



THE LITTLE ACORN

Est. 1965

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 54, Number 1
 March 2017

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

Notes from the President
By Lisa Patterson-Troike



What is that new building?

In 2009, Pepco purchased the 2.65 acre plot of land on the corner of Darnestown and Riffleford Roads for 2.75 million. It was Darnestown resident Marsha Crowley who happened upon the transaction in the tax records. Art Slesinger and the DCA began immediately reaching out to Pepco about the future of the property. The DCA learned that Pepco needed to reduce the load on electrical feeders that were at their breaking point. The new Crown development, among others, were stressing the system and Pepco informed us they were going to build a new substation. I immediately thought of the ugly electrical zone on Rt.118 and was terrified the property would be similar in appearance. The DCA and neighbors met with Pepco to work together on design, appearance, safety, trees/plantings and more. The substation will look like an office building and have underground electrical lines. It will be fully automated, the smartest and greenest of its kind, and help provide more reliable electric service to Darnestown and other areas.

....continued on page 3

Spring Social May 30th

See page 4
 for details and RSVP

Next DCA Town Meeting

March 16th | 7:30 PM

**Darnestown Presbyterian
 Church**

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this Issue

Notes from the President.....	1
DCA Board.....	2
Spring Social Flyer.....	4
Community Interest	5
A Tribute to Richard Kimzey	7
Sue's Reviews	8
Homesteading Corner.....	13
School News & Events.....	14
Church News.....	21
Service Providers.....	22
Darnestown Directory.....	23





The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

The Little Acorn

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Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



Spring Social

The annual DCA Spring Social is set for May 30th with Smokey Glen Farm (SGF) located on Riffleford Road here in Darnestown! This event is fun for all ages. SGF's chicken is BBQ'ed on outdoor grills and complemented with tossed salad, baked beans, pasta salad, green beans, rolls, and their famous smoked apple, cherry and blueberry pies. Soda, water, beer, and wine included. There is a playground, miniature golf, tether ball, walking trails, and more for those who want to enjoy a little exercise on the farm. We hope to recruit Billy Harrington, if his schedule permits, to provide our entertainment once again! **Please note that DCA members now get discounted tickets to our Spring Social and Hoedown events! Please visit darnestowncivic.org to RSVP!**

Tree Lighting

The annual DCA Tree Lighting ceremony was a success! The reindeer must have been resting because Santa and his elf arrived in a bright red corvette! Cookies and hot cocoa kept the crowd warm and contented while everyone gathered to watch Santa magically turn the lights on our tree. At first, only half the lights came on, and then after some adjustments, they all came on. Never a dull moment at DCA's social events. The event took place in our Heritage Park located next to Harris Teeter.



If you haven't already done so, take the time to walk through the park and learn about our history. There are placards and sculptures celebrating our past and the important people in it. Visit www.darnestowncivic.org to see more photos of the event!



For your Daily
Dose of Darnestown



www.facebook.com/DarnestownOurHomeTown



Spring Social



**A Darnestown Community
Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception**



at Smokey Glen Farm

16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD

6:00 – 8:00 pm Tuesday, May 30, 2017

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



RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 20th!

TO RSVP PLEASE VISIT

WWW.DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG

Please list full names of those attending.

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

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

Community Interest



In 2017: Memberships Available, Reduced Membership Fees and **Camp Green Zone**

By Aleks Schiff

DSRC will be opening Memorial Day weekend, and we have more to offer to our members than ever before! Starting in the spring we will have tennis camps, social events and we will be gearing up for an exciting summer.

Once summer arrives, DSRC offers something for everyone in your family including: a quiet, family friendly pool environment, swim team, swim lessons (group and private), tennis team, tennis lessons, tennis adult social events, Camp Green Zone, social events for all ages, and much more!

In 2017, DSRC will be more affordable than ever and we have space for your family. Please contact GM, Dave Hardy, at gm@dsrclub.com for more information on our membership and everything we have to offer this upcoming season.

This month we would like to highlight our AMAZING summer camp, **Camp Green Zone**! Learn about all our camp has to offer for children of all ages. **EARLY BIRD Registration offers 10% Off with Deposit by March 1, 2017.**

Now in its third year of operation, Camp Green Zone is offered to all pool members' kids, ages 4-11, who love the outdoors, and will delight their parents who want them to enjoy learning about, and being, outdoors. Camp Green Zone is overseen by our Camp Director, Rosemary DeRose, a local resident and camp professional, who will ensure that your children have a new adventure and story to share at home each and every day.

GO DEMONS!



During camp, which runs Monday through Friday from 9:00am-3:30pm, your child will benefit from our 16 acres of lush, wooded property, offering a weekly environmental theme along with regular day camp activities, such as water play, arts and crafts, games, tennis and swimming. Themes include insect decomposers, pollinators, clean stream, and other nature inspired themes. Camp Green Zone is directed by a naturalist and educator with many years of camp and education experience, so you can rest assured that your children will be in good hands. Our Camp Director will be working alongside well-trained high school and college aged counselors, and your child will benefit from the attention afforded by a hands-on experience in a close-knit community environment. Pool activity is supervised by certified lifeguards as well as our counselors, and each camper will undergo a swim test on their first day of camp. Individual swim and tennis lessons are available at an additional charge and are to be arranged through DSRC staff. Aftercare can also be arranged by camp staff. Please contact our Camp Director, Rosemary, at camp@dsrclub.com for more information or for registration forms, or download the forms from our website at www.dsrclub.com/dsrc-summer-camp.



Stay in the know about the Club!

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

Website: www.dsrclub.com

Facebook: @DarnestownSwimRacquetClub

Twitter: @DSRCLUB

General Manager: Dave Hardy, gm@dsrclub.com
15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD 20874
301.330.9616

Community Interest



DCA's 28th Softball Season!

by: Dave Bivans, Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville

Get into the fun and action come mid/late-April as Darnestown kicks off the start of another season of adult co-ed softball. We will again be fielding four neighborhood-based teams, each of which could use some roster bolstering. Last season's champions, the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ), will strive to hold off the always competitive and fast charging Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) team. ARMQ's besting of BHR in head-to-head competition dashed BHR's hopes as repeat League champions last year by the slimmest of margins. Meanwhile, Western Darnestown is anxious to return to the top of the standings (2014 champions), while Seneca-Highlands-Berryville strives to regain perennial spoiler status with the fantasy league pools.

We'll all be looking forward to greater cooperation from the weather for a full 12-game season, keeping in the record books last year's five weekends of weather interruptions. Games are played at Darnestown's local Cliff Bland Park Sunday afternoons/evenings, except holiday weekends, through July/early August.

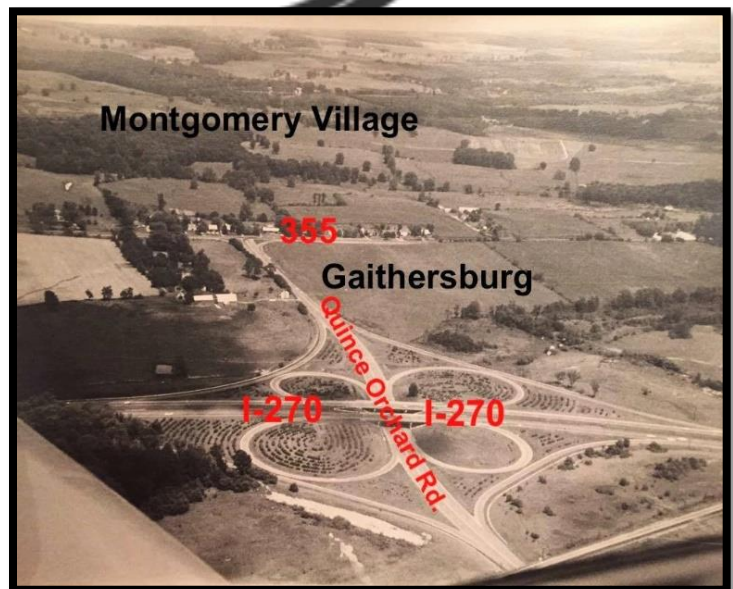
Please give me a call (301-977-4734) or shoot me an e-mail (dnlbivans34@verizon.net) if you are interested in signing on or need additional information. Aside from the minimum age requirement, all are welcome no matter playing ability; just bring your appetite for some friendly neighborhood fun.



A Blast from the Past! Circa 1964

Photos found by Curt McCormick from
www.facebook.com/groups/MontgomeryCountyMD/

Do you remember when...



Community Interest

Darnestown Friend and Neighbor Richard Kimzey Passed Away 2016

Richard Pearson Kimzey of Darnestown, Maryland died on November 2, 2016 at the young age of 68 after suffering a heart attack at home. Richard was born December 16, 1947 to the late Lucile Geneva Pearson (Laurel, Mississippi) and Charles Hubert Kimzey, Sr. (Athens, Georgia) at Arlington Hospital. He is survived by his older brother Charles, younger brother Thomas, partner Ingrid Fraley, and numerous extended family members.

Richard spent his early years in Annandale, Virginia, attending Annandale High School and later moving to Richmond, Virginia to study business at Virginia Commonwealth University. Always looking for opportunities to fund his studies in not so conventional ways, Richard dabbled in the music industry as chair of the university's Concert and Dance Committee, negotiating performances with such early luminaries as Kenny Rogers, The Jackson 5 and The Chambers Brothers. Richard was also well known for his keen eye and accurate cue at the local pool hall.

Following his graduation in 1970, he taught at Jefferson High School in Fairfax County before finding his true passion in real estate development. Richard embraced opportunities in the commercial real estate market and honed his expertise in banking, finance and leasing. In the 1980's and 1990's he was affiliated with Standard Federal Savings and Loan, Long and Foster, and Potomac Investment Associates, and was involved in a variety of commercial developments from Gaithersburg to Alexandria. Later in life, Richard founded his own company and was Managing Partner of Greathouse Mortgage Finance.

Richard was a lover of classic cars and travel, including fond memories of playing the blackjack tables of the world. Weekends were often spent on the golf course, watching Mecum's auto auctions, perusing classic car shows, or antique furniture auctions. Since 1989, he and Ingrid, along with many assorted canines, felines, deer, fox and birds have resided on Berryville Road in Darnestown, Maryland. In later years, he reduced his business involvement, leading to afternoons of

neighborhood discussion and political debate as the unofficial leader of the "Berryvillians". In 1998, the week before Halloween was unusually cold, blustery and rainy. Unexpectedly, Richard and Ingrid hosted the lost trio from the Blair Witch Project who had become separated from their ground crew while filming in Seneca State Park. Heather, Josh, and Mike appeared on their porch, freezing and soaking wet, asking to use the phone. As they were invited in, Richard remarked, "This is going to be just fine or it will be a really bad idea".

Indeed, going elegantly "against the grain" was an important characteristic of Richard's Southern Gentleman charm. We are sure that this spirit and his dry wit will be remembered by all of those who knew him, and most certainly accompanied with a vision of Richard behind the wheel of a classic Mustang, a glass of iced Grey Goose in one hand and the ever present Marlboro in the other.

We honor a life well lived. You were loved by many and will always be in our hearts.

~Ingrid Fraley, Sharon & Joe Scopin, and Ruth & Steve Chesler (The Berryvillians)



Richard Pearson Kimzey

Community Interest

Sue's Reviews

By Sue Abbondanzo Johnstone

LION



"Lion" is a 120 minute PG-13 Rated Biographical Drama directed by Garth Davis starring Dev Patel (Saroo Brierley), Rooney Mara (Lucy), Sunny Pawar (Young Saroo), Nicole Kidman (Sue Brierley) and David Wenham (John Brierley).

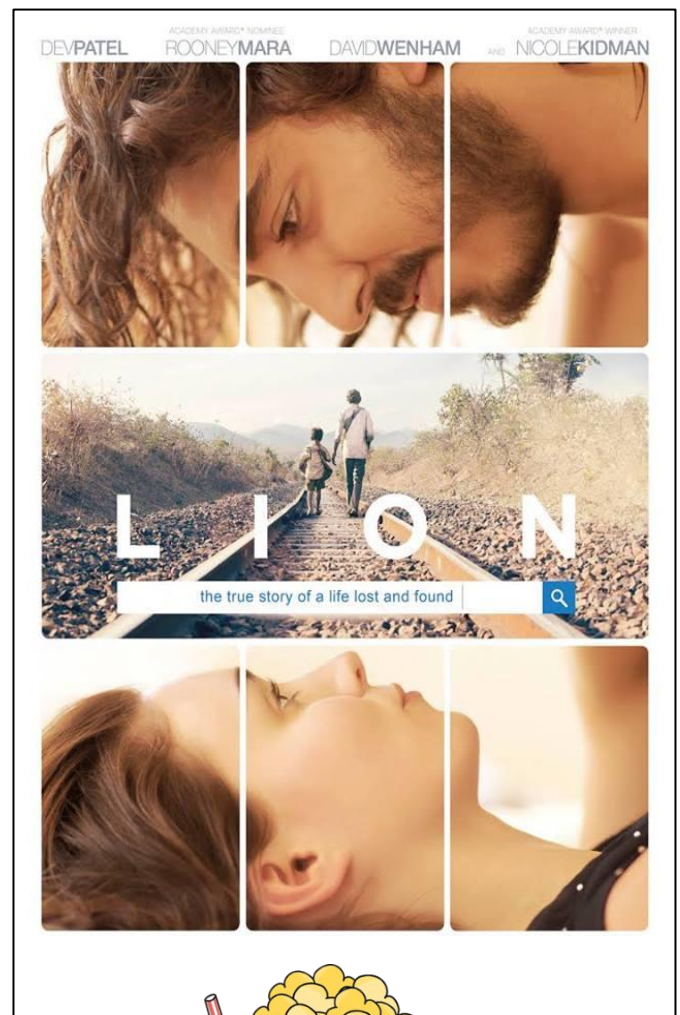
This movie is adapted from the 2013 non-fiction book "A Long Way Home" by Saroo Brierley with Larry Buttrose. The movie opens in Khandwa, India in 1986, where five-year-old Saroo tragically gets separated from his older brother while traveling on a train. He winds up on the streets of Calcutta where he eventually gets taken into custody and adopted by an Australian family. Decades later, Saroo uses Google Earth to search for his village and the family he lost.

Hollywood saves its best movies for the end of the year and "Lion" is no exception. This is the most thrilling and extraordinary depiction of a missing child story that I can recall seeing on the big screen. "Lion" is nearly perfect and does not succumb to overly-dramatic dialogue or rewrite of history that is so characteristic of recent biopics. This is Saroo's engrossing and phenomenal true story. The panoramic photography and cinematography are breathtaking. The hauntingly melodic musical score, which is heavy on the piano, and the soundtrack including Sia's "Never Give Up" (2016), perfectly compliment the plot progression. The movie was filmed in the streets of Calcutta as well as Melbourne and Hobart in Australia, imparting incredibly authenticity to the story. All the Indian childhood actors are phenomenal, especially Sunny Pawar who should be nominated for an Oscar. The casting of Dev Patel as the adult Saroo, is as brilliant and Oscar-worthy as any I have seen this year for a male in a leading role.

The closing credits show video of the real- life characters in the poor Indian village and are guaranteed to bring tears to your eyes.

My only minor criticisms include the lack of aging in Nicole Kidman as Saroo's adopted mother over a 25- year period. The epilogue appears (and disappears) on the screen very quickly so pay close attention if you do not want to miss the informative follow-up. This is one of a handful of movies I have seen in 2016 in which I did not look at my watch once.

I give "Lion" a 9.5 on the ABBONDANZOMETER
(Scale of 1-10)



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!

Corn Chowder

Page 45

5 slices of bacon
3 tablespoons bacon drippings
1 medium onion, thinly sliced and separated into rings
2 medium potatoes, pared and diced
1/2 cup water
1 (17 ounce) can cream-style corn
2 cups milk
1 teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper and pat or two of butter



1. In a large saucepan, cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon, crumble.
2. Reserve 3 tablespoons bacon drippings in saucepan and discard remainder.
3. Add onion slices to saucepan and cook until lightly browned.
4. Add diced potato and water and cook until potato is tender, 10-15 minutes.
5. Add corn, milk, salt, and pepper and cook until heat through.
6. Pour into warmed bowls. Top with crumbled bacon and a pat of butter.



Foxes Spotted!

Kit season is rapidly approaching and several foxes have been spotted in our neighborhoods, brazenly out in force, searching for food. Neighbors on Esworthy Road, Hartley Hall, Springfield & Spring Meadow Roads, and the Ancient Oak & Haddonfield neighborhoods have all reported seeing foxes investigating their chicken coops or crossing their property. If you have poultry or other small animals in your back yard or as pets, please keep an eye on them!!!



Darnestown Directory

We are still 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.

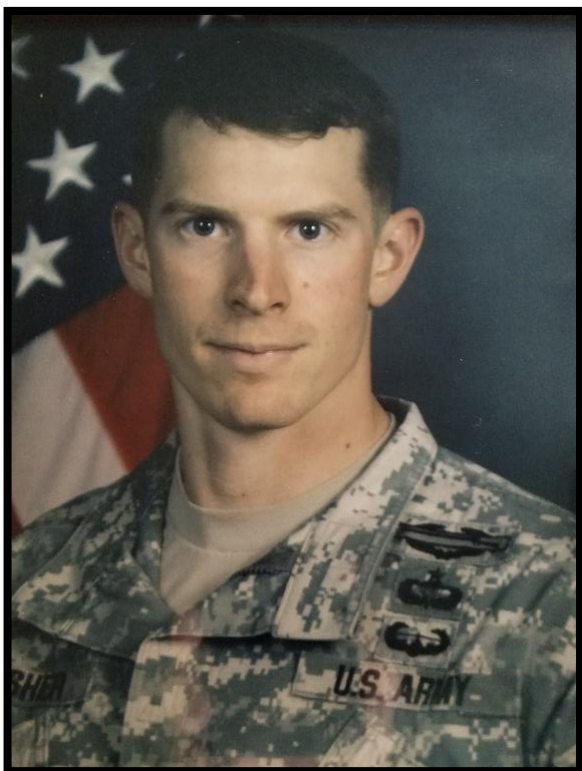
Community Interest

Those Who Serve



U S Army Captain Ryan Swisher

US Army Captain Ryan Swisher has been selected for promotion to Major. He will officially pin on the Golden Oak Leafs later this year. Captain Swisher is currently completing his final semester at the Sloan School of Management at MIT where he is earning an MBA. After his studies he will serve as an instructor in economics at the US Military Academy at West Point. Previously he served two combat tours in Afghanistan as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He is a two-time awardee of the Bronze Star.



Fundraising Event



Thursday, March 16th

6:00 – 10:00 PM

@ Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape!

Fleet Feet in the Kentlands is hosting a Pub Run beginning at Fleet Feet and ending at The Grape Escape!

**ALL proceeds from the Pub Run will go to
Operation Second Chance.**

www.operationsecondchance.org

The Grape Escape will be hosting free wine tasting and fabulous beer prices!

Free raffle of over 20 bottles of wine for all attendees!

Fabulous local musician Harry Traynham will perform from 7:00 – 9:00 PM



Community Interest



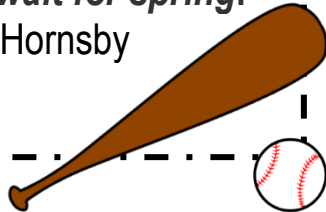
Sunday, April 16, 2017



***Monday, April 10 –
Tuesday, April 18, 2016***

Quote of the Quarter

*"People ask me what I do in winter
when there's no baseball.
I'll tell you what I do. I stare out
the window and wait for spring."
~Rogers Hornsby*



Calling All Graduating Seniors!



If you are a Darnestown resident and you are graduating from high school or college in May or June, please let us know!

Send the following information to the Editor at:

wsgooch@comcast.net

Deadline: May 1, 2017

- Your name
- The high school or college from which you are graduating
- Your plans for next year, e.g. the college you plan to attend and your major, the work field you plan to enter, etc.
- Your interests and goals
- A photo (If you have one!)

***Your Darnestown neighbors
are proud of you!***



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 12th





**May your blessings outnumber
the shamrocks that grow,
And may trouble avoid you
wherever you go.**

—An Irish Toast

St. Patrick's Day is celebrated annually on March 17th, the traditional religious feast day of St. Patrick and the day he is believed to have died in 460 A.D. The Irish have observed this religious holiday for thousands of years. But, how did we come to celebrate St. Patrick's Day in the US?

WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?

St. Patrick is the beloved patron saint of Ireland. The Irish are famous for spinning exaggerated tales, so despite the infamous stories traditionally attributed to St. Patrick, quite little is actually known about his life. We do know that St. Patrick was born in Britain and that at the age of 16 was captured by Irish raiders who attacked his family's estate. He was then transported to Ireland where he was held captive for six years, living a solitary, lonely life as a shepherd. It was then that he became a devout Christian, embracing his religion for solace. From his writing, we know that a voice, which he believed to be that of God, spoke to him in a dream, urging him to leave Ireland. He did. Walking nearly 200 miles, Patrick escaped to Britain and undertook serious religious training.

After 15 years of study, Patrick was ordained as a priest and sent to Ireland. His mission was to minister to Christians and to convert the Irish, then pre-dominantly pagans, to Christianity. Because Patrick was familiar with the Irish language and culture from his years of captivity, he chose to incorporate Irish ritual and symbols into his teachings rather than to eradicate Irish beliefs.

Thus was born the Celtic cross. Patrick superimposed the sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the traditional Christian cross so that the result would seem more natural to the Irish.

The history of St. Patrick's Day in America, however, begins with Irish soldiers serving in the British army. Befitting of the Irish, it is a tale of Irish patriotism and evolving political power. That very first parade in New York City not only helped the homesick Irish soldiers connect with their roots through the familiar strains of traditional Irish music - usually featuring bagpipes and drums - but also helped them to connect with one another, finding strength in numbers. Over the years as nearly a million Irish immigrants fled to America in the wake of the Great Potato Famine, St. Patrick's Day parades became a display of solidarity and political strength as these often ridiculed Irish immigrants were frequently victims of prejudice. Soon enough, their numbers were recognized and the Irish organized and exerted their political muscle, becoming known as the "green machine".

Today, St. Patrick's Day celebrations abound. Decidedly less religious, St. Patrick's Day celebrations continue to be a show of Irish strength and patriotism. So, get out your green and get ready to celebrate!

Happy St. Patrick's Day!



Believe it or not, the first St. Patrick's Day parade was held in New York City on March 17, 1762.

Irish Americans were not the first, however, to celebrate the feast of St. Patrick. Irish families have traditionally celebrated the feast of St. Patrick as a religious holiday for thousands of years – a great pause during the Christian season of Lent when prohibitions were lifted for one day of dancing, drinking, and feasting on meat.



Homesteading Corner!

POULTRY SWAP!

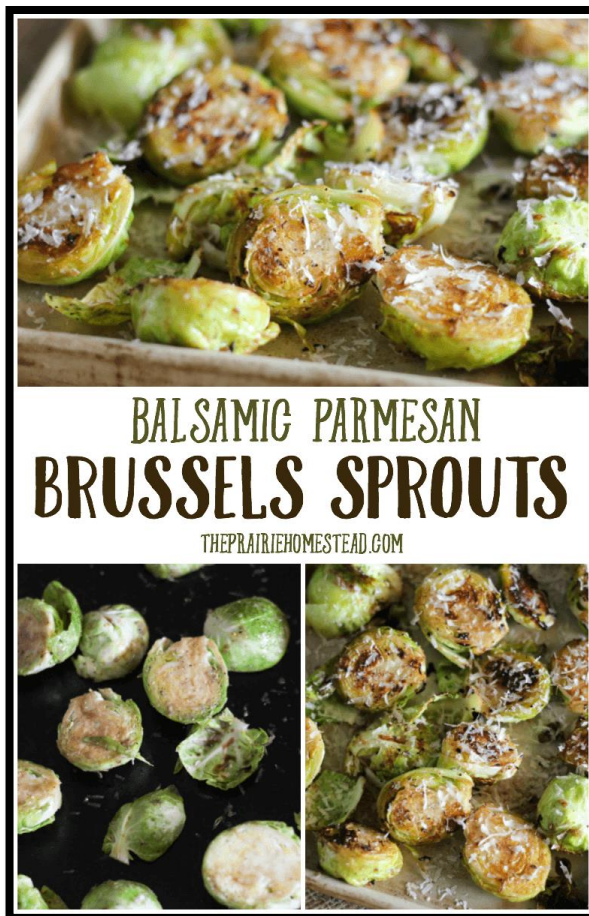
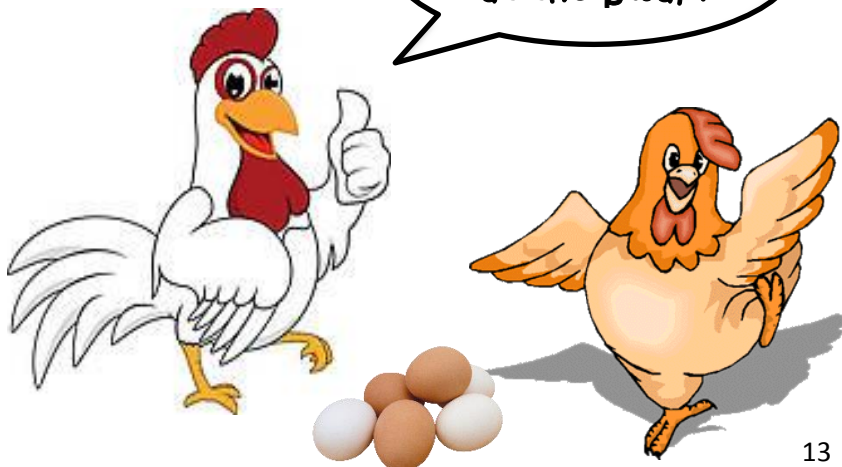
The Maryland Poultry Swap & Farmer's Market will be hosting its semi-annual swap down on the farm this spring on April 22nd, from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

The Swap will feature rabbits, show quality bantam and large fowl chickens, laying hens, exotics, game birds, waterfowl, cages, coops, crafts, handmade furniture, fresh produce, freshly processed chickens, local honey, homemade jams and preserves, hand poured candles, goat's milk soaps and lotions, used and new horse tack, used and new tools and so much more! Attendees may also enjoy BBQ, live bluegrass music, and pony rides.

Anything farm related, homemade, handcrafted or homegrown is welcome at the swap. Spaces are just \$20 to sell all day and entrance fee for non-vendor patrons is just \$4.00 per person. Kids are free!

GREEN HILL FARM
5329 Mondell Road
Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782
www.ghfarm.org

See you
at the Swap!



Ingredients

- 2 lbs. Brussels sprouts
- 3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 teaspoons balsamic vinegar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon garlic powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sea salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup shredded parmesan cheese, plus more for topping

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
2. Trim the ends off the sprouts and remove any damaged or wilted leaves. Slice them in half length-wise and place in a mixing bowl.
3. Add the rest of the ingredients to the bowl, and toss.
4. Place the Brussels sprouts on a baking sheet, and bake for 15-20 minutes until softened and browned.
5. Remove from the oven, drizzle lightly with a bit more balsamic vinegar and a sprinkle of parmesan and serve warm.

School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary



By Sandy Pearce

We had a busy winter at Darnestown Elementary! The 5th graders had a wonderful time on Colonial Day. Our entire gym was transformed into a Colonial town for the day. Everyone had to dress the part. They got to enjoy delicious, homemade food, such as Corned Beef Hash, Blueberry Slump, Johnny Cakes and Cornbread. Several centers were set up for wig making, arts and crafts, games and knitting, as well as an apothecary, school and shipwright. This event would not be possible without the help of Staff and Parents, so thank you to all who volunteered!

Our annual Bingo Night and Science Expo were another big success. Bingo Night was held at Lakelands Park Middle School. Plenty of fun prizes were given out, but the best part was the Staff Raffle. Some raffle items included being "Teacher for a Day" or "Principal for a Day". DES teachers generously donated their time to have a special meal, watch a movie or teach a vocal lesson to students, to name a few of the items. The Science Expo was held in the gym and open to all students. Luckily there were no major eruptions!

The Arts & Crafts, Cooking, Cursive Writing, Games and Yearbook Clubs filled up quickly this winter. Thanks again to the Staff and Parents who make these popular clubs possible.

The **Adopt-a-School Healthy Snack Drive** for Gaithersburg Elementary will take place beginning on March 20th through March 31st. Please help us assist families in need by donating healthy snacks. Also, you won't want to miss **DES International Night held on March 16th** or our highly anticipated annual **Variety Show held on May 12th** at Northwest High School. Family and friends are welcome. DES has talent!



Upcoming Calendar of Events:

<i>Early Release Day:</i>	March 3
<i>PTA Board Meeting:</i>	March 7
<i>No School:</i>	April 7
<i>Spring Break:</i>	April 10 – April 17
<i>Variety Show Try-Outs:</i>	April 19
<i>Bring Your Child to Work Day:</i>	April 27
<i>Donuts for Darnestown:</i>	April 28
<i>Staff Appreciation Week:</i>	May 1
<i>PTA General Meeting:</i>	May 2
<i>No School:</i>	May 29

Seneca Academy



By Dr. Michelle Parker, Ph.D.

Seneca Academy takes pride in its inviting, inclusive and supportive community! We know that "it takes a village to raise a child" and we take every opportunity to foster partnerships with our parents, both to support them in their parenting, as well as to make use of their diverse skills and talents to support our work with their children. Together, we have been busy challenging our students through our relevant, meaningful and engaging International Baccalaureate curriculum, and nurturing them to become caring, respectful and self-confident global citizens. Below are some of the highlights of how our village comes together to accomplish all of this:

Parent Speakers

Throughout the year, we have been fortunate to be able to tap into our amazing parents to help bring to life what our students are learning in their transdisciplinary Units of Inquiry. In the fall, we had a marine biologist from NOAA talk to our second graders about seafloor mapping and help them use scientific data to generate their own maps. Our third graders were visited by a retired NASA scientist, who helped them conduct experiments to understand what happens when meteorites or asteroids hit the moon. More recently,

our fifth graders received a hands-on lesson on financial literacy from a Financial Advisor from Morgan Stanley. In addition to their professional expertise, our parents are able to share with us their unique cultural heritage and traditions. Parents have shared about Chinese New Year, Italian dancing, Chanukah, Native American celebrations, as well as other family traditions, such as bonfires and military service. These opportunities to explore and celebrate our diversity reinforce the bonds of our inclusive community.

STEM Fair

We are looking forward to our STEM Fair, which will happen on April 24th. This is another opportunity for our parents who have an expertise in science and technology to make special presentations to our entire student body. Past presenters have included a Herpetologist, an Optical Science Engineer, a Physicist, a Software Engineer, and an expert in Aviation. This year the day will start with a bang with a presentation by "Eric Energy's Science Spectacular" and will be followed by our parent speakers and then by presentations from both our preschool and elementary students.

Parenting Series

As part of our effort to also give back to and support our parents and community, this year we have inaugurated a parenting series, led by our Head of School and Child Psychologist, Dr. Michelle Parker. The series began on January 24th with a workshop on "Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain." The second of the series will be on March 7th and will focus on "Parenting in the Digital Age," followed by the final workshop, "Picking Your Battles and Setting Limits for Healthy Development" on May 3rd. These workshops are held at the school between 6:30-8:00pm and are open to the community. For more information, please visit our [website www.senecaacademy.org](http://www.senecaacademy.org). We hope to see you there!

If you are interested in visiting our school, we have Walk-In Wednesday Tours on the 1st and 3rd of the month through April.

Michelle Parker, Ph.D.

Head of School

Seneca Academy

An International Baccalaureate

Primary Years Program World School

www.SenecaAcademy.org

301-869-3728

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Twitter: www.twitter.com/SenecaAcademy

YouTube: www.youtube.com/senecaacademy



Butler School



By Lisa Daly

Hello Summer 2017!

We're more than just a school! 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 cookout per session! Our high ropes course will also provide campers with excitement on and off the ground. Included with this is a 35 foot climbing wall and "islands in the sky" ropes for crossing, and traversing ropes, to name a few.



The 'Extreme Adventurers' spend most of their day off campus enjoying activities such as canoeing, white water rafting, rock climbing, caving, and mountain biking. These campers travel to magnificent destinations such as Sugarloaf Mountain or Harper's Ferry for their activity and camp out overnight in a State Park, returning for carpool the following afternoon.

The 'Max Adventurers' go a little further away from our campus than the 'Extreme Adventurers' group to enjoy new areas of adventure. Their days are a bit longer with a return to campus at 5:00 pm for pick up. They go camping for two nights at Ohio Pyle in Pennsylvania. Activities there include whitewater rafting, mountain biking, rock climbing and there is even a natural water slide to enjoy!

The JV Counselor program for 14 to 16 year-olds is offered during Sessions 1 through 4. JV Counselors are under the direction and guidance of a Program Director who meets with them throughout the day to assist them in their training process. The Director will instruct them on their duties, the requirements of their role as assistants to camp staff, "debrief" with them daily to assess their job performance and resolve any challenges in their work.

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 for Butler equestrians.



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

Lakelands Park Middle School



By Janet Swisher

Join Lakelands Park Middle School for their 11th Annual Basketball Night held on Friday, March 10th from 5:30pm to 9pm in the LPMS gymnasium. This is a school social and fundraising event. Everyone is welcome to cheer on their favorite LPMS student teams. The event includes a basketball team tournament, student raffles, and a vendor extravaganza featuring jewelry, clothing, and accessories. There will be a minimum fee of \$3.00 to attend the event.

Back to School supplies are on sale starting March 15th through June 17th for the 2017-2018 school year. The box will include ALL NEEDED SCHOOL SUPPLIES for the year and will be delivered to your home address over the summer months (August).

A LPMS Staff Appreciation lunch will be held on Wednesday, May 3rd. We need homemade dishes and desserts brought to the school by 9:30am to serve and show our appreciation to the dedicated staff.

In February we held our semi-annual student Box Top collection contest. The winner received a \$25 Jersey Mike's Gift Certificate. Additionally, SGA's Valentines Dance was a big success. Fun was had by students dancing, and dipping strawberries, marshmallows, and crackers into the fountain of chocolate donated by the PTSA and Whole Foods Market. The chocolate fountain was a campaign promise made to the students by their current SGA President.

Upcoming Events

March 10	Basketball Night – 5:30pm to 9pm
Mar 27 – Apr 6	6 th Grade Outdoor Ed. Sessions
April 3	Variety Show – 7pm
May 3	Staff Appreciation Lunch
May 11 – 13	Spring Play
May 16	Jazz & Orchestra Concert
May 18	Spring Band Concert
May 26	Bitner Bowl – School Day Celebration
June 13	PTSA Volunteer Celebration Night at Pinky & Pepe's
June 15	8 th Grade Graduation and Trip
June 16	Last Day of School



Mary of Nazareth



By Sara Jamison

Mary of Nazareth Announces Full Day Preschool Program

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is pleased to announce it will offer a full day Preschool program to families in Upper-Montgomery County beginning September, 2017. The program, offered to 4 year-olds, will feature a play-based learning environment aimed at enriching students' lives through hands on experience. Development of the "whole child" is central to the program's philosophy and curriculum. Math, science, language, social, and emotional skills are encouraged through participation in a wide variety of activities, including dramatic play, art projects, and outdoor exploration. Children are introduced to fundamental tenets of Catholic social teaching as they learn to practice unconditional love and forgiveness during common social learning moments. "We believe the new 4's program meets a growing demand for full-day preschool and will allow our vibrant, faith-based program to flourish," says Principal Mike Friel, on the decision to expand Mary of Nazareth's Preschool, originally founded in 2008. The program for 4 year-olds will meet Monday through Friday from 8:25 until 2:55 PM, and will accept a maximum of 20 students. 2017-18 tuition for in-diocese families is \$6,200 per child and \$6,700 per child for out-of-diocese families.

1st Annual International Night Celebrates School Diversity

The Mary of Nazareth Catholic School community enjoyed a night of fellowship on Saturday, January 21, as families traveled around the world together without leaving the school's campus. Mary of Nazareth families celebrated the school's first ever International Family Night in recognition of the international diversity and cultural heritage within our community. Passports were provided for attendees to explore twenty different countries on display, including Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Greece, Guam, India, Ireland, Japan, Lebanon, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Peru, South Korea, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, and the United States of America. Individual Mary of Nazareth families prepared traditional food and drink from their respective countries of origin to share in a bazaar type market. General information about each country was provided, including a map, current population, country flag, monetary unit, and government.



Mary of Nazareth Catholic School holds its first International Family Night in celebration of cultural diversity and heritage.

Mary of Nazareth Students Who Serve: Jackie Gilmore

Last Spring, eighth grade student, Jackie Gilmore, developed a service project to make gift baskets for neurology patients at Children's National Hospital. Jackie's brother, Jackson, spent 2.5 months as a patient at Children's National during the fall of 2014. In looking for ways to help other children, Jackie felt that providing personalized toys, books and activities for patients would be a great way to make children smile and bring hope to their parents. Jackie's spirit of service spread to her friends, who also helped collect items and assemble baskets for the children. Baskets were delivered at the hospital to the Child Life Department for direct distribution to patients. Jackie looks forward to organizing another service project to benefit patients and their families at Children's National in the near future.



Pictured left to right: Emma LeVaca, Jackie Gilmore, Hayley Abromavage, Julie Seminara, Lindsay Barrow, Jacqueline Albero

Middle School Religion Teacher Receives Award from Cardinal Wuerl

Ms. Marion Strishock, Middle School Religion teacher, was among the group of individuals selected in 2017 to receive the “Manifesting the Kingdom” Award, presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl. The award honors individuals from parishes and Catholic organizations within the Archdiocese of Washington for their exceptional service to the Church. Recipients of the award were joined by Cardinal Wuerl as he celebrated Mass, which was followed by a reception. Ms. Strishock, in her 15th year of teaching at Mary of Nazareth, demonstrates the presence of Jesus in her life to students on a daily basis. In addition to her dedicated work in the classroom, Ms. Strishock guides students through their faith formation through numerous service projects and trips during the school year.



Middle School Religion teacher, Ms. Marion Strishock, pictured with Cardinal Wuerl while receiving the “Manifesting the Kingdom Award” in early January 2017.

Students Participate in Holiday Service Projects to Benefit Local Families

Mary of Nazareth students and families worked together this Christmas season to bring joy to their neighbors in need. As in previous years, Mary of Nazareth’s Social Concerns Committee partnered with A Wider Circle, with numerous homerooms “adopting” local families in need. Committee Chair and Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Megan McGregor, explains, “A Wider Circle receives Christmas wish lists from families in need, which are then forwarded to participating Mary of Nazareth homerooms. “Adopted” families are assigned to homerooms based on the size of the family and class. McGregor adds, “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 their neighbors on a personal level. As the school year continues, students are challenged to participate in service projects that directly benefit others in their local communities.



Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Hip! Hip! Hooray! Georgetown Hill Darnestown Campus is now a Maryland State Department of Education, (MSDE) accredited school! What does that mean? “That means that we have worked hard and gone through a process to meet the high standards the state has set and expects from their accredited programs. We are upholding the state’s best practices while enhancing our own amazing P.L.A.N. curriculum,” says Megan Jackowski, Assistant Director and Transitional Kindergarten teacher at Georgetown Hill. “And we will continue to strive for excellence in order to meet the needs and demands of early childhood for all of our students and families,” she adds. “Our teachers must go through constant learning and training for us to keep our accreditation.”



Summer is not as far off as you may think. We are full **STEAM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) ahead with our summer program! New adventures await as we make discoveries through hands-on exploration. Pre-K and Trans-K campers will have the opportunity to go on weekly field trips, in addition to weekly trips to the pool! School-Agers (K-5th grade) will enjoy two field trips a week, plus a trip to the pool. Our program includes Kitchen Chemistry, Fueling Your Body, weekly DIY projects, Music & Drama, and Spanish. Camp starts June 19 - August 25 with full day, half day and extended hours available.

Our fall programs are filling up fast! Why? Because our families love us! Over 99% of parents of long-term Georgetown Hill families surveyed say that they would recommend us to others, according to a survey done in 2014. Our campus is located at the corner of Route 28 and Turkey Foot Road, next to Darnestown Elementary in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in a tour of our wonderful school and learning about our curriculum, please contact Kristen Raymond, Campus Director, at 301-527-1761 or at darnestown@georgetownhill.com.

Darne Bloomers

By Merikay Smith

LeeAnne Gelletly created a presentation, "Living Fences," specifically for our Darne Bloomers' January meeting. A Master Gardener and member of the garden club, LeeAnne shared more than 100 photographs of easy to grow plants that work effectively as privacy screens and green fences. Living fences have the advantage of providing habitat and beauty when plants used are well-selected. The hosts for this meeting (LeeAnne Gelletly, Amanda Karst, Marie Stiles, and Summer Hardinge) created simple and elegant table décor from evergreen plants and custom made cards of garden poetry. Food served was chosen for being healthy, delicious, and visually appealing. Multiple containers of evergreen shrubs that could be used to create living fences were given as door prizes to a few select club members.



Our next meeting will be February 9: "Tropicals and Their Creative Use in Floral Design," presented by Kirsten Luise. Kirsten Luise is owner of the design studio, Blooming Arts, which specializes in wedding and event florals for our area. Hosts for February are Petra Roman, Tina Calhoun, Sandy Hribar and Lina Ganassa.

Looking ahead, we will learn to force bulbs and branches for use in floral designs in March hosted by Diane Romney, Joy Strickler, Mariana Pfifer, and Mimi Chipman. It's easy to have blooms in your home weeks or more before they bloom outside. One simple technique is to cut branches of forsythia or fruit trees (cherries, peaches, apples, plums) in mid to late February and place them inside in large vases of warm water. The branches should have already formed buds which will gradually open once inside – usually within a few weeks. I like to change the water at least once a week in the vases. I'm sure we'll learn much more at the March meeting – but this simple technique has our house full of blooms a month before they bloom outdoors.

If you are interested in joining our garden club, please contact our president, Lisa Ruf, in advance of our meetings which are held the second Thursday of each month, generally at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church with refreshments at 9 am, business meeting at 9:30 and program at 10:00.



Pleasant View Historic Site on Rt. 28

By Merikay Smith

Earth Stewardship East, a local environmental group, has been awarded a \$25,000 grant to complete a conservation landscaping and storm water management project on the Pleasant View Historic Site. You've probably driven past this site for years -- it's the old, white church on Rt. 28 just beyond Quince Orchard. But did you know this property was purchased by freed slaves after the Civil War and includes a cemetery and the Quince Orchard colored school? All work on the project will be done by local volunteers from our community. Our first work days will be in April. We'll be adding native trees, shrubs and flowers to provide habitat and absorb water runoff. Volunteers will have the chance to learn about the history of this site and visit inside the school with elderly neighbors who were students there. The money to purchase the plants, compost, mulch and other supplies comes from the Montgomery County Water Quality Protection Fund with its impact doubled by community volunteers. Please join us by emailing Merikay Smith at merikays@verizon.net. Go to www.eartheast.org for more details ("Pleasant View Project" from main menu).

Church News!



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

RETIREMENT OF PASTOR DAVE MCNEILLY

A major change is coming to the leadership of our church! After nearly four decades of service as a Pastor, Dr. Dave McNeilly, our Senior Pastor since 2008, has announced his retirement effective at the end of May 2017. Pastor McNeilly graduated from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1978, and was ordained in June of that same year by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh. He has since served the Lord in multiple settings, including in Beaver Falls, PA, in a lengthy stint at Riverdale Presbyterian Church of Silver Spring, and finally here in Darnestown. We wish Pastor Dave all the best, and will enjoy and cherish his remaining months with us.

INTERIM PASTOR

With Pastor McNeilly's coming retirement, our church will designate a Pastor Nominating Committee to search for an "Interim" Pastor. Interim Pastors serve during the interregnum between permanent Pastors, and are common during pastoral transitions in Presbyterian churches. We hope to have our Interim Pastor in place before Dr. McNeilly's departure; how long the Interim Pastor serves is ultimately contingent on how long it takes to "call" a new permanent Pastor. And of course, we still have our Associate Pastor, Reverend Tamara Leonard-Lara, to help lead the church during this period. This will be an exciting time for our Church, as we seek to build the foundation for an even stronger future!

LENT, HOLY WEEK, AND EASTER

Spring time at Darnestown Presbyterian Church is a time to celebrate not only the beauty of Darnestown, but also the meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter on our historic campus. This year will feature our two Palm Sunday services on the 9th of April, our somber Maundy Thursday service at 8 pm on the 13th, and our glorious Easter services at 8:45 and 11 am on the 16th.

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 wonderful music at both services on Easter morning, the sanctuary will be filled with flowers, and we will also host a potluck brunch between services in our Fellowship Hall at 9:45. Please join us this year!

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.



WE NEED THE COMMUNITY'S HELP

At some point during the latter half of December, three fiberglass figures were removed from the Crèche in front of Darnestown Presbyterian Church—a figure of the baby Jesus, plus two life-sized sheep. This may have been intended as a prank, but these figures, manufactured by Bronner's of Frankenmuth Michigan, will cost nearly \$2,500 to replace. The Church would welcome the return of these figures, no questions asked. If you have any information to share, please contact the church at (301) 948-9127. Thank you!!



Rev. Dave McNeilly

Contact Information:

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

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



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Welcome to Fairhaven United Methodist Church. Located on Rt. 28, Fairhaven is a very diverse, small church where many cultural traditions blend to offer a unique worship experience. We are dedicated to sharing the love of God with everyone in our community. Fairhaven is a friendly and caring church family where diversity is nurtured by faith. We work and grow together as partners in ministry, sharing the love of God by encouraging spiritual growth, providing a rich worship experience welcoming all of God's children into our fellowship, and serving the needs of our community.

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

Happy
Easter

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, 2017

for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!



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
Bella Dastvan	age 16	301-330-3231
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

May 1st, 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

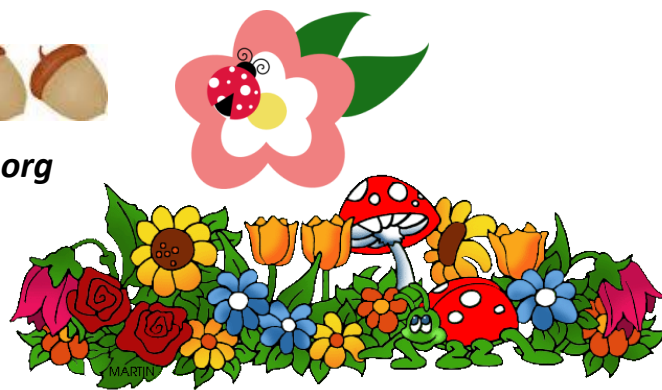
16600 Raven Rock Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Mrs. Monifa McKnight, Principal
301-840-4770

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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DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

