



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
www.darnestowncivic.org

Volume 56 Number 2
June 2019

School Boundary Study Update

By Scott Mostrom

In the last Little Acorn our lead article was on the Montgomery County Board of Education’s study to evaluate the boundaries for Northwest, Seneca Valley, and Clarksburg high schools, as well as their feeder middle schools.

As a quick recap, this study is being conducted because of the projected increased capacity in the rebuilt Seneca Valley High School (set for opening in fall 2020) and to relieve overcrowding at Northwest and Clarksburg High Schools. No feeder elementary school districts will be changed; however, the middle and high school matriculation paths of the elementary schools, including Darnestown Elementary School (DES), could be changed. Quince Orchard HS, Jones Lane ES, and Ridgeview MS are not included in this study.

Now to catch up ... shortly after the publication of the March Little Acorn, the County released eight potential options. Only one of these options, Option #4, included a change to DES’s current path to Lakelands Park MS and Northwest HS. In Option #4, DES kids would go to Martin Luther King, Jr. MS and Seneca Valley HS.

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) released a survey to get feedback on this option and better understand our residents’ priorities. We received these results:

- 202 out of 203 respondents preferred the current matriculation path over Option #4 (MLK MS and Seneca Valley HS)

- 202 out of 203 felt this was an issue for which the DCA should take a position and help represent Darnestown’s interests based on the community’s consensus

- Residents were asked to rank the criteria below in terms of importance—the following are the results (#1 highest):

1. Geography, 2. Strength of school programs, 3. Impact on home values, 4. Minimize split articulation (i.e. part of a middle school goes to one high school, part to another), 5. Stability of school assignments over time, 6. Facility utilization (i.e. overcrowding), 7. Demographic diversity

Based on these results, in March/April the DCA collaborated with the DES PTA and representatives of the Northwest school cluster to formulate responses to oppose Option #4 in a County-sponsored survey used to get resident feedback on the initial 8 proposed options. The following are some highlights from the results from 4,360 respondents:

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**DCA Town Meeting
June 20, 2019 | 7:30 pm
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church**

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

- DES had the 8th highest number of respondents out of the 28 elementary schools
- In questions asking the respondents to rank the options for how they advance the County’s objectives for geography, utilization, and demographics, Option #4 was ranked:
 - #1 for *least* advances Geography (2710 respondents)
 - #3 for *least* advances Demographics (734 respondents)
 - #1 for *least* advances facility utilization (1910 respondents)

In April, the County released an additional 6 options, none of which included a change for DES.

Now that we’re all caught up, what are the next steps?

- The County is about to release a second survey to help get feedback on the additional 6 options. This survey should be open into mid-June. Please visit www.darnestowncivic.org for more details

- August – Final Boundary Report will be released, including all options and survey feedback
- September/October – County Superintendent of Schools will review report and provide final recommendation
- November – Board of Education reviews recommendation, receives public input (including open hearings), and potentially introduces additional options
- November – Board of Education votes on final boundary changes and grandfather policy. Current recommendation is to grandfather 11th & 12th graders (as of fall 2020) to remain at current high school and 8th graders to remain at current middle school
- September 2020 – Changes become effective

The DCA is also beginning work with the DES PTA and Northwest cluster in letter-writing campaigns that will continue well into the fall. For the latest updates and how you can have your voice heard, please visit www.darnestowncivic.org.

Community Interest

President’s Corner

By Christopher Collins

As we ease into spring, perhaps small steps at a time, there are several events on the Darnestown horizon. The Spring Social at Smokey Glen Farm was an event to become reacquainted with our neighbors and meet and greet those who have become new Darnestonians. We also turn our attention to the annual June Town Meeting where elections and other significant town business is conducted. This year we have a nominating committee who has been gathering the names of those interested in holding office and they have assembled a complete slate of candidates for our election.

The slate of proposed officers are:

President	Scott Mostrom
Vice President	Tim Mueller
Secretary	Susan Allaway
Treasurer	Guy Armantrout
Trustees:	Scott Damiecki – 3 year Term

In addition, Karen Hinrichsen has one year remaining and Dan Dean has two years remaining in their three year terms.

Also, there are some by-law amendments that are being proposed in order to update our regulations and structure. The proposed by-law changes will be presented in the form of an outline on the Darnestown Civic Association Web Page and voted on at the beginning of the June Town Meeting. The information can be accessed at <https://www.darnestowncivic.org>.

Reminder: DCA Membership Drive is Underway

As you can see in this edition, many families have joined DCA already this year. Don't see your name? It's not too late to join!

DCA is an all-volunteer organization with the mission to:

“Promote and protect the general welfare and community interests of the Darnestown community and members of the Darnestown Civic Association”

We do this by:

A. Taking essential steps to protect the quality of life in Darnestown and it's environs

- Monitoring of issues that impact Darnestown
- Advocate with the county government on issues of importance to Darnestown
- Maintain DCA “Contingency Legal Fund”

B. Promoting improvements to the quality of life in Darnestown

- Community socials, softball program, American flags, and Wreaths Across America
- Promote community development that enhances quality of life

C. Educating and informing the community regarding issues of community interest

- Little Acorn, Town Meetings, DCA web site, e-mail, and letter communications

D. Representing the rights and interests of DCA members

- Zoning oversight, zoning violations resolution
- Intervention with County government and law enforcement

We need your support—with your time, interest, involvement—and your annual dues!

Watershed Wonders

By Merikay Smith

Most of us in Darnestown live in either the Seneca Creek or Muddy Branch watersheds which feed to the Potomac River. There are two active volunteer groups which help protect our local streams and their trails – the Muddy Branch Alliance (MBA) and the Seneca Creek Watershed Partners (SCWP). If you like to have fun, meet interesting people, preserve local natural areas, and help others enjoy them, then you should join one or both of these watershed groups. Membership is free.

Both groups list events on the calendar at muddybranch.org. Typical events include trail maintenance, presentations such as a recent talk on beaver in our area, native tree plantings, invasive plant removal, trash pickups, water quality monitoring, kayak/canoeing, hosting bike rides and hiking events, promoting better local storm water management, and more. Each spring we host a give-away of 350 native trees to encourage residents

The infographic is titled "MUDDY BRANCH ALLIANCE 2018" and features a green background with illustrations of trees, a beaver, a butterfly, and people hiking. It includes the following information:

- Our Partners:** Logos for Seneca Creek Watershed Partners, Muddy Branch Alliance, National Park Service, and the District of Columbia Department of Parks and Recreation.
- Muddy Branch Alliance 2018:** 8 years, 816 members, 2273 Trees Planted.
- Year of the Beaver:** Illustration of a beaver.
- Lands Green Waters Clean Program:** \$48K in Grants 2018, 676 people reached.
- Here's what we do:**
 - MOCO EPIC:** Aid Station: 400+ served, over 200 bananas eaten!
 - VOLKSMARCH:** 110 Volksmarchers.
 - TRAIL WORK/WEED WARRIOR:** 16 events in 2018.
- Social Media:** Facebook Like button (609 Followers), Instagram icon (109 Followers).
- Contact:** For more info or to join us, visit www.muddybranch.org.

to plant more native trees, providing habitat and improving local water quality.

As watershed stewards, we are committed to maintaining our watershed's water quality, natural habitat and ecological well-being. We do this by bringing neighbors together to build awareness,

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improve its natural habitat, and enhance the community's enjoyment of the many creeks and streams within the watershed.

Seneca Creek Watershed Partners started in 2008 and the Muddy Branch Alliance in 2011 as all-volunteer groups of concerned citizens. Please support us by volunteering at an activity, by attending a meeting or through a financial donation. We don't have a budget for staffing and count on volunteer members and board to achieve results.

Visit <https://muddybranch.org/maps/> for a map of our area watersheds and a map of the Muddy Branch trail. Information about the history of the Seneca Creek Greenway Trail and a map can be found at <http://www.senecatrail.info/index.html>. Both trails are well maintained and provide access to beautiful natural areas close to home. I especially like the section near us from Riley's Lock to Black Rock Mill (but wear shoes that can get wet). If you haven't yet hiked along these trails, take the time to experience these local treasures. Spending time on these trails can be transformative. Love where you live!



30th Season of DCA Softball

By Dave Bivans

The 30th season of Darnestown co-ed adult softball kicked off on breezy and overcast April 14th with Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) dominating the newly merged squads of Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails with Seneca Highlands Berryville (ARMQ-



The 2018 DCA Softball Championship BHR team photo (the December 2018 Little Acorn erroneously included a prior WD team photo due to a "bug").

SHB; yes, we need to work on a new name!) by a crushing and merciless score of 24-7. Fortunately the rain held off just long enough for the final out of game two where Western Darnestown (WD) provided a not entirely welcoming defeat to the league's expansion club from Jones Lane (JL), by the close softball margin of 7-2. Week two concluded with WD winning again, topping last year's undefeated BHR champions, and ARMQ-SHB defeating JL. Game play continues most Sundays ("holidays" excluded) through August 4th. Come out and join the fun—playing and/or cheering; it's FREE!



Perennial BHR leadoff Kevin Ricci uncharacteristically slow as ARMQ-SHB's Kim Barrow reaches for the season's first pitch outside corner strike.

GOLF IS ON THE RISE

By Matt Schneider

This past April, history was made at Augusta National. Tiger Woods won his 5th green jacket with a come from behind victory at The Masters. Tiger has ignited a spark around the world for all who know golf, but he is not the only one getting junior players fired up.

Right around the corner at Bretton Woods Recreation Center, children of all ages and backgrounds are coming together to learn and share in this wonderful game. While learning the techniques of the swing and how to negotiate the landscape, they are also learning about self-control, dedication, determination, and respect for others. With a PGA Professional coaching foundation and a nationally recognized US Kids Learning Program, junior golf



has been growing strong at this fantastic golf academy. And, it's open to the public!

The golf is not just for the juniors in the summer. Bretton

Woods is one of the few clubs at offers a week long adult golf camp as well. Bretton Woods has specific programs for adult, junior, and family golf year round.

For more information, contact me at 240.848.9119 or mschneider@bwrc.org.



Growing Community and Habitat at Historic Pleasant View

By Merikay Smith

Stop by and see examples of native plants that might grow well in your own garden—that's what we hope you will do. Or simply enjoy our conservation landscape as you drive past on Darnestown Road. Sixty volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints added stone retaining walls, weeded, planted, and mulched on May 4 to complete a two-year project led by Merikay Smith and Earth Stewardship East.

Native plants provide habitat and help protect nearby streams as well by capturing water in their roots, stems

and leaves to reduce storm runoff. Over time the 30 native trees planted in this project should grow, providing beauty and a buffer between the highway traffic and the historic cemetery. Nearly 400 volunteers



Note the native yucca by the sign

planted hundreds of shrubs and perennials in more than 5,000 square feet of landscaping. Notice the native yucca planted near the Pleasant View sign—this is the same species of yucca found in many historic African American cemeteries to mark grave sites.

Most events at Pleasant View have included a cross-section of our community, though a few were primarily church groups like the event on May 4. A highlight for many has been learning about the history of Pleasant View and hearing first-hand accounts from former students of the historic segregated school on site. I know I treasure my experience of getting to know the Trustees and others associated with Pleasant View. I'm happy to report that the church and school structures will be undergoing renovations beginning this summer.



To learn more about the history of Pleasant View (which celebrated 150 years last summer) and see photos of the project from its beginning to the present visit eartheast.org.

Local History

Battle of the Monocacy

By Allan Luke

Cannons roared 155 years ago next month, just north of Darnestown, in a one day battle that helped to decide the outcome of the Civil War. Overshadowed by nearby Antietam and Gettysburg, the Battle of the Monocacy is a very important battle that is little known or celebrated. It was fought just 15 miles north of Darnestown, and played a major role in winding down the South's war aims. The Union defeat at this battle is credited with "saving" Washington DC from invasion and helping to reelect Lincoln later that fall. Had the battle not occurred, the capital would likely have been invaded, perhaps denying Lincoln victory in November 1864 and allowing a peace that preserved slavery.

The battlefield is visible on both sides of I-270 going north of the Urbana exit as you crest the hill that opens into the Frederick valley. Northbound, going down the hill into Frederick, as you cross the Monocacy River, look to the right—most of the action was there, about a mile south of Francis Scott Key Mall. Visiting the site and visitors' center is educational and awe-inspiring—knowing that the serene local fields saw action so critical to our nation's history. And even more so that it was within two human lifetimes. Cannon fire was felt by oaks and sycamores that are still living in our town and woods.

BACKGROUND

By spring 1864, the war was going badly for the South. With major 1863 defeats at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, and Chattanooga, Lee was desperate for some breathing room. Northern armies were deep in Virginia, choking off Richmond. Lee's armies had outmaneuvered Grant's, but were besieged around their capital in a kind of stalemate that the South could only lose. Grant was posting horrific casualty numbers, but found replacements by drawing down experienced troops guarding Washington.

Lee knew breathing room could be had by drawing some of Grant's forces away from Richmond. To accomplish this, he detached General Jubal Early from the Richmond defenses to begin a movement north through the Shenandoah Valley, whose

northern terminus at Harper's Ferry, WV is actually north of D.C. Leaving Richmond, Early entered the Shenandoah Valley, which had seen punishing Union raids that year. Early's men brushed aside Union defenders at Harpers Ferry, WV on July 4, seized supplies and continued into Maryland towards Frederick.

POLITICAL SITUATION

Abraham Lincoln, self-taught Commander-in-Chief and beleaguered pusher of Union generals, foresaw the upcoming presidential election with dread. He believed he might lose to his probable Democratic opponent, Union General George McClellan, the very man that Lincoln had sacked for timid prosecution of the war in 1862. McClellan's appeal was based on the public's dissatisfaction with the unending war—its deaths, shortages, costs and restrictions on civil freedoms. It was widely feared that if elected, McClellan would negotiate a peace with the South that would allow slavery to continue.

For Confederates to "win," they had only not to lose. Like Washington's Continentals vs. the British in our independence war, if the South could keep an army in the field, pick their battles, and sometimes defeat or embarrass their foe (which happened often), they could hope that the political opinion supporting the war in the North would wane and they would "win" by negotiated settlement. Washington pulled it off in 1781/82; Lee and Early would not.

Southern politicians maintained that they just wanted to be left alone to live life as they knew it, including slavery. They hoped that some combination of victories, foreign recognition and aid would undermine the North's political will and they might be spared defeat and keep their independence and slaves.

THE HEROES—John Garrett, B&O President & General Lew Wallace, Man of Action, General Lew Wallace was commander of only 2,800 men of the Middle Department, a detachment of mostly "hundred day men," i.e., temporary volunteers with no combat experience. In Baltimore, on July 2 or 3, John W. Garrett, President of the B&O Railroad, informed General Wallace of the impending threat by General Early. Garrett's railroad tracks and telegraph lines

were subject to Early's depredations. Garrett had tried to warn the sluggish War Department, which paid no attention. On July 5, on his own and without orders, Wallace moved his inexperienced troops by rail to Frederick, the westernmost boundary of his authority. He would try and block Early.

Tipped by Garrett, Wallace saw the danger of Early's men attacking D.C.—the Treasury and other government buildings looted; war supplies stolen or burned along with the city, and recalling in his memoirs, President Lincoln “cloaked and hooded, stealing like a malefactor from the backdoor of the White House, just as some gray-garbed Confederate brigadier burst in the front door.”

LEAD-UP TO FIGHTING

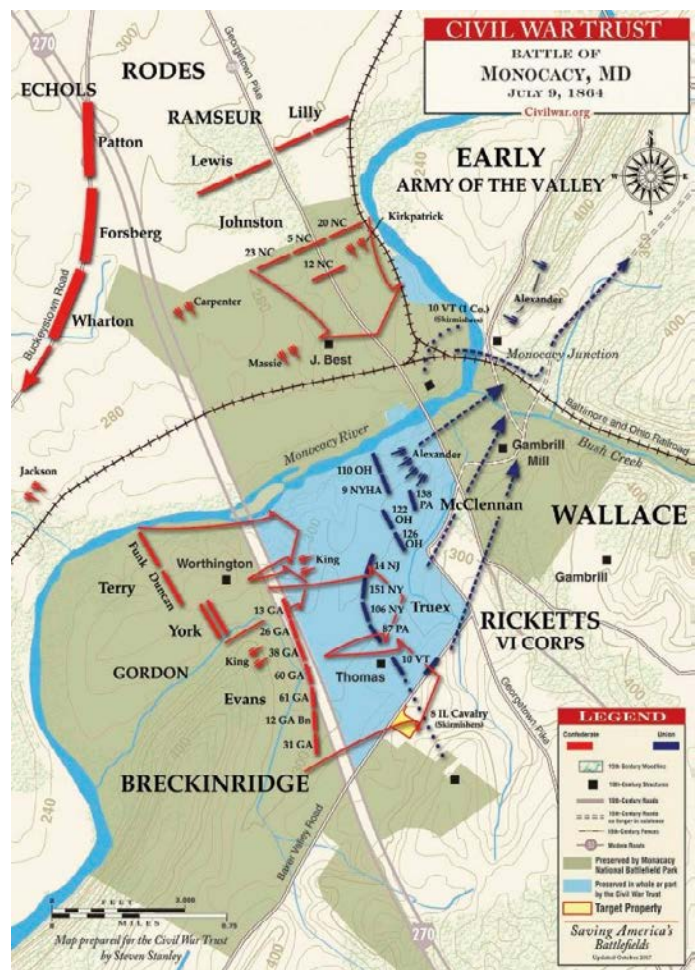
Monocacy Junction sounds like a small burg, but was just a railroad junction, or switching point. Instead of the “roundhouse” used in major cities, it allowed trains to stop and then to back up and redirect itself in a different direction. At the junction stood a 2 story B&O “blockhouse,” which was Wallace's headquarters in the fight. It's near today's MD Rt. 355 bridge over the Monocacy River and the railroad bridge still there.

Gradually augmented by other Union contingents from July 6th to 9th, Wallace's command grew to around 7,000 men. On July 6–7, Early's forces emerge from Catoctin Mountains, spill into Frederick area and skirmish with Wallace's advance guard. When Union high command finally awakened to Early's threat, Grant withdrew men from the Richmond theater and sent them to Monocacy. They left by boat, steaming down the James River then up the Chesapeake Bay to Baltimore, then by B&O rail to Monocacy, many arriving at 1 a.m. the day of the fight and deploying in darkness.

THE BATTLE

July 8/9 – Wallace completed his hasty defensive preparations. Union infantry and artillery were deployed east and south of the river blocking Early from Washington or Baltimore. Around 8 a.m. rebels marched down Rt. 355 into Union lines set on the north, or far side of the Monocacy River in front of the railroad junction.

July 9 day – Oversimplifying for space requirements here, the Confederates attacked southwards into fixed Union positions. Hard-pitched battle raged from



Map of the action at the Battle of the Monocacy. Used by permission from the Civil War Trust

early morning until around noon, when attackers found a place to cross the river by the Worthington Farm about a mile west of the fighting, on the southern right. Flooding the field with their superior numbers, they attacked east through the Worthington Farm and then the Thomas Farm over the next 6 hours, rolling up the Union left at about 4 or 5 p.m. and forced a federal retreat towards Baltimore.

July 9 night – Wallace and survivors retreated. Early allowed this as he did not want prisoners to guard or slow him down. With a hardened army of 15,000 now marching unimpeded on the capital, Grant finally ordered 10,000 men to board steamers in Richmond to begin the day long journey to Washington's wharfs.

July 10 – Confederate army slogged through oppressive heat towards Washington, overnights in the Gaithersburg, Rockville, and Silver Spring

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areas. Union reinforcements hurried by boat from Richmond to D.C. and raced to beat Early.

July 11 – (early to mid morning) Advance rebel units marched down Georgia and Wisconsin Avenues into D.C., easily pushing the inexperienced Union forces back towards their forts. (late a.m. –noon) Plans to attack the works are stopped when Early spotted a dust cloud on the horizon behind the forts. He correctly assumed experienced regulars were marching to man the forts. (afternoon) Early held a war council and they agreed to withdraw the next day.

July 12 – Early put on a pretense of a battle. His weary and outnumbered troops are no match for rested, able reinforcements now defending a fortified position. He began to withdraw.

July 13–14 – Early retreated through Darnestown and Poolesville to the fords on the upper Potomac and into Virginia. Just as at Antietam and Gettysburg before, Union troopers halfheartedly pursued them but fail to catch and fight the fleeing invaders. By now, Lincoln is used to it.

EPILOUGE, REMEMBRANCE & ADDENDA

The deed was done—Early was slowed down by a day. Garrett’s warning and Wallace’s bold “Hail Mary” action saved Washington D.C. and Lincoln’s Presidency from what would have been a disastrous raid at minimum. Lincoln avoided the burden of defending that stain in November and was reelected.

Early never set foot on the battlefield during the fighting, instead directed the battle by courier dispatch. He remained in Frederick overseeing the city’s ransom. City fathers were given the choice: pay \$200,000 (over \$3,000,000 today) or Frederick would be burned. Like Hagerstown and Middletown days before, Frederick paid. Despite efforts over the years to have to US repay the debt [\$600,000 after interest], it was not repaid to the five banks who lent it until 1951.

History, in its way, slighted John Garrett’s key role. His warning a week earlier had resulted in this virtual miracle of war. Garrett had Southern sympathies, but to his credit, put B&O’s interests first. Maryland’s westernmost Garrett County is named for him.

The Battle of the Monocacy demonstrated that Wallace was a substantive man. Twelve years after

Monocacy, he met a fellow on a train and began a discussion of religion and Christianity which exposed to Wallace his own ignorance of the subject. This led to years of research and travel, and ultimately to the 1880 bestselling novel *Ben Hur—A Tale of the Christ*. Later adapted to film, four *Ben Hur* movies have been made: in 1907, 1925, 1959, and 2016. The 1959 MGM rendition swept 11 of 12 Academy Award nominations.

Monocacy was the South’s northernmost and only victory of three northern invasions. It was one of seven Civil War battles in Maryland. Ranked by casualties: Antietam (23,100), South Mountain (4,500), Monocacy (2,359), Williamsport (1,730), Boonsboro (100), Folck’s Mill (38), and Hancock (25).

The materiel-starved south enjoyed a rare 5 to 1 advantage in cannon at Monocacy.

Ours was a very rainy summer last year. When Early demonstrated in front of D.C. Forts Reno and Stevens July 11th, 1864, there had been NO RAIN since May 27, a span of 47 days! No wonder he could see the dust kicked up by the approaching army.

Urban sprawl helped to bring about a 1990 law passed by Congress which created the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission. Its mission was to conduct an extensive analysis of the 10,500 hostile actions in the U.S. Civil War and evaluate their military significance, plus assess threats to the sites for preservation purposes, etc. By their math, the fight at Monocacy ranked somewhere between the 46th and 149th most significant battles of the US Civil War or put another way, only .5 to 1.5% of battles were more telling on the outcome of the war than The Battle of the Monocacy!

We Welcome Your Submissions to the Little Acorn

Deadline for the next issue:

August 1, 2019

Email ideas, questions or articles to:

Acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Organizations

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Lisa Ann Ruf



The Darne Bloomers Garden Club wrapped up the year in May with the annual May luncheon. This May it was held at Marjorie Merriweather Post's Hillwood Estate, Museum and Gardens. Hillwood is set on 25 acres adjacent to Rock Creek Park in the District. Mrs. Post designed the gardens for year round interest, mixing formal and informal styles. Every

garden is simply breathtaking. We had a lovely luncheon and our new officers were installed.

Marie Stiles – President
Amanda Karst – Vice President
Mary Rill – Secretary
Barbara Andreassen – Treasurer

In April, the club met at Bretton Woods while the Darnestown Presbyterian Church is under reconstruction. The banquet hall was the setting for a program on floral design and tablescapes. Tables were set with member's china and accouterments. Floral Designer, Kelly Shore, owner of Petals by the Shore, showed us several different techniques and floral designs to grace the tables. It was a wonderful collaboration!

If you are interested in visiting our Club, our next meeting will be in September. Please check out our website www.darnebloomers.com for updated meeting dates, times and programs.



Summer Is Here!

**Swim, Tennis, Camp, Social Events,
Exercise Classes, Memberships**

By Aleks Schiff

Are you joining us for the summer? We have spent the recent months cleaning, painting and beautifying the Club for the season, and can't wait to see all our members on deck.



The Club has many great member activities like **Tennis & Pickleball** programs for adults and kids, our active **Demon Swim Team**, great Social programming with a new and exciting 2019 calendar of events, exercise classes like **Masters Swimming, Water Aerobics, and Yoga**, and our popular **Camp Green Zone**.

We continue to offer great membership promotions with **online payments**. Check our website for the latest offers. www.dsclub.com/membership

Camp Green Zone kicks off for a 5th season, offering exciting new programming for the kids, and creative member **Discount Packages** with Swim/Tennis/Camp combos, **Sibling Discount**, and a **CIT Program**. Register at www.dsclub.com/summer-camp.

See you at the Club!

Connect with the Club and Stay in the Know!

Facebook: [@DarnestownSwimRacquetClub](https://www.facebook.com/DarnestownSwimRacquetClub)

Instagram: [@DSRClub](https://www.instagram.com/DSRClub)

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 **

Meet our Business Members

This is the first in a series of articles introducing Darnestown residents who generously support the DCA by being business members. These are the first six businesses to become business members. Look for more articles next issue!



Bretton Woods

Since our inception in 1968, Bretton Woods has grown with Darnestown. Even with our limited availability of memberships available to Darnestown residents, we continue to see growth of community involvement at the club with all our other offerings. These include summer camp, adventure birthday parties, private lunches or dinners,

weddings, golf outings, and so much more. The local feel of a tight-knit town with such close proximity to Washington, D.C. is why Bretton Woods loves Darnestown!



Clark Tree Services

Clark Tree Services is owned by Daniel Clark. Daniel moved to Darnestown when he was one and went to Darnestown Elementary School K–6th grade. Daniel joined the military in 2001 and served 2

tours to Iraq. He moved back to Darnestown in 2006 and decided to create a Darnestown based tree service. Daniel loves Darnestown and is raising his 5 children here. Daniel is a Maryland Tree Expert and an Arborist. To keep the small town business feel, Daniel does the bids and the tree care work. Clark Tree Services' goal is to educate and make every customer happy with their Tree Service needs.



Darnestown Shell—Rakhee Dhawan

Darnestown is a community that has thrived upon mutual care between its businesses and its customers. As the new owners of the Darnestown Shell, we plan to continue this

tradition. I have lived in Darnestown for over 13 years and I have seen the level of care provided by business owners in the Darnestown area. My team and I plan on bringing that same level of care and effort to our clients. Our purpose is not only to do oil changes, A/C Tune ups, MD Inspections or replace your brakes; our purpose is to care for you. We want to focus on the things we can do in order to make your lives easier. That's what it's all about!



**Melissa Bernstein—
Realtor**
Melissa Bernstein has
Darnestown in

her bones. Born and raised on Bellmeade Lane, Melissa knows Darnestown like that back of her hand, which makes it so easy for her to sell homes in the neighborhoods she loves. Melissa attended Darnestown Elementary and Quince Orchard High. She went on to the University of Maryland for both Undergrad and Law School. After practicing Real Estate Law for over a decade, Melissa made the transition to RE/MAX. Melissa was the #1 RE/MAX Realtor in the entire State of Maryland in 2018, based on volume alone. With Melissa's extensive knowledge and love of Darnestown, and her expertise in Real Estate negotiations, there is no better person to trust with the sale of your Darnestown home than Melissa.



Preferred Insurance Solutions LLC—Lewis Hixson

We started our business back
in November of 2000 in

Germantown. We're an independent insurance agency representing Erie insurance and several other carriers. Over the years we've written a number of home and auto policies in Darnestown and I've always enjoyed driving through the area. In 2017, my daughter and son in law moved back here from Austin, TX. We decided to go in on a house together and found the perfect place in Darnestown on Vicars Way. We couldn't be happier with our choice!



Windridge Vineyards— Robert Butz

Windridge Vineyards is a family owned farm winery producing hand crafted wine from our own fruit. Our father started farming in Darnestown in 1959 and we have cultivated

this land continuously ever since. Darnestown soils posses a unique mix of geology and climate well suited for growing wine grapes and we are proud to show our Darnestown heritage in the wines we produce. Our tasting room will be open to the public this summer.

DCA 2019 Membership

ACORN (\$150)

Matthew & Heather Ahrens
Graham & Susan Allaway
Bill & Cheryl Amick
Jed Andrews
Guy & Susan Keyes-Armantrout
Chris & Mary Collins
Peter & Heather Cooke
Muniram Deonarine
Michael & Audrey Forshey
Barbara & Gary Kahn
Brian & Caroline Klick
John & Susan Krimigis
David & Sandy Lenhoff
Allan Luke
John & Toby Mattingly
Selig & Andrea Merber
Phil & Jocelyn Mostrom
Rob & Lisa Patterson-Troike
Paul & Mary Pagnato
Charles & Tina Petzold
Mark & Heather Reichardt
Priscella Rippeon
Seneca Community Church
Francis Soistman, Jr.
Larry & Allison Spaccasi
Rob & Janet Swisher
Don Unque
Michael & Christii Watkins
Joan Weller

SPONSOR (\$100)

Joan Abell & Bill Bowman
Bianca Bishop & Aaron Nocjar
Dave & Laura Bivans
George & Kelly Gallo-Bronsky, M.D.
Dave & Janet Buchanan
Jose Carbajal
David Clark & Lee Anne Gelletly
Scott & Kendra Damiecki
Cliff Dean & Janice Raburn
Dan & Monica Dean
Margery Edmundson
Paul & Jennifer Englehart
Louise Evans
Larry & Marilee Giebel
Steve & Elizabeth Girard
Mark & Darci Glass-Royal
Mauricio & Maria Gomez
Donald & Debbie Hamberger
James & Florina Hoffer
Marcos & Kate Hsu
Susan Kick
Sandy & Terry Killen
Mike & Jackie King
Kaspars & Dagnija Kreslins
Peter & Mary Lalos
Tracy & Brian Lang
Phil & Robin Gross-Levinton
Mark & Barbara Lichtenstein
Little Footprints Early Care
and Initial Education Center
Brad & Liz Long
Graylin & Cathleen Cherry-Mann
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Melissa Bernstein Homes
Preferred Insurance Solutions
Smokey Glen Farm
Stiles Dentistry
Windridge Vineyards

School News

Darnestown Elementary

By Deb Tupa

As the end of the school year nears, it has been a busy time at DES! Many of our talented kids showed us amazing performances at the recent annual Talent Show. Looking forward, our fifth graders prepare for their final activities and promotion ceremony at DES and everyone is excited about the upcoming spring picnic.

A huge thank you to everyone who has worked so hard on the boundary study this year. Please stay apprised of updates moving forward and help us continue to ensure the best outcome for our students!

Lastly, DES began the Green School journey this year. The Green School Committee, along with the MCPS Energy and Recycling Team (SERT) and the first ever student SERT, has helped focus on improving recycling behaviors in our DES environment. DES will be applying for Maryland Green School status during the 2019–2020 school year.

Seneca Academy

Spring at Seneca

Spring has been action-packed here at Seneca Academy! Our 5th Graders have just completed their capstone projects of the IB PYP, Exhibition. Students skillfully embarked on this independent research project and presented their findings to community members in the form of a 15+ minute oral presentation and a digital and visual display. Bravo! Students in our preschool and elementary spent copious amounts of time outdoors, exploring, planting, building sand castles and teepees, or just having a blast at recess. To celebrate our love of outdoor learning we, once again, participated in “International Outdoor Classroom Day.” (See our Facebook page for pictures!)

Summer at Seneca

Seneca Academy invites all community members to join in the fun with our camp partner, Club SciKidz. 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 and before and after care are available.

Looking Ahead to Fall

Did you know Seneca Academy runs a **community band** for students in 4th–8th Grade? Stay tuned to our website this fall for more information!

We are now enrolling for 2019–2020 for the following programs:

- Parent’s Day Out (1 or 2-day per week programs for children who will be 2 by Sept. 1st. Potty training is not required.)
- Preschool Three’s (2, 3, or 5-day options with before/after care available.)
- Pre-K Four’s (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.)
- Kindergarten–5th Grade (Limited openings. Before/after care is available.)

We welcome you to visit our beautiful campus! Tours are available, by appointment, through July. Please call 301-869-3728 to schedule!

Mary of Nazareth

By Sara Jamison

Mary of Nazareth takes First Place at Odyssey of the Mind Competition

Odyssey of the Mind is a critical thinking competition for elementary to high school students. The competition is broken into two parts: a long-term problem and a spontaneous problem that are assessed for creativity, style, and ingenuity.

This was the students first year in the middle school division and they took home first place! This creature had to complete three separate tasks and transform three times without direct human power. Their first place has reserved them a spot at the world competition in Michigan!

8th Grade Students Place First at Good Counsel Math Competition

On February 25th, students won first place in the 45th Annual Our Lady of Good Counsel High School 8th Grade Math Contest. Among the participants were Breana Alcantara, Maria Ayoub, Katie Barrow, Kate Nonnenkamp, Meghan Stone, and Tam-Anh Tran. The school community is very proud of these talented young women for participating with grace and humility.

Butler Montessori

By Lisa Daly

Nature-filled Montessori education for children ages 18 months through 8th Grade

Nature-filled Preschool Days!

The warm weather brings more outdoor adventures for our Preschool students. Petting the baby chicks on our student-



run organic farm, hiking our scenic 22-acre campus, tending to their outdoor patio gardens, visiting our Middle School students’ greenhouse, and exploring our creeks. It’s all part of our indoor and outdoor learning environment, rich in opportunities to learn and engage with nature. Does your preschool child love to explore nature? Join us every Wednesday from 9–11 a.m. for a tour of our campus (and farm!). See you soon!

Georgetown Hill Early School Darnestown Campus

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. We have experienced the life cycles of spiders, butterflies and water. The entire campus has been learning about the plant life cycle. 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! Our school age campers will go on weekly field trips including weekly field trips to the pool. Our program incorporates science, technology, arts and math components into all of our activities.

Now is the time to come visit our 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.

Church News



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Vacation Bible School at DPC
Blast Off on this Epic Adventure with Us! Join us **June 24–28, 5:30–8:00 pm**

for high energy fun and learning. Explore where God's Power can take you while engaging in interactive lessons, crafts, science, & games. Adults and children alike will learn how to serve God and learn about God's mission for your life. **Where: DPC's Andrew Small Building, 15120 Turkey Foot Road. To Register: please contact Amanda Toone at ahtoone@yahoo.com or 301-990-6230.**

Construction Update

DPC's construction project remains on track, with the outlines of the new expanded church and conjoined buildings clearly taking shape. Current projections are that construction will be complete by the end of November, and we hope to occupy our new church during the Advent season! Please continue to check out our webpage for continuing updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

Business Directory

The generosity of these local businesses helps pay for the printing and distribution of The Little Acorn. Please consider patronizing them.

Bretton Woods Recreation Center

15700 River Road, Darnestown
(301) 948-3357, <https://www.bwrc.org/>

Clark Tree Service *Expert Tree Care*

5 Finegan Farm, Darnestown
240-560-Tree (8733), daniel@clarktrees.com

Darnestown Shell *Auto repair and Fuel*

10420 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-840-8515, darnestownshell@gmail.com

Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. *Insurance*

2403 Research Blvd, Ste. 350, Rockville
301-258-7773, Wlowe@lowetillson.com

Melissa Bernstein Homes *Realtor*

9711 Washingtonian Blvd, North Potomac
301-908-4007, melissagbernstein@gmail.com

Smokey Glen Farm

Event Facilities and BBQ'S

16407 Riffleford Rd, Darnestown
301-948-1518, jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

Stiles Dentistry *Dentist*

333 Main Street, Gaithersburg
301-947-6900, smile@stilesdentistry.com

Preferred Insurance Solutions

Auto, Home and Business Insurance

20030 Century Boulevard Ste. 201, Germantown
301-428-3344
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

Windridge Vineyards Farm *Winery*

PO Box 149, Adamstown
301-607-4399, robert@windridgefarm.com

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Worship Service – Sundays at 10:00 am

Sunday School (Pre-K – 5th Grade) –
Sundays 10:15–11:20 am (Sept–June)

*Experience God's Love and a Loving Community
A Place to Belong ~ A Place to Become*

Service Providers

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

Christina Palfrey (2002)
301-503-7672

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 | Math
301-717-8346
efarnaz@gmail.com

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

Notary Services

Laura Bivans 301-977-4734

Tina Kalil 301-943-9840

Elisa Lane 301-990-2993

Darnestown Schools, Organizations & 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

Darnestown Elementary School
15030 Turkeyfoot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-284-4260

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

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094
sm@troop1094.org

Darne Bloomers Garden Club
darnebloomers.com

Darnestown Civic Association
14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club
15004 Spring Meadows Drive
Darnestown, MD 20885
301-330-1340, www.dsclub.com
gm@dsclub.com

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

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish
Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fecteau
14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
olvp.org, parishoffice@olvp.org

Seneca Community Church
Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson
13900 Berryville Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-9326

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800, saintnicks.com



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: www.darnestowncivic.org

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