

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 55, Number 2 June 2018

CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWS & NOTES (

Notes from the President By Lisa Patterson-Troike

County Executive Candidate Forum a Success!

The DCA thanks Trustee Paul Klee for organizing the successful County Executive Candidate Forum on May 31 at Darnestown Elementary School. We also want to thank candidates Roger Berliner, David Blair, Marc Elrich, Robin Ficker, Rose Krasnow, and George Leventhal, as well as our Darnestown residents, for helping to make the event a wonderful exchange of ideas and views relative to the future of our community. A more detailed article will follow in the September issue of *The Little Acorn*.

It's Not Too Late to Become a DCA Member!

The September issue of *The Little Acorn* will list our DCA members. If you want to be included on this list, become a member today at Darnestowncivic.org. Not sure if you've renewed your membership? Check online at Darnestowncivic.org. Become a member and support the DCA which brings you *The Little Acorn* newsletter, Darnestown Directory, Spring Social, Hoedown Social, the Wreaths Across America Ceremony, the Tree Lighting Social, community/development/zoning/roads activism, etc. Members receive discounts to our social events plus so much more!



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No Town Meeting

Next DCA Town Meeting

this June!

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The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA)

The Little Acorn

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Hooray!

1 1

Zoning & Dev:





Celebrate the Ag Reserve this summer!

The Montgomery County Agriculture Reserve was created in 1980 and has the highest percentage of farmland preserved by agricultural land preservation easements in the nation. 93,000 acres help promote and sustain healthy "green" living through increased water quality, clean air, wildlife habitats, and access to fresh produce. Recreational opportunities abound, such as hiking, biking, riding, canoeing, birding, exploring and more.

Did you know that MoCo Agriculture...

- Adds \$243 million to the County's economy
- Has 577 farms and employs over 10,000 people
- Is #1 in pumpkins and #2 in berry production in Maryland
- Has 12,000 horses, #2 in the state
- Has Civil War and Underground Railroad sites
- Has 18th and 19th century homes, barns, schools and mills

MoCo Agriculture Summer Events ...

- June 23 Field & Fiddle Festival mocoalliance.org
- July 28 & 29 MoCo Farm Tour montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agfarmtour.html
- August 10-18 MoCo Agricultural Fair mcagfair.com
- C&O Canal trips, tours and lectures candocanal.org
- Calleva Farm "Dirty Dinners" calleva.org
- Rocklands Farm dinners, wine tastings and fresh produce rocklandsfarmmd.com
- Stephanie's Secret Garden flowers and workshops stephaniessecretgarden.com
- Homestead Farm fresh produce homesteadfarm.com
- Kingsbury Orchards fresh produce kingsburysorchard.com
- Lewis Orchards fresh produce lewisorchardsfarmmarket.com

Substation Update

Pepco is expecting that the first 69 kV feeder will be energized to power the substation transformers during December of this year. It was originally scheduled to be "live" by April 2018. Landscaping, including trees, shrubs and other vegetation, will be finished over the summer and fall. Photos below provided by Pepco.













By Aleks Schiff

Welcome to the 2018 Summer Season!

The kick-off to our 2018 season was a great success with the hugely popular Opening Day Cookout! Everyone was more than ready to come out of hibernation and reconnect with friends in the community. And, a new season brings great new things – we have expanded our program offerings to attract and retain members at every stage of their tenure with DSRC. Come out and join us for Masters Swimming, Water Aerobics, and Yoga. These great new programs are open to members of all ages, so check the days and times for these new classes on our website: www.dsrclub.com/exercise-classes.

Memberships Available

We are still offering our reduced initiation fee and bond promotion - Now Only \$400 initiation fee and \$1,000 bond. And, remember our "Refer-a-Friend" program **pays you \$100 for every family you refer who joins the** <u>Club</u>. If you know people who are interested in joining DSRC, please have them contact us at <u>membership@dsrclub.com.</u> All are now available for payment online – just click "Shop" on the website top menu.

Camp Green Zone

The 4th camp season has kicked off! Our expanded camp offering and creative member discount packages on camp with swim/tennis/camp combo have been well received, and we hope you secured spots for your kids. Our CIT Program is popular and offers SSL hours for students, in addition to a great learning experience. In preparation for your arrival, we pre-planted peas, chard, lettuce, and tomatoes for our first camper harvest, selected a site for the DSRC rain barrel, rinsed the craft brushes, dusted off the yoga mats and prepped our fields for games and sports. Contact <u>camp@dsrclub.com</u> for more information or visit: www.dsrclub.com/summer-camp.





Club Social

Our 2018 social calendar kicked off with our Cinco de Mayo party, our Rocklands Farm and Winery events and our Opening Day Cookout. More fun times await our members and guests with our Red Carpet Teen party, Bevies and a Band Adult Social, our ever popular 4th of July Parade, and Sunday Funday Tailgate!

Check out the website for the full list: www.dsrclub.com/social-program.

Club Tennis

The weather did not want to cooperate in April, but our tennis program is now in full swing! With 6 outdoor, *lighted*, hard courts, we have 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: <u>www.dsrclub.com/tennis</u>.

Darnestown Demons Swimming

The Darnestown Demons are looking forward to a great season competing in the "C" Division of the MCSL Swim League. We would love to see our friends and neighbors at the pool cheering us on at home meets on Saturdays, June 16th, July 8th & 9th; and Wednesdays, June 20th, July 11th & 18th! Check out the team calendar for fun activities, such as the Team Trip to Hershey Park and Family Fun Night. Go Demons!



Stay in the know about the Club!

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club: <u>www.dsrclub.com</u> <u>Facebook:</u> @DarnestownSwimRacquetClub <u>Instagram:</u> @DSRClub <u>General Manager</u>: Dave Hardy, <u>gm@dsrclub.com</u> 15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD 20874 301.330.1340

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MOLLY'S WALK AND ROLL FOR A CURE!!! SEPTEMBER 15, 2018 BRETTON WOODS RECREATION CENTER

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

Since 2009, I have participated in walks for Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia and since 2012, I have organized my own walk. This year the walk will be September 15, 2018 at Bretton Woods Recreation Center and I hope that you will join me in spreading awareness and raising funds for these debilitating conditions. Registration starts at 10:00 AM and the walk starts at 11:00 AM. To sign up for the walk please visit: http://www.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1178774

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

Right now, we are looking for sponsors for the walk. We would really like to make this walk a community event in Darnestown and would love the support of any local businesses.

Please contact me with any questions.

~Molly Lichtenstein mlicht5@student.towson.edu





Community Interest 🚿



Chalk One Up for Phil! By Dave Bivans, Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville

Darnestown softball's 2018 kickoff kept Punxsutawney Phil true to his word and then some with "spring" training and the first three weeks of scheduled games all on sub-to-mid-50-degree days with one rained-out weekend already; not quite softball weather. BUT, that is all changing as I write this, as the forecast in a day or two will feel fully like summer but without the humidity – hooray!!!

And true to form, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) is at the top of the standings, with 2 wins and no losses; followed by Western Darnestown (last year's champions) and Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville each standing at 1-1; and Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ) at 0-2. With winter now out of the way, we look forward to pleasant (and dry) Sunday afternoons to complete (hopefully) a 12-game season, providing plenty of opportunity to jockey for local softball supremacy bragging rights.

So, what's not to love? Bring your glove or chair, and join your favorite local team at Darnestown's own Cliff Bland Park on most Sunday afternoon's beginning at 5:00 PM. Games run through July (no play on holiday weekends). If you'd like the complete schedule (and standings) just send me an e-mail - dnlbivans34@verizon.net.

Play Ball!



Photo credit: Linda Ricci (at least her phone, as I think she's the catcher in the picture!)

Description: "Delayed Opening Day - First Pitch"

Díd you know?

The candy bar, Baby Ruth, is most likely named for baseball legend Babe Ruth. The bar was formerly called Kandy Kake but the name was changed right around Ruth's rise to popularity. Because "official" permission was not requested, the company (then the Curtiss Candy Co.) denied that Babe Ruth was the namesake. However, in 1995, the Babe Ruth estate licensed his name and likeness for use in a Baby Ruth marketing campaign with Nestle.

Community Interest 🚿

Darne Good Cookbook

Still don't have one of our fabulous DCA cookbooks? They're only \$10! This is a great deal considering some retailers sell them for over \$20. The recipes and artwork are all contributions from our residents. They make a great hostess and/or birthday gift. Contact DCA President Lisa Patterson at **lisaapatterson@aol.com** to get yours today!

From Our Cookbook

Aunt Doris' Tomato Soup Dressing

A good, basic dressing to keep in the fridge. It's similar to French dressing...but BETTER! Page 77

- 1 (10 ¾ oz.) can condensed tomato soup
- ¾ cup wine vinegar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. paprika
- ½ tsp. pepper
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. dry mustard
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 ½ cups vegetable oil
 - 1. Combine first nine ingredients in a blender.
 - 2. Cover and whirl until smooth.
 - 3. Setting blender on lowest speed, add oil slowly.
 - 4. Whirl a few seconds longer to blend well.
 - 5. Refrigerate.



Summer is Salad Season! Here are two great homemade salad dressing recipes to enjoy this summer!

Greek Yogurt Ranch Dressing

- 3/4 cup whole milk plain Greek yogurt
- 1 clove garlic, finely minced OR 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 cup fresh minced parsley OR 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1/4 medium onion, diced (about 2 tablespoons) OR 2 teaspoons onion powder
- 2 tablespoons fresh minced chives OR 1 tablespoon dried chives
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard
- Juice of 1/2 lemon (about 2 tablespoons)
- 1/4 cup 1/2 cup buttermilk
 - Combine all ingredients in a jar with a tight-fitting lid, shake until well combined. Alternatively, you can combine all ingredients in a food processor or blender and pulse until well combined and smooth.
 - Refrigerate and let flavors blend for at least 30 minutes, preferably 2 hours, before serving.
 - 3. Store in an airtight bottle or jar in the fridge for up to a week.
 - If you're looking to make a thicker ranch dip, only use 1/4 cup of buttermilk. For a thinner dressing to drizzle onto salads, add more buttermilk.

Source: https://wholefully.com/healthy-salad-dressing-recipes/



Community Interest 🚿

Mosquito Control: An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure By Karen Murtagh

It's that time of year again when our gardens are awakening, the birds are singing to attract mates and insects are making themselves known. Unfortunately, the latter includes mosquitoes.

Do you know that the best and healthiest method of mosquito prevention is not to have them in the first place? Sounds like it makes sense, right? We can do this by eliminating where they breed: standing water.

Their life cycle is pretty simple: the females lay eggs in standing water, the eggs hatch into larvae, the larvae pupate and then emerge from water as adults. Standing water is critical to their reproduction. Even a capful of standing water will suffice!

Take a survey of your property and consider the places where mosquitoes might breed. Uncleaned gutters, corrugated drain pipe, kids' toys outside with water in them, old pots, saucers, tires, tarps, old wet logs, etc. For some of us, poorly graded drainage swales are an issue, especially between rains.

The Asian Tiger mosquito (the large one with white markings that is out in the daytime) has a very limited flight range. This means that if you see them, they're breeding close by. If we act as a community and all check our property after a rain and empty those water-containing items (or eliminate them), we have the potential to nip the mosquito problem in the bud. But, we all need take part for this to be successful.

What if you have standing water that you can't easily drain? <u>Bacillus thuringiensis, var. israelensis</u> (BTi) is a bacterium that is non-toxic to humans, animals, or the environment, but will kill mosquito larvae. BTi comes as "Mosquito Dunks" and "Mosquito Bits" and is available at Home Depot and Lowes. The Bits can be sprinkled over wet areas and the Dunks can be put in birdbaths, plant saucers, etc. They last about a month and can be anchored with netting and a rock, if needed, so they don't float away with a rain.

Killing the larvae is the way to go. No larvae—no adults to bite you. Sprays don't do that—they just kill adults.

Speaking of sprays, you've likely received a handful of flyers already about signing up with a service to fog your property every month to prevent mosquitoes, with the assurance that doing so is safe. Before you do this, please consider the following:

What is the chemical being sprayed? Different companies use different chemicals that may range from being labelled as "CAUTION" to "DANGER". (The hierarchy is Caution, Warning, Danger, Danger/Poison). The Material Safety Data Sheet for the chemical being used should be provided to you.

Who is doing the spraying? Workers are typically spraying under the license of the business owner, not their own license. Ask what their training is and whose license they're working under.

Is the company spraying lawfully? All of the pesticides (businesses surveyed last year by me) are extremely toxic to bees. They are expressly labeled as not to be sprayed when bees are foraging. They are also not to be sprayed in windy conditions.

Is the company contaminating your neighbor's property? This, too, is against the law. It's hard not to envision this happening with the fogging method.

What about personal health? Skin contact and breathing in pesticide are very efficient means of exposure. Consider the effect on pregnant women, kids, people with respiratory illness, or simply someone having a party or being out in their yard when the pesticide sprayer comes by. Also, the pesticide doesn't just disappear after it's sprayed—a consideration for those kiddos who like to run around barefoot.

By eliminating breeding habitat, resorting to pesticides that can harm our beneficial insects and pollinators shouldn't be necessary. Please consider a neighborhood cleanup and discussion, using Mosquito Dunks or Mosquito Bits for those wet areas, and if you have a poorly draining storm swale, call the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation, Division of Transportation Engineering 240-777-7223, and get on the list for the county to fix it.

If we pull together as a community, we might just eliminate mosquitoes and all be healthier for it. Now's the time to get a head start.

> Learn more at: <u>www.extension.umd.edu/hgic/mosquitoes</u>, <u>www.cdc.gov</u>, www.mda.maryland.gov

Meet the Neighbors!



Pleasant View Celebrates 150 Years this June

By Merikay Smith

Stop by this historic site any time to see the new native plant gardens which volunteers have recently created, or better yet, come to the actual 150th celebration. Watch for signs on the Pleasant View property (11810 Darnestown Road) or check out the websites below for details on the celebration. Purchased by freed slaves after the Civil War as a place to build a school and church for their families, descendants of these families still reside in Quince Orchard and continue a legacy which emphasizes education and faith.

"According to the Pleasant View Historical Association historian, Vernon Green, the property was purchased in 1868 for \$54 for the establishment of a Methodist Episcopal Church to serve the African-American community that resided in the area. The congregants originally worshiped in a school on the property until they could afford to build a church. The church was built in 1888. In 1901, the Quince Orchard Colored School burned down under suspicious circumstances. In 1902, the Montgomery County Board of Education voted to move the old school for white children that was located across the street to the Pleasant View site to be used for the black students. A new school was built for the white population." - from The Quince Orchard Project.

For more on the history of Pleasant View: www.thequinceorchardproject.com

To learn about the conservation landscaping project at Pleasant View: <u>www.eartheast.org</u>

The Pleasant View Trustees are preparing to renovate the historic church and school, both major construction projects. Pleasant View is unusual in preserving an African American school, church, and cemetery on one site. There are several ways to show your support for this unique historic site. Financial donations toward renovations are always welcome. You can also be a volunteer in the native plant garden and learn a few techniques that may benefit your home garden, too.



Pleasant View Church currently home for Mt. Olive Church, led by Pastor Helen Woods



Pearl Green, aged 99, last year as she met with volunteers in the historic school to answer questions



Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

Bella Dastvan

Bella is graduating from Northwest High School in June. She'll be attending UMBC in the fall (with a fabulous scholarship!) and plans to study Environmental Science. Her passions are music, nature, and animals. She hopes to be able to positively affect the environment and wildlife.



TIL

Madison Gamma

Hello Darnestown! I graduated from Mary of Nazareth school in the 8th grade, and I will be graduating from St. Andrew's Episcopal School this June. I am very excited to be attending Cornell University in Ithaca, NY in the fall, majoring in biology. I hope to continue on to medical school and become a physician! Wish me luck!!!





Jack Helmanis

Jack will be graduating from St. Andrew's Episcopal School in June. In the Fall, he'll be attending the University of New Hampshire's Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics.



Alex Phifer

Alex graduated from University of Maryland's A. James Clark School of Engineering this past December, with a degree in Civil Engineering. She also earned her LEED Green Associate credentials upon graduation. Alex is working for Skanska USA, a Swedish multinational construction and development company with headquarters in New York and offices in 31 US metropolitan areas. Alex's office is in Rockville, MD.



Rohan James Popenoe

Rohan will be graduating from Bullis High School, and he plans to attend Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Public Affairs in the fall of 2018. Rohan's favorite interests include skiing, tennis, drone photography, aviation, and international relations.



Benjamin Spaulding

Benjamin will be graduating with Honors from the University of Maryland College Park with a BS in Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in the role of engineering in aviation or defense industries. Benjamin's interests include baseball, basketball, golf, and Christian Ministries. Benjamin was also a graduate of Quince Orchard High School.

Julia Lynne Vargas

Julia will be graduating from Northwest High School in June, 2018 with Honors. She will attend Frostburg University and has chosen to seek an Undergraduate Degree from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. Julia's passion is to learn how to care for wildlife, including endangered species. After graduating from Frostburg University Julia would like to live and work in Northern California near the Sequoia National Forest.

School News & Events

Darnestown Elementary

By Sandy Pearce

I hope everyone had a fabulous Spring Break! Looks like the warm temperatures are here to stay. We kicked off spring with our Healthy Snack Drive for Gaithersburg Elementary School kids Thank you to those that generously donated food and money, to ensure these kids had healthy snacks to enjoy over Spring Break.

DES collected \$235.10 in box tops during our 2nd collection period. That is 2,351 box tops!

We also held our restaurant night at California Tortilla. Please keep collecting those box tops and attending restaurant nights. All contributions benefit our school.

Our annual Variety Show, held at Northwest High School, was another huge success. Dancing, musical instruments and professional Emcee's by our very own students were some of the exciting acts this year. Donuts for Darnestown was our tastiest event and Take your Kid to Work Day was easily our most popular. Who wouldn't want to skip school and spend the day with Mom and/or Dad? DES also offers amazing clubs, such as Chess & Coding. Both are with coaches from Silver Knights. All grades and skill levels are welcome!

I'd like to talk about a new, special, program DES offered this year, called HERO Boys, run by two real life heroes of our own. Deb and Brian Tupa are Montgomery County Police Officers who have taken time out of their busy lives, saving lives, to train our 3rd to 5th grade boys in this amazing running program just for boys. The ultimate goal is to run 3 miles at a comfortable pace and our talented boys did just that. They ran in the 5K ColorSplash race at Westland Middle School. Bravo to all our DES boys who worked hard at training. We hope this program becomes an annual offering at DES and thank Brian and Deb for all their hard work! Thank you to all our wonderful teachers at DES!!! Staff Appreciation is one week devoted to spoiling our smart, caring and dedicated teachers. Coffee, treats and delicious food were had by all. We appreciate everything you do! In addition to celebrating our teachers, we welcomed some brave, new faces at our Kindergarten Orientation. I bet they can't wait to find out which one of our wonderful DES teachers will be theirs.

Our DES teachers and kids endured several days of PARCC testing, but were rewarded with our Annual Art Show. I hope you were able to enjoy the art work display. Also, we celebrated Keerthna Rawat, who competed in the First Lego League Robotics competition in PG county. Her team claimed second prize for "Do-It-Yourself Charcoal Filter for Clean Water. Congratulations to Keerthna!

Lastly, our school has partnered with the American Heart Association and Jump Rope for Heart. Our kids are learning how important it is to have a healthy heart, as well as ways to get and keep one. Our objective is to raise \$3,000. Thank you to those that helped this great foundation.

Please remember to join the PTA if you have not already done so: <u>www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org</u>

Important Dates to Remember:

June 1	PTA Spring Picnic, 5:30 PM
June 4	Spring Instrumental Music Concert,
	7:00 PM
June 5	PTA Board Meeting in Media Center,
	7:00 PM
June 6	Field Day and 5 th Grade Promotion
June 15	Last Day of School, Early Release at
	1:20 PM
Sept 4	First Day of School





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 childonly 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.

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

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 multiuse 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 <u>www.butlercamp.org</u> or call us at 301-977-6600.







5th Grade Legacy Project, Exhibition, and Graduation

The 2017-2018 school year is quickly coming to an end and preparations are underway to wish our graduating 5th graders farewell and good luck on their journeys to middle school. They have had a busy year as student leaders in the school. They have led our Safety Patrol team, spearheaded our recycling efforts, and helped plan school-wide assemblies, including taking the lead in our bilingual Spanish Assembly, which explored the music and culture of Argentina. As part of our school tradition, the class has also been working on a Legacy Project that they will leave behind as a gift to the school community. This year, the students have designed a mural that will welcome visitors to the Upper Elementary wing of our school. The mural will provide a pictorial representation of our "global village," depicting a circle of students holding hands around a world globe. As an IB school, preparing kids to "build villages together," both in the international community of our school, and also as global citizens, is part of our core mission. It feels very fitting that they have chosen to highlight the importance of this concept in their legacy gift. We are very much looking forward to seeing their final product!

Our 5th graders also had a chance to showcase and celebrate all that they have learned from the IB program in their capstone "Exhibition" projects. These projects were done in their last six-week transdisciplinary unit and took the form of a personal inquiry into a real-life issue that was particularly meaningful to them. With the help of their teacher and their faculty mentors, the students obtained background research, explored perspectives and presented the complexities of their chosen issues as topic experts. In the process, they made use of all the student skills that they have developed through IB PYP as they organized their time, synthesized information, drew conclusions and prepared to communicate their findings to the entire school community. Our students are now ready to go confidently to middle school, knowing that they are fully prepared to meet all of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead!

International Outdoor Classroom Day

In May, all of Seneca Academy participated in Outdoor Classroom Day! This was an international effort to engage schools and children in focusing on the benefits of being outdoors and learning in and from nature. Although we are a National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat and our students spend a great deal of time outdoors every day, knowing that we were a part of this worldwide effort and movement was pretty exciting! Our students planted gardens to attract butterflies and grow vegetables that they hope to harvest. They played games to help them understand concepts such as producers and consumers and the interconnectedness of species. To cap off our exciting and enriching outdoor learning, we partnered with Calleva to do some outdoor team-building activities. It was a great day and much fun was had by all!

Summer at Seneca

Seneca Academy invites all community members to join in the fun with our camp partner, Club SciKidz. ClubSciKidz is the premiere provider of science day camps in our area! They introduce students to the mysteries of science through hands-on, interactive make-and-take projects and experiments. If your child is interested in how things work, what things are made of, and how science works in the real world, this is the perfect camp for them! A variety of programs are offered for children ages 3-15 with before and after care available. learn То more. visit http://www.senecaacademy.org/camp-seneca/

Small School - Big Impact

Seneca Academy's combination of intentionally small class sizes, inquiry-based, International Baccalaureate curriculum and affordability makes us a unique high-value learning investment for forward-thinking families.

We are now enrolling for 2018-2019 for the following programs:

- <u>Parent's Day Out</u> 1 or 2-day per week programs for children who will be 2 by Sept. 1st. Potty training is not required.
- <u>Preschool Three's</u> 2, 3, or 5 day options with before/after care available
- <u>Pre-K Four's</u> 4 or 5 morning options, as well as Extended Day class which is popular with older 4's/young 5's. Before/after care is available
- <u>Kindergarten- 5th Grade</u> Limited openings

For more information, please visit

<u>www.SenecaAcademy.org</u>. We welcome you to visit our beautiful campus! Tours are available by appointment through July. Please call 301-869-3728 to schedule!





By Sara Jamison

MoN Holds First Ever STEM Fair

Middle School Science teacher, Ms. Jennifer Massey, put a new spin on the MoN Science Fair this year. As in previous years, seventh grade students were required to select a project, conduct research, plan an experiment, analyze results, and draw conclusions. This year, however, the project had to be problem-based, requiring students not only to experiment, but to take their ideas a step further and engineer possible solutions. Among many noteworthy projects, the following students were recognized with honorable mention for their work:

- Breana Alcantara Maria Ayoub Tin Cheatham Paige St. Clair Michaela Dailey Timothy Gorman Nicholas Laffey
- Andrew Long Amelia Maffeo Habib Najjar Kate Nonnenkamp Charlie Scherer Ian Stewart Meghan Stone

Parent volunteers from within the MoN community were invited to serve as STEM fair judges. Multiple judges commended students on their displays of innovation and problem solving. Students reported having enjoyed the experience of designing and/or improving products to address a specific problem.



7th graders explain and discuss their STEM projects with judges.

School Community Celebrates Patroness Mary at May Crowning

Each year the Mary of Nazareth School community honors Mary, our patroness, with a Mass and May Crowning. In gratitude for her many graces and the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the 8th grade students crown Mary and make an offering of flowers. This year's May crowners were eighth grade students, Fiona O'Connell and Eduard Ioana. Each individual grade also honors Mary with a classroom May Crowning and prayer service.



MoN Class of 2018, pictured with Mary following May Crowning Mass

Students Celebrate the Arts with Spring Musical

This March, Mary of Nazareth held the first Spring Musical to be debuted in 15 years, Seussical Jr. Students in grades 5-8 were invited to audition for parts in the musical, and spent several months preparing. The school was extremely energized by the outpouring of volunteerism from both parents and teachers in preparation for the play. The production offered students an authentic experience in performing arts, not only with opportunities to perform as part of the cast, but also as members of the production staff. Parent volunteers, Mrs. Roxanne Stone and Mr. John Feeney, served as the Executive Producers. Mrs. Stone, who has worked in the theatre onstage and off for nearly 40 years, says of her experience, "Along the way, I've learned so much from these kids. Their creativity, joy, and excitement have been a source of inspiration and fuel to keep us going." In total, there were four showings of Seussical Jr., all of which were well attended by family and friends of our school. Congratulations to all participants on your hard work, dedication, and creativity!

MoN Hosts Rest Stop Along Bike Tour in Support of Veterans

2018 marks the sixth year that Mary of Nazareth School has hosted a rest stop on its campus for the Face of America bike tour. "Face of America" consists of a 110 mile ride from the Pentagon to Gettysburg, and is one of the largest annual non-competitive bicycle rides in the Washington, D.C. region. Participants ride together to honor US troops, and inspire injured veterans. Mary of Nazareth students and families welcomed riders to the school's 190+ acre campus, cheering them on, and handing them refreshments. Second grade student, Lucas Phommachanh, had the opportunity to meet and speak with Col. Gregory D. Gadson, a double amputee and graduate of Georgetown University's Public Policy Institute, while the FOA riders took a break from their 2 day ride en route to Gettysburg. The event, created and organized by World T.E.A.M. Sports, celebrates its eighteenth race this year. Race day events were organized by Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Committee, which works during the academic year to provide classroom instruction and volunteer opportunities that raise students' awareness of their responsibility to act as good stewards within their communities.



2nd grade student, Lucas Phommachanh, Pictured with Col. Gregory D. Gadson at the Face of America Bike Tour

Those Who Serve



U S Army Major Ryan Swisher Completes First Year as a West Point Instructor

On May 18, 2018 Major Ryan Swisher completed his first year of a two-year tour as an instructor in economics at the US Military Academy at West Point. For the upcoming 2018-2019 academic year starting July 1st, he will teach game theory and macro-economics courses as well as serve as the Executive Officer of the Department of Economics. Following his time at West Point he will attend the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth Kansas. Major Swisher served two combat tours is Afghanistan where he was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He attended Darnestown Elementary and Wootton High School.



Georgetown Hill ~



By Nicole Reap

We have had a fantastically fun spring season at Georgetown Hill! As spring is a time for renewal and rebirth, we have been focusing on different life cycles. T-K and Pre-K have been learning about the spider life cycle and different types of spider webs, as well as the life cycles of frogs and other creatures that live in ponds. They studied water and why it is important to keep our water sources clean. The threes have been learning about how we need to take care of the Earth. They did several recycling projects, including using recycled items to make robots and puzzles. The twos classes learned about the life cycle of butterflies. The children observed how live caterpillars make chrysalises and then turn into butterflies. When the butterflies were ready, the children said goodbye and released them back into nature. The twos also learned about spring weather, including how rainbows are formed and why rain is good for the earth. The entire campus has been learning about the plant life cycle and what plants need to live. We have planted several flowers gardens around our building. And the children planted a flower and vegetable garden near our playground so they can observe the sprouts and watch the plants grow.

Here comes summer! If you have not signed your child up for camp yet, it's not too late! We have a few spots left in our STEAM Around The World Summer Program. Toddlers through T-K campers will enjoy weekly in-house performances which may include puppet shows, fitness fun, local musicians and more! And our school age campers will go on weekly field trips including weekly field trips to the pool. Your child will enjoy new adventures as they travel to different countries each week. Maybe they will visit the Great Pyramids, the Grand Canyon or the Taj Mahal. Or, our little explorers could visit the Great Wall of China, a volcano or build a coral reef. Our program incorporates science, technology, arts and math components into all of our activities, with full day and half day options.

Now is the time to come visit our MSDE (Maryland State Department of Education Accredited) campus if you are thinking about enrolling your child in a program in the fall. Please contact our director, Kristen Raymond at 301-527-1761 or at darnestown@georgetownhill.com.

Photos: Planting seeds Making rainbows Learning the parts of a seed







Church News!



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (June 25 - 29)

Darnestown Presbyterian Church will hold its Vacation Bible School from June 25th – June 29th. VBS will be staged in the evening <u>from 5:30 to 8:00 each evening and</u> <u>will begin with a casual, kid-friendly, family-style dinner</u>. Our theme this year is Shipwrecked, where kids discover how Jesus rescues us through life's storms. Shipwrecked is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences kids can see, hear, touch, and even taste! Science fun, teambuilding games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life.

VBS is a great fellowship opportunity with adults and youth working together to help guide the younger kids in an exploration of the Bible while doing crafts, games, and even science experiments. Children walk away not only singing Sunday-school songs they will remember for years to come, but also with a whole new understanding of what the church can mean to them and their families. Middle schoolers have their own activities, and high schoolers have opportunities to volunteer and interact with the children. An adult Bible study is also offered. You don't have to be a DPC member to participate! We welcome anyone from the community, and all children age 4 and up are welcome. We are thrilled to see new faces and are excited by the opportunity to introduce young children to God's gifts during this special week. If you have any questions or would like to assist, please contact Melissa Mostrom at melissamostrom@gmail.com



SUMMER SCHEDULE STARTS JUNE 17th

Starting on 17 June our summer schedule will feature a single service at 9:30 AM, followed by a fellowship period over coffee, juice and light treats. We love to see visitors and first-time attendees - why not visit us this summer?



Contact Information: 15120 Turkey Foot Road Darnestown, MD 20878 301-948-9127 www.darnestownpc.org/ dpchurch@comcast.net

WORSHIP ALTERNATIVES IN THE EVENT OF CONSTRUCTION

Given the possibility that we will break ground on a construction project this summer, we are engaged in planning regarding where to worship during any period when the western half of our campus (including the sanctuary) is being renovated. If we proceed with the project, the current plan is for us to worship in the All-Purpose Room (APR) of Darnestown Elementary School (DES). The entrance to the APR is immediately adjacent to our campus, and worshippers could park at either DES or DPC. Signage and Deacon guides will be available to help members and visitors find our services. Given our hope that we will be able to proceed with the renovation, you might say that this is a problem we are looking forward to!

For information regarding upcoming events and our church in general, please visit our website at <u>http://www.darnestownpc.org/</u> 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.

For more information on our proposed renovation project, please see the next page! \rightarrow

More from Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito

Big changes may soon be coming to Darnestown Presbyterian Church! While the project has not yet been green-lighted, the DPC congregation is planning the first major renovation of the church campus in nearly fifty years-hopefully to break ground as early as this July. The proposed project is the result of a multi-year effort to modernize the campus -- bringing it, so to speak, into the 21st century while retaining the 19th century characteristics treasured by its members and by the Darnestown community.

The history of Darnestown Presbyterian Church is of course a history of continuity. The church has been a continuous presence in our community since construction of the original wood frame church began in 1856. However, the history of the church is also a history of change. Since its original construction, a series of projects has adapted the physical structure of the church to changing circumstances, helping to keep the church both viable and vibrant. The last such effort was undertaken in the late 1960's with the construction of the "Andrew Small Building" -- the large tan building adjacent to the sanctuary which, since its construction, has housed the church's Christian Education program and served as a major community resource. And just as with the previous upgrades that dot the church's history, the current project will build on the foundation laid in the past to meet the needs of present and future generations.

The proposed project is the culmination of an effort that dates to 2012, when church leaders first began to reevaluate facility needs. The subsequent needs assessment and evaluation concluded that it was time to execute a major upgrade such as those undertaken by church members in 1858 (completion of the original church), 1897 (addition of the front parlor and bell tower), 1953 (addition of the chancel and church offices) and 1969 (completion of the Andrew Small Building). The church subsequently selected the firm of Lemay, Erickson and Wilcox Architects of Reston, VA to help develop a new Master Plan. Lemay-Erickson has extensive experience with church renovations, expertise that has been crucial during an iterative design process that incorporated feedback from the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, adapted to changing septic design requirements, and scaled the project to the available funding.

Remarkably enough, the church's 1960s-era Master Plan envisioned abandoning the historic sanctuary and building a new modern sanctuary at the opposite (eastern) end of the campus. Fortunately, that plan was never fully executedleaving the historic sanctuary as the center of worship. However, that aborted Master Plan also left the sanctuary unconnected and quite distant from the major elements of the Andrew Small Building. If you have ever worshipped at Darnestown Presbyterian you may have observed the somewhat unconventional orientation of the campus buildings, as well as challenges such as space limitations and limited handicapped access. The new Master Plan and the proposed construction project address these shortcomings, and are designed to achieve the following:

- Update the church's safety codes from the nineteenth century to the twenty-first by adding, for example, fire sprinklers and illuminated exit signs.
- Achieve full Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, adding handicapped access ramps, a modern elevator interior to the building, and aisles that more easily accommodate those with wheelchairs or walkers.
- Connect the Sanctuary and the Andrew Small Building, providing interior passage between the two without exposure to the elements.
- Provide Gathering and Fellowship space adjacent to the main sanctuary (rather than at the opposite end of the campus).
- Expand sanctuary seating through the addition of a new transept area at the front of the sanctuary.
- Provide a larger and more flexible chancel area to better accommodate choirs and other liturgical elements.

As you may know, a construction project on an historically designated property served by a septic system in Montgomery County is daunting, to say the Church leaders and an array of architects, least. consultants, lawyers and fundraisers have helped navigate a complex and occasionally maddening process, working closely with County representatives overseeing Historic Preservation and Permitting to move the project towards approval. The resulting plan therefore seeks to modernize the campus, but also ensures that the historic elements of the church will be fully preserved. These elements include the entire remaining fabric of the original 1856 church, the church's glorious stained-glass windows, and the entirety of the 1897 Gothic-revival front with the bell tower that is the church's signature architectural element.

So, the physical church that you have known will remain, albeit supplemented with modern elements of safety, accessibility, and communal space.

The proposed construction will execute the half of the church's Master Plan that addresses the western (sanctuary) side of the campus. This phase of renovation is best explained by the accompanying schematic diagram (**Figure 1**), which shows the expanded southern end of the sanctuary joined with newly constructed spaces that are integrated into the existing Andrew Small Building. As noted, the front façade of the historic sanctuary will be unaffected by the construction. However, the renovation will change the overall appearance by physically linking the sanctuary as described above. **Figure 2** provides a rendering of the post-construction appearance, with the historic sanctuary retaining its historic prominence and architectural detail.

Additionally, **Figure 3** provides a rendering of the interior of the new sanctuary, looking towards the expanded chancel in the background.

It should be noted that the project has not yet cleared every hurdle necessary to proceed with construction. The church's leadership and congregation must both still vote to proceed, and the perpetual questions of funding and financing remain in play, including a bottom-line evaluation of final construction costs. However, as with similar projects throughout the church's history, the congregation is optimistic that the project will in fact be executed -- that funding, so to speak, will follow faith.

But regardless of the outcome of the proposed construction, in the final analysis a church is not just a physical structure -- just as Darnestown itself is not merely a collection of homes. A church is its people! So regardless of the precise physical structure that the church takes, the living faith and good works of its members and of the people of Darnestown will still abide





Figure 1





Figure 3



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 *Tilahun*'s home) www.livingwordbf.org

P.O. Box 487, Poolesville MD 20837



Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Liturgy Schedule

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

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 4:00 pm or by appointment

Contact Information

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



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Register now for Fairhaven's 2018 Vacation Bible School!

You are invited to go on a Rolling River Rampage to experience the "Ride of a Lifetime with God." We hope you can join us this summer for a joyful week of fun, exploration, friendship, discovery, and faith-building.

Our Vacation Bible School welcomes children - AGES 4-12. Middle school and high school students wanting to earn SSL Hours may volunteer during our week of fun. College students are welcome, as well!

For more information and to register, please go to: <u>fairhavenumcmaryland.com</u> Contact: Debbie Miller, Director <u>drmiller323@gmail.com</u> or 301-538-2486

Sunday Worship Opportunities:

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

Contact Information

12801 Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874 301-330-5433 www.fairhavenumc.net

Email: fairhavenumc@gmail.com



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Community Supports St. Nicholas' Garden for People in Need

Darnestown resident and Eagle Scout candidate Mikey Beautz, with the assistance of Boy Scout Troop 1094 will be upgrading St. Nicholas Episcopal Church's vegetable garden as his Eagle Scout project in early June. The project will increase the barriers and fencing to deter the ground hogs and deer from eating the plants, as well as enhance the success of the garden by increasing the irrigation, enriching the soil and planting the vegetable plants.

Farmer Larry from Good Life Farm in Darnestown has offered to plow the garden, and he is donating some of the plants for the garden.

St. Nicholas donates all of the produce to <u>Nourish Now</u>, a non-profit organization that brings food security to families, children, and seniors in need in Montgomery County. Nourish Now seeks to solve two major social issues: hunger and food waste.

Service Providers

Thank you to everyone who continues to email with updates and changes to this important list! <u>This is an ever-evolving list</u>, so please continue to send all corrections and additions to the Editor at <u>wsgooch@comcast.net.</u> for inclusion in the next Acorn!

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 17	301-325-5973	
Billy Harral	age 17	301-325-5973	
Chase Hayes	age 15	240-454-2383	
Katherine Jones	age 17	240-893-2989	
Michael Long	age 17	301-569-6367	
Geri McCarthy	Adult	301-467-5976	
Mackenzie Meyers	age 15	301-525-6239	
Sydney Meyers	age 16	301-525-8167	
Chloe Rourke	age 15	240-671-8764	
Sydney Rourke	age 14	240-671-8764	
Libby Snowden	age 16	240-715-8430	
Jack Staton	age 15	240-912-7765	
Megan Strickler	age 16	301-330-3956	
George Vargas	age 20	301-208-6614	
Julia Vargas	age 17	301-208-6614	
Lynne Vargas	Adult	301- 525-8824	
CHICKEN SITTERS			
Fiona O'Connell	age 14	240-477-6346	
George Vargas	age 20	301-208-6614	
Julia Vargas	age 17	301-208-6614	
Lynne Vargas	Adult	301- 525-8824	
r	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 17	301-325-5973
Billy Harral	age 17	301-325-5973
Gwynne Cafaro	age 15	301-963-7178
Tom Cress	age 22	301-990-9882
Bella Dastvan	age 17	301-330-3231
Chase Hayes	age 15	240 454 2383
Katherine Jones	age 17	240-893-2989
Ben Kaplan	college	301-997-8027
Hanne Kaplan	age 15	301-997-8027
Maureen McAllister	age 25	301-802-4993
Mackenzie Meyers	age 15	301-990-6660
Sydney Meyers	age 16	301-990-6660
Elizabeth Phillips	Adult	301-802-7402
Trish Poulos	Adult	301-208-1007
Libby Snowden	age 16	240-715-8430
George Vargas	age 20	301-208-6614
Julia Vargas	age 17	301-208-6614
Lynne Vargas	Adult	301- 525-8824

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
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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT LITTLE ACORN

August 1st, 2018

Deadlines will remain firm!

Please send articles to wsgooch@comcast.net



Every two years, the DCA publishes a community directory of residents' names, addresses and phone numbers, and mails the directory to every residential address in our database.

The most recent edition (2015) is currently available! To obtain a copy of the Directory, call Sarah Scherer at 240-683-8533 or email her at

sarahscherer@comcast.net

Directories are only available while supplies last.

Organizations, Clubs, Groups, PTAs, etc., provide much of the social interaction that give any area its sense of community.

Below is a list of these groups:

Boy Scout Troop 1094 Scout Master Jim DelVecchio sm@troop1094.org

Butler Montessori

15951 Germantown Road Laura Manack, Head of School 301-977-6600



Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Road Darnestown, MD 20874 Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School 301-869-3728

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Becky Hanley, President (301-330-5437) Barbara Andreassen Membership 301-330-4485

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874 Lisa Patterson-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 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





Lakelands Park Middle School//

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

Mary of Nazareth School

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

Quince Orchard Community Library

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

Northwest High School

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

Quince Orchard High School

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

Ridgeview Middle School

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

Trout Unlimited

Seneca Valley Chapter, #369 website:

www.senecavalleytu.org

Dave Cleaves, Secretary cleaves.dave@comcast.net



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

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