



THE LITTLE ACORN

Est. 1965

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 52, Number 4
December 2015

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES



Notes from the President

By Lisa Patterson-Troiike

October and November have been sad months for important trees in Darnestown. On November 4–6th our prized and beloved State Champion Catalpa tree and potential champion Kentucky Coffee tree were cut down. Guy Armantrout, Karen Hinrichsen, and I spent months trying to find a way to save the trees or portions of them. We met with two independent arborists and both demonstrated the alarming findings. Both tree trunks were hollow more than 4' when a piece of rebar was pushed through the trunks. The hollows collected water and split both trees. The northern half of the Catalpa was dead and the other half was dying and leaning over Darnestown Road. If the tree had fallen, human lives certainly would have been in danger or lost.

....Continued on page 3



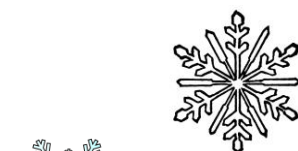
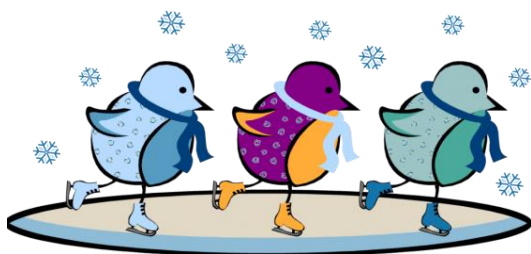
DARNESTOWN TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY!

Sunday, December 13th
6:30 PM

Darnestown Heritage Park

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The Little Acorn

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Let It
SNOW



Notes from the President

...continued from page 1

By Lisa Patterson-Troike



The Kentucky Coffee on initial glance, looked healthy. It too was hollow and in the month of October, the split had grown 5', all the way to the base. The dangerous eastern-facing section could have fallen where several children wait for the school bus. There was no way to remove the dangerous sections and secure the rest of the trees. It was personally a heartbreaking realization that they had to come down. The Catalpa was estimated to be over 200 years old and the Kentucky Coffee, 150 years old. I picked up one of the Catalpa leaves off the ground and asked my daughter to measure it... can you believe it was 24" long and 13" wide?



Annual Tree Lighting December 13th

The DCA Annual Tree Lighting is set for Sunday, December 13th at 6:30 pm. We hope a white bearded visitor in a red suit will fly in with his sleigh and reindeer for a visit at 6:45 pm. The festivities will take place at our Heritage Park located next to Harris Teeter. Hot chocolate, cookies, and entertainment will be provided. Guaranteed to be a fun time in snow, rain, or shine - kids and adults of all ages are welcome. Come celebrate the magic of the season with us!

More Tree News

After we moved our Annual Tree Lighting to the Heritage Park next to Harris Teeter, our evergreen at the intersection of Ancient Oak and Darnestown Road, started to die. It was as if the tree had stayed alive just for our tree lighting gatherings and once its duty was over, it started to die. It has been dead and brown for at least two years and was removed the end of October.

Hoedown Lassoed over 150 People!

What a great showing at this year's Hoedown! Several people have mentioned that it was the best one yet! I don't know how they keep getting better, but they do! Smokey Glen put on a fabulous feast for the cowboy boot clad group and Mac McCall was, as always, a patient instructor when it came to teaching us the most basic square dance moves. The dancefloor was packed and the clear, cool evening was perfect for moonlit hayrides and strolls on the grounds for dancers to cool off. Some have touted the Hoedown as the "best party of the year." I might have to agree!

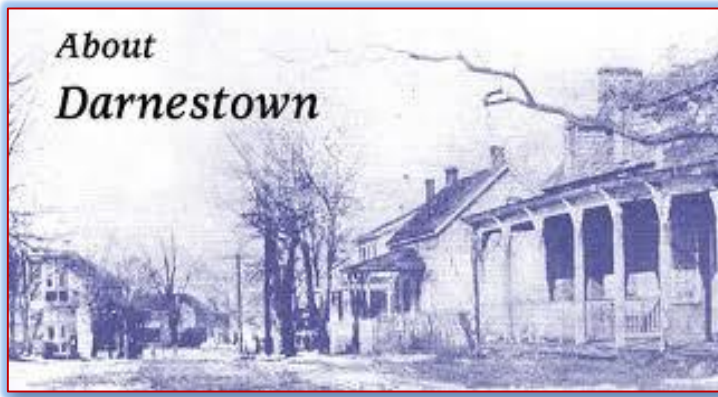
URGENT REMINDER

from DCA President Lisa Patterson

Please **NEVER** put outgoing mail in your personal home mailbox!

I recently received notice that envelopes containing checks were stolen from a mailbox here in Darnestown. The perpetrator was able to change the amount and "paid to" name, and successfully cashed over \$1,300 in checks.

For outgoing mail, please use the USPS mailbox behind the 6-12 in The Village Corner.



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

"A Brief History of DARNESTOWN"

By: The Darnestown Historical Society

Please enjoy Part One of this marvelous contribution to The Little Acorn!

FOREWORD

"Darnestown History Day" began as an idea in the minds of several members of the Darnestown Historical Society during its first days of existence in 1989. Conceived as an addition to the 4th grade studies in Maryland History, the History Day took on a rich meaning as Sharon Scopin and Mary Alice Schooley, the co-chairs, realized the strength of the local historical tradition. Enlisting the aid of the school staff, the PTA, and many long-time local residents, Sharon and Mary Alice arranged a program that portrayed the full range of the local history, from the founding of Darnestown to the present time. The former existence of the Andrew Small Academy on the site of the present Darnestown Elementary School provided a natural emphasis on education.

With the receipt of a generous grant from the Montgomery County Historical Preservation Commission, the Society has been able to assemble and print this [material], which will be a permanent part of the school library [in booklet format]. Many people have contributed to the material in this booklet; the Society is indebted to all of these willing and civic-minded citizens.

The Society also is grateful to the many people whose participation has made the History Day a highlight of the school year for the 4th grade



students, and we appreciate very much the far-seeing grants program of the HPC that has allowed us to print this record in permanent form.

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THE FOUNDING OF DARNESTOWN

Darnestown was first settled in the 1750's, before the United States became independent from England. One of the first landowners was Ninian Beall (pronounced "bell"), a licensed tavern keeper.

One of Ninian Beall's daughters, Ruth, married a man named Charles Gassaway. About 1763-1765, the couple built a brick home which they called "Pleasant Hills". In the early days, it was common practice for a family to give a name to their property. Although the practice is less common now, it is still done occasionally. This house still stands near Route 28 on Kelley Farm Drive.

The house is still preserved by its owners, Mr. and Mrs. John Auchenbach. The house is recognized by the state of Maryland as a historic residence.

Charles Gassaway's daughter married William Darne in 1798. They called their residence "Mount Pleasant". It was located to the east of "Pleasant Hills". Like most of the early houses, "Mount Pleasant" was torn down many years ago.

William Darne served in the Maryland legislature and was a director of the CO Canal. He was noted as "distinguished for his hospitality and urbanity of manner". He was so well respected that the town was named "Darnestown" in his honor.

William's only son, Alexander Darne, built a house nearby. For many years, it was the home of Mr.

and Mrs. Clark Boyer. Now it houses the Headmaster of Windsor School.

Darnestown acquired a post office in 1825. The post master was John Candler, who had opened one of the first stores in town. Samuel Leeke was the town's first wheelwright. John Dowd was one of the first blacksmiths, and Benjamin Edwards was one of the first physicians.

Because Darnestown was located at a crossroads, it became important to commerce of the area. One road (now Seneca Road) led to the mills and to the canal at Seneca. The other (Darnestown Road, or State Route 28), one of the oldest roads in Montgomery County, ran between the County courthouse in Rockville and the mouth of the Monocacy River.

From Darnestown, one could travel either by stagecoach along the Darnestown Road or by boarding a packet boat on the canal. The packet boats, which carried farm products as well as passengers, could hold as many as 50 people. The boats also served as floating restaurants, since the trip to Georgetown took most of a day's time.

Although "Pleasant Hills" is an excellent example of the finest construction available to early settlers in the Darnestown area, most houses were not so large. The houses usually were made of wood, rather than brick. Many of the houses were made of logs. These log houses, which were built as early as 1820, were torn down very recently (in 1987). They had been covered with siding to protect the logs underneath.

Red sandstone was found in abundance at Seneca. The Seneca Sandstone Company began operation in 1850, just a few years before the outbreak of the Civil War. Stones from this mill were used in the construction of the Smithsonian Institution, the Library of Congress, and the Washington Monument (the redstone was used as backing stone). The stone also was used to build the Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The ruins of the Seneca sandstone mill still can be seen near the Potomac River if one walks down Tschiffely Mill Road from [the former] Poole's General Store in Poolesville.

Grist mills have existed at Seneca since about 1780. The Seneca Mills, later also called the Tschiffely Mill, was built about 1866. It stood very near the bridge over Seneca Creek near [the former] Poole's Store. Besides milling, the company also sold milling supplies, wheat, flour, feed corn, and fertilizer.

The Tschiffely Mill operated until the early 1930's. Worthington Tschiffely sold the mill and 29 acres of land in 1947 to the Pierpont family. In 1972, Mrs. Pierpont sold the land for \$10 to the State of Maryland so that it could become part of Seneca Creek State Park. The State Park also owns a building that once was a grist mill; it is located where Black Rock Road crosses Seneca Creek. The Park staff have prepared a display at Black Rock Mill to show how the mill operated.



The Black Rock Mill was built in the early 1800s and was powered by Seneca Creek. The mill was in working operation for over a hundred years until a flood in 1920 destroyed a dam on Seneca Creek and damaged the mill.

THE CIVIL WAR IN DARNESTOWN

At the beginning of the Civil War, the Federal leadership realized that Darnestown was a natural point of defense for Washington, the Nation's capital. If the Confederate forces could cross the Potomac River from their encampments in northern Virginia to attack Montgomery and Frederick counties, then they could easily invade Washington from the North.

As early as June, 1861, Darnestown was occupied by the 9th New York Union troops. By late August of that year after the battle of Bull Run, Major General Nathaniel Banks arrived in Darnestown and established his Division Headquarters there. Soon there were about 18,000 Union troops in Darnestown, hailing from New York, Connecticut, Indiana, Pennsylvania Rhode Island Wisconsin, and Massachusetts. They were the main line of defense for Washington from northern attacks.

To secure the northern approach to Washington, the army had to guard all fords across the Potomac River, protect the C&O Canal, search the Canal boats and wagons traveling through the area, examine passes of travelers, and establish a provost guard at Darnestown.

Besides the one in the area now occupied by the Windsor School, other Union encampments were placed at the Kelley farm, at Kirkhill farm, along Seneca Creek, near Muddy Branch, at the Magruder farm (now known as the Iler farm), and along the C&O Canal.

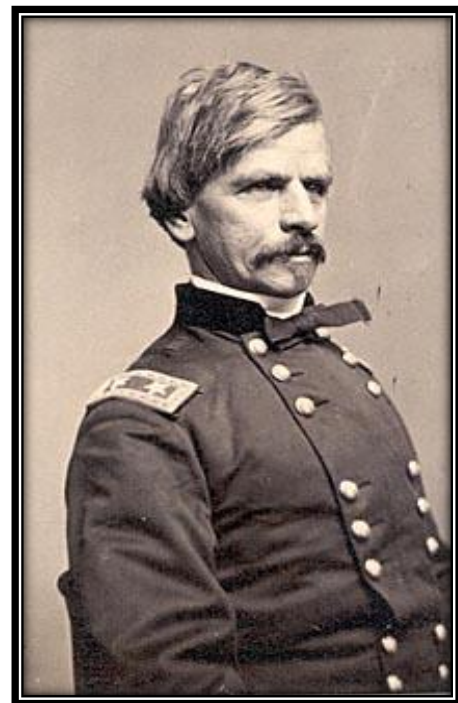
General Banks set up his headquarters in the house that we now call Windsor School. On September 26, 1861, there was a grand parade held in observance of the President's Fast Day. All the regiments in the area proceeded in full uniform with arms and musical accompaniment to the open fields near the Windsor School area for the event.

A Signal Corps School was established on the Magruder farm about 1.5 miles southwest of Darnestown towards Seneca. An especially large chestnut tree there was fitted with platforms for

signalers to use. With the aid of signal flags and telescopes they could exchange information with other signalers in a chain that reached from as far upriver as Harpers Ferry and downriver to Georgetown.

It is believed that Presidents Lincoln visited General Banks at Darnestown on October 6, 1861. Soon after, on October 21, Banks gave orders to cook two days' rations, leave tents and wagons in the care of a smaller cadre of troops, and move towards Conrad's Ferry, now known as White's Ferry. While en route, the soldiers learned about the disaster at Ball's Bluff, where many Union troops were killed in an attempt to cross the Potomac.

Many of Banks' troops remained in Darnestown until the spring of 1862. Thereafter, the town was visited by many patrols from both sides of the conflict as they continued to fight the Civil War.



Major General Nathaniel Banks

NEXT: More on Darnestown in the Civil War and the history of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Community Interest

The Passing of a Long Time Darnestown Resident

Mabel Rebecca "Beck" Offutt passed from this life on Wednesday September 30, 2015 at 12:25 PM. She died peacefully in her 97th year of life, surrounded by family, at the home of her daughter in Berkeley Springs WV. A resident of Darnestown for over 80 years, Beck was born on the family farm at Seneca to her late parents, Mabel & Harry C. West.

Mrs. Offutt attended the Seneca Schoolhouse, Darnestown Elementary School, and Gaithersburg High School. In her early years, she was employed by the Montgomery County Government, Glen Construction, The Robert Pumphrey Funeral Home, as well as being an enumerator for the 1940 U.S. Census. She also appeared as an extra in the 1964 films *Lilith*.

A warm and caring person, Beck was generous with her time and good humor. She was a lifetime member of the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, becoming the unofficial "Poet Laureate" of the annual Senior Citizen Day. An annual event for her was to participate in the History Day celebration at Darnestown Elementary School, telling of her early life in Montgomery County. She was a lifelong polling place judge each election day. Beck also pioneered the morning retirement group, who met each morning at the local McDonalds.

Rebecca was predeceased by her loving husband, James R. Offutt, both of her brothers (William Armistead and Harry Jr.), all three of her sisters (Rosalie Severn, Mary Maughlin, and Catherine Waters), two grandsons (Michael Harwell and Scott Harwell), three nephews, as well as a son-in-law (John Mitchell).

She is survived by her two daughters, Joan Kinsey (wife of Buddy Kinsey) of Berkeley Springs and

Nancy Mitchell of Darnestown. In addition, survivors include seven grandsons (David, Mark, James, Steven and Darrin Kinsey, Kevin Harwell and Tim Coates), 18 great-grandchildren, and 11 great-great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two beloved nieces.

Last year, Mrs. Offutt participated in the Aortic Core Valve clinical trials at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center. Her participation in this pioneering research allowed for discoveries which then gained FDA Approval of this life-saving procedure.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to:

1. Hospice of the Panhandle, 278 N. High Street, Romney, WV 26757 or to
2. The Macular Degeneration Foundation, P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061.



***Mabel Rebecca Offutt
August 21, 1918 – September 30, 2015***



Community Interest

Armenian Youth Center Development

By Pam DuBois

Has everyone seen the sign illustrating the rendering of the planned Armenian Youth Center (AYC) next to the Darnestown Park on Darnestown Road / Route 28? At a recent Pumpkin Patch Day, the community was given a tour and history of the 14.5 acres planned for development into a house of worship (approved for 300-seats) by AYC representatives. The AYC has already signed a contract with a civil engineer and is in the process of securing an architect to begin design of the infrastructure.

AYC represents the entire Soorp Khatch Community and is excited to finally build its future home. The AYC has owned the land longer than many current Darnestown residents, dating back over 25 years. The development plans were approved by the County well over a decade ago, and originally included approximately 44 acres comprising open space and six single family homes in the Indian Run Drive cul-de-sac.

SHARE THE ACORN

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

www.darnestowncivic.org

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

PEPCO Update

By Art Slesinger



Safety

It has been almost 5 years since the serious brush fire along the PEPCO right of way threatened the Darnestown area at large. And in places near Riffleford Road, a few homes suffered serious damage. The County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS) recently prepared its five year strategic plan. During that review process, the writer had discussions with MCFRS planning group. They were helpful in describing improvements in their all-wheel drive fire suppression vehicle fleet. Bottom line, MCFRS is in a better posture to respond to a similar brush fire. Keep in the mind the 2011 fire impacted neighboring counties as well, and as such, mutual assistance was limited. On the day of the fire, every available MCFRS person throughout the county was called to assist. The event was controlled, but with nothing to spare. Hopefully a repeat event will not be as dramatic.

Reliable Power

In September at the DCA public meeting, PEPCO presented their plans for the new substation to be built on their property at the intersection of Riffleford and Darnestown Roads. The design of the facility was provided and renderings of the building presented. During the next year, the design and permitting process will be completed to get a special exception for zoning of the property. PEPCO is being open and cooperative; the building will be an abstract farm house, but the scale will not be consistent with a real farm. All the utility lines in and out will be buried but will resurface some distance from the substation. The schedule is for zoning and design work to be completed in 2016, construction in 2017, and brought on line shortly thereafter. The substation will be powered with new high energy feeders that will greatly improve the reliability for the outbound feeders, several of which will service the eastern part of Darnestown.



Community Interest

 **HAPPY
HANUKKAH**



Let's Celebrate !

Sunset December 6 – Sunset December 14, 2015

The eight-day Jewish celebration known as Hanukkah commemorates the rededication during the second century B.C. of the Second Temple in Jerusalem, where according to legend, Jews had risen up against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in the Maccabean Revolt.

The Maccabees successfully rebelled against Antiochus IV Epiphanes. According to the Talmud, a late text, the Temple was purified and the wicks of the menorah miraculously burned for eight days, even though there was only enough sacred oil for one day's lighting.

Hanukkah, which means “dedication” in Hebrew, begins on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar, and usually falls in November or December.

Often called the Festival of Lights, the holiday is celebrated with the lighting of the menorah, traditional foods, games and gifts.

Source: www.history.com

Next DCA Town Meeting

December 10th 7:30 PM

**Darnestown Presbyterian
Church**

(Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road)

Everyone can benefit from attending the **December 10th Town Meeting!** With a total one-hour running time (and a half-hour social gathering with light refreshments following the meeting), the Town Meeting is a great way to get an update on community events, quickly connect with your neighbors, hear a few simple & inexpensive ideas to make our neighborhoods look festive for the holidays, and learn more about “Disaster Preparedness”.

A short presentation will be provided by Commissioner Joy Hatchette of the Maryland Insurance Administration, which is a state agency that offers guidance and general information about insurance coverage at community outreach events and online. All Darnestownians are welcome to attend the December 10th Town Meeting. Please join us!



Community Interest



No news from the DSRC since we are closed for the winter months. See you in the next issue with all of our 2016 news and updates!



No news from the Darnestown Softball League since we are off season. See you in March with all of our 2016 news and updates!

Johnson Property Proposed Annexation

By Pam DuBois

While not in Darnestown, many residents have been inquiring about the status of the proposed Johnson property annexation into the City of Gaithersburg, since we'd be impacted by increased traffic among other things. The 23.45 acre property, owned by the Johnson Family Enterprises, LLC and Three Amigos Real Estate, LLC, is located at the intersection of Darnestown Road (MD Rt 28) and Quince Orchard Road (MD Rt. 124). The owners filed a proposed annexation petition with the City of Gaithersburg to reclassify the Site from the County's R-200 and NR .75, H 45 zones to the City's Mixed Use Development Zone (MXD). The owners have proposed a conceptual development plan to be completed in three phases: Up to 180 residential units of up to four-stories (currently zoned R-200) during Phase one; Up to 125 residential units of up to six-stories (currently zoned NR 0.75 H45) in Phase two; and Up to 375,000-square feet of commercial development (currently zoned NR 0.75 H45) during Phase three.

The City of Gaithersburg Mayor and Council submitted a statement dated June 26, 2015 in support of the annexation petition and a conceptual plan. Subsequently, the Montgomery County Planning Board voted on November 12, 2015 to accept the staff report opposing the annexation (which was accompanied by 500-600+ community letters of opposition). Staff noted that the requested annexation proposes a use that is substantially different than the uses authorized in the existing R-200 Zone, and the petition is contrary to the recommendations of the Great Seneca Science Corridor Master Plan.

The development density allowed in the City's MXD Zone is substantially higher (more than 50% higher) than the maximum allowed under the current zone. As recommended in the GSSC Master Plan, an isolated area not fully contiguous to the City limits should not be annexed into the City. In addition, this petition will locate multi-family units on a property intended in the Master Plan to be park facilities or contain only single-family units, and it will introduce more density to the area than allowed in the R-200 and NR zones.

Staff therefore recommends that the County Council not approve the proposed development associated with the annexation petition. Without the Council's express approval, the City of Gaithersburg cannot approve development of the annexed property for land uses substantially different than the currently authorized uses, or at a substantially higher density than currently allowed, for five years after the annexation. The City's next public hearing will be held in early 2016. We will keep you posted.

Did You Know ?

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

first appeared in a 1939 booklet written by Robert L. May and published by Montgomery Ward. 2014 marked the 75th anniversary of the fictional character and the 50th anniversary of the television special.



Community Interest



A Memo Received by the DCA

Below is a Montgomery County memo stating that three Ride On routes — two of them in Upper County — are slated to be shut down for budgetary reasons. How can the CCT move forward when Ride On is being scaled back?

The DCA & the community await a CCT ridership study specific to our region, using current data and real people, not assumptions and models. Currently, one such study is underway. The DCA will keep the community updated as information arrives.

From: DOT-TRN.RideOnPublicForums [<mailto:mcdot.RideOnPublicForums@montgomerycountymd.gov>]

Sent: Friday, September 4, 2015 12:26 PM

Subject: Ride On Public Forums on Proposed Service Reductions

The public will have a chance to comment on proposed changes to Ride On's bus service at either one of two public forums, presented by Montgomery County, to be held in September. The route eliminations are being proposed to help close the significant budget facing the County in FY16. The County will consider all comments received by September 30, 2015.

The following routes are being proposed for elimination:

Route 42 - Weekday, Saturday and Sunday service

Route 83 - Saturday and Sunday service

Route 98 - Weekday, Saturday and Sunday service

The forums will begin at 6:30 p.m. and end after the last speaker on:

- Thursday, September 17 at the UpCounty Regional Services Center at 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown (large training room);
- Thursday, September 24 at the Executive Office Building, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville (lobby level auditorium)

Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to speak at either public forum are requested to provide in writing their name, home address, telephone number, e-mail address and organization to the Division of Transit Services, Ride On Public Forum, 101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850. Those wishing to speak at the September 17 forum must provide such information on or before September 14. Those wishing to speak at the September 24 forum must provide such information on or before September 21. Those who have signed up to speak must bring two printed copies of their testimony for the record.

Additionally, comments on the proposed service route eliminations may be submitted in writing, by email, or by fax to:

Division of Transit Services
Ride On Public Forum
101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-5800
Fax 240-777-5801

mcdot.rideonpublicforums@montgomerycountymd.gov.



NOTE: *"The future of bus transit may be in the hands of the proposed MoCo 'Independent Transit Authority' currently under consideration by the County. With unlimited taxing authority and no elected members, such an authority will be painful from a property tax perspective." ~Art Slesinger, DCA Chairman*

Community Interest

MOMS Club® of North Potomac – Muddy Branch

By: Margaret Weiner, President

Women dedicated to a part or full-time stay-at-home 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 Book Club, Walking Club, and Baby and Mommy Yoga, there are wonderful ways to connect with other women. Special speakers also share in our monthly gatherings. The following are upcoming topics for which we have speakers scheduled: Strengthening relationships with our partners, Positive Parenting, Guardianship and Estate Planning, on-the-go beauty and fashion tricks, and learning how to teach our children the letter writing process. 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 for the Children’s Inn at NIH
- 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 join us at our Member Meeting on Wednesday, December 16th, at the Izaak Walton League of America (707 Conservation Lane, Gaithersburg, MD) starting at 10:30 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: npmbmomsclub@gmail.com or

Like us on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/momsclubnpmb/

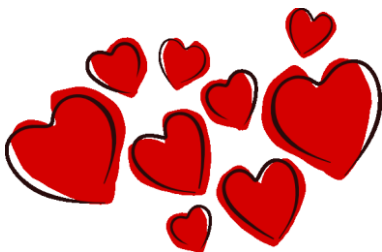
Directory Information:

MOMS Club of North Potomac – Muddy Branch

Website: www.bigtent.com/groups/npmbmoms

Facebook: www.facebook.com/momsclubnpmb/

Email: npmbmomsclub@gmail.com



Community Interest

Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Christopher Thomas

Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 kicked off their year with a family picnic on August 30th at Seneca Creek State Park. In addition to enjoying a great cookout, the Troop conducted a Board of Honor to recognize Scouts who earned merit badges or were advanced in rank over the summer. With a large number of Scouts having participated in Scout Summer Camp and the high adventure Philmont expedition, there were lots of merit badges to present.

Over the summer, two of our Scouts, Kile Scott and Teddy Ahrens, participated in the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Kirara-hama, Japan. Joining over 30,000 other Scouts and leaders from 161 countries, Kile and Teddy learned about global issues, explored the environment, performed community service, and made friends from around the world. During one excursion, Kile, Teddy, and other American Scouts went to the peace memorial at Hiroshima, just days before Japan marked the 70th anniversary of the 1945-bombing. Other Jamboree highlights included touring Japan, riding the famous bullet trains, sharing meals, and getting to know Scouts from other countries. The Jamboree was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that neither of these Scouts will ever forget.

In addition to their weekly Troop meetings, where the Scouts work on advancement and merit badges, so far this fall the Troop has gone on several fun outings and continued with their community service campaign.

On September 19th the Troop ventured into Washington, D.C. to spend a few hours cleaning the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The Scouts and adult leaders arrived at the memorial bright and early at 6:30 AM so they could finish their work before tour groups started to arrive. Under the watchful eyes of the Park Rangers, they scrubbed the Memorial and walkways removing dirt and grime that had accumulated during recent storms. "This project is a special honor for our troop," said project organizer Russell Johnson. "We do this in honor of those who served and sacrificed long ago, but who are forever appreciated."



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

During the weekend of October 23-25, the Troop enjoyed some sunshine and great camaraderie during the annual trip to Assateague Island (which had been rained out a few weeks earlier due to Hurricane Joaquin). Scouts learned to surf fish, practiced their cooking skills, and enjoyed free time on the beach and the Ocean City boardwalk. A few brave scouts and adults even went for a dip in the cool Atlantic Ocean.

November activities included the Orienteering competition and the Troop's Skills Outing — two great events where the Scouts enjoyed exploring the woods and learning outdoor activity essentials. November also marked the annual Scouting for Food community service project. A nation-wide campaign, Scouting for Food involves 30,000 Scouts in 228 communities across the country. Scouts in the D.C. area collected approximately 1 million pounds of food that was distributed to local food banks and others in need.

In December, the Troop will do its semi-annual Darnestown Presbyterian Church grounds clean-up, and they will visit Philadelphia and spend a night on the Battleship USS New Jersey.

Troop 1094 welcomes new troop members and new Scouts year-round. For more information about Boy Scouts or Troop 1094, please visit their website at www.troop1094.org/ or contact Scout Master Charlie Scott at: sm@troop1094.org.



Community Interest

It's a Darne' Good Cookbook

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

What's Good for Dinner on Cold Winter Nights?

Freddie's Veal Stew

Page 43

2 carrots, peeled and chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
1 large onion, chopped
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons butter
1 pound veal stew cubes
1/3 cup dry white wine
1 cup peeled, seeded, and chopped tomatoes
Salt and pepper to taste



1. In a heavy pot, sauté carrots, celery and onion in olive oil and butter for 5 minutes over moderate to high heat.
2. Pat veal dry and add cubes to sautéed ingredients and brown.
3. Add wine and cook until wine is almost evaporated.
4. Add tomatoes, salt, and pepper; cover tightly and cook stew over low heat for one hour, or until veal is tender.

Hot soup and
homemade bread on a
cold, winter night!
Yummy!!



Roasted Red Onion Soup

Page 45

10 cups sliced red onions
¼ cup olive oil
1 tablespoon flour
1 teaspoon sugar
8 cups good beef broth
1 cup dry white vermouth



1. Roast onions in oil in 350F oven for 20 minutes
2. Remove from oven and add flour and sugar. Return to oven for 5 minutes.
3. Add beef broth and vermouth.
4. Bring to a boil and serve.
5. Top with croutons and grated mozzarella.

Editor's Note: I have made this soup twice, adding garlic, pepper, parsley, and a ¼ cup of good cognac. It was fabulous! Two thumbs up!

German Beer Bread

Page 75

3 cups white bread flour
1 ½ cups rye flour
¾ cup beer
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon butter
2 packages of dry yeast
½ cup warm water
Caraway seed
2 teaspoons salt
½ teaspoon garlic powder



1. Mix white and rye flours together in a large bowl. Set aside.
2. Heat beer, honey and butter together until butter melts. Do not allow mixture to brown or boil.
3. Dissolve yeast in warm water for about 5 minutes in your main mixing bowl.
4. With electric mixer on low, slowly add the remaining ingredients.
5. Remove dough and hand knead a few minutes into a flattened ball.
6. Place in a greased pie plate, cover with a damp towel and let rise for 45 minutes in a warm place.
7. Bake for 30 minutes, checking after 20 minutes. When ready, it should slide right out of the pie plate onto a cooling rack.

Community Interest

Those Who Serve

By Meakin Bennett



U. S. Army Captain Ryan Swisher is completing his first semester at the MIT Sloan School of Management. He is slated to receive an MBA from MIT in the spring of 2017. In the fall of 2017 he will join the faculty at the U. S. Military Academy at West Point where he will teach economics. Captain Swisher is enjoying being a full-time student again, and is amazed by the caliber of students at MIT. Having just completed a combat tour in Afghanistan as a company commander this past March, his daily routine is now quite different. He remains grateful to all the family, neighbors, and friends in Darnestown who welcomed him home.



Ryan with some of his troops and some Afghan boys, on patrol in an Afghan village.



Thanking our Veterans and Military Families this Holiday Season

During the holiday season, please consider showing support and appreciation for US service members and their families. Care packages, cards, letters, and other thoughts and acts of kindness are always a welcome treat for deployed service personnel, especially during the holidays when they are away from their homes and families defending our freedoms. Here are some ways that you can show your support!

Operation We Are Here

Resources for the military community and military supporters

www.operationwearehere.com/IdeasforSoldiersCardsLetters.html

Operation Gratitude

Sending Care Packages to US Military

www.operationgratitude.com/get-involved/write-letters/

A Million Thanks

A year-round campaign to show our appreciation for our U.S. Military Men and Women, past and present, for their sacrifices, dedication, and service to our country through our letters, emails, cards, and prayers.

www.ourmilitary.mil/community-resources/supporting-our-military-this-holiday-season

American Red Cross

www.redcross.org/support/get-involved/holiday-mail-for-heroes

5th Annual Toys for Tots Fundraiser

Friday, December 11th

6:00 – 10:00 PM

Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape

Kentlands Market Square

223 Kentlands Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

(301) 869-9463

Collecting toys and donations!

Meet the Neighbors!

Madison House Autism Foundation

By Melissa Hunsicker

Madison House Autism Foundation was formally established in 2008 and is one of the first and few national organizations to focus on the needs of autistic adults. The foundation is dedicated to creating awareness of the lifespan challenges facing autistic adults who want to make choices, live as independently as possible, hold jobs, feel connected to their communities, and become participating members of our society.

Our mission is to provide more support, more opportunities, and more hope to adults with autism and their families. We accomplish this by partnering with passionate individuals, organizations, and governments to bring about creative, dynamic, and effective solutions that reshape possibilities for adults with autism. The headquarters of Madison House Autism Foundation is located on Shady Grove Road. Madison Fields is located in Dickerson. The following write-up about the farm is from the website: www.madisonhouseautism.org:

HISTORY

In November of 2013, Madison House Autism Foundation was offered the equity of a parcel of land in the Agricultural Reserve of Montgomery County. Subsequently, Madison House took possession of the farm in late summer of 2014. On December 30, 2014, Madison House secured adjacent property that includes 10 approved building lots, bringing the total acreage of the project to 400 acres. A farm manager/CEO was brought in quickly and is now overseeing the process of staffing. A task force has been assembled and strategic planning is ongoing. Stay tuned for more updates.

FEATURES

Currently, Madison Fields features several existing structures including a state-of-the-art riding stable, bank barn, corn crib, chicken coop, tenant housing, a guest house, a historic farmhouse, and two fully-enclosed out buildings. The riding facility, which has immeasurable value for children and adults with autism and other intellectual or developmental disabilities, is already providing riding opportunities.

FUTURE

Madison Fields will provide a rural experience within minutes of the nation's capital. The site will create engagement with the broader community through internships, partnerships, agricultural learning projects, collaboration with high school students, and living accommodations for individuals.



Jim Clifford on right with son Jake Clifford at Pelican Cove in Rancho Palos Verdes, California after setting the record for the oldest individual to cross the Catalina Channel. Photo courtesy of crew member Darren Miller

Meet Jim Clifford

Good guy Jim Clifford has assisted and continues to help Darnestown with pro bono legal work. And now, Jim is the oldest person to complete the **Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming!**

Membership in the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming requires the authenticated completion of three famous marathon swims:

1. 21 miles (33.7 km) across the English Channel between England and France,
2. 20.2 miles (33 km) across the Catalina Channel in Southern California, USA, and
3. 28.5 miles (45.8 km) around the Manhattan Island in New York, USA.

Jim had completed the Manhattan Island swim, the Catalina Channel swim, and as of Labor Day, the English Channel!

For confirmation, please see:

www.triplecrownofopenwaterswimming.com/

Jim is #118



Meet the Neighbors!

Darnestown's Neighbors Are the BEST!

On September 27th, DCA President Lisa Patterson received an email from Darnestown neighbor Bill Sutliff that had been routed to her by other concerned Darnestown neighbors. Bill and his family had found a lost or possibly abandoned cat. In true Darnestown form, Bill and his family took the frightened animal, whom they nicknamed Romeow, to a local vet for a check-up. Here is Bill's original email:

Here's an important update on Romeow:

We took him to the Vet, and the Vet was very impressed!!

- *Romeow is a couple years old & very well behaved.*
- *No micro-chip was found on him.*
- *He's in Great Shape overall.*
- *Fully neutered.*
- *Declawed in the front.*
- *Ears and teeth look good.*
- *Super friendly, despite being poked and prodded.*
- *Never showed any sign of aggression.*

So Romeow would make a great companion or family friend. Please share the photo and ask around if anyone is missing a handsome cat, or if anyone is interested in adopting him soon!!

UPDATE !!

A few days later, our DCA President received an update email from the Sutliff family:

We have some great news!!

Romeow, aka Felicks, is back in his Happy Home on Scarlet Oak, thanks to Bonnie Lane and Lisa Patterson at the Darnestown Civic Association. Lisa



posted an announcement today about the rescued cat, and the owners immediately sent me an email about Felicks.

Here's some surprising news, Felicks is almost 16 years old, and this past year developed severe kidney problems and lost a lot of weight. He usually never goes outside. He was lost last Tuesday. The owners thought that it was his time, and that he might have crawled away to his final resting place. The neighbors searched all over their house and then deep into the woods for him, and then gave up thinking he had passed away.



The owners were very excited to see Felicks, and they said the grandchildren were also excited to hear the news. Thanks to everyone for helping with this process.

Regards, the Sutliff Family

**neighbor
to
neighbor**

Homesteading Corner!

When it comes to the winter season, homesteading and off-grid living become a challenge that only few people are equipped to handle. (But we are Darnestownians so we can handle even the most challenging of winters!)

From preparing throughout the summer and fall months to living from the work of your own hands, winter can be a brutal time if you are not well-prepared, both physically and mentally. Knowing what to keep in stock and how to stay alive should you find yourself snowed in or stuck outside can mean the difference between enjoying the season and struggling to survive. If you are considering spending your winter with the bare necessities and sticking it out with only a few essential commodities, here are some ideas to help you make it through the cold winter months.

1. Shut off rooms you don't use. And cover the spaces between the bottom of the door and the floor with old blankets if you feel any cold air forcing its way through. After checking the caulking around each opening and sealing any areas that have become weak, use standard plastic wrap and tape or shrink wrap plastic from your local supply store to cover up windows. By taking a lighter and tracing the seals of doors and windows, you can see the flame flicker near compromised seals. Also, cover any exposed and accessible pipes with insulated foam to keep them from bursting. The winter season is a great time to take care of these chores, since they are not only necessary but they give you tasks to accomplish when you start feeling the blues.

2. Stockpile a month's supply of food for each member of the family. You could get snowed in – and the situation will grow only worse if the power goes out. You can easily make soups, spaghetti sauces and individual, freezable meals for storage in quart-sized Ziplocs to quickly heat and eat throughout the winter. Ensure that the foods you purchase are high in vitamins and proteins to keep you healthy and give you a boost, should you find yourself sick or becoming depressed.

3. Stay active and plan projects to work on throughout the season. Ski, hike, or bike, and never let the cold keep you from doing what you want. Not only does staying active keep you healthy, it also keeps you mentally sharp and more physically prepared for the chores that you will be doing throughout the spring and summer months.



4. Check your emergency kit. Flashlights, batteries, candles, lighters and/or matches and canned foods all should be part of your kit. Try to keep your electronics charged as best as is possible and, if the power goes out, shut off unused cell phones and electronics to save battery for emergencies.

5. Prepare your car for survival. Blankets, lighters, flashlights, extra socks, basic tools, a first-aid kit, water and food should be in your car. You won't always see those ice slicks on the road in time. Icy winter roads claim lives every season, so give yourself enough time to slow down and get where you're headed safely – especially if you are in a rural area where cars rarely travel.

6. Stockpile gasoline and oil. It is advisable to stock up on gas for your generator and vehicles, as well as oil for lamps and cooking, should the power go out or you get snowed in and can't make it to the store. Always keep these stockpiles locked away from children and animals and at a safe distance from your home. These liquids are also useful as fire-starters should you find yourself in an emergency situation requiring instant heat, without the luxury of time to find kindling or wait for a strong fire to build. In the case of hypothermia, instant fires can be the difference between life and death.



School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary

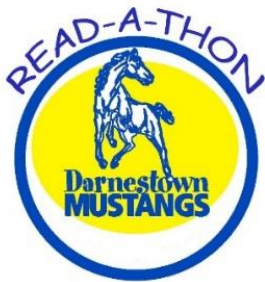
By Sandy Pearce



Cheers to another holiday season underway! Let's be thankful and proud of our quaint little community filled with growing friendships, wonderful teachers, and caring parents. Outlined below are all the exciting events that took place over the fall season.

The Halloween parade was a big treat this year. Students dressed as their favorite characters and paraded around the courtyard. Teachers performed an entertaining dance to "Ghostbusters". Lots of fun and candy was had by all in the classroom parties!

Our Seventh annual **Read-A-Thon** fundraiser was another big success. Nearly \$18K was raised and approximately 100,000 minutes read and recorded for 11 consecutive days. Thank you to the kids who read so diligently and to those who sponsored them! Our other popular fundraiser, the **DES Annual Book Fair**, was held in early November. Numerous books were purchased as holiday gifts, as well as donated to both the classrooms and the school library. Keep on reading Darnestown!



DES continues to support the Adopt-a-School Thanksgiving Drive and the Dwelling Place, a local shelter for women in need. Food and gift donations from our giving community ensure needy families are able to experience the joy of the holidays.

DES Upcoming Events:

December 15	Winter Instrumental Music Concert
December 18	Muffins for Mustangs
December 24 – January 1	Winter Break
January 18	No School
January 25	No School
January 29	Bingo Night and Staff Raffle
February 15	No School
February 23	Science Expo
February 27	Early Release for Students at 1:20 PM
March 18	Music & Arts Night
March 24 – April 1	Spring Break

Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!

Seneca Academy



By Brooke Carroll, PhD
Head of School

Seneca Academy offers the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program to 3-year-olds through 5th graders. Our world-class education fully prepares students for challenging academic programs in public, magnet, private, and parochial schools. We invite all parents and interested community members to visit Seneca Academy to see how we integrate our engaging, relevant, and significant curriculum through real-life, hands-on learning.

We are offering "Walk-In Wednesdays" every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 9:30 am - 11 am (11/4, 11/18, 12/2, 12/16, 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 4/6, 4/20). This is a great opportunity to take a tour, see our classrooms and campus, and learn more about our programs and graduates. We will also have Open Houses on Saturday January 9th from 9:30-11:30 AM and Wednesday February 3rd from 6:30-8:00 AM. You may RSVP through our website at:

www.senecaacademy.org/open-house-schedule/

or by calling **301-869-3728**. We hope to see you soon!

Mary of Nazareth



By Beth O'Connell

Open House

Mary of Nazareth School will host an open house on: Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 1:00 – 3:00 PM. Please consider visiting us for a tour of our beautiful 190-acre campus and to discuss our curriculum. For more information about our school, visit our website www.maryofnazareth.org. To schedule a tour of our school, please contact Mrs. Maryellen Weir at mweir@maryofnazareth.org. We look forward to seeing you!

"Bake for Good – Kids Learn Bake Share"

There is no better feeling than opening your front door and being greeted by the aroma of homemade bread, baking in the oven. You are enveloped in warmth, love and family all in one delicious whiff. But for too many people in our own community this is a fantasy. Their reality is homelessness and hunger. King Arthur Flour, in cooperation with Interfaith Works, gave Mary of Nazareth students the means to make a difference in the fight against hunger.

On October 14, Mary of Nazareth 5th and 6th grade students had the opportunity to learn a new skill and offer a helping hand to those in need. Mrs. Charlotte Garvey, Communications Manager with Interfaith Works, spoke to the students about homelessness and need in our community. There are 1,100 homeless people in Montgomery County, and Interfaith Works strives to assist these people with shelter, meals, clothing, home goods, and backpacks for kids.

Next, Paula Gray, from King Arthur Flour in Vermont, presented their program "Bake for Good – Kids Learn Bake Share". Mrs. Gray, a science and math teacher, introduced students to the skills and techniques required to be a successful baker. Baking is math, science, reading, and art. Precise measuring, fresh ingredients, time management skills and a little creativity are all needed to make something delicious. The students were treated to a bread baking demonstration and given all the ingredients needed to create two delicious loaves of bread, one for their families and one to be served at Empty Bowls, Interfaith Works' fundraiser that helps "our vulnerable neighbors in need move from crisis to stability."

The students left with their bags of ingredients and returned the following Monday with beautiful loaves of bread in many shapes and sizes. Not only were the

children eager to tell the story of their baking adventure, they marveled at the bread made by their classmates and left determined to try a different style with the next loaf they make. The proud bakers delivered over 100 loaves to the lobby of Mary of Nazareth, filling tables with braided loaves, baguettes, dinner rolls and pretzels destined for Empty Bowls.

On October 22nd, Science teacher Jennifer Massey, 6th grader Fiona O'Connell, and Development Director Beth O'Connell volunteered at the Empty Bowls event and served the bread baked by the students. There were many compliments on the taste of the bread and even more when the guests learned that it had been made by 5th and 6th grade students. More than one guest returned for seconds.

Mrs. Gray shared the secret to good bread: "It is the yeast. Yeast needs three things to be successful; warmth, water, and food". If you think about it, we need the same things to survive. Provide these three things and your yeast will yield a delicious loaf of bread. Provide these three things to another human being and they will thrive, and a loaf of bread made with love, can't hurt either.

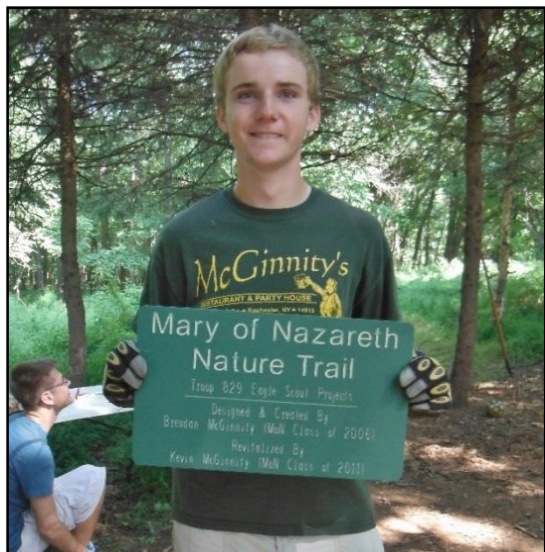


Beth O'Connell, Fiona O'Connell, and Jennifer Massey

Nature Trail and Outdoor Classroom Renewal

Mary of Nazareth Alumnus, Kevin McGinnity, worked diligently this August to renew the School's nature trail and outdoor classroom for his Eagle Scout Project. The trail was originally completed by McGinnity's brother, Brendan, in 2008, and had since become heavily damaged. "Before the renewal, the trail was overgrown

and difficult to follow,” says McGinnity, adding that, “the project took many hours of preparation and actual work.” He stated that he personally dedicated twenty-five hours to the nature trail renewal, a project he was inspired to undertake in an effort to give back to the community that “gave me a great education.” In total, the Project took approximately one-hundred and thirty hours to complete among a team of twenty Scouts. Since completion of McGinnity’s Eagle Scout Project, the trail has a visible entrance and exit, the bridge has been fully repaired, and all debris has been cleared from the trail’s main pathway. The nature trail and outdoor classroom have already been used this school year on numerous occasions for meditation, Spanish class, and other instructional activities. McGinnity, who graduated from Mary of Nazareth in 2011, has been a Scout since childhood. He adds that scouting is an important part of his family life, commenting, “My father was an Eagle Scout, as well as my brother. Hopefully my brother and I pass it down to our kids.” In the future, McGinnity plans to continue serving his community with hopes of becoming a Police Officer. A member of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, McGinnity recently graduated from St. John’s College High School, and is currently studying Criminal Justice at Stevenson University. The Mary of Nazareth community would like to thank Kevin for his hard work and dedication in restoring such a valuable part of our campus - we applaud you!



Eagle Scout Project - Kevin McGinnity



Butler School



By Lisa Daly

Butler Montessori hosted its annual Grandparents and Special Friends’ Day on October 12, 2015. This is always a cherished event, both by students and visitors alike. Below is a lovely letter we received from one of our grandparents.

We are writing this letter to tell you what a wonderful experience we had recently when we visited our youngest grandson, Zack, on “Grandparents’ Day” at Butler Montessori. It has been our joy to previously attend this annual Open House held by Butler for grandparents of children attending the school. However, this year the morning was even more special, because it began with a wonderful music program in the school’s new building. It was amazing to hear an array of unique musical selections featuring the lovely combination of some of the children’s voices in harmony together with rhythms played by other children on African drums!

Following the program, all of the grandparents visited the different classrooms to observe their grandchildren. As always, we were impressed with how focused and intent the children were as they went about doing their lessons; with the beautiful classrooms; with the friendliness and warmth of the staff, and with the way that the whole learning experience ebbed and flowed, as each child worked independently to choose and complete his or her tasks. We rejoiced as we observed how our grandson has matured and thrived through his experience and how happy, comfortable and confident he has become.

Certainly we could not picture him in a better environment, and we are appreciative of Butler having invited us to share this important part of his life.
~Susan & Ed Chidakel

Butler Montessori is an Association Montessori International (AMI) accredited school for children ages eighteen months through eighth grade. Montessori education supports the development of the whole child through academics, music, arts, and physical education including our unique equestrian program. Our school guides children toward independence and social responsibility creating the basis for education as a lifelong process based on a solid academic foundation. For more information about Butler Montessori, visit our website: www.butlerschool.org or call 301-977-6600.

Church News!

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

By Father Raymond Fecteau

Special Events at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Visitation Parish hosted a Book Sale after the 5:00 PM Mass on Saturday, November 14th and 21st, and after the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses on Sunday, November 15th and 22nd. The sale featured items to observe and celebrate Advent and Christmas, and offered a wide selection of books, music CDs, DVDs, Advent Calendars, candles, and more great Christmas gift ideas.

On Sunday, November 22nd, 2015 Family Bingo was played in Founders Hall from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. What a fun night for families and friends!

And we are happy to once again offer our extremely fresh, absolutely awesome Christmas trees for sale from Friday, December 4th - Sunday, December 13th. Weekday hours are 4:30 - 8:00 PM and weekend hours are noon to 8:00 PM.

Christmas Liturgy


Christmas Eve Masses are celebrated at 4:00 PM, 7:00 PM, and 10:00 PM. The 4:00 PM liturgy is heavily attended and requires a 'pass' issued to parishioners by the parish office in order to comply with the Fire Marshall's requirements. Christmas Day Liturgies are celebrated at 9:00 and 11:00 AM. All are welcome!

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.



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Fairhaven Christmas Concert

December 6, 2015, 7:00 PM 

Please contact FUMC's Music Director Christian Hsieh for more information!



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

ATTENTION ALL HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

wsgooch@comcast.net

**by February 1, 2016
for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Come Celebrate Advent!

After the excitement of our annual Bazaar in the first week of November, DPC gears up for the Advent season in December, the start of the Liturgical Church Year. Physical symbols of Advent at DPC include a lighted Creche in front of our church and seasonal decorations within our sanctuary. Why not come and celebrate this joyous season with us?

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th is one of the busiest days of the year at DPC, and again this year we will celebrate the birth of Christ with three separate Christmas Eve services. As in years past, the 5:00 PM service will be geared towards young children, with a service designed to speak to and inspire the young with the wonder and joy of this special season. The 8:00 PM and 10:00 PM services are traditional adult services, and will feature traditional Christmas classics performed by both our Chancel and Bell choirs. And once again, each of these services will culminate in a candlelight ceremony, as we physically and symbolically pass the light of the world from one to another. Please come and share the experience with us in our historic sanctuary!

Holiday Basket Program

One of the most popular ways in which our church reaches out to the surrounding community is through our "Holiday Basket" Program. Each year as the holidays approach, members of our congregation sign up to support this initiative sponsored by "Germantown HELP", a local non-profit assisting needy families in Montgomery County. Members of Darnestown Presbyterian support an average of 35 area families every year under this program, providing food for holiday meals at Thanksgiving and Christmas, as well as Christmas gifts for the sponsored family's children. This is just one of many ways in which our church supports those in need, but it is one that our members especially cherish.

Ongoing Events

In addition to our Sunday morning Christian Education, throughout the year our church maintains a number of events that offer engagement, learning, spiritual growth, and fellowship. For example, our Men's Group shares a Saturday morning breakfast during most months of the year, each breakfast featuring a presentation on topics as disparate as men's health, baseball, and military history. The Darnestown Presbyterian Women have a monthly

forum with a more spiritual focus, and our church offers an ongoing Bible study. In addition, we also sponsor periodic events such as Potluck Dinners, Brunches, a Talent Show, Fundraisers, and many youth-oriented activities. Visitors are always welcome!

Contact Information:

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

www.darnestownpc.org/
dpchurch@comcast.net



Darnestown Presbyterian Church Christmas Tree



Rev. Dave McNeilly



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara

Darne Bloomers Garden Club



By Merikay Smith

Master Gardener Les Rucker gave our October presentation on do-it-yourself irrigation systems. He showed a simple installation of both drip and soaker hoses connected to a timing device. All items to create these systems are available at local hardware or plumbing stores or online. By creating a DIY irrigation system you can save time as well as water resources. Many of us have such large gardens however that such a system is likely to be limited to particular areas of high value plants vs. providing irrigation throughout the garden. Les also provided advice on how to clear and cap your water hoses for the winter. Another option to keep your garden looking good through the hot summer months is to select plants which are heat and drought tolerant. Even these plants may need some additional water during extended dry periods or when first planted, but most are able to survive unaided through normal growing conditions. Hosts for the October meeting were Gail Plamondon, Lina Ganassa, and Petra Roman.

As I write this, we are looking forward to creating Thanksgiving centerpieces during our November meeting. This hands-on demonstration will be presented by Rachel Gang, owner of Helen Olivia Florals in Old Town Alexandria. We will also be watching a demonstration of High-Line Christmas arrangements by Terry Godfrey, AFID in December. Both events will be opportunities to experience exceptionally talented local professionals at work.

Since this article will appear in our December *Acorn*, I want to wish all happy holidays. I am currently studying the recent encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, available online in English. Though not a Catholic myself, I appreciate the insight in this letter to all the people of the world, calling us to a greater care for our common home, the earth, and to a more equitable care for the poor of our human family. If you decide this letter is simply too long for you, email me and I'll send you my abridged version. As a gardener I am perhaps more aware of the dramatic changes occurring in our natural environment.



"Inner peace is closely related to care for ecology and for the common good because, lived out authentically, it is reflected in a balanced lifestyle together with a capacity for wonder which takes us to a deeper understanding of life." -Pope Francis

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 currently have 35 members and always welcome visitors. 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.



***From our September "Seed Saving"
Garden Club Meeting***



For the Kids

Learn about Christmas around the World



From Argentina to Zimbabwe, find out how Christmas and its traditions are celebrated in various countries and cultures around the world by visiting this enlightening website:

www.whychristmas.com/cultures/

Here are two examples!

China



In China, only about one-percent of the people are Christians, so most people only know a few things about Christmas. Because of this, Christmas is often only celebrated in major cities. In these big cities there are Christmas trees, lights, and other decorations on the streets and in department stores. Santa Claus is called “*Shen Dan Lao Ren*” and has grottos in shops like in Europe and America.

In Chinese Happy/Merry Christmas is “*Sheng Dan Kuai Le*” or 圣诞快乐 in Mandarin and “*Seng Dan Fai Lok*” or 聖誕快樂 in Cantonese.

In China, Santa is known as “*Sheng dan lao ren*” (Traditional: 聖誕老人, Simplified: 圣诞老人; means Old Christmas Man.)

Only a few people have a Christmas tree. If people do have a tree, it is normally a plastic one and might be decorated with paper chains, paper flowers, and paper lanterns (they might also call it a tree of light). The Christmas trees that most people would see would be in shopping malls!

Christmas isn't that widely celebrated in the rural areas of China, but it's becoming more well-known. The strange thing is that most of the world's plastic Christmas trees and Christmas decorations are made in China, but the people making them might not know what they are for!

Macedonia



Most Christians in Macedonia belong to the Orthodox Church and so Christmas is celebrated on January 7th. (The Orthodox Church use the Julian calendar for their festivals).

Christmas celebrations really start on January 5th which is called “*Koledge*”. On this day, people (especially children) like to go out to sing carols around their neighborhoods. They are given fruits, nuts and coins.

When the singing has finished people gather around big bonfires. They are sometimes held in parks where hundreds of people can go to see them. Others like smaller events where the local community comes together.

At the end of the night, a special Christmas bread which has a coin baked in it is passed around. Everyone takes a piece, and if you find the coin, you'll get good luck for the next year (and you might also have to host the bonfire the next year!).

On Christmas Eve (January 6th), people look forward to the special Christmas meal that will be eaten in the evening. The meal is called “*posna*” and traditionally contains no dairy, meat, or animal products. Dishes might include nuts, fresh and dried fruits, baked cod or trout, bread, kidney bean soup, potato salad, *Ajvar* (red-pepper dip), *Sarma* (cabbage leaves stuffed with rice and spices), and pickled vegetables. Coin bread or Christmas cake with a coin in it is eaten at the end of the meal.

DIY Holiday Gift Ideas!

With the holidays upon us, it's always fun to come across creative and thoughtful yet easy and inexpensive gift ideas. Here are a few ideas that anyone can put together to create a memorable holiday season for just about anyone on your list!

Candy in a Jar



You can't possibly go wrong with food-related gifts! Everyone loves food. Just fill a jar with an assortment of candy or bake a dessert, and put it in a cute container. Simple, easy, thoughtful, and fun!

Reindeer Beer



This is great for a last minute gift idea! Buy a 6-pack of beer, googly eyes, pipe cleaners, and red fluff balls. Use pipe cleaners and bend them to the shape you desire and glue them on to the back of the bottle to make antlers. To finish, add the eyes and red nose. This takes minimal effort and it looks adorable. This works great with wine or soda bottles, too!

Whole Wheat Beer Bread



Great with soups or chili on a cold winter night! Makes excellent toast, too! The flavor of the bread will change depending on the type of beer used. The loaf comes out looking textured and crusty on top!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 ½ cups all-purpose bread flour
- 1 ½ cups whole wheat flour
- 4 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 ½ teaspoons salt
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (12-fluid ounce) bottle or can of beer

Place all DRY ingredients in a Mason jar with a decorative lid and attach the following instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x5 inch loaf pan.
2. Empty all ingredients from the Mason jar into a large mixing bowl. Pour in a beer of your choice, stir until a stiff batter is formed. It may be necessary to mix dough with your hands. Scrape dough into prepared loaf pan.
3. Bake in preheated oven for 50 to 60 minutes, until a toothpick inserted into center of the loaf comes out clean.





Winter Weather Outlook!



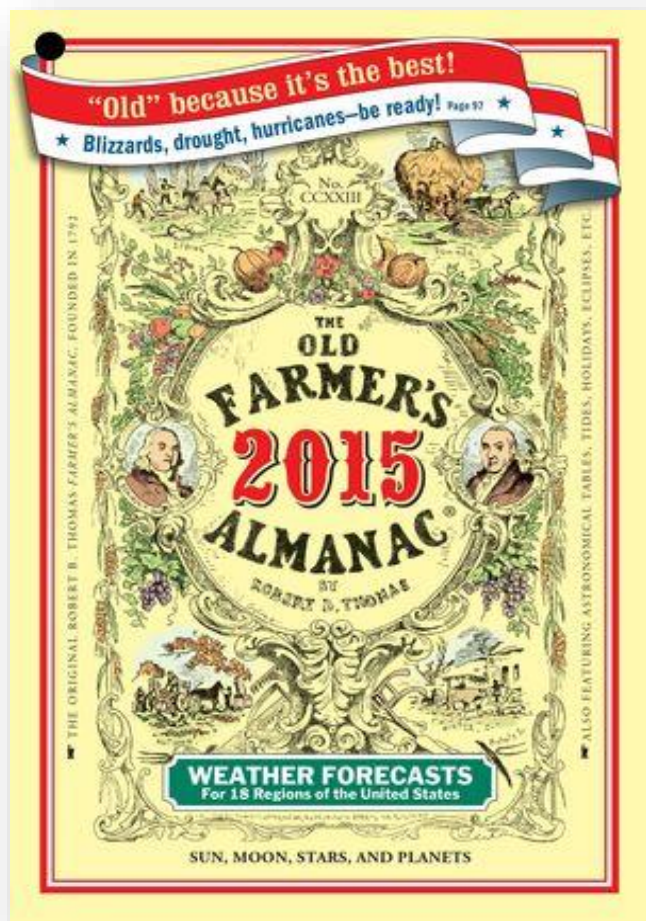
According to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, the winter of 2015–2016 is looking like a repeat of last winter, at least in terms of temperatures with unseasonably cold conditions over the Atlantic Seaboard, eastern portions of the Great Lakes, and the lower peninsula of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, most of the Tennessee and Mississippi Valley, as well as much of the Gulf Coast.

New Englanders will once again experience a very frigid, shivery winter (sorry Boston!! ☹).

HOW MUCH SNOW?!

If you like snow, then you should head out to the northern and central Great Plains, but over the Northeast and here in the Mid-Atlantic States, the

winter will be stormy with a good amount of snow, too! We are “red-flagging” the second week of January and the second week of February for possible heavy winter weather with a long, drawn out spell of stormy weather extending through much of the first half of March. So sharpen those skis and boards, because the eastern slopes look like the ideal places to carve some turns.



MAPLE SNOW CANDY

While it's still snowing, place a clean baking or cookie sheet outside to collect the fresh flakes. When the sheet is full, pack down the snow and allow it to fill up again. Pack down one more time.

In a small saucepan, heat 1 cup of real maple syrup over medium heat until it boils.

Take the pan off the heat and drizzle the syrup over the packed snow in long strips. Let the syrup strips cool and become firm (3 to 5 seconds). Pull the candy strips out of the snow, and eat while still a little warm.



Christmas with the Enemy

*A true story that occurred near the
German-Belgian border on Christmas Eve, 1944*



In June, 1944, Allied forces led by the United States invaded Germany to take part in ending Hitler's quest for world domination. Several battles broke out across Germany between the American-led Allied forces and the Germany army, one of which was the famous Battle of the Bulge (December 16, 1944 – January 25, 1945). During the battle, three American soldiers were separated from their unit, stranded somewhere in the Ardennes Forest. One of the soldiers was suffering from a bullet wound in the leg, which made trekking through thick forest and snow very difficult. After two days of hiking behind enemy lines, the soldiers come across a cottage. They stumbled to it to seek refuge. It was the home of Elisabeth Vincken and her 12 year-old son Fritz.

After a long day of hunting and gathering berries, mushrooms, and potatoes, Fritz and his mother were preparing Christmas Eve dinner. To their shock and surprise, while preparing a quiet dinner together, there was a sudden knock at their door.

Elisabeth answered the door to two American soldiers and their wounded companion. The Americans explained their situation, and asked to seek shelter overnight. Elisabeth told them that she was preparing Christmas Eve dinner and there was plenty to go around. Her only stipulation was that they had to leave their guns outside. The American soldiers agreed and removed their weapons.

The men then helped their wounded friend to a couch and laid him down. Elisabeth got him a blanket and something warm to drink. To express their gratitude to Elisabeth and her son, the soldiers offered to help with anything that they could. They gathered up firewood and shared stories with Fritz as they all laughed and smiled. But the atmosphere was soon to change.

Quite suddenly, there was another knock at the door; Elisabeth was surprised at all the attention they were receiving on this night. She went to open the door, figuring more lost Americans with a similar story to her current guests were arriving, but she was very wrong!

Standing at her door were four armed Nazi soldiers, who apparently were also stranded and seeking shelter.

Elisabeth said to them, "You are welcome to come in and have Christmas Eve dinner with my family and our dinner guests." Uneasy about Elisabeth's tone, the Nazi officers asked her if they were Americans. She admitted her guests were indeed Americans, but she added her stipulations, "It is Christmas Eve and there will be no shooting in my house. You will have to leave your guns outside."

Too cold, tired, and hungry to argue, the German soldiers removed their weapons and set them next to the American soldiers' rifles. As the German soldiers entered, tensions rose; the American and German soldiers were quiet as they stared each other down. Elisabeth told them to behave decently, to be considerate of her son, and to have a seat.

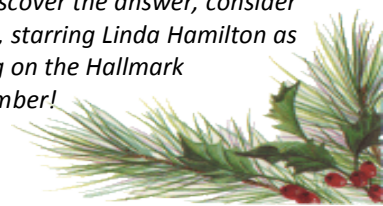
Two of the German soldiers were able to speak English, and they began small talk with the Americans at the table. As small talk continued, the Germans noticed American Sgt. Ralph Blank (121st Infantry, 8th Division) continuing to check on the hurt man in the other room, and they soon realized there was a wounded soldier among them. As fate would have it, one of the German soldiers happened to be a medic, so he aided to the wounded American.

When dinner arrived on the table, the mood was restored to a more jolly tone. On December 24, 1944, both German and American soldiers spent Christmas Eve together laughing, telling jokes, playing cards, sharing cigarettes, and having dinner.

The next morning, the German soldiers helped to make a stretcher for the wounded man and then drew the Americans a map to get out from behind enemy lines. They then gave Sgt. Blank a compass and wished them luck. Elisabeth and Fritz watched in silence as all of the soldiers went their separate ways.

Edited Source: Alex Webb, The Examiner

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Young Fritz eventually grew to manhood and immigrated to America, where he began a life-long search for Sgt. Blank. His story was even featured on an episode of Unsolved Mysteries: www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bR5jJMWmjo Did Fritz ever find Sgt. Blank? To discover the answer, consider watching the 2002 film Silent Night, starring Linda Hamilton as Elisabeth, which is currently running on the Hallmark Channel, periodically through December!*





Service Providers

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

BABY SITTERS & MOTHERS' HELPERS

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Katelyn Harral	age 15	301-325-5973
Billy Harral	age 15	301-325-5973
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

MATH TUTORING

Mark Zic	age 16	301-977-3112
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PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Katelyn Harral	age 15	301-325-5973
Billy Harral	age 15	301-325-5973
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

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

February 1, 2016

Deadlines will remain firm!

Please send articles to
wsgooch@comcast.net



Darnestown Directory

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

The most recent edition (2015) 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
cсаugust@comcast.net
(240-401-8669)





Darnestown Civic Association 2016 Membership Form



Stay Tuned..

*The new Darnestown Civic Association
Membership Form for 2016 will arrive soon!*



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



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