocklands property in 2003, and has since enjoyed its beauty and peaceful surroundings. Over the years, buildings have been restored and small farming projects came and went. Over the winter of 2009, the farm business was envisioned and quickly took shape by the following spring.

Visitors to the working farm can pick up pasture-raised meats, fruit & vegetables from the market and enjoy a glass of wine while touring the vineyard and winery!



OPEN: SATURDAY: 11AM-6PM
SUNDAY: 12PM-6PM
14525 MONTEVIDEO RD, POOLESVILLE, MD
20837
301.825.8075
WWW.ROCKLANDSFARMMD.COM

Homesteading Corner!

How to Grow an Indoor Garden



Too many deer, rabbits, and other visitors to your back yard to plant a garden? Or perhaps your schedule is just too tightly packed to afford you the time to tend to a big, outdoor garden. No worries! All you need to do is apply your green thumb to indoor vegetable gardening. With a little gear and know-how, a wide variety of fresh produce can be successfully grown in your kitchen or laundry room throughout the year, even in the winter!

Choose Wisely

Tomatoes, kale, radishes and more can all be grown indoors. Plants you choose should depend on your taste and how much room you have. Anyone with a spare windowsill can grow a few herbs. If you have more space, fill a bookshelf with rows of lettuce, or grow larger veggies in a tub beside your sofa. According to Knight, gardeners with a lot of space can buy a grow tent and turn a spare room into a greenhouse. But all you really need to get started are containers, soil and a good lighting system to mimic the long growing days of summer.

Contain Yourself

Herbs and leafy greens are good for beginners because they grow easily and have shallow roots, which means they can live in smaller containers. Lettuce, kale and spinach can be grown in pots or troughs, and many can yield for a prolonged period if only the outermost leaves are harvested.

If you want to grow deeper-rooting plants such as carrots, you can save space if you buy a round variety such as Thumbelina, Atlas or Parisian. Plants that get

very bushy or leggy — like tomatoes or peppers — can be pruned, or miniature varieties can be selected. Keep in mind that tomatoes have to be staked in order to keep them upright and allow the fruit to ripen.



See the Light

Lighting is the key to the success of your garden. No matter the season, a house is a dark habitat for produce. In northern winters, even window box gardens need a little extra light. According to Knight, herbs and leafy greens do fine with a few 50-watt grow light bulbs, but larger plants prefer high-intensity lighting systems, such as halide or high-pressure sodium bulbs. Such systems use more energy, but the light and heat they generate will help your plants flourish. These are typically placed in a light box designed to replicate the intense rays of full summer sun.

Grow On

Perfecting your produce takes trial and error. Tend your garden like you would any other: Pay attention, remove dead or fallen leaves, consider fertilizing and don't overwater. Knight notes that indoor vegetables are particularly vulnerable to fungus, so he recommends using a fan to prevent condensation and to keep the air circulating, mimicking the breeze that blows over an outdoor garden.

Did You Know...



Soak orange peels in vinegar for two weeks in a sealed mason jar. Then pour the vinegar into a spray bottle. Use for cleaning or bug spray. This is great for eliminating ants, too!

It's a Darne Good Cookbook

DCA cookbooks are only \$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!

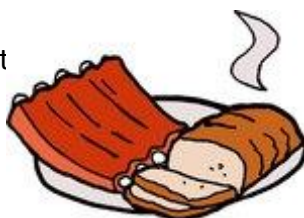


Friday, April 3 - Saturday, April 11, 2015

Deluxe Cherry Brisket

Page 150

5 pounds beef brisket
Soy sauce to taste
Worcestershire sauce to taste
1 package onion soup mix
Caraway seed
Celery seeds
Rosemary
1 (20 ounce) can cherry pie filling



1. Season brisket with soy sauce and Worcestershire sauce.
2. Sprinkle soup mix over brisket.
3. Add rosemary, caraway seeds, and celery seeds.
4. Marinate for two days!
5. Wrap brisket and seasonings in two layers of aluminum foil. Bake at 325 degrees for 4 hours.
6. Cool before unwrapping.
7. Put gravy and meat into separate containers and refrigerate.
8. Scrape off all seasonings and slice cold meat.
9. Put gravy in bottom of pan.
10. Place brisket slices on top.
11. Pour cherry pie filling over meat and bake : 350 degrees for 30 – 45 minutes.



Leg of Lamb with Apple Herb Stuffing

Page 144

Stuffing

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup butter
1 cup chopped onion
1 cup diced celery
 $\frac{1}{4}$ pound mushrooms, sliced
Garlic to taste
1 medium cooking apple, peeled and diced
2 cups fresh bread crumbs
 $\frac{1}{4}$ cup chopped fresh parsley
1 egg, slightly beaten
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon basil
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon thyme
 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon marjoram
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
7-8 pound leg of lamb, boned

Spices

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon basil
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon thyme
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon marjoram
 $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon pepper
8 kiwi, peeled and sliced (optional)



1. Over medium-high heat, melt butter in medium skillet
2. Sauté onion, celery, mushrooms, and garlic for about 10 minutes.
3. Add apple and cook about 3 more minutes.
4. Remove from heat and stir in bread crumbs, parsley, egg, salt, basil, thyme, marjoram, and pepper.
5. Place meat, cut side up, on work surface and spoon stuffing onto center of meat. (Extra stuffing may be baked separately.)
6. Pull meat up and over the stuffing. Secure with skewers or toothpicks and tie with string.
7. Combine lamb spices and rub mixture over lamb.
8. Place lamb, skewered-side down, on rack in roasting pan and bake 20 minutes per pound for medium lamb at 325 degrees.
9. Remove meat, cover with foil, and let stand 15 minutes. (Save roasting pan and drippings for gravy.)
10. Garnish with kiwi.



School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary

By Janet Swisher



As we wind down the Darnestown Elementary second semester, I am amazed by how many action packed events took place over the winter season. DES enlivened our science curriculum by dedicating February to "Science". Inspiring young people to become interested in science and encourage participation in our EXPO; parent/staff scientists conducted experiments and lessons in each classroom. In addition, the Maryland Science Center's travelling assembly visited and added to the excitement. Finally, our successful Science EXPO allowed individual students and/or groups to share their love of science, theories, research, and knowledge to our student body and parents. A great and educational time was shared by all!

Additionally, the students enjoyed playing BINGO with their teachers and parents. Many laughs and smiles were shared by all. Our generous staff donated their time and talents for students to purchase tickets for several raffled special events such as Principal for the Day, Teacher for the Day, Lunch and a Movie, and many more.

Come join the **DES International Celebration held on March 20** at Lakeland Parks Middle School from 6:30-8:30. You are guaranteed to learn something about many of the places around the world! Our **Annual Variety Show held on May 15** is always a big hit with the parents, grandparents, DES staff members and students. Witnessing the talent is sure to bring many surprises to the audience. All are welcome!

Upcoming Calendar of events:

International Night:	March 20
Spring Break:	April 3 - 13
Take your Child to Work Day:	April 23
Variety Show at Northwest HS:	May 15
Spring Chorus Concert:	May 28
Summer Picnic:	June 5
5 th Grade Promotion:	June 10

DES held their annual Colonial Day on December 5th. During school hours, students were able to experience Colonial life as they explored the gymnasium transformed into a Colonial Village. The village areas such as the Apothecary, the School House, the Wigmaker/Dentist, and the Blacksmith (just to name a few) were authentic and great hands on experience. Additionally, all 5th graders spent their lunchtime eating Colonial style food, creating Colonial crafts and playing games from the era. A lot of effort is put into Colonial Day, especially by the 5th Grade teachers Kevin Thompson, Heather Rose and Debbie Waechter.



DCA President Lisa Patterson and Natasha Troike

DES is looking for our newest Mustangs!

* * * * *

Kindergarten Orientation Tuesday, May 12, 2015!

According to Maryland State Law, a child must be five years old by September 1st in order to enter kindergarten for the 2015-2016 school year. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten this fall, please contact the Darnestown Elementary Main Office at 301-840-7157 to provide your child's information. Registration packets and appointment information will be mailed out in early April. Parents and their future Darnestown Mustang will attend the orientation on May 12 and return registration packets at that time.

Butler School



By Lisa Daly

Think warm breezes, kisses from the summer sun, and exciting outdoor activities- that means summer at Butler Camp! Our beautiful 22 acre campus adjoining Seneca Creek State Park has been offering exciting opportunities for children to explore and enjoy nature for more than 30 years. Butler Camp is accredited by the State of Maryland and all counselors meet or exceed the stringent qualifications set by the State. Children ages 3-15 can find a wide array of activities from swimming and soccer to art and cook-outs, not to mention a fantastic equestrian facility. With the overwhelming success of Butler Camp's Extreme Adventures program, we are now offering to our oldest campers a new program, **Max Adventures**. Max Adventures will serve campers between the ages of 12-15 who are looking for the next level of extreme. Campers will mountain bike longer distances, rock climb and rappel in West Virginia or Western Maryland, explore two new caves and camp out multiple times during their 2-week

session. Campers will travel to locations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia to enjoy new challenges they will never forget. Max Adventures is open to former Extreme Adventures campers, as well as new campers looking for more in-depth instruction and experience in adventure sports activities. **Please note:** Max Adventure will have an extended camp day, 9:00 AM-5:30 PM. Campers must be comfortable riding a bike, able to hike a few miles and willing to camp out for two nights per session. Butler Camp 2015 fun is just around the corner! Registration is now open.

Meet our Camp Director, **Sara George!**



Sara graduated from Utica College, with a Bachelor of Science in Therapeutic Recreations. She is a passionate leader, who wants to give the youth of today the best experiences possible. This summer, Sara begins her second year as Camp Director. Using the knowledge gained from her college degree and long-time experience at Butler Camp in multiple capacities, her goal is to bring safe, highly active, summer fun to all children. With new plans, and improvement in our existing programs, she is excited to bring Butler Camp to a new level. In her leisure time, Sara also has a love for ice hockey and uses her twenty plus years of skating and playing experience by giving back to the community as a coach.

For more information on summer camp or our riding program please visit our website at

www.butlerschool.org

or call us at 301-977-6600

Butler School

15951 Germantown Rd, Darnestown, MD 20874

Seneca Academy

By: Brooke Carroll, PhD
Head of School



Seneca Academy 3rd graders recently completed a unit of Inquiry with the central idea: **Earth is part of a complex universe.** They investigated the composition of the universe, the natural laws that govern our universe and how space technology has impacted society. The students also spent time working to understand the vast dimensions of our solar system. They created two models, one inside our building and one outside, of the planets and their relative size and distance compared to the sun. Inside the building, they created a “planet walk” with the sun at one end, and planets throughout the building, with approximate distances relative to the sun. They also made “travel journals” for each planet, to entice visitors with interesting facts. They then presented this walk to their parents as tour guides. Through this process, students practiced and enhanced skills in reading, writing, math, scientific thinking, visual and oral presentation, cooperation, and collaboration. Then, as a special treat, we invited a local astronomer from the Westminster Astronomical Society to bring his telescope one night and students were able to view several constellations, the North Star, and the Orion nebula right from our parking lot. They learned so much and had tons of fun!

We invite all parents and interested community members to visit Seneca Academy to learn more about how we integrate real-life, hands-on learning into all of our programming. We are offering “Walk-In Wednesdays” every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am (2/4, 2/18, 3/4, 3/18, 4/1, 4/15). This is a great opportunity to take a tour, see our classrooms and campus, and learn more about our programs. You may RSVP through our website www.senecaacademy.org/open-house-schedule or by calling us at 301-869-3728. We hope to see you soon!

In addition, Seneca Academy is busily preparing for summer camp for preschool ages 3-5 and elementary ages 6-12! Find out more at

www.SenecaAcademy.org/camp-seneca

For information about admissions, call

301-869-3728

or visit us on the web at

www.SenecaAcademy.org

Calling All Graduating Seniors!



If you are a Darnestown resident and you are graduating from high school or college in May or June, please let us know!

Send the following information to the Editor at:

wsgooch@comcast.net

Deadline: May 1, 2015

- Your name
- The high school or college from which you are graduating
- Your plans for next year, e.g. the college you plan to attend and your major, the work field you plan to enter, etc.

**Your Darnestown neighbors
are proud of you!**





St. Patrick's Day celebrates the Roman Catholic feast day of the patron saint of Ireland. St. Patrick died on March 17, 461. But did you know that he wasn't even Irish?

St. Patrick - The Missionary and Bishop of Ireland

Patrick's birth name was Maewyn. St. Patrick, or the "Apostle of Ireland," actually started out in the pagan religion. While not much is known about his early life, as many of his life's details were lost to folklore, letters from St. Patrick reveal that he was captured in Wales, Scotland, or another close area outside of Ireland and taken to Ireland as a slave! Years later, he escaped and returned to his family, who were Romans living in Britain, going back to Ireland for mission work after finding a place as a cleric and then Bishop within the Christian faith.

The symbol of the shamrock used for St. Patrick's Day comes from the story of St. Patrick using the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity. The three-leaved plant coincided with the Pagan religion's sanctity of the number three and is the basis for the green color theme.

Another popular belief is that St. Patrick banished the snakes from Ireland. The story says that while St. Patrick was fasting, snakes attacked him, so he chased all snakes into the ocean. However, there have never been snakes in Ireland during the post-glacial period. The absence of snakes and symbolism involved with snakes is believed to explain the story, although it could have been referring to type of worm rather than snakes.

The History of St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick's Day was first celebrated in America in 1737, organized by the Charitable Irish Society of Boston, including a feast and religious service. This first celebration of the holiday in the colonies was largely to honor and celebrate the Irish culture from which so many colonists had been separated.

St. Patrick's Day parades started in New York in 1762 by a group of Irish soldiers in the British military who marched down Broadway. This began the tradition of a military theme in the parade, as they often feature marching military units. The holiday eventually evolved from the modest religious dinner into the raucous holiday we know today.



Worldwide St. Patrick's Day Parades and Celebrations

Parades and wearing green have always been a traditional part of St. Patrick's Day celebrations, but the events will vary based on the city:

- **Boston** - St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Boston bring over 600,000 visitors to the city, which has a large Irish-American community. The city has one of the largest parades, and many veterans take part in the parade.
- **New York** - New York City is the place of the oldest civilian parade, which boasts over 150,000 participants. This may include veterans along with firefighters, policemen, and cultural clubs. It is led New York's 69th infantry regiment. Another city in New York state, Pearl River, has the second largest parade in the state with crowds of over 100,000. In Buffalo, there are two St. Patrick's parades.
- **Scranton** - This Pennsylvania city's parade is one of the oldest and largest. Since 1862, this parade has been one of the most popular, with current celebrations attracting around 150,000.
- **Chicago** - The Irish community makes up a large part of Chicago's celebration. Chicago dyes the Chicago River green and holds the South Side Parade, which has actually had to be scaled back in recent years due to the celebration growing too large for the Irish groups that hold the parade.
- **Ireland** - This celebration is more religious in nature, as it is considered a religious feast day. While it was made an official holiday in 1903, the first Saint Patrick's Festival was held in 1996. During these recent years, the event has become more cultural and consists of many celebrations in the streets.

St. Patrick's Day Activities and Crafts for Kids!

www.dltk-holidays.com/patrick/index.html



Church News!



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciorlito

New Music Director!

DPC has a new Music Director, Eric Waggoner. Eric is a graduate of Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a Bachelor of Arts in piano performance. He later attended the Shenandoah Conservatory of Winchester, Virginia, where he received his Master of Music in piano. He will shortly graduate from Shenandoah with an Artist Diploma, again in piano performance.



Eric Waggoner

Eric has served as the Music Director of the Galilee Christian Church of Clear Brook, Virginia, for the past five years, and has been active in the Presbyterian Church all of his life, growing up in the Beulah Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His audition for our Search Committee was outstanding - indeed, he was far above all other applicants and was an easy selection for the Committee. Since Christmas he has been leading our Chancel and Bell choirs in practice on Thursday evenings. Eric loves working with everyone at DPC and can see the great potential in every ensemble. He welcomes anyone and everyone who wants to come and participate; Bell practice begins at 6:30 each Thursday, and Chancel Choir practice at 7:30. Eric is excited about using his gifts to help Darnestown take part in praising our Lord through music. He (and the other Choir members) would love for you to join us!

The Lenten Season and Easter Services

The worshipers of DPC look forward to Spring every year- to the blooming of the earth, to the vernal beauty of Darnestown and to the splendor of our historic sanctuary at Easter. The Lenten season this year will

build to Palm Sunday on the 29th of March and Easter on the 4th of April. Our Palm Sunday service is traditionally somewhat youth oriented, and our Easter services are among the most popular of the year. Our Choirs provide both vocal and bell music at both the 8:45 and 11:00 services, the sanctuary is filled with flowers, and we also hold a pot luck brunch between services in our Fellowship Hall. Visitors do not need to bring food to join us at the brunch- just come as you are.



Visitors are never strangers!

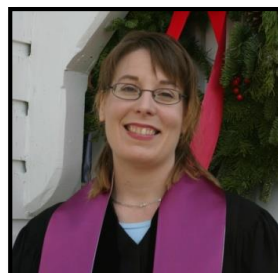
The congregation of Darnestown Presbyterian prides itself on being welcoming to all visitors- we are always thrilled to have newcomers among us. Since there are no strangers to God, there are no strangers to our congregation. Come visit us this Sunday, and learn of the many programs that our church has to offer.

For information regarding upcoming events and our church in general, please visit our website at <http://www.darnestownpc.org/> or friend us on Facebook. All those who seek God are welcome to our visitor and family-friendly services, and a nursery is available on Sunday mornings.

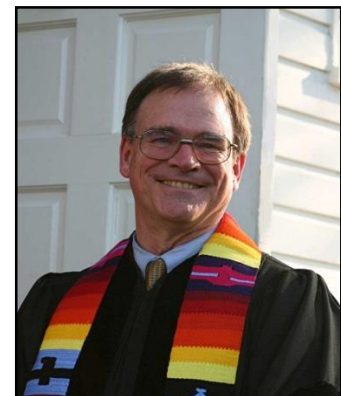
Contact Information:

15120 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127

<http://www.darnestownpc.org/>
dpchurch@comcast.net



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara



Rev. Dave McNeilly

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

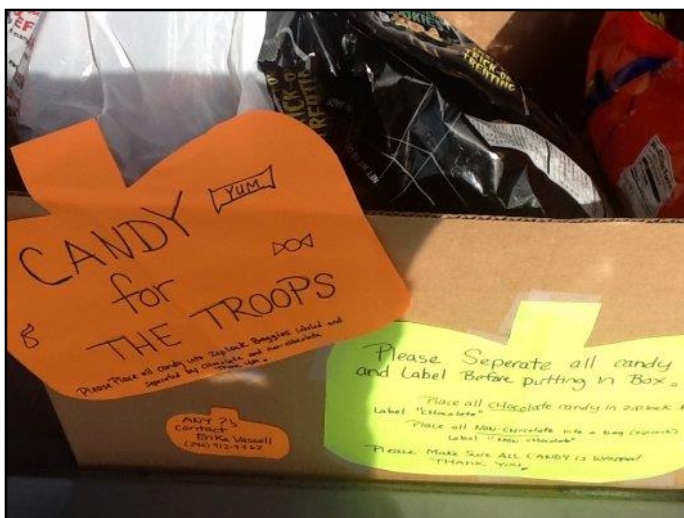
By Garine Isassi

Editor *The Fairhaven Messenger*

Candy For Troops Thank You

Thank You to everyone who donated their extra Halloween candy for the Troops.

We collected and donated over 37 pounds of candy this year. Your donations were sent to **Operation Gratitude** where the candy was added to care packages and sent to deployed troops.



Below is a Thank You letter that we received with additional information of this wonderful organization:

Greetings from the Armory!

On behalf of Operation Gratitude and the Military recipients of our care packages, I thank you for your generous donation. Your 'in-kind contribution' will enable us to send over 100,000 chock-full Care Packages this year to the tens of thousands of brave men and women still deployed overseas in harsh and remote areas; to their children anxiously awaiting their return; and to New Recruits, Veterans, First Responders, Wounded Warriors and their Care Givers.

With the help of supporters nationwide since 2003, we have sent more than 1.1 Million Operation Gratitude Care Packages containing snacks, hygiene products, entertainment and hand-made items, and personal letters from appreciative Americans. These expressions of love and concern from fellow citizens offer our Military and Veterans a much-deserved "Thank You For Your Service" and are always greeted with enthusiasm and great appreciation.

As one Private First Class wrote:

"It's Christmas morning over here in Kuwait, and your box is the only present I got to open today and let me tell you -- I was all smiles and teared up a couple times with what those wonderful, beautiful kids wrote. It's hard being away from my wife and two daughters but your words and gifts and support make it a little easier. I got so excited over the Beanie Baby and I LOVE the hand-knit scarf -- very touching. Please keep doing what you're doing. It means the world to all of us over here on this side of the world! And the individual label made it really heartfelt and special! I thank you very much for what you all do. God bless and Merry Christmas!"

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and wonderful patriotic spirit. Every single donation we receive furthers our mission of saying "Thank You" to those who serve. The recipients of your generosity will remember your kindness forever. And I will always be appreciative of your support and encouragement for Operation Gratitude.

Fondly,

Carolyn Blashek, President

~~~~~

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](http://www.fairhavenumc.net)



**Rev. Esther Holimon**

### **ATTENTION ALL HOUSES OF WORSHIP!**

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

**[wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net)**

**by May 1, 2015  
for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!**

## **Darne Bloomers Garden Club**



By Merikay Smith

In November the Darne Bloomers traveled to Seasons Nursery Greenhouse and Gift shop on Snouffer School Road in Gaithersburg. We heard Cindy Haggerty and Sandra Stevenson speak on the “must haves” for a Maryland garden. Their suggestions for perennials include: echinnacea, phlox paniculata, phlox subulata, helleborus, gaultheria procumbens, agastache, achillea, eupatorium purpurium, native ferns, heuchera, hibiscus, and amsonia. Shrub cultivars they recommend: ‘Winter Gem,’ ‘Green Mountain’ and ‘Green Velvet’ boxwood, ‘Little Lime’ and ‘Limelight’ hydrangea, and ‘Sparkleberry’ holly. This nursery is owned by Michael Johnson who has 40+ years of nursery experience starting at Johnson’s Garden Center begun by his grandfather in 1933. Hosts for this outing were Dave McClung, Sandy Hribar and Mary Rill. The highlight for many was their gift shop which is full of interesting holiday decor.



*Photos by Susan Allaway: Lisa Ruf (left); Hosts: Kathy Devine, Karen Hinrichsen, Laura and Russ Turner (L to R)*

Lisa Ruf gave a hands-on demonstration in December on creating holiday garlands using live greens. She discussed the advantages of buying live garlands ready-made and adding your own floral accents. Members embellished garlands of blue juniper, white saffire, arborvitae, and variegated pittosporum using white flowers for a central bouquet. Anyone who has seen Lisa’s creative work will agree she has an exceptional talent for creating art from natural materials. Hosts Kathy Devine, Karen Hinrichsen, and Laura and Russ Turner used natural greens of holly with red berries, boxwood, and magnolia to decorate the serving table along with red poinsettias, white candles and antique Santa figures.

“Creating A Garden Pond Oasis” was the topic of Heather Zindash’s presentation in January. As both a Master Naturalist and a Master Gardener, Heather emphasized the habitat benefits of adding a water feature. She covered the basics of creating a backyard pond including selecting a site, designing the pond, digging and lining the pond, considerations of filtration and pump, and the inclusion of water plants and fish. It is also possible to create a simple water feature in a large container that includes a few water plants and a few small goldfish without requiring a pump or filter. A water feature not only brings in birds, frogs, and other creatures – it can be a refreshing oasis for us as well. The meeting refreshments and decorations evoked the sense of a water oasis. The tables were decorated with many clear jars of water in varying sizes, some lit by floating candles. Gurgling water sounds and a background slide show of local ponds and waterfalls added to the oasis illusion. Decorative frogs and goldfish accented the water displays. Duck and frog sugar cookies made by Barbara Andreassen joined more traditional dishes of hot egg casseroles, homemade frosted buns, and fruit salad. Despite being a frigidly cold morning, we had nearly perfect attendance of the garden club members – and it was a delightfully warm reminder of summer pleasures to spend the morning thinking of garden ponds. If you are thinking of installing a garden pond, we are fortunate to live near a marvelous resource, Lilypons Gardens, where you can get expert advice and see a number of different demonstration ponds.

We are happy to welcome Carol Allen back as our speaker in February (she gave a bulb presentation to us last November). Carol is a Darnestown resident with over twenty-five years of experience in the horticulture industry. Carol’s master’s degree research work was in



transmission of virus diseases in orchids—thus our interest in having her return to our club to give us a talk on orchids. Carol enjoys teaching people how to outwit garden pests with little or no pesticide application. She holds a monthly orchid diagnostic/repotting clinic in Beltsville, MD. Hosts for February are Tonya Jones, Louise Evans, Becky Hanley, and Susan Allaway. This meeting has not occurred at the time of this article's writing—but imagine what a crew like this could create using orchids as the theme.



Photo by Susan Allaway . Hosts: Elizabeth Weaver, Merikay Smith, Barbara Andreassen, Karen Campbell (L to R)

Each year we have access to an amazing orchid exhibition sponsored by the Smithsonian and the U.S. Botanic Garden. If you have never been, please consider an outing this year to the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Orchid Exhibition "Orchids: Interlocking Science and Beauty." Hosted at the National Museum of Natural History, this exhibit will display more than 300 orchids daily and is open January 24 to April 26.

Looking ahead, Sue Prutting of White Magnolia Designs will teach us about creating a large-scale gardenesque compote in our March meeting. Sue Prutting's farm to vase ethic has garnered her mention by Martha Stewart. Similar to the efforts to find local sources for food, the farm to vase or slow flower movement emphasizes growing your own flowers or finding local sources. Besides planting a range of flowers in your garden, consider adding shrubs and trees which provide foliage and flowering branches that can be cut and used in bouquets. Sue has recently added the following to her own garden in Potomac: crabapples, viburnum, ninebark, spirea, mock orange, peony, hydrangea and winterberry. Hosts for March are Lisa Ruf, Pamela King, Diane Romney, and Lina Ganassa.



Photo: [www.whitemagnoliadesigns.com](http://www.whitemagnoliadesigns.com)

If you are a Darnestown resident and have an interest in gardening, this is a great time to join Darne Bloomers. Our membership is limited to 40 and we currently have several openings for new members. We meet the second Thursday morning of the month with most meetings held at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

Please contact our club president, **Becky Hanley** (301-330-5437), prior to coming to our meetings or to get more information.

## Quote of the Quarter

*"A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything."*

~ Irish Proverb





# We Bid Farewell to Two Community Icons



## Nancy H. Dacek, MoCo Civic Leader

By Emily Langer – The Washington Post

Nancy H. Dacek, a 12-year member of the Montgomery County Council who later served for more than a decade on the Montgomery County Board of Elections, died Jan. 12 at her home in Darnestown, Md. She was 81. The cause was cancer, said a daughter, Kim Barnes.



Mrs. Dacek was first elected to the council in 1990 and represented upper Montgomery County. She and Betty Ann Krahnke, the late council member who also won a seat that year, were the first Republicans to serve on the body in two decades.

Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, a Democrat who served with Mrs. Dacek on the council and its education committee, described her in a statement as a “voice for fiscal moderation and balanced growth” and as a “champion for the environment and for well-planned transportation infrastructure, planning, and construction.”

During her council tenure, Mrs. Dacek sought to protect Montgomery County’s agricultural reserve and industry and to support improvements in fire and rescue services. She advocated slow growth, rather than unbridled development, and helped obtain funding for the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, according to her family.

After the 1990 census, county council districts were redrawn in what Republicans considered a partisan effort to limit their influence. Mrs. Dacek moved from Potomac to Darnestown to avoid a contest with Krahnke in 1994. She was reelected that year and in 1998 before losing her seat in 2002 to Democrat Michael Knapp.

Soon after, then-Maryland governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. (R) named Mrs. Dacek to the Montgomery County Board of Elections, where she served as president and more recently treasurer.

Nancy Frances Halter was born Jan. 11, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1955, she received a bachelor’s degree in political science from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and later completed a master’s degree in education at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

She settled in the Washington area in 1974 and volunteered with local recreation centers and schools before becoming president of the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations in the 1980s.

Survivors include her husband of 57 years, Raymond F. Dacek of Darnestown; five children, Debbie Glass and Holly Dacek, both of New Market, Md., Kim Barnes of Radnor, Pa., Karen Dacek of Bainbridge Island, Wash., and Mickey Dacek of the District; two brothers; and nine grandchildren.

“I’m one of a vanishing breed I guess,” Mrs. Dacek once told The Washington Post, “a moderate Republican.”

## Mrs. Billie Poole

By Acorn Editor

Mrs. Frances (Billie) Poole of Poole’s General Store, died on February 4, 2015. She was 81. Her husband, Raymond E. Poole, died on July 20, 2011.



Born on February 26, 1930 in Virginia, Billie and her husband had owned and operated Poole’s General Store in Seneca since 1972. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the store was one of over a 100 general stores found throughout Montgomery County. But as the store celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2001, there were less than 25 of these local mercantile operations that remained. For more than 40 years, the Poole family provided a convenient supply of feed and specialized goods and services from the building at 16315 Old River Road to local equestrian, hunting, and farming communities in the Darnestown and Poolesville areas as well as throughout the Agricultural Reserve. Mrs. Poole always had a smile and time for a chat with everyone who stopped by, whether it was for several dozen bags of feed or just a hot dog and a soda.

Poole’s General Store was closed in 2010:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaB1JggeE6o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaB1JggeE6o)

Surviving Mrs. Poole are her children, James E. Poole, Linda M. Willis, John W. Poole, Carolyn L. Arnold, Jo Ann Clements, Marilyn M. Poole; one sister, Roberta Chauncey; one brother, Erwin Williams; 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.



# Service Providers



**Thank you to everyone who continues to email 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](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net) for inclusion in the next Acorn!**

## BABY SITTERS & MOTHERS' HELPERS

|                   |        |              |
|-------------------|--------|--------------|
| 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 |
| Kiersten Helmey   | age 17 | 301-519-3814 |
| Michael Long      | age 13 | 301-569-6367 |
| 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 16 | 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 |

## NOTARY SERVICES

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

## PERSONAL TRAINING

(Weight loss and General Fitness)

|               |           |               |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|
| Andrey Brener | Certified | 301- 792-5404 |
|---------------|-----------|---------------|

## 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 |
| Tom Cress         | age 22 | 301-990-9882 |
| Kiersten Helmey   | age 17 | 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 |
| Bonnie McManaman | violin, sax, clarinet, flute | 240-643-9398 |
| 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**

**May 1, 2015**

***Deadlines will remain firm!***

**Please send articles to**

**[wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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**

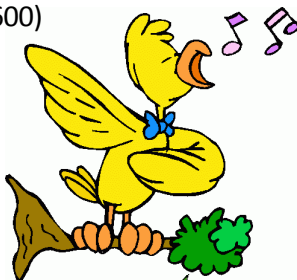
21830 Peach Tree Road  
Barnesville, MD 20838  
301-972-0341  
John Huber, Head of School

#### **Boy Scout Troop 1094**

Scout Master Jim DelVecchio  
[sm@troop1094.org](mailto: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-Troike, 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](mailto: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  
Carole Working, Principal  
(301-840-4686)

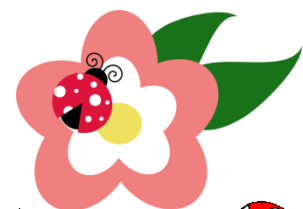
#### **Ridgeview Middle School**

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

#### **Trout Unlimited**

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369  
website:  
[www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)  
Charles August, Secretary  
[cсаugust@comcast.net](mailto:cсаugust@comcast.net)  
(240-401-8669)

[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)







# Darnestown Civic Association 2015 Membership Form



## *Darnestown Civic Association – 2015 Membership Form*

Make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA), and mail to:  
Darnestown Civic Association, 12600 Viewside Dr, Darnestown, MD 20878

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please write SAME if number has not changed.*

Primary E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please write SAME if email address has not changed.*

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.



## Don't Forget to Share the Acorn!

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

[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

Past issues are available on the website, too! ☺

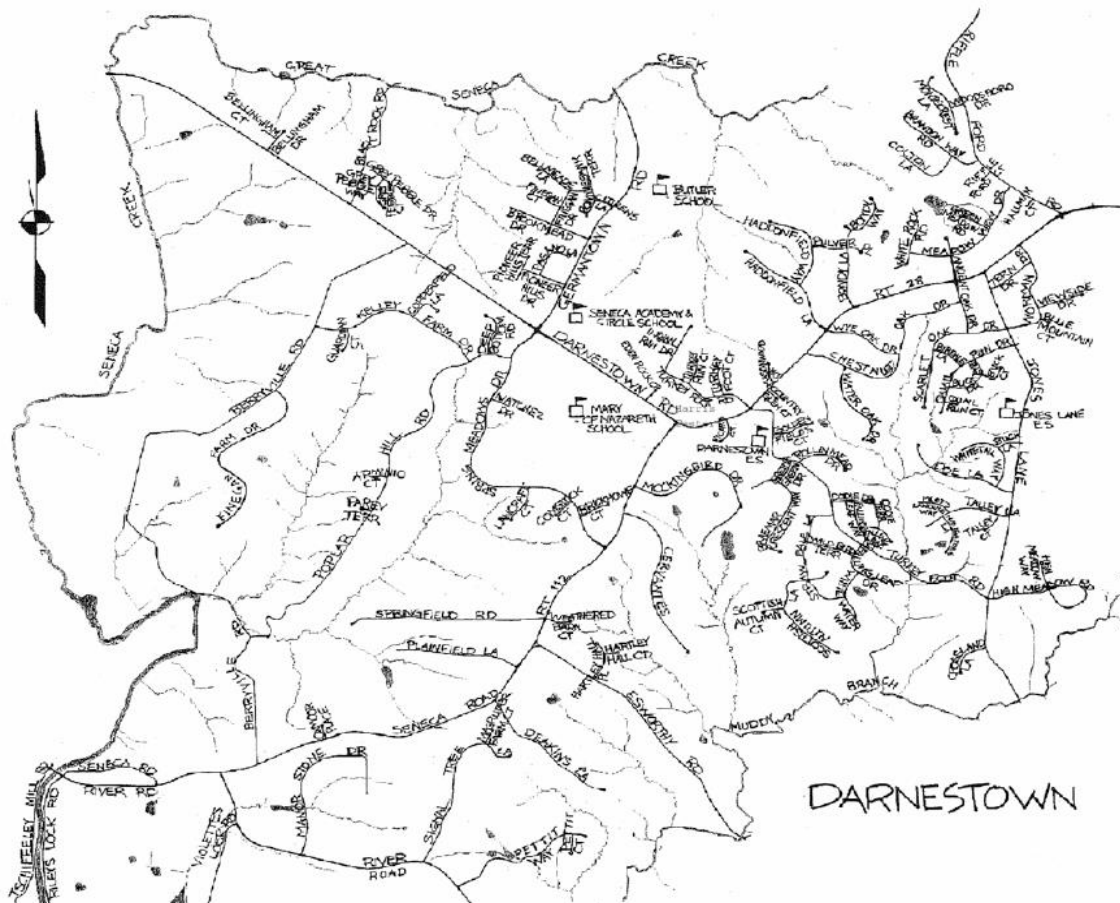


**Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.**  
14132B Darnestown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
Email: [dca@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)  
Website: [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

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DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION



DARNESTOWN

