

THE LITTLE ACORN
NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 53, Number 4
December 2016

CIVIC ASSOCIATION
NEWS & NOTES

Notes from the President
By Lisa Patterson-Troike

A Cell Tower Near You?

A map was recently published showing locations of potential installations of cell equipment on existing utility poles and standalone mini cell towers to improve cell service throughout Montgomery County www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/Map-RecentDA5andsmallcells.pdf.

While Darnestown appears to be minimally affected by this map, residents wonder if additional locations will be added in the future. The big issue doesn't seem to be the cell equipment to be installed on existing utility poles, but the standalone mini towers to be installed in neighborhoods with underground utilities. The mini towers are approximately 30' in height and have different girths. 250 concerned Montgomery County residents attended the October 26th meeting at Ridgeview Middle School in Gaithersburg to voice their concerns. Some of their biggest issues were: Would residents have input in cell tower placement? Would these towers really help with cell service? Would they hurt property values? Would they have potential health concerns? I went to www.cancer.org and read their section on cell towers. The section only referenced structures 50-200', not the 30' height of mini towers, and claimed there was no evidence to support a direct correlation between cell towers and cancer. The DCA will continue to monitor this situation and inform residents of any new developments.

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DARNESTOWN TREE
LIGHTING CEREMONY

Sunday, December 11th
6:30 PM

Darnestown Heritage Park

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The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

The Little Acorn

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Notes from the President

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DCA Business

The DCA is looking for someone to take over the Darnestown Directory. For close to 10 years, Sarah Scherer has been in charge of the directory and the DCA thanks her for volunteering her time to keep the directory going! Sarah says the job is easier than it sounds! For more information, please contact her at sarahscherer@comcast.net.

DCA mailings will now be addressed as "Darnestown Neighbor" in order to save time and money. The return address will have our information so you won't mistakenly throw any important notifications in the trash. The 2017 membership letter will be mailed in January with "Darnestown Neighbor" as the recipient.

September Town Meeting

Special thanks to Dave Bivans for yet another fabulous Darnestown Softball season! Audrey and Mike Forshey accepted this year's softball trophy on behalf of ARMQ (Ancient Rolling Mountain Quails). We appreciate Harris Teeter for displaying our softball plaque in their entrance hallway for all to see!

Thanks also to Rocklands Farm for bringing selections of their wine for us to taste! Their scenic 34 acre farm is just a few minutes off Seneca/River Road at 145 Montevideo Road in Poolesville. Visit their website at www.rocklandsfarmmd.org to learn about special events like "First Fridays" and "Farm to Table" dinners.

~ For the Kids ~

"Make a Flake"

snowflakes.barkleyus.com/



For your Daily
Dose of Darnestown



www.facebook.com/DarnestownOurHomeTown/

No December Town Meeting

The DCA Board voted not to hold a December Town Meeting this year due to the busy time of the year.

The bylaws state that we need to have at least 3 meetings per year; the March, June and September meetings keep us in compliance!

See you in March 2017!

Social Corner

By Lisa Patterson-Troike

DCA's Annual Tree Lighting will be 6:30 pm on December 11th at our Heritage Park located next to Harris Teeter. Residents of all faiths and beliefs are invited to join the fun. I've sent a letter to Santa at the North Pole asking if he can take time out of his busy schedule to turn on the lights for us. Last year Santa arrived in a miniature Japanese firetruck, courtesy of Luke Cowart, and arrived in a hot-rod the previous year, courtesy of Billy Herrington. What will be his mode of transport this year? You need to come and see for yourself!

Yee Haw!

150 Hoedowners enjoyed our annual DCA Hoedown at Smokey Glen Farm. Many of you were dressed in boots, hats, holsters, chaps and more! Our beloved Mac McCall taught and called the dance steps all night, while his wife Phyllis helped show dancers the different moves and positions. Everyone had a great time on the hayrides in the dark with a Darnestown Haddonfield resident as our tractor driver. Smokey Glen's food was amazing and their staff tended to our every need. Next year's Hoedown is set for Friday, October 13th. Be sure to mark your calendars!





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

"A Brief History of DARNESTOWN"

By: The Darnestown Historical Society

Please enjoy this FINAL installment of our series on the history of Darnestown.



Darnestown Today and Tomorrow

Originally published in 1992

Today, Darnestown's major product is not milk, corn, wheat, or lumber, but people. They grow in the majority of the homes that occupy the agricultural fields of former times. Instead of farm wagons, cars and school buses crowd the two main roads that connect Darnestown with its neighboring communities.

Many open areas testify to the rural heritage of Darnestown, however, and provide the vistas of Maryland's rolling hills that make it such a popular place to live. Darnestown is lucky to be nearly surrounded by parkland and to have its own softball and soccer fields and a covered picnic area.

It is still possible to stand near the Darnestown Elementary School and see the fog hanging over the Potomac River some three mile to the south. Horses can be seen grazing peacefully within sight of the school.

Darnestown is typical of small-town Maryland in many ways. It has both public businesses, a variety of old and new homes with plenty of grass and trees, and quite a bit of open land. Most of its citizens like this type of community. There are

many people who see that Darnestown is close to metropolitan Washington and that more businesses and more houses could easily be built and sold for a profit here. This tendency towards more intensive development worries the leaders of Darnestown; should they try to keep the town small and rural, or should they encourage new construction?

The leaders know that Darnestown is really not a town at all, in the sense of being incorporated by the state of Maryland. It has no definite boundaries, no mayor, and no City Council.

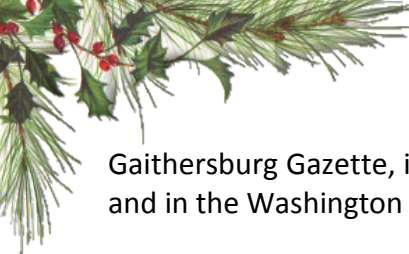
As an un-incorporated area, the boundaries of Darnestown are not legally defined; what most people mean when they refer to Darnestown is the area bounded by Seneca Creek State Park to the north and west, by Muddy Branch Stream Valley Park to the south, and by Jones Lane, Norman Drive, and Riffle Ford Road on the east.

Since Darnestown has no Mayor or City council, decisions about the number and types of houses, the installation of city water or sewer facilities, and the introduction of new businesses through commercial or industrial zoning all must be made by the Montgomery County Council or the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Darnestown has had elected civic leaders in the form of the Greater Darnestown Civic Association since 1967. The officers and trustees of the Civic Association are chosen by the residents of Darnestown to represent them in discussions about Darnestown with the county and State governments.

When the Park and Planning Commission was preparing a Master Plan for the Potomac Sub-Region, the Civic Association offered its help and advice. The most recent Master Plan was adopted in 1980. It still guides the development of Darnestown.

Darnestown also has its own newspaper, The Little Acorn, written and published four times a year by volunteer staff under the guidance of the Civic Association. Darnestown news also appears in the



Gaithersburg Gazette, in the Montgomery Journal, and in the Washington Post newspapers.

Since Darnestown must rely on the County and Regional governments to make sensible decisions about the community, it is important for all of the residents to know about the Master Plan and to obtain up-to-date information about county and state happenings that affect Darnestown.

As you study in school and as you work and play in Darnestown after school, you should remember all of the students who have grown up over the past two centuries. Like them, you should try to think about how you can make Darnestown a better community.

The Darnestown Historical Society hopes to continue to preserve historical information about our community and to make it available to coming generations. The Society believes that the future is best built on a sound understanding of the past.

Copyright 1992, The Darnestown Historical Society, Inc.



Family History Event!!

By Merikay Smith

Seneca Community Church on Berryville Road hosted a family history event on Saturday, November 19, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM. Participants were invited to come learn about how to do family history research, particularly for African American families. Members from Poplar Grove Baptist, Fairhaven Methodist, Mt. Olive Church, and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were included in the open invitation.

Marcus McCoy, a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and expert on African American family history, shared recent advances for online family history research, including the Freedmen Bureau records. In conjunction with the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in DC, millions of names from Freedmen Bureau records have been indexed by volunteers to allow new access to records from the

post-Civil War era. The Freedmen's Bureau, organized by Congressional order as a result of the 13th Amendment near the conclusion of the Civil War in 1865, offered assistance to freed slaves in a variety of ways. Handwritten records of these interactions include records such as marriage certificates, hospital and patient registers, census lists, labor contracts, ration registers, indenture or apprenticeship papers and others. For more information see www.discoverfreedmen.org.

Anyone can do family history research -- beginning with something as simple as talking with elderly family members and recording their stories, organizing and labeling photos, collecting and preserving letters, and other important documents. Every Monday morning, members of the AAGHS (African American Genealogical and Historical Society) meet at the Family History Center in Kensington, MD. You are welcome to come and learn more or get to help from them in your own search.

The DC Family History Center is open and staffed with volunteers throughout the week and welcomes anyone interested in doing family history research. They are located at 10000 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington, MD 20895. Phone: 301-587-0042. Website: www.wdcfhc.org

Darnestown Directory

We are currently seeking a new editor for the Darnestown Directory, our community directory.

This is a great way to give back to the community and get to know your neighbors. The job includes coordinating with our membership director, working with a printer, updating information and soliciting advertisers. The time commitment is very manageable and the directory is published every other year. And it includes free on the job training! Contact Sarah Scherer with any questions at sarahscherer@comcast.net or 301-509-3673.





A Tribute to Darnestown's Beloved Bruce Deppa



By Steve Ellis, Friend and past DCA President

Bruce Northrup Deppa was born May 26, 1941, in Albuquerque, NM, to James W. and Louise Lange Deppa. He was the first of four children (2 and 2). He graduated as president of his class at Gaithersburg High School in 1959, and received a Bachelor's degree in Zoology from the University of Maryland in 1964. He spent most of his career at IBM and Lockheed Martin in Gaithersburg, retiring in 2006. He was president of the Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) for 13 years, and Chairman of the board for another eight years, helping build the DCA into one of the most effective community associations in the county. He took great pride in working with the community to keep Darnestown a semi-rural family-oriented small town. Bruce died February 26, 2016, of complications from Parkinson's disease. (The above taken from the Washington Post obit, written by his family)

A great many people attended the Memorial service held at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church on March 29, 2016. Numerous fine speeches were delivered in honor of Bruce. The rest of this article will focus on Bruce and civic matters in Darnestown. It must be recognized that during this period of activity Bruce had the enthusiastic support and counsel of his beloved wife, Luanne. Their partnership lasted 29 years.

The Deppa family moved to Gaithersburg when Bruce was six. They ran a family nursery business off Rt. 355 in Gaithersburg for many years. Bruce and his young family moved to Darnestown in 1972. They bought a small, old fixer upper on Riffle Ford Road. It's now the larger and improved last house on the right going north before you get to the Smokey Glen Farm property. The first truly major issue confronting the Greater DCA in the mid 1970's was the grand scheme of placing a 20 million gal/day sewage treatment plant off of Turkey Foot Rd. on our side of the Muddy Branch Creek. This huge battle went on for several years. Bruce was on the periphery of this one, but did take a major interest in the compromise interim 5 million gal/day sewage plant on the north side of Seneca Creek on Riffle Ford. That 20 million gal/day plant was opened in 2003 on the Seneca Creek between Riffle Ford & Seneca highway. By 1988 Bruce was well known in Darnestown, and was elected Treasurer of the GDCA in June.

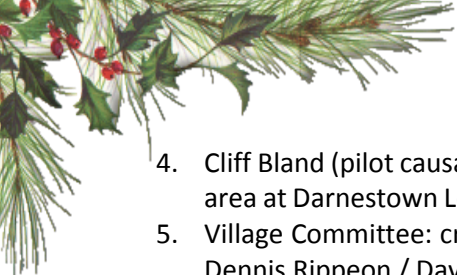
The next year he was the perfect person to become President. The Nominating Com. Chair, Karen Garner put it this way in the Acorn, "This Board is going to be a dandy." For the next 12 years the DCA was his passionate avocation. Being on the Board of the DCA can require a significant amount of time and attention depending on your involvement. All presidents must often expend a great effort, including writing for the Acorn and letters to the County and State, etc., which is why so few volunteer to do it.

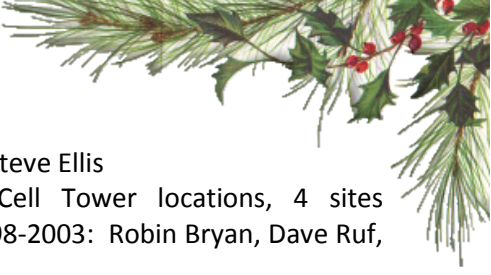
Bruce was involved in so many things Darnestown, some into penetrating detail. Those of us involved would comment and worry about whether he was satisfying his occupation requirements. Bruce, as a patient and agreeable man, accepted most ideas that came to him or the board as worthy of further pursuit to see what may come about. Bruce had the desire to partner with others to deal with the issues in our realm. There were many such partnerships, because a lot was going on in the County in the 80's '90's and early 2000's; particularly the rapid development and all those related issues.

In 1999 after 10 years as president, Bruce, with encouragement from Luanne, announced that he needed a replacement. A farewell event took place at Fellowship Hall and a fund for Bruce and Luanne to take a vacation was presented. However, for 2 more years there was no one willing to take on the job. A governance/transition committee (Tom King, Dennis Rippeon, Chuck Gularson, Gerry Foley, and Steve Ellis) was formed, and they created the Chairman position specifically for Bruce. This allowed him to reduce his obligations while maintaining a significant role in DCA operations and representations. Gerry Foley was good enough to assume the presidency that year, 2001. For articles on Bruce, see especially the Little Acorn Sept. 1992, and June 1999. While Bruce did the most work of any individual during his tenure, there were many others who helped out in numerous ways. I'm going to name some issues and some folks, no doubt will miss others. I apologize for that.

Some of the partnerships with Bruce during those times were:

1. The community day parade on Rt. 28, October, 1989: the Darnestown Historical Society, the Schooleys, Sharon Scopin
2. The Darne Good Cookbook, 1990-92: Carole DeMinco and Doodie Sullivan, nearly 200 more
3. Aerial photos of Darnestown: Randy Foulds

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4. Cliff Bland (pilot causality in Gulf War 1991) rec. area at Darnestown Local Park: Dede McMahon
 5. Village Committee: created by Steve Ellis 1988, Dennis Rippeon / David Landow relationship
 6. Zip Code for all of Darnestown & many years as directory coordinator: Marsha Crowley
 7. Community Calendar: Janet Parrish
 8. Radio Tower strobe lights (white and flashing) ultimately red, seen in the western sky: Larry Pateros
 9. Acorn Editors during this time: Karen Gally, Janet Marszalek, Kate Gibson, Carol Russ, Janet Parrish
 10. Decades of help with the Little Acorn and membership: the Jurgena family
 11. Removal of ads from the Acorn: Fall 1996: All Acorn staff, past editors and the Board at the time
 12. Numerous zoning and development issues: Steve Ellis, John Marszalek, Rick Griffin, Jim Clifford
 13. Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board member for our area: Jim Schooley
 14. Building our Treasury: Ted Tinsley, Chuck Gularson, our many members, sponsors and friends
 15. School Boundaries: big issue, big money spent, many involved.
 16. QO Library name, location site and volunteer efforts: Rosemary Anderson, Marilee Giebel, Steve Ellis
 17. Taking the pulse of the community surveys: Brian McCollum
 18. Road issues: Steve DeMinco, Brian McCollum
 19. Esworthy Bridge Project: 1997-98 Frank Cornelius
 20. Bridge across Seneca Creek on Rt. 28 1997: Bruce went out and measured the specs, realized it was wide enough for 4-lanes, single-handedly lobbied some of our State representatives, and the width was reduced.
 21. Incorporation of Darnestown: first inquiry 1997-98: Carole DeMinco and Jed Andrews
 22. Trees: including Champion size (4) and age in Darnestown: Mary Schooley, Joyce McCarthy
 23. Darnestown Historical Park and grave sites: Scott Mostrom, Rick Griffin, Greg Clemmer, Dennis Rippeon, Ed Otter
 24. Seneca Wastewater treatment plant citizens' advisory com. 1996-99: Steve Ellis, Jim Schooley, Dave Hansroth. The plant became operational in 2003.

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25. Sewer issues: Steve Ellis
 26. Bell Atlantic Cell Tower locations, 4 sites considered 1998-2003: Robin Bryan, Dave Ruf, and Tom King.
 27. Nick and Vanda Petruccelli's acceptance of offer from Sprint for the flag pole site resolved our issue.
 28. Potomac Sub-Region Master Plan: Steve Ellis, Gerry Foley, Jim Clifford, Dennis Rippeon
 29. Town center flag displays: began in 2001, Jim and Carol Clifford.
 30. Darnestown entrance sign on Rt. 28: John Kos, Troop 1094, Micit family
 31. Deer overpopulation problem, bow hunt season in Seneca Park: Dave Hansroth, Larry Zeoller
 32. Second Crossing / Techway controversy began: Just too many folks involved.
 33. Talk of an office for the DCA: Soon there was a space for us. Nick Petruccelli, Michael Fox, Gerry Foley, Steve Ellis, Terry Reis

And now his presidency has ended.

We have had let you go, Bruce, but we will never forget you. Thank you, dear friend.

From an Email to the Editor

Dear Steve,

Thank you for this wonderful article about Bruce. I can't believe you had all this information stored somewhere.

Bruce loved Darnestown, the people that lived there, and he wanted the community to have "the best" of everything. When working on a project, he would stay up late every night and with little sleep got up and went to his daytime job. Bruce was Santa at least one year for the Christmas Tree lighting. I think it happened when someone else couldn't do it and Bruce filled in. He loved it and I believe that was the same year he used the Santa suit and went to Darnestown Elementary as Santa Claus. I miss him every day and dream, think, and talk of our happy days together often.

Thank you all for publishing this heartfelt article about Bruce.

And thank you again, Steve, for having written it so beautifully!

~Luanne Deppa

Community Interest

DCA Membership Procedures are Changing

By Guy Armantrout

Beginning in January, DCA plans to enter the 21st century with changes in membership management procedures.

The Good News:

1. No changes in dues
2. Easy on-line renewal and payment at www.darnestowncivic.org (checks and paper forms still accepted!)
3. Easy on-line access to your renewal history (have I paid yet?)
4. Major work reduction for DCA volunteers (membership and treasurer)
5. Updated e-mail addresses for Darnestown information e-mails and assurance that your address and phone numbers are correct in our data base
6. Options to restrict any information you do not wish to share in our biannual Darnestown directory

Impact:

Your *Little Acorn* issue, membership letter, and directory will now be addressed to "Darnestown Resident" instead of your name. If you live outside of Darnestown (and many DCA members do), you will still receive all mailings addressed with your name. We will always know who you all are (and appreciate your support), but this will allow significant simplification in our record keeping and paper work.

What we are doing:

All membership information will be collected and maintained in a secure on-line database with a commercial company. This change facilitates online membership renewal and secure online payment (through our Pay Pal account) and greatly simplifies our record keeping. It also allows us to be more responsive in keeping accurate email lists and in making sure that we only publish information in the Darnestown Directory that you give us permission to publish.

We strongly urge new DCA residents and DCA membership renewals to be made online at www.darnestowncivic.org. Note that your online membership form will give you a choice to use either our online payment option through Pay Pal, or you may mail a check to complete your DCA membership. For those who still prefer paper and pen instead of a computer, rest assured: we still welcome paper applications and paper checks.

The DCA provides important services to our community including:

1. *The Little Acorn*, our quarterly newsletter, is mailed to all Darnestown residents
2. Biennial telephone directory – mailed to all Darnestown residents
3. DCA Spring Social, Hoedown, Tree Lighting, Town Meetings, and other gatherings
4. Darnestown community entrance sign and park maintenance
5. DCA Web Site www.darnestowncivic.org
6. American flags for our roadside holiday flag program
7. Email alerts: Events, lost/found pets, safety/crime notifications and more
8. Monitoring and reporting issues that impact Darnestown, e.g. power and telephone reliability, village development, zoning, public safety, cell towers, Montgomery County Master Plans, road construction and safety, hiking/biking trails, deer population, Agricultural Reserve, crime reports, and environmental issues to name but a few
9. Maintenance of the DCA "Contingency Legal Fund," money for legal battles against major issues that could negatively impact the quality of life in Darnestown.

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to contact DCA President Lisa Patterson by emailing her at LisaAPatterson@aol.com or calling her at 301-548-0999!



Community Interest

Darnestown Friend and Neighbor Ted Caryk Passed Away 2016

THEODORE CARYK (Age 88), of Germantown, MD, passed away on Sunday, September 4, 2016, from complications of congestive heart failure. Born in western Ukraine, he came to the United States in 1949, where he and his family were sponsored by James Clark, Jr, to work on his farm in Clarksville, MD.

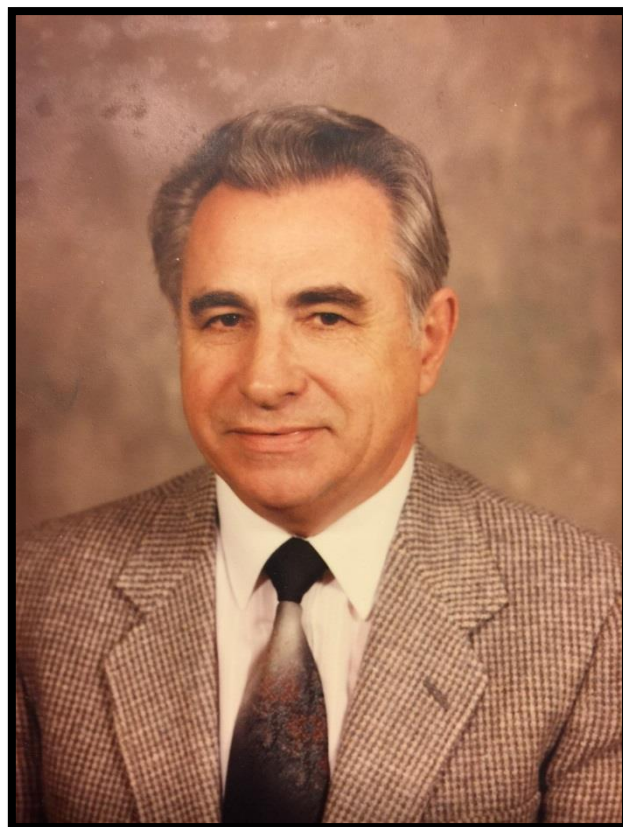
Shortly thereafter he moved to Baltimore, MD. While working nights at the American Can Company, he attended the University of Maryland in College Park, graduating in 1959. Ted remained in his cherished "land of Mary", first working 10 years in the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, then the Naval Ship Research and Development Center in Carderock, MD, retiring in 1995 after 25 years of service. During this time he remained actively involved in his Ukrainian community, serving on the boards of the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America, the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc., The Providence Association, the Ukrainian American Youth Association, and as the director of the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies.

Ted was preceded in death by his parents, Dmytro and Anna (Harkot) Caryk, his brother Andrew Zaryk, and his sister Anastasia Oleksiuk. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Theresa (Solowij); his daughter Sophia Wolff and husband Daniel and daughter Hailey of Olney, MD; his son Nestor Caryk and wife Merideth and children Alexa and Clifford of Escondido, CA; his daughter Natalia Dal Porto and husband Joseph and children Dominic and Gianna, of Los Gatos, CA; his brother Michael Caryk and wife Vera of Mt. Airy, MD; his sister Paraskevia Maksymiuk of Corvallis, OR; as well as many beloved nieces and nephews.

When he wasn't involved in his many political activities fighting for freedom of his homeland, he was happiest on his 7 acre farmette in Darnestown, MD, where he relished tending to his steer, horses, chickens, roosters, cats and dogs; growing garlic, dill, potatoes and beets in the garden; or reading one of the many books in his treasured collection of Ukrainian history, religion and biographies of famous political leaders. Ted will be missed by all who loved him dearly.

Funeral services were on September 13, 2016 at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, 2401 Eastern Ave., Baltimore, MD 21224.

The family would like to thank the staff at Sycamores Acres Assisted Living for the care and attention to our father and husband. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the United Ukrainian American Relief Committee, Inc., (UUARC), 1206 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19111 or www.uuarc.org



Теодор Царик

Community Interest

It's a Darne' Good Recipe!

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!

Egg Nog Cake

INGREDIENTS

- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup canned eggnog
- 1 teaspoon rum extract
- ¼ cup vegetable oil
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg



1. With electric mixer, beat all cake ingredients at medium speed for three minutes.
2. Pour into three greased and lightly floured 9-inch round pans.
3. Bake for 20 minutes at 350 degrees.
4. Add frosting of your choice to the top and between cake layers.

Did You Know ?

December is...

- ❖ **National Read a New Book Month**
- ❖ **Universal Human Rights Month**
- ❖ **Nobel Prizes Awards Month**

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!

HAPPY HANUKKAH

*Sunset December 24, 2016 –
Sunset January 1, 2017*



Community Interest



Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club (DSRC) 2017 Planning Underway

By Rob Swisher

Our 2016 summer swim and tennis season was fun and sun filled, but now the pool is winterized and awaiting the spring thaw. Despite winter's chill, the DSRC Board is planning for the 2017 season with great enthusiasm and anticipation. Plans are in the making for the Memorial Day Weekend Opening Day Pool Party and other great activities for the coming season.

Some of those activities will include: our swim team which competes in the Montgomery County Swim League (MCSL); our Tennis program featuring our kids' tennis team, men's and ladies nights, weekend warriors, Friday night socials, and skills clinics; and our Full Day and Half Day Kids Camp.

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

DSRC is a nonprofit, member-owned swim and racquet club. The club is located on Spring Meadows Drive about a mile west of the intersection of Seneca Rd. and Darnestown Rd. DSRC draws its membership from families in the greater Darnestown area. Because the club has a limited number of members, the atmosphere is one of friendliness and relaxation. Families can swim in the spacious pool, play tennis on one of six

lighted courts (open year round), or relax with a picnic under the trees. DSRC offers many social and sports activities and programs for children, teens and adults.

We would love to have you join for the 2017 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 gmdsrc@gmail.com , 301-330-1340, or our Membership Director, Bonnie Lane at BonnieLane@yahoo.com, 240-683-8206.

GO DEMONS!



No news from the Darnestown Softball League since we are off season. See you in March with all of our 2017 news and updates!



Community Interest

Sue's Reviews

By Sue Abbondanzo Johnstone



THE BEATLES: EIGHT DAYS A WEEK THE TOURING YEARS

"The Beatles: Eight Days a Week-The Touring Years" is a 137 minute Unrated Music Documentary directed by Ron Howard.

This film tells the story of the Beatles from their inception in 1962 through their final live concert in 1966 in San Francisco. It is comprised of interviews, found footage and insightful stories about the Beatles dating from their earliest club appearances in Liverpool, England, to their subsequent worldwide tours. It ends with their last live performance on the rooftop of their studio in London in 1969. The presentation of the movie is followed by 30 minutes of footage from the Shea Stadium concert, with 56,000 in attendance, in August 1965.

I have been a huge fan of the Beatles since childhood when I first heard "Please Please Me" on my transistor radio in 1963 and saw them in concert at Shea Stadium in 1966. I have followed their music and biographies throughout the years but this movie depicts aspects of their phenomenal story of which I was unaware. "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week- The Touring Years" is one of the best, and my personal favorite, music documentaries of all time. The still photographs, interviews, historic insight and, most of all, musical performances, are outstanding. The movie provides insight not just into their phenomenal musical abilities but also into their camaraderie and quick-witted comedic nature. The development of the close relationship between Paul and John is particularly interesting. The documentary gives justifiable praise to Brian Epstein and Sir George Martin for their management and musical direction.

If you like music, history or rock and roll, you may want to see this movie. You will not be disappointed. I give "The Beatles: Eight Days a Week - The Touring Years" a 10.0 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).

Police Blotter from the Past !!

By Jack Toomey

The Monocacy Monocle



October 25, 1904

Charles Adams of near Rockville appeared before Justice of the Peace Brewer on a charge of shooting a rabbit. Constable Beavers brought the charge, and after Adams was fined \$12 dollars, Beavers received half of the fine as was the custom of the day.

October 31, 1909

A crowd turned out in the center of Olney to watch after a team of horses had raced out of control and upset a carriage that it was pulling. Authorities said the horses shied at the approach of an automobile and then ran into the side of building. Injured were Mr. and Mrs. Mackal and their infant son. Hospitalization was not necessary, and they retired to their home. The carriage had to be carried away in two pieces.

October 23, 1912

Sheriff Howard arrested Peter Robinson on a charge that he shot Richard Mines in the chest. Robinson claimed that Mines came after him with a knife and that he was defending himself. The shooting took place on the farm of Francis Kilgour, five miles west of Rockville [*approximately modern Darnestown*]. Mines was said to be in serious condition at the Emergency Hospital in Washington.

November 3, 1910

Mr. Buchanan of Craigsville, Virginia came to the Washington area looking for his daughter, who was said to have eloped with Otto Lemont. He located the pair in Rockville where they had taken a room. Buchanan swore out warrants against Lemont, charging him with falsely swearing that the girl was of age, that he was not married (he had a wife at home), and bigamy. Lemont was arrested by Sheriff Vieth and held at the Rockville jail while Buchanan returned to Virginia with his daughter.



Meet the Neighbors!

Local Darnestown Hero in People Magazine

Submitted to the Acorn by Janet Swisher

Former Foster Child Devotes His Life to Helping Thousands of Other Kids in Foster Care ... One Backpack at a Time

BY SUSAN KEATING

When Rob Scheer opened his door in 2009 to meet his first-ever foster children, he did not expect to be reminded of an old, painful memory that would propel him into philanthropic action. But the jostled memory was so powerful that it eventually prompted Rob and his husband, Reece, to found a charity that has now helped more than 20,000 foster children.

The Scheers' charity, Comfort Cases, provides foster children with backpacks filled with comforting supplies to carry with them as they traverse what insiders call "the system." The hand-packed bags replace the standard-issue foster child suitcase: A plastic trash bag. That is what little Amaya and Makai, then ages 4 and 2, respectively, had with them when they arrived at the Scheers' rural Maryland front door seven years ago. It also is what jostled Rob's memory of a deeply painful experience.

"The doorbell rang," says Rob, recalling the day a social worker arrived at his house with the two children. "There stood a little girl in braids, carrying a little boy. The girl didn't smile. The boy was almost like a wet noodle. And they were carrying all their belongings in trash bags."

The sight of the bags took Rob's breath away.



"We put our garbage in trash bags," Rob tells PEOPLE. "We discard our trash. Why would you treat a child's meager belongings like trash? A child whose life is crumbling around them? What a horrible thing to do to a child."

Rob should know. He went through the experience himself.

Growing up in Northern Virginia, Rob was the youngest child of a six-time married mother who had 10 children. He wound up in foster care at age 10. He was shunted from place to place, always toting his belongings inside a foster care-issued "suitcase:" a trash bag.

By age 17, Rob had nowhere to live. By day, he was on the streets. At night, he hid in back of a Manassas, Virginia, taco restaurant, whose employees left an outside bathroom door unlocked for him at night.

"I carried everything I owned in a trash bag," Rob says.

Driven to succeed in life, Rob graduated from high school, joined the Navy, and went on to a civilian career in the mortgage industry.

Established and secure, Rob and Reece wanted to help other children who are growing up like Rob did. The two applied to become foster parents.

Aya and Makai arrived soon afterwards, clutching their trash bags.

"I looked at those bags and thought, 30 years later, we are still allowing kids to carry trash bags."

Worse yet, Rob says: "They had nothing but turn and tattered clothes. No baby doll, no toothbrush."

A few months later, babies Greyson and Tristan arrived. They, too, had trash bags.



"I was shocked," Rob says. "This is so unacceptable. It's one thing that they're in foster care. It's another that we are making the choice to give them trash bags."

Rob and Reece decided to compile some supplies to donate to local foster kids. Working diligently to decide what a child would want and need, the two foster parents filled individual backpacks with soap, toothbrushes, a book, a journal, a blanket and more. A key component for each was pajamas with a tag attached, to show that they were new.

"We did 300 cases," Reece says. "Then 500. Then it just grew."

As the Scheers became a forever family – with all the children adopted – the project became a charity, reaching 20,000 Comfort Cases in about three years.

Now, the charity has scores of volunteers, and is a family undertaking.

"We do work stations," says son Greyson, 9, who came into the family as a baby. "One station has a backpack, and you'll get a blanket or a book and put all the things or pens or journals they can color in."

Big sister Amaya, 12, helps the younger kids fill the packs. She also helps make blankets out of fabric. "We sometimes make them by hand, and sometimes by machine," Amaya says.

The packs make a difference in recipients' lives. "When you come to a new home, you know nothing about it," says Miracle Jones, a teenager who currently is in foster care in Maryland. "You have what they decide to give you."

Miracle was given a Comfort Case.

"It felt so good to get it," Miracle tells PEOPLE. "The case was really cute." It contained shampoo, conditioner, dental floss, a blanket, a journal, a stuffed sock monkey and more.

"Everything had a deep meaning," Miracle says. "It's everything that makes you feel so good. A blanket keeps you warm. A journal is there if you want to write down your thoughts."

The items were much appreciated – as was the thought.

"It genuinely does make me feel good," Miracle says. "It feels so good that people are out there doing good in the world."

The Scheers plan to keep up the good work.

The couple is currently raising money for more Comfort Cases via their GoFundMe page, and is pressing forward with more packs. The goal is to eliminate trash bags from foster children's' lives. Says Rob: "It's not just the kids in our area who get trash bags. It's happening in every community. That's got to stop, and it has to stop now."



The Scheer Family

Comfort Cases
provides comfort and support for kids
in foster care, For more information
please visit their website at:

www.nomoretrashbags.org/



Meet the Neighbors!

Maryland Native Ashley Nee Preparing for first Olympics on U.S. Canoe and Kayak Team

By Childs Walker
Contact Reporter - The Baltimore Sun

Ashley Nee was 12 the first time she glimpsed the stretch of heated whitewater that would become her second home.

Her eyes welled with frantic tears.

"It's not for me," she recalled saying. "It's too big."

The 26-year-old University of Maryland student grins as she hefts her kayak and descends toward the bubbling rapids at the NRG Dickerson Whitewater Course, where she painstakingly willed herself to become a world-class slalom racer.

Just three weeks ago, Nee learned she was bound for her first Olympics in Rio de Janeiro. Her career has, at times, seemed as unsettled as the whitewater courses she navigates. But finally, she's staring at the culmination.

The weird thing is it might never have happened if not for this power plant, located a few miles from her family's home in **Darnestown**.

"I grew up right here," she said.

It has to be one of the most unusual training outposts in the American Olympic movement. You pull up to a guardhouse off a nondescript road in the most rural corner of Montgomery County. Clustered inside the gate are several cars with kayaks strapped to the roof, but that's the only hint of the nearby Potomac River.



Then you wind past the towering concrete stacks and the industrial rail line that help the NRG Energy plant generate power for 665,000 homes. And all of a sudden, there it is — a channel of white-capped rapids racing past carefully placed boulders and painted slalom gates.

This stretch exists because the coal-fired Dickerson Generating Station draws water from the Potomac to cool its generators, then discharges the heated water back toward the main river.

A group of elite paddlers first approached Pepco, which owned the plant at the time, during the run-up to the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona. The whitewater events were to be held on a man-made course in Spain, and these forward-thinking athletes suggested that, just maybe, the warm-water outflow channel from the plant would make for a perfect training ground.

Pepco officials agreed to the plan, and the nation had its first artificial whitewater slalom course.

"Twenty-five years later, it's still hard for me to wrap my brain around the fact we built a whitewater course in a power plant," said Dana Chladek, one of several Olympic medalists who've trained at Dickerson.

Almost every U.S. slalom racer of note has used the course, including the four who will go to Rio in August. They all say how fortunate they are that Pepco and subsequently NRG Energy have offered a place to simulate the rigors of Olympic competition at essentially no cost to the athletes.

"I don't think they realize how critical this is for us," said Adam Van Grack, a Bethesda attorney and chairman of USA Canoe/Kayak. "With no government funds, we are inherently dependent on the private sector."

Nee is at the course with two of her teammates — medal contender Michal Smolen of Charlotte, N.C., and three-time Olympian Casey Eichfeld of Drums, Pa. On Saturday, they'll depart for Europe to



compete in a pair of World Cup races and continue their preparations for Rio.

But before they go, they give onlookers a demonstration of the power and precision required to pivot a kayak or canoe around dainty poles in the midst of raging whitewater.

These racers must train every part of themselves. They use upper-body strength to anchor their vessels and lower-body torque to steer against the fierce current as they power through races that last about 90 seconds. They almost meld with their boats.

"I like to think of us as aquatic centaurs," said a grinning Eichfeld, who like Nee, grew up on the Dickerson course.

As is the case for so many Olympic sports, whitewater slalom is an anonymous and often solitary pursuit. Many a frigid winter morning, Nee has driven to the Dickerson course with only her coach, Silvan Poberaj, as company. The fog rises from the warm torrent as she loses herself in the waves.

She paddled the course through years of setbacks and near misses as she drew ever closer to her Olympic dream.

"She was more persistent than most of her competitors," Poberaj says. "Even if the success was not visible early."

Nee fell into the sport almost by accident after a buddy urged her to squeeze into a kayak at nearby Valley Mill Camp. Her interest was tepid, but she rolled her vessel fairly naturally. And in a few years, she found her way into the community of high-end paddlers that had developed around Washington.

Nee trained at the Dickerson course and on the Great Falls stretch of the Potomac, about 15 miles upstream of Washington.

But injuries kept her from an honest shot at the 2008 Olympics. And she moved to Hawaii in the

months that followed, believing she was ready to give up her paddle. Nee's future wife, Ashley McEwan, nudged her back.

"You know you love it," McEwan told her.

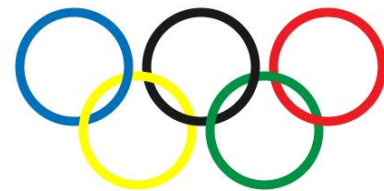
"No, I don't," Nee insisted.

But she did, enough to move back from Hawaii in the dead of a brutal Maryland winter and to keep soldiering on after she narrowly missed the 2012 Olympics.

She was training in Rio last month when a coach told her, nonchalantly, that she would be the lone woman on the 2016 U.S. slalom team. On a day crammed with two sessions at the Olympic whitewater course and another gym workout, she didn't have much time to celebrate. A steak dinner had to suffice.

"There really hasn't been that moment of, 'I made it!'" she said. "Because I went right back into training."

And off she goes, back to the waters that terrified her once upon a time.



Summer Camp Fun Turned into Olympic Dream for Darnestown Native

Source: www.baltimoresun.com/sports/olympics/bs-sp-olympics-whitewater-potomac-0604-20160603-story.html

Meet the Neighbors!

By Lisa Patterson-Troike

The Blair Witch Project, released in 1999, is a psychological horror film written, directed, and edited by local filmmakers Daniel Myrick and Eduardo Sánchez. The film tells the fictional story of three student-filmmakers hiking in the Black Hills near Burkittsville, Maryland in 1994 to film a documentary about a local legend known as the “Blair Witch”. The legend describes the disappearances and killings of some of the residents of Blair, Maryland (a fictitious town on the site of modern Burkittsville), most of whom were children, from the 18th through 20th centuries. Residents blamed these occurrences on the “Blair Witch”, the ghost of Elly Kedward, who was a Blair resident accused of practicing witchcraft in 1785 and sentenced to death. In the film, the three student filmmakers disappeared, but their video and sound equipment, along with most of the footage they shot, was discovered a year later, neatly placed along the roadside of Rt. 340 West. This “recovered footage” is the film the viewer is watching.

The film received tremendous and unexpected acclaim from critics. It became a resounding box office success – grossing over \$248 million worldwide, making it one of the most successful independent films of all time.

Local Darnestown residents **Sue and Ingrid Gooch** had a small but, as it turned out, surprisingly popular role in the movie! They appear several times in the beginning of the film as local residents who are interviewed by the student-filmmakers. Recently, Sue and Ingrid were contacted by author Matt Blazi regarding a book project on the film! In his correspondence, Matt wrote:

Hi Sue. My name is Matt Blazi. The reason I am reaching out to you is because I am working on a book about the making of the Blair Witch Project. The purpose of the book is to tell the story of how the film was thought up, how they shot it, and everything in between. I am attempting to reach out to everyone who was interviewed during the film.



Your interview with your daughter is an extremely popular topic amongst fans, and people really want to know about your thoughts at the time you were interviewed and even afterwards. Your scene is always one of the most talked about among fans. I am working in conjunction with the creators of the film, Haxan Films, to make this the most complete and authorized telling of the Blair Witch film itself. I would like to interview you and hear your thoughts along with your daughter's if that would be possible at some point in the near future.

Sue and Ingrid met with Matt in Emmitsburg, MD on November 11th to be interviewed for his book, *A Scouted Out Project: The Making of the Blair Witch Project*, which is due for publication in about a year. Stay tuned for additional information on the book's release and other projects associated with the book!

In the meantime, for a short snippet from one of Sue and Ingrid's scenes in the film, check out this link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_gVMZY0vzE&feature=youtu.be



Sue and Ingrid recreating one of their most famous scenes (above), and with author Matt Blazi (below)

Homesteading Corner!

Preparing Your Chickens for Winter

With a few easy steps, keeping your chickens healthy during the winter can be accomplished and may even reward you with egg-production year-round. When preparing your chickens for cold weather, some areas to consider include lighting, heating, proper air flow in their coop, water and feedings.

Obviously, the best time to prepare for winter is during the late summer or fall, as winter can be a very miserable time for your birds. Of course, some breeds are hardier than others, but, typically, all birds will need some extra protection as those chilly months draw in.

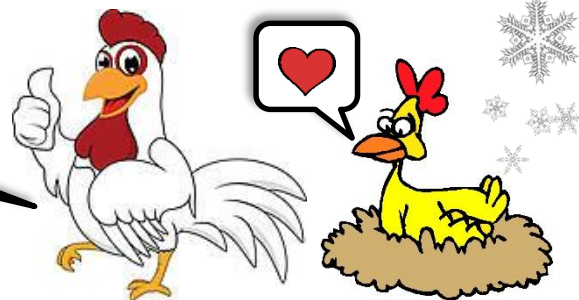
Egg production will halt as hens go through their annual molt in the early fall. Once they have completed the molt, the shortened daylight hours of fall and winter tend to slow egg-laying. Once the birds are finished molting, to stimulate eggs laying you can extend the daylight hours artificially with a lightbulb turned on in the coop. The hens require no more than 10 hours of light per day to do so and a timer on the light will ensure that the birds are not overstimulated by the added light in the coop.

Light intensity should also be considered. As a general guideline, a 40-watt bulb with a reflector located seven feet above the floor will provide adequate light for an area of 200 square feet. Multiple lights should be used to assure even distribution throughout the building. Incandescent lights are generally best. Also, assure that light fixtures are properly installed and maintained to avoid a fire hazard.

When temperatures plummet in the dead of winter, people commonly make the mistake of insulating the coop to a point that limits air circulation. This causes humidity to build up, which can lead to frostbite. It can also cause a buildup of ammonia gas from their droppings, subsequently damaging the chickens' lungs.

Even though you will want to avoid drafts from passing through the coops in the winter, you will need to allow for enough air flow to provide your chickens with

Thank you for
keeping us
WARM!



enough fresh air. Ventilation is very important for your chicken's health. The over-hang of your chicken coop where the walls meet the roof is a great place to place a screened window to increase ventilation and light as well. Windows can all be screened so that the coop can be vented during the day but during the night the windows can be closed to keep the heat in.

Any time you are altering your coop, it is wise to ensure that the roof and floor are still waterproof, because one of the keys to staying warm is to stay dry. Keep in mind that bedding needs to be deep and changed often. Wet living conditions for chickens can bring upon disease and death within a few days.

Another idea is to have a closed in pen attached to the hen house, which will allow the birds to have a dry area to scratch about during the day.

Chickens do pretty well huddling together to keep warm, but if your birds are particularly susceptible to the cold or if you have extremely chilly winters, you may like to spoil your flock with the addition of heater or a heat-producing bulb in the chicken coop. You may feel that this is an extravagance, but it is a technique used by many chicken owners. Coop temperature only needs to be slightly above freezing to keep chickens comfortable and to prevent frostbite. Overly warm coops interfere with the birds' ability to tolerate cold temperatures in the winter so this should be avoided at all costs.

You also want to make sure they have plenty of non-frozen water. Change water often, and break through the ice layer, if you notice one forming. Or for added convenience, purchase a heated bucket, available in the horse or livestock department of your local TSC store. Not only are they much easier to refill and clean, they are effective to a colder temperature.



School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary



By Sandy Pearce

Tis the season to be jolly Darnestown! Time to break out the winter gear, cozy fires, and hot chocolate. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and continues to give thanks for our charming and giving community of students, teachers and parents. We had a lot going on this autumn season.

DES Teachers kicked off the school year with a flash mob at the first town meeting to "Try Everything" by Shakira with hopes that students will try new things, take more risks and not be afraid to fail.

Who doesn't love a Halloween party at Darnestown Elementary? Superheroes, Zombies and Monsters oh my! Both teachers and students dressed as their favorite characters and strutted around the courtyard. Treats and an eerie good time were had afterwards in all the classrooms.

Our seventh annual Read-A-Thon fundraiser was another big success, raising nearly \$16,000! Structured a bit differently this year, students were encouraged to read a total of 7 days and enter their medals using the DES PTA READ-A-THON app. Based on the number of minutes read each day, students were given a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal, earning an extra Gold medal for attending reading night at DES. Gift cards to Sky Zone, the Movie Theater, Zava Zone, Bowling and a Game Truck Party were some of the top fundraising prizes this year. There were also reading prizes per classroom, such as breakfast and lunch or laser tag with one of our fabulous teachers. A big thank you to all that donated and to our kids who put in the time and effort to read each day!

Another exciting fundraiser, the DES Annual Book Fair was held in November. Books, games,



activities and knick-knacks were available for purchase. I personally used this as an opportunity to stock up on holiday gifts for my family and friends. Darnestown loves to read!

Our after school Mustang Clubs included Arts & Crafts, Legos, Reading and Games. These clubs wouldn't be possible without the generous help of teacher and parent volunteers. We also have PTA-Sponsored Group Piano, which is a big hit with students. Students were able to go on some exciting Field Trips this fall, such as the Adventure Theatre, MoCo Agricultural Center and Strathmore Music Center.

Thanks to those who supported the annual Thanksgiving Drive and please continue to support the Dwelling Place, a local shelter for women in need. Food and gift donations are always welcome.

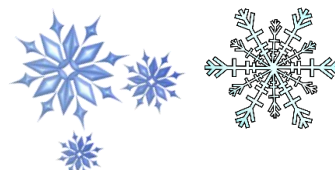


Upcoming Events:

December 1	5 th Grade Only Colonial Day Set-Up
December 2	5 th Grade Only Colonial Day
December 16	Muffins for Mustangs
December 26 -	
January 2	Winter Break
January 16	Martin Luther King Holiday - No School
January 20	Inauguration Day - No School
January 27	Professional Day – No School
February 3	Bingo Night & Staff Raffle
February 7	PTA Meeting
February 20	Presidents' Day - No School
February 27	Science Expo Set-Up
February 28	Science Expo



Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!



Butler School

By Lisa Daly



Butler Montessori Receives Award of Excellence for Conservation Landscape

Butler Montessori has received an Award of Excellence for its Conservation Landscape from Montgomery County Departments of Environmental and Transportation as part of the County's 30th Annual Landscape Beautification Awards Competition. This spring, Butler Montessori installed "conservation landscaping" between its main school building and the new Art Center to minimize the negative effects of stormwater runoff to the Great Seneca Creek watershed. Stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces damages the environment by causing erosion and bringing pollutants to local streams and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. Butler's Conservation Landscape, designed by alumni parent David Therriault of Alden Farms, incorporates boulders, rocks, check dams, and native plants and trees in a natural setting to slow and filter runoff. The landscape benefits the environment by improving water quality, preserving native species, and providing wildlife habitat.



Butler Montessori was also awarded a \$10,000 rebate for its Conservation Landscape from Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection as part of its Rainscapes Rebate program.

Care for the environment is a major tenet of Montessori pedagogy that is manifested in many ways in Butler Montessori's environment and curriculum. The award-winning conservation landscape sets a beautiful example of environmental stewardship for its students

and community, particularly as it relates to protecting the Great Seneca Creek watershed. Further, it complements and enhances the ongoing efforts on campus and in the curriculum aimed at creating a real understanding of the natural environment around us and the impact of humans on that environment.



Butler Montessori is an AMI (Association Montessori International) accredited school for children ages 18 months through 8th grade, situated on a beautiful 22 acre rural campus in Darnestown, MD.

Butler Montessori supports the development of the whole child through academics, music, arts, and physical education including our unique equestrian program. Butler Montessori 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 call 301-977-6600, visit www.butlerschool.org, or enjoy our beautiful campus at 15951 Germantown Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874.



Lakelands Park Middle School



By Janet Swisher

Support the Lakelands Park Middle School Barnes & Noble Book Fair held on Saturday, December 17th at the Washingtonian Center Gaithersburg. The book fair will be held from 9AM to 11PM. However you can shop on-line too; for a whole week from December 17th thru 21st. Make sure you say you are shopping for Lakelands Park Middle School – code TBD, either on-line or in the store. Please check our website for the LPMS Code:

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

Upcoming Events:



- December 6 Jazz Orchestra Concert - 7:00 PM
- December 8 Winter Band Concert – 7:00 PM
- December 17 FUNDRAISER: Barnes & Noble Book Fair – 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM
- December 23 Staff & Student Basketball Jamboree (10:00 AM – 2:00 PM)
- January 12 PTSA General Meeting/529 College Plan Guest Speaker – 7:00 PM
- January 24 In-Coming 6th Grader Parent's Meeting

Mary of Nazareth



By Sara Jamison

Students Organize 'Help Haiti' Fundraiser to Aid Hurricane Relief Efforts

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is living out its mission to serve God and neighbor through a student-led 'Help Haiti' campaign. The campaign, spearheaded by eighth grade student, Stevie Orsini, aims to support Haitian relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. Orsini and his peers, with the help of school administrators, mobilized to designate Wednesday, October 19 as an "out-of-uniform day" for all students making donations to the 'Help Haiti' campaign. The suggested donation amount was set at \$2.00 for each child, with all participants encouraged to donate at least \$1.00 of their own money. Adding creativity to social concern, students designed a plan to use their "out-of-uniform" privileges to recreate the Haitian flag as a

display of solidarity. Students in prekindergarten and 1st grades wore white shirts, kindergarten through 4th grades wore red shirts, and 5th through 8th grades wore blue shirts. The entire student body assembled on Wednesday morning outside of the school's athletic building, the Katie Fitzgerald Center, and created a living image of the Haitian flag. Student participation reached every classroom, raising \$2,600 in total. Funds will be used to benefit the Haitian mission churches of two of the school's sponsoring parishes: St. Joseph of Carcasse (mission church of St. Mary's Parish and Shrine, Barnesville) and Our Lady of the Visitation Gonaives (mission church of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Darnestown). Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase book bags and school supplies for ten Haitian children at Christmas through Life Connection Mission, an organization dedicated to bringing hope and opportunities to Haitian children and adults.

The positive impact of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's 'Help Haiti' campaign was felt immediately, as members of school and parish communities expressed their gratitude for the initiative. Parents of first grade student, Abygail Thomas, express their appreciation in a letter to Principal, Michael Friel, "On behalf of our fellow Haitian citizens we would like to convey our deepest gratitude to the community of Mary of Nazareth for this whole-hearted initiative ... we are deeply moved by your attention, and will treasure it forever in our heart." President of Life Connection Mission, Christie Anne Short, says of the student-organized campaign, "Every donation is a valuable one ... For those in our community it means that someone cares for them, and I look forward to sharing your students' love with our friends in Haiti."

Community outreach and service projects, such as the 'Help Haiti' campaign, are an integral part of student life at Mary of Nazareth Catholic School, as emphasis is placed on educating the whole child. The school curriculum is designed to facilitate the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical growth of each student. Many of the school's service projects are sponsored by Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Committee, which aims to provide opportunities for students to fulfill their responsibility to those in need. Mary of Nazareth is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, serving upper-Montgomery County families with children in prekindergarten through eighth grades. The seven sponsoring parishes of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School include Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, St.

Mary's Parish and Shrine, St. Paul Catholic Church, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Mother Seton Catholic Church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, and Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church. For more information about the school or its service efforts, please visit www.maryofnazareth.org.

Kylie Ly, Mother Seton Parish, Grade 8

For the past two years, beginning at the young age of 11, current eighth grade student, Kylie Ly, has been volunteering at Sunrise Senior Living in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Kylie holds a musical show every second Saturday of the month for two hours, sharing her God-given talents with the elderly by singing and playing the piano.

Kylie shares of her experience, "The elderly expressed to me how grateful and appreciative they are that, at such young age, I am able to deliver classic songs that bring back memories. I did not realize that my passion for playing piano and singing can bring so much joy to people, especially the elderly. I have learned that spending even a small amount of time listening to the elderly sharing their life experiences gives them much happiness, which I can see in their eyes!"

Kylie states that her service work has led her to a full understanding of the meaning behind commitment and dedication. In order to prepare for and deliver a good show, she spends no less than ten hours a week practicing and preparing her programs, script, choice of songs, and piano pieces. Kylie is especially thankful to God for this opportunity, which she says, "gives her a different perspective in life, which strengthens my relationship with my family, especially with my grandparents."

Hackett Rascher, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Grade 8

Eighth grade student, Hackett Rascher spent every Wednesday and Friday this past June and July working as a summer volunteer at the Montgomery County Public Library in Potomac. Hackett completed approximately 40 hours of service helping young library patrons sign up for summer reading and track their progress, assisting with summer reading events, helping patrons put books on hold or find books, cataloging the children's library, and sorting through the many donated books that are given to our libraries. Hackett made a difference by giving the library staff the extra help they need and serving the community. He enjoyed interacting with the many different people that come to

our libraries. According to Hackett, one of the highlights of his service experience was, "hearing the types of questions people ask when they need help and the range of interests people have." Hackett learned that his education at Mary of Nazareth really pays off when a patron was looking for a book about the current Prime Minister of Canada but didn't know his name. Hackett recalled Justin Trudeau from Social Studies class!

Parents Tell All: What Our Families Want You to Know About Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

Collective experiences shared among the Mary of Nazareth Catholic School community are what make ours an outstanding environment for children to learn and grow. Here's what our families want you to know about our school: "When choosing a school for our children we knew we wanted a faculty that cared about the wellbeing of our children not just academically but emotionally, physically and faithfully. The faculty at every level has prepared our children to be members of their community and to use all of their God-given talents to the fullest. Thank you Mary of Nazareth."

~The Shea Family, Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

"As parents, we work very hard to raise our children with Catholic morals and values. Mary of Nazareth has been a wonderful support system, both reaffirming and building upon our teachings. Our oldest daughter was a rising 5th grader when our family moved from California to Maryland. The Mary of Nazareth community opened their arms and hearts and welcomed her in immediately. Upon graduating this year, she was left with amazing friends, an excellent academic foundation, and a solid appreciation and love for her Catholic faith."

~The Rohde Family, Our Lady of the Presentation Parish

"We feel strongly about the importance of faith as part of our daily lives, and Mary of Nazareth reinforces the spiritual foundation we desire for our children. It is wonderful to hear our daughters speak freely about religion with their friends, and to emphasize the importance of prayer for them. We also love the rigor of the academic programs offered and we know that MoN provides the best education for our children."

~The Preciado Family, Mother Seton Parish



"Enrolling our children at Mary of Nazareth was a great decision which has allowed our children to thrive at school, while strengthening their faith. In addition to continuing to grow academically, they have developed great friendships and have had opportunities to participate in a range of activities, including soccer, basketball, horseback riding, and girl scouts. All of this while learning how to live lives of service in a community of shared values."

~The Weyer Family, St. Paul Parish

"Our family is so thankful for Mary of Nazareth and its role in our daughter's life. Having just finished Kindergarten, she has been accepted for who she is and feels like a valued member of the Mary of Nazareth community as a whole. She is surrounded by teachers who excel at teaching academically but also lead by example - being kind, respectful, and always trying their best. The Mary of Nazareth students and families have been so welcoming and helpful to us as a new family at the school. We are confident that the lessons she learns in the coming years at Mary of Nazareth will help her be a good student and a compassionate person. It is a special place full of special people."

~The Cruz Family, St. Rose of Lima Parish

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap



Georgetown Hill Early School has been tending to Montgomery County's preschoolers since its founding by Ellen Cromwell in 1980. Mrs. Cromwell was a pioneer in early childhood education, who created her own play-based curriculum, called Playing, Learning, Arts, and Nurturing, or P.L.A.N. Our curriculum includes literacy, music and movement, sensory and tactile experiences, science and math skills as well as focusing on social and emotional growth. Children who graduate from the P.L.A.N. curriculum go on to kindergarten with the confidence, self-awareness and skills they need to thrive. Many of our experienced teachers at our school started out as parents of a student who attended our preschool. We feel that the parents and families of our school are an important part of the learning environment at Georgetown Hill.

There are many family events such as Monster Bash at Halloween time, Holiday Pot Luck Breakfast and Play put on by our Pre-K and Trans K classes, Family Movie Night, and our super-fun Spring Carnival. We are also involved in many community events such as Poolesville Day, Kentlands Day, Red Nose Day, as well as donating much needed supplies to several different local charities each year. We also offer in-house enrichment programs for all of our students each month, introducing our students to different cultures, animals, music and much more! We strive to ensure that every child who enters our doors feels loved and cared for each and every day.

Our campus opened its doors in 2000 and we have been celebrating children and Darnestown families ever since. Our programs include two's, three's, Pre-Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classes. We also offer a wonderful summer camp program and a Before and After Care program offered to Darnestown Elementary students.

The Georgetown Hill Darnestown campus is located at the corner of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Road, next to Darnestown Elementary. We share space with the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. For more information or to schedule a tour of our wonderful school, please contact Kristen Raymond, Campus Director, at 301-527-1761 or at darnestown@georgetownhill.com



Pajama Day at Georgetown Hill

Church News!



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Visitors are never strangers!

A hallmark of Darnestown Presbyterian has always been our enthusiastic welcome of visitors to our church. We love our church, and there is always a special joy when we can share what it offers with newcomers. All first-time visitors receive a loaf of home baked bread as a welcome gift, and we would love to hand out many such loaves in the coming weeks! There are no strangers to God, and thus no strangers in our church.

Advent and Christmas Eve Services

Our love of God and the joy of our faith shine especially brightly during Advent, culminating in three separate services on Christmas Eve. Our first Christmas Eve service at 5 PM is strongly geared towards children, designed to bring the wonder and joy of this special season to the youngest among us. We follow with more traditional adult services at 8 and 10 PM, featuring wonderful Christmas music by both our Chancel and Bell choirs. Of course, one of the highlights of these services is our candle lighting ceremony, symbolically passing the light of the world from one to another in our historic sanctuary. Please come share the experience with us!

Join our Music Ministry!

One of the things visitors to our church consistently praise is our Music Ministry, through which we give musical voice to our faith. Our Chancel Choir performs at most 11 AM services, alternating with our Bell Choir. We also have special music at our 8:45 AM services, and all services feature the superb piano skills of our Music Director, Eric Waggoner. It is important to note that our choirs welcome everyone who wishes to participate. Practices take place on Wednesday evenings from fall through spring, with Bell Choir practice starting at 6:30 PM and Chancel Choir practice following at 7:30 PM. Feel free to stop by any Wednesday night- no advance notice is needed!



Rev. Dave McNeilly

Contact Information:

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

[www.darnestownpc.org/
dpchurch@comcast.net](http://www.darnestownpc.org/dpchurch@comcast.net)



Rev. Tamara Leonard Lara

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

We are a young and growing congregation serving the Darnestown-Germantown-North Potomac area. We are a warm and welcoming, *come-as-you-are* and *be-who-you-are* kind of congregation, grounded in Scripture and centered in life. Regardless of where you are on your personal journey of faith, you are welcome among us.

Contact Information

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



Rev. Ken Howard

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Liturgy Schedule

- ❖ Saturday 5:00 PM
- ❖ Sunday 9:00 AM
- ❖ Sunday 11:00 AM
- ❖ Weekdays at 9:15 AM in the Thomas More Chapel, Parish Barn

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 4:00 pm or by appointment

Contact Information

14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-948-5536 www.olvp.org
parishoffice@olvp.org

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, 2017
for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Mormon Children Sing for Methodist Church

Children of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Kentlands made a special visit to the members of the Fairhaven United Methodist Church in Darnestown. On November 13th the Latter-day Saint Children's Choir performed "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus," "The Miracle," and "Search, Ponder, and Pray" for Fairhaven's Sunday worship services. Thirty-five children ages 8-11 eagerly sang for a fellow Christian faith. Latter-day Saint Children's Choir director, Mimi Chipman of Darnestown, said, "I chose the music because each of these songs speaks to our common Christian beliefs that Jesus Christ is our Savior, and we can learn of Him through scripture study and sincere prayer. Each year the primary children of our church, ages 3-11, all over the world, focus on the same theme. This year our theme has been '*I Know the Scriptures Are True.*' Their weekly Sunday instruction includes songs that reinforce that theme." Fairhaven Rev. Esther Holimon and her congregation graciously welcomed the visiting children's choir. When the children finished, the congregation responded with a standing ovation. Later in the services, a member of the congregation expressed joyful thanks for the "angelic voices," and Pastor Holimon prayed and blessed the children.



Sunday Worship Opportunities:

- ❖ 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School and Middle & High School Sunday School
- ❖ 10:30 AM Worship Service
- ❖ 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School
- ❖ 11:30 AM Coffee Hour
- ❖ 12:30 PM Young Adults (every other week)
- ❖ 6:00 PM Youth Group

Contact Information

12801 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433
www.fairhavenumc.net
Email: fairhavenumc@gmail.com



Rev. Esther Holimon



Service Providers



Thank you to everyone who continues to email 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

Cailynn Adelman	age 15	301-537-1160
Katie Apgar	age 10	240-899-7118
Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Katelyn Harral	age 16	301-325-5973
Billy Harral	age 16	301-325-5973
Chase Hayes	age 15	240-454-2383
Katherine Jones	age 15	240-893-2989
Michael Long	age 15	301-569-6367
Geri McCarthy	Adult	301-467-5976
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
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

CHICKEN SITTER

Fiona O'Connell	age 12	240-477-6346
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NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Tina Kalil	301-943-9840

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Briana Boothe	age 17	301-775-2887
Katelyn Harral	age 16	301-325-5973
Billy Harral	age 16	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
Elizabeth Phillips	Adult	301-802-7402
Trish Poulos	Adult	301-208-1007
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, 2017

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:

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. Michelle Parker, 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-Troiike, 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, Inc.
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org
Website: www.darnestowncivic.org



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