



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

Volume 55, Number 1  
 March 2018

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES

**Notes from the President**  
*By Lisa Patterson-Troike*



### **Tree Lighting**

Thank you to everyone who came to our annual Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>! It was wonderful to see such a large group enjoying hot cocoa, cookies, Santa, and his elves. Unfortunately, Santa's sleigh (a red hot rod) blew a fuse right before the event and an alternate invisible sleigh was used instead. Good ol' Santa just couldn't disappoint the kids!

The DCA and our community thanks the Herrington Family for their participation in this magical event. Billy Herrington texted me after the event, "I always want to make it fun for the little ones and to see their eyes light up... unbelievable memories for me. Thank you for letting me participate!"

### **Spring Social**

Mark your calendars for the annual DCA Spring Social! Scheduled for Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00 PM, this traditional community event brings everyone together to enjoy the beautiful landscape at Smokey Glen Farm, feast on fabulous food prepared on site, chat with old and new Darnestownians, play miniature golf, take a hay ride, stroll through farm grounds, and listen to fabulous acoustic guitar and song from our very own Billy Herrington! Our Spring Social flyer is located on page 5.

....continued on page 3



**Spring Social**  
**May 29<sup>th</sup>**

See page 5  
 for details and RSVP

**Next DCA Town Meeting**

**March 15<sup>th</sup> | 7:30 PM**

**Darnestown Presbyterian  
 Church**

**Route 28 at Turkey Foot Road**

### **Inside this Issue**

Notes from the President.....	1
DCA Board.....	2
Membership .....	4
Spring Social.....	5
Community Interest .....	6
Those Who Serve .....	13
Homesteading Corner.....	15
School News & Events.....	17
Church News.....	23
Service Providers.....	26
Darnestown Directory.....	27



# The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

## The Little Acorn

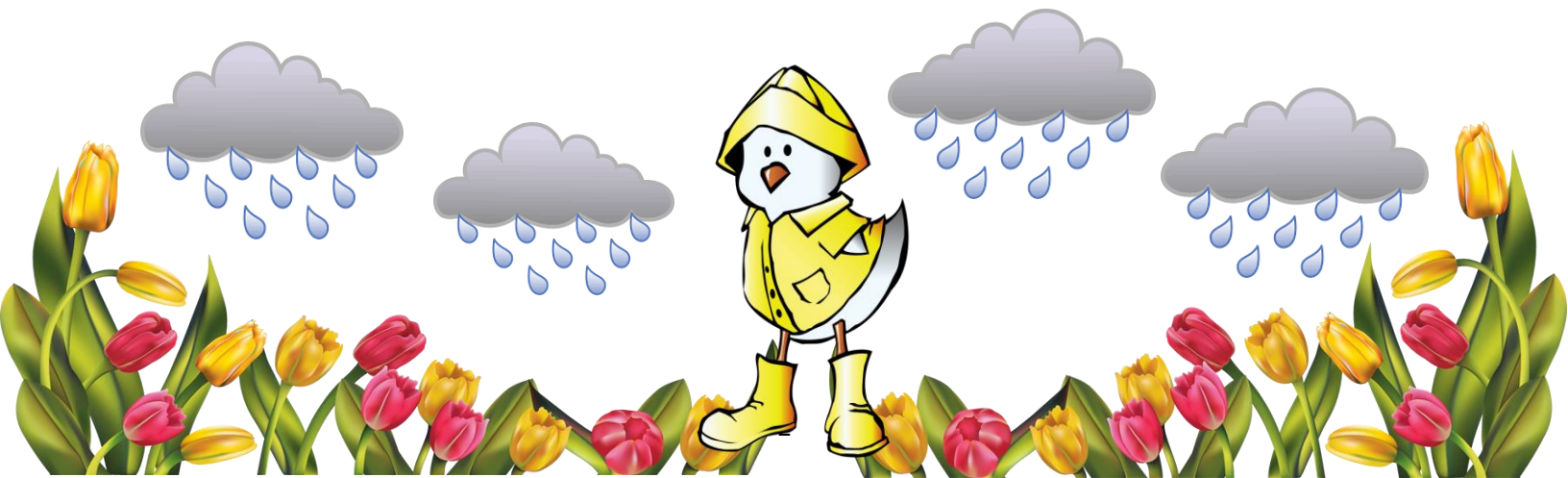
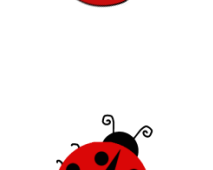
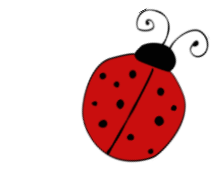
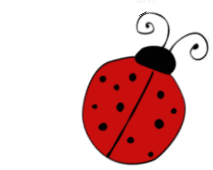
Editor: **Susie Gooch** (wsgooch@comcast.net)  
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## The Darnestown Civic Association Board

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)  
Trustee: Paul Klee (pklee@gparch.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)



## Notes from the President

...continued from page 1



### ***The DCA is proud of our achievements in 2017!***

We helped facilitate resident meetings and/or communication regarding:

- Seneca Creek and historic Black Rock Mill abuse, pollution and erosion
- Police response to crime, theft, and illegal activities
- Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH) veterans' shelter
- Pepco and new substation
- Events, crime and lost pets (often resulting in reunification) via email, Facebook and DarnestownCivic.org
- Potential future Potomac River bridge and highway
- County notifications of property neglect/zoning violations

We helped organize, support, and/or distribute the following for our residents:

- Four issues of *The Little Acorn* newsletter
- DCA Spring Social, Hoedown, Tree Lighting, Town Meeting, "Wreaths Across America", and summer softball league events
- DCA website [www.DarnestownCivic.org](http://www.DarnestownCivic.org) and "Darnestown Maryland – Our Home Town" Facebook page
- Two deer enclosures in Seneca Creek State Park
- Roadside holiday American Flag program
- Darnestown community entrance sign and maintenance



**For your Daily  
Dose of Darnestown**



**Darnestown Maryland - Our Home Town**

## **Wreaths Across America**



The "Wreaths Across America" event on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> was unlike any event I've ever witnessed. Over 200 people attended to witness our local Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, high school band members, and local members of the armed forces unite in honoring our veterans. I was honored to have been chosen as one of the speakers. "*Freedom is Not Free*" was the topic chosen by Bill Gooch, President of the Independent Civilians Motorcycle Club, for all of those who spoke. It was a very cold and breezy day, but the sun was shining and the warmth in our hearts prevailed. Ceremonies were simultaneously taking place at thousands of cemeteries across the United States, including most notably Arlington National Cemetery. Darnestown is proud to be the first cemetery location in Montgomery County to participate in this national event.

The DCA and our community thank the Gooch Family for their hard work, dedication, and passion for this great cause. It would not have happened without them. Thank you, as well, to all who helped with the inauguration of this annual Darnestown event. And a very special thank you to the Darnestown Presbyterian Church for all of their support, but particularly for their leap of faith in allowing the "bikers" to initiate the event in the first place!



**"Chief" Nick Markoff and Mary Collins**





# 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 HERE! 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!

## ***THANK YOU!***



# Spring Social



A Darnestown Community  
Meet-Your-Neighbors Reception  
at Smokey Glen Farm  
16407 Riffleford Road, Darnestown, MD



**6:00 – 8:00 pm Tuesday, May 29, 2018**

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



**RESERVATIONS WITH PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 25<sup>th</sup>!**



**TO RSVP PLEASE VISIT**

**[WWW.DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG](http://WWW.DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG)**



**Please list full names of those attending**

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

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

# Community Interest



## Get Ready for Summer 2018 – Membership Discounts, Online Payments

By Aleks Schiff

### Become a member and get ready for the Summer of 2018 - now more affordable than ever!

In 2018, we are continuing to take steps to reduce the cost to join our Club by stepping down the bond from \$1,250 to \$1,000 for new members. This one-time cost to join DSRC is now lower than it has been in many years – please share this good news with your friends and neighbors who may be considering joining. We also added an on-line dues payment option for those who want to pay with credit card. To use the new online payment system, click on the following link: <https://dsrconlinepayments.mycloveronline.com/>

**Our Best Membership Promotion Yet!** Any 4 new families joining together, will get all their initiation fees waived – a huge **\$1,600 total savings!!!** All 4 families must submit applications and payments together to receive this promotion. And, remember our “Refer-a-Friend” program pays you \$100 for every family you refer who joins the Club. If you know people who are interested in joining DSRC, please have them contact us at [membership@dsrclub.com](mailto:membership@dsrclub.com).

One of the major initiatives for 2018 is to expand our offerings and programs to attract and retain members whose children may be grown or who do not participate in our current offerings. Programs we are considering adding in 2018 are Masters Swimming, Water Aerobics, and Yoga. If you would like to share any new ideas or if you would like to help coordinate these programs, please reach out to any board member or to Dave Hardy at [GM@dsrclub.com](mailto:GM@dsrclub.com).

**Camp Green Zone** – Returning for the 4<sup>th</sup> season, camp is also expanding and offering creative member packages such as Discount Packages on camp with swim/tennis/camp combo, Early Bird Registration



Discount, Sibling Discount, and a CIT Program. Contact [camp@dsrclub.com](mailto:camp@dsrclub.com) for more information.

**Club Social** – We have published our 2018 season social calendar, so check out the website for all the information. Fun times include 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!

**Club Tennis** – With 6 outdoor, *lighted*, hard courts, we are gearing up for an active 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 Pickleball.

**Darnestown Demons Swimming** – After an undefeated regular season in 2017 under Head Coach, Pat Tozzi, and Assistant Head Coach, Staci Armezzani, they will return for the 2018 season as the Demons move up to compete in the “C” Division of the MCSL Swim League. It will be a fun and exciting year as we look to compete for the Division title.

We look forward to a fantastic 2018 Summer, and to seeing everyone on **Saturday, May 26**, for our Opening Day Cookout and Celebration. For more information on any of our programs, visit us at [www.dsrclub.com](http://www.dsrclub.com).

### 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

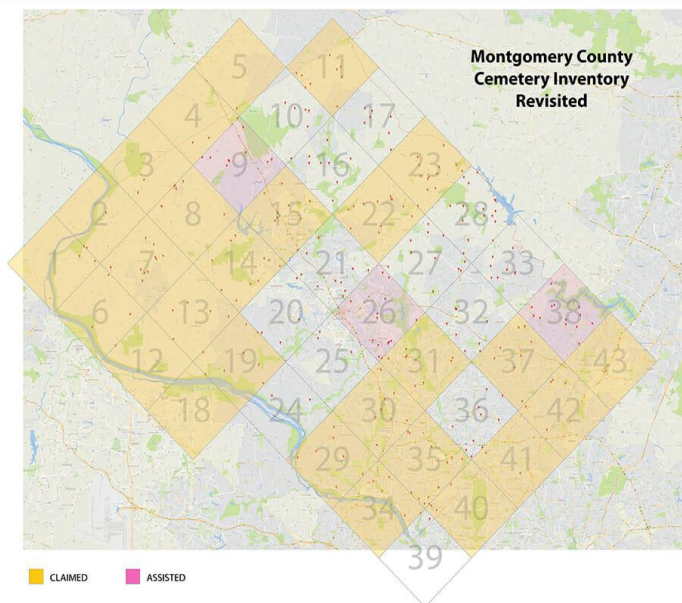
## Montgomery Preservation Sponsors "Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Revisited"

The history of our community has been documented in the past and shared in various editions of The Little Acorn. However, in December of 2017, this resident became aware of an on-going County initiative that addresses the *"neglected, abandoned, undocumented and unmaintained cemeteries in the County and throughout Maryland that often disappear through lack of protection from development and vandalism"*

*"From 2004-2009 Peerless Rockville led the original initiative to identify and document ALL cemeteries in Montgomery County, resulting in a list of about 325 burial grounds."*

With a boost from County Legislators interested in cemetery preservation, a new effort is now underway to update the original survey and to document even more cemeteries. This effort, entitled **The Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory REVISITED Project**, is sponsored by Montgomery Preservation. Volunteers from all over the county will share the workload throughout 2018.

Additional information on this program can be found at [www.montgomerypreservation.org/historic-cemeteries/](http://www.montgomerypreservation.org/historic-cemeteries/)



This long-time resident of Darnestown attended the kick-off meeting on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 during which time the project was introduced. The primary objective is to digitally document the location, surroundings, and condition of each cemetery for inclusion in the County's archives so that website visitors can "see" the cemetery on line. To simplify the process, a map of Montgomery County was divided into 43 "zones" and volunteers were asked to "adopt" a zone.

**Did you know that Darnestown (ZONE 19) is the home to at least six historic cemeteries?**

I think that you can guess the "rest of this story". Yes, I signed up for Zone 19 and look forward to documenting the following burial grounds:

- Darne Family Cemetery
- Seneca ME Church Cemetery
- James Offutt Family Cemetery
- Peter Family Cemetery
- Query Family Cemetery
- Pleasant Hills Cemetery

While photography is the primary objective, any additional information that adds historical content or specific information is greatly appreciated. Do you have information that you would like to share? Do you know of other cemeteries that may not be on the current list?

**Your help in protecting the history of Darnestown and honoring its families is greatly appreciated.**

Ingrid Fraley  
Contact:  
301 590 9030 (office)  
[ifraley@aol.com](mailto:ifraley@aol.com)



# Community Interest



## **Early Spring Training Time...???**

Dave Bivans

*Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville*

As I write this, *The Little Acorn* deadline is fast approaching, and Punxsutawney Phil's peaceful winter's nap is about to be rudely interrupted in less than 10-hours. The evening's forecast of rain-turning-to-snow by morning foretells early spring training for Darnestown's adult co-ed softball season. Regardless, since Montgomery County Parks does not rely on such prognostications for field scheduling, this year's season kicks off with practice on Sunday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by Opening Day, Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

Once again, we have a 12-game season scheduled for each of the four neighborhood-based teams: Western Darnestown (reigning champs), Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield, and Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville. All teams are looking to expand their rosters to account for call-ups to the Majors and the occasional hanging up of spikes. If you're interested in joining the fun, let me know (call 301-977-4734 or e-mail [dnlbivans34@verizon.net](mailto:dnlbivans34@verizon.net)); we'd be glad to get you on a team and out on the field.

And whether you are a player or just interested in cheering your neighbors on, all games are played at the Darnestown Local/Cliff Bland Park, with first pitches at 5pm and 6:30pm most Sundays (excepting for holiday weekends). Contact me and I'd be glad to send you a full-season game schedule.

Looking forward to the warmer weather and seeing everyone soon for another great softball season.

***Stay safe out there!***

## **Darne Bloomers Garden Club**

By Lisa Ruf, Past President

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club has been very busy with our yearly line-up of programs. In September we took a field trip to the Calleva Farm. Our tour was quite interesting, and their sustainable farming practices were a highlight.

October had us dreaming of cultivating wildflower gardens. In November, Stephanie from Stephanie's Secret Garden prepared an incredible hands-on program for members to design their own swags for the holidays. Hands-on workshops are always a highlight for the membership. Everyone left with a beautifully styled swag to display throughout the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

December found us at the US Botanical Garden. We toured their exhibit on USA Roadside Attractions made from natural materials.

In April we will have a program on the Care and Cultivation of Peonies. If you are curious about our club, please rsvp to [lisaruf@aol.com](mailto:lisaruf@aol.com) and be our guest. We'd love to share our love and knowledge of gardening with you.



## **Our U.S. Botanical Garden Tour!**

Photo Credit: Susan Allaway



# Community Interest

## Welcome New Neighbors

### Are you new to Darnestown?

Darnestown is a wonderfully friendly, caring community, but we're not a typical suburban 'neighborhood' with sidewalks to join our houses. Therefore, it's sometimes difficult for newcomers to get to know us. And we certainly don't want you to feel lonely or ignored! So, here's what to do:

If you're on Facebook, please go to our group page entitled 'Darnestown Maryland – Our Home Town'. There are several hundred Darnestown residents who are members of the group, so this is a great way to introduce yourselves to the neighborhood and to have a digital chat over the back fence with your new neighbors!

Also consider contacting the DCA President Lisa Patterson to let her know you are here! Lisa knows almost everyone in Darnestown, and she'll be able to put you in touch with whomever and whatever you need! You can find Lisa's contact info on page 2 of the Acorn, but to make your life easier, here is her email address: [lisaapatterson@aol.com](mailto:lisaapatterson@aol.com)

You can also feel free to contact the Acorn's Editor, Sue Gooch, at [wsgooch@comcast.net](mailto:wsgooch@comcast.net). Sue is also the Administrator of the Darnestown Facebook page, so like Lisa, she has her finger on the pulse of things here in Darnestown. She can also be a good support contact.

### The Main Message

We're so glad that you are here! Please reach out to let us know about you and your family. We're looking forward to getting to know you, and we hope to run into you at the Harris Teeter, Safeway, the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club, or elsewhere around town!



## Foxes Spotted Again!

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



### Five Fascinating Fox Facts

1. Foxes are solitary.
2. They have a lot in common with cats, but they are not felines.
3. They use the Earth's magnetic field to hunt.
4. Foxes are good parents.
5. A female fox is called a vixen.

# Community Interest



## ***NATIONAL CHARITY to HOST ANNUAL GALA in D.C. to RAISE MONEY to SUPPORT YOUTH ENTERING FOSTER CARE***

By Rebekah Kuschmider

Comfort Cases' 4th Annual Gala will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2018, at the Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C. The event will feature performances by the Como Brothers Band and comedian/actor Alec Mapa, as well as a seated dinner, silent and live auctions, awards ceremony, and dancing.

Founded in 2013, Comfort Cases, headquartered in Rockville, MD, is dedicated to serving youth entering foster care not only in MD/DC/VA, but also nationwide. To date, Comfort Cases has served more than 30,000 people through the tough transition into foster care. The recipients range from newborns to the age of 21 in 32 states and Washington, D.C.

Proceeds from the Gala will support the mission of providing "Comfort Cases", which include new backpacks/duffel bags packed with new pajamas, blankets, stuffed animals, dental and hygiene kits, journals with pens/pencils or coloring books with crayons, and books. Additionally, each Case includes a large duffel bag for recipients to carry their personal items along their journey. Without a Comfort Case, those entering foster care typically carry the few belongings they may have to call their own in trash bags used as a 'suitcase'. Items in each Comfort Cases assist youth as they transition into a new foster home, but, more importantly, provide a sense of dignity and self-worth.

"These items were especially meaningful to me as I grew up in the foster care system," says Rob Scheer, the Founder of Comfort Cases. "Today, we pack thousands of cases each year for youth as young as newborns entering foster care and transitioning between foster care families. Our Gala, its sponsors, and every attendee will influence our mission in remarkable ways."

Comfort Cases has experienced tremendous growth since its inception, and was applauded for its mission with a feature on The Ellen Show last summer. Additionally, Derek Jeter Publishing recently announced the acquisition of the imprint for a memoir written about the Founder of Comfort Cases' life story to be published in 2018. While Comfort Cases is taking steps toward national expansion, the need to rally support is powerfully pressing to respond to the 437,500 youth in foster care across the U.S. The Gala serves as the largest annual fundraiser for Comfort Cases, and supporters are implored to sponsor and attend the impactful special evening.

The black-tie optional Gala will feature funny guy, Alec Mapa, who has entertained audiences worldwide and is known for his uproarious live performances and groundbreaking television roles. Musical guests, from Long Island, New York combine an urban-pop and rock sound with a blues vibe. Having written and recorded multiple albums and EP's of original songs, The Como Brothers are premier singer-songwriters with ties to industry legends John Mayer, The Saturday Night Live Band, and Taylor Swift.

The event will feature both live and silent auctions featuring items donated by numerous sponsors, organizations and individuals.

To purchase tickets, learn how to become a Gala sponsor, or make silent or live auction donations, please visit the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala's website at:

[www.BidPal.net/ComfortCasesGala2018](http://www.BidPal.net/ComfortCasesGala2018)

or contact Comfort Cases' Gala Leadership Team at [2018Gala@comfortcases.org](mailto:2018Gala@comfortcases.org).

Comfort Cases Website: [www.comfortcases.org](http://www.comfortcases.org)

Gala Website: [www.BidPal.net/ComfortCasesGala2018](http://www.BidPal.net/ComfortCasesGala2018)

Video on Comfort Cases:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PUHvNLdvHo2018>



PROVIDING COMFORT & SUPPORT FOR KIDS IN FOSTER CARE

# *One Story at a Time...*

**Marriott Marquis in Washington, D.C.**

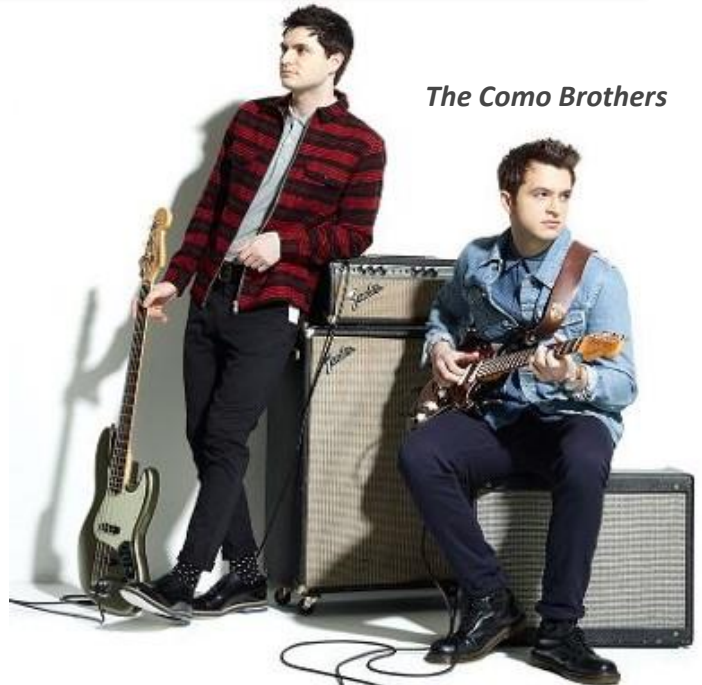
**Saturday, May 12th, 2018 at 6:00 PM**

*Black Tie Optional*

Awards Ceremony \* Silent and Live Auction \* Dinner \* Entertainment



*Funny guy Alec Mapa!*



*The Como Brothers*





# Community Interest

## Sue's Reviews

By Sue Abbondanzo Johnstone

### THE SHAPE OF WATER

"The Shape of Water" is a 123-minute R Rated Fantasy/Thriller directed by Guillermo del Toro starring Sally Hawkins (Elisa Esposito), Michael Shannon (Col. Richard Strickland), Richard Jenkins (Giles), Octavia Spencer (Zelda) and Doug Jones (The Asset).

The film is set in Baltimore in 1962 in the background of the Cold War era. Elisa is a mute cleaning lady working in a secret high-security government laboratory. She and her colleague, Zelda, discover a bizarre, scaly, water-dwelling creature from South America that is brought to the facility as a classified secret. Elisa develops a unique bond with the creature and does everything she can to protect him from hostile government agents.

Hollywood saves its best movies for the end of the year and this is no exception. "The Shape of Water" is a visually-stimulating, emotionally-engrossing adventure which is simultaneously a spy thriller, science fiction odyssey and erotic love story. It has a well-written script with cleverly-placed comedic relief to balance out the gory and violent scenes. Del Toro, a master storyteller, has created a masterpiece with exceptional photography, lighting, sets, costumes and cars which recreate 1962 Baltimore. The acting/casting is uniformly excellent, especially Hawkins, who deserves an Oscar nomination for her passionate portrayal of a poor, mute woman who finds love in the most unexpected place. Shannon, who never disappoints, is extraordinarily effective in his creepy, sadistic role and the supporting cast members, especially Spencer and Jenkins, also deliver noteworthy performances.

The plot subtly but expertly weaves in (but does not dwell on) important social issues such as racism, homophobia, sexism and cold-war intimidation, in the context of the 1960s. I was surprised at how emotionally-connected I felt watching this movie, especially the last twenty-minutes which had me laughing, cheering and crying. The satisfying ending is totally unpredictable. Even though this is classified as a science fiction/thriller, I think it is the best love story to appear on the big-screen this year. I give "The Shape of Water" a 10.0 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).



### I, TONYA

"I, Tonya" is a 119-minute R Rated Biographical Sports/Drama directed by Craig Gillespie starring Margot Robbie (Tonya Harding), Sebastian Stan (Jeff Gillooly), Allison Janney (LaVona Golden), Bobby Cannavale (Hard Copy Producer), Caitlin Carver (Nancy Kerrigan) and McKenna Grace (Young Tonya Harding).

This film depicts the amazing rise of Tonya Harding from a low-socioeconomic class child who was often referred to as "white trash" in Portland, OR, to a famous US Olympic figure skater. She started skating at age 3 and was the first American woman to complete a triple axel in competition. The movie's momentum builds to the dramatic, infamous event which is most often associated with Harding: the 1994 baton attack on her rival and Olympic teammate, Nancy Kerrigan. Her ex-husband, Jeff Gillooly, his best friend and accomplices were implicated in the attack which resulted in the end of Harding's skating career. According to the prologue, the movie is based on interviews with Harding and Gillooly.

"I, Tonya" is one of the best movies of the year. It is entertaining, informative, funny and sad at the appropriate times. This compelling dark comedy effectively recounts the extraordinary story of one of the most sensational scandals in sports history. I love everything about it, especially its engrossing true story (which I followed more than any that year, until the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman). The casting and iconic acting of Margot Robbie and Allison Janney (both of whom I think deserve Academy Awards) are fantastic. The retro soundtrack mix including hits by Chicago, Heart, Doris Day, Dire Straits (and others) serves as an effective back-drop to the smooth plot progression. The photography is amazing, especially the close-up skating scenes. The film ends with a moving, informative epilogue which concludes with Harding's historic triple axel and photos of the real characters. I did not look at my watch once and did not want this riveting movie to end.

The best thing about "I, Tonya", however, is the amazing insight it provides into Harding's stamina and determination. She was able to rise above verbally, emotionally and physically abusive relationships with her mother and husband to become an Olympian and the second most well-known person in the world after Bill Clinton.

At times, her story seems too wacky to be believed, but from everything I have read, it is true. I think this film should receive numerous Oscar nominations and I recommend it to anyone who is interested in historic dramas, figure-skating, or biopics of well-known figures in American sports history. I give "I, Tonya" a 9.5 on the ABBONDANZOMETER (Scale of 1-10).

# Homesteading Corner!

## POULTRY SWAP

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

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

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

**GREEN HILL FARM**  
**5329 Mondell Road**  
**Sharpsburg, Maryland 21782**  
[www.ghfarm.org](http://www.ghfarm.org)



## RECIPE CORNER

### Homemade Tomato Pie

**Grease** a 9-inch pie pan.

**Combine & Spread** in pie pan for the crust:

- 1¼ cup Flour
- ½ teaspoon basil or 1 tbsp. fresh
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ½ cup Crisco or other shortening
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup regular sour cream

**Layer** the following:

- Fry Bacon – 5-6 slices – crumble
- Peel & Slice 5-6 tomatoes

To peel tomatoes, place in water that has been boiled & turned off for 1-minute. The skin will slide right off of them!

**Mix & Spread on Top:**

- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 tbsp. minced onion
- 

**Bake** at 375 for 30-35 minutes until crust is golden brown.

***Editor's Note:** I tried this recipe before including it in this edition of the Acorn. It's fabulous! I give it 2-thumbs up!*

# Community Interest

## *Those Who Serve*



### ***U S Army Captain Ryan Swisher Promoted to Major***

At a ceremony at the United States Military Academy (West Point) on January 12, 2018 US Army Captain Ryan Swisher was promoted to the rank of Major. The ceremony was presided over by the Head of the West Point Social Sciences Department, Colonel Suzanne Neilson, and attended by the faculty and staff of the Department. The Golden Oak Leafs were pinned on Major Swisher by his girlfriend Alison Scalzo of Denver, CO and his father Rob Swisher of Darnestown. Major Swisher is an instructor in Economics at West Point, and was also named the Executive Officer of the Social Science Department for the 2018-2019 academic year. Major Swisher previously served two combat tours in Afghanistan as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. He is a two-time awardee of the Bronze Star. Ryan grew up in Darnestown with his family Rob, Janet, Adam, and Jack.



### ***Letters to Soldiers***

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

Organizations such as **Kidz4Troops** and **Operation Gratitude** are just two of the many organizations that help make this possible. Below is a photo of one of our brave soldiers reading a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade child's letter. Parents and teachers, if you would like to begin a letter-writing project at home or in school, here are two great sites to help you get started!

Kidz4Troops: [www.kidz4troops.com](http://www.kidz4troops.com)  
Operation Gratitude: [www.operationgratitude.com](http://www.operationgratitude.com)







## ***Those Who Serve – Wreaths Across America***

By Chris Collins, DCA Vice President, US Army – Ret.

**Tradition.** The dictionary offers the definition as “the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on in this way”. Darnestown has been included in this definition by the events that have shaped our community in the past two centuries. Whether it is the forging of new transportation routes, agricultural endeavors, or military actions, Darnestownians have been at the heart of the action.

Some of the traditions that we have celebrated here in Darnestown include Darnestown History Day, highway-lined flags on federal holidays, the Spring Social, the Fall Hoedown, and the Christmas tree lighting are the ones that stand out in our minds. But wait! We now have a brand, new tradition to count among our celebrations.

Imagine the surprise when it was discovered that over 74 of our neighbors, veterans of American military conflicts from the Civil War to Vietnam, are interred in the Darnestown Presbyterian Church Cemetery! Shortly after this discovery, a national celebration known as *Wreaths Across America* was introduced to Darnestown. It was neither by accident nor by a national concern that our little village was sought out for this honor, but rather by “tradition makers” who gathered support from the community to choreograph a remembrance of the individual sacrifices made by our local veterans for our country.

Not only did the “tradition makers” develop the idea of bringing the national celebration to our corner of the world, but they organized the event, spearheaded the fundraising for the event, arranged for our local military dignitaries to place wreaths in honor of all US branches of the services, arranged for brief dedications, and garnered support from the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts as ceremony participants and reception sponsors. The gathering was also honored to welcome our very own DCA President Lisa Patterson-Troike, who made a brief presentation on behalf of the Darnestown Civic Association and community, as well as a few old veterans standing in the audience of approximately two hundred people from inside and outside of the community.

So, who are the “tradition makers” who spearheaded this idea? None other than Bill and Sue Gooch, actively supported by the members of their motorcycle club, The Independent Civilians. As the name applies, the club’s selfless actions focuses on community service with a particular focus on supporting our military personnel, past and present. With their vision, dedication, and hard work, we as a community have been further enriched. I should also mention that the *Wreaths Across America* ceremony would not have been successful without the overwhelming generosity of our citizens who contributed by financially sponsoring the program through the purchase of wreaths.

And there we have it - A cohesive gathering of the young, the old, and the veterans’ community, thus establishing a new and honored Darnestown tradition!



### **DARNESTOWN’S MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES**

Maj. Gen. Peter Cook, US Army-Ret  
Gunnery Sgt. Patrick Reynolds, USMC  
Capt. Nicholas Markoff, US Navy-Ret  
Maj. Mark Reeder, US Air Force  
Lt. Capt. David Layton, US Navy, Ret.  
(standing in for US Coast Guard)

### **AT THE PODIUM**

DPC’s pastor, Rev. Neill Morgan  
Master of Ceremony Sue Gooch  
Secretary – Independent Civilians Motorcycle Club

***We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2018 ceremony!***

Mark Your Calendars 



***Sunday, April 1, 2018***



***Friday, March 30 –  
Saturday, April 7, 2018***

**Quote of the Quarter**

***It always seems  
impossible...  
until it's done.***

***~Nelson Mandela***

**Calling All  
Graduating Seniors!**



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

Send the following information to the Editor at:

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

**Deadline: May 1, 2018**

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

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



**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS MARCH 11<sup>th</sup>**





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## School News & Events

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### **Darnestown Elementary**



By Sandy Pearce

What an interesting winter we had weather wise. Bone chilling, negative temperatures one week and mild, comfortable temperatures the next! I prefer the latter....

Darnestown Elementary started off December with the much-anticipated **Colonial Day**. Our gym is converted into a Colonial town and 5<sup>th</sup> graders pretend to be living in Colonial Times. Delicious, homemade food, such as Johnny Cakes, blueberry slump and cornbread were some popular items on the menu. Wig making, knitting, games, arts and crafts, as well as an apothecary were on display. A big thank you to all the parent volunteers that made this possible!

Our most popular events, **Bingo Night** and the **Science Expo**, were a huge success. We hold Bingo Night at Lakelands Park Middle School. The Staff Raffle is the best part. Movies and popcorn or a special breakfast with your favorite teacher, "teacher for a day", painting, car washes, even a Darnestown Pool membership, were some of the amazing prizes this year.

The Science Expo was held in the gym and hosted many talented, young scientists. Everything from exploding volcanoes to pretty, sparkling gems. No matter what your project, you always earn a gold medal.

February was a special month at DES. We celebrated **African American Heritage Month** and campaigned for **Pennies for Patients**, which helps raise money for cancer research. The classroom with the most funds raised fundraising received a pizza party. And of course, our **Valentine's Day** parties were all a big hit. DES loves giving!

Yummy food is always a must at DES. We hosted a **Muffins for Mustangs** and had **Community Night** at Chick-fil A, in which a portion of proceeds are donated to the PTA. Both had a great turnout. Thank you to those that participated!

We offer various **Mustang Clubs**, which is a great way to add some fun activities to your child's week. Clubs include Legos, games and arts & crafts to name a few. Please join a club, if you haven't already. They are held directly after school on Tuesdays. Also, the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have been enjoying their field trips to **Collingswood**. On these visits, our children get to spend quality time with the elderly.

For all you music lovers, DES held a combined **Choral and Instrumental Music Concert** this winter. What a talented group of 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders we have. We had a special treat this year. Third grader, Griffin While, was invited to play his trumpet with the older kids by our wonderful new instrumental teacher, Mr. Thomas Goba. Talk about talent! You don't want to miss these concerts in the future.





If you can, please help us provide healthy snacks to those in need during our **Adopt – a – School Healthy Snack Drive**, held now until March 16<sup>th</sup>. Drop off is in the front office. Also, be sure to encourage your kids to participate in our annual **Variety Show** on May 11<sup>th</sup>, held at Northwest High School. Singing, dancing, gymnastics, musical instruments, and even hover boarding are some of the many acts we've seen in the past. This is one of my favorite nights of the year!

I leave you with some tips on how to raise money for our school. One way is to visit

[www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus)

and

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

to register your grocery card. Also, if you shop on Amazon, please be sure to link your account to the DES PTA's Amazon Smile program. And always clip your Box Tops! You can find more information on these fundraisers on the DES PTA website at [darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/](http://darnestownelementary.my-pta.org/).

### DES Upcoming Events:

MARCH 3	Early Release Day (1:20 pm Dismissal)
MARCH 6	PTA Meeting 7:00 pm
MARCH 26-30	SPRING BREAK
APRIL 2	SPRING BREAK
APRIL 9	Early Release Day (1:20pm Dismissal)
APRIL 17	Kindergarten Orientation
APRIL 18	Donuts for Darnestown & Variety Show Try-Outs
APRIL 19	Variety Show Try-Outs
APRIL 26	Take Your Child to Work Day
MAY 1	PTA Meeting
MAY 7	Staff Appreciation Week
MAY 11	Variety Show
MAY 28	Holiday-No School



## **Seneca Academy**

By Brady, Ella, Emerson, Jack, Jonah, Josh, Lizzy, Mason, and Matthew

We are the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade class at Seneca Academy. We wanted to introduce you to our Head of School and to tell you about a really cool experience that we had in January!

Our Head of School is Dr. Michelle Parker. She was born in Washington, DC. Dr. Parker earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology from George Washington University. She came to our school from Sidwell Friends where she was the Head of Counseling. Before that, she was a high school chemistry teacher! She wanted to be a principal because she loves being a part of helping kids learn how to be good citizens and good problem solvers. She also likes to be “a part of the magic of inspiring kids to be curious about the world around them.” We asked her if it is hard to be a principal and she said that it is hard but very worthwhile. Dr. Parker said that she chose Seneca Academy because it felt like “a perfect village” to her from the moment she entered the building!

Dr. Parker always wanted to work with children. She loves being a psychologist because it taught her how to think about kids and their development, and what they need to be strong and healthy. She used to play “teacher” with her friends and her stuffed animals when she was a little girl. So even though she loved her counseling job, she especially loves teaching. So, she came to us in 2016 to be our Head of School.

Dr. Parker's favorite foods are French baguettes and cheese, and her favorite color is blue because she loves everything having to do with water, the beach, and sailing. She has three children, she speaks fluent Spanish, and she loves working in our multi-cultural village here at Seneca Academy. We are really glad to have her here, too!

The other thing we wanted to tell you about is the really cool field trip we went on in January. We had been studying the American Revolution, the US Constitution, and the Bill of Rights in an IB Inquiry Unit that centered on our government's main documents, how and why they were written, and how hard it was for our Founding Fathers to accomplish their goals. For example, we learned that even though the Declaration of Independence was

written by Thomas Jefferson in 1776, the US Constitution wasn't written until 1787 – 11 years later! We also learned that James Madison, who had taken notes during all of the meetings that the founding fathers had, wrote the Constitution based on all of those notes. (And this was before computers!) Everyone disagreed on what exactly should be in the Constitution, so several compromises had to be reached so they could move forward with making our new government. Even then, it took almost a year for the first nine states to ratify, which means 'approve', the Constitution. The first state to ratify the Constitution was Delaware, which is why its nickname is "The First State".

We especially liked learning about the Bill of Rights (particularly the First and Fourth Amendments), and how democracy is different from dictatorships and other kinds of harsh governments.

But the GREATEST experience we had was when we went on a field trip to Washington, DC to meet with Senator Chris Van Hollen, our State Senator! We arrived in DC at about 11:30 am, so we ate our lunches in the courtyard of the Hart Building before going inside. On our way to Sen. Van Hollen's office, we met the bodyguard of Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, who gave us some energy drinks and let us look into the Senator's office!

When we arrived at Sen. Van Hollen's office, we were taken to his main meeting room. He joined us a few minutes later, and we sat at his big meeting table with him. The Senator stayed with us for about half an hour, and he answered all of our questions! He explained how a bill is discussed and passed into law, how the Senators reach compromise, how government budgets work, and how important children's education issues are to him.

He also told us that he had met and worked with President Obama many times, but he hasn't worked with President Trump yet, and he was looking forward to that opportunity.

Studying our country's founding documents and our government was super interesting, but meeting Senator Van Hollen was really special! It was definitely one of the coolest and most educational experiences of our lives!



***Arriving in DC***



***With our Head of School, Dr. Parker, and Maryland State Senator Chris Van Hollen in his office***

  
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## **Mary of Nazareth**

By Sara Jamison

### ***Breakfast with St. Nick is a Mary of Nazareth tradition and family favorite***

Mary of Nazareth's Home and School Association welcomed families again this year for its annual Breakfast with St. Nick celebration. The theme of this year's event was Nativity Gallery, featuring a variety of handcrafted decorations that reflect the true sentiment of the Christmas season. The entire school building was transformed into a winter wonderland for families and children to enjoy. In addition to a hot breakfast prepared by Mary of Nazareth parent volunteers, children could write their wish lists and deliver them personally to Santa. A Christmas shop was available where guests could purchase gifts for loved ones. Additionally, children got to enjoy creating their own Christmas crafts in the craft room. Breakfast with St. Nick is one of the school's most beloved holiday events, as it brings all members of the school community for a morning of fellowship and festivity. Our school is deeply grateful to all members of the HSA, especially those on the decorations committee, for helping to continue this tradition from year to year.

### ***8th Grade Students Celebrate Last Year at Mary of Nazareth on NYC Trip***

Mary of Nazareth's graduating class of 2018 had a wonderful time on the school's annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to New York City. Each year, following the High School Placement Test (HSPT), our 8th grade students depart for a special visit to some of New York's most iconic places. The trip began with a tour of the 9/11 Museum and Ground Zero, which students found moving. Next, they got a chance to explore Madame Tussauds wax museum, posing with many of their favorite celebrities. The day was rounded out with a night tour on the top of Rockefeller Center, featuring incredible views across the city. The next day, before heading home, students enjoyed seeing Christmas Spectacular show at Radio City Music Hall. The final part of the trip was celebrating Mass together in St. Patrick's Cathedral, with a special homily reminding students to be present with God in all they do. Students recall the trip as being a once in a lifetime experience, spent with lifelong friends. This trip is one

of the many ways Mary of Nazareth School honors it's students and their hard work. Congratulations to each member of our 8th grade class – we look forward to saluting you again in the spring as graduation draws near.

### ***Students Brighten the Holiday Season with Community Service***

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's mission is to prepare students for lives of service to God and neighbor. By providing classroom instruction and volunteer opportunities, Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Program raises students' awareness of the plight of the poor and encourages students to fulfill their responsibility to help those who lack life's basic necessities. Students have abundant opportunities to serve their communities through extracurricular clubs and activities. This Christmas season, our students and families worked to bring joy to their neighbors in need. As in previous years, the school partnered with A Wider Circle, with numerous homerooms "adopting" local families in need. A Wider Circle receives Christmas wish lists from families in need, which are then forwarded to participating Mary of Nazareth homerooms. "Adopted" families are assigned to homerooms based on the size of the family and class. Many of the participating homerooms decided to dedicate class time to wrapping gifts together. Other classes made Christmas cards to accompany their gifts. As the school year continues, students are encouraged to participate in service projects that directly benefit others in their local communities.





# Butler Montessori School

By Lisa Daly

## ***Butler Montessori is already thinking spring and summer!***

**Mark Your Calendars!** We invite the Darnestown community to join us for **Hands On! Arts & Activities Day** on **Saturday, April 21**. This engaging program-based event is geared towards living out Butler Montessori's mission of purposeful enrichment. Hands On! features a variety of parent/child and child-only workshops and classes, including yoga, archery, geocaching, bush skills, nature-trail treks, cupcake decorating, birdhouse painting, bracelet making, and much more. We invite you to explore the school's beautiful 22-acre campus and experience hands-on learning at its best. Classes fill up fast! For more information and to sign up for a workshop or class, visit [www.ButlerSchool.org/HandsOn](http://www.ButlerSchool.org/HandsOn).



Our **Online Auction** is open from **April 20 - May 4**. We encourage community members to participate by bidding on a wide variety of fabulous items from local businesses. From jewelry to children's activities, there is something for everyone! For more information and to view the Auction catalog visit:

**[www.ButlerSchool.org/Auction](http://www.ButlerSchool.org/Auction)**

Funds raised from both our online auction and Hands On! event provide critical items needed to support our children's educational experience. This year, proceeds will go towards the purchase of our very own multi-use Pick-Up Truck!

**Butler Camp Registration** is now open! Our beautiful 22-acre campus adjoining Seneca Creek State Park offers exciting opportunities for children ages 3 ½ to 16

to explore and enjoy nature. Butler Camp is accredited by the State of Maryland and all counselors meet or exceed the stringent qualifications set by the State.



In addition to traditional activities, Butler Camp also offers a JV Counselor Program. JV Counselors are under the direction and guidance of a Program Director who meets with them throughout the day to assist them in their training process.

For those children ages 6 and above who love horses, Butler Camp offers a top-notch equestrian program. Students are placed according to experience and riding level. Building confidence and independence is always an important focus for our equestrians.



For more information on summer camp or our riding program please visit our website at [www.butlercampa.org](http://www.butlercampa.org) or call us at 301-977-6600.



## Lakelands Park Middle School

By Janet Swisher

Don't miss our exciting 12th Annual Basketball Night on Friday, March 9th from 5:30pm to 9pm in the LPMS gymnasium. This is a school social and fundraising event. Everyone is welcome to cheer on their favorite LPMS student teams. Event includes basketball team tournament and concessions. There is a minimum fee of \$3.00 per audience member to attend the event.



Our Student Government Association (SGA) joined 27,000 students nationwide in Pennies for Patients fundraising. Students collected coins, cash and check donations from family, friends, and neighbors. Also, the SGA held their after school Valentines Dance, planned and run by students. Fun was had by all and love was definitely in the air!



We are getting close to our ever so popular, LPMS Variety Show held on Monday, April 3 at 6:00 PM. Students perform a wide variety of acts and it is a night not to be missed.

This year we are making parents' lives easier with one click. That's right – one click and you can purchase your students 2018-2019 school supplies all in one place.

6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Teacher approved, the cost for the whole kit is approximately \$75. You can choose between hard ring binders and zip-up binders. The rest is done for you. All orders will be shipped directly to your home address by August 20th. All orders must be placed by June 15<sup>th</sup>!

[http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/list\\_co.php?co\\_school\\_id=47014](http://1stdayschoolsupplies.com/list_co.php?co_school_id=47014)



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# Church News!

## **Darnestown Presbyterian Church**

By Larry Ciolorito

### **RENOVATING OUR CAMPUS**

For the first time in five decades, our church is planning to implement major changes to our extended campus. For the last several years we have been exploring options for a broad-based modernization, and during that period we have undertaken many tasks essential to moving the project forward. We hired an architect with significant experience in church design and renovation, and have reviewed several iterations of plans tailored to our design needs. We have worked closely with Montgomery County authorities to design a new septic system and to obtain approval from the county Historic Preservation Commission for proposed changes to our campus. We have also performed significant fundraising and selected a general contractor with special expertise in church construction. Our goals for this project include the physical joining of our two major building complexes, the provision of fellowship space adjacent to our historic sanctuary, making our campus much more handicapped accessible, and expanding our sanctuary seating and chancel space. While we have not yet cleared all obstacles, nor made a final decision to proceed, our commitment to this renovation is strong and we are hoping to break ground this summer. Our goal is to provide for future generations what our predecessors bequeathed to us - a church and campus that effectively welcome the people of Darnestown to the worship of God.

#### **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)

### **LENT, HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**

Spring time at Darnestown Presbyterian Church is a time to celebrate not only of the beauty of Darnestown, but also the meaning of the Lenten Season and Easter on our historic campus. This year will feature our two Palm Sunday services on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, our Maundy Thursday service at 8:00 pm on the 29<sup>th</sup>, and our glorious Easter services at 8:30 and 11:00 am on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Families with children may especially appreciate our Palm Sunday service, which is traditionally somewhat youth oriented, and our Easter services are always among our most popular of the year. Our Choirs will provide wonderful music at both services on Easter morning, the sanctuary will be filled with flowers, and we will also host a pot luck brunch between services in our Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am. Please join us this year -- nothing gives us greater pleasure than to welcome visitors to our church!

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





## ***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

## ***St. Nicholas Episcopal Church***

The Darnestown Ecumenical Ash Wednesday Service will be held at 8:00 PM on February 14 at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, 15575 Germantown Road, behind Seneca Academy.

Everyone is welcome to this worship service of readings, music and the Imposition of Ashes as we begin the Holy Season of Lent. Since 1991, this Ecumenical service rotates among Fairhaven Methodist Church, Darnestown Presbyterian Church, Our Lady of Visitation Church and St. Nicholas Episcopal Church.

Peace & Blessings,

Rev. Beth OCallaghan, Rector  
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
15575 Germantown Road  
Germantown, MD. 20874  
240-631-2800

*Happy  
Easter*



## ***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 May 1, 2018**

**for inclusion in the next Little Acorn!**





## ***Our Lady of the Visitation Parish***

### **2018 Lenten Services**

#### ***LENTEN SCRIPTURE STUDY***

Tuesday Mornings through March 27<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM in the Parish Barn

#### ***SACRAMENT OF PENANCE AND RECONCILIATION***

Wednesdays through March 28<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Church

#### ***STATIONS OF THE CROSS***

Fridays through March 23<sup>d</sup>  
7:00 PM in the Church

#### ***LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES***

Friday Evenings through March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
7:30 PM in Founders Hall

#### ***PASSION / PALM SUNDAY***

March 25<sup>th</sup>  
Solemn Entrance / Long Form of Passion  
5:00 PM  
Family Liturgy / Short Form of Passion / Procession  
9:00 AM  
Simple Entrance / Long Form of Passion  
11:00 AM

### **Sacred Triduum Schedule**

#### ***HOLY THURSDAY*** March 29<sup>th</sup>

Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 PM

#### ***GOOD FRIDAY*** March 30<sup>th</sup>

Celebration of the Lord's Passion - 7:00 PM

#### ***HOLY SATURDAY*** March 31<sup>st</sup>

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - 8:00 PM.

#### ***EASTER SUNDAY RESURRECTION OF THE LORD***

April 1<sup>st</sup> Sacred Liturgy 9:00 - 11:00 AM

#### **Contact Information**

14139 Seneca Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
301-948-5536  
[www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org)  
[parishoffice@olvp.org](mailto:parishoffice@olvp.org)

#### **Pastor:**

**The Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fecteau**



# 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
Bailey Desbrow	age 10	804-652-5162
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
Christine Venable	age 14	301 258-1326
Elizabeth Venable	age 16	301 258-1326

## 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
Christine Venable	age 14	301 258-1326
Elizabeth Venable	age 16	301 258-1326

## 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	301-330-5092
Jennifer Suess	Voice	301-977-2605
David Tony	Drums	301-990-6550
Stefanie Zaner	Clarinet	240-678-8319

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT LITTLE ACORN**

**May 1, 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.

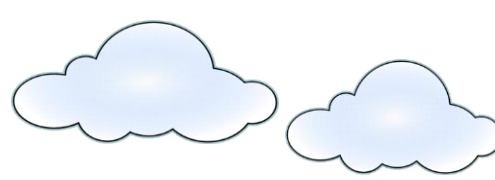
***Below is a list of these groups:***

### **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

### **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**

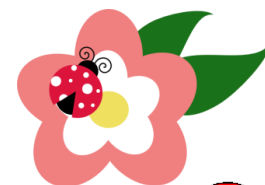
16600 Raven Rock Drive  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
Mrs. Monifa McKnight, Principal  
301-840-4770

### **Trout Unlimited**

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369  
website: [www.senecavalleytu.org](http://www.senecavalleytu.org)  
Charles August, Secretary  
[cсаugust@comcast.net](mailto:cсаugust@comcast.net)  
240-401-8669



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



**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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