

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION www.darnestowncivic.org

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CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

Notes from the President By Lisa Patterson-Troike

Vice President's Notes from Bob Thompson

I am humbled to be filling in for our supremely energetic President dedicated and Lisa Patterson for this newsletter. Unfortunately Lisa is currently dealing with her daughter Natasha's severe and acute illness, so her attention is temporarily diverted from the day-to-day activities of the Civic Association. Let's all of us devote some thoughts and prayers to Lisa and her family in the coming months. To those who regularly email Lisa regarding Civic Association matters we would ask that you add me, Bob Thompson, as a copy, too.

bob.thompson@comcast.net





Next DCA Town Meeting June 18th | 7:30 PM

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

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The Little Acorn

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Zoning & Dev:

Hooray!



here!!

Notes from the President



...continued from page 1

Election of Officers for 2015-2016

When you look at the left hand side of page two of "The Little Acorn" each newsletter you see a long list of positions and names. I would like to point out that all of the Board Positions and all of the DCA Committee Chairpersons are volunteers. We devote our time and effort because what we all have in common is a desire to maintain, safeguard, and improve what all of us love about Darnestown and its unique characteristics, which drove us to wish to live here in the first place. I am pointing this out because at the June 18th Town Meeting, we will have our annual election of Executive Board This year's recommended slate of members. nominees can be found on the right-hand column of this page. Please attend the Town Meeting on June 18th, as your participation in this process is vital. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor from paid DCA members.

DCA Membership

In this issue, you will see our annual list of dues paying members. Membership is down slightly this year. It's important for you to be a dues-paying member so that the DCA can continue to fully represent the residents of Darnestown in the most creditable ways possible, and fund the programs and projects that we do. It is still possible to sign up for 2015, please see page 35.

ANNUAL ELECTION OF DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

At the June 18th Town Meeting we will have elections for the Executive Board of the Darnestown Civic Association. All Executive Board positions are elected positions. Committee chairpersons and the DCA Chairman 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.



Below is the slate of candidates for the 2015-2016 DCA Executive Board Officers to be voted upon at the June 18th 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. Three-Year Trustee..... Dick Jurgena* (Pagano)...

*Currently occupying this position Chris Collins (Springfield) and Karen Hinrichsen (Haddonfield) will continue as Trustees for one and two years, respectively. Thank you to all our dedicated, hardworking volunteers. Without you, Darnestown wouldn't be as special a place!

Any questions or comments prior to the meeting may be directed to Bob Thompson: bob.thompson@comcast.net





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.

Here now, we continue with **NEW** and additional original information for the series. Enjoy!

Montanverde



From the Original Series: Montanverde on Berryville Road was owned by another son of Robert Peter named George Peter. George ran away at 15 to join the Maryland troops in the Whiskey Rebellion. George Washington, a family friend, personally sent him home. After graduating from Georgetown University five years later, George rejoined the army, rising to the rank of Major. One of his assignments was to investigate and testify at the Aaron Burr trial.

After receiving a large inheritance from his father, he purchased a home in Georgetown and built Montanverde as a summer home. George Peter retired from the military after the War of 1812 and was elected to Congress as a representative of the 6th District of Maryland, serving afterwards in the Maryland House of Delegates. He had 16 children, 8 of whom lived to maturity. Abraham Lincoln stayed at the house after a political rally with 600 guests held by Major Peters. William Barnum, brother of P.T. Barnum of circus fame, purchased it from the Peters. It is said to be haunted by a ghost who throws wine glasses into the fireplace!

During the Civil War, area residents divided their loyalty between North and South. Darnestown was

the scene of Civil War activity due to its strategic location near Potomac River crossings and its proximity to Washington. Some 18,000 Union troops were garrisoned in and around Darnestown in 1861, and in 1864, large numbers of both Union and Confederate troops moved through the area.

After the Civil War, the county's population increased, the canal boosted the local economy, and the Great Falls aqueduct encouraged further development. When Civil War soldiers discovered gold, they envisioned another California Gold Rush. As word of the gold spread after the war, mines were established along Rock Run and the canal. Although the success of the mines varied, they attracted newcomers to the area.

After emancipation, may African Americans were able to buy land and establish relatively autonomous communities where they made their living as laborers for neighboring farms while providing food for their families on their own small farms. These communities included homesteads near Oaklyn Road, and in the Cropley community near Great Falls, where Angler's Inn now stands.

Through the 1930's, area farms and orchards were generally productive, but in the late 1940's and early 1950's, many farms between Potomac Village and Rockville were developed for housing. During the 1960's, development accelerated and Potomac experienced a rapid 287 percent population increase. These development trends have continued as Montgomery County has become more populated. In the past three decades, much of the farmland and woodland in the Potomac Subregion has been subdivided for residential use. Spreading suburbanization, the loss of agricultural open space and the impact of roads and traffic on a formerly rural area present major challenges for the creation of communities and the preservation of historic and environmental resources.

Montanverde Update!

Montanverde was the early 19th century Piedmont country estate of a war hero and public official. Major George Peter, member of a prominent family who held important posts in the Maryland General Assembly and U.S. Congress after notable service in the War of 1812, lived in Montanverde from 1827 until his death in 1861, after which his descendants owned the property for another half century. From 1916 to early 2014, three generations of the Frank P. Harman family have owned Montanverde, using it as a summer home and later renting out the houses and barns.

An outstanding example of early 19th century farmhouse design, Montanverde retains much of its original character and materials. The Peter house is a modest but elegant 2½ story side gable frame dwelling house with a five-bay main block, Seneca sandstone foundation, and 1½ story wings at each gable end. External brick chimneys anchor both ends of the main block, and the front (south) facade differs from the rear elevation by having a three-light transom and an entrance landing reached by stone steps. The west wing contains the Lincoln Bedroom, so named for the thencongressman's overnight visit in 1848, and the east wing, which recently served as the kitchen, is a 1930s replacement. Montanverde is listed in the National Register as a featured property in the Seneca Historic District and is designated on the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

In September 2011, the main house and cottage were condemned for occupancy by Montgomery News of this so alarmed a Peter County. descendant, Phil Peter, that he looked to preservation groups for advice. Soon a "Save Montanverde" committee formed, including Phil, members of Historic Medley District and Montgomery Preservation, and concerned neighbors on Berryville Road. They set up a fund administered by HMD to help pay for some immediate stabilization needs and attempted to facilitate negotiations among the Harman family, MD Department of Natural Resources, and prospective purchasers. At last in January 2014, Tucker and Meakin Bennett took title and began the daunting project of restoration and renovation. retained much of its architectural character but was in poor condition, vacant, and in desperate need of restoration. The tenant house was also substantially deteriorated, four remaining outbuildings were in ruinous condition, the narrow winding dirt driveway was deeply rutted, and surrounding pastures were overgrown. Conditions were such that the damage must be reversed or the property would be lost.

The Bennetts assembled a talented team to work on both houses simultaneously, beginning to stabilize the main house while focusing on repairing the 1930s tenant house for occupancy with their two young children. Built of frame construction with a concrete block foundation and raised-seam metal roof, the 2-story three-bay front gable tenant house faces west toward the Peter house. Here, Tri-State Controls replaced the roof, rebuilt the porch, and conducted rehabilitation and in-kind repairs throughout. After repairing damaged and deteriorated trim and sills, all windows were removed and replaced with 6/1 wood windows.

Was kitchen addition removed from tenant house? The kitchen also required complete rehabilitation. The kitchen foundation had to be rebuilt. The entire house was actually gutted, and the Bennets put in new everything—plumbing, electrical, HVAC, walls, appliances etc. Mrs. Bennet commented, "I like to say that was an 'everything but the kitchen sink' renovation since the only thing we saved was the 1920s farm kitchen sink. We did also save the floorboards in the living room, but they were repaired, sanded and stained."

In June 2014, the family moved in, and were able to be on site for work on the main house for their primary residence.

Intending to make Montanverde their family home for generations, the Bennetts were determined to maintain its classical symmetry. They first repaired the roof and halted collapse of the center hallway, replacing rotted north-south log beams with concrete beams. A new full basement provided space for modern infrastructure, and according to

By the time of condemnation, the Peter house

the Bennetts, "...this is actually only a crawlspace, the only cellar is under the Lincoln room. We also kept all of the old, original, framing and shored it up so that in another 200 years the next renovation team will be able to see how it was originally built. Also of note, while we were preparing to jack up the center hall way, our builder (Mike Morris) fortunately discovered that the second floor joists were centimeters from fall off their post-thus collapsing the second floor. If we had simply jacked the house up, the second floor would have collapsed like a house of cards. Thus before the house could be raised, north-south steel were place thought out the original section of the house to suck the north and south side together, and hold the second floor in place. The center hall foundation was then jacked up 12 inches to make it level again."

Simultaneously, they removed rotten wood, extraneous plumbing and hot water heating. They re-leveled all floor systems, re-plumbed walls, added new framing and insulation, and repaired fire damage near the east chimney before adding modern electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems. They removed a non-working 20th century brick chimney from the west end of the house along with other alterations. Everywhere, their architect and contractors worked to restore original materials and features where possible. To the east side of the kitchen the Bennetts added a modest 175 s/f one-story mudroom/laundry; its roof and wood siding match the existing materials. With the final County condemnation lifted, they moved into the Peter house in November 2014.

In the 12.99-acre environmental setting, there was much to be done. The eroded driveway from Berryville Road was cleared of bushes and fallen trees, improved with drainage piping and gravel, and reconfigured to provide better access to both houses.

Overgrown pastures are slowly being recaptured and reused; Montanverde's stunning rural ambiance has rebounded. The large bank barn, at the far eastern edge of the property, was sold with 1.2 acres to the Bennetts by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR). From the

Harmans, DNR purchased 30 acres adjoining the Montanverde parcel on three sides to maintain this setting and enhance Seneca Creek State Park. Recently, a plaque was placed at the top of the driveway in a grass clearing. From this high ground, a person can read the plaque, see the house behind, and overlook pastures and woodlands in the background. It is cast in bronze and mounted on a slab of locally-quarried flagstone. The plaque was designed by Phil Peter and funded by donations to the Save Montanverde fund established within HMD.

The property is protected by caring, responsible owners, with a perpetual easement held by MHT, DNR ownership of the surrounding land, County historic designation, and continuing interest by the Peter family and Darnestown Civic Association.

MONTANVERDE

Built between 1806 and 1812, Montanverde was the residence of Major George Peter (1779-1861), who received his military commission from President John Adams upon a recommendation from George Washington.

At the beginning of the War of 1812, President James Madison tendered George Peter the rank of Major. Major Peter commanded an artillery battalion in which Francis Scott Key was a private. His Georgetown Artillery was one of the few militia units to fight heroically at the Battle of Bladensburg in 1814.

Major Peter was a three-term United States Congressman. He also served in the State House of Delegates and was Commissioner of Public Works of Maryland.

In 1848, Major Peter held at Montanverde a political rally for 600 guests to support Zachary Taylor. Congressman Abraham Lincoln attended the event and spent the night in the downstairs west wing room, still referred to as the Lincoln Room.



Preservation and listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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
- 2014 Montgomery County Historic Preservation Awards



Maior George Peter

This plaque was dedicated in 2014

Community Interest

Violette's Lock: A Good Place to Meet a Stranger

Wild creatures, jungle plants and rocks with a twisted past greet the visitor to this idyllic place. By Roger Hamilton – Patch Newspapers

There are a lot of reasons why more people don't get to know the Potomac River, like snakes, bugs, or just yuck. The news media doesn't help with stories about floods, pollution, and sharp-toothed snakehead fish.

But I think that the main reason is simply that people don't know where to go and what to expect. The river is a stranger. So it comes down to getting over your shyness and stepping up to that stranger and saying, "Hi, I'd like to get to know you."

I'll break the ice by telling a little something about one of my favorite spots. It's a jewel of a place called Violette's Lock, a short distance west of the intersection of River and Seneca roads.

It's a favorite with kayakers, but you don't need a boat to enjoy the rapids. It's beloved by birders, but you don't need binoculars to see the herons, cormorants, and even eagles. It's a magnet for fishermen, but you don't need a fishing pole to spot a smallmouth bass leaping up at a newly hatched mayfly.

Just come as you are.

Park in the dirt lot and head to the tow path. The first thing you come to, not surprisingly, is the lock, or rather what looks like two of them. Actually, one of the rockfaced structures channels water from the river into the C&O Canal. The other is the actual lock.

This all comes clearer when you look out across the river. It looks as if someone drew a line from one shore to the other. Upstream, the water is so flat that it could be a lake. But downstream, it gushes and leaps over boulders.

The explanation: This is the site of a dam built to back up the river to send water into the canal intake.

Before strolling downstream, check out the sky for resident bald eagles. If you don't see any, at least you



can be assured of a view of another symbol of our nation: a very large American flag on the Donald Trump National Golf Course on the far shore. Trump erected the flag after he cut down all the trees at the river's edge to give his golfers a more scenic view.

Continuing on you can hear the rapids, but you still can't see them. So take a moment to admire the trees closing around you. The small ones with the big, almondshaped leaves are paw-paws. If they look like the setting for a jungle movie, it's because nearly all other members of this botanical family live in the tropics. In the fall, when the pungent fruits litter the ground, you'd imagine you're in a tropical exotic smoothie bar.

Further along you come to concrete wall topped with stones. Choose a place not covered with vines (often poison ivy!) and take a seat. Here you get a great view of the rapids called Seneca Breaks. You might see a fisherman wading out in the river. If it's midday, he probably won't be catching much. He wades oh so carefully along the uneven bottom, and then abruptly drops into a deep hole up to his neck.

Examine the canal. It's bursting with life with scenes out of a children's nature book. Big, flat turtles line up on logs, herons skulk in the shadows, fish nonchalantly eye passersby. You might even spot a beaver, or a fawn, coming here to drink.

Contrast this with the river. There, the low water of summer reveals a landscape of twisted rock. It is called metagraywacke, a name that only geologists would not find amusing.



The rock was formed deep under the sea hundreds of millions of years ago from sand and silt deposited by massive underwater landslides. When North America collided with Africa and Europe about 300 millions of years ago, these rock layers were convulsed by enormous pressures and lifted to form land.

The rock is still changing. Now the sculptor is the river, particularly when its swift flood waters send down powerful charges of stones and sand. In a contest between rock and water, water always wins.

You get a closer look at these same rocks further along at Blockhouse Point. Delicate plants cling to the sides of the cliffs as in a rock garden. Every so often, you see the remains of holes drilled into the rock by early 19th century construction crews. They stuffed the holes with black powder to blast a path for the canal, sometimes at the cost of eyes and limbs.

But their assault on the river landscape was nothing compared to plans just a couple of decades ago run an outer beltway over this very spot. Thankfully, local people rose up to quash the idea. Is the danger gone forever? Certainly not.

After the final cliff you'll find the 21-mile marker and a path leading down to the river. Take a good look at the water. It is the same water that comes out of our taps. Most likely at this time of year it looks just as clear as anything sold in a plastic bottle.

And really, what bottled water can claim it came from a place with as much history and scenery as the Potomac?



Maryland Questers

By: Bettye Wolfe President, Maryland Questers

Maryland Questers held their State Day event April 9th at the DoubleTree Hilton in Annapolis, Maryland. One hundred Marylanders gathered to welcome International President Ginger Robbins who flew in from Tulsa, Oklahoma to attend this annual business meeting.

New state officers were elected for the 2015-2017 term. Three chapters received Anniversary Certificates for 20, 25 and 45 years of dedicated service to the Quester organization. Grants were made to four chapters in the amount of nearly \$10,000 to be used toward preservation and restoration of their specific chapter projects. Historic Jerusalem Mill Village, located in Hartford County, was chosen as the State Project for 2015-2016.

Almost \$5,000 was realized from fund raising projects. Each chapter donated a beautiful basket; some clever, some practical, each a delight to see and a joy to win. The Silent Auction was a beehive of activity, with items such as a vintage Nippon Chocolate Pot, Lladro figurines, and a large Chrystal chandelier. The 50/50 winner went home \$100 richer, with a happy face.

Get ready Darnestown! You are getting closer to having a Quester chapter. It takes only ten interested individuals and you can have the support of this International organization and have the joy of participating in its many activities. The International Convention in Princeton, New Jersey is next on the calendar.

Welcome To The Questers

Questers is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the study, conservation and preservation of historical objects for the benefit of today and tomorrow. Members seek to identify preservation and restoration of existing landmarks as well as to educate through the research and study of antiques.

For more information, please visit the website at:

http://www.questers1944.org

Source: http://patch.com/maryland/potomac/violetteslock-a-good-place-to-meet-a-stranger



DCA held another successful Spring Social on May 6th. All of the ingredients were there - great people, great BBQ food with all the fixings, and the essential thunder and with lightning storm, complete а downpour! Fortunately, the Smokey Glen facilities are great, and all the adults stayed warm and dry with great socializing. Of course, rain doesn't bother kids, so pee wee golf, tether ball, and gymnastics were star attractions for the younger set. Those of you who weren't able to come this year missed a great time - so be sure to plan early to attend next year!!







Barbequers, Inc.



Tobi Athanas and Janet Swisher





Community Interest 🚿

Proposed Seneca Farms Subdivision

By Pam DuBois

The Seneca Farms property is located in the 14400 / 14500 block of Seneca Road. The new proposed subdivision would be located on approximately 136+ acres of currently unimproved farmland and forest areas with an old abandoned homestead. The property is zoned Rural Cluster (RC) and is proposed to be subdivided into a total of 27 residential building lots (allowable by right calculated by dividing 136 acres by 5 acres per lot). The building lots will be served by on-site well and septic systems.

The property contains many significant or specimen sized trees, streams, and area of forest. In keeping with the purposes of the RC zone, the property is to be developed using the cluster option. At least 60 percent of the property (82 acres) is proposed to be retained as open space. All of the new development, 27 homes with lot ranging in size from 1.39 to 2.23 acres, is proposed to be clustered in a mostly open part of the site in the northeast corner of the property adjacent to the Spring Meadows neighborhood.

Since the proposed lots meet the requirements of the RC zone under the cluster option with respect to lot size and other development standards, no waivers from any zoning, subdivision, or road code requirements are being requested as part of the application process. To date, a pre-preliminary plan has been submitted to the County's planning department, water table holes have been dug on the proposed lots and some County inspections have been completed. Next on the agenda is having percolation tests conducted.

During this pre-preliminary plan submission process, the developer is working with the County and hopes to submit a preliminary subdivision plan by late summer / early fall. When the preliminary plan is filed, the applicant is required to send written notice to all adjacent and



confronting property owners. Subsequently (Fall 2015?), the DCA is planning to facilitate a community meeting with applicant representatives to better understand the plan and subdivision process. If interested, residents can then continue to participate in the process by getting involved with the County's staff analysis and evaluation and/or at the Planning Boards Public Hearing. Stay tuned...



Community Interest

Infrastructure - PEPCO

By Art Slesinger

We are at the end of the five year Reliability Enhancement Program that was started by PEPCO after the Public Service Commission (PSC) began its 2010 investigation into the poorly maintained and fragile County distribution system. PEPCO has spent about \$500 million of your money on improvements and in Darnestown most people would probably say there have been significant improvements in the reliability of the local grid. PEPCO has provided the PSC with further plans for an additional \$200 million over the next few years. PEPCO has lived up to its commitment.

A word about your individual power line may be in order. Depending on the age of your house there is either an above ground line or buried utility that brings power from the nearby transformer to your house. This line can and does age. If your lights flicker it may be a sign of old age. You can also experience partial power when one of the two hot leads into your house fails. This will mean only half your electrical panel will be functional. Other problems can be a compromised neutral line which will inhibit proper power flow. The underground power lines have a useful life of between 30 and 40 years. Many of the developments of the 70's are now past this expected life time. If you have an issue, call PEPCO or have an electrician measure your service quality. Yes, even power has a quality component; the voltage should not vary more than a few percent. If it does, the service line to house could be the problem.

Environmental Issues

For those in the Darnestown area interested in mitigating the impact of your storm water runoff from your property, the following information explains a program that will evaluate your home and provide recommendations. There is a cost involved: The Izaak Walton League (a national conservation organization headquartered in Gaithersburg) is sponsoring a program called Lands Green, Waters Clean. The goal is to encourage homeowners to install conservation landscaping, rain gardens, and canopy trees at homes in the Muddy Branch watershed. Adopting these landscaping strategies will help to keep pollution out of the Muddy Branch stream, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay. Other benefits include improved soils and drainage, and habitat that attracts wildlife such as birds and butterflies.

For interested homeowners, the process begins with a site visit by a landscape professional who is experienced in these strategies. Although the focus of Lands Green, Waters Clean is on the Muddy Branch watershed, the League is offering this site visit to homeowners outside the Muddy Branch as well. Most Darnestown homes are located within the Seneca Creek watershed, which, like the Muddy Branch, flows to the Potomac. The site visit will help to identify which strategies are best suited to the property, and report with а recommendations is provided after the visit. The cost of the visit is \$60, a discounted price made possible by the Izaak Walton League.

Some Darnestown homes, however, are located within the Muddy Branch watershed, making those homes eligible to receive additional benefits in the Lands Green, Waters Clean program. For Muddy Branch homes, the site visit is \$30. After the consultation, properties chosen as the best fit for the program will receive a landscape design and installation at no cost to them.

Anyone interested should first visit the Lands Green, Waters Clean website and sign up for a consultation, or contact Toni Bailey at <u>toni@gracefullygreen.com</u>. If this is something you have been considering, but haven't known how to begin, this is a good first step.

Community Interest 🚿

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) Kicks off the 2015 Summer Season

By Rob Swisher

The summer pool and tennis season officially kicked off on Saturday Mary 23nd with the Opening Day Pool Party and Tennis Extravaganza. The pool was full of laughter and splashing, and the courts were active with Roger Federer wannabees.

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, relax, and have fun with friends and family.

Our swim team is competing in the "C" Division of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL), lead by Head Coach Pat Tozzi. Contact our team cochairs, Terry Brown at <u>tbrown@browntg.com</u> or Christy Adelman at <u>Christy Adelman@yahoo.com</u>

GO DEMONS!

Our Tennis program was active as soon as the warm weather kicked in. Men's and Ladies nights are underway as well as our skills clinics led by our Tennis Pro, Bradley Jones, and Tennis Director, Peter Carothers (<u>DSRCTennis@gmail.com</u>). Our tennis program offers fun and competition for every age and skill level.

This year we have a Morning Half Day Camp from 8:30 to 12:30. Camp starts on June 15th. Our new camp Director Rosemary DeRose will be guiding an exciting camp that will be very hands on and include arts and crafts, games, songs, nature experiences in our woods and many other fun filled activities. She is very excited for the camp to begin.

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.

A few memberships remain. We would love to have you join! If you or anyone you know are interested in joining please visit us online at www.dsrclub.com If you have questions, please contact Club Manager, Dave Hardy our gmdsrc@gmail.com, 301-330-1340, or our at Membership Director. Bonnie Lane at bonnieLLane@yahoo.com, 240-683-8206.



Community Interest 🚿

MOMS Club of North Potomac – Muddy Branch

By Jennifer J. Moss, President

Women dedicated to a part or full-time stay-athome role have benefited from joining MOMS Club International[®] since 1983. With more than 1,500 chapters nationwide, MOMS Club of North Potomac-Muddy Branch proudly serves women in Darnestown by focusing on carrying out our mission of "Moms Offering Moms Support" in a variety of ways.

Each month our Chapter works diligently to plan an array of activities for moms and their children. Special story times, creative craft activities, kids' concerts, science/magic shows, visits to farms/orchards, tours of area businesses, baking/cooking classes, environmental programs, and holiday/seasonal celebrations are among the fun-filled festivities we offer year round. Additionally, play groups, organized by each child's age, are a part of our weekly schedule.

Beyond programs to educate, entertain, and excite our little ones, members are able to establish meaningful, long-lasting friendships. With groups such as our Recipe Swap, Book Club, and Walking Club, there are wonderful ways to connect with other women. Special speakers also share in our monthly gatherings to discuss topics of interest such as how to find a babysitter, CPR/First Aid, kid-friendly workout programs, decorating, nutrition, family photography, on-the-go beauty tricks, and safety awareness. A highlight of each month is our Moms' Night Out, which has included spa trips, trivia nights, manicure/pedicures, bowling adventures, haunted house visits, and holiday parties.



Outreach within the community is a vital part of our organization. Within the past year, examples of philanthropy projects we have dedicated our time and talents to include:

- Donating backpacks filled with school supplies to Comfort Cases for area foster children
- Fundraising for McPaw, the non-profit arm of Montgomery County's Animal Services and Adoption Center
- Filling activity bags and contributing board games for Children's National Medical Center patients
- Creating cards for Operation Welcome Home delivered to service men and women returning home from overseas
- Visiting residents of Ingleside Assisted Living for special story/song times while sharing hand-made crafts
- Providing wish list presents to a family through the Lourie Center during the holidays
- Preparing bag breakfasts for others in the area for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless

Prospective members are welcome to join us during our public events, and are encouraged to visit us during our Spring Open House on Thursday, May 28, at Lakelands Park (368 Main St, Gaithersburg) starting at 10:00 AM. If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about joining MOMS Club, or want to establish a partnership with us in the community, please reach us at: <u>npmbmomsclub@gmail.com</u>

Directory Information:

MOMS Club of North Potomac – Muddy Branch Website: <u>www.bigtent.com/groups/npmbmoms</u>

Email: npmbmomsclub@gmail.com



Community Interest



Play Ball!!! By: Dave Bivans Seneca-Highland-Berryville

DCA's 26th adult co-ed recreational softball season kicked off on an initially dry April 19th with Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) taking on Seneca-Highlands-Berryville (SHB) in a battle of stellar pitching, mid-season form fielding, and a few deep balls that kept the score tight throughout the game. SHB squeaked out two runs in the bottom 7th to end the game in a tie at 10 runs apiece. The rain also cancelled defending champions Western Darnestown (WD) opener against the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ).

With three weeks of game play completed, BHR is at the top of the standings, as has been their early season form. Aiding BHR's batting prowess are coaches Steve Groff and Curt McCormick earning the privilege to bat natural-handed this season, with both rocking long balls into triple and homerun territory already. As the season wears on, will they be able to hold off the always charging WD, three-time champs over the last four years, or SHB, last year's early chargers? Game play continues at Darnestown's local Cliff Bland Park on Sundays through August 2nd providing thirteen weeks of game play, with the League taking a break on a few Sundays to honor our all star mom's and dad's and our nation's holidays. Teams are still looking for players to fill rosters and supplement positions to account for upcoming vacations. If you're interested in joining in the fun, please contact Dave Bivans at dnlbivans34@verizon.net or 301-977-4734.



Honorary pitcher (and scorekeeper) Debbie Waechter (SHB) throws the first pitch of the 2015 season. Catching is Steve Waechter and at the plate is perennial BHR lead-off batter Kevin Ricci.

HIHHHH				
Jan.	TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	TIES
Γ	Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	2	0	1
ſ	Seneca-Highlands-Berryville	1	1	1
	Western Darnestown	1	1	
	Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	0	2	



Community Interest 🚿

Selfless Beyond Service

By Melbalynn Madarang and Korin Wilson

Pamela Zembiec, a resident of Bondy, recently wrote a memoir entitled <u>Selfless Beyond Service</u>. The book is the story of her husband, Major Douglas A. Zembiec, known to most as The *Lion of Fallujah*. He was killed in battle on May 11, 2007, doing what he loved most: leading men into battle. There have been many stories written about Major Zembiec but this celebrates Doug's life as a husband, father, and son.

Pam set out to write the book as a way of working through her grief and to give her daughter a view of her father. It took her seven years but the final product is a warm and moving tribute to her husband, written to encompass their love story and includes many of the letters Doug sent to her while away in battle. In addition to her own story, the book describes how the families of the fallen support, honor, and pay tribute to the legacy of their loved ones.

The book has drawn a lot of attention. Pam was featured both on CNN and in a Washington Post article:

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/nationalsecurity/iconic-marine-maj-zembiec-the-lion-offallujah-died-in-the-service-of-thecia/2014/07/15/71501d2c-0b77-11e4-8c9a-923ecc0c7d23_story.html

Written in July, 2014 by Thomas Gibbons-Neff, the article revealed that Doug had been working for the CIA when he was killed. Pamela speaks very fondly of Doug and his love of being a Marine. "Doug chose a path. He died doing what he loved, and he made a difference. And that's what matters."

The book is available on Amazon as a kindle download or hardcopy.

http://www.amazon.com/Selfless-Beyond-Service-Husband-Fallujah/dp/147872935X





"The Zembiec family was living the American dream. They had a wonderful daughter, a beautiful home and a promising future. All was just as Doug had promised his wife Pamela long before their wedding day in 2005. "If you think it, you will become it." Doug would always say. He, himself, was a much loved and respected Marine Corps Officer, who always turned his dreams into reality. On Friday, May 11, 2007, all those dreams were shattered when Doug was killed in action during a night mission in Baghdad, Iraq. Life would never be the same... Selfless Beyond Service takes you through the eyes and heart of Major Douglas Zembiec's widow, Pamela, as she recalls the days and months following his death while also taking you back in time to celebrate his life. His life, not only as a Marine, but as a husband, son, and father." ~Amazon

Community Interest 🚿

Those Who Serve

By Madeline D'Alessio home.dalessio@gmail.com

1st Lt. Brandon M. Cooper U.S. Air Force, son of Alice and Roger, deployed to the Middle East in March, 2015. Lt. Cooper will provide support for the network systems throughout the region. Prior to deployment, he provided engineering support for the Combined Air and Space Operation Center at Langley Air Force Base, Hampton, VA. Lt. Cooper received 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 Darnestown ES and Northwest HS graduate. If you wish to send a note or package to Brandon to remind him that we are thinking of him while he is deployed, please contact Madeline at the address below.

Following completion of his 2nd deployment to Afghanistan, Captain Ryan Swisher (US Army) returned to Darnestown on March 14th to a welcome home celebration hosted by his parents, Rob and Janet Swisher, attended by many family, friends, and neighbors and complete with the playing of the Star Spangled banner. All are grateful for his successful mission and safe return. This fall he will attend the Sloan School of Management at MIT where he will begin course work toward an MBA. Following his studies at MIT, he has accepted an appointment to the faculty at the U. S. Military Academy (West Point) for the fall of 2017 where he will teach economics.





Harris Teeter Offers Parking Spots Just for Veterans

Many stores offer parking spaces that are reserved for specific shoppers – such as handicapped drivers or drivers with children.

Harris Teeter is adding to list by offering designated parking spots to veterans. According to StarNewsOnline.com, Harris Teeter intruded the veteran spots this year and is working to have them at all stores soon.

"We are proud of this addition, as we see it as just one more way Harris Teeter can honor its military service men and women," said company spokeswoman Danna Jones.



Darnestown's Harris Teeter



Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.

EARLY OBSERVANCES OF MEMORIAL DAY

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

Did You Know?

Each year on Memorial Day a national moment of remembrance takes place at 3:00 PM local time.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo, New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

DECORATION DAY

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.



On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

EVOLUTION OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONS

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.



Monday May 25, 2015

Meet the Neighbors!

FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH

When, as an orphaned ten-year-old boy, current Darnestown neighbor **Rob Chasteen-Scheer** arrived at his foster home, he carried all of his meager worldly belongings in a garbage bag. Decades later, the Scheer family welcomed the first of its four (now legally adopted) foster children, both carrying their few possessions in white plastic bags.

The memory of those bags inspired Rob to found a charitable organization entitled *Comfort Cases*.

Comfort Cases spawned from a Fall 2013 community service project for Rob's company, CoesterVMS. The goal was to get and fill small suitcases, duffle bags, or backpacks for children entering the foster care system. Each case would contain necessities and items to comfort children beginning a new and daunting stage of their lives at a time when they feel most vulnerable.

The initial goal was a modest 200 cases, but the effort led to an outpouring of donations, many coming from the Darnestown community. On December 14, 2013, *Comfort Cases* hosted the first "packing party," in which more than 50 volunteers, many bearing additional donations, worked for hours running between stations containing school supplies, personal products, small toys, and security blankets.

Increasing need represents a growth in opportunity to help children. Here are some of the ways we can help:

Donate

Money: Go to <u>http://www.comfortcases.org/get-involved/</u> and click on "Donate"

Gifts or Materials: Drop off in person or mail to 7529 Standish Place, Suite 200, Rockville MD 20855.

<u>Shop</u>

Shop for bargains: Cases (small carry-ons, rucksacks, duffle bags), stuffed toys, pencils, colored pencils, pens, crayons, coloring books, composition books and journals, baby wipes, deodorant, brushes and combs, toothbrush and toothpaste, as well as socks, underwear, and sleepwear (footed sleepers, pajamas, gym shorts/pants, T-shirts,...) for infants to teenagers. Right now we especially need bags and pajamas.

To Volunteer: Please visit Comfort Cases website at <u>www.comfortcases.org</u> and review upcoming events.









FOR MORE INFORMATION

Robert T. Chasteen - Scheer Office: 888-485-1999 ext 181 Direct: 240-667-7181 Cell: 202-253-0402 E-mail: rscheer@coestervms.com

Homesteading Corner!

Keeping Rabbits, Deer, and Other Wildlife Out of Your Garden

Source: <u>www.thriftyfun.com</u>

Although cute, rabbits, deer, and local wildlife can be real pests in the garden. They can quickly devour all of the plants you are growing. This is a guide about keeping these cute but destructive critters out of your garden.

Like many wildlife, deer and rabbits have become extremely adaptable to living within human environments. Unfortunately, when searching for food they can quickly lay waste to vegetable and flower gardens. Although physical barriers like walls and fences are the most effective means to keeping them out of your garden, they are not always a practical or affordable solution.

"Scent fences" can be a practical alternative especially when local deer and rabbit populations have plenty of other places to go in search of food. Of the dozens of home and commercial remedies routinely tested by gardeners, the following seem to be the most effective:

Cat Litter: Create a scent fence with used cat litter by sprinkling it on the lawn and around ornamentals. Replace weekly or after heavy rains. Used cat litter will also help repel moles and gophers when dumped into active burrows.

Use caution when handling and distributing litter: Cat feces may contain toxoplasmosis parasites, which can infect humans. Do not use litter around edible plants. If you can't stand the thought of digging cat litter into bare soil, put small amounts into the bottoms of coffee cans that have several holes punches in their sides and set them around your garden.

Hair: A lot of gardeners have successfully kept deer and rabbits away by hanging human or dog hair from trees or by spreading it in loose clumps around their landscape. To hang it from trees, use mesh bags with a 1/8 inch or smaller mesh, and place two large handfuls of hair in each bag. Hang the bags at a height of about 4 feet and spaced no more than 3 feet apart. You can also spread wads of loose hair near the base of vulnerable plants. A scent fence of hair works best if you replace the hair at least once a week. Contact local barbers and groomers - most will be more than happy to help out.

Deodorant Soap: String bars of deodorant soap on wire and hang them on the branches of the trees or shrubs that need protecting. Space them no farther than 3 feet apart and try to hang them at deer-nose level (about 4 feet). Hint: If you leave the bar soap in their packages they will last a bit longer.

For repelling deer and rabbits from individual plants, try scented dryer sheets. Cut them into strips about an inch wide and tie the strips on the plants you want to protect. Deer, in particular, do not like the smell and tend to stay away.

Rotten Eggs: Another effective scent fence can be made from a rotting egg spray. Yes, it's stinky. Fortunately, the deer and rabbits think so, too. Here is a good recipe:

- 1. Mix 3 to 6 rotten eggs (or a quart of sour milk) in 1 gallon of water.
- 2. Add a teaspoon of garlic powder and 1 teaspoon of finely ground chili pepper.
- 3. Spray around deer and rabbit-prone plants, renewing after it rains or at least once per month.

Many pre-mixed versions of this type of concoction are available at home and garden centers. I highly recommend a brand called Liquid Fence. After just one time of using it on my vulnerable flowers and shrubs, the deer and rabbits have learned to steer clear.

Garlic: No one likes garlic breath, perhaps least of all deer. Recent research has shown that selenium, the component in garlic which gives it its garlic smell, prevents deer from eating tree shoots and seedlings. Give your plants garlic breath by spraying a garlic oil solution on trees and shrubs. (Reapply after it rains). As an alternative, plant time-released garlic capsules (available at health food stores) at the bases of trees or shrubs.

Homemade garlic oil: Soak 6 cloves of minced garlic in 2 tablespoons of mineral oil for 24 hours. Strain out the garlic and add 1 pint of water to the remaining liquid. Mix well and spray plants.



Urine: In the animal kingdom, prey species like deer and rabbits must follow a cardinal rule to survive: avoid predators at all costs. Predatory animals use urine to define their territory. Because the scent of urine is sometimes the only warning prey species have that predators are nearby, when they smell it, they instinctively flee the area.

Bottled urine from predators like coyotes, mountain lions, and wolves can be purchased commercially to create a scent fence around garden plants. If you're so inclined, you can also collect and use your own.

Vinegar: Some gardeners report that vinegar helps repel rabbits. After enjoying a meal of corn on the cob, cut the cobs in half and soak them in a bowl of vinegar for 10 minutes. Then create a scent fence by scattering them throughout your flower or vegetable garden. Store the used vinegar in a labeled bottle and repeat the process every two weeks.

A Fresh Fence is an Effective Fence

As the odor of your scent fence fades, so does its effectiveness. To keep animals away, you need to keep things smelling "fresh". Always test spray-on repellants in a small area before applying to plants.

Plan to reapply your odor repellants after it rains, and after they have spent some time being exposed to the elements. Eventually, the animals may become used to the scent and start to ignore it. If and when this happens, switching to a different type of scent fence can be effective.





Don't Pull That Dandelion! It's one of the first spring foods for our precious bees.

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!

Summer is Salad Season!

Here are some great homemade salad dressing recipes to enjoy this summer!

Aunt Doris' Tomato Soup Dressing

A good, basic dressing to keep in the fridge. It's similar to French dressing.

Page 77

- 1 (10 ¾ oz can condensed tomato soup
- ¾ cup wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
 - 1. Combine first nine ingredients in a blender.
 - 2. Cover and whirl until smooth.
 - 3. Setting blender on lowest speed, add oil slowly.
 - 4. Whirl a few seconds longer to blend well.
 - 5. Refrigerate.



Creamy Mustard Dressing

Better than Store-Bought! Page 78

½ Cup vegetable oil
2 tbsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. tarragon white wine vinegar
1 tbsp. sugar
2 ½ Tbsp. Dijon mustard
½ tsp. salt

Fresh ground pepper

- 1. Combine all ingredients in a blender and mix for 40 seconds.
- 2. Refrigerate.
- 3. HINT: Bring to room temperature before serving.



Ginger Honey Mustard Dressing

The name says it all! Page 79

- 2-inch piece fresh ginger, peeled and grated
- 3 cloves garlic, pressed or minced
- 2 Tbsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. pepper
- ½ cup cider or white wine vinegar
- 1 ½ cups salad oil
 - 1. Combine all ingredients in a blender.
 - 2. Mix until well-blended.

School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary



By Janet Swisher

School's almost out for the summer! DES wishes all families, students, and staff a safe and joyful summer break. This year is particularly hard for me, because it will be my families last year at Darnestown Elementary. My little boy graduates June 10th with all of his amazing classmates! Congratulations 5th Graders, you will be missed.

This spring our PTA, parents, and students joined together to deliver a wonderful DES Staff Appreciation week. Each staff member was pampered with random acts of kindness! Our staff works hard to ensure everyone is safe, encouraged, and supported; so we enjoyed giving a little back to each of those caring souls.

The DES Variety Show held in May, was another huge success. The audience was filled with laughter due to our talented MCs, not to mention the amazing amount of energy and talent our student body delivered. Well done everyone who participated!

Upcoming Calendar of Events:

Don't miss our Summer Picnic: Friday, June 5th 5th Grade Graduation: June 10th Last day of School: Monday, June 15th

Staff Retirement Celebrations at Darnestown Elementary School By Heather Rose

DES held a celebration on May 21 to celebrate the service of Debbie Waechter, Paulette Koehn, and Susie Nantz. This was an opportunity for former and current students and their families to wish this trio well as they move on to the next chapters in their lives.

Debbie Waechter started as a parent in 1989, volunteering in classrooms and serving on the



PTA. After that she spent seven years as a paraeducator. Since moving to the classroom, Mrs. Waechter has taught third grade for three years, a 4/5 split for two years, and fifth grade for the last eleven years.

Paulette Koehn has been the Art Teacher at Darnestown ES for the past 26 years. Students always remember the incredible projects they created with Mrs. Koehn. We will miss her beautiful art displays!

Susie Nantz has been a para-educator at Darnestown for the past 18 years. Mrs. Nantz worked in many classrooms and helped hundreds of students learn and grow over the years. In addition, she volunteered in classrooms while her daughters were at DES.





Following Butler Montessori's mission to support the development of the whole child by including music and arts, on April 14th the Upper Elementary students performed excerpts from "The Little Mermaid Jr. the Musical" for patients and families at Children's National Health System in Washington, D.C.

According to the Music and Performing Arts Director of Butler Montessori, Cinzia Maddalena, the students truly enjoyed performing at Children's National; they felt that it was a real privilege to have this opportunity.





"It was an amazing experience that I will never forget," said Kenji Shimokaji, who played Prince Eric in the show.

"The students were simply thrilled to share their songs and dances, as well as their passion for music with the children of Children's National," said Mrs. Maddalena.

The lead teacher, Mrs. Wilson, felt that, "Performing for the patients, families and staff at Children's National Hospital was an amazing and heartwarming experience that I know our students will remember for years to come!"



The students learned choreographies, songs and dialogues to perform first for an audience at the Black Rock Center for the Arts. Because the kids so enjoyed performing the show on stage they were ecstatic at the opportunity to share their musical endeavors with the patients, families and staff at Children's National and really hoped to raise everyone's spirit with their performance.

If you would like to learn more about Butler Montessori, please visit www.butlerschool.org or call 301-977-6600.



Congratulations on a Superior Performance! By Alexander Conti

On March 29th 2015 the Mary of Nazareth School Band received a superior rating at the annual Archdiocese of Washington Band Festival held at St. Johns College High School. A superior rating is the highest score awarded and is a great accomplishment for the band. The band performed Eagle Command March and Theme from Brahms Symphony No.1. MoN's band is under the direction of Mr. Alexander Conti.

MON Chess Club Members Place At Tournament! By Sabrina Bailey

Clark Atkinson, Fadi Ayoub, Fouad Ayoub, Frank Brown, Eli Ferrara and Emily Preciado represented Mary of Nazareth School well at the 13th Annual Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council's Charity Chess Tournament on Sunday, March 29th. Good fun and camaraderie were enjoyed by all! Both Clark Atkinson and Frank Brown brought home 2nd Place trophies for the K-2 and 3-5 divisions, respectively. The MON community is proud of every one of you for your enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Congratulations!



Mary of Nazareth School's 2015 Poetry Slam Winners

By Michael Haskell

Mary of Nazareth School's annual Poetry Slam was held on the afternoon of April 24. The Poetry Slam has become a tradition at Mary of Nazareth over the past three years, a chance for students, teachers, and parents to gather in celebration of Poetry Month and an opportunity for all grades, from pre-K to 8th, to participate in an event together.

In the primary grades, each class rehearsed and performed a class poem. In second through eighth grade, two students from each homeroom were selected to read their original poems at the event. The theme of this year's poetry slam was our school virtues. From creativity to authenticity to hope, students in each grade explored a different virtue in their poetry.

Seneca Academy

By: Brooke Carroll, PhD Head of School

Seneca Academy welcomes all community members to join in the fun at Seneca Summer Camps! This summer our youngest campers (ages 3 through rising kindergarteners) will participate in **Passport to the World Camp.** Held from 9am to 1:30pm (with before-care starting at 8am and aftercare going until 5pm), this camp allows campers to explore arts, music, crafts, games, and cultures from around the world. Taught by our own teachers, this is a wonderful "first camp" experience for young ones. We have a balance of indoor and outdoor fun planned, along with both independent and group activities.

Our older campers (rising 1st graders through rising 6th graders) have several activity camps to choose from including **Art, Computer Programming, Young Engineers, Mad Science®, Computer Game Design, Cooking, and Video Production/Theater.** In addition, we have daily "field trip" adventure camps where campers take the school bus on trips around the county. There are opportunities for half-day or full-day activity and adventure camps. Before-care starts at 8:00am and aftercare goes until 5:00pm.

Camp begins June 15th and runs through July 31st. More information and applications can be found on our website <u>www.SenecaAcademy.org/camp-</u> <u>seneca/</u> or by calling our office at 301-869-3728. Hope to see you at camp!



Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

Scott Crow

Scott is graduating with a solid 3.2 GPA from RPI (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. He will be joining the business world after graduation

Nick Kibbey

Nick is graduating from Poolesville High School's Global Ecology magnet program. Nick will attend the University of Maryland at College Park in the fall with an interest in computer science and geology.

Siobhan Kibbey

Siobhan is graduating summa cum laude with a B.S. in Public Health from the University of South Carolina. She will start working on her M.D. at the University of Maryland Medical School in the fall Of 2015.

George Vargas

George is graduating from Northwest High School *and* Thomas Edison High School of Technology. George will attend Montgomery College in the fall of 2015 for Computer Networking.



Church News!





Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Vacation Bible School! (June 22-26)

Darnestown Presbyterian Church will be hosting our annual Vacation Bible School from June 22-26. We will visit Mt. Everest and embark on an icy expedition where kids will overcome obstacles with God's mighty power!

This year's VBS will be staged in the evenings from 6 PM to 8:30 PM daily, and we will be serving some delicious snacks to the children. All events will be staged in and around our Fellowship Hall, to the East side of our campus.

VBS is a great fellowship opportunity with adults and youth working together to help guide the younger kids in an exploration of the Bible while doing crafts, recreation, and even science experiments. The children walk away not only singing Sunday School songs they will remember for years to come, but also with a whole new understanding of what the Church can mean to them and their families. Middle Schoolers have the option of developing a thematic skit to be performed on the last day of VBS, and High Schoolers have many opportunities to volunteer and interact with the children. An adult Bible Study class is also offered, and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities for adults - you don't have to be a DPC member to participate!

Our VBS is open to anyone from throughout our community, and all children aged 4 and up are most welcome to attend. We are always thrilled to see new faces and are excited by the opportunity to introduce young children to God's gifts during this special week. If you have any questions or would like to assist, please contact Jill Worley at worleyjill@yahoo.com.



Mission Trips

During April, five members of DPC spent two weeks in Kenya performing mission work in support of IMARA International. IMARA provides education and life skills for Kenyan teenage mothers and early childhood education for their children to break the cycle of poverty and create productive members of society. Mission participants travelled to Nanyuki, a town north of Nairobi in Central Kenya, where IMARA ministers to local women and their children. The members then shared their experiences at our Sunday services in Darnestown on the 26th of April.

Back here in the U.S., Darnestown Presbyterian's annual Summer Mission Trip will take place from July 26-August 1. As in the past few years we will again support disaster assistance, this year partnering with Calvary Presbyterian Church of Staten Island, NY. Up to 15 members of our church will travel to New York to assist in recovery efforts for families affected by Superstorm Sandy; all participants must be a rising 9th grader or older. Our teens always come away with treasured memories and formative experiences from these trips, and we look forward to more of the same this year!

Summer Schedule Starts June 21

For most of the year DPC maintains a standard twoservice schedule, with Sunday services at both 8:45 and 11:00 AM, and Sunday School at 9:45. However, starting on 21 June we move to our summer schedule, which features a single service beginning at 9:30 AM. The single summer service is followed by a fellowship period over coffee, juice and light treats. We are always thrilled to see visitors and first-time attendees among us! Why not come and visit us this summer?

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 a nursery is available on Sunday mornings.

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



Church News!



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church – Spring/Summer Update

The Rev. Ken Howard, Rector

Exciting times at St. Nick's with many exciting activities coming up!

Episcopal Bishop of Washington to Visit - June 14 10:00am. The Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, 9th Bishop of Washington, will be visiting St. Nick's on the second Sunday in June. And we invite not only all our members, but all our friends and supporters in the Darnestown-Germantown-North Potomac area to join us for a great celebration.

8:00am Contemplative Service – An Experiment. Based on input from our members and friends, we are working toward pilot test a new 8:00am Contemplative Service. If you are interested in finding out more, or maybe even helping us develop it, contact Ken Howard at rector@saintnicks.com.

Finishing Our Forest – Give a Tree in Honor of a Loved One. For years, we have been working to make Darnestown a greener place by establishing about 3 acres of woods on our 12 acre our campus. You can help by donating a tree in honor of a loved one for just \$100. For more information, contact Ken Howard at rector@saintnicks.com or click here: https://www.causes.com/campaigns/80358-plant-120-trees-at-saint-nicholas-church/photo/edit

Meanwhile, our Sunday services continue to be at 10:00am.

Hope to see you around!

Contact Information

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



Rev. Ken Howard



Fairhaven United Methodist Church A Word from Reverend Esther

Springtime is bursting forth with newness of life; fragrances and colors. People, no longer hibernating, are outside weeding, pruning and planting seeds for their vegetable gardens. Fairhaven's landscape has been recently blessed by volunteers sprucing up and planting 20 new trees!

There are times in our personal lives however, that we seek new life, and new opportunities, but without the willingness to get rid of those things which can clog our spirit, bind us to the past - i.e. lack of forgiveness, resentment, blame, shame and guilt. With these feelings in our hearts, it's just not possible to move forward.

Thank God for Jesus! For he offers us new life through his redeeming power. By his sacrifice, our lives can be transformed. We can get rid of the hindrances and experience the abundant life he paid for us to have. This is what it means to be Easter people!

May we live our lives in such a victorious manner that others will be inspired to follow the One who makes it possible, Jesus the risen Christ.

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



Darne Bloomers Garden Club 🔿

By Merikay Smith

We celebrated spring as a club with a hands-on activity in April, creating living wall art under the direction of Emily Porter at the Potomac Garden Center. Emily and our club hosts had prepared in advance a wooden frame, succulent plants, potting mix, moss, and other supplies so that each club member could create a succulent frame to take home. Before beginning the project we heard from the owner of the Potomac Garden Center about their current renovation projects and new services. Emily Porter, who has a degree in landscape architecture and environmental science, gave a thorough presentation on how to successfully complete our project then coached us as we assembled our succulent frames. The Potomac Garden Center was a perfect location to host this activity.

Our club will be touring the Naval Academy in Annapolis on May 14. Hosts for this nautical-themed event are Fon MacLauchlan, Kathy Devine, LeeAnne Gelletly, Priscilla Rippeon, Salme Creighton, and Tina Calhoun. We will enjoy a guided walking tour of the historic Naval Academy prior to a sumptuous meal at the Yacht Club.



We've completed another delightful annual cycle of garden club meetings. We still have room for a few new members so if you enjoy gardening, please consider visiting one of our meetings next fall. We meet at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church (except for field trips) on the second Thursday of the month, September to May. For additional information our website see at www. darnebloomers.com or contact Becky Hanley, our club president.

Quote of the **Quarter** Aaah, summer - that long anticipated stretch of lazy, lingering days, free of responsibility and rife with possibility.





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 <u>wsgooch@comcast.net</u> for inclusion in the next Acorn!

BABY SITTERS & MOTHERS' HELPERS

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
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
Libby Snowden	age 16	240-715-8430
Logan Staton	age 16	240-912-7765
Megan Strickler	age 16	301-330-3956
George Vargas	age 18	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 15	301-208-6614
Kelsey Warren	age 17	301-216-1919
•	5	

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans Tina Kalil Elisa Lane

301-977-4734 301-948-5364 301-990-2993

PERSONAL TRAINING

(Weight loss and General Fitness)

Certified

Andrey Brener

301- 792-5404

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Gwynne Cafaro	age 15	301-963-7178
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
Emily Pohl	age 16	301-467-8801
Kerry Pullano	age 14	301-525-8658
Libby Snowden	age 16	240-715-8430
George Vargas	age 18	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 15	301-208-6614

MATH TUTORING

Mark Zic

age 16

301-977-3112

MUSIC LESSONS

Guitar	301-379-5646
Guitar	301-221-0456
Guitar	301-814-5111
violin, sax, clarinet, flute	240-643-9398
Voice	301-977-2605
Drums	301-990-6550
Clarinet	240-678-8319
	Guitar Guitar violin, sax, clarinet, flute Voice Drums



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-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 (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)



www.darnestowncivic.org



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

Charles August, Secretary csaugust@comcast.net (240-401-8669)



Membership Report - 2015

By Jean Jurgena



The following is a list of Darnestown residents who have paid their dues for 2015 as of May 1st. If you have any questions please contact me at 301-674-1741 or email at <u>imjurgena@hotmail.com</u>.

ACORN LEVEL

Matt & Heather Ahrens Bill & Chervl Amick Guy & Susan Keyes Armantrout Bob & Pam Baer Michael & Connie Barnhart Rick Boe Robert & Ilene Boorman Michael & Jamie Brezovec Amos Brunson IV **Charles Carlson** Heidi Clemmer Harry & Susan Cole Chris & Mary Collins Brian & Virginia Cook Tom & Cindy Deoudes Bobby & Lita Deonarine Michael & Audrey Forshey Paul & Kalpana Helmbrecht Erik & Karen Hinrichsen John & Susan Krimigis David & Sandy Lennhoff Harry W. & Patricia H. Lowe Allan Luke/Jiffy Plumbing Brian & Kimberly McCollom Joe & Carrie McIntyre Philip & Jocelyn Mostrom **Robert Claude Thompson** Rob & Lisa Patterson Troike Paul & Mary Pegnato Brian & Tovan Pichler Christopher Rapp Michael & Christii Watkins Everett & Linda Weaver Mike & Ali Wright

SPONSORS

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John & Joni Theis Waves In Motion Bob & Elizabeth Weaver James Weiss & Rosetta Cavallo Paul & Cathy Witchie Elihu & Beth Zimet

FRIENDS

Richard Adamson Isaac & Fay Adato Ed & Christy Adelman Bill & Sharon Anderson Tobi & Constantine Athanas Marvin & Sharon Beitler Ron & Sue Betson Jim & Lee Blue Gordon & Terri Bodnar **Constance Bohon** Chip & Peggy Bowen Jeffrey & RoseMarie Briggs Samuel & Elizabeth Brightman **Delwin & Alicia Brockett** Jim & Anne Marie Brown Jeff & Tara Bryson Joann Cangelosi Gian-Paolo & Anna Maria Cantarella Chris & Karrie Cerone Ron Chesemore Geoffrey & Elizabeth Clasper James & Jeannie Coley Sam & Kathleen Coriell Donald & Bernadette Crehan Mike & Bonnie Crough Sean & Donna Delaney Carlos & Caroline Diez Jerry & Sue Dingess Ted & Sophie Dmuchowski Keith & Marilyn Donson John & Bernice Doran Glenn & Glenda Dura Margery Edmundson

Steve & Kathy Ellis Tom & Chris Engleman **Pearl Flowers** Pat Foley Brett & Mary Kay Gamma Jim & Karen Garner Andrew & Teresa Gerber, Jr. Jeff & Sandra Goodman Michael & Sue Gottlieb Kent Goulding Joe Greaney Charles & Grace Green Steve & Sharon Groff Len & Amy Gross Ryan & Jane Hall Donald & Debra Hamberger, Jr. Allen Hefner Jim & Florina Hoffer Stephen & Jill Holmes Glenn & Julie Hudler Takao & Hiroko Ikegami Paul & Jean Irwin Matt & Heather Jacks John & Tina Kalil Bart & Kathy Kelly Charles Kemp Kevin & Krista Kirk Tony & Kathy Kluk Kevin & Karen Kraushaar Kaspars & Dagnija Kreslins John & Elizabeth Krisko Gerry & Bonnie Kunkel John & Joann Leasure Fu-Qin Li & Yu L Liu Donald A. B. & Mary Lindberg Timothy & Rebecca Link Juntao Liu Jim Lykins Lin QI & Ying Ma Mike & Marti McAllister Robert & Lisa McGuire Selig Merber Drew & Cherye Milburn Rick & Reine Blackwell Moore Ben & Julie Moses Michael & Susan Moses Scott & Melissa Mostrom

Mort & Masie Neufville Alan & Denise Noznesky Geraldine Oehl Chad & Audra O'Neil Hina Patel David & Ann Patterson Nicholas & Vanda Petruccelli Michael & Shannon Priddy Mark & Georgianne Rasmussen Charlie & Kathy Recknor Hugh & Elaine Rial Jim & Mary Rill **Brandon Rippeon David & Caitlin Rogers** Francis & Maria Romero John & Maureen Rosa Cheryl E. Rose Larry & Carole Ruhland Tim & Katie Sanders Jay & Aleksandra Schiff John Schmitz Lothar Schuettler Jim & Julia Selwood Seneca Academy Arthur & Lynda Slesinger **Carl Spongberg** Stephen & Jeanette Staton John & Susan Stinson Mike & Tina Sukumar Patrick & Kristin Sweeney Mark & Ruth Sweet Doug & Bridgette Theurer Sonny & Sunita Tohan Robert & Mary Truland Jay Wallace Mike & Laura Wallerstedt Tom & Michelle Wentz Jay & Vicki Wheeler Tom & Janet Wheeler Tim & Stephanie Whelan Todd & Theresa While Derek & Karen Widmayer Josh & Kathy Wilburn Bud & Jackie Wildman Steve & Melody Williams Tim & Korin Wilson Derek & Stacey Woodward

Matthew & Karen Zappone Lawrence & Faye Zoeller

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Father's Day

On July 19, 1910, the governor of Washington State proclaimed the nation's first "Father's Day." However, it was not until 1972, 58 years after President Woodrow Wilson made Mother's Day official, that the day became a nationwide holiday in the United States.

> *Don't forget* Father's Day June 21st





Darnestown Civic Assoc	iation – 2015 Membership Form
1 0	own Civic Association (DCA), and mail to: 2600 Viewside Dr, Darnestown, MD 20878
Dues \$35 Friend \$50 Sponsor \$100Acorn \$	6150 (For this level check: Wine or Cookbook)
Name:	
Address:	
Primary Phone #:	Primary E-Mail:
Please write SAME if number has not changed.	Primary E-Mail: Please write SAME if email address has not changed.
	s only if you would like to receive mportant community happenings and alerts
□ New Home/address in Darnestown	□ Moved to existing address in Darnestown
Not sure	e if you have paid already?
Contact the Membership Chairman or Jean Jurgena	a - 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

Past issues are available on the website, too! Share the news from our fair community with friends and family around the country!







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





