



Est. 1965

THE LITTLE ACORN

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 53, Number 1
March 2016

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES



Notes from the President

By Lisa Patterson-Troiike



Power During Snowzilla!

Many people reached out to thank the DCA for their power reliability during our historic snowstorm in January! If you recall, the same was not true during "Snowmeggedon" back in 2010. Our Board Chairman, Art Slesinger, is the person to thank. He is relentless in monitoring and questioning Pepco's every move. When Art realized that Darnestown was on the worst two electrical feeders in Pepco's service area, he started years of work to hold Pepco accountable. The end result has been major improvements in the poles, lines, and substation equipment servicing our area. Believe it or not, it was common to lose power a few times a week for no apparent reason. This was a complete disaster for everyone, but especially, those of us who work from home. Let's hope Art's efforts continue to "keep the lights on" and if reliability starts to decrease, know that Art is there holding Pepco's feet to the fire!

....Continued on page 3



Happy Spring,
Neighbors!

Spring Social

May 31st

See page 7
for details and RSVP

Next DCA Town Meeting

March 17th | 7:30 PM

**Darnestown Presbyterian
Church**

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

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The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

The Little Acorn

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Notes from the President

...continued from page 1

By Lisa Patterson-Troike



Spring Social May 31st!

The DCA Annual Spring Social is 6-8 pm, Wednesday, May 31st 2016, at Smokey Glen Farm on Riffleford Road, here in Darnestown. For only \$16/adult and \$10/child, the evening includes: homemade BBQ chicken, ribs, pasta salad, potato salad, green salad, baked beans, rolls, fruit pies, beer/wine/soft drinks, hay rides, miniature golf, tether ball and more! The Spring Social is a fabulous gathering to celebrate spring's renewal with neighbors and friends. **Please mail the RSVP on page 7 with your check made payable to DCA by May 20th.** Nametags will be waiting for you to pick up at the event. We look forward to seeing you there for a delightful evening on a beautiful property!

Tree Lighting!

The DCA Annual Tree Lighting on December 13th was the most exciting yet! Santa, our very own Billy Herrington, made a grand entrance on a miniature Japanese Fire Truck, provided by Luke Cowart. The crowd went wild -- children and adults scrambled to get a look at the very unusual vehicle and the man in the red suit threw magic elf dust at the evergreen and instantly, the multi-colored lights turned on! Children and adults whispered in Santa's ear that they should be on the "nice" list and requested gifts they hoped he would bring to them. Hot chocolate, cookies, and candy canes were provided for all. Everyone, of all faiths, is invited to attend our Annual Tree Lighting -



Thank you!!!!

A huge, heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the wonderful Darnestown neighbors who came out to support our daughter in the *Cure Natasha Bone Marrow Drive* on December 19th.

Natasha is doing well – good days and bad days – but we remain hopeful and positive.

Our family is more grateful to the community for your support than we could ever express. Again, **thank you!!**

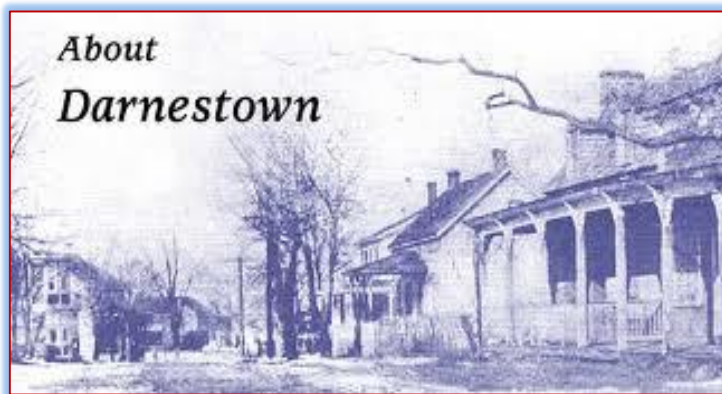
URGENT REMINDER

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

The DCA continues to receive notice that envelopes containing checks and bank statements have been tampered with or stolen from local, private mailboxes here in Darnestown.

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

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 13th!!



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 Two 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 citizens of Darnestown were divided in their loyalties during the Civil War. Maryland was a Slave State, and many of its residents supported the Southern cause. About 20,000 Maryland men fought with the Confederacy in Virginia, and some of those were Darnestown residents. On the other hand, Maryland stayed in the Union, and its men fought with the Union forces, too.

The Union soldiers generally found the Darnestown residents to be hospitable to them while they were camped here, and trade with local merchants was brisk and friendly.

Among the Darnestown residents who fought in the War Between the States, there are several whose stories have been preserved until the present time. One of these was William E. Darne. He was born near Darnestown on February 11, 1848. He was the son of West Point graduate Lt. Alexander Contee Hanson Darne. Lt. Darne was graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1836 and served in the Army for nine years before resigning to take up farming.

William was 13 years old when hostilities broke out between the North and the South; he must have talked to his father about the danger of war.

Alexander Darne knew personally many of the officers and soldiers on both sides of the Civil War because of his West Point background. William also could not avoid the War; in September, 1864, he is known to have been a member of company B, 35th Battalion of Virginia Cavalry of the Confederate

States of America. He was 16 years of age at the time.

At the end of the War, William Darne, along with other members of the regiment, rode towards Lynchburg, Virginia rather than surrender at Appomattox. On April 22, 1865, however, he and compatriot Maryland "exiles" returned to civilian life at Harper's Ferry by signing a parole and an oath of allegiance to the Federal Government.

William died at the Old Soldiers' Home in Richmond, Virginia fifty years later, in 1915, at the age of 67. He was later buried in the cemetery of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

Another Darnestown resident who served in the Civil War was Charles H. Nourse. Charles Nourse was slightly older than William Darne. He was sixteen years old and living in Leesburg, Virginia when he heard about the Confederate victory at the Battle of Balls Bluff.

The news of the war came from Walter Gibson Peter, a close friend of Darne's participating in the battle.

Charles enlisted in Company A of the 35th Battalion of the Virginia Cavalry on January 1, 1863, while the Company was quartered at New Market, Virginia. Charles was detailed to the Signal Service, where he spent his entire military career.

The War ended for Charles Nourse in June, 1865. On June 6th, in Washington, DC, he signed the oath of allegiance to the Federal Government. On June 10th, Charles entered the camp of the 1st New Hampshire Cavalry at Edward's Ferry in Maryland; there his name was recorded on a list "of paroled Rebel Soldiers who have availed themselves of the President's Amnesty Proclamation". He was then only 20 years old.

After the War, Charles Nourse became a physician. He practiced medicine for many years in the Darnestown area. He died on October 11, 1917, and was buried in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery.

A close friend of Charles Nourse was Walter Gibson Peter. He was born on October 16, 1842. He spent most of his youth in Darnestown, in a home known as "Montanverde", on Berryville Road. His father was Major George Peter, an Army officer.

In 1848, when young "Gip" Peter was nearly six years old, Congressman Abraham Lincoln was entertained by the Peter family and spent the night at "Montanverde". The house still stands on a hill near Berryville Road.

At 18, Gip Peter crossed the Potomac to visit the Nourse family, and he volunteered to serve with the Seventh Brigade of the Confederate Army. By that time, Gip was a tall, strong youth and an excellent horseman.

On October 21, 1861 after the Battle of Ball's Bluff, Gip returned to Leesburg and showed 16 year-old Charles Nourse his uniform. According to a written account, Gip had "five bullet holes about him -- through his hat, his coat in the shoulder, under his arm -- all made while delivering orders upon the field". Gip remarked to Nourse, "It is not very funny, Charlie, is it? But we are right, and I am going into the service regularly".

In December 1861, Peter joined Captain White's company of couriers. Soon thereafter, at the request of his cousin William Orton Williams, Gip traveled to Tennessee. There he joined his cousin's command. About 16 months later, for reasons as yet unknown, the two men crossed the Union lines dressed as Federal officers. They were soon found out, and charged as spies. Despite their pleas of innocence, Gip Peter and his cousin were hanged on June 9, 1863, at Franklin, Tennessee.

Two other Darnestown residents who fought in the Civil War were George R. Rice and Edgar L. Tschiffely.

George R. Rice was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, on October 8, 1842. When the Civil War broke out, he also decided to enlist in the cause of the Confederacy. On August 25, 1862, at the age of

nineteen, he joined Company A, 1st Maryland Cavalry, CSA.

George's service to the Confederacy was marked by two instances of capture by Federal troops. His first capture was at the hands of the 13th Pennsylvania Cavalry, in Strausburg, Virginia. After incarceration at Camp Chase in Ohio, he was exchanged for a Federal prisoner. Later he was recaptured and held until the War's end, when he signed the oath of allegiance.

Shortly after the War, on January 2, 1866, George married Miss Elberta Moore Tschiffely. Thereafter, he became a successful farmer in Darnestown. In 1881 he bought the Dr. Richard Beall house, which had been built prior to the War. This house stills stands on Darnestown Road near Turkey Foot.

George Rice also served as a trustee of the Andrew Small Academy, and as a Supervisor of Elections in Montgomery County. He died at the age of 79 on October 13, 1921, and he was buried in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

Also born in 1842 was Elgar L. Tschiffely. Like Rice, he joined Company A of the 1st Maryland Cavalry. His service began just prior to the Battle of Gettysburg. He served for two years, participating in some 25 armed engagements; he was released from service on May 25, 1865.

Elgar Tschiffely became a successful farmer in the Darnestown area after the Civil War. He died at the age of 87, and was buried with a small marker in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery. On October 28, 1989, a ceremony honoring his memory was held at the cemetery. The Governor of Maryland issued a proclamation that day, praising the community for remembering its history,

As a result of the occupation of Darnestown by so many troops, the area suffered heavy damage to its crops, fences, livestock, and buildings. Most severe, of course, was the torment of broken families who in some cases had soldiers on both sides of the conflict.



A sculpture of the founder of Darnestown William Darne adorns the grand pergola in the Darnestown Heritage Park at the Village Corner.



Alexander Darne's Tombstone in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church Cemetery

NEXT: The history of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church



Spring Social

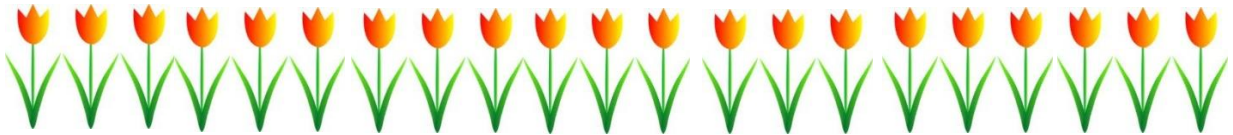


**A Darnestown Community
Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception
at Smokey Glen Farm**

16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD

6-8 pm Wednesday, May 31, 2016

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



RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 20th!

SEND CHECKS MADE OUT TO DCA TO:

LISA PATTERSON, 13925 ESWORTHY ROAD, DARNESTOWN, MD 20874

Please list full names of those attending.

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

Full names of those in your group: _____

Adults @ \$16 each _____

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

Children under 3 free!

Phone # _____

Enclosed \$ _____

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

Community Interest

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) Planning for a Wonderful 2016 Season!

By Rob Swisher



Our Wonderful Club

Our wonderful community pool is the perfect place for Darnestown families to be for year round fun, but especially summer fun; and the best place to unwind, relax, and enjoy sunshine with friends and family. We are located in the Spring Meadows neighborhood near the intersection of Rt. 28 and Rt. 118 and are central to the greater Darnestown community.

So Much to Do

DSRC is so much more than a cool pool and friendly tennis courts. The amenities in and around the club are almost too numerous to list. Many of these amenities were designed and built over the years for the pure pleasure and enjoyment of our families. They make DSRC just a great place to be. They include: shade...we have lots of shade, green grass...we have lots of grass, ping pong, foosball, ample parking, lighted year round tennis courts, professional tennis coaching and lessons, a covered pavilion....with speakers, picnic tables, numerous social events...adult and youth, snack bar, trees...we have lots of trees, kiddie pool, bar-b-ques, swings, playground, Frisbee golf course, tennis ball machine, basketball hoop, Men's tennis night, Ladies Tennis night, and a full day camp.

Season Kick-off

Our 2016 summer pool and tennis season, filled with fun and sun, kicks off on Saturday May 28th during the Memorial Day weekend with the official Opening Day Pool Party and Tennis Extravaganza, and the unofficial sounds of laughter and splashing around the pool, and forehands, backhands, and lobs on the courts.

Swim Team

Head Coach Pat Tozzi will be returning to lead the Demons as we compete in the "C" Division of the MCSL Swim League. As usual, please direct any swim team questions to your team co-chairs, Terry Brown at tbrown@browntg.com or Christy Adelman at Christy_Adelman@yahoo.com.



Full Day Camp

In 2016 we are expanding our successful Camp Green Zone to offer a full-day option in addition to the ½ day option. Our Camp Director Rosemary DeRose shows her love of the great outdoors to our campers and inspires them with very hands on arts and crafts, games, songs, and nature experiences in our woods. Please reach out to Rosemary at dsrccamp@gmail.com or 240.888.8695.

DSRC Overview

DSRC is a nonprofit, member-owned swim and racquet club. 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.

Join Us!

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



Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

Twitter: @DSRCLUB

Facebook: Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club -
Social Page

Website: dsclub.com

General Manager: Dave Hardy,
dsrclubgeneralmanager@gmail.com

15004 Spring Meadows Drive Darnestown, MD 20874

Community Interest



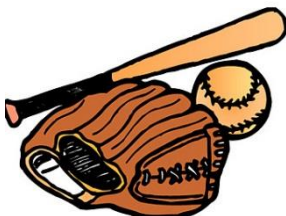
Play Ball!!!

By: Dave Bivans, Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville

Hopefully by the time this is published the foot-plus of snow remaining will have melted and the softball field will be greening up for the 2016 season. This will be Darnestown's 27th season of recreational, neighborhood-based co-ed play and will once again field a league of four teams. Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville, Western Darnestown, and Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails are looking to return Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield down to earth this year as they defend their Herculean season of 9 wins, five games ahead of their nearest competitor. Play will begin in mid-April and last through the first Sunday of August, giving all teams a 12-game season, weather permitting.

Each team continues to look to add to their rosters, particularly to help sustain them during the heavy vacation periods and for the occasional lazy Sunday afternoon. The League is open to adult homeowners/renters within the general Darnestown boundaries (if you're receiving *The Little Acorn* chances are good you are qualified to play). This is a recreational league, mostly for fun, but with some neighborly bragging rights; playing ability is desired, but not necessary. Please give me a call at 301-977-4734 or shoot me an e-mail at dnlbivans34@verizon.net if you are interested in signing on or need additional information.

As usual, the friendly but competitive challenges of strength, speed, hand-to-eye coordination, and age defying bouts of reflexes and flexibility will be contested Sunday afternoons/evenings at our very own local Cliff Bland Park. See you all soon for a fun and successful new season!!



PEPCO Update- Electricity Reliability

By Art Slesinger



After the last monster snow storm, most of the County did not lose power. The PEPCO people have clearly improved on their ability to keep the lights on. But a closer look still suggests an issue. In 2014, the PEPCO statistics were 1.27 interruptions (SAIFI – System Average Interruption Frequency) and 2.11 hours for the duration (SAIDI - System Average Interruption Duration). These are good numbers when compared to the very soft goals Maryland government set for PEPCO, which were SAIFI 1.61 and SAIDI 2.58 hours. Great, PEPCO clearly met the goals.

The bad news is that if you look at the performance from 2013 thru most of 2015, you discover that they really have not made a great deal of progress. The improvements in performance have plateaued since the excellent progress from the 2010 nadir. More importantly, if you compare these numbers to nationwide expectations, you have reason to be depressed. The better performing utilities have SAIFI outage incident rates in the fractional single digits, like 0.3 - .05 and the SAIDI average duration is likely to well under one hour.

Bottom line, things are better, but there is a lot of room for improvement to reach the top quartile of North American power companies.

Local Development

Johnson Property Proposed Annexation

By Art Slesinger

If you are on horseback, you might ride through the village yelling "Gaithersburg is coming, Gaithersburg is coming!"

The 40-acre Johnson property behind and including the Safeway plaza opposite the high school is planning to apply for annexation by the City of Gaithersburg. The County cannot stop this and the State law permits it. The motivation is clearly financial. The property zoning rules in Gaithersburg are much more generous than the current Montgomery County rules. The owner's attorney has held public hearings and has made a presentation to the County Planning Board. The opposition by the County Council can only produce a five year hiatus during which the more generous Gaithersburg allocations for development cannot be implemented.

Bottom line, this will add to school overcrowding, massive traffic congestion outside the high school and more obligations for the County fire and rescue service.

The DCA will keep the community updated.

Community Interest

Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Christopher Thomas



Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 had a terrific fall and winter with a flurry of activities including community service projects, cold weather outings, merit badges and advancement.

From November 7th to the 14th Troop 1094 participated in "Scouting for Food", an annual nation-wide Boy Scout and Cub Scout event that provides food for the needy. Across the country millions of Scouts gathered tens of millions of pounds of food for those who are less fortunate. With the help of the Darnestown and neighboring communities, Troop 1094 and other local Scouts collected approximately 30,000 pounds of food that was provided to the Mana Food Bank in Rockville, St. Martins Food Bank, Gaithersburg Help, Damascus Help and others.

On November 20th, the Troop headed to Poolesville to spend the weekend camping at the Izaak Walton League campground. Undeterred by overnight temperatures in the low 20s, the Scouts worked on different Scouting skills from orienteering and knot tying to first aid and cooking. Highlights included skits by the campfire, a pig roast and a dessert competition featuring confections created in Dutch ovens over the fire.

Troop 1094 conducted their semi-annual Darnestown Presbyterian Church grounds clean-up December 5th. The church has been Troop 1094's chartering organization since 1961 - over 54 years, and every fall and spring, the Troop says "thank you" by cleaning the church grounds. In addition to raking and removing leaves, the Troop removed broken tree limbs, and cleared out other debris. Over 30 Scouts, parents and siblings participated. "It's great to get the Troop together to give back" remarked Scoutmaster Charlie Scott, "DPC has supported our troop for more than 50 years; I'm glad we can spend a few hours saying thank you." Troop 1094 will do their spring DPC grounds clean-up March 26th.

The Troop's final 2015 outing was an overnight trip to the USS New Jersey (BB-62). In addition to getting to tour the historic battleship and explore the weapons and ship control spaces, the 30 Scouts and parents who made the trip ate dinner in the crew's "mess" (dining

facility) and slept in the crew's berthing (bunk room). The Troop also visited the nearby Adventure Aquarium where the Scouts saw all sorts of sea creatures from terrapins and jelly fish to tropical fish and sharks. Scouts also ventured across the Delaware River in to Philadelphia to get a first-hand look at the Liberty Bell.

January 15th to January 17th the Troop participated in the annual Klondike Derby at Little Bennet Campground in Clarksburg. Involving several troops from the area, the Klondike Derby is planned as a cold weather camping event that includes sled races and skill competitions. The absence of snow and unusually warm temperatures forced the group to modify plans a bit, but did not prevent the Scouts from having a great weekend.

The Troop took an evening to recognize Scouts of all ranks for recent achievements February 1st with their winter Court of Honor. During the event, 42 merit badges were presented to 20 different Scouts and 25 Scouts advanced in rank, including two Scouts who were awarded the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Boy Scouts. The Court of Honor also marked changes in Scout leadership during which new Scouts assumed key leadership roles for the spring semester.

Troop 1094's annual mulch sale kicked off early this year with sales starting February 1st, the kids' first day back in school after the blizzard. Hoping to help neighbors plan for their spring beautification projects, the Troop is taking mulch orders through March 7th. Mulch will be delivered March 19th. Prices are the same as the last few years: \$5.25 per bag for 20 bags or more, \$5.50 per bag for less than 20 bags – delivery is FREE.

The Troop's spring calendar is chock full of great events including caving, backpacking, and other outings in March and April, and an exciting Lake outing in June.

With many local Webelos earning the Arrow of Light in the coming months, now is the time for them to start planning for their transition to Boy Scouts. For more information transitioning to Boy Scouts or Troop 1094, contact Scoutmaster Charlie Scott at sm@troop1094.org.

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

Darne Good Cookbook

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

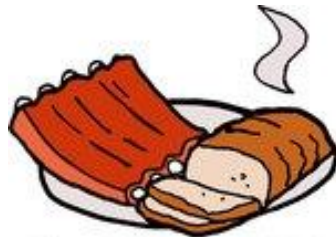


Friday, April 22 - Saturday, April 30, 2016

Deluxe Cherry Brisket

Page 150

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



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



Sunday, March 27, 2016

Leg of Lamb with Apple Herb Stuffing

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Stuffing

¾ cup butter
1 cup chopped onion
1 cup diced celery
¼ pound mushrooms, sliced
Garlic to taste
1 medium cooking apple, peeled and diced
2 cups fresh bread crumbs
¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
1 egg, slightly beaten
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon basil
½ teaspoon thyme
½ teaspoon marjoram
¼ teaspoon pepper
7-8 pound leg of lamb, boned



Spices

½ teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon basil
¼ teaspoon thyme
¼ teaspoon marjoram
¼ teaspoon pepper
8 kiwi, peeled and sliced (optional)

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

Community Interest

Those Who Serve

By Meakin Bennett



Captain Simon Youngblut has joined the Army Guard and Reserve (AGR) is presently station at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Ca. This is a two year assignment to complete a Master's degree in Operations Research. Upon graduation he will be assigned full time in the Washington DC area.

Captain Hannah Youngblut resigned her position in the Army, trading her official position to be an Army wife. She married Captain Josh Magnusson in June and they are presently stationed at the Army Language School in Monterey, CA. Josh and Hannah are both learning the Turkish language and will be stationed in Turkey upon graduation in July 2016.



Letters to Soldiers

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

Organizations such as **Kidz4Troops** and **Operation Gratitude** are just two of the many organizations that help to make this possible. Parents and teachers, if you would like to begin a letter-writing project at home or in school, here are two great sites to help you get started!

Kidz4Troops:

www.kidz4troops.com

Operation Gratitude:

www.operationgratitude.com

Thank You



Meet the Neighbors!

Darnestown's Neighbors Are the BEST!

Greater Darnestown Community Responds Overwhelmingly to Cure Natasha Bone Marrow Drive

By Rob Swisher

The spirit of Darnestown glowed brightly this Holiday Season, especially on December 19th when over a thousand potential donors showed up at Darnestown Presbyterian Church to “give the gift of life” by swabbing to cure Natasha. It was an unusually cold early winter day, but from the moment the drive started at 10:30 am, the line of donors, many with children in hand, overflowed outside the DPC fellowship hall. Some donors came from as far away as Hagerstown, Annapolis, and Northern Virginia!

The co-chairs of the drive, Janet Swisher and Tobi Athanas, had no idea how many people would show up to swab, although the anticipation was high after the weeks of advance publicity through signs, fliers, posters, social media and yes, thanks to Sandra Thomas, several local TV stories. As donors kept lining up, the committee chairs Korin Wilson (Publicity), Donna Delaney, Cindy Eldridge (Logistics), and Jack Swisher (Fundraising) had goose bumps, tears of joy, and smiles looking at all the eager faces and the outpouring of enthusiasm for such a worthy cause.

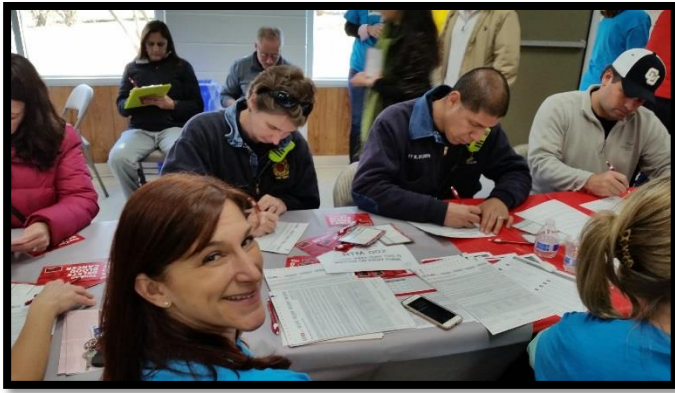


Sporting Natasha's Knights tee-shirts designed by Sophia Athanas and donated by Kirk and Karen Kley, our 40 eager volunteers, some of whom were entire families, happily manned the five drive stations to direct, inform, screen, fill out paperwork, swab, and collect donations from the potential donors. Many of Natasha's Knights were young people working in support of their friend and classmate. They made posters, passed out flyers to their neighbors and local businesses, held signs along Rt. 28, collected donations, and tallied the number of swabs. Our very own Darnestown Kicks Karate Manager, Daniel Beckford, DJ'd the event, as well as led his high spirited young karate team in entertaining demonstrations. Even DC101's radio personality Greg Roche supported the drive by tweeting, swabbing, and working with volunteers and cheering on the donors.



Lisa and Rob Patterson-Troike, Natasha's mother and father, were overwhelmed with emotion, tears, amazement, and gratitude at the sight of their community and complete strangers, helping their little girl with a life threatening illness.





Over a thousand potential donors flowed through the hall during the four hour event. When the tally of swabbers reached 100, a roar of screams, whoops, fist pumps, and clapping filled the hall. Korin Wilson announced each subsequent century mark through 200, then 300, then 400, then 500, and finally the last swab was taken at nearly 3pm bringing the final total to 610!

In addition to the 610 swabs, \$25,234 in donations were collected and delivered to the DeleteBloodCancer.org foundation to support the cost of the swab DNA processing and donor's medical expenses. Another \$5,000 was raised specifically for Natasha! One volunteer witnessed a generous female donor placing \$100 bills in each of the four large donation jars. The 610 swabs does not include the number of potential donor swab kits that were received by DeleteBloodCancer.org both before and after the drive. We estimate the number of potential bone marrow donors in honor of Natasha to be over 1000. Amazing!



Natasha's Knights wish to thank Darnestown Presbyterian Church, all the volunteers, potential donors, swabbers, and monetary donors who so generously made the drive a moment of love, pride, and community! The drive showed once

again, how lucky we are to live in Darnestown and how it takes a community to support each other.



Lately, Natasha's diagnosis has been positive. Her blood work is improving, her restrictions on interacting with the public have been lifted, and there is even some hope of her returning to school in the near future. She continues to seek treatment for her aplastic anemia, but our hopes are high for full recovery and strongly believe the recent outpouring of the Darnestown community's generosity was just the boost of positive energy Natasha needed.





A Love Letter to My Darnestown Neighbors

Dear Darnestown neighbors:

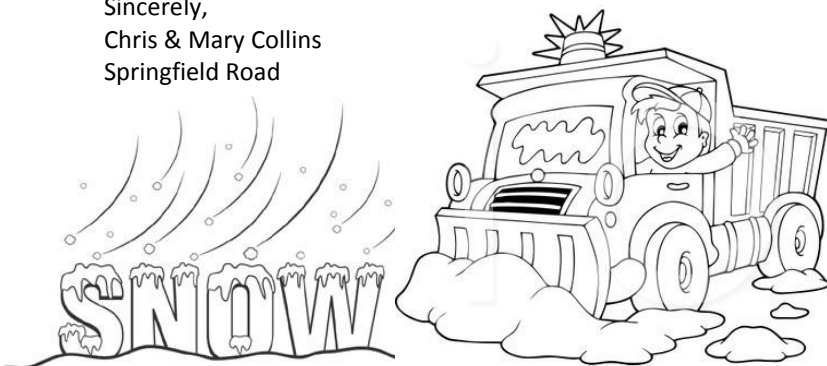
As we approach Valentine's Day, I thought I would send out a little love letter to the residents of Darnestown accompanied by a big bouquet of thanks.

During the last "historic" snowstorm on January 22-23, it soon became obvious to my husband and me that we would never be able to handle shoveling out our driveway by ourselves. Our driveway is about 1/8 of a mile long, and it takes forever to clear with a snow-blower and much less accumulation. In addition we are both in our 60's and weren't looking to invite a heart attack into the mix. We made several phone calls, and we thought we had someone coming to do the driveway, but they never showed nor did they return our calls inquiring whether or not they were still coming. I started to panic, as we were scheduled to leave town on Thursday and as of Tuesday, neither our street nor our driveway was passable.

Not knowing whom to call next, I sent out a blast email to the Darnestown list asking if the residents knew of anyone who could help us. I was blown away by the responses and concern of the residents. We received several good leads, one of whom showed up the next morning to clear our driveway. But the good news doesn't stop there! Several of the neighbors who had originally written with suggestions wrote follow-up emails to see if we had found someone to help us and to wish us well. Those who had emailed just potential names followed up in their emails with the numbers and other contact information of those names, which they had actually taken the time to research for us!

Chris & Sheila Thomas, John Stewart, Amy Gross, Jennifer Flinchum, Joe McIntyre, Aleks Schiff, Susie Gooch, and Lisa Patterson, you didn't have to respond but you did. You all personify the meaning of a good neighbor. I hope to meet you all somewhere in the neighborhood so I can thank you in person. I hope all the residents of Darnestown know how lucky they are to have you as neighbors.

Sincerely,
Chris & Mary Collins
Springfield Road



MOMS Club® of North Potomac – Muddy Branch

By: Sara Cuomo - Treasurer

Through playgroups, activity clubs, community service activities, speakers and other social events, the MOMS Club® of North Potomac - Muddy Branch offers a support network for local moms who choose to stay at home on either a full-time or part-time basis. Through this organization, you and your children will have an opportunity to meet many wonderful families in our area, and make lifelong friends.

- We meet during the day, when at-home mothers most need support.
- We believe being a mother shouldn't isolate you.
- The MOMS Club® is a nonprofit corporation and a 501(C)(3) publicly-supported charity registered with the IRS.
- We know being an at-home mother means making a financial sacrifice, so our annual chapter dues are affordable.
- At-home mothers of any age children are welcome!

We host an array of activities for moms and their children to stay active and socializing throughout the year! Together we enjoy live kids' concerts, museums, visits to the farm, story times at the library and tours of local businesses – just to name a few! In addition we strive to give back to our community including paying tribute to our military service men & women, putting on concerts at our local assisted living facility, distributing care packages at the children's hospital and fostering donations to food shelters in the area. Age-based playgroups are also a part of our weekly schedule.

It wouldn't be a "moms" club if we didn't take care of the moms, too! Every month we host a Moms' Night Out to give us the opportunity in the evening to get out of the house and enjoy each other's company. These activities have included manicures/pedicures, movie nights and wine tastings.

Prospective members are welcome to join us during our public events to check out our club, and are encouraged to join us at our Member Meeting on Tuesday, February 23rd, 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:

Website: www.bigtent.com/groups/npmbmoms
Facebook: www.facebook.com/momsclubnpmb/
Email: npmbmomsclub@gmail.com

Homesteading Corner!

Hay Bale Gardening

Hay bale gardening might be the most fun you'll have growing your own food and herbs, requiring almost no work or maintenance!

The concept is simple: You plant directly into bales of hay, and as the season progresses, the hay is broken down into virgin soil that nourishes the plants from inside the bale. One amazing benefit of this method of gardening is that the bales provide a raised bed, which keeps predators away and makes picking your vegetal treasures at the end of the season easy on the back.

Using HAY bales instead of STRAW bales is far superior. Before we get into why hay bales are superior to straw bales, let's first define what they are. **Straw bales** are basically stalks of plants, usually corn, that have been dried out and baled together into various shapes and sizes. **Hay bales** are grasses that have been dried and baled together.

The idea that hay bales may have seeds in them and could grow weeds is the same reasoning reiterated time and time again by proponents of straw bale gardening. The reason why this idea holds little water is that when nitrogen is added to feed the bacteria and fungi to start the decomposition process of the bale, a process called "Conditioning your bale", the interior of the bale can reach temperatures as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit or more. The likelihood of seeds surviving these extreme temperatures is slim, and a number of other benefits that come from using hay bales make it a far superior approach.

- **Straw is likely made from genetically modified plant matter** – The problem with straw bales is that they will usually be made of genetically modified corn or soy. Do you really want your food growing in decomposing genetically modified plant matter?
- **No fertilizer needed with hay** – Hay is made of dried grasses, and for its ability to convert sunlight and soil minerals into dense nutrition, it has been said that grass is the healthiest plant on the planet. When we use hay bales for gardening (as opposed to straw bales), the compost that is formed within the bale to feed the plants is far superior in nutrition and, unlike straw bales, no fertilizer needs to be added to feed your plants throughout the season.
- **Less Watering** – Straw holds water less effectively than hay, so instead of watering once per day with hay bales, you might have to do it 2 or 3 times per day.

How to Grow a Hay Bale Garden

The first step to growing a hay bale garden is to acquire your hay bales. Take a look on your local farms and supply stores to find who is selling them.

Once you have the bales and have arranged them in your yard, the next step is to "condition" your bales. Buy yourself some 42-0-0 fertilizer, or some urea (nitrogen), and from here you will be introducing nitrogen into the bales over a 10-day period that will have the fungi, bacteria, and insects breaking down your bales into fresh, virgin compost to feed your plants. You can also use urine on your bales, as it is high in nitrogen and minerals, for a fertilizer cost savings of about \$40.

Days 1,3,5,7,9 – Add ½ cup of nitrogen to your bales and spray them with water so the nitrogen will soak in.

Days 2,4,6,8,10 – Soak the bale with water only.

During the conditioning process, the temperature of the bale will rise significantly, up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit. In fact, the bales will become so hot that it's important to keep the bales wet to eliminate the risk of a fire. Although risk of fire is minimal, keep this in mind when deciding where to stage your bales. When the conditioning process is complete, you'll know it because the temperature inside the bale will have come back down from hot to warm. Now you're ready to plant! Simply plant your vegetable seeds or germinated seeds into the bale, water them once a day and you're on your way to healthy produce in a few exciting months. The best part is, at the end of the season you'll have yourself a heap of fresh compost that you can further compost or add to your other gardens or perennial plant beds for nourishment.

For a short tutorial video on hay bale gardening, go to this site: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uXtylj7P7OE



School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary



By Sandy Pearce

This winter, we had a special visitor named Jonas. He sprinkled us with 3 magnificent feet of snow. Parents got to dig out, while kids enjoyed a second Winter Break filled with plenty of sledding. At least the power didn't go out! Other fun educational activities included Bingo Night and Staff Raffle, Pennies for Patients fundraiser, Valentine's Day classroom celebrations, the Instrumental Music Concert and our very popular Science Expo.

The **Adopt-a-School Healthy Snack Drive** for Gaithersburg Elementary will take place beginning on March 7th through March 18th. Please help us assist families in need by donating healthy snacks. And you won't want to miss our highly anticipated **Annual Variety Show held on May 13th**. Family and friends are welcome.

The talent is truly surprising!

DES Upcoming Events:

<i>Spring Break:</i>	March 24 – April 1
<i>Donuts for Darnestown:</i>	April 15
<i>Bring Your Child to Work Day:</i>	April 21
<i>No School:</i>	April 26
<i>Field Day:</i>	May 18
<i>Spring Picnic:</i>	June 10

Have a happy, healthy spring!



Seneca Academy



By Brooke Carroll, PhD - Head of School

Seneca Academy will host a new camp program this summer, run by Club SciKidz. There will be 7 weeks (including August!!) of camps for inquisitive students aged 3 ½ through 15 years old. The science-focused offerings include video game design, sea adventures, chemistry, aerial robotics, Legos, CSI, and so much more!! Check out their website (registration is now open) at www.senecaacademy.org/camp-seneca/ or call Club SciKidz at 443-928-6772.

Seneca Academy offers a unique educational opportunity in Montgomery County through its combination of small class sizes, International Baccalaureate curriculum, positive social environment, celebration of diversity and beautiful campus.

Our community spirit, excellent inquiry-based academic programs, competitive tuitions and pursuit of global citizenship make us a high-value independent learning option for forward thinking families who want to affordably invest in their child's future.

We invite all parents and interested community members to visit Seneca Academy to learn more about how we integrate real-life, hands-on learning into all of our programming. We are offering "Walk-In Wednesdays" every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, from 9:30 am - 11 am (2/3, 2/17, 3/2, 3/16, 4/6, 4/20). This is a great opportunity to take a tour and see our students "in action!" You may RSVP through our website

<http://www.senecaacademy.org/open-house-schedule/> or by calling us at 301-8693728. We hope to see you soon!

For information about admissions, call 301-869-3728 or visit us on the web at www.SenecaAcademy.org



Mary of Nazareth

By Sara Jamison



Mary of Nazareth Super Bowl

Ever have that feeling on a Friday afternoon when you can't wait to get together with friends and watch some All-American football? So do our Mary of Nazareth Middle School students! Every Friday at Mary of Nazareth, students get an early start to the weekend with intramural sports. This fall, teams formed of mixed grade levels, ranging from sixth to eighth, participated in MoN Intramural Football. The season concluded with a school-wide Superbowl between the Grant Broz vs. the Hashslinging Slashers (male) and the Whippers vs. East High Wildcats (female). The Hashslinging Slashers were victorious, winning 49-42, and the Whippers overtook the East High Wildcats, 28-14. We congratulate all Intramural participants, with special recognition of this year's winning teams. Mary of Nazareth would like to thank its Physical Education faculty, Mr. Huelbig, Mr. McDonald and Mrs. Fowler, for coordinating this wonderful event!



Mary of Nazareth cheerleaders perform at halftime during school wide Super Bowl game.

Winter Social Concerns: A Season of Giving

During a season that's increasingly inundated with distractions from the true meaning of Christmas, Mary of Nazareth focused on remaining faithful to Jesus through its winter social concerns campaigns. Continuing with this year's theme of spiritual reflection, "How am I faithful to Jesus?", the Mary of Nazareth community honored Christ's birth by serving its neighbors in need. This year, Mary of Nazareth Social Concerns Committee partnered with A Wider Circle to provide local families with Christmas gifts. Several

homerooms, including Kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, and seventh grades, participated in giving back. Social Concerns Committee Chair, Megan McGregor, worked with A Wider Circle to "adopt" families for each of the participating classes. Ms. McGregor explained that, "A Wider Circle got the lists from families that they help and sent them our way. We assigned "adopted" families based on the homeroom size or class that participated. Homeroom parents organized a sign-up genius list of items that each family needed and wanted. Homeroom students and families signed up to donate these items and bring them into class". Many of the participating homerooms decided to dedicate class time to wrapping gifts together. Other classes made Christmas cards to accompany their gifts. In a special way, this service opportunity allowed students to learn the importance of connecting with our neighbors in need on a personal level, rather than just materially. As the school year continues, our community strives to serve Christ by serving others.



Seventh Grade wraps gifts collected for their "adopted" family at A Wider Circle

Technology Time: MoN Participates in 'Hour of Code' Challenge

The 'Hour of Code' movement has gone viral, and Mary of Nazareth students, along with students across the globe, accepted the challenge. 'Hour of Code' invites students to complete one (1) hour of computer programming with the intent of showing that anyone can learn the basics of computer science. Technology teacher, Melissa Davis, took on the endeavor to engage students in the movement across grade levels, explaining, "The students at Mary of Nazareth have been completing the 'Hour of Code' which is a national movement to get students interested in coding at an early age. The program guides students through the coding process using celebrities and computer

scientists.” While many students were initially intimidated by the idea of coding, Ms. Davis found that they were so excited with their progress, they did not want to leave computer class after the hour was complete. Students that participated in the ‘Hour of Code’ were given a certificate, acknowledging their successful completion of the challenge.

Students who want more than just an hour of code have the opportunity to grow and hone their coding skills after school during Computer Club. Parent volunteer, Bob Nonnenkamp, directs the club with Ms. Davis’ assistance on Wednesdays after school. For one hour students of different levels learn coding with a program called Scratch. Davis says of the club, “We even have some students that are working on coding a robot right now.” Computer Club went on a brief hiatus during the Christmas holiday, and has started up again with school back in session. While Computer Club is currently open to fourth through eighth grades, Mary of Nazareth anticipates starting another club for grades Kindergarten through third grades this spring.



Second grader, Celia Watkins, proudly displays her Hour of Code certificate of completion.

Enrollment Open - Tours available upon request

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is currently accepting enrollment for the coming 2016-17 Academic Year. Call (301) 869-0940 to schedule a tour of our beautiful 190+ acre campus, and to discuss our curriculum. Find out more, including information on financial aid, at www.maryofnazareth.org. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@MoNCatholic_Sch) for school news and updates.

New Members Inducted into National Junior Honor Society

Mary of Nazareth School would like to congratulate and welcome the following inductees into its Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society:

Seventh Grade:

Erik Carvajal
Antonio Checchia
Daniel DeLude
Kylie Ly
Ileana Plummer
Brendan Shea
Ava Zamora

Michael Hennies
Eduard Ioana
Evan Kelly
Emily LaRoche
Matthew Magtibay
Margaret McIntyre
Elizabeth Miller
Fiona O'Connell
Brenden Pauline

Sixth Grade:

Jennifer Alberio
Claire Beucher
Harrison Cerone
Peter Chamoun
Olivia Choi
Stephanie Duque
Madalyn Engel
Alexa Fabi

Aidan Rafferty
Kiley Rutland
Mackenzie Saum
Andrew Schaefer
Hannah Schneider
Garrett Schuppner
Kendra Soewandi
John Staton
Angela Tran
Maya Yapur



Nicholas Laffey, fifth grade, shows his excitement during Hour of Code



Middle School students learn to code in Computer Club

Butler School



By Lisa Daly

Hello Summer 2016!

Our beautiful 22 acre campus adjoining Seneca Creek State Park offers exciting opportunities for children to explore and enjoy nature. Butler Camp is accredited by the State of Maryland and all counselors meet or exceed the stringent qualifications set by the State.

Our youngest campers, 'Backyard Explorers', enjoy time indoors and out, going to the creek, swimming, creating wonderful works of art, and hiking while staying close to the security of their classroom.

As the children become 'Young Adventurers', they find themselves spending more time outdoors playing strategic games, learning about and using the environments on our campus and spending a bit more time in the pool.

As campers grow, so do their choices of activities. 'Outdoor Adventurers' have the opportunity to leave campus for a portion of their day and try their hand at activities such as orienteering, archery, fishing, and tubing. These campers are also treated to one evening cook out per session! Our high ropes course will also provide campers with excitement on and off the ground.

Our 'Extreme Adventurers' spend most of their day off campus enjoying activities such as canoeing, white water rafting, rock climbing, caving, and mountain biking. Once each week these campers travel to a magnificent destination such as Sugarloaf Mountain or Harper's Ferry for their activity and return home in the early evening.

With the overwhelming success of Butler Camp's Extreme Adventures program, we are seeing a need for a new offering for our oldest campers. Max Adventure serves campers between the ages of 12-15 who are looking for the next level of extreme. Campers will mountain bike longer distances, rock climb and rappel in West Virginia or Western Maryland, explore two new caves and

camp out multiple times during their 2-week session. Campers will travel to locations in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia to enjoy new challenges they will never forget.

For those children ages 6 and above, who love horses, Butler offers a top notch equestrian camp. Students spend time at our stables working with and riding horses as well as having the opportunity to take a dip in the pool and make arts and crafts projects. Students are placed according to experience and riding level. Building confidence and independence is always an important focus at Butler Camp.

For more information on summer camp or our riding program please visit our website at www.butlerschool.org or call us at 301-977-6600. Butler School, 15951 Germantown Rd, Darnestown, MD 20874.





First Day of Spring March 20th !!

Church News!



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciorlito

Lent, Holy Week and Easter

Spring is a glorious time of year in Darnestown, and we at Darnestown Presbyterian share in the celebration not only of the beauty of spring, but also of the meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter on our historic campus. The Lenten season this year will build to Palm Sunday on the 20th of March, our somber Maundy Thursday service at 8 PM on the 24th, and our glorious Easter services at 8:45 and 11 AM on the 27th. Families with children may especially appreciate our Palm Sunday service, which is traditionally somewhat youth oriented, and our Easter services are always among our most popular of the year. Our Choirs will provide both vocal and bell music at both of the services on Easter morning, the sanctuary will be filled with flowers, and we will also offer a pot luck brunch between services in our Fellowship Hall at 9:45. We always welcome many visitors to our church during this season, and we rejoice in every one! Why not join us this spring?

Family friendly services!

We at Darnestown Presbyterian rejoice in the presence of children among us as we come together to worship each week. Jesus famously said to his Disciples, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God". Since children are special to us, we warmly welcome them in all our worship services. Our standard service always includes a Children's Sermon shortly preceding the preaching of the adult sermon. After the Children's Sermon, youth ages 4 through grade 5 can depart the sanctuary for a "Junior Church" Program. Junior Church meets in two groups: ages four through grade two and grades three to five. The Children's Sermon and the content of the Junior Church time generally relate to the theme of the adult sermon provided to adults on a given day. Following their lesson time, youth may either continue on to Children's Choir practice, or return to their families in worship.

Additionally, we offer a recently renovated, professionally staffed nursery. This nursery is staffed and available during all services, and all children under the age of 4 are welcome. We also accommodate families with a full range of Sunday School classes for every age. These classes begin at 9:45 on most Sundays (summer excepted), and offer something for children of all ages.



Rev. Dave McNeilly



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara



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

Contact Information:

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

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



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Please Join Us for Holy Week at St. Nick's

By Dave Higgins

March 20 | Palm Sunday 10:00am – Palm Sunday Communion Service. On this Sunday, we reenact the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey, people gathered along the way, welcomed him as a hoped-for liberator, strewing palm branches in his path. It is a festive and interactive service that will engage people of all ages. Join us!

March 24 | Maundy Thursday 6:30pm – Maundy Thursday Meal and Communion. On a Thursday night in Jerusalem, centuries ago, around the eve of the Passover, Jesus gathered his disciples for one last Passover meal. It is called Maundy Thursday after the Latin word for “commandment,” which is “maundatum,” because it was at this “Last Supper” that he gave his disciples his final commandment, “Love one another, as I have loved you.” We begin at 6:30pm with Fellowship & Foot Washing, followed at 7:00pm with a Maundy Thursday meal, and we close with Communion at 8:00pm. Join us!

March 25 | Good Friday On Good Friday, we remember Jesus’ suffering, crucifixion, and death at the hands of the religious and civil authorities. There are three services on Good Friday:

- 10:00am – Experiential Station of the Cross Service (for children and young families). At this experiential, interactive, child-friendly service we focus on presenting the Stations of the Cross in words and actions that children understand.
- 12:00pm – Noonday Solemn Service. At this traditional service we remember Jesus’ suffering and join in saying together the ancient “Solemn Collects.”
- 7:30pm – Tenebrae Stations of the Cross Service (Service of Darkening). This service combines two traditional services into one: the Stations of the Cross and Tenebrae (lit., “darkening”). We begin with 14 lit candles at the altar, along with the Christ Candle. As we visit each station, another candle is extinguished, until only the Christ Candle is left. A very moving service.

March 26 | Holy Sunday 4:00pm – The Great Vigil of Easter: A Service for All Ages. The Easter Vigil is one of the oldest liturgies of the Church. Our version is very experiential for the benefit of families with young children. Join us!

March 27 | Easter (the Feast Day of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ) 8:00am – Early Easter Service. Join us as we celebrate with great joy the Feast Day of the Resurrection. For those who like to celebrate Easter closer to the rising of the sun. 10:00am – Easter Sunday Festival Service. At this, our most important feast day, we pull out all the stops to celebrate the resurrection. We welcome everyone to join us!

Contact Information

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



Rev. Ken Howard

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Fairhaven's United Methodist Youth Fellowship

The UMYF meets on Sundays from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. All youth in middle and high school are welcome to attend UMYF meetings, regardless of their religion or church affiliation. Please join us!



Sunday 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 May 1, 2016

for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!

Darne Bloomers Garden Club



By Merikay Smith

Under our current thick blanket of snow it is a pleasure to think back to this winter's garden club meetings. If you enjoy natural beauty, gourmet delights, and friendly socializing in a context of learning about gardening, you should visit one of our meetings. We generally meet the second Thursday of the month at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Contact our president, Lisa Ruf, in advance of coming at lisaruf@aol.com.

In November we created gorgeous centerpieces under the tutelage of Rachel Gang, owner of Helen Olivia Florals in Old Town Alexandria. (See photo of Rachel with her mother, and sample of design made by each club member.) The decorations for this meeting were remarkable, even for Darne Bloomers.



Rachel Gang and her mother

This incredible opportunity to learn from the finest designers of DC was continued in December with a presentation by Terry Godfrey on holiday décor re-imagined. Terry (AIFD-CFD) is an independent designer doing weddings and premier events in DC and New York. In 2015 she took first place in an on-stage design competition at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Terry shared with us the latest design techniques applied to holiday floral arranging. She

created more than a dozen varied floral designs in our presence, talking about the process as she created. The pieces ranged from traditional table centerpieces to avant-guard pieces of floral sculpture to fun chic. Best of all, for some of us, Terry gave five of these floral arrangements to club members. From names drawn at random, the following were winners: Karen Hendricksen, LeeAnne Gelletley, Bonnie Allen, Summer Hardig, and myself.



Table display by Bonnie Allen

The Darne Bloomers traveled to Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax for their January meeting on "Planting a Cutting Garden." Peggy Biers, landscape designer, spoke on plants that can be grown for cutting to create lovely bouquets year round. She shared a powerpoint with photographs of flowers suited to our area which have varying bloom times: helleborus, kerria, daffodils, tulips, Dutch iris, astilbe, asclepias, santolina lavender, lilies, allium, dahlia, cana, smokebush, verbena black-eyed susans, salvia, zinnia, hyssop, fennel, caryopteris, aster, rudbeckia, veronica, heuchera, larkspur, coreopsis, gaillardia, achillea milliflora, hydrangea, helenium, fall anemone, chrysanthemum sheffield, amsonia, red-twig dogwood and evergreens. Merrifield Garden Center offers free classes weekly to the first week of April – schedule available online.



Christmas and holiday designs by Terry Godfrey



Quote of the Quarter

*"May the best of your
past be the worst of
your future."*

~ Irish Proverb



SHARE THE ACORN

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

www.darnewtowncivic.org

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





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
Chase Hayes	age 15	240 454 2383
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

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
Chase Hayes	age 15	240 454 2383
Ben Kaplan	age 15	301-997-8027
Hanne Kaplan	age 12	301-997-8027
Maureen McAllister	age 25	301-802-4993
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

May 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

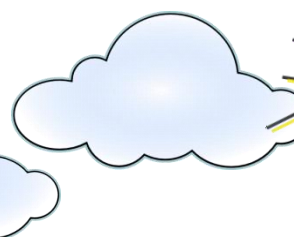
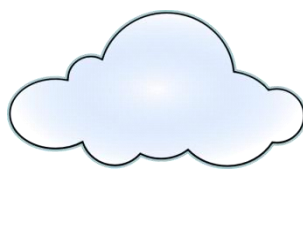
21830 Peach Tree Road
Barnesville, MD 20838
301-972-0341
John Huber, Head of School

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)

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)



www.darnestowncivic.org



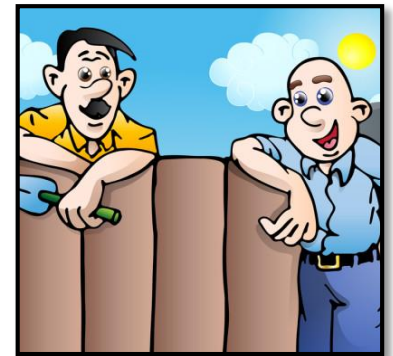


Darnestown Civic Association 2016 Membership Form



The 2016 DCA membership letter was sent out in January! Have you sent yours in to the DCA yet? If you didn't receive a membership letter, please let DCA President Lisa Patterson know by emailing her at LisaAPatterson@aol.com or calling her at 301-548-0999!

*Please support the Darnestown Civic Association for all they do for you and your community!
THANK YOU!*



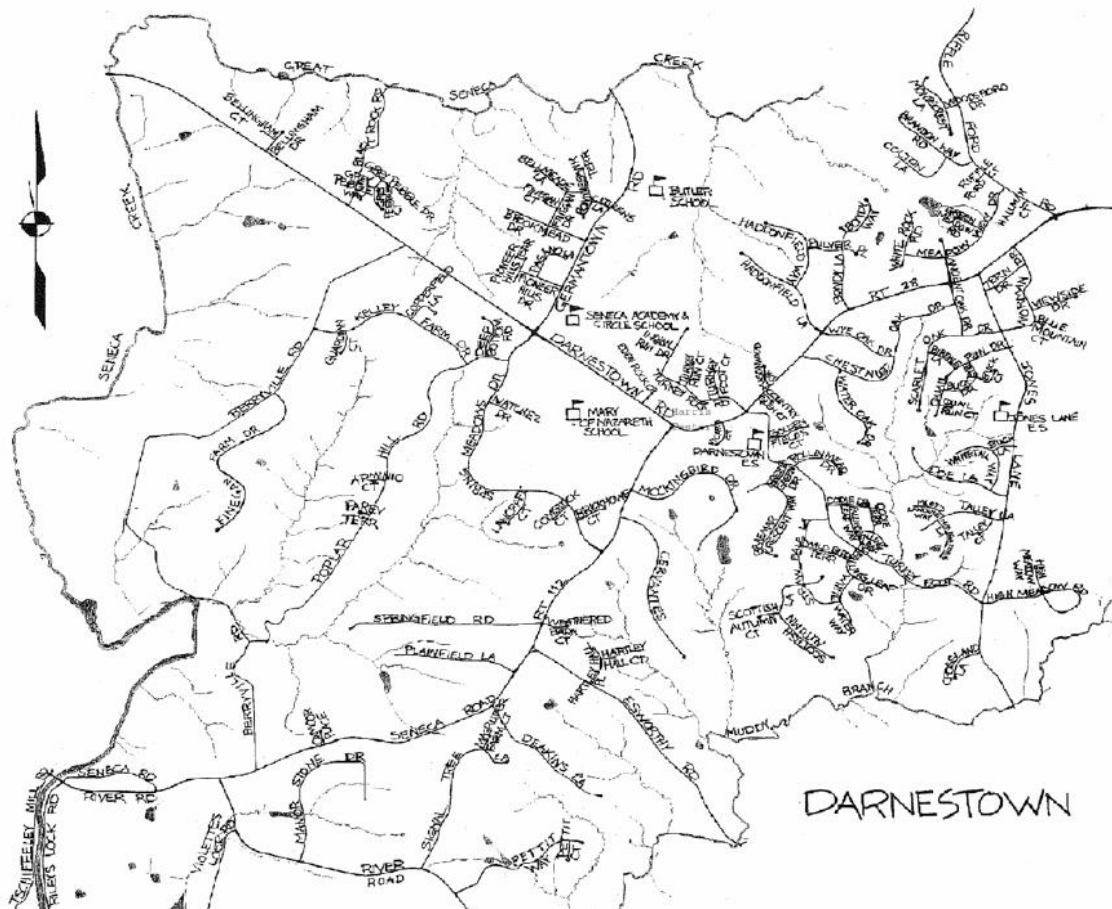
Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org
Website: www.darnestowncivic.org



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