



Est. 1965

THE LITTLE ACORN

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 54, Number 3
September 2017

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES



Notes from the President

By Lisa Patterson-Troike

Pepco Substation

The DCA met with Pepco on June 29th to discuss the new substation being built on the corner of Rt. 28 and Riffleford Road. We know the building is enormous but feel fortunate that Pepco agreed to enclose the transformers and other electrical equipment in a building that will mimic a country barn. You've probably already noticed the stone work around the "foundation" and there will be a small "silo" on the front. Landscaping will begin this fall and we are working with Hallman Court neighbors to encourage Pepco to provide as much "shielding" as possible with berms, trees, bushes and shrubs. Construction is on schedule and should be completed by the fourth quarter of 2017 with the facility fully operational by the first quarter of 2018. At this time, there are no plans for additional power lines on Rt. 28 or Riffleford Road and placement of the underground lines to the station are already completed. Once fully operational, Pepco will perform sound and radiation tests to ensure they are within established guidelines.

....continued on page 3

Fall is Here!

DCA Hoedown October 13th

See page 16 for details!

Next DCA Town Meeting

September 14th | 7:30 PM

Darnestown Presbyterian
Church

Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road

Inside this Issue

Notes from the President.....	1
DCA Board.....	2
Community Interest	4
Softball	6
Boy Scouts	11
Sue's Reviews	12
Meet the Neighbors	13
Those Who Serve	14
Hoedown	16
Homesteading Corner.....	18
School News & Events.....	19
Church News.....	24
Service Providers.....	26
Darnestown Directory.....	27





The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

The Little Acorn

Editor: **Susie Gooch** (wsgooch@comcast.net)
Proofreader: Sarah Scherer (sarahscherer@comcast.net)

The Darnestown Civic Association Board

President: Lisa Patterson-Troike (lisaapatterson@aol.com)
Vice President: Chris Collins (cocollins@coarch.com)
Chairman: **Vacant**
Treasurer: Guy Armantrout (armantrout1@hotmail.com)
Trustee: Karen Hinrichsen (Karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com)
Trustee: Pam Dubois (pam.dubois@hotmail.com)
Corresponding Secretary: Michael Gottlieb (michael@thegottliebblawfirm.com)
Recording Secretary: Susan Allaway (stallaway@gmail.com)

The DCA Committee Chairs

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)
Darnestown Village: Chris Collins (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Directory: **Vacant**
Environment: **Vacant**
Flag Program: Tim Sanders (timbosanders@netscape.net)
Historical Soc. Rep: **Vacant**
Membership: Elizabeth Weaver (Elizabeth@weaverlawoffice.com)
Membership Database: Jean Jurgena (jmjurgena@hotmail.com)
Parliamentarian: Chris Collins (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Safety: **Vacant**
Co-Chair: Kevin Keegan (safety@darnestowncivic.org)
Seneca Forest Project: Karen Hinrichsen (karen.hinrichsen@gmail.com)
Social: Lisa Patterson-Troike (social@darnestowncivic.org)
Softball: Dave Bivans (ldmtbivans4321@verizon.net)
Utility Reliability: **Vacant**
Website: Guy Armantrout (armantrout1@hotmail.com)
Neil Agate (nagagte@4gateslic.com)
Zoning & Dev: Pam Dubois (pam.dubois@hotmail.com)



Happy autumn to all
of our Darnestown
neighbors!!



Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



Social News

DCA Hoedown Friday, October 13th!

Put your hoe down and celebrate the fall harvest with DCA's 47th Annual Hoedown! Set for Friday, October 13th from 6:30-11 pm at Smokey Glen Farm on Riffleford Road right here in Darnestown! Brush the dust off your cowboy boots, hats and chaps and come on out to the best party of the year! Please visit www.darnestowncivic.org to purchase tickets. DCA members \$35/pp, non-members \$45/pp -- an unbelievable deal for seafood bisque, BBQ chicken, German potato salad, green beans, pasta salad, baked beans, tossed salad, rolls, home baked apple, cherry, peach and blueberry pies! Beverages also included: liquor, beer, wine, sodas, apple cider and more. See Page 15 for all the details! Can't wait to see ya'll there!



Spring Social



Spring Social a Success!

Thanks for coming out to the annual DCA Spring Social and helping to make it a success. Once again, we were treated to acoustic guitar and singing by our very own Darnestown resident, **Billy Herrington**. The rain decided to attend for a little while, but didn't dampen our spirits at all. There was food and fun for everyone. The kids had a great time playing games on the playgrounds and adults had an equally great time socializing with old and new friends.



Check out our NEW FACEBOOK “Group” Page



www.facebook.com/groups/1884550325142759/

or search on Facebook for

Darnestown Maryland - Our Home Town



Community Interest



Memberships, Swim Team, Tennis & Camp Green Zone By Aleks Schiff

Another Successful Summer Season Comes to a Close!

It is hard to believe that summer is almost over and kids are heading back to school. We had another whirlwind summer with our member community. From swim team to tennis team, teen pool parties, 4th of July parades and adult socials – and even a little r-n-r for some – we had so many family activities, there was plenty for all to enjoy.

Memberships are still available and are more affordable than ever before. We always welcome and look forward to new families joining the DSRC community, so please contact GM, Dave Hardy, at gm@dsrclub.com for more information on our membership and everything we have to offer season over season.

Our best promotion yet – any 4 new families joining together, at the same time, will all have their initiation fees waived – a huge **\$1,600 savings per family!!!** All families must submit applications and checks together to receive this promotion.

Tennis Update

The DSRC Junior Tennis Team (JTT) completed its season on July 26th. This year there were 55 enthusiastic kids who participated in the JTT session. Although the team came up short on most of its matches, our kids had so much fun and Darnestown has a great foundation of future Venus's and Federer's for next summer and beyond. This season we also had a super fun end of season Pre-Team match against our rivals at Quince Orchard for our youngest players.

DSRC also had a very successful season for the Ladies Tennis Team, Men's Night, and Ladies Night. Our new Coach Juan Pablo (JP) Garcia has reinvigorated our Adult Tennis program with great teaching and very demanding clinics.

DSRC is catching the mania of Pickleball as it sweeps the nation! We kicked-off playing Pickleball on our newly lined courts 4 and 5. Pickleball is a fast growing sport that has a few simple rules, is less physically demanding than tennis, is conducive to mixed doubles, and is a lot of fun - especially the rapid fire volley rallies. Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club has six beautiful lighted year-round courts. Join our Club and come out and play!



Darnestown Demons – 5-0 Season!

Our Darnestown Demons swam their hearts out and had a ton of fun this summer! We finished our Division D season 5-0!!! Congratulations to all our swimmers and coaches for a fantastic season. And, as it comes to a close, we hope to see all your families back next year for:

- Practices and swim meets where kids meet friends, have fun, and get fit!
- Pep Rallies, games, and Friday trips to the movies!
- Family amusement park trip!
- Mini meet and pre-team follies that allow the youngest swimmers to shine!

Notes from Camp Green Zone

The summer flew by! Our *Topic Talks* events were successful and we enjoyed so many experts visiting camp and doing fun activities with our campers. They included: MD Bluebird Society, Locust Grove Nature Center/Flying Wild, Leave No Trace, Earth Stewardship East and Rockville Volunteer CPR/First Aide. Future topic talks will include Yoga, Orienteering and Geocaching.

This summer we had so many firsts. Through our partnership with Izaak Walton League/Save Our Streams, our campers conducted water stream quality testing which included chemical and physical collections. We tested the water for pollutants and collected stream bugs (aquatic macroinvertebrates) to analyze the health of our stream. The data was collected and recorded on the Save Our Streams website. Another first was a CIT late stay where campers stayed till 8pm for a camp cookout and fun activities. We also had our first CIT wilderness cookout which included learning to roast hotdogs and s'mores on an open fire.

The end of camp is always sad as we say farewell to our friends. We hope your time away from us is safe and that you enjoy settling back into school. Please visit our website for pictures of camp. We try and do our best to capture photos of every camper, even those who avoid the camera!

Stay in the know about the 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

MOLLY'S WALK AND ROLL FOR A CURE!!!

SEPTEMBER 16, 2017
BRETTON WOODS RECREATION CENTER



Hello! My name is Molly Lichtenstein and I am twenty-four years old. I have lived in Darnestown for twenty-one years! ☺

When I was sixteen years old I was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia, Hydrocephalus, and Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, 4 genetic disorders, and my life and my family's lives changed dramatically. Since my first brain surgery in 2009, I have had twenty-seven surgeries to date and have struggled to find information and treatments for my conditions. I want to make a difference for future patients who are diagnosed, whether that is by raising money to help find better treatments and maybe one day a cure, or spreading awareness where I live to help the understanding of what these conditions cause.

Since 2009, I have participated in walks for Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia and since 2012, I have organized my own walk. This year the walk will be on September 16, 2017 at Bretton Woods Recreation Center and I hope that you will join me in spreading awareness and raising funds for these debilitating conditions. Registration starts at 10:00 AM and the walk starts at 11:00 am. To sign up for the walk please visit:

<http://asap.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1170670>

You can join "Molly's Army" or make your own team!!! Thank you!

Molly Lichtenstein

mlicht5@student.towson.edu



Community Interest



Go West!

By Dave Bivans, Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville (SHB)

Darnestown's 2017 neighborhood co-ed recreational softball season came to a spectacular conclusion on an almost unheard of beautiful, low humidity August Sunday evening with Western Darnestown (WD) reclaiming the league crown from eastern Darnestown's Ancient-Rollin-Mountain-Quails (ARMQ). In commenting on WD's return to their 2014 championship form, second year skipper Deno Photinakis stressed it was a "team effort" with new managing partner and co-captain Marianne Kreiner vital in getting the players to the field. George Bussey and Karl Heineman were also instrumental with key strategic advice enabling WD to nearly triple the runs-for/runs-against ratio of runner-up Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR), and let's not mention the statistical shellacking of SHB and ARMQ.

A couple of changes were announced shortly before and during this year's final games. First, Chris Ashker of WD is retiring from DCA softball (at least for the time being) as he and his family are moving to Switzerland near the end of the summer. WD and SHB gave Chris a final bow/curtain call in the top of the 7th inning of Chris' last game on Sunday, August 6th. Second, Bob McGuire of SHB announced it's time for "the torch to be passed to a new generation" handing the SHB coaching duties over to Scott Damiecki and Mark Gustavson for 2018, with Kim Barrow to fill in and bring some good luck to the coaching line-up. In commenting on his career with DCA softball, Bob mentioned that a friend talked him into playing Darnestown softball about 26 years ago! Shortly thereafter the captain asked if he would help run the team; and the rest is history.

A quarter of a century is a long time – no doubt with a lot of that time spent rounding up players, checking field conditions, figuring line-ups, setting bases, and having fun playing a friendly game; but most of all it is spending time with some great neighbors.

The weather this season was somewhat improved weather over last year's record-setting rainouts and heat-out. Nonetheless, mother nature (and with the County Park's help) did close the field four times, shortening the season to eight great Sunday evenings. Certainly by the time this hits your mailbox summer will be nearly over. Of course with each passing day we're that much closer to Opening Day! We hope everyone has a good off-season and we'll look forward to seeing players and fans alike next spring.



**Congratulations Western Darnestown
The 2017 Darnestown league champs!!**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>RF</u>	<u>RA</u>	<u>RF/RA</u>	<u>GB</u>
Western Darnestown	7	1	107	34	3.147	-----
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	6	2	71	62	1.145	1.0
Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville	2	6	70	98	0.714	5.0
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	1	7	44	98	0.449	6.0

Community Interest



Maryland Questers

By Bettye Wolfe

STILL HOPEFUL

Captain John #517 and Potomac #10 Questers have joined together to participate in the King Farm Festival, October 15th.

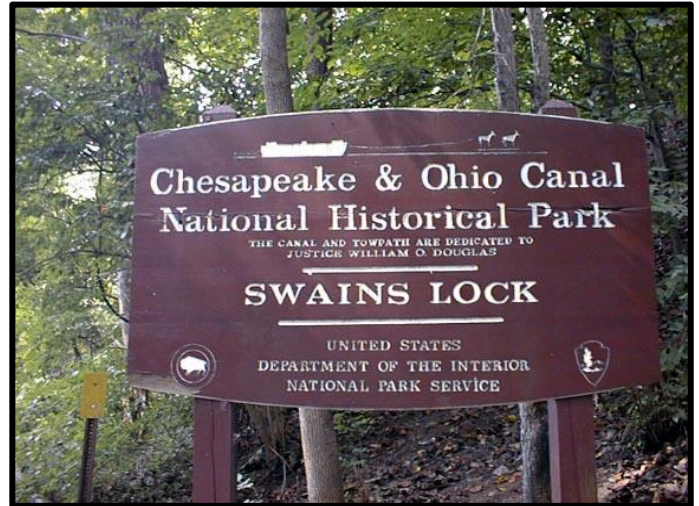
The Questers chapter ladies will be selling "NEW 2 U" items. A few tears might be seen as the ladies part with treasures from their collections: jewelry, scarves, belts, purses, etc. Should be fun shopping. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the C&O Canal Trust, Swain's Lock house reconstruction project.

You can learn more about the festival on the King Farm website: activities@kingfarm.org

Sometime shortly after October 15th, Captain John #517 will hold a public information meeting to enlighten non-Quester members on the benefits of membership in this benevolent, international organization. Planning now is to hold this meeting at the C&O Canal headquarters or on the canal boat. If you are interested in attending send an email to yateswolfe@comcast.net

If you are a senior citizen and have not yet purchased your lifetime pass to the national parks, don't delay. The price is now \$10. On August 28, the price will be \$80.

Still hopeful of finding at least 8 Darnestown residents interested in a Darnestown Questers' Chapter. New members are welcome to join an existing chapter. Again: send an email to yateswolfe@comcast.net



Community Interest

Comfort Cases: Packing Compassion into Our Foster Care Outreach

By Julia Zimmer

Do you remember as a child encouraging your mom or dad to buy the cereal with a fun prize in it? A prize, which was conveniently located at the very bottom of the cereal box. If you were a rule follower, you would wait. Morning after morning eating your cereal until the day when you finally got that prize. At Comfort Cases, we do things a little differently. We know that the prize, the item that causes the excitement, should be at the top. Humor me, close your eyes, and imagine a child in the foster care system opening his or her Comfort Case and the first thing he or she sees is a stuffed animal: a play thing can be used to innovate or imagine, or give much needed comfort and love at night.

Comfort Cases, a 501(c)(3) headquartered in Rockville, fills backpacks and duffel bags with new items that will bring comfort or dignity to a child in the foster care system. Each item including a stuffed animal, pajamas, hygiene and dental kits, blanket, fun activity, and book would have greatly impacted the childhood and adolescence of Comfort Cases' Founder and Darnestown resident, Rob Scheer, who grew up in the foster care system. He, like thousands of others (including his four wonderful children adopted from the foster care system), had to carry their few belongings in trash bags. Comfort Cases aims to abolish that image altogether. No child should be transitioned from house to house, clutching a trash bag in hand.

This summer I was given the opportunity to work at Comfort Cases as an intern. I was able to witness with fresh eyes the logistics, the volunteers, and the incredible staff/board members who have been with Comfort Cases since day one.

As I make the journey back to Chicago from my temporary home in Gaithersburg MD, I am overcome with awe and appreciation for this organization, and everybody involved. Comfort Cases truly is the next big thing.

An organization that started out as a small charity for local foster kids has rapidly transformed into a powerhouse that has sent thousands of cases to nearly 20 different states, while currently undergoing a national expansion. The growth of Comfort Cases can be explained by the passionate volunteers along with the generosity of donors, but in my opinion it is because of the simplicity, tangibility and connectedness the participants feel to the cause and, most importantly, to the children. When you donate items like toiletries, or when you host a packing party, the impact is immediate. And our donors feel that. They feel the connection to the foster children, young minds who are currently vulnerable. And as Americans, as members of the same community, it is our responsibility to care for them, and help them meet their potential.

The draw to Comfort Cases is widespread, and as it grows, more people want to be involved. Recently, Ellen DeGeneres featured our Founder, Rob Scheer, and his husband, Reece, on her show. The encounter has been described by Rob and his family to have been incredibly overwhelming. The community of care within Comfort Cases is beyond thankful that The Ellen Show gave our organization, and the Scheer family, the spotlight they deserve. It goes to show how magnetic this cause and the people involved are. Comfort Cases invites you to mark your calendars and participate in our featured upcoming special events:

- September 12, 2017 – Dine & Donate Fundraiser at The Mellow Mushroom in Rockville Square. Bring a new backpack or small duffel back to donate, and let your server know during lunch OR dinner that you are a Comfort Cases' supporter for a portion of your meal to be donated to Comfort Cases' mission.
- November 18, 2017 – Fall Packing Party at the University of Maryland
- May 12, 2018 - 4th Annual Gala at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. (black tie optional)

To learn how you or your company can become a gala sponsor or to discuss making contributions to the fundraising portion of Comfort Cases' 4th Annual Gala, please contact Jennifer Moss at jmoss@comfortcases.org.

In order to receive weekly updates on volunteer needs and the latest news on Comfort Cases' accomplishments, email Jenn Whitman at jwhitman@comfortcases.org.

At Comfort Cases, there is truly a way for everyone to get involved. We hope you are inspired, and strive to make a difference in a very deserving child's life! Thank you!!



***The Scheer Family
with Ellen DeGeneres***



Community Interest

Seneca Aqueduct at Riley's Lock

By Beth Erdman

If you go down Seneca Road to Riley's Lock, you'll find a place that many people from Darnestown love to go – the C&O Canal towpath. At the end of Riley's Lock road is Seneca Aqueduct. The aqueduct allows Seneca Creek to empty into the Potomac River. Here we ride our bikes and horses, walk, run, fish, kayak, and canoe.

Seneca Aqueduct was begun in 1829 and completed in 1832. It's a unique structure on the C&O Canal. It is the *only* aqueduct on the C&O that is also a lock. The lock is named after John Riley, who ran the lock from 1892 until the canal closed in 1924. Seneca Aqueduct is doubly unique that it is the only aqueduct made of Seneca redstone. This is the same stone used for the Smithsonian Castle on the Mall in the District. The lockkeeper's house at Riley's Lock was finished in 1830. After World War II, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers unveiled a proposal for flood control of the Potomac Valley. The engineers wanted to build a series of 14 massive dams. The plan included a 119-foot dam just above Great Falls that would back up the Potomac almost to Harpers Ferry. There was also a plan to turn the canal into a parkway modeled after Skyline Drive. The parkway plan moved slowly, but it was endorsed by the *Washington Post* in 1954.

That's when Supreme Court Justice Williams O. Douglas penned his famous letter to the editors, inviting them to join him on a walking tour of the towpath. The editors accepted. The Wilderness Society and the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club agreed to make the necessary arrangements. A sizable entourage started out from near Cumberland on March 20. Only nine of the group (including Douglas but **not** the *Post* editors) hiked the whole way. The event succeeded in calling public attention to the C&O Canal conservation movement.

Unfortunately, the Douglas hike of 1954 did not lead to any swift resolution. The fight to preserve the natural and historic integrity of the canal was just beginning. Variations of the parkway and dam proposals swirled through hearings and draft bills during the Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon administrations. Somehow, miraculously, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was finally designated a National Historical Park in a law signed by President Nixon on January 9, 1971. The Park Service, as the canal's guardian, has quietly

gone about the work of stabilizing many canal structures and restoring and maintaining the towpath to a usable condition.

In September 1971, a torrential thunderstorm dumped up to eleven inches of rain on Montgomery County. So much debris was carried down Seneca Creek that when it reached the Seneca Aqueduct, which was built with interlocking stone without mortar, it gave way. The aqueduct lost one of its three arches in the collapse. The National Park Service shored up the aqueduct with steel beams and cement and build a wooden walk to carry the towpath over the missing section. The stones from the collapsed section were gathered up and now lie along the towpath in a pile. It was an ugly fix-it job that was supposed to be a temporary fix.

The Monocacy Aqueduct was restored in 2004-2005 at a cost of \$5.5 million. The Conococheague Aqueduct is currently being restored. My inquiries found that funding for that project came from different grants and state funding.

My inquiries into the possible restoration of the Seneca Aqueduct have led to discouraging news. The Park Service budgets continue to be cut. There are no current plans to restore.

One of the best things about living in Darnestown is our ease of access to the C&O Canal towpath. I hope that we as a community will be cognizant and supportive of the need to restore the Seneca Aqueduct.

Resources:

The Smithsonian Castle and the Seneca Quarry by Garrett Peck, 2013
"Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, Official National Park Handbook", 2016
The C&O Canal Companion by Mike High, 1997



Community Interest

Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Chris Thomas

Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 wrapped up a summer full of terrific activities and is back in the swing of things with a packed fall schedule. Fall 2017 will include an overnight canoeing and kayaking trip, a weekend on Assateague Island, and other outings as well as the normal series of meetings and other events. Additionally, Troop 1094 will spend a day in September cleaning the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., will do their semi-annual Darnestown Presbyterian Church grounds clean-up and will conduct a myriad of other community service projects.

For one group of Troop 1094 Scouts, the summer's highlight was a 10-day trip spent in Yellowstone National Park participating in the Surf-n-Turf High Adventure camp. These 17 Scouts and parents travelled to the Boy Scout's Yellowstone High Adventure Outpost in Wyoming and enjoyed kayaking and camping along Lake Yellowstone's eastern coast as well as backpacking through the park's backcountry and mountains. Troop 1094 was the first troop to ever do the Surf-n-Turf kayaking and backpacking combination and although they returned to Darnestown exhausted, they had a terrific time. "We got to see areas of the park not seen by the vast majority of visitors," remarked trip leader Charlie Scott, "this was a once in a lifetime opportunity."

The week following the Yellowstone Trip, more than 30 Troop 1094 Scouts and parents headed to southwestern Pennsylvania to Camp Liberty at the Boy Scout's Heritage Reservation. Our Scouts enjoyed hiking and water sports and working on Scout skills in and around Lake Courage and they earned a pile of merit badges while having fun in the woods! These Scouts saw plenty of action at the waterfront all week, where some new scouts earned Swimming merit badge. Older scouts earned Lifesaving, Sailing, and Kayaking merit

badges, and spent time learning to board sail and paddleboard.

On August 13th, Troop 1094 conducted an Eagle Court of Honor to award the rank of Eagle Scout to Sajan Mistry and Turner Thackston. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts. The designation "Eagle Scout" has a long history since its founding over one hundred years ago and earning this rank requires great determination and commitment. One of the culminating milestones on the path to Eagle Scout is the Eagle Project. For his project, Sajan organized the construction of seven free standing benches at the ISKON of DC Temple in Potomac. Turner Thackston's Eagle Project involved rebuilding the paddle box and building shelves for the Izaak Walton League's facility in Germantown. These terrific projects really helped the affected organizations and provided an opportunity for other Scouts to earn SSL hours. Nationwide, only four percent of Boy Scouts ever attain the Eagle Scout rank, and only after a lengthy review process. Regarding Turner reaching Eagle Scout, Kelly Thackston said, "I am impressed with and proud of the tenacity and perseverance Turner demonstrated to obtain his Eagle Scout rank as well as thankful to all of the Scouts and volunteers who helped him throughout this seven year journey." Congratulations to Darnestown's newest Eagles.



Turner Thackston and Scout Master Gerard Mulford

Community Interest

Sue's Reviews

By Sue Abbondanzo Johnstone

DUNKIRK

"Dunkirk" is a 106-minute PG-13 Rated historic drama directed by Christopher Nolan starring Fionn Whitehead (Tommy), Aneurin Barnard (Gibson), Mark Rylance (Mr. Gibson), Barry Keoghan (George), Tom Hardy (Farrier), Kenneth Branagh (Commander Bolton) and James D'Arcy (Colonel Winnant).

This movie, set in 1940 during World War II, is about the Dunkirk evacuation as told from the perspectives of the troops on the beaches (land), the small and large vessels (sea) and the fighter planes (air). A heroic, coordinated attempt was made to rescue 330,000 Allied soldiers (British, French, Belgium and Dutch) who were trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk as the German forces were invading France. This included hundreds of small recreational boats which were piloted by civilians from across the English Channel.

"Dunkirk" has been one of the most highly-anticipated films of the year and some critics have called it the best war movie ever made. I think it is a spectacular film for several reasons, including the phenomenal true story upon which it is based and the photographic techniques used by the director. It is thrilling and riveting from the opening -to -closing scene. It smoothly weaves the three parallel threads into a satisfying portrait of the phenomenal rescue mission. I felt like I was in the ships and planes and on the beaches as I watched the battle and rescue scenes unfold. The director used multiple IMAX hand-held shots for many of the scenes which enhances the photographic effect. The casting/acting is uniformly outstanding even though the individual roles are small.

I have only a few criticisms including the lack of an epilogue and the inclusion of a prologue which only provides sparse details. For such an epic event, I would have preferred to see more facts listed. At times, the absence of dialogue makes it difficult to figure out what exactly is happening, and to distinguish the enemy from Allied forces (especially in the planes). The dialogue is often difficult to understand which detracts from the story. Many of the battle scenes are understandably sobering and difficult to watch.

The last half-hour is as mesmerizing and thrilling as any I have seen recently in a war movie. Although I do not think "Dunkirk" is the best war movie ever made, it is a terrific addition to that category which historians, especially, will find very satisfying. I give "Dunkirk" an 8.5 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).



THE EMOJI MOVIE

"The Emoji Movie" is an 86-minute PG Rated animated comedy directed by Tony Leondis starring the voices of T.J. Miller (Gene), James Corden (Hi-5), Patrick Stewart (Poop), Anna Farris (Jailbreak), Maya Rudolph (Smiler), Christina Aguilera (Akiko Glitter), Sofia Vergara (Flamenca), Jennifer Coolidge (Mary Meh) and many others.

The movie is set in smartphone Textopolis which is home to all emojis. Each emoji has a specific facial expression except for Gene who has a "meh" face and multiple expressions which make him feel different and malformed. Gene longs to be "normal" like the other emojis and asks his friend HI-5 and an infamous code-breaker named Jailbreak for help. The three friends travel through the other apps trying to help Gene while simultaneously uncovering a danger that could destroy the phone's existence.

While researching this movie, I read that the director, Tony Leondis, is gay and wanted to create a film to reflect his feeling of "being different in a world that expects you to be one thing". If this is the point of, and reason for, seeing "The Emoji Movie", it is successful in conveying the messages of acceptance and diversity (without dealing directly with sexual orientation). I only wish this well-meaning film had a more interesting and less silly plot rather than one filled with childish dialogue and potty humor, especially regarding the turd emoji. With a running time of 86 minutes, it seems long and more suited to a half-hour cartoon.

One of my main criticisms is the confusing nature of the target audience which would appear to be very young children. This group may not understand, however, the constant smartphone, social media, computer and digital company terminology which seems more geared to an older audience. Neither the children nor the adults in my theater had much of a reaction to this movie.

I enjoyed the soundtrack, especially the emojis song/dance routine to Wham! "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" (1984) and the positive messages about dancing, self-acceptance, diversity, friendship and humility. Gene's Mom cautions him about being self-centered by saying, "What good is it to be number one if there aren't any other numbers?" The animation is colorful and clever. I am less than "meh" about this film and I give "The Emoji Movie" a 2.0 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).

Meet the Neighbors

A Botanical Intruder has Invaded Darnestown!

By Merikay Smith

This is a neighbor that we don't welcome here in Darnestown! There is a relatively new invasive weed in our area -- this is the first year I'm seeing it in my garden. **Wavy basket grass**. It doesn't look too bad but I was told by an expert at the National Arboretum recently that this is a "weed from hell." It is one that people should try to find and pull in their gardens as soon as it is spotted so that it doesn't take over. Unlike Japanese stilt grass, which is an annual that dies each year, this weed is a perennial.

I was recently out pulling weeds and found it in my garden, which is why I'm submitting this information to the Acorn. It really is an awful plant and the only chance we have of keeping it out of Darnestown is for everyone to pull it (or if there's a large infestation, spray it with the type of Round-up that is aquatically approved).

Here is some additional information from Wikipedia on wavy basket grass:

Accidentally introduced into the United States in Maryland and Virginia, this species spreads quickly and is becoming extremely invasive in forested natural areas in the Mid-Atlantic region across numerous counties in Maryland and Virginia.

The species was first reported in Maryland in 1996, growing around the Liberty Reservoir area and the northern section of the Patapsco River in Howard County. The grass spread quickly into connected natural areas in Baltimore and Carroll Counties. By 1999, it was identified in Montgomery County at Wheaton Regional Park. In 2006, it was identified in Prince George's County at Little Paint Branch Park, the adjacent Beltsville Agricultural Research Center-East, and the National Greenbelt Park. It had crossed into Virginia by 2004, where it was found growing at an 80-acre site in Shenandoah National Park, and in a 20–30-acre site at the Fraser Preserve along the Potomac River in Fairfax County.

Once a population has become established, complete eradication from a site has proven to be extremely difficult due to a long-lived perennial life cycle, a long seed germination season (April–November), and considerable seed mobility of the species.



Sydney Tepper Selected to Play in 2017 National Lacrosse Academy

Submitted by Jenny and David Flinchum
(proud parents and long-time Darnestown residents)

Sydney Tepper, a born and raised Darnestown girl and current 7th grader at Holy Child, has been named as a 2017 National Lacrosse All-Star and has been selected to represent the State of Maryland at the National Lacrosse Academy and National Lacrosse Classic to be held July 18-21, 2017 in Richmond, Virginia at the River City Sportsplex.

The National Lacrosse Academy brings the top youth lacrosse players in the United States and Canada to one venue, where regional teams that are coached by NCAA lacrosse coaches compete to become the 2017 National Champion.

The National Lacrosse Academy is the first-of-its-kind lacrosse experience created to provide a curriculum focused on how a young lacrosse athlete should develop in order to compete at a top high school and collegiate lacrosse program.

To follow the National Lacrosse Classic, visit:
www.nationallacrosseclassic.com



Sydney Tepper on the LAX field



Community Interest



Those Who Serve



U S Army Captain Ryan Swisher

US Army Captain Ryan Swisher completed his MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Business on June 9th and began his two year assignment as an instructor in economics at the US Military Academy (West Point) on June 30th. Throughout July and August he taught courses on the Principles of Economics to incoming members of the Army Football team and other fall sports players. Captain Swisher is an Infantry Officer who served two combat tours in Afghanistan as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He is the son of Rob and Janet Swisher and the brother of Adam and Jack Swisher.



Captain Ryan Swisher

Army Captain Simon Youngblut (West Point class of 2008) graduated from a two year Operations Research Bachelor of Science Degree program from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, CA in June and is being assigned to Fort Belvoir, VA.

Captain Josh Magnusson, husband of former Army Captain Hannah Youngblut Magnusson are returning to Washington DC area in August for Josh to complete a second Master's degree in foreign relations. Josh is a foreign affairs officer. Hannah and Josh have spent the last year in numerous European and Asian capitals.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization that strives to place a Christmas wreath on every veteran's grave in America.

Did you know that Darnestown Presbyterian Church's cemetery includes 73 veterans, one of whom, Pvt. Elgar Tschiffely, is a Civil War veteran?

Darnestown Presbyterian Church has recently become a sponsor for *Wreaths Across America*!

See the next page for information on an upcoming ceremony and a brief biography of Pvt. Tschiffely!



Those Who Serve – Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a nationwide program whose mission is to Remember fallen veterans, Honor those valiant patriots who serve, and Teach children the importance and value of freedom. Darnestown Presbyterian Church will be the first location in Montgomery County to participate in this event, joining the annual wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and over 1,200 locations across the U.S., at sea, and abroad.

To commemorate the 73 known veterans interred in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery, DPC has partnered with *Wreaths Across America* and the Independent Civilians Motorcycle Club to place wreaths on the graves of all of the veterans in the DPC cemetery during a ceremony on December 16, 2017. The local Boy Scouts and Brownies will be on hand to help lay the wreaths on the 16th (and to help with the clean-up in January). We will also have guest speakers, a bugler, hot coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts for all participants. Everyone is invited to participate - please mark your calendars for the December 16th ceremony, and look in the December Little Acorn for timing and other details.

This event is financed entirely by private donations. If you wish to sponsor a wreath (\$15 each), please go to:

<http://www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org>

- ✓ Scroll to and click on “**Donate to a local Fund Raising Group**”
- ✓ In the search bar enter **MDDPCD**
- ✓ Click on **View**, then click **Donate** and follow the instructions

For more information or if you’d like to volunteer to help on December 16th, please feel free to contact the *Wreaths Across America* point of contact, Bill Gooch at:

wsgooch@comcast.net

Elgar Tschiffely is the only Civil War veteran interred in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery. We begin our biography series on the lives of the 73 veterans in DPC’s cemetery with Elgar’s story. The following obituary comes from the Washington Post, 1930.

Last Confederate Vet in Montgomery County Dies

Elgar Tschiffely

November 5, 1842 – June 3, 1930

Death yesterday morning removed the sole surviving Confederate veteran of Montgomery County in the person of Elgar L. Tschiffely, 87 years old, who succumbed at his home in Rockville, MD following a fall in the house several days ago during convalescence from an attack of pneumonia.

Mr. Tschiffely had been widely known in southern Maryland for many years and had made his home continuously in Montgomery County, where as a young man he joined Company A, First Maryland Regiment, and participated in numerous engagements throughout the Civil War. He was with General Robert E. Lee at the surrender at Appomattox, and emerged from the war unscathed.

Out of 60 Montgomery County veterans of the Confederate forces, members of the Ridgely Brown camp of Rockville, Mr. Tschiffely survived all and last year held a picturesque reunion of his own. Although not active recently, he maintained his position as a director and adjuster of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Sandy Spring, Maryland, which he assumed in 1895.

He is survived by a son, Frederick Tschiffely of Florida, two daughters, Mrs. Robert E. L. Smith and Miss Mabel Tschiffely of Rockville; two brothers, Albert Tschiffely of Oklahoma and Dr. F. A. Tschiffely of Washington; and two sisters, Miss Lou Tschiffely and Mrs. Charles Richard of Washington.

47th Annual DCA Hoedown

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS FOR A SPECTACULAR EVENING
OF DINNER, DANCING, DRINKS, DESSERTS & HAYRIDES!

ALL-INCLUSIVE FOR ONLY

\$35 pp/DCA members!!!

\$45 pp/non-members

FRIDAY OCTOBER 13, 2017

6:30 – 11:00 pm

Smokey Glen Farm – Main Pavilion

16407 Riffle Ford Road

Right here in Darnestown!

Back by popular demand:

Darnestown's *favorite* caller, Mac McCall

Serving Smokey Glen Farm's famous complete BBQ chicken and BBQ spareribs
buffet dinner, starting with seafood bisque and ending with delicious smoked fruit pies.

Included are sodas, apple cider, beer, wine, bar beverages, and coffee

ADULTS ONLY!

Reservations with payment must be received by October 10th!

****No refunds** Payment will not be accepted at the door**

Please RSVP at

DarnestownCivic.org

Direct any questions to Lisa via

Email: LisaAPatterson@aol.com or

Phone: 301-704-4714

Fun Fall Recipes!



Butternut Squash Quinoa Salad

Ingredients

- 2½ cups butternut squash, cut into ½" cubes (about 1 half butternut squash)
- 1½ cups red onion, cut into ½" cubes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup uncooked quinoa
- 2 cups water
- ⅓ cup dried cherries
- ¼ cup pepitas
- ¼ cup fresh parsley, chopped
- 2 oz. crumbed goat cheese
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1½ teaspoons raw honey
- dash of ground cinnamon
- salt to taste

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 400.
2. Add the butternut squash and red onion to a baking sheet. Season with 2 tablespoons of olive oil and 1 teaspoon of sea salt. Toss to coat.
3. Bake the mixture for 20 minutes.
4. In the meantime add quinoa and water to a small saucepan. Stir and bring mixture to a boil. Cover and reduce to simmer for 15 minutes until the liquid has evaporated. Remove from heat, let the quinoa sit for 2 minutes then fluff the quinoa with a fork.
5. To make the dressing: in a small bowl, mix the apple cider vinegar, 2 tablespoons of olive, raw honey, ground cinnamon, and salt to taste.
6. To a large bowl add cooked quinoa, butternut squash, red onion, dried cherries, pepitas, parsley, goat cheese, and dressing. Gently toss to mix everything together.

*You can substitute blue Hokkaido or cheese pumpkin, or acorn, delicata, or hubbard squash for the butternut squash!

Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons good olive oil
- 4 cups chopped yellow onions (3 large)
- 2 tablespoons mild curry powder
- 5 pounds butternut squash (2 large)
- 1 ½ pounds sweet apples, such as McIntosh apples
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups water
- 2 cups good apple cider or juice

Instructions

Warm the butter, olive oil, onions, and curry powder in a large stockpot uncovered over low heat for 15 to 20 minutes, until the onions are tender. Stir occasionally, scraping the bottom of the pot.

Peel the squash, cut in half, and remove the seeds. Cut the squash into chunks. Peel, quarter, and core the apples. Cut into chunks.

Add the squash, apples, salt, pepper, and 2 cups of water to the pot. Bring to a boil, cover, and cook over low heat for 30 to 40 minutes, until the squash and apples are very soft. Process the soup through a food mill fitted with a large blade, or puree it coarsely in the bowl of a food processor fitted with a steel blade.

Pour the soup back into the pot. Add the apple cider or juice and enough water to make the soup the consistency you like; it should be slightly sweet and quite thick. Check the salt and pepper and serve hot.



Homesteading Corner!

As summer fades in many parts of the country and trees start to show their brilliant fall colors, our minds turn to preparing for a change of seasons. Autumn is a favorite time for most – long walks spent admiring nature’s glory gives way to reflecting on what has passed in the summer just gone and what is yet to come with the approaching winter.

No matter where you live there are always chores and preparations to be made for the coming fall and winter months. The list below is just a sampling of the kinds of things you should be thinking about to ready your home for the coming months.

In the Garden

Gather fall leaves to feed your compost pile, or pile them around plants that are less cold tolerant to help keep them warm during the winter. Even pine boughs can be used to lessen the damage from freezing and thawing temperatures.

Pick and store beans that have dried on the vine. Even small amounts can be used to enliven soups and stews, or made into small pots of baked beans. Any beans not picked young and at their peak can be left to dry on the vine.

Cut back spent perennials and lightly prune fruit trees, removing broken branches.

Pull all dead and dying annuals; chop and add to compost.

Plant garlic for a wonderful spring harvest.

Rake and lightly till garden areas. Add compost, leaves or mulch to enrich the soil over the winter.

In the Barn

To extend your egg production, set up lights in the chicken coop to give hens the illusion of longer days. Simple, inexpensive timers can also be installed to automatically turn lights off. If freezing is a problem, set up heat lamps over water troughs to keep water thawed.

Put down thick layer, 3 to 4-inches, of litter (straw, shavings, leaves, etc.) in chicken coop for winter bedding. Don’t forget nesting boxes!

Check lighting and repair or replace bulbs for winter use.



Happy Fall

Around the House

Make sure alternate power sources, like generators are in good working order.

Lay in a supply of firewood to take the chill off early fall temps and to augment the use of your furnace.

Air out cold weather bedding like wool blankets and down comforters.

Check weather stripping and replace or add where needed.

Store garden and lawn furniture and BBQ’s so cold winter temperatures don’t cause damage.

Inspect any equipment used in winter, like snow blowers or snow plows and service if needed.

Fall is a great time to start the de-cluttering process. Choose one cabinet, closet or drawer per week to clean out and organize. Donate cast-offs to charity or plan a garage sale.

Enjoy this time of year; pour over every new seed and livestock catalog that arrives in the mail; dream beyond all imagine, before you have to stop yourself, take a deep breath and reexamine every aspect of your overall homesteading plan.

A great way to remind yourself of seasonal chores is to make a chart of what you want (or need) to accomplish in any given season. That way you can “check-off” completed projects while still being reminded of those yet to finish. Keep your chart handy on an Excel spreadsheet so you can add to it.





School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary



By Sandy Pearce



I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and was able to squeeze in some vacation time. Let's welcome the fabulous staff and students of Darnestown Elementary BACK TO SCHOOL!

We are saying goodbye to our former principal of eleven years, Mrs. Laura Colgary. Please join us in welcoming Mr. Mark Craemer, who most recently served as the assistant principal of Jones Lane and Fox Chapel Elementary Schools, in addition to his Resource Teacher work at Lakelands Middle school from 2005-2011. He hails to us from Point of Rocks, MD and has worked in Montgomery County for the past 21 years. I'm confident Mr. Craemer will strive to continue to make DES the excellent school it has become.

We begin the year with our main fundraising event, the DES READ-A-THON. The READ-A-THON is an inspiring reading program designed to motivate our children to read and develop a love of reading. All money raised will go to the PTA to support our school and community service programs. Prizes and other incentives will be awarded to the students who read for the most minutes and/or collect the most donations. Last year students raised nearly \$16,000 which was used to fund all our events, such as the Fall and Spring Picnic, Donuts for Darnestown and wonderful prizes on Bingo Night.

Our next exciting fundraising event, held in early November, is The DES Scholastic Book Fair. It's a great place to purchase holiday gifts for all ages. Profits will supply books for the teacher's classrooms, library, and PTA for other scholastic activities. Come browse the wide selection of books for purchase and be sure to invite your family and friends.

This school year marks the 16th year that Darnestown Elementary has come together with Gaithersburg Elementary in the Adopt-A-School program. Gaithersburg Elementary is a Title 1 school of nearly 700 students, of which 70% are in free and reduced meals programs. For the past fifteen years, the generous contributions from our Darnestown families have assisted the families at Gaithersburg Elementary to prepare their children for a successful school year.

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

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

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

We're Going Back To School



DES Calendar of Important Events:

First Day of School:	September 5
Summer Reading and Math Packets Due:	September 8
Back to School Night:	September 12 (6:30PM)
Back to School Picnic:	September 15
Parent Volunteer Training:	September 19 (9:30-11AM)
No School:	September 21
Early Release Day:	October 6 (1:20PM Dismissal)
Open House Parent Visitation:	October 9 (9:30AM-12PM)
Story Night:	October 13 (6:30-7:45PM)
Fruits for Families:	November 3 (9-9:20AM)
Book Fair Begins:	November 7
Early Release Day:	November 9 (1:20PM Dismissal)
Early Release Day:	November 10 (1:20PM Dismissal)
Early Release Day:	November 22 (1:20PM Dismissal)
No School:	November 23
No School:	November 24

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

<http://www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/>



Butler Montessori School

By Lisa Daly

Butler Montessori's adolescents have their own, unique space on campus lovingly referred to as the "Park House". This is a converted one story house that is their place for study, work, and social activities. Along with general academics, Butler Montessori also offers its students a small farm and garden experience. With the guidance of an experienced garden manager, the students raise a variety of fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers. They are also responsible for a small brood of chickens (approximately 15) and maintain a school wide compost program. And while the students are not solely responsible for the large number of horses on our campus (currently 18), they do use the horses in a variety of activities from grooming and anatomy lessons to genetics studies. By participating in a school community 'Farmer's Market' each Friday throughout the year, adolescents learn about commerce and exchange and of the strict and rigid rules of bookkeeping. Students are able to sell eggs from their chickens, fruits and vegetables from their garden, and items they have baked or created in the Park House kitchen. Additionally, in the summers, they continue to work for two week cycles to ensure the success of their gardens and care of their animals. Because of the summer schedule, the farmer's market is able to continue for our camp families, allowing for further commerce and exchange, even when school is not in session. These are all wonderful ways to help put the adolescent on the road to achieving economic independence. Having the farm and garden experience allows students to see firsthand how their work and interactions with nature affects the community.



At Butler Montessori we believe, just like Maria Montessori did, students must be given the chance to experience adult society in a safe and caring environment, where they are free to make choices, make mistakes, be forgiven and learn to forgive others. Adults surrounding these adolescents must be caring, understanding, and continue to model appropriate behaviors in all situations while always observing and carrying on constant dialogue with students so that these young people can grow up to be successful, happy, and confident adults themselves.

If you'd like to learn more about the Adolescent Program or visit our school to see more check out www.butlerschool.org or call 301-977-6600. Also, be sure to come stop by our Farmer's Market each Friday at 3:00!



Seneca Academy

By Dr. Michelle Parker, Ph.D.

Seneca Academy is looking forward to an engaging and inspiring 2017-2018 school year! Plans are well underway for a wide range of activities and off-campus trips this fall to support our hands-on, inquiry-based learning model. As an IB World School, we are committed to helping our students become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, and balanced communicators and thinkers. There is no better way to do that than by actively interacting with the environment and our community. Here on campus, students will make use of our 6 ½ acres of National Wildlife Federation Habitat to explore topics from math and physics to art and creative writing. As they venture off-campus, many of the trips they take will also focus on how students can make a difference in the world. For example, our fifth grade will take an overnight trip to the Anita C. Leigh Estuary Center on the Chesapeake Bay to study water quality and how it is impacted by development and other factors.

Our preschoolers will also be busy building competencies by exploring the world around them and by engaging in age-appropriate thought-provoking problem-solving (also known as play!). Limited spaces are available in our preschool program. More information and all forms can be found on our website at:

www.senecaacademy.org/private-preschool-maryland/

Due to popular demand, we have opened up an additional section of our Parent's Day Out program for 2-year olds, which provides children one morning of play each week and an opportunity to prepare for preschool. Children who are 2 by September 1, 2017 are eligible - potty training is not required. This program will begin in late September. Learn more at:

www.senecaacademy.org/parents-day-out/

If you are interested in our program and in seeing our students "at work" and immersed in their journey of discovery, we invite you to join us for "**Walk-In Wednesday**" tours from 9:30-11:00am on the first and third Wednesdays of the month starting in October. Find out more at www.SenecaAcademy.org or call us at 301-869-3728.

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

Calling all Circle School and Seneca Academy Alumni! Join us for our 4th Annual Homecoming & Fall Picnic on Sunday, October 22nd! Check out our website this fall for more details about this family-friendly event!

Finally, the **Seneca Academy Parenting Series** dates have been published for the upcoming school year! Dr. Michelle Parker, a child psychologist and our Head of School, will be presenting four separate workshops on topics ranging from “Understanding Your Child’s Brain Development” to “Picking Your Battles and Setting Limits.” These workshops are free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call 301-869-3728 or visit:

www.SenecaAcademy.org/parenting-series

Georgetown Hill Darnestown



By Nicole Reap

Summer has gone full STEAM ahead for our campers! Our summer program consisted of plenty of science, technology, engineering, art and math concepts. We began the summer with the wacky world of hands-on science experiments and concoctions. Then we moved onto our imagination and creation stations, where the children mastered DIY projects using many materials and mediums. Our future engineers explored, tinkered and developed their own creations while learning about motion, momentum and mechanics. And inventors and innovators were inspired to create their own gizmos and gadgets. Even our youngest campers learned about how things work while playing with balloons, kites, paper airplanes and more.

Our school age campers enjoyed going on two field trips in addition to going to the pool each week. And all of our little campers enjoyed hands-on exploration and discoveries, water play and in-house events.

What an amazing summer we have had! And now it’s time to think about the fall and the new school year ahead.

We are very excited about the new school year to begin on Tuesday, September 5. We are now enrolling for both our preschool program for 18-month-old little ones up to Pre-K and Trans-K and our School Age program. We have full and half-day programs and before and after care are offered for all of our students.

We have now expanded our School Age program to include Jones Lane Elementary, with free transportation to and from our school. The School Age program is a before and after school program that includes plenty of stimulating activities for your Darnestown and Jones Lane elementary students.

Georgetown Hill is celebrating 37 years in early childhood. Our belief is that children learn best through hands-on playing and exploring. Our teachers focus on the social and emotional wellbeing of each and every child. For more information or to schedule a tour, please contact our Campus Director, Kristen Raymond, at 301-527-1761 or email us at darnestown@georgetownhill.com. And like us on Facebook - Georgetown Hill at Darnestown.



Mary of Nazareth

By Sara Jamison

Mary of Nazareth Hosts STREAM Innovation Day Camp

Mary of Nazareth Catholic school held its first ever STREAM innovation day camp this past June. The camp welcomed students from second through fifth grades to explore the wonders of water in an interactive learning environment. Mary of Nazareth teachers served as camp instructors, following an interactive STREAM curriculum. STREAM (science, technology, religion, engineering, art, and mathematics) is an integration of religion and arts into STEM content that allows for inquiry-based learning. 21st Century technology was used during the camp to enhance student experience on virtual reality field trips to some of the world's most awe inspiring waterfalls and natural parks. Other camp activities included exploring careers in water conservation and marine biology, creating clouds in a jar, testing pH and water samples, building rain gauges, and making squirt-gun art. Campers also gave back to Mary of Nazareth community by creating water conservation signage for the school bathrooms. Mary of Nazareth, located in Darnestown, serves students in grades PreK through 8 across upper Montgomery County.



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday, November 5th**

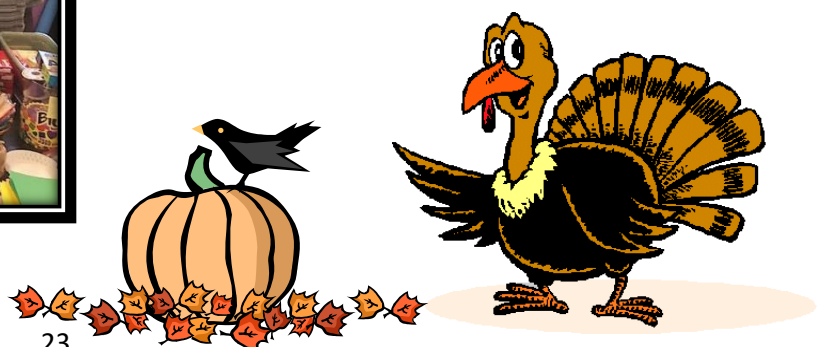


Are you an animal lover?

**Cut up your old pumpkins this season and
put them out in the backyard to attract
wildlife critters, or consider donating them
to a local farm or animal shelter**

**Thanksgiving is
Thursday, November 23rd**

Eat hamburger ☺



Church News!

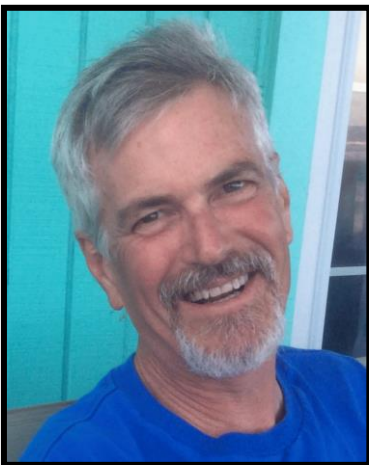


Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Our New Pastor Has Arrived!

We are pleased and very excited to announce the selection of **Reverend Neill S. Morgan, M. Div.**, as our Interim Pastor. Rev. Morgan spent his early years here in Montgomery County before moving with his family to Texas, where he has served in ministry for much of his career. A graduate of Austin College and Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Neill worked at churches in Texas and Colorado before serving for nearly twenty years as Pastor of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Sherman, TX; recently he has been working as a church consultant and Visiting Pastor within the Grace Presbytery of Texas. Neill and his wife Nancy are looking forward to life on the east coast where they can be closer to their children and grandchildren. The Morgans joined our congregation on July 23rd, and Neill will guide our church as we begin the lengthy process of calling a permanent Pastor. Come and meet Reverend Morgan some Sunday morning!



Rev. Neill Morgan

Annual Outdoor Service and Picnic

DPC has its annual **Outdoor Worship Service** on September 10th, under the trees on the church lawn at 9:30 AM. This service provides a memorable and moving experience in which we feel God's presence very directly, and it is followed by our annual **Picnic and Barbecue**. The picnic features pony rides, games, our cakewalk, and plenty of great food which is served beginning around 11:00 AM. Seating is provided for the outdoor service, but families are welcome to bring their

own lawn chairs or blankets. The outdoor service is weather contingent, so in the event of rain we'll move our family-friendly service indoors -- but the picnic and barbecue are rain or shine! Everyone is welcome and we are always delighted by visitors.

Annual Bazaar and Boutique Saturday, November 4th

Our most ambitious event of the year at DPC is a true Darnestown institution -- the annual Bazaar and Boutique sponsored by our Darnestown Presbyterian Women. The Bazaar kicks off the local holiday season and begins at 8:30 AM on Saturday, November 4. It offers something of interest to just about everyone, featuring multiple rooms with different motifs, including Crafts, Home Décor, Holiday Gifts, Jewelry, a Christmas Room, pre-owned Books, Toys, Vintage and Garage Sale Treasures and a Silent Auction for a wide variety of goods and services. Each section stays open until between 2:30 and 3:00 PM. We spend all year making all our popular handmade items including great holiday décor, jewelry, soaps and lotions, baby items, pet gifts and a huge selection of handmade greeting cards. We will also offer a selection of home-baked goods and homemade jams in our Country Store, and while you browse you can enjoy a hot lunch or delicious homemade dessert at modest prices in our Café. This is a great opportunity to meet your friends and neighbors as you shop for that one-of-a-kind treasure, and the proceeds of the Bazaar will be used to support multiple local charities. If you have items or services to contribute, a tax receipt can be provided and business cards are welcome. Contact Kathy Kurkjian at kpk1@comcast.net with any questions, if you would like to join our crafting sessions or if you have items to contribute. Hope to see you there!

Fall schedule

On September 17th we return to our standard Sunday schedule with services at 8:45 and 11:00, Sunday School for all ages at 9:45, and a Coffee Hour at 10:30 in our Fellowship Hall. We also staff a nursery for young children every Sunday morning year-round. For info regarding upcoming events and our church in general, please visit our website at <http://www.darnestownpc.org/> or friend us on Facebook. All those who seek God are welcome to our visitor and family-friendly services!

Contact Information:

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

www.darnestownpc.org/
dpchurch@comcast.net

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 request

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



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 November 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
Kendall Kley	age 15	301-300-1077
Michael Long	age 16	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 18	240-912-7765
Megan Strickler	age 16	301-330-3956
George Vargas	age 20	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 17	301-208-6614

CHICKEN SITTERS

Kelsey Kley	age 13	301-310-5914
Fiona O'Connell	age 13	240-477-6346
George Vargas	age 20	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 17	301-208-6614

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 20	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 17	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

November 1st, 2017

Deadlines will remain firm!

Please send articles to

wsgooch@comcast.net





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 Gerard Mulford
sm@troop1094.org

Butler Montessori School

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

Barbara Andreassen Membership
301-330-4485

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Lisa Patterson-Troike, President
301-548-0999

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
Laura Colgary, Principal
301-840-7157

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P. O. Box 3574
Darnestown, MD 20885
Dave Hardy, General Manager,
davidhardy27@hotmail.com
301-330-9616

Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter

Membership, (Vacant)

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Lane
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Carole Sample, Principal
301-840-8160

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Deborah Higdon, Principal
301-670-1400

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Michael J. Friel, Principal
301-869-0940

Quince Orchard Community

Library

15831 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-777-0200

Northwest High School

12501 Richter Farm Road
Germantown, MD 20874
Lance Dempsey, Principal
301- 601-4660

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Carole Working, Principal
301-840-4686

Ridgeview Middle School

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

Trout Unlimited

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369
website:
www.senecavalleytu.org
Charles August, Secretary
cсаugust@comcast.net
240-401-8669



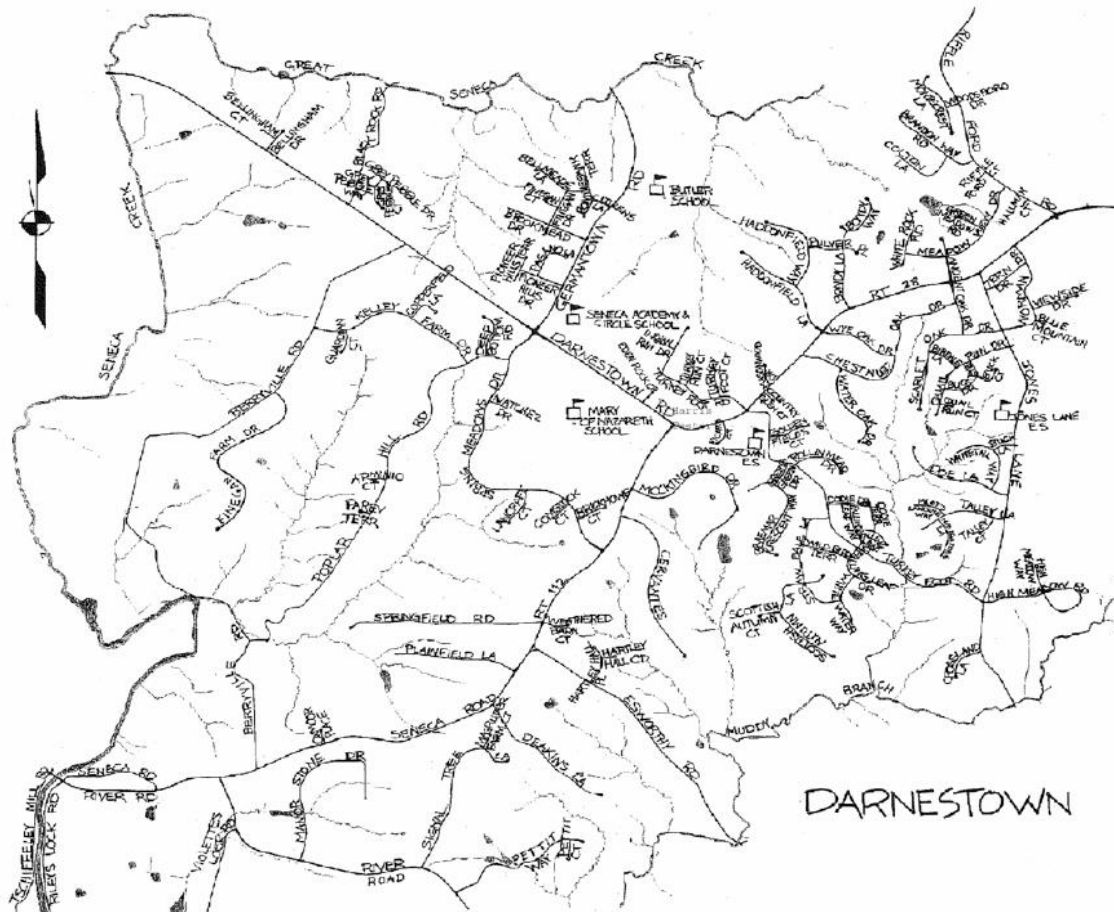
Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org
Website: www.darnestowncivic.org



PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban MD
Permit No. 4889



DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION



DARNESTOWN

