



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 55 Number 4

December 2018

Notes from the President

By Christopher Collins

As the DCA continues to grow after half a century of community support and dedicated leadership, we find ourselves experiencing changes. While the geography of our town and the number of residents haven't significantly changed, the world around us has transformed. Technology shapes our available time for activities and our perceptions are measured in miniscule sound bites, resulting in our needs and desires taking a new direction. The Executive Board and Committee Chairs are a dedicated group of individuals who selflessly give of their time and talent to represent all of Darnestown's residents in both large and small endeavors that have an impact on our community. As those who attended the September Town Meeting know, there are many activities that have the potential to impact each of us daily.

In order to keep up with the myriad of events and changes in our community, we rely on each other as neighbors and friends to communicate timely and factually with the Board, passing along information that impacts our home, Darnestown. We welcome and encourage involvement and input with open arms, so that we can gather as many opinions, opportunities, and outlooks into the future as possible. With everyone's support, we can truly and inclusively represent our greatest assets, our residents.

What's Happening in Darnestown

December 4 6:30 p.m.

Seneca Academy Parenting Series—*Raising the Bilingual Child* at Bretton Woods*

December 9 6:30 p.m.

Annual Tree Lighting at the Darnestown Historical Park*

December 11 7:15 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting at the DCA Office

December 15 12 noon

Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Darnestown Presbyterian Cemetery*

January 2019

Renew your DCA Membership!*

January 24

Celebration Honoring Lisa Patterson-Troike at the Rocklands Winery*

February 1 8:00 a.m.

Early Reader Development and Support at Butler Montessori School*

*Additional information on these events inside

No DCA Town Meeting in December

Next Meeting in March

*Remember: you can view *The Little Acorn* online with pictures in full color and with clickable links at darnestowncivic.org.*

Postponed Election

In any organization, as in life, change is inevitable. Whether you embrace it or resist it, it will occur. During the past year, several events have shaped Darnestown and the Executive Board. In place of our June Town Meeting, a Candidate Forum was held to allow candidates for the County Executive's Office to present their unique perspective on how they could work with Darnestown and its residents to better support and protect our collective values. As a result, the Town Meeting which normally would conduct elections for the 2019 year, was postponed until our September Town Meeting. In preparation for our September Town Meeting, a slate of officers was assembled as prescribed by the by-laws and presented to the membership for their information and consideration. However, just prior to the meeting, something unexpected happened. To ensure that there was a fresh perspective on the board and to have more time to focus on her family, the incumbent DCA president withdrew her nomination, and the slate of proposed officers was incomplete. Because of this, the election was postponed until the March Town Meeting, at which we expect to have a full slate of proposed officers to be presented to the membership for a vote. If you're interested in running for a position, please reach out to the DCA Board.

With Gratitude



It is with both gratitude and sadness that I, along with the DCA Board, express our sincerest thanks to Lisa Patterson-Troike. As many of you are aware, Lisa stepped down as President after serving in the position for ten years. Lisa's passion for Darnestown and her commitment to the community she calls home is one that few people possess but many should emulate. That passion and commitment has made Darnestown the unique and incredible community it is today. Lisa has supported residents and board members in working with county

officials and leaders to ensure we have reliable utilities, an attractive infrastructure, safe schools, and a protected environment. However, even with all these pursuits, Lisa was most committed to ensuring Darnestown remained a tight-knit community where every resident was family. She did this not only through her personal outreach and availability to every resident, but also by personally ensuring every social function, tree lighting, and community meeting was warm and welcoming. Lisa leaves behind big shoes to fill, and it is with great hope that we will be able to coax her into using her talents and involvement in issues that arise in the future. Our best wishes to the "Prez".

Join us to celebrate Lisa's many achievements as President. Details on page 10.

Community Interest

Decision on Small Cell Tower Permitting Has Been Postponed

By Art Slesinger

The County Council President withdrew the Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA 18-11) concerning cell tower placement on October 30. The issue will not be revisited until after November 6th by a new County Council and a new County Executive.

The background is complicated. The basic requirement comes from an FCC regulation that mandates a new (Fifth Generation, i.e. 5G), nationwide system for cell phone towers that employ smaller, distributed towers. The regulation was a direct result of industry lobbying the FCC that this enhanced system was needed to meet the future demands of internet access from mobile devices. The FCC rules override local jurisdictions prohibiting the installation of antennas that are attached to the top of existing utility poles. The County did, with others, litigate the FCC rules and lost. In places with no utility poles (e.g. communities with all underground utility systems) or older poles that need replacement, the installations of new poles could become invasive. On the other hand,

in places with poor reception, additional antennas might be welcomed.

The proposed zoning amendment (ZTA 18-11) which has been delayed, addressed the permitting process, height restrictions and size restrictions on residential antenna installations. Currently, Montgomery County has a tower commission that approves applications of each antenna. The proposed zoning amendment would change the County regulation that all new or replacement poles go through the 'conditional use approval' process. The amendment would also remove the application process for poles under 30 feet that is currently required.

A citizen-lead investigation last year disclosed that the Tower Commission does nothing to insure that the antenna that is built meets the requirements of the application. Many are either in the wrong location or higher than the application stated. Despite learning of these enforcement failures, the County has done nothing to address the enforcement of permits.

With this background, the MC4T organization was formed to challenge County plans to allow the cell phone companies to place the poles and antenna within 30 feet of a residence. Since learning of the Tower Commission's nonfeasance on enforcement, there was considerable doubt that the process would be either fair or properly validated. Check the internet site, MC4T.org, where much more detailed information is provided. The debate is not completed; it is simply delayed and will be in the hands of a new Council. If this concerns you, you need to become informed and become involved.

Celebrate the Season!

Let the warmth of friendship take the chill from the air as we join our Darnestown community for hot cocoa, s'mores and good cheer!

Join us on **Sunday, December 9th at 6:30 p.m.** for the annual Darnestown Holiday tree lighting. Come meet your neighbors and make new friends. The Darnestown Tree is located in the Darnestown Historical Park (next to Harris Teeter).

All are welcome!

We Need Your Support

By Guy Armantrout

January begins a new year for the DCA – which means it's time for your DCA membership renewal.

Not a member yet? No problem – this would be a great time to join!

New this year: **Business Memberships**—Business members will have a listing in each issue of the Little Acorn.

What does the DCA do?

1. Publishes and distributes the Little Acorn, our quarterly newsletter, to all Darnestown residents
2. Monitors and reports issues that impact Darnestown: power and telephone reliability, village development, zoning, public safety, cell towers, County Master Plans, road construction and safety, hiking/biking trails, deer population issues, Agricultural Reserve support, crime reports, and environmental issues to name but a few
3. Organizes DCA Events: Softball, Spring Social, Hoedown, Tree Lighting, Town Meetings, and other gatherings
4. Provides and flies American flags for our community all summer
5. E-mails alerts: Events, lost/found pets, safety/crime notifications, and more
6. Maintains the DCA Website www.darnestowncivic.org
7. Maintains the Welcome to Darnestown community entrance sign
8. Publishes the DCA Member telephone directory
9. Maintains the DCA "Contingency Legal Fund" – should issues arise that could negatively impact the quality of life in Darnestown

It's easy to support the DCA – just go online at
darnestowncivic.org

Or use the paper form on the inside back cover

Serving Those Who Serve

By Gary Kahn

The Darnestown Civic Association honored MCPD District 1 officers and staff with a pizza, meatball slider and homemade cookie party on October 30, 2018.



Chris Collins joined by Officers of MCPD District 1

The event was held at District 1 headquarters on Darnestown Road and was cosponsored by DCA and Darnestown residents, Barbara and Gary Kahn. Gary has been a volunteer at MCPD for the past three years and was the 2017 recipient of MCPD's Robert B. Davis Memorial Award for excellence in volunteer leadership.

Chris Collins attended and spoke with Lt. Lorraine Dommel on current issues concerning Darnestown. Chris extended an invitation to her to speak at the next DCA town meeting in March.

The delicious pizzas and sliders were provided by Gregorio's Trattoria in the Cabin John Shopping Center. The homemade cookies were provided by Caitlin Mueller and Susan Allaway.

While we see officers patrolling the Darnestown area, we do not always get the opportunity to say thank you for keeping us safe and responding to our needs. The party was very well received and the officers thoroughly enjoyed the fare and thanked us for recognizing them for what they do.

How Well Do You Know Darnestown??

While not an officially incorporated town, Darnestown does have defined borders to distinguish itself from the neighboring communities. Can you name the 7 roads that lead in and out of Darnestown? *Answer on Page 10*

Parenting Lecture Series

Seneca Academy continues with its parenting series that is free-of-charge and open to the whole community! Workshops are presented by Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School at Seneca Academy and a child psychologist. Seneca has recently partnered with Bretton Woods to present "Raising Bilingual Children," which will be an in-depth look at how bilingual children acquire language and how to support their development.

- "Raising Bilingual Children" - **Dec. 4th** at 6:30pm, co-sponsored by and occurring at Bretton Woods

Save the dates for future workshops held at Seneca Academy--

- "Picking Your Battles & Setting Limits for Healthy Development" **Jan. 23rd** at 6:30pm
- "Navigating Parenting Pitfalls" **March 12th** at 6:30pm
- "Parenting in the Digital Age" **May 8th** at 6:30pm

Wreaths Across America

By Chris Collins

As we rapidly approach the second anniversary of the local Darnestown *Wreaths Across America* ceremony, we are mindful of all of the efforts contributed to produce this celebration. These efforts include Darnestown Presbyterian Church's sponsorship of the ceremony, in spite of their expansion construction in the immediate area, Darnestown Elementary School as a pre-ceremony gathering place, the many family and friends who have sponsored the donated wreaths, and most prominently, Bill and Susie Gooch who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to assemble and coordinate this wonderful community tribute to our Darnestown veterans. Please place Darnestown's *Wreaths Across America* celebration on **December 15th**, rain or shine, on your calendar. It starts with a gathering at Darnestown Elementary School at **11:00 a.m.** and the ceremony commences at **12:00 p.m.** All are welcome to join in this new Darnestown tradition.

DCA Meets with Park Manager of Seneca Creek State Park

By Karen Hinrichsen

On August 25, 2018 DCA board members Allan Luke, Susan Allaway, Tim Mueller and Karen Hinrichsen met with the Park Manager of Seneca Creek State Park, Captain Dave Powell, to inspect and discuss both deer fence areas.



Allen Luke, Susan Allaway, Dave Powell and Tim Mueller outside the Haddonfield site. Note that the invasive stilt grass is up to the knees on the outside of the fence, but only occasionally found inside.

Mr. Powell commented on the dramatic difference between the vegetation inside the protected fence and the outlying unfenced area. He was delighted with the abundance of young tree saplings and native bushes within the fences. The invasive stilt grass has been outcompeted by mostly native plants. There were more tree saplings in the highland area near Haddonfield Way whereas in the wetland area near the Route 118/Seneca Creek bridge there were more bushes. Mountain laurel, greenbrier, blackberry and Virginia creeper were identified at both sites.

The invasive barberry is still thriving in the wetland area and needs to be uprooted.

Cpt. Powell identified several orchids and recommended we get in touch with the Maryland Native Plant Society (www.mdflora.org) for help with plant identification. We will continue to give updates during the summer of 2019 as plants are identified and invasive, non-native plants are controlled.



The wetland site. On the right is inside the fence where many young saplings and bushes are apparent. Outside, on the left, is devoid of undergrowth and young trees and covered with Japanese stilt grass.

The overpopulation of deer is endangering the future of our woodlands. Seneca Creek State Park has established managed hunting areas to help control the population. Because of the meandering shape of the park, access points for hunting are difficult. Homeowners bordering parkland are encouraged to allow parking for hunters for Seneca Creek State Park access. If interested, please contact the park:

Seneca Creek State Park
11950 Clopper Rd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Office: 310-924-2127.

A permit is required for hunting in Seneca Creek State Park. Details about hunting areas, weapons and hunting season can be found on the park website:

<http://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/seneca.aspx>

Dave Powell recently retired. The acting Park Manager is Shea Niemann. He can be contacted at:

Office: 301-924-2127
Cell: 410-387-3133
Shea.Niemann@maryland.gov

Any resident interested in helping with the maintenance of the fences, or identifying orchids and other native plants, please contact deer@darnestowncivic.org.

48th Annual Hoedown was a Blast

By Lisa Patterson

Mac and Phyllis McCall lead us through another successful hootenanny!

Old and new faces sashayed in their western finest. Every year I contemplate asking the crowd to pick the “best dressed” guy and gal and every year I forget because I’m too busy horsing around on the dance floor!



Smokey Glen Farm (SGF) is the perfect venue for this annual tradition and once again, they pulled it off without a hitch. The fare was comprised of their delicious seafood bisque, BBQ chicken, half-a-dozen sides, and smoked pies for dessert. Sometimes we’re lucky enough to grab a little extra to bring home.

To top it all off, SGF runs hayrides for this adults-only event. Each hayride experience is different and depends on who is in the wagon with you. Singalongs, storytelling, hay melees, drink skirmishes, deer spotting, full moon sightings and scares from Hoedowners hiding in the woods, are just some of the adventures through the years.

One thing is certain: Everyone has a boot scootin’ great time! Mark your calendars for Hoedown 2019 to be held on **Friday, October 11th**!

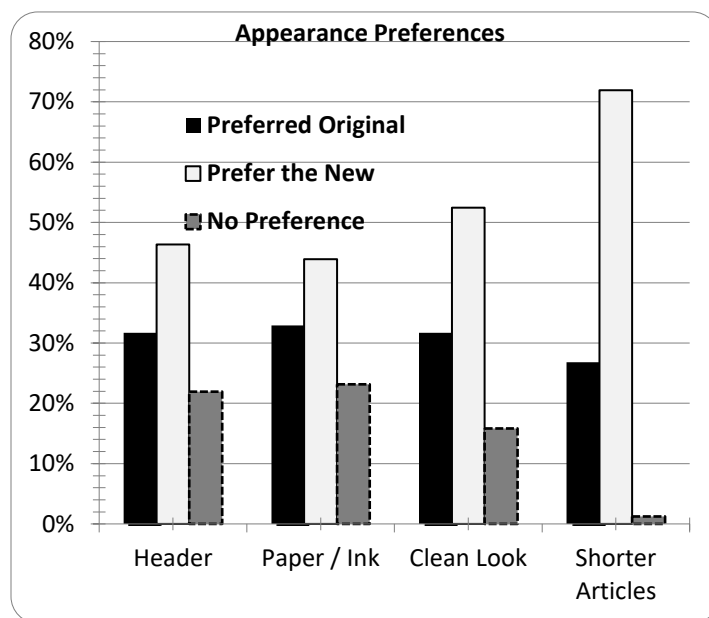


Little Acorn “New Look” Survey Results

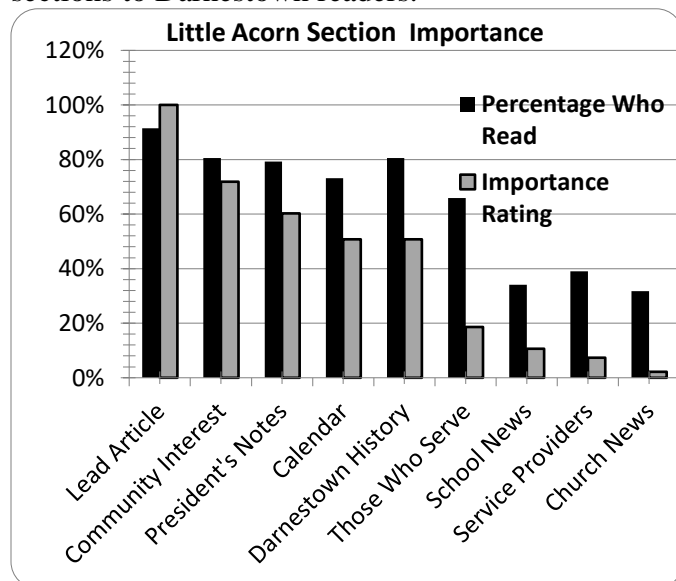
By Guy Armantrout

We wanted to know what folks thought of the “new look” of the Little Acorn. Thank you for your feedback. Your kind criticisms and kudos are appreciated. Here are the results.

We first considered the “eye appeal” of the new Little Acorn. Overall, the survey indicated that Darnestown residents liked the “new” look, including header, paper/ink, and the “cleaner” look. Regarding shorter articles, the preference was particularly strong.



Next we considered the importance of the different sections to Darnestown readers.



It appears that at least one third of readers read all sections. However, the relative importance of sections to the readers favored the Lead Article, Community Interest, President's Notes, Calendar, and Darnestown History. Those Who Serve, School News, Service Providers, and Church News were judged less important – but clearly meet the needs of many residents and will be continued.

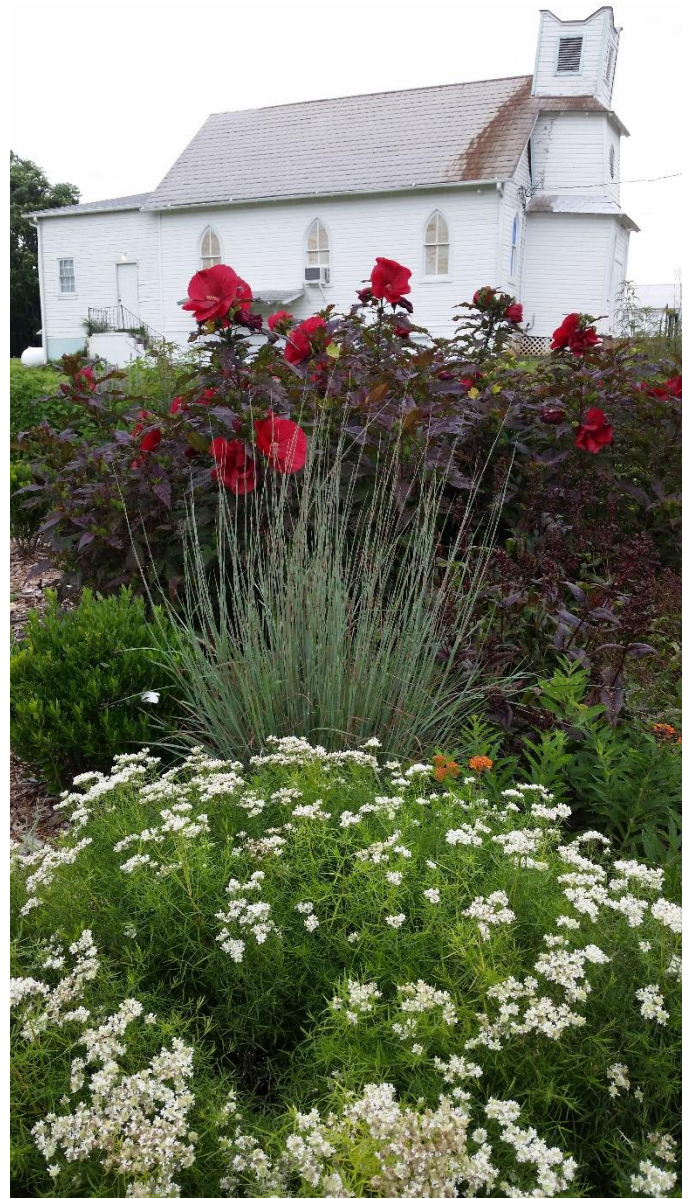
The Acorn update is a work in progress; we welcome your continued, kindly worded feedback.

Native Garden at Pleasant View Church

By Merikay Smith

You may have seen the beautiful native plant gardens at the historic Pleasant View on Darnestown Road. Earth Stewardship East, a local faith-based environmental group has used funds from a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant and volunteer labor to create these gardens and to teach about native plants and better storm water management. About 80 members of the Potomac/Bethesda congregations of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and others from Earth Stewardship East pulled weeds, planted trees and mulched this garden as a *Day to Serve* project on September 22. Tilting headstones in the cemetery were straightened — a bonus. Lots of food and friendly conversation made for a fun morning. Carolyn Thompson, Melvin Joppy and Betsey Hebron represented the former students of the historic school, answering questions about the one-room colored school at Pleasant View. For details see "Pleasant View" from the www.eartheast.org home page. To learn more about the region-wide *Day to Serve* events which occur each fall go to www.daytoserve.org.

Please stop by to see the native plant garden at Pleasant View (11810 Darnestown Road). If you want to volunteer to help us with it contact Merikay at merikays@verizon.net.



Native Flower Garden at Pleasant View Church

Future additions include rain barrels for the historic church, birdhouses, benches, and interpretive signs. The Pleasant View community has a remarkable history to share. Now the historic site is also a place where you can learn about native plants to grow in your own home garden.

The Darnestown community may want to learn more about Pleasant View's history and ways to help with the restoration of the church and school. Visit www.thequinceorchardproject.com



What A Great Summer of 2018

By Aleks Schiff

2018 Summer Season Wrap-up!

As the weather turns, we close the books on another successful summer! With many new families joining the pool this year, we have had a lot of excitement and participation at all our events and activities. This new energy was wonderful to see throughout our member community. Our expanded program offerings were very well received and will inform us for our 2019 planning. Keep an eye on our website for the latest information! www.dsclub.com

Memberships – We will have a new membership promotion offering coming soon, so make sure you stay in touch with us via Facebook and our website for further details.

Camp Green Zone – The 4th camp season flourished this summer, with a lot of kids and new activities. Stay tuned for our 2019 camp information coming to our website and social channels by January 1st. As a reminder, Camp Green Zone is for members only.

Club Social – On October 7th, we held our first annual Chili Cook-off and Tailgate party! The competition was tight and tasty, but John Hecklinger took home the grand prize with a sizzling hot Texas Steak Chili. And don't forget our events keep on going all year so check our website and stay tuned for the 2019 calendar.

Club Tennis – Tennis and Pickleball still continue at the Club, weather permitting. Pickleball has been a huge hit this season, so come out and see what the craze is all about!



Darnestown Demons Swimming – The Darnestown Demon Swim Team finished another successful season of fun, friendships, and swimming! The team closed out the 2018 season in 2nd place in C Division with a 3-2 record and will move to D Division next year. Look for emails in the New Year about the upcoming season. Until then, hope to see everyone at the DSRC Social Events. Just Keep Swimming! Go Demons!

Connect with the Club and Stay in the Know!

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club:
www.dsclub.com

Facebook: @DarnestownSwimRacquetClub

Instagram: @DSRClub

General Manager: Dave Hardy, gm@dsclub.com

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD
20874

301.330.1340

Darnestown Softball League: BHR Returns to Glory, Rain Triumphs in the End

By Curt McCormick

Ed.-This article was regrettably omitted from the September issue.

The Darnestown Softball league crowned its 2018 champions on July 29th when Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) completed an undefeated run with a hard-fought 13-8 victory over Seneca-Highlanders-Berryville (SHB). This year's team, piloted by Captain Steve Groff, fought off all challengers throughout the summer during the rain-plagued campaign.



The CHAMPS!

Groff commented, "We've had years when literally no game was ever rained out. And then there was this year." The league traditionally plays a twelve game schedule, but this year each of the squads was only able to play eight contests.

The title marked BHR's record 16th championship in the league's somewhat prestigious 29-year history, but its first in three years. BHR unseated perennial powerhouse and 2017 champion Western Darnestown (WD), who showed signs of intermittent brilliance but in the end took home second place.

Key to BHR's championship was the team's two decisive victories over WD in what were the most highly anticipated games of the summer. WD captain Deno Photinakis was at a loss to explain how WD could be so dominating in many of its other

games but played so poorly against BHR. "We all just seemed to suffer from extreme performance anxiety," the WD manager quipped.

Finishing third were the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ) followed closely behind by SHB. Both squads showed glimpses of promise but in the end often fell short at key moments.

League commissioner Dave Bivans noted that the final standings don't do justice to the tight competition and close outcome of many of the games. "Often, one bad inning made all the difference between winning and losing. At this extremely high level of competition, there is simply no margin for error," Bivans stated, without any apparent trace of irony. "Still, as always it was a fun summer of competition. It's a great way to spend late summer Sunday afternoons, playing softball with friends and neighbors from across Darnestown. We enjoy each other's company very much."



Curt McCormick was presented with the coveted softball trophy by Dave Bivans at the September Town Meeting.

As 2018 champion, BHR's name is now etched into the legacy of town softball victors, and its name will be added to the engraved plaque that proudly graces the wall at Harris Teeter, right there out front, not far from where they offer patio furniture and other sale items.

2018 FINAL STANDINGS

	W	L	GB
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	8 - 0	--	
Western Darnestown	5 - 3	3	
Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails	2 - 6	6	
Seneca Highlanders Berryville	1 - 7	7	

Local History Notes

By Allen Luke

Darnestown History Day Parade

The historical archives of the Darnestown Civic Association consists of three boxes and a couple of file cabinets at the DCA office. A review of the content reveals that much of it is actually material donated to the association by interested citizens. It consists of back copies of The Little Acorn, Montgomery County Historical Society, Civil War periodicals such as Maryland Line and Southern Cavalry Review, various one-off publications, picture albums and family remembrances of early Darnestownians such as the Darbys and Nourses. There are also files chronicling various projects and issues the DCA has been involved in such as development projects, cell tower placement and the Masterplan.

Exploring the files on October 28th, I chanced on a box full of photographs of a Darnestown History Day parade held 29 years ago that very day on a sunny Saturday in 1989! What an event for Darnestown! If you'd like to take a look at these photos, there is a link at darnestowncivic.org/. See how we've changed--- or stayed the same!

Seneca Stone Cutting Mill

The abysmal state of the old Seneca Stone Cutting Mill continues. The mill and the land that it sits on are owned by a family trust. Some time ago, maybe more than 10 years, the trust was to turn the land over to the state who would then give it to the C&O Canal Historical Park. The trust never completed the paperwork to transfer the property and so it remains in limbo.

The abandoned property has been vandalized with spray paint. But far worse, large trees have fallen on the masonry walls causing them to crumble. Locals who visit have seen this slow-motion tragedy. Noted local historian and guide, Garrett Peck, calls the mill "a one of a kind building in North America... there is nothing else like it. If we don't take care of it, in a hundred years it will be gone... just a pile of rubble." You may visit the old mill, which is adjacent to the canal turning basin, up canal from Riley's Lock, or by driving down Tschiffely Mill Rd. to the end and walking about 100 yards further.

C&O Canal Historical Park is managed and operated by U.S National Park Service. As national parks go,

it already contains well more than its share of historical structures. With their budget limitations, one gets the impression that the C&O Park isn't yearning to obtain the property, but will take it and



offer maintenance from falling trees and vandals whenever it is finally deeded over. The questions of if, when and how the property will be transferred, and then tree cutting done and protection afforded are being investigated by DCA, which will report again on this topic. A wonderfully informative video of Mr. Peck leading a tour at the Seneca Stonecutting Mill can be seen by search YouTube for 'Garrett Peck historic Seneca quarry'. A link to this video can also be found in the online edition of The Little Acorn. [Seneca Quarry](#)

Darnestown History Needs You... Know Something?? Say Something!!!

An effort to digitize the archival records held by the DCA is now underway. Do you have historical information to share? If you or someone you know, has a story, picture or article that we can record or an artifact to be photographed that adds to our local history, contact me (history@darnestowncivic.org). The archive we have today are but a fraction of a rich past, often available for our review because a thoughtful, history-oriented person left something behind for us that illuminates past lives. Sometimes the best material is found in attics. If you would like to help in the compiling or telling of local history, please contact history@darnestowncivic.org. We

must record our history, protect the archives, and continue to explore new information that enriches the history of Darnestown.

Cemetery Inventory Project Caretakers And Volunteers --- Thank You!

In March, Darnestown resident Ingrid Fraley introduced Little Acorn readers to the Montgomery County Cemetery Inventory Project. Although the work is ongoing, much has been done since then to revisit, catalog and re-categorize the county's estimated 340 cemeteries. This includes volunteers tramping the winter woods to successfully locate lost graves, contacting families and gathering information to reconfirm the condition of family plots. A special thank you to the caretakers of the final resting places of the Peter Family, the Offutt Family and the Query Family. Also many thanks are due to the volunteers who researched the Clipper/Stonecutters Cemetery, Pleasant Hills, Seneca Church Cemetery and the Darne Family at Darnestown Heritage Park for their help in documenting the location and condition of these burial grounds. More on this interesting project can be found at www.montgomerypreservation.org/historic-cemeteries/



Welcome to Darnestown Sign Refreshed

Have you noticed how spiffy the Welcome to Darnestown sign by Riffleford Road looks? Many thanks are due to Barbara and Gary Kahn for organizing and financing the project. It's been repainted and solar lighting added to illuminate it at night. The acorn and leaves look especially marvelous. Take a look at the color photo in the online edition of the Acorn.

Join Us to Thank and Honor Lisa Patterson-Troike

Lisa has done so much in service to Darnestown and the DCA would like to invite the entire Darnestown community to show their appreciation at a celebration in her honor. Please join us at Rocklands Farm (14525 Montevideo Rd., Poolesville, MD) on **January 24th from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.** The event will be held in the tasting room and will include dinner by El Pelon Tacos and wine from Rocklands Farm. Tickets are just \$35. Space is limited, so snap up your tickets soon at darnestowncivic.org.

Questions? Just drop an email to the social chair, Rachel Petrucci, at social@darnestowncivic.org.

The Census of 2018 Shows Darnestown to be Unique

By Scott Plumer

An early 2018 Bloomberg analysis of 2016 U.S. Census data shows Darnestown as the 73rd richest area in the United States. Darnestown is joined by five other Montgomery County areas: South Kensington (98th), Bethesda (75th), Chevy Chase (70th), Potomac (46th), and Travilah (25th).

Darnestown has the least amount of income dispersion of any of the top 100 places when measured using an income distribution calculation called the Gini Index. We are more alike in our income level than any other wealthy place in the country.

Reference link: www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2018-hundred-richest-places

How Well Do You Know Darnestown??

Question on Page 4

Answer: Rt.28/Darnestown Rd., Riffleford Rd., Rt. 118, Black Rock Rd., River Rd., Esworthy Rd., and Jones Lane. For more information visit darnestowncivic.org > "About DCA" > "Darnestown boundaries map"

Scott Mostrom

We Honor Those Who Serve

We welcome submissions of names of those who are in the armed forces. Please include name, branch, place serving and relationship to Darnestown.

Those Currently Serving

Zack Blewett is serving in the US Coast Guard and is stationed in Norfolk, VA. Zack went to Darnestown Elementary and The Heights.

His parents, Rick Blewett and Mary Ellen Rose-Blewett, live in Darnestown.



School News

Butler Montessori School

By Lisa Daly

Join us! We invite you to join us on campus for these upcoming events.

January 3: Butler Camp Registration Opens

Join us for nature-filled adventures this summer. Sign up today, sessions fill up quickly! www.ButlerCamp.org

January 8, 8:00 am: Explore the Lower Elementary (ages 6-9)

Join our teachers and Head of School to learn about our unique Montessori curriculum and the benefits of the program as well as observe classrooms in action. RSVP: natasha@butlerschool.org

February 1, 8:00 am: Parent Education: Early Reader Development and Support

Learn how to engage and support your early reader. All parents welcome!

RSVP: natasha@butlerschool.org

View our Facebook Page for additional parent education opportunities.

Seneca Academy

By Priscella Celentano

Seneca Academy is proudly celebrating its 35th anniversary! What started in 1983 as a tiny preschool in Jodi Thurmond's home on Pulver Place has become a thriving International Baccalaureate World School with students from 2 years old to 5th Grade on a beautiful 6.5-acre campus.

Although we have grown since our founding, what hasn't changed is our commitment to keeping child development and research-based educational practices at the center of our mission. Our motto this year is "35 Years of Preserving the Wonder of Childhood." We invite you to experience this for yourself by attending a Parenting Series Workshop, Walk-In Wednesday tour (1st Wednesday of the month), or attending an Open House (morning of January 12th or evening of February 6th)!

Mary of Nazareth

By Sara Jamison

STREAM Lab Opens to Students

Mary of Nazareth launched their STREAM Lab this school year. This lab is the product of generous donations and funds raised by Mary of Nazareth's annual Saint Patrick's Day Gala. The lab features a Promethium Board, adjustable tables for students of all heights, a 3-D Printer, a green screen, and various other engineering materials.



5th grade students get a tour and introduction to the STREAM Lab

STREAM, which is an expansion on STEM, integrates Religion and the Arts in addition to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

The lab is overseen by Mr. Humphries, who in addition to teaching math, can help teachers plan STREAM lessons, making full use of the lab's capabilities. Under Ms. Massey, the middle school science teacher, each of the middle school grades has already gone in and toured the lab while younger grades also went in to view it with each of their teachers. The STREAM Lab's whiteboard overflows with student ideas displayed for all to see. Mary of Nazareth's student body and faculty seek to take full advantage of all the opportunities it provides them and look forward to all activities this will open up.

Georgetown Hill at Darnestown

By Nicole Reap

Fall is here and we are busy learning through play at Georgetown Hill! The twos love playing with loose parts such as sand, pinecones, woodchips, beans, acorns, sticks, rocks and leaves in their sensory table and centers. In October, our threes classrooms transformed into farmers markets where the children were busy picking pumpkins, apples, gourds and other produce. Our Pre-kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten classes got to pick their own pumpkins, go on a hayride and enjoy visiting the animals at Homestead Farm in Poolesville.

We all had blast at our Halloween Parade and Trunk-Or-Treat. Several of our families decorated their cars so the little ones could trick or treat in our parking lot before going to their class parties.



Halloween Fun

There were plenty of clinics to choose from this fall, including soccer, yoga, tae kwon do, dance and t-ball. New clinics will be offered in the winter.



Soccer clinic

Do You Have a Child Affected by a Parent's Cancer?

By Alex Tran

I am Alex Tran, currently a senior at the University of Maryland, and a lifelong Darnestown resident. I am a founder of the University of Maryland chapter of a national non-profit organization called Camp Kesem. The mission of the organization is to support children through and beyond a parent's cancer. The University of Maryland chapter of Camp Kesem provides year-round support to children affected by a parent's cancer, and we host a week-long summer camp free of charge for children of this population. Sending a child to Camp Kesem benefits the children by giving them a community of peers and counselors that understand what they are going through, and a safe space to cope with the issues that their situation has brought upon them. Sending a child to Camp Kesem benefits the caregivers by giving them a week to focus on themselves and their health with the peace of mind that their child is in a safe space, connecting with other children that can relate to them. At Camp Kesem, we believe that all children deserve to have a carefree childhood, and that no child should ever feel alone in what they are going through. Our free services give children the chance to be a kid again!

If your family or any other family that you know are or have been affected by cancer, please email to maryland.outreach@campkesem.org. Because our services are free, we depend on donations to host our camp. Please consider donating to <https://donate.kesem.org/alexandertran>.

For more information

Phone: 240-801-6373

Website: <https://campkesem.org>

Church News

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciolorito



Start of Construction!

After years of planning, fundraising and preparation, our long-awaited construction project is finally underway. As the accompanying photo

illustrates, the 1950s-era addition to the south and east of the original church has been demolished in preparation for modern, handicapped accessible construction that will link the historic church to our education building.

Worship at Darnestown Elementary School and Planning For Christmas Eve.

We continue to conduct Sunday worship at DES during construction. Given the continuing disruption to our routine activities, we are planning to join other churches for worship on Christmas Eve. Specifically, we will join in a family-style service at St. Nick's Episcopal Church at 4 p.m., and a candlelight service at Potomac Presbyterian church at 9 p.m. Please check out our webpage for continuing updates: www.darnestownpc.org.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

By Father Raymond Fecteau

Christmas Trees

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

Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Eve Masses are celebrated at 7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. **Christmas Day** Liturgy is celebrated at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome!

For information on these programs and on other activities offered at Visitation Parish, please contact the office at 301-948-5536.

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Primary Children Sing for Methodist Church

By RoseMarie Briggs

Children of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Kentlands congregation made a special visit to the members of the Fairhaven United Methodist Church. On October 28th, the Primary children's choir, accompanied by Jeff Smith of Darnestown, performed for Fairhaven's Sunday worship services. Fairhaven Reverend Esther Holimon and her congregation graciously welcomed the visiting children's choir.



I Am A Child of God is the theme for 2018 for over one million Primary children ages 18 months to 11 around the world. Before the children sang "I Am A Child of God," Primary choir director, Sandra Turley of Darnestown, explained "Children from our church all over the world sing this song as if they are singing their ABC's. For this reason the first verse will be sung in Mandarin, the second verse in Spanish, the third verse in French, the fourth verse in Japanese and the chorus in English."

Pastor Holimon warmly thanked Bishop Sterling Crowder for having the children of his congregation sing by expressing, "The Primary Choir was absolutely wonderful today: strong voices, impressive presence. They enhanced our worship experience tremendously." On November 25th, Fairhaven's bell choir, under the direction of Christina Mollard, performed for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Sunday worship services.

Darnestown Service Providers

To be included on this list in the next issue of The Little Acorn, please mail your contact information including your year of birth to the editor at Acorn@darnestowncivic.org before February 1 2019.

Of course, for those over 21, you may be listed as an adult. This will help keep our list up to date. We reserve this listing for those who are members of the DCA. A great reason to join!

Please note that sitters and mother's helpers must be under 21 to be listed.

BABY SITTERS & MOTHERS' HELPERS

Melissa Szwed (2004) 301-519-0645

PET SITTERS/HOUSE SITTERS

Maureen McAllister 301-802-4993 maureen.mca8@gmail.com

CHICKEN SITTERS

Fiona O'Connell (2004) 443-616-6704

TUTORS

Farnez Eivazi 301-717-8346 Math efarnaz@gmail.com

Maureen McAllister 301-802-4993 Stats & Research Methods maureen.mca8@gmail.com

NOTARY SERVICES

Laura Bivans 301-977-4734

Tina Kalil 301-943-9840

Elisa Lane 301-990-2993

Directory of Darnestown Schools, Organizations and Churches

Schools

Butler Montessori School

15951 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-977-6600

Circle School/Seneca Academy

15601 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-3728

Jones Lane Elementary School

15110 Jones Lane
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-840-8160

Lakelands Park Middle School

1200 Main Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-670-1400

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-0940
maryofnazareth.org

Northwest High School

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

Quince Orchard High School

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

Ridgeview Middle School

16660 Raven Rock Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-840-4770

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

sm@troop1094.org

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Darnebloomers.org

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

P.O. Box 3474
Darnestown, MD 20885
gm@dsrclub.com
301-330-9616

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

15120 Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127
darnestownpc.org
dpchurch@comcast.net

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Rev. Esther Holiman
12801 Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433

Living Word Bible Fellowship

16500 Whites Ferry Road
Dawsonville (intersection of Rtes. 28 & 107)
301-789-1888
P.O. Box 487
Poolesville, MD 20837
Livingwordbf.org

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fecteau
14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
Olv.org
parishoffice@olv.org

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
Saintnicks.com
office@saintnicks.com

The Little Acorn

Editor: Acorn@darnestowncivic.org
Publisher: Darnestown Civic Association
Proofreader: Sarah Scherer

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Website: Guy Armantrout (website@darnestowncivic.org)
Neil Agate
Zoning : Tim Mueller (zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

DCA Membership Renewal / Application Form

Make check payable to Darnestown Civic Association (DCA), and mail to: Darnestown Civic Association, 12600 Viewside Drive, Darnestown, MD 20878

Please check one: Dues \$35 ____ Friend \$50 ____ Sponsor \$100 ____ Acorn \$150 ____ Business \$250 ____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

** Email addresses are only used for DCA notifications and not shared with anyone **

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: www.darnestowncivic.org

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