



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

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September 2019

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom

I am very excited to have the opportunity to be our new President. This isn't the first time for me; while I had been President for three years prior to Lisa Patterson's tenure, that feels like a lifetime ago (at least three kids ago anyway) and much has changed in Darnestown.

Let me first thank Lisa for her close to thirteen years of service as President. Lisa—you gave your heart and soul to Darnestown and we appreciate everything you've done and accomplished. I also want to thank Chris Collins. Chris stepped in as acting President for the last nine months and did a wonderful job keeping us going. Thanks so much to both of you!

While you may know one of the Mostroms in Darnestown, many of you don't know me so I'd like to share a little about myself. Our family moved out to Black Rock Road from Rockville when I was 7. I went to Darnestown Elementary and spent summers at the pool, as my own kids do now. It was a great place to grow up—so much so that both of my brothers and I moved back here as soon as we could. One of them, along with my wife Melissa and I, moved back to Black Rock Road where we're each just a few houses on either side of our folks.

Why am I coming back to the DCA after 13 years? Well, I love Darnestown and believe strongly in

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What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details on all these events can be found in this issue.

Sept. 19 | 7:30 p.m.
DCA Town Meeting
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Sept. 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 | 10 a.m.
Farm & Forest Explorers Program
Butler Montessori

Sept. 21 | 10 a.m.
Molly's ASAP Walk & Roll
Bretton Woods Recreational Center

Oct. 5-6 | All Day
Heritage Harvest Festival
All Around Montgomery County

Oct 11 | 6-10 p.m.
Hoedown
Smokey Glen Farm

Nov. 13 | 6:30-8 p.m.
Parenting Series: *Navigating Friendships and Playground Politics*
Seneca Academy

DCA Town Meeting
September 19, 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.

the mission of the association and how it helps our residents (even if much of that isn't in the spotlight) and frankly, the DCA needed volunteers. I can't tell you how impressed I am with the passion, effectiveness, and thoughtful approach of our Board and volunteers, but even they were stretched thin. It was the right time for me to give back and lend another hand.

I come into this position with three simple objectives, which also align with the DCA's Mission Statement:

- **PROTECT**

Everyone reading this lives in Darnestown for various reasons, but probably the most important, common reasons are that it's quiet, we have space, and it's a great community. Our mission is to protect that. It's important to remember that we have these things because there is no sewer system in Darnestown—only septic, which limits development and lot sizes, and we have the Ag Reserve with very minimal development to our west helping to protect us.

- **PROMOTE**

Acting as a watchdog and sharing information is one of our biggest roles. The current school boundary redistricting is a great example. Where I think we can improve is in our direct engagement—hearing from you, understanding your perspectives and what you want in Darnestown and from us.

- **PROSPER**

The DCA strives to foster a close-knit community for our Darnestown residents through events and our communications. Another big focus is to make the association itself as effective as possible—in volunteers, membership, and relationships with residents and local/state officials.

Right now the DCA is doing a very good job in our core services for the community—getting engaged when needed in areas including development and school related issues, hosting social events, publishing our beloved *Little Acorn*, etc. However, there are some big challenges we face. We need more active volunteers and membership has been declining over the past three years. We've discussed the need to better interact with the community—online, in-person, and through our social events. Also, the

20 year Potomac Sub-Region Master Plan will be coming up soon where we need to be engaged; the Master Plan drives zoning and development for our region and the Ag Reserve.

So what are we going to do about it? Several new volunteers have already stepped into active roles—Trustee, webmaster, and revitalizing our Welcome Committee for new residents. We also have close to ten folks interested in working with Rachel Petruccelli, our social chair, to think through planning for a new seminal fall event, the “Darnestown Acorn Festival.”

But there is more to do and we want to take the right approach. Tim Sanders has offered his services and is developing a 1, 3, and 5 year Strategic Plan with the DCA Board. A key piece of this will be getting input from the community on what you want so that we can focus our efforts. Among other things, it will drive how we attempt to increase volunteerism and membership as well as get the right internal systems to manage our operations and community engagement.

So bottom line, we're taking a fresh approach to how we do things and we want you to be a part of it because we're here to serve you.

The final thing I want to talk about is membership. Membership in the DCA has always been voluntary and it hasn't come with specific member benefits. I prefer it that way—the DCA should serve the entire community because that's what we're about ... “community.” We need to demonstrate our value and we're continuously working on it. We encourage everyone to become a member because it enables us to be stronger for the community and do more. And our arms are wide open for those who want to volunteer.

Here's to the future ...

**We Welcome Your Submissions
to *The Little Acorn***

Deadline for the next issue:

November 1, 2019

Email ideas, questions or articles to:

Acorn@darnestowncivic.org

DCA Town Meeting

September 19, 2019

St. Nicholas Church

Join us at the town meeting in September! It's a great opportunity to meet our new president, Scott Mostrom, if you haven't already. Since we did not have a quorum in June, a binding vote will be held on proposed changes to the bylaws. Those changes can be viewed at darnestowncivic.org. There is a link to the file on the homepage.

The quick business meeting will be followed by a presentation by Robert Butz, who will talk about the opening of his vineyard, Windridge Winery, and his plans for the property.

As a reminder, the best way to get to the church is to use the Seneca Academy entrance on Germantown Road and drive through the school property to the church parking lot. Hope to see you there!

School Boundary Update

By Scott Mostrom

Currently we're in a slight lull in the school redistricting process that we've discussed so intently in the last couple of *Acorn* issues. As a reminder, this is the County study to re-district Northwest, Seneca Valley, and Clarksburg High Schools, as well as their

feeder middle schools. One of the 14 options being considered would send Darnestown Elementary School kids to Martin Luther King, Jr. MS and Seneca Valley HS.

Things will pick up quickly this fall and we'll be sure to keep everyone updated. Here are major milestones:

- August (should be available as of this printing) – 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

For the latest updates please visit darnestowncivic.org.

Community Interest

Chase Weaverling Is Still “Chase-ing” His Dreams

By Michele Weaverling

“Can I run with you?” 11-year-old Chase Weaverling asked his dad, Tom, as Tom prepared to go out on his usual run around Darnestown. They set out together through Bondbrook, Haddonfield, and Chestnut Oak. Chase did his best to keep up and have fun, but as they started up a long hill on Chestnut Oak Drive, he was not having fun anymore. He emphatically declared that he hated running and wanted to walk home, and never wanted to run again.

Little did he know that a few years later, he would find a passion for running that would take him through state championships in high school, accolades on a Division 1 team in college, and qualification for the 2020 US Olympic marathon trials.

Passion for running takes root at Lakelands Park and Poolesville

After recovering from that traumatic first run, Chase ran a few more local races with his Dad over the next

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couple of years, including Pike’s Peak, and realized that running wasn’t as awful as he thought. In 8th grade at Lakelands Park Middle School, he joined the cross country team and made the cutoff to be able to compete in meets.

In 2010, as a freshman on the Poolesville High School cross country team, he made the varsity seven, and as a sophomore, he started leading the team at more races than he didn’t. He also ran on the indoor and outdoor track teams, and as a sophomore, he broke 10:00 minutes in the 3200 meters, running 9:37 at the Montgomery County championships for third place.

It was at that race when he first told his coach, Prasad Gerard, that he wanted to run at a Division I college. Coach Gerard told him he had a lot of work to do.

In his junior year cross country season, Chase came into the Montgomery County championship race having won every race that season. Clarksburg High School senior Will Bertrand gave him a run for his money, but Chase outkicked him at the end to win by 0.34 seconds.

In addition to a state title in cross country in his senior year (an injury derailed his state championship race in his junior year), he also won four state championships on the track at 1600 meters and 3200 meters in his junior and senior years, five region championships, and three county championships.

His high school career was not without heartbreaking moments. After missing the qualifier for the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships in his junior year due to an injury, he fell just 0.3 seconds short in his senior year, coming in 11th place, just a hair behind the qualifying top 10.

He was later named Cross Country Athlete of the Half Decade (2010-2014) and named to the Boys’ All-Decade Track and Field Team (2010-2019) by local running media outlet **MoCoRunning.com**, and earned a spot on the University of Virginia track and cross country teams.

Running for the Virginia Cavaliers— Wahoowa!

At UVA, he debuted at the NCAA Southeast Regional Championship in the fall of 2014, his first year, achieving an all-region finish (top 25) and helping Virginia to a team championship. A week later, he was the Hoos’ fourth man at the NCAA



Chase Weaverling (right) and Clarksburg High School’s Will Bertrand fight it out at the finish of the Montgomery County cross country championship race in October 2012.

Championships. He closed out his freshman year with a third place finish at the Pan Am Junior Games in Alberta, Canada, in the 10k.

He also led the team at the 2015 NCAA Cross Country Championships in his sophomore year, finishing in 55th place. In track, he set personal records (PRs) in the 3k, 5k, and 10k.

An opportunity to keep making his mark

After graduating from UVA in May 2018 with a degree in mechanical engineering, Chase learned that the Reebok Boston Track Club was starting a new Charlottesville, Va.-based training group under former Syracuse coach Chris Fox. Chase contacted Coach Fox and asked to train with the group—made up mostly of former Syracuse runners—and show them around his college training routes in Charlottesville.

He’s now been training with them since last fall, receiving some running gear and travel expense coverage from Reebok. He works in a coffee shop to pay the bills and rooms with former UVA teammates.

His first two post-collegiate races were an 8k in Richmond and the Alexandria 5-mile Turkey Trot last fall, followed by a half marathon in Houston in January of this year that served as a qualifier for the US Olympic Marathon trials.

Going into the Houston race, Chase knew he had been putting consistent training in for months but didn’t feel that he was knocking any workouts out of the park. He planned to do his best to hang with a group of pro runners, including two pacers, who were aiming for the qualifying time of 1:04.

Early in the race, he clipped the heel of a runner he was drafting off of and they both hit the ground. Scraped up and bleeding, Chase told himself not to panic, got back on his feet, and caught up to the group. He thought he'd start to feel fatigued around the 10k mark, but he didn't—so he kept pushing and ended up beating the qualifying time by two seconds, outpacing two accomplished pro runners in his group by seconds.

He'll begin preparing for the Olympic trials—which take place in February 2020 in Atlanta—this fall.

Turning the tables on his dad

A few years after that first dreadful run with his dad up Chestnut Oak Drive, the roles were reversed. Tom asked if he could run with Chase and asked him to go easy—but he learned quickly that “go easy” needed to be more clearly defined. As the two crested a hill on Poplar Hill Drive in Spring Meadows, Dad was pleading for a walk and Chase teasingly replied, “It’s nothing, come on! You are slowing us down!”

Farm & Forest Explorers Program Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. September 19, 26 October 3, 10, 17, 24

Join Butler Montessori’s Farm & Forest Explorers Program and experience farm life and nature through fun, hands-on activities. From harvesting carrots to collecting chicken eggs, each class introduces children to key environmental concepts. Learn and grow while you explore our organic, student-run farm and 22-acre nature-filled campus! Children ages 2-5 and accompanying adult. Siblings welcome. Rain or shine. Free!

For more information, visit
ButlerSchool.org/Forest.

Molly’s Walk And Roll For A Cure!!! September 21, 2019 | Bretton Woods Recreation Center

Hello! My name is Molly Lichtenstein and I am twenty-six years old. I have lived in Darnestown since I was three years old and in Gaithersburg since I was born! 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 life changed dramatically. Since my first brain surgery in 2009, I have had forty-seven 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 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 have organized my own walk. This year the walk will be September 21, 2019 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 a.m. and the walk starts at 11 a.m. To sign up for the walk please visit wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?id=3835. You can join “Molly’s Army” or make your own team!!!

Molly Lichtenstein
molly_lichtenstein@asap.org



Heritage Days

By Susan Allaway

Heritage Days is a free event sponsored by Heritage Montgomery and is held every year on the last weekend in June. Events are held all over Montgomery County that highlight the county's history, culture and outdoor recreation.



Black Rock Mill



Ranger Erik Ledbetter

This year's event featured two sites in Darnestown, Button Farm and Black Rock Mill. At Button Farm, there were demonstrations of 19th century farm life on a slave plantation and information about the Underground Railroad. The farm also maintains some historic breeds of domesticated animals. At Black Rock Mill, Seneca State Park Ranger, Erik Ledbetter, gave a fascinating talk on the history of the mill in the context of what life was like in Montgomery County at the time.

Heritage Montgomery will also sponsor the Heritage Harvest Festival on October 5 and 6 where 25 farms will be open with activities, demonstrations, crafts and farm products for sale. Their website (heritagemontgomery.org) has a great calendar of mostly free events that take place throughout the county and the year. So mark your calendars for the Heritage Harvest Festival in October and the Heritage Days, June 27-28, 2020.

Finally!

By Dave Bivans

Central Darnestown Swingers

Never in the 30 year history of DCA softball have the Highlands neighborhoods won the League championship. The Central Darnestown Swingers (CDS) were formed this year, combining the Ancient Rollin Mountain Quails (ARMQ) and the Seneca Highlands Berryville (SHB) teams. The Jones Lane (JL) team was formed to fill out the league of four teams. The CDS finished with a commanding two

Softball Standings

TEAM	WINS	LOSSES	GAMES BEHIND
Central Darnestown Swingers (CDS)	7	2	--
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR)	5	4	2.0
Western Darnestown (WD)	4	5	3.0
Jones Lane (JL)	2	7	5.0

game lead over Western Darnestown (WD) and last year's champs, Bondy Haddonfield Ridgefield (BHR). The field was "closed" by the County on the last Sunday of scheduled play due to Saturday night's storms (of course by Sunday afternoon the field was playable!). So our season ended with another rainout weekend (the third), but we did gather to picnic and celebrate.

This championship is especially sweet, and long overdue, for original (1990) Highlands team members Lisa and Bob McGuire and Debbie and Steve Waechter (Bob and Steve are also former coaches). The championship season was a full team effort of veterans, new players, the young and the not-so-young led by the combined coaching prowess of Mark Gustavson, Joe McIntyre, Kim Barrow, and Scott Damiecki.



BHR Co-captain Steve Groff presenting the championship trophy to CDS Co-captains Joe McIntyre and Kim Barrow

While the season standings may not show it, CDS, BHR, and WD are truly appreciative to JL for joining and strengthening the League.

They bring additional community spirit and enthusiasm, as well as some much appreciated youth (and the occasional babysitter!).

Mother Nature treated us fairly kindly with only three rainout weekends and with four mostly full roster teams there were but three forfeits out of 32 games played. A very successful and fun season for our players and fans, and that DOES matter!

DCA Hoedown

49th Anniversary

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS FOR A SPECTACULAR EVENING OF DINNER, DANCING, DRINKS, DESSERTS & HAYRIDES!

ALL-INCLUSIVE FOR ONLY \$40 pp/DCA members!!!
\$50 pp/non-members

FRIDAY October 11, 2019
6:30 - 11:00 pm

Smokey Glen Farm – Main Pavilion
16407 Riffle Ford Road
Right here in Darnestown!

Back by popular demand:
Darnestown's favorite caller, Mac McCall

Serving Smokey Glen Farm's famous complete BBQ chicken and BBQ spare ribs buffet dinner, starting with seafood bisque and ending with delicious smoked fruit pies. Included are sodas, apple cider, beer, wine, bar beverages, and coffee

ADULTS ONLY!

Reservations with payment must be received by October 6th!
No refunds Payment will not be accepted at the door

Buy your tickets now at
www.DarnestownCivic.org

Seneca Academy Parenting Series

Seneca Academy continues with its parenting series that is *free-of-charge* and open to the whole community.

“Navigating Friendships and Playground Politics”

Presented by Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School at Seneca Academy and a Child Psychologist.

November 13, 2019 (6:30-8:00 pm)
at Seneca Academy

Establishing and nurturing friendships is an important life skill! In this workshop we will explore how parents can help children:

- Develop meaningful and authentic friendships through empathy and kindness.
- Join groups and share effectively.
- Understand the “hidden curriculum” of social norms and how to resolve conflicts.

Save the date for the future workshop, “Parenting in the Digital Age,” which will take place on March 4th at 6:30 pm.

For more information or to RSVP, visit:
senecaacademy.org/parenting-series.

Local History

A Terrible Night on the Picket Line

By Sergeant Hiram Ellis

The following article originally appeared in the July, 1895 edition of the “The Maine Bugler” published by the Maine Association, Rockland, Maine. It describes an incident from October 1863 that occurred along the Potomac River below Darnestown.

In October, 1863, after the great flanking march of the Army of the Potomac, the regiment to which I belonged, the 2nd U.S. Cavalry, was sent into Maryland to get necessary supplies and to relieve our horses from the hardships of the campaign which had rendered them almost useless. We passed through Leesburg, crossed the Potomac at Young’s Island, followed the tow path down to Seneca Locks,

under the canal through the culvert and went into camp near the main or river road. We had hardly got settled for the night when the patrol, that was always marching up and down on the tow path, reported that an important post of the picket a few miles down the river was without guard. And it was afterwards found that the patrol on its downward march had reported the same to the Scots 900, a regiment stationed a few miles further down. Upon the receipt of this report our colonel issued the following order: “Send a company to that point to guard it for the night, to

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place one sentinel at the mouth of the culvert and two others at his discretion.”

At that time I was first sergeant and temporarily in command of the company. The sergeant-major brought the order to me saying that my company was detailed for that duty, and gave me directions how to find the place. We saddled up and set out, arriving at the place just after dark, and posted the sentinels according to orders. In order to make my story clear I will make this explanation.

From the main, or river, road to the canal, it was about twenty rods [ed. 1 rod=5 ½ yards] by a small road or by-path, surrounded with sparsely growing shrubs and small pines. This path had a slight rise for about half the distance, then fell off sharply to the bottom of a ravine, this ravine running parallel with the river. The path here made a slight turn to the right continuing to the bed of a stream that flowed through the culvert, beyond which was a ford of the river. Directly across the ravine, on a slight bluff, stood a block house, or ‘bomb proof,’ and I must describe this as it has much to do with my story. It was built by setting two rows of timber like a stockade, one outside the other about seven feet apart, and the space between filled with earth, the top covered with heavy timbers and then earth to the depth of about seven feet. The only entrance to this block house was through a hole so small that only one man could get through at a time, and on his hands and knees at that. While the sentinels were being posted, some of the men investigated the hole, got inside and built a small fire so that the inside of the place could be seen. It looked like a good place to spend the night. Our horses were ranged along the bottom of the ravine and fastened to trees and bushes that grew plentifully on one side.

Upon getting inside the block house it was found that while a good place to spend the night, it would be a bad place in case of attack, because one man armed with a picked stick would hold us all prisoners or starve us to death. It was therefore ordered that if attacked every man should get out and get to his horse as soon as possible. I will say here that I had posted sentinels as follows: One at the mouth of the culvert, one on the bank of the canal further down the stream, and one at the highest point of the by-path already mentioned. We had hardly got ready to spend the night in the block house when the sentinel posted up by the

road, challenged, and called out the guard. We got out through that unfortunate hole as quick as we could into line and after a parley allowed one of the party to approach and give the countersign. It was then found to be a company of the ‘Scots 900’ sent there with orders almost identical with mine. It was under command of a lieutenant who at once took command of the whole. He looked at my orders and together we rode round and visited my sentinels, who challenged sharply and required the countersign in good style.

He approved of what I had done and suggested that as his orders required him to post sentinels he would take two men from his company and for relief take three men from my company and two from his as so on till morning. One of these men was posted south of the block house, on high ground, and the other to the north on what would be a continuation of the ravine, or what we supposed was a cropping ledge slightly higher than the surrounding interval. It was afterward found on a direct line with the culvert. These sentinels were posted without saying anything about it to the others. Then our troubles began. I will say that the night was very dark, the stars could be dimly seen through the haze, and the atmosphere was in condition to transmit sound to a long distance. No wind was perceptible. We had scarcely got inside the block house when a shot was fired, immediately followed by other, and a general uproar outside. We all made a dive for the confounded hole and got out, and there was trouble enough. The sentinels on the low ground were chasing each other, challenging and shooting right and left, and those on the high ground were firing and calling out the guard. And then all made a break for the block house. After much confusion order was restored and as no enemy was found, the sentinels were returned to their posts. Then the lieutenant and myself investigated. We found that the last sentinel posted had fired first and he explained that he had heard something and seen something move, and had challenged and threatened and then fired, but since returning to his rest had seen nothing. I had posted Frank Kelley at the mouth of the culvert, as good a man as I had. He explained the he had heard men talking at the further end of the culvert and after a few pistol shots had been fired, a whole battery of artillery fired, and seeing the flash of a gun up in the field felt sure we were attacked, and made all

the noise he could. A further investigation showed that the echo in the culvert would account for all the noise he had heard.

We then returned to the block house and the lieutenant decided to relieve the guard then and start new so as to avoid any further trouble. The detail was made and we crawled out of the miserable hole and made rounds systematically, relieving the guard and leaving everything in good order. As the night was chilly, the lieutenant and myself crawled inside once more and had scarcely got in when shots were fired and all hands got outside of that infernal hole and found that the shots we heard were from party up the main road and that a regular battle was going on up there. We felt sure that the enemy was around and made a disposition to give him a warm reception as soon as he came within range. Our whole force was drawn up across the path at the bottom of the ravine. Our carbines were fully charged and every man was instructed on what to do. Soon the firing died out and we could hear a parley going on and after considerable loud talk the whole party seemed to be coming towards us. The lieutenant placed one of his best men at the post on top of the hill with positive orders to challenge before he fired. True to his instructions, when the party got near enough, he sung out "Who comes there?" fired, and then scampered down the hill to where we stood in line of battle. The forces approaching, then knowing that it was the enemy, opened on us with everything they could, and we knowing that it was the enemy, returned the compliment in kind and together we filled the sky full of bullets for a short time. But our fire soon slackened and the enemy appeared to have retreated. We began to look around to see if any of our men were hurt, when a voice was heard asking what troops we were.

After a long parley he was allowed to come in, and we found that he belonged to our regiment and that the whole crowd were United States troops sent to our relief. It seems that when we had our first scrimmage the noise we made was heard up to our camp and reported the colonel that Sergeant Ellis was attacked and he at once ordered out a company to our relief. The noise was also heard down to the camp of the Scots nine hundred, and a company was ordered out to their relief. These two companies had no right to expect any troops, naturally mistook each other for the enemy and

pitched into each other, and had a regular fight; but after a while found out their mistake and joined together but were unable to account for the firing they heard. They approached our position, and the reception we gave them lead them to believe that the picket was in the hands of the enemy, and had therefore opened on us with all their might. About this time it began to grow light, so the pickets were called in and each party prepared to return to camp and report; but first the ranking officers wanted to find out how the row began.

The man who fired the first shot was found and taken to the place where he was posted to explain how it was. He insisted that he had seen and heard something that would not answer his challenge; and sure enough on the low ground, right in front of where he stood lay an old cow—dead, still oozing from a bullet wound. We then started for camp. When we got up in sight of the main road we saw down on the right a line of skirmishers and upon the left a line of skirmishers, all coming towards us, and all wore the blue; and behind each was the rest of their regiment in all the pomp and circumstance of war.

As soon as we were near enough to understand the case each line involuntarily halted and looked at each other. Then the commander of each regiment, seeming to comprehend, rode to the front between the lines and went at each other, and if you never heard a wordy war you would have heard one then. It did seem as if blood would be spilt then, if not before. But the ammunition was soon expended, and more explanations followed, when it was found that our second and third fights were going on it was reported to our colonel, "Sergeant Ellis is having another fight down there," and to the colonel of the Scots 900, "They are at it again up there." Then each colonel called in all the force he could raise and came to the rescue as I have described. After the investigation had all been gone over again without much satisfaction to any one, each regiment started for its own camp, when a broad smile came over all that had not been actually engaged, but to us who were there it was a serious affair. We were all badly frightened and much ammunition had been expended but the only thing wounded or killed was that old cow.

Additional DCA Members

We welcome the following DCA members who have either joined since the last publication of *The Little Acorn* or were mistakenly left off of the last membership listing.

BUSINESS (\$250)

Secco Plus Cleaners, Inc.

ACORN (\$150)

Mike & Constanza Barnhart
Phillip & Mark Fishman
Dieter & Cynthia Willkomm

SPONSOR (\$100)

David & Elizabeth Fitzgerald
Scott & Diane Landriau
Scott & Melissa Mostrom
Kevin & Beth O'Connell
Kevin & Linda Ricci
Scott & Jeannie Tucker
Beth and Eli Zimet

FRIEND (\$50)

John & Karen Barkley
Geoffrey & Betsy Clasper
Tram Nguyen & Alex Cook
Eugenio & Sarah
Cerutti-O'Byrne
Marty & Joan Roth
Sellinger Family
Six/Twelve Convenience Store
Gerald & Roberta Solis
Bob & Elizabeth Weaver

MEMBER (\$35)

Neil & Kathy Agate
Charles August

Louise August
M Miles & Marie Braun
Steve & Sylvia Ellis
Daniel & Kelly Gowetski
David & Louise Hannam
Eric & Diane James
Andy & Tonya Jones
Kevin & Emily Kane
Brent & Nooshin Kostkowski
Rebecca Landon
Heru & Sally Mboye
Stuart & Carolyn Meister
Autumn & Dennis Metzger
C. Milburn
Robert & Mariana Phifer

Deno & Mary Photinakis
Sadegh & Niloufar Razeghi
Maria Roe
Steve & Beth Rutgeron
Robert & Linda Shaver
Joe & Lorie Shenego
Nadia & Larry Skiscim
Peter & Martha Sklavos
Stephen & Jeanette Staton
Joy Strickler
Tom & Michelle Wentz
Dale & Lindsay Scyphers
Terry & Patricia Zic

Organizations



Wow, What a Summer! Swim, Tennis, Camp, Social Events & Pickleball

By Aleks Schiff

A successful 2019 summer season is in the books! And, what a summer it has been. Our member community loved the visible improvements around the Club, and all the ways we engaged them through Club programs and activities for adults and kids.

This summer, the **Pickleball** craze took over the Club! Both adults and kids got into the act, and will continue the play, alongside tennis, well into the Fall Season. Our tennis pro, Teri Boragno, now also a certified Pickleball pro, has done a wonderful job growing the program this year. The **Demon Swim Team** had a strong but tough season this year in Division D, and the 5th season of our popular **Camp**

Green Zone had all new, innovative programming each week like archery, kayaking, creeking, beekeeping skills, and much more to keep the kids engaged. Our active **Social** program has a few more events through the Fall so check out our website and don't miss out!



Come join the fun—our member community is like no other! We continue to offer great off-season membership promotions with **online payments**, so make sure to check our Facebook page and website for the latest offers. www.dsclub.com/membership

Continue to check our website for the Fall **Social**, **Tennis**, and **Pickleball** events at dsclub.com!

Connect with the Club and Stay in the Know!

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

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

School News

Darnestown Elementary

By Ashley Mostrom

Darnestown ES will open its doors to more than 300 students on September third. The beginning of the school year is filled with icebreaker activities, catching up with old friends, and making new ones. The PTA-sponsored Back to School Picnic, scheduled for September 13th, is the first big event of the school year. It is filled with yummy food, music, dancing, games, and provides a great opportunity for socializing with classmates.

This year Darnestown ES is increasing efforts to go green. The student-run SERT team will be working hard to integrate practices into daily routines that benefit the environment. This can include a designated student each week to ensure lights are turned off whenever the class leaves the room, running the recycling program, and implementing trash free lunch days. The hope is for Darnestown ES to earn a Green School designation by the Maryland Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education. Keep your ears and eyes open for a DES PTA-run community clean up.

Butler Montessori Ages 18 months to 8th Grade

By Miki Boulin

Excited for school? YES!!

Children excited to go back to school? That's what our students are saying! With a student-run organic farm, miles of hiking trails and creeks, and outdoor classrooms, it's no wonder they're eager to return. As our recent graduate Landon said, "Because of



the people, you want to come back every day. Because of the people, you try to do your hardest, and because of the people, you don't

want to leave, even hours after school has ended." Here's to another extraordinary year at Butler Montessori!



Join us! Walk-in- Wednesday Tours, 9-11 a.m.

Hi neighbor! Are you searching for a vibrant school environment that

nurtures your child's independence, confidence, and compassion? Where your child explores nature on 22 acres backing to Seneca Creek State Park? Where hands-on learning engages your child so school doesn't feel like "school?" Then join us for our Open House Tours every Wednesday from 9–11 a.m. We're excited to meet you and share a glimpse of life at Butler Montessori!

Seneca Academy

By Priscella Celentano

Seneca Academy is looking forward to an inspiring 2019-2020 school year! Our dedicated faculty has planned a wide range of activities and field trips to support our hands-on, inquiry-based curriculum. As an IB World School, we are committed to helping our students become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, and balanced communicators and thinkers. Here on campus, students will make use of our 6 ½ acres of National Wildlife Federation Habitat not only for a variety of phenomenal daily recess experiences, but also to explore topics from math and physics to art and creative writing. *It is not too late to join our amazing learning community!* Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through 5th Grade. Call the office at 301-869-3728 to inquire about class availability and to schedule a tour!

Continued on Page 12

Darnestown Community Band and Clubs:

Students from around the area can also join us for after-school clubs. There are offerings each day for students in kindergarten through 5th grade including choir, sculpture, nature club, art, and cooking. We also offer the Darnestown Community Band for 4th through 8th graders. Please call the office at 301-869-3728 if you are interested; clubs start the first week of October.

Homecoming: Calling all Circle School and Seneca Academy Alumni! Join us for our Sixth Annual Homecoming & Fall Picnic on Sunday, October 27! Check out our website this fall for more details about this family-friendly event!

Church News

Seneca Community Church

By Sheila Moore

Seneca Community Church established 1941, is a non-denominational community church. We are a progressive, family-oriented and welcoming congregation located in the northwest quadrant of Montgomery County. We are excited to be celebrating our 78th year in the community. Located at 13800 Berryville Road, Seneca, Maryland, our doors swing on welcome hinges. While we are not afflicted with a particular denomination, many of our members grew up in United Methodist, Lutheran or Baptist congregations and have elected to continue their spiritual growth with us.

Our Sunday worship service and youth Sunday School begin at 10 a.m. More information about other weekly services and events can be found on our events calendar at senecachurch.org.

For more information about our Church, email us at contactus@senecachurch.org, call us at 301-869-9326 or visit our website at senecachurch.org.



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciorlito

Construction Update

As the accompanying photo shows, the outlines of our new updated campus are now clear! While construction continues throughout this year we will maintain a single Sunday worship service at Darnestown Elementary School. Confirm our Sunday schedule at darnestownpc.org.



Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar

While the date remains contingent on our ongoing construction, the Women of Darnestown Presbyterian Church *will* stage their annual Bazaar this year! As always, the Bazaar will run from 8:30 a.m. to mid-afternoon, and offer something of interest to everyone (crafts, home decor, holiday gifts, jewelry, and Christmas ornaments). Home baked goods and jams will be available in the Country Kitchen, plus a Silent Auction for a variety of items to tempt holiday shoppers. You can also

enjoy a hot lunch or delicious homemade dessert in our Cafe. *Proceeds from the Bazaar go to support multiple charities.* Don't miss this opportunity to meet friends and neighbors and support your community. Contact dpwbazaar@gmail.com with any questions. **Hope to see you there!**

Fairhaven United Methodist Church



Rev. Kenneth Hawes

Welcome to Fairhaven United Methodist Church. Located on route 28, Fairhaven is a very diverse, small church where many cultural traditions blend to offer a unique worship experience. We are dedicated to sharing the love of God with everyone

in our community. Fairhaven is a friendly and caring church family where diversity is nurtured by faith. We work and grow together as partners in ministry, sharing the love of God by encouraging spiritual growth, providing a rich worship experience welcoming all of God's children into our fellowship, and serving the needs of our community.

Sunday Worship Opportunities

- 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School and Middle & High School Sunday School (September to June)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship Service
- 10:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
- 12:30 p.m. Young Adults (every other week)
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

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

Clark Tree Service

Expert Tree Care
5 Finegan Ct, 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

Preferred Insurance Solutions

Auto, Home and Business Insurance
20030 Century Blvd, Ste. 201, Germantown
301-428-3344
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

Secco Plus Cleaners, Inc

Dry Cleaning
14100 Darnestown Rd, Ste. A, Darnestown
301-869-5400

Smokey Glen Farm

Event Facilities and BBQ'S
16407 Riffleford Rd, Darnestown
301-948-1518, jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

Stiles Dentistry

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

Windridge Vineyards Farm

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

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 November 1, 2019. Please let us know if you no longer want to be listed. 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 & Mother's Helpers

Christina Palfrey (2002)
301-503-7672

Melissa Szwed (2004)
301-519-0645

Heather Gross (2002)
301-646-8192

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
301-548-4260

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. Kenneth Hawes
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

The Little Acorn

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

Darnestown Civic Association

President: Scott Mostrom | president@darnestowncivic.org
Vice President: Tim Mueller | vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org
Treasurer: Guy Armantrout | treasurer@darnestowncivic.org
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Trustee: Karen Hinrichsen | trustee@darnestowncivic.org
Dan Dean | trustee@darnestowncivic.org
Scott Damiecki | trustee@darnestowncivic.org

Committee Chairs

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb | compliance@darnestowncivic.org
Darnestown Village: Chris Collins | village@darnestowncivic.org
Database: Jean Jurgena | database@darnestowncivic.org
Flag Program: Tim Sanders | flag@darnestowncivic.org
History: Allan Luke | history@darnestowncivic.org
Membership: Elizabeth Weaver | membership@darnestowncivic.org
Safety Committee: Dick Jurgena | safety@darnestowncivic.org
Seneca Forest Project: Karen Hinrichsen | deer@darnestowncivic.org
Social Events: Rachel Petruccelli | social@darnestowncivic.org
Softball: Dave Bivans | softball@darnestowncivic.org
Strategic Planning: Tim Sanders | strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org
Website: Ben Jamieson | website@darnestowncivic.org
Neil Agate
Welcome: Kendra Damiecki | welcome@darnestowncivic.org
Maya Miloski
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: darnestowncivic.org

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