



Est. 1965

# THE LITTLE ACORN

NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

Volume 54, Number 4  
 December 2017

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES



Notes from the President  
*By Lisa Patterson-Troike*



### ***A Bridge Too Far?***

The DC Area Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is considering a possible future crossing over the Potomac River to connect major transportation centers in Virginia and Maryland.

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) conducted an online survey in October to help the DCA understand the community's position on this issue.

\*\*\* **Please see page 8 for full details** \*\*\*

If you didn't receive the bridge survey email and would like to participate, please visit [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org). Be sure to fill out a membership form and provide your email address to be included in future emails providing information about the potential highway and bridge connecting Maryland and Virginia.

### ***Membership***

Our website, [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org), is now accepting 2018 memberships! Please support the DCA by signing up for your membership today. The DCA works tirelessly year-round to help keep Darnestown as the lovely little town that it is. **Please see page 5** for full details on what the DCA does and how you can become a member!

....continued on page 3



### Darnestown Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>

6:30 pm

Darnestown Heritage Park



**Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 noon

Meet and Greet 11:00 am

Darnestown

Presbyterian Church

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# The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

## The Little Acorn

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# Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



## Darnestown Tree Lighting and Wreath Laying Ceremonies

Mark your calendars for two very special Darnestown community events this December! The DCA Annual Tree Lighting is scheduled for 6:30 pm, Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at our Heritage Park next to Harris Teeter.

Don't be late! Cookies, hot cocoa, and a special visit from the "man with the bag", a.k.a., Santa, are all part of the festivities! This event is for adults and children and is always a favorite outing.

## "Wreaths Across America" Community Ceremony

The Meet & Greet for this event is scheduled for 11:00 am on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> with the Ceremony to begin promptly at noon at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church cemetery. 75 wreaths have been sponsored by the Darnestown community as well as citizens outside of our little town who want to honor the many veterans who are buried here in Darnestown. Please join us for this special event! See pages 14 & 15 for more information.

## Softball Trophy Presentation

Dave Bivans presented Deno Photonakis with this year's softball trophy! Deno is a member of the Western Darnestown softball team that clinched the win for 2017. Softball games run throughout the summer on Sunday evenings at the Cliff Bland recreational park here in Darnestown. The league is co-ed and always looking for new players. Be on the lookout spring 2018 for information regarding next year's season!



*Deno Photonakis and Dave Bivans*

## Annual DCA Hoedown Social

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's DCA Hoedown a success! Mac McCall and his wife, Phyllis, love calling square dance moves for our annual event. Mac said, "We look forward to this event every year. It is one of our favorites!" Mac intends to trek over to our Hoedown until he is 90 years old. He's 81 now, so we've got another 9 years!



*Mac and Phyllis McCall*

Smokey Glen Farm did a fabulous job with the BBQ chicken and ribs buffet with all the trimmings and smoked fruit pies for dessert. The hayride is always an adventure, riding along in the pitch-black dark around Smokey Glen's beautiful property. Sheila Thomas and Rob Troike added another level of fun to the hayride... they jumped out and startled several of the riders this year! Yee haw!

**More Hoedown photos on the next page! →**



## More Hoedown Photos!



### No December Town Meeting

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

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

**See you in March 2018!**

Check out our  
**NEW FACEBOOK**  
"Group" Page



[www.facebook.com/groups/1884550325142759/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1884550325142759/)

or search on Facebook for

**Darnestown Maryland - Our Home Town**





# Darnestown Civic Association

## *Why I Should Become a Member*



### The DCA provides important services to our community including:

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

### ***IT'S NEVER BEEN EASIER...***

2018 is rapidly approaching. You can now renew your DCA membership for 2018 online at [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org). You have a choice of online payment (either paying by credit card or by check) or you can print and mail your membership form to our membership chair.

### ***QUESTIONS?***

Feel free to contact DCA President Lisa Patterson by emailing her at [LisaAPatterson@aol.com](mailto:LisaAPatterson@aol.com) or calling her at 301-548-0999.

Please support the Darnestown Civic Association for all they do for our community!





# Community Interest



## **Memberships are more affordable than ever!**

Now is the time to join your community club! Offering everything from swim team to tennis team, teen pool parties, 4<sup>th</sup> of July parades and adult socials – and even a little R&R for some – we have so many family activities at our club. There's something for everyone to enjoy.

**Grab Our Best Promotion Yet** – any 4 new families joining together, and at the same time, will all have their initiation fees waived – **a huge total savings of \$1,600!!!** All families must submit applications and checks together to receive this promotion. You can also find more information at [www.DSRClub.com](http://www.DSRClub.com).

Don't wait - memberships are now more affordable than ever. We always welcome new families joining the DSRC community, so please contact GM, Dave Hardy, at [gm@dsrclub.com](mailto:gm@dsrclub.com) for more information. Read about all the great perks the club offers!

**2018 Social Calendar** – You won't want to miss our 2018 season – the social calendar will keep you busy with fun times like Opening Day Cookout, Red Carpet Teen party, Bebies and a Band Adult Social, our ever popular 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Sunday Funday Tailgate, and Friday Nite Out events at Rocklands Farm and Winery where Rocklands will donate 10% of proceeds to the club! More details on these and many other great times for adults, teens and kids on the website!

**Club Tennis** – While we are still playing into the Fall of 2017, we are already thinking about Spring 2018. Our tennis programming is for all ages and all skill levels. With 6 outdoor, *lighted*, hard courts, we offer a full season of tennis programs for both Junior Tennis and Adult Tennis enthusiasts. There is a program for you and your entire family, so check out our website for all the information on **Junior Tennis & Team, Adult Tennis & Team, and now Pickleball** – our newest addition on the courts! Tennis and Pickleball are great sports and games for life! Come join us and make new friends!

**Darnestown Demons Swimming** – After a successful 5-0 2017 season, we look forward to next summer and more Friday night pep rallies, themed swim meets, Color Wars, the Demon-Red Carpet "Meet the Pre-Team" social, and a team trip. Check the website for updates in the new year. Registration will open in the late Spring, and swimmers of all skill levels are welcome.

**Camp Green Zone** – Offered to members only and returning for our 4<sup>th</sup> season in 2018, camp continues to grow and offer more experiences at a great rate! In 2017 Camp Green Zone added many new programs like the CIT program, afternoon and evening camp fires, kayaking in the pool with Ashley Nee – former Darnestown Demon and Tennis player and now U.S. Olympian Woman's Slalom competitor in Rio 2016 and soon in the 2020 Olympics.

With flexibility of weekly rate or daily drop in fees, it is a great choice for all day camp for your children! **New program offerings for 2018** will include Certified Yoga Instructor Classes, more Pool Kayaking, Vegetable Garden, and Topic Tuesday's with experts in their field teaching programs like Beekeepers, Bats, Mushrooms. Our Club is all about community, and we encourage engagement and input from our members to make the season most enjoyable for all! So, don't miss out on this great adventure for the whole family! We have it all – swimming, tennis, summer camp program, social events! Come join in the fun!



## **Stay in the Know About Your Club – Connect with Us!**

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club:

[www.dsrclub.com](http://www.dsrclub.com)

Facebook: @DarnestownSwimRacquetClub

Instagram: @DSRClub

General Manager: Dave Hardy, [gm@dsrclub.com](mailto:gm@dsrclub.com)

Swim Team: [swim@dsrclub.com](mailto:swim@dsrclub.com)

Tennis: [tennis@dsrclub.com](mailto:tennis@dsrclub.com)

Camp: [camp@dsrclub.com](mailto:camp@dsrclub.com)

Social: [social@dsrclub.com](mailto:social@dsrclub.com)

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD 20874  
301.330.1340



# Community Interest

## ***A Pleasant View for Darnestown***

By Merikay Smith

As you drive on Darnestown Road south past Quince Orchard you may have noticed several large, new beds of blooming native perennials, shrubs and trees at the historic Pleasant View site. Earth Stewardship East, an LDS faith-based non-profit, was awarded a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to complete a major storm water management, native plant landscaping and public education project at Pleasant View. Our project will be completed in 2018, in time to mark the 150th anniversary of the purchase of this property by freed slaves.

Feel free to stop by Pleasant View (11810 Darnestown Road) and explore this new native garden. By next year the plants should begin to fill out the beds. We will be adding plant tags and signs by next spring to enhance the public education value of this garden. You might find plants growing there that you would like to try in your own garden. Future improvements include adding rain barrels to collect and direct rain water to the native garden beds. Match Hanson is submitting plans for an Eagle Scout project to add a stone path linking the sidewalk with our garden area, making the site more welcoming to visitors.

Please join us in this amazing opportunity to make a significant positive environmental impact -- and share in an historic celebration. To date we've had 200+ volunteers at our various events. Youth can earn SSL hours. Contact Merikay Smith at [merikays@verizon.net](mailto:merikays@verizon.net) to become one of our volunteers.

This fall we are adding native trees and shade plants. We have a major volunteer day on Saturday, November 18 starting at 10 am to mulch and prepare the beds for winter. For info on this and future events at Pleasant View visit [www.eartheast.org](http://www.eartheast.org). The website also has information on the history of Pleasant View. You might also find the sections on native plants or local trails of interest.

Funds for the plants and supplies come through the Montgomery County Water Protection Fund (in part from the 5-cent charge on plastic bags -- some consolation the next time you're charged for forgetting your recycling grocery bag).



No news from the Darnestown Softball League since we are off season. See you in March with all of our 2018 news and updates!

 **HAPPY  
HANUKKAH**

***Sunset December 12 –  
Sunset December 20, 2017***

**Did You Know ?**

***December 27<sup>th</sup> is  
National Chocolate Day***



# Community Interest

## *Potential Future Potomac River Crossing Survey*

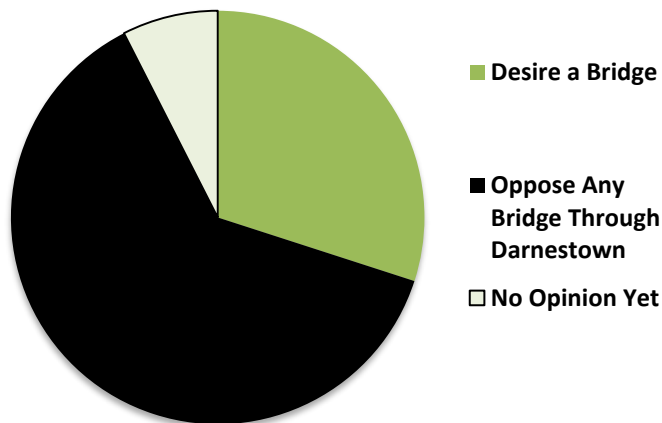
By Guy Armantrout - DCA Treasurer

The DC Area Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is considering a possible future crossing over the Potomac River to connect major transportation centers in Virginia and Maryland.

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) conducted an online survey in October to help the DCA understand the community's position on this issue.

Over 450 responses from Darnestown residents were received with the results shown in the graph below.

### Do You Want a Future Bridge?



While no specific proposals are currently under consideration by the TPB, it is clear from our survey that there is interest in having a bridge, but not a bridge that would pass through Darnestown.

The DCA will continue to take positive steps to protect our community and will continue to monitor the efforts of the TPB on this issue.

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to convey your opinions or pass on any information you have on this issue to the Darnestown Civic Association.



## *Police Blotter from the Past - 1920*

By Jack Toomey

**Beverly Hoffman**, a chauffeur by trade, was employed to take a couple from Washington to Rockville to get married. While attempting to turn his machine around in a tight space near the courthouse, Hoffman struck William Griffith, a Laytonsville farmer, hurling him to the ground. Griffith suffered severe injuries and had to be carried from the scene. In the meantime, Hoffman was charged with reckless driving and having no operator's card. While waiting for his trial to begin, Hoffman drove the engaged couple to the home of Rev. Wagner, who married them. He then from them to Washington, but he did not return to Rockville for his trial. Officials are still looking for him.

**John Green** of Washington was arrested and charged with having whiskey in his possession. He had been attempting to sell it to passersby in Rockville.

Deputies Gingell and Hitchinson arrested **Samuel Clagett** and charged him with a violation of the National Prohibition law. A number of personas had reported that people had been seen visiting Clagett's house near Emory Grove and then leaving in an intoxicated condition. The deputies seized several barrels of hard cider and a quantity of wine.

A fire of unknown origin destroyed the barn of **Dr. Jacob Bird** near Sandy Spring. Two new automobiles were destroyed and another damaged. A building used by the Social Services league of the county was burned down and large quantities of hay, straw, and feed were also lost. To horses were killed in the fire. The home of Doctor bird, about two hundred feet away, also ignited, but the flames were extinguished before much damage was done.



# Community Interest

## **Comfort Cases**

By Tony Bonetti - Development Committee Chair

### **COMFORT CASES WINNERS of DSW's SHOE LOVERS CARE 'LEAVE YOUR MARK' CONTEST**

Comfort Cases, a 501(c)(3) headquartered in Rockville founded by Darnestown resident Rob Scheer, fills backpacks and duffel bags with new items that will bring comfort and dignity to youth in the foster care system. Comfort Cases aims to abolish altogether that image of a child in foster care carrying their belongings in a trash bag. Since 2013, Comfort Cases has distributed more than 30,000 cases to 28 states and Washington, DC. In 2017 alone, we have delivered nearly 6,000 cases to youth (newborn to age 21) entering the foster care system!

Comfort Cases is proud to share that the organization was the winner of DSW's Shoe Lovers Care 'Leave Your Mark' contest. Shoe Lovers Care is a philanthropic program that allows DSW's employees nationwide to nominate nonprofit organizations they feel passionate about supporting. DSW then selects eight finalists from the many submissions. Comfort Cases competed with seven other finalists for the most votes and won a \$75,000 donation from DSW. Thank you to everyone here at home in Darnestown who voted for Comfort Cases and who encouraged friends and family from across the United States and around the globe to vote for Comfort Cases! We could not have done it without your support. Thank you!

### **Join in Our Holiday Gift from the Heart**

As we approach the end of the year, Comfort Cases has set a year-end goal of raising \$45,000 - that's enough to fund 1,000 cases for youth entering foster care! We encourage you to visit our website at [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org) and donate generously to achieve this goal.

### **2018 Fall Packing Party**

On November 18, 2017, Comfort Cases held our Fall Packing Party at The University of Maryland, College Park. With November as National Adoption Month, we are thankful to have had so many volunteers join us and pack hundreds of cases, which will be delivered to children and youth entering foster care. Thank you to all who donated items and volunteered to make our Fall Packing Party such a success.

### **2018 Gala Update**

Comfort Cases invites you to save the date May 12, 2018 and attend our 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 visit our website at [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org) or contact the Gala Leadership Team at [2018Gala@comfortcases.org](mailto:2018Gala@comfortcases.org).

### **Stay Connected**

Would you like to stay up-to-date? In order to receive weekly updates on volunteer needs and the latest news on Comfort Cases' accomplishments, email Jenn Whitman at [jwhitman@comfortcases.org](mailto:jwhitman@comfortcases.org).

### **Thank You for Being an Inspiring Community**

At Comfort Cases, our mission is to inspire communities to bring hope and dignity to foster youth. We deeply appreciate your contributions to make Darnestown a remarkable community of care, and look forward to you and/or your company joining Comfort Cases' vision well into the New Year!











# Community Interest

## Sue's Reviews

By Sue Abbondanzo Johnstone

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

"Thank You for Your Service" is a 109-minute R Rated Biographical Drama directed by Jason Hall starring Miles Teller (Adam Schumann), Haley Bennett (Saskia Schumann), Beulah Cole (Solo), Amy Schumer (Amanda Doster) and Scott Haze (Michael Adam Emory).

This film is adapted from the non-fiction book by David Finkel (2013), an editor and former reporter for the Washington Post. It opens in April 2007 on the battlefield of Iraq and follows the lives of 3 soldiers, in particular, after their return to the US. All are suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) which threatens their lives and their relationships with families and friends.

This movie is an outstanding screenplay adaptation of a sobering subject on many levels. It is a heart wrenching, genuine depiction of the difficult time our soldiers face trying to assimilate back into civilian life. The casting/acting is outstanding, especially Miles Teller who has described this as the most important acting role in his life. The real Adam Schumann was an advisor on the set and briefly appears in the movie. I enjoyed seeing Amy Schumer in a dramatic, rather than her usual comedic, role. The film is difficult to watch, at times, because of the incredibly realistic battlefield scenes, grisly wounds, and emotional scars related to the traumatic memories which are impossible to leave behind. There is a disturbing dog-fighting scene which fortunately has a happy ending. Everyone involved in this movie has done a terrific job of portraying the suicide ideation, depression, fractured relationships and substance abuse which are associated with PTSD.



I have a few minor criticisms including some holes in the plot and an uneven story line progression, at times. The last 20 minutes, including the highly-anticipated reenactment of one of the key battles, seem rushed and anticlimactic. The short epilogue provides follow-up and a few photos of the main characters but it left me with a pessimistic, unresolved feeling.

I recommend this movie to anyone who seeks an understanding of the reality of what our troops are enduring on and off the battlefield. I give "Thank You for Your Service" an 8.0 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).





# Community Interest



## BLAIR WITCH

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

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

Local Darnestown residents **Sue and Ingrid Gooch** had a small but, as it turned out, surprisingly popular role in the movie! They appear several times in the beginning of the film as local residents who are interviewed by the student-filmmakers.

In addition, local Darnestown residents **Richard and Ingrid Fraley** also played a pivotal role in the film, albeit behind the scenes!

Unbeknownst to most people, the majority of the film was shot right here in Darnestown off of Black Rock Road!

## *The Blair Witch Experience*

Author Matt Blazi and director Ed Sánchez recently hosted an event entitled “The Blair Witch Experience” commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the filming of the movie. Over the course of three days, participants in the event visited most of the sites on which critical scenes from the movie were filmed, they camped out overnight in Patapsco State Park, just as the student characters in the movie had done, and they got to meet many of the actors and other people involved the film. **Ingrid Fraley** and **Sue & Ingrid Gooch** were among the surprise guests for fans, some of whom had come from as far away as Seattle, England, and Germany to take part in the event.

The “Blair Witch Experience” is an annual event, so if you are interested in joining next year’s festivities, stay tuned for details closer to next year’s adventure or feel free to contact The Acorn’s editor!



*Darnestown residents Sue and Ingrid Gooch in a scene from the film (above) and with author Matt Blazi and director Ed Sánchez 20 years later at The Blair Witch Experience (below)*





## ***Our Unusual Night – An Experience with the Blair Witch Project***

By Ingrid Fraley  
Berryville Road

Surrounded by Seneca State Park, our home was off the beaten path, serviced by a long driveway. We have a unique place where we enjoy privacy, seclusion, and of course the four-legged inhabitants that live in the adjoining 1,800 acres. So, imagine our surprise one chilly, rainy October night when unannounced visitors, who have always been few and far between (and we never have trick and treaters) showed up on our secluded doorstep.

In 1997, the week before Halloween was unusually cold, blustery and rainy, and this particular evening was indeed the proverbial “dark and stormy night.”

Richard and I were just “buttoning” up the house when there was a knock on our front door. After exchanging questioning glances and a few words about who should go first, I opened the door to find a young woman garbed in a soggy poncho, shivering and asking if she could use our phone.

As a reminder to the reader, this was 20 years ago. We did not have the technology that we have grown accustomed to enjoying today, such as cell phones and GPS programs. Land lines and pay phones were the norm.

Apprehensively, we said “sure”, only to find that there were two other people with her, all in the same cold, wet, unhappy situation. But something was a bit different. They had a good deal of equipment wrapped in plastic... cameras?? Once inside, we asked them the obvious question: “What are you doing out in the woods?” Their response was chilling: “We’re making a movie about witches.” Oh my!

As we invited them in, Richard remarked, “This is either going to be just fine or it will be a really bad idea.”

Clothing was placed in the dryer, hot chocolate was served in steaming mugs, and we settled into conversation about their “project” - a story about three students researching the history of the Blair Witch. Little did we know at the time that we were now hosting the soon-to-be famous lost trio of Heather, Josh, and Mike.

The three had become separated from their ground crew while filming in Seneca State Park, arriving on our doorstep when they spotted our porch light. While they had emergency plans in place, the storm had disrupted their ability to communicate with their ground crew.

The evening ended when a white van drove cautiously down our long gravel road, ready to retrieve the actors. Well wishes and sincere offers of thanks were exchanged.

And then in a moment I think we might always half-regret, on her way out, Heather asked if we would like to invest in their film. We declined. Only months later, when there was buzz in the media about a “witch movie”, did we start to understand the role that we had played behind the scenes in the film and the opportunity that we had missed!

Dutifully, we went to see the movie and smiled when the credits included our names!



***Actress Heather Donohue in her most famous scene***

Fast forward twenty years - I am thankful for the opportunity to tell our story and to keep the legend of the Blair Witch alive and well in Seneca State Park, right here in Darnestown!

# Community Interest



## *Those Who Serve*



### ***US Air Force 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Brandon M. Cooper***

1st Lt. Brandon M. Cooper, U.S. Air Force, separated from the U.S. Air Force on June 29, 2017 after five years of service. Upon separation 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cooper received the Air Force Achievement Medal for outstanding performance on several critical projects as a Mobile Communications Planning Officer while in the Cyberspace Support Squadron at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

Upon separation from the U.S. Air Force, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cooper accepted a position as a Senior Cyber Security Analyst with Leidos Corporation in O'Fallon, Illinois.

Brandon wishes to thank all of his Darnestown neighbors for their support, good wishes and goodie boxes during his years of service in the U.S. Air Force.



## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Toys for Tots Fundraiser**

Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

6:00 – 10:00 PM

### **Pinky & Pepe's Grape Escape**

Kentlands Market Square

223 Kentlands Blvd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

(301) 869-9463



*Collecting toys and donations  
for needy children!*

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

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

**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**Meet and Greet 11:00**  
**Ceremony 12:00**

Darnestown Presbyterian Church's cemetery includes 73 veterans, one of whom is a Civil War veteran. DPC will be the FIRST location in Montgomery County to be a sponsor for *Wreaths Across America*!

**PLEASE JOIN US!**





## Those Who Serve – Wreaths Across America

*Wreaths Across America* is a nationwide program whose devoted mission is to Remember fallen veterans, Honor those valiant patriots who serve, and Teach children the importance and value of freedom.

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.

Darnestown Presbyterian Church is the first location in Montgomery County to participate in this nationwide annual event, joining the wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and over 1,200 locations across the U.S., at sea, and abroad.

The local Scouts, Brownies, DPC's Youth Group, the Darnestown/Poolesville Military Support Group, representatives from each branch of service, and some musical guests will be on hand to participate in the Ceremony.

**All neighbors are invited to participate** in the Meet and Greet at 11:00, which will include hot coffee, hot chocolate, and donuts! The Ceremony will begin promptly at noon, followed by the laying of wreaths by all who wish to assist. All veterans are encouraged to wear their military service "ball caps" so that they can be easily recognized as one of our nation's heroes.

Please feel free to contact **Bill Gooch**, President of the Independent Civilians Motorcycle Club, for further information or if you have questions:

[wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net)

**SEE YOU ON DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>!!**



### DPC CEMETERY VETERAN LISTING

Tschiffeley, Elgar	1	Ward, M. Spencer	44
Purdum, James W.	2	Smith, William F.	45
Purdum, Charles M.	3	Woodward, Herbert M	46
Hommiller, Thomas C.	4	Edger, Robert	47
Lembeck, A. Louis	5	Hunter, James	48
Calvin, Robert M.	6	Curry, Paul	49
Herndon, Frank B.	7	Lang, Raymond	50
Sancomb, G. Howard	8	Mills, Merle	51
Howard, Daniel F.	9	Pier, Eldridge	52
Boyer, Charles A.	10	Nicholson, Jess R.	53
Campbell, Robert F.	11	Broadwater, Jack L.	54
Esworthy, James C	12	Kelley, Paul M., Sr.	55
Hillyard, Lawrence W.	13	Nootenboom, John	56
Keys, Thomas C.	14	Lowrey, William	57
Neal, Claude H.	15	Hodenfield, Robert	58
Elkins, James P.	16	Waters, Norman	59
Connelly, Earl R.	17	Downs, Herbert	60
Verts, William C.	18	Schutt, Frederick	61
Connelly, Lawrence C.	19	Noel, Earle	62
Worthington, Robert G.	20	Cooley, Marion S.	63
Watson, John M.	21	Burroughs, Bradley	64
Snyder, Grant	22	Paufrey, Raymond	65
Kitterman, John W.	23	Roberts, Howard	66
Rogers, Claude E.	24	Miles, William W.	67
Roberts, W. Russell	25	Watts, Robert	68
Beal, George L.	26	Connelly, Robert	69
Melville, Percy	27	Beal, Arthur	70
Kasper, Frank	28	Bonnely, Howard	71
Kasper, Mattie	29	Stone, Robert	72
Ward, Charles G.	30	Davidson, George	73
Curlis, John	31		
Howard, Julian	32		
Watkins, James O.	33		
Ward, Edward	34		
Priest, Robert	35		
Connelly, Franklin	36		
Boswell, Clarence	37		
Carter, James W	38		
Lodge, Sydney J., Jr.	39		
Lodge, Thomas V.	40		
Lodge, Lee D., Sr.	41		



# Fun Winter Crafts for Kids !!



## "Make a Flake"

[www.snowflakes.barkleyus.com](http://www.snowflakes.barkleyus.com)

A great website for making electronic snowflakes that kids can print and cut out to decorate the house for winter!



*Let kids trace and cut their footprint out of fabric - then decorate like penguins using fabric scraps, paint, and buttons.*



*Have a collection of extra gloves without mates? Kids can turn them into fun characters with hand sewing.*

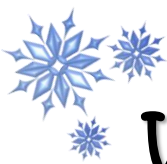


*Use paint and fabric scraps to turn craft sticks into winter characters.*



*Kids can paint a winter scene, then add a handprint tree and decorate it.*





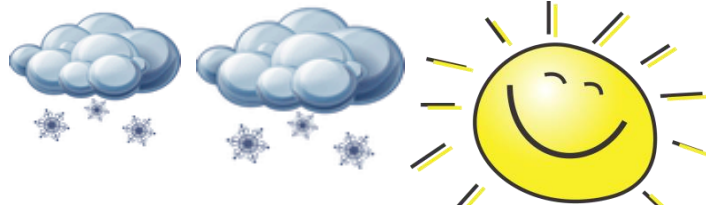
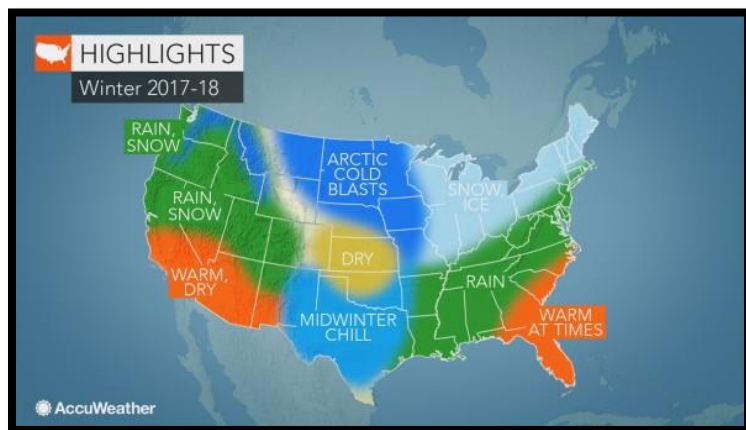
# Winter Weather Outlook

## CWS - Winter Forecast by Curt McCormick

After careful research, a lot of digging around in the yard and heroically chasing many squirrels up trees, the Weather Dog team presents its highly/somewhat/not-at-all anticipated 2017 DMV Winter Forecast.

Average temperatures & below average snow (lots of false hopes for snow, though).

It looks like we get a colder start to winter starting around Thanksgiving and through Christmas, then it pivots back to warmer than average through the heart of winter, then a cold spell at the tail end of the season.



## Whole Wheat Beer Bread

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

### INGREDIENTS

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



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

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

## Comfort Food for those Cold Winter Nights

### Roasted Red Onion Soup

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



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





# Homesteading Corner!

By Amy DePreta

## Prevent Plumbing Problems

No one wants to have to call a plumber; not only can that be a messy experience, but also a pricey one. To help prevent having to make that call, here is a list of common plumbing problems and how you can avoid them.

**Water heater:** If your home has hard water your water heater may need to be drained to remove build-up on the bottom of the tank. If this sediment isn't cleaned out, it can clog water lines making your water heater less efficient.

**Toilet:** Don't just flush anything, be selective about what goes down your toilet. The only item that you should flush is toilet paper. Items that can clog your toilet and cause a problem are cotton balls, cleaning wipes, and trash. These items are not made to dissolve and some will actually expand in water. If your toilet starts to overflow, shut off the water supply until you can call a plumber.

**Kitchen Sink:** The kitchen sink gets clogged when you put in items that shouldn't go in the sink, such as grease, fats, and cooking oil. These items will clog your sink because they stick to pipes and solidify when they cool, which causes blockage. Avoid pouring these items down the sink, instead pour them into a can or bottle to be thrown away. Occasionally pouring boiling water down the sink can help melt and wash away built up grease.

**Shower drain:** Hair is the primary reason why a shower drain gets clogged since hair doesn't dissolve in water. Using a shower strainer will help trap hair before it goes down the drain.

## Fix That Drip

Next time you fill your cup with water, think about this: We each use about 100 gallons of water per day, which fills about 1,600 glasses. The consumption of household water has increased by 200 percent since the 50's, even though the population has grown by only 90 percent. As a result, many states are expected to face water shortages. Reducing the flow of water leaving our household is as easy as fixing a leaky faucet or toilet; a dripping faucet can waste up to 74 gallons a day, and a leaking toilet up to 200 gallons a day.

Repairing a leaky toilet can save \$30 a year, which may not sound like much, but that is equivalent to about 73,000 gallons.

## Purify with Plants

Indoor air quality is important, and people spend thousands of dollars on purifiers, hepa vacuums, and filters, in order to keep their air clean. NASA did a study to find out which plants not only released oxygen, but also were the best at filtering the air for the space station. You can use these plants in your home or office to improve the quality of the air in your space. These are common plants that can be found at your local nursery and added to your space today. The top 10 plants most effective in removing air pollutants:

Bamboo Palm -	Chamaedorea Seifritzii
Chinese Evergreen -	Aglaonema Modestum
English Ivy -	Hedera Helix
Gerbera Daisy -	Gerbera Jamesonii
Janet Craig -	Dracaena "Janet Craig"
Marginata -	Dracaena Marginata
Mass cane -	Dracaena Massangeana
Pot Mum -	Chrysanthemum morifolium
Peace Lily -	Spathiphyllum
Warneckii -	Dracaena "Warneckii"

## Icy Walkways

As winter approaches, check out these products that can help you walk with confidence and give you better traction.

For your front entry, use an ice-melting doormat. An electric doormat melts the snow as it falls, up to a rate of 2 inches per hour.

Try using rubberized treads on outdoor stairs. Before the icy weather starts, add rubberized stair treads to steps that release ice with a stomp that you can brush away.

Sidewalk granules won't melt the ice, but they will embed into the ice and give you a more secure footing.

On smooth floors such as the garage, try slip-resistant tapes. Slip-resistant tapes will help you with traction when getting in and out of your car where ice has melted.





## School News & Events



### ***Darnestown Elementary***

By Sandy Pearce

The holiday season is well under way! I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and was able to spend precious time with loved ones. I am thankful for my family, friends and all those that make our quaint little town of Darnestown so special, particularly the staff and students at Darnestown Elementary School! A special thanks to those who supported the annual **Thanksgiving Drive**.

We kicked off the school year with our annual **School Picnic**. Lots of fun was had with two huge moon bounces, shaved ice, pizza and a fabulous DJ getting the kids out on the dance floor. A portion of the food proceeds go back to the PTA, so it is always nice to see such a good turnout of staff, parents and students.

The **Back to School Supply and Book** drive were another big success. Our generous families donated supplies and gently used books to our sister school, Gaithersburg Elementary, to help students in need.

**Halloween** is always something to look forward to at DES. The teachers love to dress up! Even our amazing new Principal, Mr. Craemer, was sporting a Where's Waldo outfit. During the Halloween parade, our teachers and some of the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students performed a dance on the blacktop and then everyone went inside for their spooky Halloween festivities.

Our eighth annual **Read-A-Thon** fundraiser raised over \$12,000! Students were encouraged to read for 5 days in a row and collect pledges from family and friends. Based on the number of minutes read each day, students were given a Gold, Silver or Bronze medal, earning an extra Gold medal for attending **Story Night** at DES. This year we had a professional story teller come read to the kids, while they wore PJ's and had milk and cookies! Prizes were earned for

most medals and pledges. Thank you to all that donated and to our kids who put in the time and effort to read each day! This fundraiser is also a great way to show our kids the joys of reading.

Part of getting the DES students enthusiastic for the Read-A-Thon are the **Spirit Days**. Crazy outfit, fancy outfit, Hat Day and PJ Day to name a few. We also had Wear Red Day and Crazy Socks Day for Red Ribbon Week, which is our commitment to promote a drug-free lifestyle.

Another exciting fundraiser, the **DES Scholastic Book Fair** was held in November. We basically turn one of our classrooms into a book store for one week. Books, games, and activities, to name a few, were available for purchase. Perfect ideas for stocking stuffers!

Another great idea for the holidays is **Mustang Spirit Wear**. Please go to [www.SpiritGearDirect.com/Shop](http://www.SpiritGearDirect.com/Shop). You will find both youth and adult sizes.

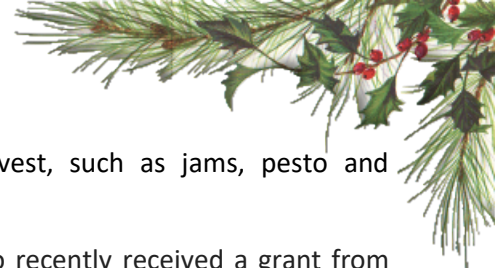
Our after-school **Mustang Clubs** included Arts & Crafts, Legos, Reading and Games. These clubs wouldn't be possible without the generous help of teacher and parent volunteers. We also have PTA-Sponsored **Group Piano**, which is a big hit with students.

Please continue to support the **Dwelling Place**, a local shelter for women in need. Food and gift donations are always welcome.

Make sure to save your **Box Tops**. The winning class from each period gets a party!

If you haven't joined the PTA, there is still time ([DarnestownElementary@my-pta.org](mailto:DarnestownElementary@my-pta.org)) and be sure to look out for the next **Restaurant Night**. 20% of proceeds go directly to the PTA.





## DES Upcoming Events:

December 6	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only
December 8	Colonial Day Set-Up
December 15	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Only Colonial Day
December 25 -	Muffins for Mustangs
January 1	Winter Break
January 15	Martin Luther King Holiday
January 17	No School
January 24	Class & Club Pictures
January 24	Combined Winter Choral & Instrumental Concert, Gym, 7pm
January 25	Early Release Day – 1:20pm Dismissal
January 26	Professional Day – No School
February 2	Bingo Night & Staff Raffle
February 6	PTA Meeting
February 19	Presidents' Day - No School
February 26	Science Expo Set-Up
February 27	Science Expo



***Have a happy, healthy and safe holiday season!***

## **Butler Montessori School**



By Lisa Daly

This school year started off with fabulous news! Butler Montessori received the *Bethesda Green Award for Leading by Example as a Non-Profit*. Our school was recognized for commitment to organic gardens and chickens, trails for exploration, and incorporating green practices both in and out of the classroom.

Around campus Butler Montessori recently installed bamboo composite decking and permeable boardwalks to help filter water and reduce pollution. Our buildings were designed to blend into the rural landscape and whenever possible, students are given responsibilities to participate in the improvements on campus. They recently researched and designed a fulcrum to move a 1,000-pound log in order to utilize land for better purposes.

Students feed our chickens with their lunch scraps, participate in a school wide composting program, and learn about crop rotation while caring for the soil. The seventh and eighth graders run a micro-economy program selling garden vegetables and products they

make from their harvest, such as jams, pesto and cookies.

Butler Montessori also recently received a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust to install "conservation landscaping". This grant will help mitigate damage caused by pollutants carried by storm water runoff from the school's main building roof to the Seneca Creek watershed and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

Our older students are creating and giving presentations based on pre-existing lessons in the Montessori curriculum regarding erosion to the younger students explaining storm water runoff, its effect on the Seneca Creek Watershed down to the Chesapeake Bay, and how conservation landscaping helps slow and spread storm water, thus reducing the pollutants that enter the creek.

We are proud of our commitment to green practices and the Chesapeake Bay while striving to teach both our students and surrounding community to continue this environmental stewardship. For more information about Butler Montessori or for a tour, please visit our website at [www.butlerschool.org](http://www.butlerschool.org).



***Cleaning up the environment!***







## Mary of Nazareth

By Sara Jamison

### Mary of Nazareth Catholic School implements inquiry-based STREAM curriculum for 2017-2018 school year

This September, Mary of Nazareth began the new school year with a new approach to instruction. The regional Catholic school, located in Darnestown, is taking its first steps to implement an explorative learning experience for students that is focused on Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STREAM). Every Friday, for an hour, students will meet in cross grade-level groups to engage in the “MoN STREAM of X-treme Innovators” initiative. The overarching theme of innovation, as the school implements its STREAM curriculum, aims to foster collaboration, critical thinking, problem solving, and ultimately allow for a deeper understanding of the connection between content areas.

Kathy Luongo, Resource Director at Mary of Nazareth reports, “The overall goal is for all persons involved with instruction to be able to develop lessons that incorporate inquiry-based learning.” Inquiry-based learning refers to instruction that is student-centered and student-motivated, rather than teacher-directed. Jennifer Massey, Middle School Science teacher states, STREAM will provide opportunities for students to think critically and deeply in new and creative ways. In science, we will be using engineering practices to solve real-world problems across the science disciplines. This is also the focus for this year's seventh grade science fair.” In this way, learners gain mastery of content by employing a variety of skills, modalities and intelligences. Most importantly, inquiry-based approaches to learning, such as STREAM, allow students to see value in what they're doing as they apply content to real-life problems and scenarios.

Earlier this year, Mary of Nazareth generated steam for its STREAM initiative with a successful summer camp, professional development, and teacher planning sessions. The camp welcomed elementary aged students to explore the wonders of water in an interactive learning environment. A variety of educational technology was used during the camp to enhance student experience, including virtual reality field trips. 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. Mary of Nazareth is a Blue Ribbon School, serving children in Upper Montgomery County, grades prekindergarten to eight.


### Mary of Nazareth Preschool Officially Opens Its Doors for a Full Day 4's Program

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is pleased to announce its full day preschool program is up and running for the 2017-2018 school year. The program, offered to 4 year-olds, features 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 has been an extremely positive addition to our vibrant, faith-based school community,” says Principal Mike Friel, on the preschool's opening. He adds, “The demand for enrollment far exceeded our expectations and we look forward to delivering an authentically Catholic preschool experience to more parish families.” Ms. Amy Ebner, lead preschool instructor, is aided by two assistants to maintain a 10:1 student to teacher ratio. Students have access to two large classrooms in their own wing of the school. These enthusiastic young mini mustangs also attend daily specials including, PE, Art, Library, Music and Spanish.

Mary of Nazareth's preschool program meets Monday through Friday from 8:15 until 2:55 pm, and accepts a maximum of 30 students. 2017-18 tuition for in-diocese families is \$6,200 per child and \$6,700 per child for out-of-diocese families. Tuition rates for the upcoming year will be set in January 2018. Interested families are invited to tour Mary of Nazareth's campus and meet its talented faculty at Open House on Sunday, January 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Additional open house dates are available and can be found on the school's website, [www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org), along with information about the school's curriculum and offerings.





## **Girl Scouts Raise \$2,500 for Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts**

Mary of Nazareth Girl Scout Troop #398 challenged fellow students to match their donation of \$346 toward Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts. The school responded to the challenge with an unbelievable \$2,154 collection. Girl Scout troop leader, Dante Preciado, states, "We're proud to report that a total of \$2,500 was raised today to help Hurricane Harvey Relief efforts." The clever \$346 dollar amount is symbolic of Houston's area code, 346, one of the hardest hit areas of Texas. The 4th Grade Girl Scout Troop plans to submit their donation through Catholic Charities.

## **Mary of Nazareth Alum Receives Scholarship for Service to Parish**

Alex Vassallo, a recent graduate of St. John's College High School, received the 2017 George Nethery Memorial and Bernie Hughes Service award in recognition of his service to St. Paul's Catholic Church in Damascus. The award, which includes a college scholarship, is offered annually by the St. Paul Mens' Club and acknowledges a high school senior who demonstrates the meaning of service within the parish and the community. Each year, the recipient of the award is honored at St. Paul's Parish Picnic. Vassallo, now in his Freshman year at Bridgewater College, has been a parishioner at St. Paul's since 2004 and is a member of the 2013 graduating class of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School.

As a St. Paul Parishioner, Alex has been known to serve his parish and community whenever possible. In addition to being recognized as one of St. Paul's longest tenured altar servers, Alex participated in community clean-up days, conducted holiday basket deliveries, assembled product kits for the food pantry, assisted with St. Paul's "Good as New" sale, volunteered at the annual Honduras Gala, and provided 40+ hours of service at Marian Manor Nursing Home. Some of Alex's additional accomplishments include maintaining a "B" grade point average, working with Community Services for Autistic Adults and Children (CSAAC), and achieving the rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant in the JROTC program at St. John's College High School. Of his college choice, Alex reflects, "I selected Bridgewater College because it has a history of service to the community." He will be playing lacrosse for Bridgewater, having signed his NCAA commitment letter in January. Alex plans to study Political Science, and hopes to continue on to law school after college.



## **Seneca Academy**


By Dr. Michelle Parker, Ph.D.

As an International Baccalaureate World School, Seneca Academy believes that the goal of education is to enable students to transfer what they have learned to real-life situations. Through engaging activities both in and out of the classroom, students have the opportunity to develop skills and abilities that they can use for the rest of their lives. Our first graders, for example, as part of their unit on how societies are shaped by the resources available to them, recently visited Rose Hill Manor, where they learned about life in colonial times. They also spent time exploring the available resources in our own National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat. While they were exploring the grounds, they ran into a neighboring farmer, who gave them a bonus lesson on the many uses of corn and allowed them to gather materials to make corn husk dolls. It is certainly a wonderful resource to have such good neighbors!

Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders also got a chance to do some hands-on learning at Calleva, where they explored, as part of their respective forces and water units, the pulleys used in the ropes course and the water quality of the streams in that property. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders also got a chance to learn about the Chesapeake watershed while on an overnight trip to the Anita Leight Estuary. In addition to their studies in environmental science, they also had an opportunity to help build a campfire, make s'mores and play games, all the while creating memories that will surely stay with them long after they graduate from our program at the end of the year!

Last year, as part of our effort to give back to and support our parents and the community that gives so much to us, we inaugurated a parenting series led by our Head of School and child psychologist, Dr. Michelle Parker. This year we are continuing to offer that series. The first session, a workshop on "Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain," was held on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The second of the series will be on January 24<sup>th</sup> and will focus on "Picking Your Battles and Setting Limits for Healthy Development," followed by a workshop on February 28<sup>th</sup> on "Navigating Friendships and Playground Politics" and a final one on May 9<sup>th</sup> on "Parenting in the Digital Age." These workshops are held at the school between 6:30-8:00 pm and are open to the community. For more information, please visit our website [www. SenecaAcademy.org](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org).





We invite all parents and interested community members to visit Seneca Academy to learn more about how we integrate real-life, experiential learning into all of our programming. We are offering "Walk-In Wednesdays" every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month (except December) at 9:30 am. This is a great opportunity to take a tour, see our classrooms and campus, and learn more about our programs and graduates. We will also have Open Houses on Saturday January 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30 am and Wednesday February 1<sup>st</sup> from 6:30-8:30 pm. You may RSVP through our website [www.SenecaAcademy.org/open-house-schedule/](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org/open-house-schedule/) or by calling us at 301-869-3728. We hope to see you soon!

## Georgetown Hill Darnestown



By Nicole Reap

What a great start to the 2017-2018 school year! We had a great turn out at our **Back To School Night**, where parents met their children's teachers and learned about our play-based curriculum. Our Director, Kristen Raymond, spoke to parents about different milestones that preschoolers achieve, especially at the beginning of the school year. Dr. T. Berry Brazelton says that one of these milestones is "bursts, regressions, and pauses" and can be observed this time of year. Parents may notice a burst in development, a regression of some kind, or a pause in a skill that may disrupt or enhance your daily routine. These are normal to a child's development and normally pass within a few weeks. As teachers at Georgetown Hill, we love to watch the children grow cognitively and physically and share these developments with parents. That's why we have implemented LifeCubby in to our daily routines. LifeCubby is an on-line program that allows the teacher to post observations and photos/videos, report and document daily achievements, and communicate with the parents directly each day. Families can see how our activities relate to social and emotional development, language and literacy, cognition, motor development and creative arts. Parents have been providing excellent feedback about how they feel involved and well informed about their child's daily progress and wellbeing.

Halloween is always fun at Georgetown Hill. This year was no exception. We started our festivities with a school-wide parade, followed by trunk-or-treating in our parking lot. Then, we headed back to our classrooms for some treats and crafts with our classes.

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time and effort to decorate their cars and help out with the class parties. And thank you to our TAPSS committee for a yummy breakfast for teachers and parents. Speaking of TAPSS (Teacher And Parent Support System,) the committee held their first meeting, led by Laurie Bast and Kaelin Natelli. They have some wonderful ideas about community outreach programs and fundraising for our school and community, as well as fun, family festivities. It's not too late to join and meet your fellow parents!

December is all about our Hometown Heroes! Our first community outreach project will be to show our appreciation to our police, fire fighters and emergency technicians. Students will be making food, cards and other goodies to be delivered to our heroes who make a difference in our lives every day.

### Important Dates Coming Up:

- Thursday, December 7 Open House - Come visit our school and see what we are all about!
- Friday, December 22 Half-Day - Closed at 12:30 pm for Winter Break
- Monday, December 25 - January 1 - Closed for Winter Break
- Wednesday, December 27 - Friday, December 29 Winter Break Camp
- Monday, January 15 - Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- Monday, February 19 - Closed for President's Day
- Monday, March 26 - Monday, April 2 - Closed for Spring Break
- Monday, March 26 - Thursday, March 29 Spring Break Camp

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](mailto:darnestown@georgetownhill.com)

And be sure to like us on Facebook –  
Georgetown Hill at Darnestown



# Church News!



## **Darnestown Presbyterian Church**

By Larry Ciolorito

### ***New Christmas Eve Services***

The joy of our faith shines especially brightly during Advent, culminating in three separate candlelight services on Christmas Eve. This year we are planning a very traditional "Lessons and Carols" service for 10:00 pm, which will feature Christmas carols, choirs and scripture readings from the Christmas story. Our 8:00 pm service will be similar, but will also include a sermon from our new Pastor, Neill Morgan, and this year there will be special music and light refreshments between the 8:00 and 10:00 pm services. As usual, our 5:00 pm service will be geared towards families with young children, bringing the wonder and joy of Christmas to the youngest among us. Each of these services will feature a candle lighting ceremony, symbolically passing the light of the world from one to another. We would love to share the joy of the season with you and your family this year!

*Note: Since Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, we will have only a single morning service at 11:00 am.*

### ***Farewell to Pastor Tamara Leonard-Lara***

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of October we bid a fond farewell to our Associate Pastor Tamara Leonard-Lara, as she left to take a new call as Pastor of the Presbyterian worshiping community with Beth-El Farmworker Ministries, Inc., near Tampa, Florida. While Tamara's bilingual skills and concern for disadvantaged communities make her ideal for this position, she will be greatly missed after her 12 years of service in Darnestown. We wish Tamara and her family all the best. They go to serve God far from Darnestown, but they will remain close to our hearts.



### ***Hurricane Relief Fundraiser***

In the wake of the hurricanes that afflicted Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, our church held a fundraiser for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance on the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, with all proceeds earmarked for hurricane relief. Our "Pop-up Coffee House" fundraiser featured musical performances, plenty of food and- of course- freshly brewed coffee. Donations from the free-will offering collected over \$1,800 to assist with the ongoing support for those affected by these recent natural disasters.

### ***Ever Wanted to Join a Choir?***

One of the things visitors to our church consistently praise is our Music Ministry, through which we give musical voice to our faith. Our Chancel Choir performs at most 11:00 am services, alternating with our Bell Choir. We also have special music at our 8:45 am services, and all services feature the superb piano skills of our Music Director, Eric Waggoner. Our choirs welcome everyone who wishes to participate; practices take place on Wednesday evenings from Fall through Spring, with Bell Choir practice starting at 6:30 pm and Chancel Choir practice following at 7:30 pm. Feel free to stop by any Wednesday evening- no advance notice is needed!

### ***Wreaths Across America Event!***



**DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 Noon!**

Meet and Greet at 11:00AM

See pages 14 & 15 for all details!

#### **Church Contact Information:**

15120 Turkey Foot Road

Darnestown, MD 20878

301-948-9127

[www.darnestownpc.org/](http://www.darnestownpc.org/)

[dpchurch@comcast.net](mailto:dpchurch@comcast.net)



## Living Word Bible Fellowship

Welcome to The Living Word Bible Fellowship. We are a small but loving group of followers of Jesus Christ. We are committed to prayer, bible study, worship, fellowship, and walking with the Holy Spirit in our daily lives. Worship services are traditional but informal with a combination of hymns and contemporary songs, scripture, and Bible-based sermons that are practical and challenging. Attire is modest and varies from blue jeans to business casual.

### Worship & Prayer Opportunities:

Sun: 9:30 am Explore the Bible – all ages  
10:30 am Coffee & Fellowship  
10:45 am Worship Service  
Wed: 12:00 pm Noon Prayer & Fasting  
7:00 pm Prayer Meeting

### Contact Information

Services at 16500 Whites Ferry Road  
Dawsonville (intersection Rtes. 28 & 107)  
1-301-789-1888 (Pastor's home)  
[www.livingwordbf.org](http://www.livingwordbf.org)  
P.O. Box 487, Poolesville MD 20837



## Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

We are happy to once again offer our extremely fresh, absolutely awesome **Christmas Trees for sale from Friday, 1 December through Sunday, 10 December.** Weekday hours are 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and weekend hours are 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

### Christmas Liturgy

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

For information on these programs and on other activities offered at Visitation Parish, please contact the office at 301-948-5536. Our church is located at 14139 Seneca Road; our offices are located in the Parish Barn at 14135 Seneca Road in Darnestown. Our website is [www.olvp.org](http://www.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  
[fairhavenumcmaryland.com](http://fairhavenumcmaryland.com)  
Email: [fairhavenumc@gmail.com](mailto:fairhavenumc@gmail.com)



Rev. Esther Holimon



### ATTENTION ALL

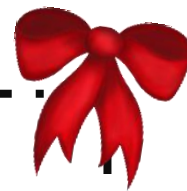
### HOUSES OF WORSHIP!

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

[wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net)

by February 1, 2018

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](mailto: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 17	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
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

## NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans	301-977-4734
Tina Kalil	301-943-9840
Elisa Lane	301-990-2993

## 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 17	240 454 2383
Ben Kaplan	age 15	301-997-8027
Hanne Kaplan	age 12	301-997-8027
Maureen McAllister	age 25	301-802-4993
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**  
**February 1, 2018**  
*Deadlines will remain firm!*  
Please send articles to  
[wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

Amanda Karst  
[amandakarst@gmail.com](mailto:amandakarst@gmail.com)

### **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  
Mr. Mark Craemer  
Principal  
301-284-4260

### **Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club**

P. O. Box 3574  
Darnestown, MD 20885  
Dave Hardy, General Manager,  
[davidhardy27@hotmail.com](mailto:davidhardy27@hotmail.com)  
301-330-9616

### **Friends of the Library-Quince Orchard Chapter** Membership, (Vacant)

### **Jones Lane Elementary School**

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



[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)



### **Lakelands Park Middle School**

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

### **Mary of Nazareth School**

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

### **Quince Orchard Community Library**

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

### **Northwest High School**

12501 Richter Farm Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
James D'Andrea, 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](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)  
Charles August, Secretary  
[csaugust@comcast.net](mailto:csaugust@comcast.net)  
240-401-8669



**Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.**

14132B Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: [dca@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)

Website: [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)



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