



# THE LITTLE ACORN

Est. 1965

## NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

Volume 52, Number 3  
September 2015

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

### Notes from the President

*By Lisa Patterson-Troiike*

#### *Darnestown People*

I was recently interviewed by Jamie Rapp of WAMU 88.5 for the show Metro Connection. Each week Metro Connection reaches out to two different neighborhoods to hear stories and personalities from around the DC metropolitan area, in a segment called Door to Door. One of the first questions asked was, "What is so special about Darnestown?" The first thing that popped into my head was the people.

.....continued on page 3

# Fall is Here!

**DCA Hoedown**  
**October 16<sup>th</sup>**

See page 11 for details!

*Next DCA Town Meeting*

**September 17<sup>th</sup> | 7:30  
PM**

**Darnestown Presbyterian  
Church**

**Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road**

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## The Little Acorn

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Happy autumn to all  
of our Darnestown  
neighbors!!



## Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



On March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, my life completely changed. Our eleven year old daughter was rushed to the hospital. Her immune system attacked her liver and a month later attacked her bone marrow. She is currently fighting a disease called aplastic anemia. Her immune system created rogue T-cells programmed to attack her bone marrow, stopping the marrow from producing red/white blood cells and platelets. It is a life threatening disease with approximately 200-500 people diagnosed every year in the U.S. Currently, we are patiently waiting to see if the protocol research treatment she received from the National Institutes of Health will reverse her condition.

Word spread quickly about her illness and over a hundred Darnestownians have offered their help and support. It has been six months and the meals, cards, gifts and love still keep coming. We could not get through this tragic turn of events without all of you. Thanks for your support and compassion.

Does someone know who the “Sneaker Belles” are? They came by early one morning, decorated the outside of our house and placed gifts welcoming our daughter home from her first hospital stay. It is still a mystery who they are and I want to extend a special thanks to them. Be sure to read the article by Christopher Thomas on page 16 about the McKee family. It is another example of the Darnestown community coming together to help and honor a family that is battling a health challenge of their own.

Darnestown is a special place full of special people. I am honored to be a part of this great community.

### ***Town Meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>***

Our next Town Meeting is September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm, at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church located at 15120 Turkey Foot Road. Pepco will be making a presentation about the new substation to be built on the corner of Darnestown Road (Rt. 28) and Riffle Ford Road. All residents are encouraged to attend, especially those living near the location being discussed.



### ***Hoedown on October 16<sup>th</sup>***



It's time to dust off your boots and get ready for the 45<sup>th</sup> annual DCA Hoedown at Smokey Glen Farm on October 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 11:00 pm. The RSVP is located on page 11 and is due by October 10<sup>th</sup>. Quoted as the “best party of the year” by hundreds of Darnestownians, this event is a must. Be sure to grab your partner and send in for your tickets early!

### ***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](mailto:lisaapatterson@aol.com) to get yours today!

## Fall Baking!

### ***Pumpkin Bread***

*Page 69*

- 1 ¾ cups sugar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- 2 ½ cups flour
- 1 1/3 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/3 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 ½ teaspoons nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2/3 cup vegetable oil
- 3 eggs
- 1 ½ cups canned pumpkin
- 2/3 cup water
- 2/3 cup chopped nuts (optional)
- 2/3 cup chopped dates (optional)



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

Can be prepared ahead of time and can be frozen!



## About Darnestown



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



**Dear Neighbors! The Little Acorn was fortunate enough to receive this fabulous gem from Ann Holler via Lisa Patterson, DCA President. Enjoy!**



## Darnestown in the Past

### PLEASANT HILLS FROM THE GASSAWAYS TO THE KELLEYS

The gem of Darnestown's historic past has been listed for sale. This is Pleasant Hills, built about 223 years ago, and home of the Kelley family for almost 120 years. It is one of the oldest homes in Montgomery County and is included in Farquhar's book of Historic Montgomery County Homes. It is the only house in the Darnestown area to be listed on Montgomery County's Master Plan for Historic Preservation and also on the Maryland Historical Registry. The house has 5,500 square feet, which includes six fireplaces, four baths, and seven bedrooms.

Though the exact date is uncertain, the main section of the house was probably built by Charles Gassaway between 1760 and 1765. One of the earliest families to settle in Montgomery County, the Gassaways became quite prominent. By mid-18th century, Charles owned several large tracts of land in this area. In 1799 he requested a new patent for about 1700 acres to be made up of parts of several older tracts. He called this new estate "Pleasant Hills". Charles Gassaway's daughter, Elizabeth, married William Darne, for whom Darnestown was named, in 1798, and they lived on the neighboring land, Mt. Pleasant.

Dear Lisa,

While investigating my ancestor John T. Kelley, I happened across a copy of *The Little Acorn* from 1986, Vol. 20, Number 9. This particular issue describes the Gassaway-Kelley home, and someone in my family somehow obtained a copy of it. I wonder if you would like to have it for your archives. I notice that this issue is not listed on your website. I'll go ahead and attach the 2 pages.

Thanks,  
Ann Kelley Holler  
Bristol, Tennessee



Charles Gassaway died in 1810, and the estate was left to his sons. The sons, first Thomas and then Charles, continued to manage the plantation until 1829, when the house and 425 acres was sold to James Hawkins and his son, James, Jr., for \$4,677.75. The son, James, Jr., died in 1855, and then the property was owned briefly by Hawkins' son-in-law, William Offutt. The Civil War disrupted operation of the farm, as Union troops from Massachusetts were quartered in the house and camped on the grounds. About 1868, John T. Kelley purchased the house and 272 acres for \$10,000. An adjoining farm was later purchased, making a total of 540 acres. Pleasant Hills is still owned by the Kelley Family.

The house, of Georgian style architecture, is of a plan and has details typical of Maryland and Virginia manor houses of the Colonial period. It had two fronts of equal importance, the driveway elevation and the garden facade. Not so many years ago, the long entrance drive from Route was bordered by a double line of trees. But over the years, storms have taken them all. And at one time, the lawns on the garden side had several terraced gardens to the south.





The three-story center section, with white portico and large end chimneys, dates from about 1763, is on a fieldstone foundation, and is built of red brick laid in Flemish-bond pattern. Tradition states that the bricks were made on the plantation by the Gassaway slaves. The "front" door on the driveway (north) side of the house enters into a modified center stairhall, the stairs here going up three flights. The "front" door of the garden (south) side of the house is directly opposite the north door. On the left of the hall is a living room and a dining room, each with a fireplace which share the same chimney. On the right is an office and behind that is a parlor. The parlor also has a fireplace. There are chair rails in the three main rooms here, every window has solid-panel inside shutters, and the floors are of random-width pine. All these chair rails, shutters and floors are original, as are the moldings, fireplace mantels, and most of the six-panel doors. The ceilings are ten foot high.

The original colonial kitchen was detached from the house, as was the custom at the time. It stood where the east wing was later built. It had a mammoth fireplace that would take "cord wood logs". "It was so large that people could sit at either end of it to keep warm without being hurt by the fire". In the living room of the main section (which once was the dining room), there is a narrow window that was used to pass food into the dining room from the old detached kitchen.



The two symmetrical wings on each side of the house were constructed of bricks also laid up in Flemish-bond pattern. Many of the bricks used in these additions were taken from the old slave quarters on the property. The lower floor of the east wing was added by John T. Kelley, Jr., the first of the resident Kelleys, about 1870, to accommodate an invalid wife. This wing now contains the kitchen. His son, J. Thomas Kelley, Jr., added the second floor of the east wing and also built the west wing about 1918. This west wing now has a family room. The second floor has six bedrooms, two of which have fireplaces, and two baths. The third floor has one large bedroom, plus a bath. Each of the wings has a screened porch on the north side, and the west wing also has a 2-story porch on the south. The gabled roof has slate shingles, and there is an in-ground swimming pool.

J. Thomas Kelley, Jr., was a noted surgeon in Washington during the early part of the 1900's. His son, Thomas C. Kelley, was a lawyer in Rockville, Judge of the Orphans Court from 1934 to 1938, and a member of the first County Council in 1948. He was also chairman of the Upper Montgomery County Planning Commission in 1951. He died in 1962. In 1964 and 1967, his widow, Catherine, sold a total of 520 acres of Pleasant Hills to W. D. and A. N. Miller, the builders of Spring Meadows. The lovely old house, with numerous outbuildings, remains on the surrounding 20 acres. It is a showcase among Montgomery County mansions and has been seen on home tours. We all wish for the best of TLC for wonderful Pleasant Hills.

Nancy Houston

Information from:

Anne Kelley Davenport

Farquhar, Roger Brooke, "Historic Montgomery County, MD. Old Homes and History"

Montgomery County Land Records

Inventory form for State Historic Sites Survey - Maryland Historic Trust

# Community Interest

## *The Maryland Questers*

By Bettye Wolfe

President, Maryland Questers

*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.

Local Quester chapters are searching for anyone interested in attending a Quester meeting and giving a presentation on Darnestown historic sites. Anyone who has a hobby of antiques and is willing to share their story of collecting is also of interest. Contact Maryland Quester's President Bettye Wolfe at [yateswolfe@comcast.net](mailto:yateswolfe@comcast.net)

### 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>

## *Mother Kareen Padojil*

By Donna Mitchell Barnesville, Maryland

On June 21, 2015 my Mother Kareen Padojil passed away. She was the last living original resident of Wye Oak Drive. My family bought the house in 1969 and moved here because my father (who passed away in 1997) was working for IBM and was transferred to Gaithersburg IBM. The house was not yet finished and we spent the first two months

living at the Washingtonian Hotel in Gaithersburg which is now a meeting center. When we did first move in the only other house on the street was directly across from us, the Howard family. Mr. Howard (I believe) was the builder who was building the houses for Ancient Oak. This area was a vast different area of farms and open lands. I remember when the family needed groceries we would have to drive to Rockville due to the fact that Gaithersburg square was under construction. When we needed clothes we had to drive to Montgomery Mall. I remember being young and dad loading us in the car to go find where a big fire was burning. It turned out to be Clark Store which sat at the corner of 28 and 112, across from where the Harris Teeter and Texaco are now. Clark store used to sell bait for all the fisherman going to Seneca to fish. I remember a sign up along 355 that said "Montgomery Village Coming Soon". So much has grown and changed. As we clean my Mother's and Father's house we will leave 13304 Wye Oak Drive for the last time. I just thought I would pass along these memories in the hope you could share them with the new generation living in Ancient Oak.



***The Original House***

***Photo Courtesy Donna Mitchell's mother***





# Community Interest



## ***DCA Softball League Crowns BHR as 2015 Champions***



By Curt McCormick



The 26<sup>th</sup> renewal of the DCA softball league wrapped up on August 1<sup>st</sup> with Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) wresting the town title away from rival squad Western Darnestown. Strongly encouraged by team captain Steve Groff's stirring opening day plea to "please just try to do fewer dumb things with the ball this year," BHR impressively led wire-to-wire in 2015.

Notable throughout the season was a competitive battle for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, eventually captured by Seneca-Highlands-Berryville by a razor-thin margin over Western Darnestown and the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ). Notes league Commissioner Dave Bivans, "apart from BHR, who all must've been on steroids or something, it was nip and tuck all year. And even though BHR rolled through the schedule, most of their games were close too."

The other unmistakable trend in 2015 was the resurgence of ARMQ, who – as was predicted in these pages last September– rebounded strongly from a winless 2014 campaign. ARMQ is now seen as potential preseason favorite by odds-makers already handicapping the 2016 season.

Lastly, a tip of the hat to Western Darnestown captain, Brian Lang, who is stepping down after several years of leading his team to quasi-dynasty status. Prior to this summer's disappointing campaign, Western had taken

the title 3 of the 4 previous years. Experts look for Western to rebound strongly next year in what should be a wide-open pennant chase. Stay tuned!

The players from all the squads wish to thank DCA for its support of this wonderful community activity. Big thanks also to the league's legions of fans and supportive spouses and kids, who reliably showed up each week to cheer on the squads and renew acquaintances throughout the hazy, lazy Darnestown Sunday summer afternoons.



### **2015 DARNESTOWN SOFTBALL STANDINGS**

<b>TEAM</b>	<b><u>W</u></b>	<b><u>L</u></b>	<b><u>T</u></b>	<b><u>PCT</u></b>	<b><u>RF</u></b>	<b><u>AVG</u></b>	<b><u>RA</u></b>	<b><u>AVG</u></b>	<b><u>RF/RA</u></b>	<b><u>GB</u></b>
<b>Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.864</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>13.4</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>1.729</b>	<b>-----</b>
<b>Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0.409</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>12.5</b>	<b>0.768</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Western Darnestown</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.400</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>0.802</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.300</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>7.9</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>0.908</b>	<b>6.0</b>

# Community Interest

## PEPCO - A New Substation to Serve Darnestown



Pepco is executing the most comprehensive reliability plan in our history, and a major component of that effort is building a new substation to meet both current and projected demand for electricity in the Darnestown community. The substation that presently serves Darnestown is nearing its capacity, and — with the anticipated growth and development in Germantown, Shady Grove and other nearby communities — a new substation will be needed to provide safe and reliable service to Darnestown.

Pepco plans to build the new substation at the corner of Darnestown and Riffleford roads on the property previously owned by the Evangelical Formosan Church of Washington DC. In order to construct the facility, we need to obtain a Conditional Use Permit from the Montgomery County Office of Zoning and Administrative Hearings. This process typically takes six to nine months, and the community will have an opportunity to express its views at a public hearing. Notice of the public hearing will be mailed to adjoining and confronting property owners, any municipality with a half-mile of the property, and civic and homeowners associations within a half-mile of the property.

We understand that this project will affect nearby residents. Pepco is committed to working with the community to minimize these impacts. For example, the building's aesthetics and architectural features are intended to tie into the neighborhood setting with the community in mind. Pepco has several variations of substations, and lessons learned from constructing and operating these substations have been taken into consideration. The new substation will provide a more modern design for state-of-the-art equipment and ease of access, especially in the event of an emergency. Pepco will work diligently



to minimize the impact of all scheduled construction work on residents. These and other considerations will be part of the public hearing process before a Hearing Examiner.

In addition to the formal proceedings, we are most interested in hearing directly from the community. As part of our outreach efforts, we will make a presentation at the Sept. 17 meeting of the Darnestown Civic Association. We will explain the need for the substation, discuss our schedule, show preliminary renderings of the substation design, and have subject matter experts on hand to address any questions or concerns you may have. We hope to see you at the meeting.

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**Jerry Pasternak | Vice President**

**Pepco | Government Affairs & Public Policy**

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# Community Interest

*Come see us at  
the Sanctuary on  
September 27<sup>th</sup>!*



## Announcements!!

By Art Schlesinger

Poplar Springs Animal Sanctuary in Poolesville will hold their **Annual Open House and Fundraiser – Sunday, September 27, 2015 from 1:00-5:00 PM.** It's their biggest event of the year – and everyone's invited! Enjoy a live band, delicious catered food and drink, a fabulous silent auction, clowns and face painting, speakers, and the opportunity to stroll around and visit the rescued animals. No admission fee, but donations (of any amount) are very much appreciated. RSVP via phone 301-428-8128. The sanctuary is dedicated to assisting abused and abandoned domestic farm animals which are housed on a 400 acre farm on River Road. The current population includes over 200 sheep, goats, chickens, pigs, cows and horses. See the web site at [www.animalsanctuary.org](http://www.animalsanctuary.org) for more information.

## Infrastructure

Besides the announcement of new substation being planned by PEPCO and detailed on page 8, WSSC will be improving buried water pipes on the east side of town. The area around Ancient Oak on both sides of Darnestown Road will be excavated and the existing cast iron pipe replaced with ductile iron which is a stronger version of cast iron. The actual work will not begin until next year. If you have questions, contact WSSC and refer to the Green Meadow Water Main Replacement project.

**Mass Transit, what is the fate of the CCT?** The decade old project for mass transit from Shady Grove Metro to Germantown continues to gyrate like a poorly balanced top. The project is only funded through about the 30% engineering phase. Additional funding from the Hogan Administration has not been forthcoming because of budgetary constraints. Even the alignment remains unclear. The citizens of nearby Mission Hill and Washingtonian Woods raised serious concerns

about the rapid bus line going down the middle of Muddy Branch Road and getting very close to certain property adjoining Great Seneca Highway. The Federal government also opposed denigration of the historic Belward Farm site on which the owner, Johns Hopkins, desires to create 4.6 million square feet of research and commercial space. {That is the size of the Pentagon!} So the most recent alignment has the rapid bus line go down the middle of Muddy Branch from Great Seneca Highway all the way to Darnestown Road before going left down to Brochart. It was to go through Belward Farm so the new alignment is a compromise that will disappear once Hopkins begins any significant construction. Once the historic nature of Belward Farm is destroyed the federal government is no longer concerned. That seems a bit Byzantine.

**Don't forget to ...**



**Daylight Saving Time Ends  
Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**

**Quote of the Quarter**

***Autumn is a second spring,  
when every leaf is a flower.***

*~Albert Camus*

# Community Interest

## *2015 Summer Season Was a Splash!*

By Rob Swisher



Our 2015 summer pool and tennis season was filled with fun, sun, spins, and thrills. We kicked off on Saturday May 23rd with the Opening Day Pool Party and Tennis Extravaganza and said goodbye to the summer with our Labor Day Year End Party. All summer, the pool was full of laughter and splashing, and the courts were active with forehands, backhands, and a lob or two.

Our wonderful community pool was the just the place for Darnestown families to be for summer fun; and the best place to unwind, relax, and enjoy sunshine with friends and family.

One of the most endearing highlights of the season was our first annual 4th of July Parade and Family Celebration. Sporting red, white, and blue tricycles, bicycles, wagons, and scooters, our mini patriots displayed their birthday wishes to America, while parents, grandparents, and fellow patriots shouted USA! USA! USA! Later in the day, the kids (and some young at heart adults) participated in three legged races, water balloon tosses, and a very sweet and sloppy cherry pie eating contest.

Our super spirited and hardworking swim team competed in the "C" Division of the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL), led by Head Coach Pat Tozz and our team co-chairs, Terry Brown at [tbrown@browntg.com](mailto:tbrown@browntg.com) or Christy Adelman at [Christy\\_Adelman@yahoo.com](mailto:Christy_Adelman@yahoo.com). GO DEMONS!

Our Tennis program was active all summer, though a few stormy nights had us pushing the squeegees a



time or two. Men's and Ladies nights, weekend warriors, Friday Night socials, and skills clinics kept all the racquet heads swinging. Tennis Pro, Bradley Jones, and Tennis Director, Peter Carothers ([DSRCTennis@gmail.com](mailto:DSRCTennis@gmail.com)) offered every age and skill level unlimited fun and competition.

This year we had a Morning Half Day Camp. Our new camp Director Rosemary DeRose showed her love of the great outdoors to our campers and inspired them with very hands on arts and crafts, games, songs, and nature experiences in our woods.

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. We would love to have you join for the 2016 summer season! If you or anyone you know is interested in joining please visit us online at [www.dsclub.com](http://www.dsclub.com) If you have questions, please contact our Club Manager, Dave Hardy at [gmdsrc@gmail.com](mailto:gmdsrc@gmail.com) , 301-330-1340, or our Membership Director, Bonnie Lane at [BonnieLLane@yahoo.com](mailto:BonnieLLane@yahoo.com), 240-683-8206.

Got a Question? Email us at  
[DSRCTennis@gmail.com](mailto:DSRCTennis@gmail.com)  
Or visit the DSRC website at  
[www.dsclub.com](http://www.dsclub.com)



# DCA Hoedown

## 45th Anniversary

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

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

Friday, October 16, 2015  
6:30 to 11:00 PM

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

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

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

### **ADULTS ONLY!**

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

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Please **clip and submit** this form along with your check (payable to DCA) by 10/10/14 to:  
**Lisa Patterson-Troike, 13925 Esworthy Road, Darnestown, MD 20874**  
Direct any questions to Lisa via email (LisaAPatterson@aol.com) or phone (301-548-0999)

Full names of those in your group: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35.<sup>00</sup> each: Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# Community Interest

## *Transportation Study of River Crossings Released*

Caroline Taylor,  
Executive Director, Montgomery Countryside Alliance

The VDOT study of Potomac River crossings initiated in 2013 has been released. Links to the study and media are listed below. As we have long said - the traffic data does not support an additional Potomac River crossing as a solution to traffic congestion. Our official response is below in italics. (We are seeking others to join in.)

*We have reviewed the recently released Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT's) "Potomac River Crossing Conditions Study." The study, initiated in 2013, engaged in the review of the regional Potomac River crossing peak traffic volume/speeds and projected transportation patterns out to the year 2040. The study is intended to serve as basis for establishing priority regional traffic congestion solutions. Based upon their comprehensive review, VDOT rightly recommends extending high occupancy toll lanes across American Legion Bridge to the 270 spurs. The data clearly also highlights the need to address the at-capacity and congested Rosslyn Tunnel.*

*Montgomery Countryside Alliance supports these recommendations as the best means of addressing both current and future regional transportation needs.*

[www.ctb.virginia.gov/resources/2015/july/pre/pres/PotomacRiverStudy.pdf](http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/resources/2015/july/pre/pres/PotomacRiverStudy.pdf)

Initiated in 2013 to examine 11 Potomac River crossings from Point of Rocks to Route 301 Nice Bridge.

- Examine current and projected 2040 volumes
- Examine origin and destination travel patterns
- Examine current speeds on crossing
- Purpose of study was to identify problems, not identify solutions

### Original Study Fact Sheet:

[www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern\\_Virginia/asset\\_upload\\_file570\\_71274.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern_Virginia/asset_upload_file570_71274.pdf)

### Study Area:

[http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern\\_Virginia/asset\\_upload\\_file813\\_71274.pdf](http://www.virginiadot.org/VDOT/Projects/Northern_Virginia/asset_upload_file813_71274.pdf)

Staff recommend that extending HOT lanes across American Legion Bridge to 270 spur be the top priority for addressing western Potomac River crossings

- With concurrence of the Board, staff will begin outreach to Maryland to determine interest in examining options for extending HOT lanes to the 270 spur
- Does not eliminate the benefits of a future 'outer' crossing to address the needs for interconnectivity/crossing Potomac River (MCA notes that this statement is not supported by the data.)

### Media:

[www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/07/14/see-which-potomac-river-crossings-need-the-most-relief/](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/07/14/see-which-potomac-river-crossings-need-the-most-relief/)

<http://patch.com/virginia/mclean/vdot-traffic-study-recommends-addressing-american-legion-bridge-0>

[http://wamu.org/news/15/07/14/virginia\\_seeks\\_to\\_extend\\_hot\\_lanes\\_in\\_maryland\\_over\\_american\\_legion\\_bridge](http://wamu.org/news/15/07/14/virginia_seeks_to_extend_hot_lanes_in_maryland_over_american_legion_bridge)

Warmly,  
**Caroline Taylor**  
Executive Director  
Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
P.O. Box 24, Poolesville, MD 20837  
301-461-9831  
<http://mocoalliance.org/>







### *Darnestown Scouting News!*

By Christopher Thomas

Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 is looking forward to another great year. In addition to events focused on Merit Badges and advancement, Troop 1094's fall calendar includes community service projects, a camping trip to Assateague, a canoeing/kayaking and camping trip to Maryland's eastern shore, and numerous other outings and activities.

This past spring Troop 1094 welcomed several brand new Boy Scouts who recently "bridged" over from Cub Scouts after completing the Arrow of Light, Cub Scouting's highest award. Although these new Scouts joined the Troop after being Cub Scouts, neither Cub Scouts nor the Arrow of Light is required to join Boy Scouts. Boy Scouts, like Cub Scouts, learn to overcome obstacles and challenges with courage and character through the experiences of camping, hiking, building projects, and community service.

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, Troop 1094 participated in the Boy Scouts National Capital Area Council's Tenth Annual Scout Orienteering Day at the Prince William Forest Park in Dumfries, VA. During this all-day event, the Scouts received orienteering instruction and were given the opportunity to complete multiple orienteering events including a 90-minute competitive scored orienteering course. Troop 1094 Scouts won numerous awards during the outing and all had a great time.

Helping kick off everyone's yard beautification projects, Troop 1094 delivered 4,442 bags of hard wood mulch – nearly 90 tons of mulch to homes across Darnestown and the neighboring communities.

Starting after school March 27<sup>th</sup> and working nearly all day March 28<sup>th</sup>, the Scouts, assisted by their parents (and their parents' vehicles and trailers), canvassed the area to ensure everyone received their mulch on time. "Darnestown's support for the Scouts is awesome." Paul Helmbrecht, the mulch sale coordinator offered. "The mulch sale is a terrific opportunity for the Scouts to get to know their neighbors and to learn some basic business skills." The money earned from mulch sales helps defray the cost of community service projects and outings.

On April 4<sup>th</sup>, Troop 1094 did a spring clean-up of the grounds around the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Since 1961, the church has been Troop 1094's chartering organization and has let the Troop use their facilities for meetings and has provided other support. Every spring and fall, 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. "DPC has been awesome to the Troop." offered Lisa Simons "The clean-up reminds the Scouts of the church's generosity and their long standing support."

Three of Troop 1094's more experienced Scouts recently completed their Eagle Projects, a final step on the trail to earning Boy Scout's highest rank, Eagle Scout. For his project, Scout Mason Radis organized and led a team of Scouts and other volunteers building and installing heavy-duty wooden shelves at Quince Orchard High School for the Theater Department to use for storing costumes and props. Scout Steven Huntley's project involved planning and leading work along the Greenway Trail in Seneca Creek State Park. His group installed a new trailhead information sign and replaced a hazardous and dilapidated trail bridge with eco-friendly pavers in the streambed. Viraj Paul led a group of Scouts and parents painting the JSS Spiritual Mission in Gaithersburg.

A highlight of the spring's outings was the Troop's overnight backpacking trip April 17-19 in the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests near Front Royal, VA. On this trip the Scouts backpacked nearly nine miles in one day, all the while carrying all the equipment they'd need to survive the night in the forest. For all the Scouts, but especially the younger ones, this trip was an exciting expedition.

Troop 1094's activities did not stop when school let out. The Troop's main summer event was Scout Camp at Heritage Reservation near Uniontown, PA July 26 to August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Scouts had a great time swimming, hiking, and camping and working on Merit Badges and advancement.

## ***Darnestown Scouting News continued...***

For a smaller Troop 1094 group, the summer's highlight was a twelve-day high-adventure camping-hiking trip in the 137,000 acre Philmont Scout Ranch in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico June 21<sup>st</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. The Scouts and parents who participated had a once in a lifetime experience hiking and camping along trails at

elevations ranging from 6,500 to 12,441 feet. The group prepared for the trip for over a year with increasingly strenuous hikes and other training. This spring they did two multi-day hikes and a day hike on top of the Troop's other hiking, climbing, and camping outings. "These Scouts and parents worked really hard to prepare for this trip," said Dr. Jim DelVecchio, the Troop's leader for this trip. "Philmont was an experience none of us will ever forget."

For more information about Boy Scouts or Troop 1094 visit their website at <http://www.troop1094.org/> or contact Scout Master Charlie Scott at [sm@troop1094.org](mailto:sm@troop1094.org)



### ***And let's not forget the little guys...***

The Cub Scouts from Pack 1094 are looking forward to a terrific year of Scouting. The Pack, which includes boys in the first through fifth grades has all sorts of activities planned from camping, biking and hiking to the famous Pinewood Derby and Rain Gutter Regatta. Pack 1094 is even planning a one-day Ski Trip and a ropes course outing. This year's Cub Scout Calendar will have something for everyone.

Boys of different ages have different ranks in Cub Scouting and as Scouts progress, they learn new things and new skills to meet new challenges as they get older. First-grade boys are part of a Tiger den, where each boy works with an adult partner on the requirements to earn his Tiger badge. Second-grade boys graduate into Wolf dens. They go to den meetings on their own, but their families still help them work on the requirements for the Wolf badge. Boys in the third grade are members of a Bear den. They also work with their families to do the Bear badge requirements, but boys

this old have enough knowledge and skill to take on more of the work by themselves. Boys in the fourth and fifth are Webelos Scouts. Webelos Scouts do more advanced activities to get ready to graduate into Boy Scouting.

Where Scouts begin in Cub Scouting depends on their age and grade at the time they join. If a Scout joins when he's in first grade, he begins as a Tiger Cub. If he doesn't join until the third grade, he'll begin as a Bear Cub Scout and he doesn't have to go back and earn the Tiger Cub and Wolf badges.

The highest rank in Cub Scouting is the Arrow of Light rank, which Scouts begin working on as Webelos Scouts. It is the only Cub Scout badge that Scouts can wear on their Boy Scout uniform if they decide to become Boy Scouts. As Scouts work on the Arrow of Light rank, they practice outdoor skills, get physically fit, and learn more about citizenship and working with others.

Pack 1094 is excited to welcome back returning Cub Scouts from their summer vacations and to welcoming new Cub Scouts just joining the Pack. The Pack typically meets once per month on a Wednesday evening for an hour. Dens also typically meet once per month. Most activities are on the weekends with Pack leaders trying to work around sports schedules and other events. Families are welcome at Pack meetings and most events, and at least one adult per scout is expected at Den and Pack meetings, if possible. For more information about Pack 1094, contact Cubmaster Gary Coppeler at: [coppeler@gmail.com](mailto:coppeler@gmail.com).

For general Cub Scout information, visit:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsources/CubScouts/CubScouts.aspx>

### ***Ten Famous Boy Scouts***

1. Neil Armstrong
2. Hank Aaron
3. Steven Spielberg
4. Walter Cronkite
5. Harrison Ford
6. Bill Gates
7. Andy Griffith
8. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
9. President John F. Kennedy
10. Paul McCartney





# Community Interest

## Those Who Serve

By Madeline D'Alessio

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



### Darnestown Servicemen

First Lieutenant **Melissa Bateman** was reactivated in May and will be activated at least until October 2016.

Missy is currently the 323<sup>rd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion Operations Officer in Charge (OIC) and Analysis and Production OIC. She will be taking over as the Alpha Company Executive Officer on October 1, 2015.

On May 29, 2015 a Change of Command ceremony was held at the Headquarters of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Hood Texas. At that time Company Commander Captain Ryan Swisher transferred command of Roughrider Troop to a new Company Commander. The ceremony included military honors at which time Captain Swisher was awarded the Army Meritorious Service Medal and the Order of Saint Maurice by the National Infantry Association. The ceremony concluded with the passing of the Roughrider Troop Guidon from Captain Swisher to a new Commander. Following a summer of travels around the USA, on August 24th, Ryan began studies toward an MBA at MIT.



During a layover at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, a World War II veteran passed the time and entertained passengers with a sudden display of dancing!

A group of veterans were awaiting their Honor Flight home, when three women began singing The Andrews Sisters' "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy."



Encouraged by the lyrics "he started to dance" the sprightly old man jumps out of the crowd and starts to boogie. When someone offers him a walking cane he rejects it and instead, shows off some serious dance moves. His energy and enthusiasm gets the crowd of other vets joining in on the fun!

### WATCH the VIDEO HERE

[www.reshareworthy.com/old-man-boogies-at-airport/#VeYypPWCTl2FPiw.99](http://www.reshareworthy.com/old-man-boogies-at-airport/#VeYypPWCTl2FPiw.99)

Honor Flights provide free flights to veterans who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam by flying them to see the war memorials in Washington, DC built in their honor. If you are interested in accompanying a (motorcycle) biker run to welcome these brave veterans to their Memorials in DC, please contact Bill & Sue Gooch at

[wsgooch@comecast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comecast.net)

(You don't have to have a motorcycle! ☺)

For more information on the Honor Flight Network, please visit:

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



# Meet the Neighbors!

## *Neighbors Helping Neighbors*

By Christopher Thomas

As you can see in the numerous additions and remodeling projects they completed on our homes and in our neighborhoods, McKee Construction Company made a lasting positive impact on the Darnestown community. What isn't quite as visible is the impact the owners of the small business, Chris and Michelle McKee and their family had on our lives and our families.

In addition to Chris and Michelle McKee's active support of the Darnestown Elementary School and Lakelands Park Middle School PTAs and other school programs, Chris coached countless youth baseball and basketball teams and was on the board of the Upper Montgomery Athletic Club Baseball League and Michelle was a leader at the Germantown Baptist Church. Additionally, whenever there was a community project to support, the McKees were first in line to volunteer and you can still find McKee Construction signs at events and projects they sponsored throughout the area. If you ever met Chris or Michelle or their wonderful and amazingly polite four little boys, you'd agree that the McKees are among the nicest most genuine families to ever live in Darnestown. Some would argue that the McKees epitomize what makes Darnestown a special place to live.

Unfortunately, last fall Chris McKee was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. Like the other 30,000 Americans living with ALS right now, Chris is experiencing the progressive neurodegenerative symptoms that ALS brings. As Chris' muscle weakness progressed, he became unable to work. As small business owners, Chris' inability to work had a tremendous financial impact on the family, beyond the emotional toll that ALS brings. Facing an uncertain future, the McKees moved to Alabama in July to be closer to Michelle's family.



As word spread across Darnestown of Chris' diagnosis and the difficulties the family was facing, a groundswell of support grew and the community showed tremendous compassion and charity like only a special place like Darnestown can muster. Two local couples, Peter and Eva Moyer and Carl and Vicki Einsel hosted a huge party to wish the McKees well in the move, but also to allow people to make contributions. The Darnestown Swim and Racket Club Swim Team raised over \$1,000 doing raffles and other events. Austin Yaeger held an event as part of his Barmitzva project to raise funds (no official tally was available, but it's believe the total is in four figures), an anonymous group of Darnestown moms donated \$1,200, and on and on. Additionally, a GoFundMe site was set up that, to date, had raised nearly \$30,000 to help defray the anticipated \$250,000 in medical and other bills the McKees are facing.

Although the McKees have moved, their impact on our wonderful community will be felt for a very long time.

### ***Fresh Eggs in Darnestown!!***

#### **For Chicken Eggs:**

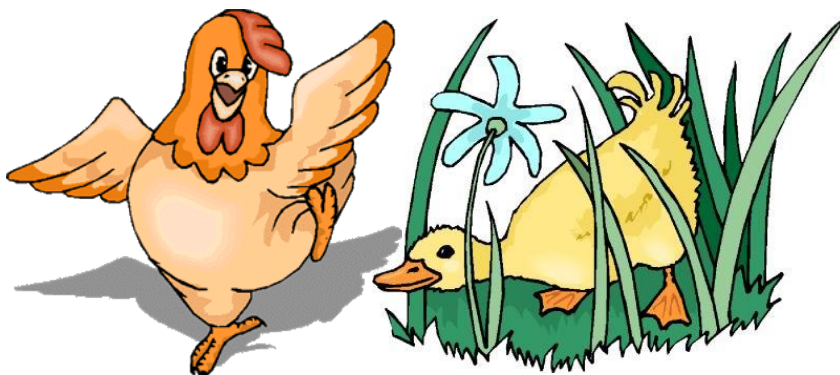
Tobi Athanis 240-386-7053

Rob & Reece Scheer 301-407-1167

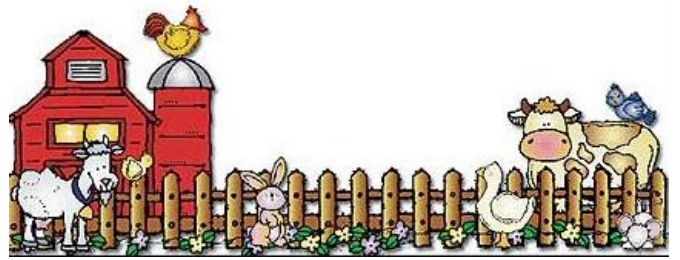
#### **For Duck and Quail Eggs:**

Ingrid Gooch

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



# Homesteading Corner!



## 4 Tips for Composting Fall Leaves

A yard of fallen leaves may seem like a mess. But hidden in all that decomposing foliage is the perfect organic matter for a great pile of compost. So this year, instead of putting fall leaves in a garbage bag and sending them to the dump, put them to use.

### 1. Big or Small? Size Does Matter

The size of a leaf pile can make a big difference in how fast leaves decompose. Keeping each pile around 3 feet by 3 feet by 3 feet will provide enough material for a healthy compost without the pile being too large for its own good or too small to maintain heat.

The best place to site a pile is in a shaded area with good air flow and decent cover. If you have a lot of leaves to compost, simply make additional piles and add new leaves as they fall. The more compost the better!

### 2. Enriching Your Pile

Composting leaves in fall is especially easy, as there is a mix of fresh and dying material to balance the nutrient content.

Many composting guides say to add lawn fertilizer to a compost pile to help balance the high amount of carbon present in the decomposing leaves with nitrogen. Instead, you can achieve this balance by simply adding freshly fallen leaves to a pile of older ones in equal layers.

You can also add fresh material like food waste, grass clippings, and branches to supplement the dead leaves as needed. If possible, try to use equal parts fresh and dead material. So, avoid the fertilizer and put old clippings and food waste to use along with the leaves.

But note that you shouldn't add animal products to the pile, and this includes grease, bones, and meat. These items will attract pests, and they take much longer to decompose. Also, never add plants that have been sprayed with weed killers (not that you would ever use those, right?).

### 3. Enclosing Your Pile

Creating a proper enclosure for your pile of leaves isn't strictly necessary, but it can help to expedite decomposition, maintain heat, provide protection from the elements, and promote a healthy compost.

You can buy an enclosure or make a simple box frame out of wood. At the very least, putting a tarp over the pile can be a quick fix for the compost. Just make sure to air it out.

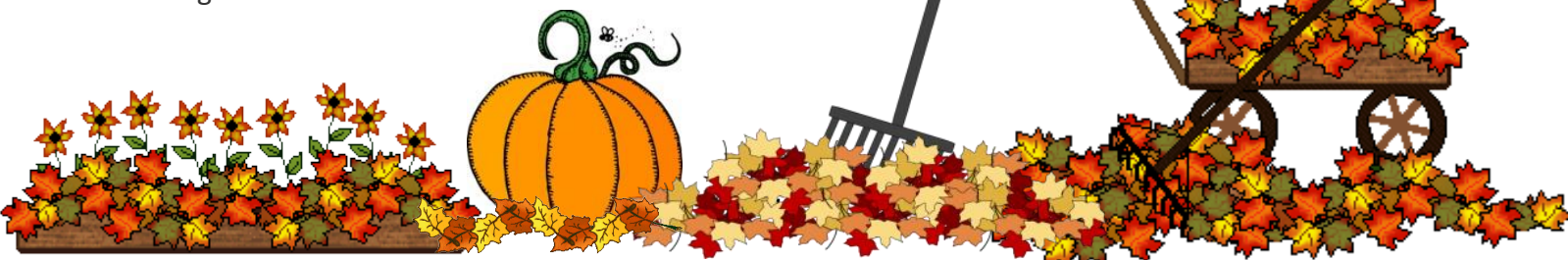
### 4. Maintaining Your Pile

Proper maintenance of the leaf pile will ensure that it progresses into a great pile of compost. The pile should be moist but not soaked and warm but not hot. So, add water or provide shade if necessary.

Turn the pile to aerate it and mix it occasionally to encourage all parts to decompose. After a few weeks, once the pile starts to really break down, add less fresh material to allow it to finish its cycle.

Even during the depths of winter, the center of a compost pile can remain warm and active if properly maintained. And with proper care, the compost should be ready by late spring.

**Source:** [www.Sierraclub.com](http://www.Sierraclub.com) – *The Green Life*





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# School News & Events

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## **Darnestown Elementary**



By Sandy Pearce

It was a nice long and relaxing summer with a lot of rain. It's time to put aside memories of the pool and beach and start thinking about BACK TO SCHOOL. Welcome back teachers, students and staff of Darnestown Elementary! Go ahead and press that snooze button, as school is now starting 10 minutes later at 9:25 AM with an end time of 3:50 PM.

Let's welcome Mrs. Evans and Mrs. FitzPatrick to the Staff. Mrs. Evans comes to us from Thurgood Marshall ES and will be our new first grade teacher. Mrs. FitzPatrick taught at Cedar Grove ES and will now be our new art teacher. Also, Rory Gavin, one of our second grade teachers, recently got married and is now Mrs. Rory Dower.

The year begins with our main fundraising event the DES READ-A-THON. The READ-A-THON is an inspirational reading program aimed to motivate our children to read and develop a lasting love of reading. All money raised will go to the PTA to support our school and community service programs. Prizes and other enticements will be awarded to the students who read for the most minutes and/or collect the most donations!

Last year students raised just under \$20,000 which was used to fund all our events, such as the Fall and Spring Picnic, Donuts for Darnestown and wonderful prizes on Bingo Night. We also purchased a new piano, a portable BOSE sound system and individual headphones for each student. Be on the lookout for a new school sign coming soon!

Our next big fundraising event held in early November is The DES Scholastic Book Fair. It's a great place to purchase holiday gifts for all ages.

Profits will supply books for the teacher's classrooms, library, and PTA for other educational activities. Come browse the wide selection of books for purchase and be sure to invite your family and friends.

This school year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> year that Darnestown Elementary has aligned with Gaithersburg Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program. Gaithersburg



Elementary is a Title 1 school of nearly 700 students, of which 70% are in free and reduced meals programs. For the past fourteen years, the generous donations from our Darnestown families have assisted the families at Gaithersburg Elementary to prepare their children for a successful school year.

Please remember to contribute to the Gaithersburg Elementary students when BACK TO SCHOOL shopping for supplies below:

- ✓ Highlighters
- ✓ #2 pencils
- ✓ ballpoint pens
- ✓ 100 page composition books
- ✓ pencil boxes
- ✓ erasers
- ✓ colored pencils
- ✓ crayons
- ✓ loose-leaf/filler paper
- ✓ plain pocket folders
- ✓ 3-ring binders
- ✓ markers
- ✓ pencil sharpeners
- ✓ school box or zippered pouch
- ✓ backpacks and lunch bags/boxes
- ✓ 12" rulers
- ✓ 5" sharp scissors
- ✓ glue sticks and squeeze glue



There will be a collection bin at the front office. All contributions should be received by Back to School Night.



## ***DES Important Upcoming Calendar of Events:***

**Labor Day/No School:** September 7  
**First PTA Meeting:** September 8  
**Back to School Night:** September 10 (7:00-9:00PM)  
**Rosh Hoshanah/No School:** September 14  
**Back to School Picnic:** September 18 (5:30-7:30PM)  
**New Parent Coffee:** September 19 (9:30-10:30AM)  
**Parent Volunteer Training:** September 22 (10AM)  
**Yom Kippur/No School:** September 23  
**READ-A-THON:** September 28  
**Early Release Day:** October 2 (1:20PM Dismissal)  
**PTA Meeting:** October 7 (7:30PM)  
**Open House/Parent Visitation:** October 13  
(9:45AM - 12:45PM)

For more information about DES and a full calendar of events, please visit website below to sign up for PTA email notifications:

[www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/](http://www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/)

## ***Butler School***

By Lisa Daly



Butler Montessori is 45 years old and growing in Darnestown, Maryland! We recently celebrated a wonderful birthday party on our sprawling campus which included members from our very first class of students in 1970. In standard Montessori practice, Butler has been “following the child” over the past 45 years and we are proud of our traditions and alumni. Many former students have moved on to great accomplishments and often come back to reminisce about their strong friendships and nurturing educational experiences. Our graduates are teachers, university professors, business managers, geophysicists, CPAs, carpenters, lawyers, engineers, pilots, armed forces officers, doctors, nurses, and stay at home moms to name just a few. They live, work, and research all over the world.

Butler is dedicated to educating children in the philosophy of Maria Montessori. Our commitment is to instill social responsibility, personal

independence and the knowledge that education is a lifelong process based on a solid academic foundation. Butler Montessori offers education as an “aid to life”, assisting children in constructing themselves as they grow and mature into adolescents through a series of developmental stages.

We look forward to many more years of fostering children’s innate ability to learn, their joy of exploration, and being lifelong learners. To find out more information about Butler Montessori and the Montessori method of teaching and learning, contact us at 301-977-6600 or visit:

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



*Left to right: Paula Huston, Class of 1970;  
Laura Manack, Current Head of School;  
Rilla Spellman, Founder*



*From the smallest to the oldest, a fun time was had by all!*

## ***We're Going Back To School***



## Seneca Academy



By: Brooke Carroll, PhD  
Head of School

Seneca Academy is looking forward to an exciting and engaging 2015-2016 school-year! With our International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program firmly established, we are supporting students to become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, balanced, communicators and thinkers.

Our students and teachers are planning some wonderful off-campus trips this fall to support our hands-on, inquiry learning. Many of our trips focus on our students' impact on the environment and how they can make a difference in the world. Our fifth graders are preparing for their overnight trip to Anita C. Leight Estuary Center on the Chesapeake Bay as part of their Water Unit of Inquiry. Kindergarteners will be taking a tour of Darnestown and its surrounds as they learn about their place in their community. Second graders will take a trip to the recycling center and Covanta (an energy-from-waste site) to extend their understanding of the 4 R's: repurpose, reduce, reuse, and recycle. In addition, there will be many projects and learning opportunities throughout the school where students are able to initiate personal action to improve the community.

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

[www.SenecaAcademy.org/parents-day-out/](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org/parents-day-out/)

Students from around the area can also join us for after-school clubs. There are offerings each day for students in kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade including choir, sculpture, video game design, magic, and engineering. We also offer the Darnestown Community Band for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Please call the office at 301-869-3728 if you are interested- clubs start the first week of October.

Seneca Academy will be hosting "Walk-In Wednesday" tours from 9:30-11am on the first and third Wednesdays of each month starting in October. This is a great time to learn about our programs and see our students "at work". Find out more at [www.SenecaAcademy.org](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org) or call us at 301-869-3728.

## Mary of Nazareth



By Beth O'Connell

### Open House

Mary of Nazareth School will host an open house on the following days:

Thursday, October 1, 2015 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Please consider visiting us for a tour of our beautiful campus and to discuss our curriculum. For more information about our school, visit our website [www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org). To schedule a tour of our school, please contact Mrs. Maryellen Weir at [mweir@maryofnazareth.org](mailto:mweir@maryofnazareth.org). We look forward to seeing you!

### Welcome New Faculty and Staff

The Mary of Nazareth School community welcomes new faculty and staff to the 2015-2016 school year.

#### ***Ms. Sara Jamison - Middle School Spanish***

Ms. Jamison received her BA in Mass Communication and Spanish Studies from the University of Delaware in 2009. After living abroad in Argentina, she resumed her studies at UD, earning her MA in Spanish Language and Literature in 2013. She has instructed Spanish to various age groups ranging from middle school to college. In the fall of 2014, Ms. Jamison joined the Mary of Nazareth community as a long term Spanish substitute. In her free time she enjoys long-distance running, reading and cooking. She looks forward to growing the Spanish program at Mary of Nazareth, and hopes to become an integral part of the school community.

#### ***Mrs. Amanda Williams - School Nurse***

Mrs. Williams recently graduated from the Chamberlin College of Nursing with a BSN; and passed her board exams with flying colors. Her career in medicine began in high school as a volunteer as an Emergency Medical Technician with her hometown fire department. Mrs. Williams, a five year military veteran, served as a Hospital Corpsman in the United States Navy. A parishioner at Mother Seton, she has volunteered with the parish high school youth group and sees the opportunity to serve our school as a vocation.

Mary of Nazareth is excited to welcome Ms. Jamison and Mrs. Williams to our outstanding faculty and staff.





## Buddy Bench - Putting an End to Playground Loneliness

Mary of Nazareth School's fifth grade Junior Girl Scout Troop #4185 recently earned their Bronze Award (the top honor for a Girl Scout Junior) by providing the school with a "Buddy Bench".

The original Buddy Bench was developed by a second grade student in Pennsylvania. He wanted a solution to help his classmates who sometimes felt lonely on the playground; when a student wants to play, they can sit on the Buddy Bench and ideally, someone will invite that student to join them in an activity. Experts say that peer support, such as demonstrated with a Buddy Bench, is critical in addressing school bullying.

The Junior Girl Scouts at Mary of Nazareth researched different styles of Buddy Benches and worked together to design and then paint their bench. The girls also produced a video that was shown to students to educate them about how the Buddy Bench works. Additionally, the girls have taken on the responsibility of taking the Buddy Bench out to the playground at recess and then back in each day.

The response from the Mary of Nazareth community has been positive. Lucy Beucher, a rising third grade student said, "The Buddy Bench has helped people make new friends".

The Junior troop hopes that the Buddy Bench will serve as a tool for inclusion and will promote friendships for years to come.



Buddy Bench - MoN Junior Girl Scout Troop #4185

## MoN Track & Field Team

The Mary of Nazareth Track & Field team had a successful 2015 season with several athletes receiving medals in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Track

and Field Championships and several school records being set.

The members of the track team can compete in local meets, which is a good way to introduce students to the various events in track and field, since only three or four schools compete, or they can compete in both the local meets and the CYO meets. The CYO meets provide a higher level of competition, as schools from all over the Archdiocese of Washington compete against each other.

During the 2015 season, MoN sponsored four local track meets at Seneca Valley High School. The meets were well attended, with over 100 children from five schools, competing in both track and field events. 15 members of the MoN team also competed in six CYO meets, including the Championships, which were held on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, MD. Several MoN athletes received medals or ribbons in their events, including two 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes:

Ileana Plummer	Gold Medal 800m and 9 <sup>th</sup> in the 400m
Logan Rohde	Gold Medal 1600m and Silver Medal 800m
Marvin Juwillie	8 <sup>th</sup> in 100m; 6 <sup>th</sup> in discus; 10 <sup>th</sup> in 200m; 8 <sup>th</sup> in 400m
Mariel Juwillie	4 <sup>th</sup> in 100m; 16 <sup>th</sup> in shot put; 7 <sup>th</sup> in 200m; 14 <sup>th</sup> in 400m
Nicholas Laffey	7 <sup>th</sup> in long jump; 10 <sup>th</sup> in javelin; 7 <sup>th</sup> in 400m; 8 <sup>th</sup> shot put
Zach Laffey	4 <sup>th</sup> javelin; 11 <sup>th</sup> 400m
Katie Carter	8 <sup>th</sup> in 400m
Nicholas Vassallo	10 <sup>th</sup> in 80m; 7 <sup>th</sup> in long jump
Patrick Vassallo	11 <sup>th</sup> in long jump; 7 <sup>th</sup> in javelin

\*Most Valuable Team Member was awarded to Mariel Juwillie and Nicholas Vassallo.

MoN has many returning competitors and is looking forward to a strong showing in the 2016 season.



CYO Track Champions - Ileana Plummer & Logan Rohde

# Church News!

## **Darnestown Presbyterian Church**

By Larry Ciorlito

### ***Annual Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar!***

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

### ***Annual Outdoor Service and Picnic on September 13<sup>th</sup>***

DPC has its annual **Outdoor Worship Service** on the morning of 13 September, conducted under the trees on the church lawn beginning at 9:30 AM. This has become a tradition over the last several years, and provides a memorable and moving service in which we feel God's presence very directly. The service is followed by our annual **Picnic and Barbecue!** As always, the picnic will feature pony rides, games, our ever-popular cakewalk, and plenty of great food, which will begin being served around 11:00 AM. Full seating is provided for the outdoor service, but families are also welcome to bring their own lawn chairs or blankets. The outdoor service is of course weather contingent, so in the event of rain we'll move our family-friendly service indoors- but the picnic and barbecue are rain or shine! Everyone is welcome and we are always delighted by visitors.

**Fall schedule.** Starting on September 20<sup>th</sup>, we return to our standard schedule of two Sunday services, at 8:45 and 11:00, with Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 and Coffee Hour at 10:30 in our Fellowship Hall. As always,

we have a nursery for young children on Sunday mornings.

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.

#### **Contact Information:**

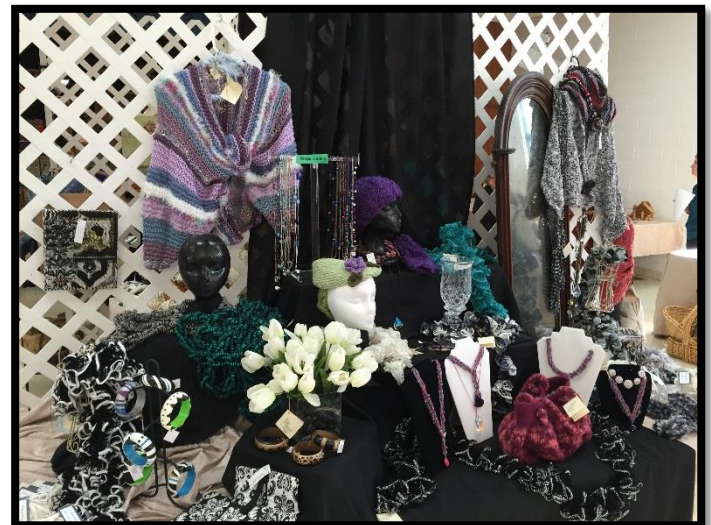
15120 Turkey Foot Road

Darnestown, MD 20878

301-948-9127

<http://www.darnestownpc.org/>

[dpchurch@comcast.net](mailto:dpchurch@comcast.net)





# Church News!

## **St. Nicholas Continues to Grow**

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, BBQ, and Open House Planned for September**

By Ken Howard, Rector

Time flies when you are having fun! It's a cliché, for sure, but in our case, it's really true...

On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, during and after our 10:00am service, St. Nick's will host a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, Barbeque, and Open House. Sunday school will also kick off on this date. As they say in West Texas, we hope all y'all will come! For more information, check our website ([saintnicks.com](http://saintnicks.com)) or our Facebook page ([facebook.com/saintnicks](https://facebook.com/saintnicks)).

Also, the first Sunday in August at 8:45am, we will be kicking off a new monthly series about liturgy in the Episcopal Church. Each topic will start with a conversation appropriately geared to children and then children will be given a hands-on activity so that adult conversation can occur. It's a drop-in class, so please drop in and have a seat in front of the altar.

We continue to grow. More young families with children are joining us every day. So much so that even after I gave up my office space for another classroom and now hold office hours at St. Arbucks, we still are raising funds to acquire portable classrooms. And in the not too distant future, we will hold a capital campaign to build out more of our church building structure.

In related news, we are working hard to plant the last 100 or so of the future 600 tree "forest" on our property this fall. If you would like to sponsor a tree in honor of a loved one, you can make a donation at our website under "Giving."

### **Contact Information**

15575 Germantown Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
240-631-2800  
[www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com)  
[office@saintnicks.com](mailto:office@saintnicks.com)



**Rev. Ken Howard**

## **Our Lady of the Visitation Parish**

By Father Raymond Fecteau



### **Our Lady of the Visitation Parish is celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> year as a parish!**

Visitation Parish plans to offer a new Church School program for our three year old, four year old and Kindergarten children on Sunday morning beginning on **Sunday, 27 September at the 9:00 am liturgy.**

We invite all members of the community and all available police officers to pray for our law enforcement personnel by attending a special St. Michael's Mass on **Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon** in our church. The Knights of Columbus Our Lady of Fatima Council #6901 will serve a light lunch in Founders Hall after the service.

On **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 a.m.**, everyone is welcome to bring their pets of all sizes and varieties to our church parking lot for the annual St. Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals.

From **Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, October, 17<sup>th</sup>**, parishioners will have an opportunity to have their pictures taken for a new parish directory.

For information on these programs and on other activities offered at Visitation Parish, please contact the office at 301-948-5536. Our church is located at 14139 Seneca Road; our offices are located in the Parish Barn at 14135 Seneca Road in Darnestown. Our website is [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org).

## **Fairhaven United Methodist Church**

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**



## Darne Bloomers Garden Club



By Merikay Smith



We anticipate another marvelous year in Darne Bloomers under the enthusiastic leadership of our new president, Lisa Ruf and her team:

- Vice-President - Carol Gimmel
- Treasurer - Mary Stiles
- Secretary - Gail Plamondon
- Programs - Bonnie Allen
- Church Maintenance - Louise Evans
- Sunshine - Mary Rill

We start our garden club year with a timely talk, “Seed Saving,” by Janet Young on Thursday, September 10. With techniques learned we will be able to save seeds from fruit, vegetables, and annuals so we can enjoy our favorite plants year after year. Saving seeds saves money, but the reasons many people save seeds also include the pleasure of propagating plants and the ability to continue a line of heirloom seeds. Others save seeds to preserve genetic diversity. Currently, just ten companies account for approximately 70% of the global proprietary seed market.

Our speaker Janet Young is the president of the Montgomery County Master Gardeners. Her professional background includes a PhD in cellular biology specializing in genetics but it will be her extensive experience as a seed-saving gardener that she will be sharing with us. This same talk was given at an annual statewide training day for Maryland Master Gardeners at the University of Maryland.

Hosts for the September meeting are Barbara Andreassen, Carol Gimmel, Salome Creighton, and Merikay Smith. Decorations will be created from many different types of seeds, large and small, reflecting the diversity and beauty of even common seeds. As this event has not yet occurred, I’m imagining a seed-inspired breakfast buffet will be served -- poppy seed muffins and much more.

There are some seeds we do not want to save – weed seeds! By definition these plants propagate too easily and in the case of alien invasive plants, can do real environmental damage besides wrecking the

appearance of our gardens. Take a bit of time now to pull any invasive weeds in your yard before their seeds are released to the soil to bring you even more work in years to come. Please be aggressive in pulling out all mile-a-minute *Persicaria perfoliata*, Japanese stiltgrass *Microstegium vimineum*, garlic mustard *Alliaria petiolate*, and other non-native weeds. Why bother, you may ask? A plant like mile-a-minute (easily identified because of its triangular leaves and small thorns along its narrow, vining stem) can grow more than a foot a day in good weather and set more than 500 seeds per plant which remain viable in the soil for decades. If you don’t pull this plant when there are only a few, it can literally take over smothering other plants which lie in its path. You can find more information on Maryland invasive weeds at these websites:

- [www.mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests](http://www.mda.maryland.gov/plants-pests)
- [www.mdinvasivesp.org](http://www.mdinvasivesp.org)
- [www.mdflora.org/aboutinvasives.html](http://www.mdflora.org/aboutinvasives.html)
- [www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives](http://www.dnr.state.md.us/invasives)

Some native plants with the label “weed”, can actually be beneficial for insects and animals – and you may decide you want these in your garden. For example, pokeweed berries persist well into winter and provide needed nutrients for birds overwintering in our area. In my garden I leave some pokeweed to mature but pull some so it doesn’t take over. Milkweed is another plant I make room for in my garden since it is the host plant for monarch butterflies. There are many different species of milkweed – they are quite lovely in bloom, appeal to pollinators and are deer resistant. Other “weeds” I grow on purpose are Joe-Pye weed, and New York ironweed.

Our Darne Bloomer garden club meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. (Presentations begin at 10 a.m. and are preceded by breakfast and a club business meeting.) We welcome visitors and new members. If you are interested in coming to one of our meetings, please contact our new club president Lisa Ruf at 301-670-6750 or [lisaruf@aol.com](mailto:lisaruf@aol.com).





# 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

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
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

## 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 Brenner	Certified	301- 792-5404
Nea Wheeler, PhD, A-CPT	Certified	301- 367-4919

## 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
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
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## 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
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319



**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT LITTLE ACORN**

**November 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)







# 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 Drive 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.





## 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)  
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](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)  
Website: [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)



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Suburban MD  
Permit No. 4889



DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

