



# THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 56 Number 4  
December 2019

## President's Corner

### Notes from the President

*By Scott Mostrom*

I can recall like it was yesterday... jumping on my one-speed BMX bike as an elementary school boy and pedaling three miles from my parent's house on Black Rock Road up to my friend's house at Wye Oak and 28. From there, we'd count our dollar bills and quarters and ride the remaining mile and half to hit McDonald's and the High's convenience store (now the Dunkin Donuts) to load up on candy and assorted junk. And no joke—McDonald's ice cream cones were literally 25 cents.

I'm not trying to sound like someone's grandfather, sitting on the front porch rocker with a pipe scratching his chin, but the times have changed and three and half decades later I can't foresee any scenario where I'd let my own kids do that with the traffic we have now.

The volume of cars (and bikes) throughout Darnestown has grown significantly and, at least anecdotally, the number of accidents on Rt. 28 and the smaller cut-through roads has increased as well. Between Riffleford Road and the center of Darnestown there is a seemingly endless flow of traffic during rush-hour. That anxiety of turning onto Rt. 28 from Turkey Foot, Ancient Oak, or any of the side streets (elevated knowing you have several other cars behind waiting on you) and the frustration of cars flying through the cut-through roads—we all experience it.

Darnestown is unique and it's in the cross-hairs when it comes to traffic. Up-county cars (Poolesville, Germantown, Clarksburg), as well as traffic from Frederick and even West Virginia, pass through Darnestown each day to avoid 270 to get down-county or into Virginia and back. The development and congestion pressures around us have put stress on our roads and intersections that were not built to support it. These pressures and road safety

*Continued on Page 2*

## What's Happening in Darnestown

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

**December 7 | 5:00 p.m.**  
**Darnestown Tree Lighting**  
Darnestown Heritage Park

**December 12 | 7:30 p.m.**  
**DCA Town Meeting**  
St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

**December 14 | 9:00 a.m.**  
**Wreaths Across America**  
Meet at Darnestown Elementary School Cafeteria

**DCA Town Meeting**  
**December 12, 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](http://darnestowncivic.org).**

concerns will only increase, and as an Association we don't advocate for an up-county crossing to Virginia (because of the detrimental impact it could have on Darnestown), we don't support widening Rt. 28 (since that will turn our quaint town into a thoroughfare), and nobody wants to sit through a dozen traffic lights throughout town. So what gives?

Well, let me first say that traffic and road safety is now one of the DCA's very top priorities and we have recently established a task force of residents and Board members that is just getting off the ground. Their objective is to work with State and County representatives and engineers to develop a comprehensive plan to address traffic volume, speed, and intersection safety throughout Darnestown. In the past year our residents have successfully worked to install speed bumps on Spring Meadows and improvements at the Seneca Road/River Road intersection. It's time for the DCA to help, and the same folks involved in those efforts are part of our task force.

The first and foremost goal of the task force is safety, specifically Rt. 28 intersections and speed on cut-through roads. Our longer term goal is to be proactive in solutions that align how Darnestown fits into the greater traffic and road plans throughout Montgomery County and the DMV to divert traffic from Darnestown. Both of these goals will take some time and a great deal of effort and influence, but we are taking a very deliberate approach, based on facts and working with the experts on the best possible options, that will be as all-inclusive as possible for our town. We encourage your input, expertise, and any participation you'd like to offer. More to come on this ...

One of the other big initiatives for the DCA this past quarter is the launch of our new website at **[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)**. I want to thank Ben Jamieson and Neil Agate for all of their hard work—the website is awesome and we're working hard to keep it updated with relevant information for our residents.

We're also into our 2020 membership drive and if you're not a member, we really encourage you to join by visiting the new website. Your funds and participation drive everything we do for the residents of Darnestown—including our quarterly *The Little Acorn*, social events, website, US flags

during the summer holidays, welcome baskets for new residents, and operational expenses to represent Darnestown on issues like the roads and schools.

Finally, I want to thank two Board members who have served us for well over a decade each. Karen Hinrichsen, a Trustee, has recently moved to Florida and has been a trusted advisor to the DCA and keeper of the deer fences in Seneca State Park. Guy Armantrout is our Treasurer (and involved in just about everything else) and has announced he will be retiring shortly. You have both put in countless hours to support our community and have been incredibly helpful and supportive in my transition. We all thank you and wish you the best of luck!

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## School Boundary Update

*By Scott Mostrom*

By the time you read this, the Montgomery County School Board will have voted and released its final decision on redistricting of Northwest, Seneca Valley, and Clarksburg High Schools and their feeder middle schools, as well as the grandfather policy for existing students at those schools. Please visit **[www.darnestowncivic.org/school-boundary-study](http://www.darnestowncivic.org/school-boundary-study)** to see that decision.

As of the Acorn printing (mid-November), the County Superintendent had recommended an option (variation of Option 11a) to the School Board that did not impact Darnestown Elementary School's current path to Lakelands Park Middle School and Northwest High School. In fact, the Superintendent specifically addressed the one option where DES would go to MLK, Jr. MS and Seneca Valley HS, saying "It is important to note that although Option 4 brought the disparity among the three schools closest together (5.9 percent), however, this option is not effective at advancing the geography factor."

The DCA had sent a letter to the Superintendent in support of Option 9 (the option supported by the entire Northwest cluster) and specifically opposed any change of DES's current matriculation page. You can view the letter at **<https://darnestowncivic.org/school-boundary-study>**. Final public hearings were scheduled throughout November prior to the Board of Education's final vote in late November.

**HELP DRIVE THE FUTURE OF DARNESTOWN!**

## Become a 2020 Member of the Darnestown Civic Association



*Your membership allows the DCA to provide important services to our community:*

The Little Acorn  
DCA Hoedown  
DCA Spring Social  
Holiday Tree Lighting  
Town Meetings  
Town Sign Maintenance  
American Flag Program  
Holiday Flag Program  
DCA Website

Lead Darnestown in key issues impacting our residents:

- School Zoning & Safety
- Road Traffic & Safety
- Crime
- Power & Telephone Reliability
- Darnestown Village Development
- Montgomery County Master Plan Development
- Environmental & Agriculture Reserve Protection
- DCA 'Contingency Legal Fund'

Visit [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org) to join now!

Annual Dues are only \$35 - additional giving levels include \$50 'Friend of Darnestown', \$100 'Sponsor', \$150 'Acorn' Program. All paid 2020 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of The Little Acorn.

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## Community Interest

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### DCA Hoedown at Smokey Glen

*By Rachel Petruccelli*

The Darnestown hoedown celebrated its 49th year this past October 11th. I saw many new faces and of course many of our longtime Darnestown friends. Attendance was strong, but so were the dance moves—this community has rhythm! I truly look forward to the Hoedown every fall, and not just because I love a good pair of cowboy boots.



There is something so special about this annual event; it feels warm and cozy and marks the change of seasons. This gathering allows us to

meet and connect with incredible neighbors we may pass by daily. The hoedown continues to prove why it's so special to live in our "small town" community. I hope you join us next year!







## A Family Celebration to Light the Season

*By Rachel Petruccelli*



Join your neighbors Saturday, December 7th at 5:00 p.m. at Darnestown Heritage Park for the annual holiday tree lighting. Stay toasty with hot cocoa and roasted s'mores while visiting with friends and neighbors. Someone may just be stopping by who knows if you've been naughty or nice! Children can bring a letter to Santa with a return address for a North Pole response. Whatever the weather, see you there!

## Molly's Walk And Roll For A Cure September 21, 2019 Thank You!!!!

*By Molly Lichtenstein*

### American Syringomyelia & Chiari Alliance Project

I owe a huge thank you to the entire Darnestown community!! It has swept me off my feet with the amount of support my family and I have received from this community!

This year was an absolute booming success and I owe that to Darnestown! Okay, let's cut to the chase... We had over 170 people attend the walk!!! We raised over \$45,000 between the walk, the golf tournament, and the tennis event!! When we started this fundraising event in 2009, I had hopes of raising \$10,000 and spreading some awareness. Over the years, the walk and now associated events have exploded! Not only are we raising money for research for Chiari, Syringomyelia, and related disorders, but we are now reaching three different groups of people and spreading more awareness than I could have ever hoped for! Thank you for helping me succeed in my efforts to raise awareness and money for a cause that I am passionate about.

For more information, please see:

<https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?id=3835>



## Seneca Store Celebrates Completed Renovation

On October 17th, Montgomery County Parks celebrated the renovation of the old Poole's store. The free event included a ribbon cutting, remarks, light refreshments, and tours of the building.



*President Scott Mostrom  
with 'Banjo Man'  
Frank Cassel*



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

Deadline for the next issue:

**February 1, 2020**

Email ideas, questions or articles to:

[Acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:Acorn@darnestowncivic.org)

## **Did You Know... About the 2020 Census?**

*By Scott Plumer*

Darnestown is a Census Designated Place (CDP) of about sixteen square miles. The boundaries of the CDP closely align with the borders of The Darnestown Civic Association. The 2020 Census activities have been ramping up and you may have seen Census address checkers who have begun canvassing neighborhoods to update address lists. In 2020, for the first time, you will be able to respond online or by phone, as well as by mail. Most packages are scheduled to be mailed on March 12, 2020 and will not include the paper survey. If you get the non-paper package and prefer paper you can call or otherwise request a paper copy. Post cards will be sent ahead of and after your package arrives. In April, Census enumerators begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Some non-responding households may get a paper form. Then from May through July, close to one half a million census enumerators will visit households who have not responded.

In 1790, around 650 U.S. Marshals carried out the nation's first decennial census. By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way.

All Census Bureau employees are required to follow strict guidelines and confidentiality laws. This includes taking a lifetime oath to protect the confidentiality of data they receive. Anyone who violates this oath is subject to as much as \$250,000 in fines and up to five years in prison.

## **Frisky Business Darnestown Is an Ideal Place to Keep Your Own “Working Cat”**

*By Diana Foley*

Freelance felines, or “working cats,” aren’t looking to curl up on your white sofa or sit purring in your lap. These cats mean business—and will ask little of you in return for their services. These free-roaming felines simply require food, shelter, and monitoring in exchange for their expert rodent-control services.

Working-cat programs like Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center’s (MCASAC) “Freelance Felines” are literally life-saving for unsocialized and semi-tame cats (often strays or coming from hoarding cases) that previously would have faced euthanasia. The hunting skills of these cats can reduce the use of pesticides, rodenticides, and other poisons that can be harmful to people, pets, wildlife, and the environment.

Businesses that take in a freelance feline will benefit from a dedicated pest control “employee” who can deter pests and rodents without the use of toxins, making them a cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient alternative. In addition, businesses will enjoy the good will of being able to promote their business as a compassionate and innovative place that cares about *all* members of our community.

For families who adore cats but have an allergy in the home, freelance felines provide a new option for adopting and caring for a cat companion. As a former employee of a high-volume, urban animal shelter, I’m encouraged by this new opportunity for families to adopt outdoor cats or “mousers”—something that just a few years ago many shelters actively discouraged or outright banned.

However, outdoor cats are a hotly disputed topic among wildlife advocates, in particular the bird-loving community. The Freelance Feline program directly addresses this issue in a way that benefits both cats and wildlife: the goal of the program is to *reduce* the population of outdoor cats over the long term. All of the cats are spayed or neutered prior to placement so they cannot reproduce. In addition to this, these cats *will* hunt, which reduces the need for poisons that threaten wildlife, particularly raptors

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such as hawks and owls that can become sickened or killed by eating a poisoned rodent.

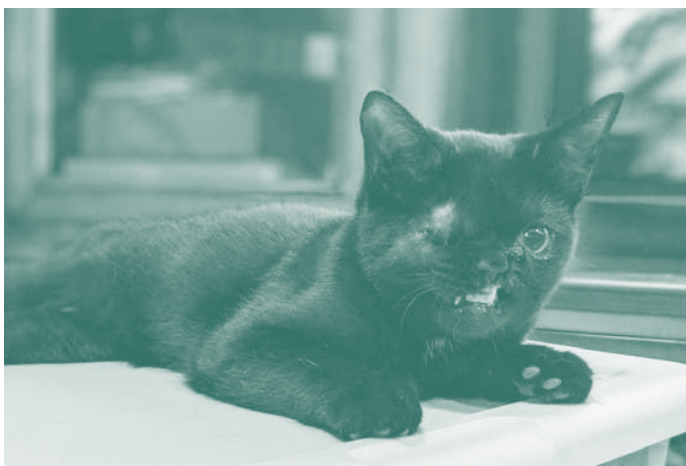
All “freelance felines” are free to qualified homes or businesses (there is no adoption fee) and receive veterinary care prior to adoption. This includes spay/neuter surgery, microchipping, vaccinations, and FeLV/FIV testing. For the first several weeks, they should be kept in a crate or enclosed space while they acclimate to their new surroundings. After this adjustment period, they will roam freely in their new territory.

Friends of Montgomery County Animals, a supporter of MCASAC’s Freelance Felines, provides care packages to adopters and will assist with transport and set up if needed.

If you’re interested in “hiring” your own freelance feline for your business or home, contact MCASAC at 240-773-5900 or [adoptmcasac@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:adoptmcasac@montgomerycountymd.gov).

*Diana Foley is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA) and Darnestown resident. Diana has 20 years of experience in animal care and sheltering, and her passion is helping rescued pets transition successfully to their adoptive homes to create lifelong matches.*

Diana is happy to take your pet behavior and training questions. Send your questions to [Acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:Acorn@darnestowncivic.org) and your answer may appear in the next edition of *The Little Acorn*.



## Featured Foster Pet

*By Diane Foley*

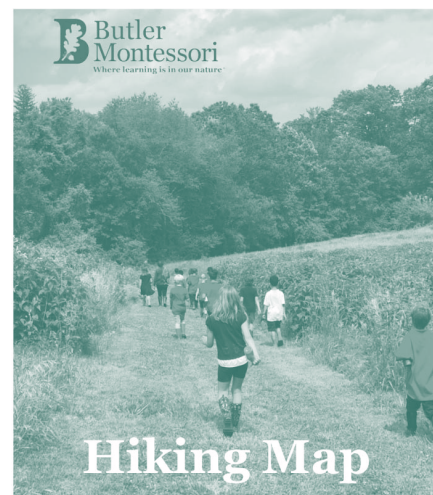
Kahlo is a 6-month-old kitten who has overcome unimaginable odds after being found with a broken jaw and severe injuries that left her with only one eye. After reconstructive surgery and extensive care from her foster family, she is now living a normal life. Her foster parents say she’s the most “kitten kitten” they’ve ever fostered—a description of her cheerful and boundless energy. Kahlo is a very well-socialized kitten who can share her forever home with children and would do best with other pets (cat or dog), so she always has a playmate. If you are interested in adopting Kahlo, please contact Friends of Montgomery County Animals at [info@fmca.org](mailto:info@fmca.org) or 301-977-4833.

## Take a Hike in Darnestown

Come hike the trails from our campus using this downloadable online Butler Montessori Hiking Map. Log onto [AllTrails.com](http://AllTrails.com) and use the free app to follow along. **If the campus is closed, please park along the driveway.** You are welcome to hike the campus; please respect that all buildings are off limits and you are accepting liability for yourself and anyone joining you. There is a port-a-potty down by the indoor arena should you need a bathroom.

**As always, leave things as you find them. If a gate or door is open, leave it open. If it is closed, leave it closed.**

Find more information at:  
<http://ow.ly/Z2ed50wYtBW>



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# Local History

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## The First Darnestownians

*By Allan Luke*

Mostly we stay focused on our own lives, living on land now called Darnestown. Who among us ever stops for long to consider those who lived here before us? Given only 200 or 300 years of local history featuring William Darne, the Civil War, C&O Canal, etc., rarely do we ponder the lives and times of those first native peoples of the Darnestown area. I thought about them in trying to find out whether MD Route 28 was really a trail of early Native Americans as I had heard. Limited research did not *prove* that it was, but did yield abundant evidence that Native Americans were everywhere throughout our area, especially in the final 600 years before first contact (1000 AD to 1607). In trying to learn whether or not Rt. 28 was an old Native American trail, I learned much more about our local predecessors.

### Was Maryland Route 28 a Native American Trail?

That Native Americans moved, traded and made war via footpaths is known, and also that trails often trace along ridges for dryness and safety. Many Native American trails are thought to have been broken by animals, especially buffalo, moving between salt licks. The *Seneca Trail* is a known Native American path from New York through the Hagerstown area to Alabama. It was extensively used by Native Americans for trade and war-making, and had dozens of offshoots. At least one of these seems to have followed the Potomac for about 35 miles from Maryland's I-81 area, then transited Darnestown on route to tidewater in D.C. A common translation for "Potomac" is "place where people trade."

### Who Were the "First Darnestownians?"

Native Americans living in eastern North America included the Iroquois (NY/New England), Powhatan (tidewater VA & MD), and Delaware (PA, NJ, DE) nations, and other tribes. Woodland culture reigned most of eastern North America, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico north to south, and from the Atlantic coast to west of the Mississippi River, where they intersected with Plains tribes such as Cheyenne and Comanche.

### How Do We Know Native Americans Were Here in Darnestown?

We know because they left traces. Artifacts are found and attributed to them. Artifact sites seem to follow similar patterns of discovery and study. First, items such

as spear points are noticed by locals. It may take years before permission is gained and a dig begun. Because the local Woodland Indians mostly inhabited sites near rivers, our local sites have had sediments deposited from flooding over the years, so artifacts can typically be found anywhere from two to fifteen feet down.

Typical digs may yield thousands, or even over 100,000 artifacts. Such a count seems a bonanza, but most are fragmented animal bones, tiny shattered pieces of pipes and pottery, and most numerous, small "sherds," (teeny chips of rock) which come from shaping rock tools or arrowheads. More notable finds are pottery pieces with some identifying mark of design or construction (and thus provenance and possible trade patterns), skulls, tools and weapons. Intact pots are extremely rare.

Significant amounts of artifacts and records are lost again to history as boxes are carted into academic departments and later lost in reorganizations.

In addition to local riverside sites, natives are responsible for building over four dozen fish traps or "weirs" in the Potomac, designed to catch and hold fish for eating. Many of these survive locally today.

### Where Did They Come From and When Were They Here?

The Land Bridge is the generally accepted way Asiatic people crossed the Bering Strait around 16,000 years ago and entered the Americas. Relics 13,000 years old in the eastern U.S., including Maryland, suggest complimentary migrations from Europe. Scientific consensus seems headed toward recognition of multiple entries, and possible earlier entries than previously thought. Carbon dating of artifacts excavated for this survey reveal local presence from 1000 AD to 1500 AD, though artifacts (far fewer and much harder to find) prove their presence here many thousands of years earlier.

### How Did They Live?

As their society grew and matured, all Native American societies, including Woodland tribes, became absolute masters of their environment. Everything they used came from their forest surroundings. Local game, especially deer and fish, was hunted & trapped and nuts and berries

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were eaten and stored. Clothing was fashioned from animal pelts and vegetation. They spoke language, had families, formed hunting units and played games. Daily they worked on crops, shelters, and defense. A well-developed trail system, sometimes building on buffalo and other animal trails, enabled people and goods to move as seasons or hunting patterns changed. Colorful carved shell beads, known as “wampum,” were sewn into belts that told a story, recorded events, or announced policies such as declaring war.

## Where Are They Now?

As we know, it did not end well for the Native Americans. Displaced from their lands, often forcibly, they fell victim to disease. Abuse of Native Americans at the hands of the U. S., the Army, and Indian agents is well documented. Less known is that some natives saw whites as a means to defeat rival tribes, only belatedly unifying to make treaties that were later reneged upon by the U.S. anyway. Many of the strong who hadn’t died by disease died fighting against subjugation. Most of the rest, including the women and children, capitulated and went onto reservations and are now scattered widely throughout the U.S.

Most of the Eastern Woodland tribes were either moved west or wiped out entirely. The Delaware, for example, are now in Oklahoma. The Powhatan, a nation of 13,000 people upon meeting Capt. James Smith in 1607, numbered 1,800 just 60 years later and are about 150 now. The Susquehannock, 6,000 strong at first contact, numbered 300 by 1700, a 95% decrease in 90 years. The last 14 Susquehannock, many of whom had adopted Christianity and lived for decades peacefully with whites, were killed by settlers, hacked to death in the town jail while in protective custody, falsely accused of crimes.

The Piscataway, living on the tidal Potomac in Southern MD at first contact, were decimated by disease. Their members relocated several times until settling on Heater’s Island at Point of Rocks, MD in 1699. This remnant Piscataway band of about 80 occupied the island of less than a half square mile until either 1712 or 1722, depending on accounts. Foreseeing trouble if they stayed near the settlers, they kept moving to avoid contact.

## Where Are Local Native Sites?

The three Woodland village sites used for this survey are all at McKee Beshers Wildlife Management Area along the bank of the Potomac River, 3 to 7 miles from Darnestown. Many more exist, at least a half dozen locally, including Selden and Heaters Islands on the Potomac and Rosenstock, Biggs Ford, and Claggett Retreat on the Monocacy River. Dozens more exist in Maryland in at least 13 counties. Each location is given along with some limited (?) excerpts of remarks by

original researchers, all from Maryland Archaeology Conservation Laboratory site surveys from 2003-2010.

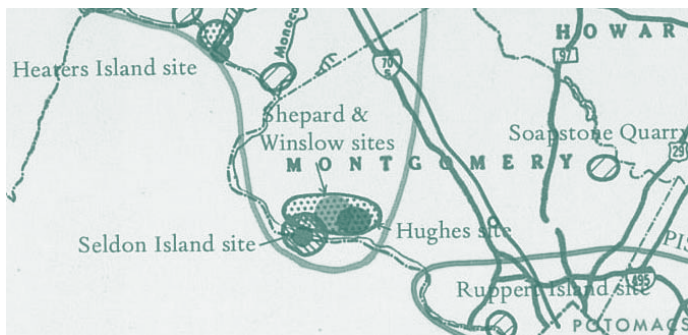
**WINSLOW SITE** is at the spot that overlooks the gap between Tenfoot and Van Deventer Islands.

*“... located on an expansive floodplain of the Potomac River, occupying a slight but perceptible rise in the surrounding topography near Seneca, Maryland. Winslow was the site of Early, Middle, and Late Archaic period short-term encampments, Early and Late Woodland villages, most of this historic occupation was destroyed by construction of C&O Canal around 1831... best known as a Late Woodland period village (ca. A.D. 1300). Archaeology has documented a community pattern marked by a palisaded village center and a semi-circular arrangement of refuse pits... containing a variety of refuse, including charcoal, ash, potsherds, animal bone, shell, fire cracked rocks, waste flakes, and stone tools. Indiscriminate looting of the site in the late 1950s stimulated a second phase of controlled excavations, beginning in 1959 and continuing until 1961. A significant portion of the semicircular arrangement of refuse pits was examined and 168 post molds were mapped. Fifteen human burials were investigated. All individuals were interred in the flexed position, and no grave goods were included. Four canine burials were encountered. A large collection of bone tools, tobacco pipes, and ceramic sherds was also recovered. A number of almost complete pottery vessels could be reconstructed. Several charred corn cobs represent direct evidence of an agricultural subsistence base.*

**HUGHES SITE** is 2 miles west of Winslow, and overlooks the gap between Van Deventer and Selden Islands. Access can be obtained by walking about 4/10 of a mile upstream on the C&O towpath from Sycamore landing off River Rd.

*“... Late Woodland village located on the north bank of the Potomac River in Montgomery County, Maryland. This palisaded village, measuring as much as 120 meters in diameter, contained oval or round structures with associated activity areas. Various types of subsurface features were uncovered, including storage pits, hearths, structural post molds, a palisade, and burials. This single component village was probably occupied for only a few decades between 1400 and 1500 A.D. This site is critical for understanding community organization and the political and social environments of Late Woodland settlements during a period of stress and upheaval in the Middle Atlantic region. Roy Yinger worked on part of the site from March 1937 until July 1938, including the excavation of 73 burials... Only a portion can be reconstructed, as most of his excavations were poorly documented and largely uncontrolled. Artifacts and*





**SHEPARD SITE** is on the C&O Canal, at an uncertain distance west of Hughes Site.

*"The Shepard site is a Late Woodland period village located on the north bank of the Potomac River about five miles south of the town of Poolesville in Montgomery County... marked by an accumulation of midden (a trash heap) over a semi-circular area measuring 150' x 50'. The longer axis coincides with the north bank of the C&O Canal, the construction of which in the 1830s undoubtedly destroyed about 1/2 of the site... artifacts were plentiful on the site surface following plowing, and included sherds, animal bones, mussel shells, and stone artifacts. A number of pit features were documented at the Shepard Site... suggest that most of pits were intended initially for the storage of foods (corn, nuts, dried meat and fish, etc.), and subsequently were used as graves or for disposal of garbage. The presence of post features was noted, and they were interpreted as belonging to houses rather than palisade walls. Evidence of agriculture consisted of charred kernels of maize. Dog remains were recovered, but there was no evidence of their ceremonial disposal."*

*human remains were curated at the Smithsonian, but the lack of a detailed artifact inventory has hampered the use of these items in interpreting the activities occurring at the Hughes Site... documents relating to the excavations could not be located. A total of 178,200 lithic, ceramic, floral, and faunal artifacts were recovered from the (1990s) American University excavations... suggest that Hughes natives practiced a subsistence strategy based on plant cultivation, hunting, fishing, and the gathering of wild resources. It appears that they relied almost exclusively on locally available materials and rarely depended on trade with other Native American groups for additional provisions."*

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## Meet Our New Business Members

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### Stiles Dentistry

*Dr. Dennis Stiles & Dr. Marie Tigani Stiles*



STILES DENTISTRY

Located just down the road in Kentlands, Stiles Dentistry is truly a family endeavor. We are a husband and wife team of dentists who have been caring for patients together for over 30 years in upper Montgomery County. We moved to Darnestown in 1997 with our 3 young children, 2 dogs and 1 cat, and have found it to be an outstanding community in which to raise a family. While our children have grown and moved out, our roots are firmly planted; we treasure our neighbors and friends and especially enjoy walking along the Potomac River with our large, friendly golden retriever. We hope to run into you there or around town, and we would be happy to welcome you to our practice.

### Darnestown Smiles

*By Sridevi Yellepeddy*



Becoming a part of a tight-knit community gives a sense of belonging that we all crave.

That was one of the main reasons both Dr. Sridevi Yellepeddy and Dr. Hema Patel were attracted to Darnestown as a place to establish a dental practice that would be their home away from home. They stated "We have been blessed in the people we have met in Darnestown and can envision relationships and friendships that will endure a lifetime."

At Darnestown Smiles, our main focus is preventive care and ensuring that our patients learn healthy habits that will enable them to have beautiful smiles. Our goal is patients' happiness as we believe that a happy person is a healthy person. Happiness does not stem from the eradication of disease alone but from caring for the person as a whole. We are excited to join this wonderful community.

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# Organizations

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## Darne Bloomers Garden Club

*By Lisa Ann Ruf*

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club started the year with a whirlwind of activity. Because our long-standing meeting place, Darnestown Presbyterian Church, is under construction, we are meeting at various locations.

Our September meeting was held at Stadler's Nursery in Frederick, Maryland. Our speaker, Lisha Utts, gave a wonderful presentation, "A Tree in Every Pot." We learned about trees that would thrive planted in pots. It was a perfect solution for people who needed temporary screening and/or a little something on a patio or deck where planting a tree in the ground would be prohibited.

October took us to our own backyard at Potomac Garden Center. Here we had a beautiful day under the greenhouse designing pumpkins planted with live succulents. We learned various techniques for waterless planting. These pumpkins lasted through Halloween, and will hopefully last through Thanksgiving. Our hostesses, LeeAnne Gelletly, Lisa Carothers, Jan Micare, and Petra Roman, worked very hard to source amazing pumpkins, and the interesting succulents and other items for fabulous centerpieces.

The Renwick Gallery hosted us for our November meeting. Susan Allaway, Louise Evans, Tonya Jones, and Susie Nance arranged for our Club to attend artist Ginny Ruffner's acclaimed exhibit "Reforestation of the Imagination."

In December we will be meeting at Bretton Woods. Our program for this month will be "Art in Bloom." In March through May, there are many museums around the country who host juried florists to create a floral interpretation of a painting or sculpture. Several members of our Club will be presenting our Club's version of this nationwide floral extravaganza. They will be designing an arrangement inspired by a painting of their choosing. The techniques, botanical, and non-botanical elements will be explained as the program unfolds. It will be a lovely way to welcome in the holidays and a new year.



If you are interested in visiting our Club, please check [www.darnebloomers.com](http://www.darnebloomers.com) for updated meeting dates, times and programs.

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## Off-Season News! Memberships, Swim, Tennis, Camp, Pickleball & Social Events

*By Aleks Schiff*

**Time to prepare for Summer 2020!** As winter creeps in, there's no better time to start thinking about next summer—places for summer camp, community engagement, and overall relaxation. We continue to make improvements to the Club and have rolled out a new membership system that will continue to make things more automated for our members.

Tennis Pro, Teri Boragno, continues to expand our popular Tennis Program. And, her **Fall Pickleball Tournament** was a HUGE success with over 40 players in attendance, pulling players from all over

the region—most of who were non-members! Stay tuned for information on a Spring Tournament!

**Camp Green Zone** will have a new Camp Director who is already planning new, innovative programming to keep the kids engaged. Announcements on details and pricing will be on our website soon.

Our Social program hosted a very successful 2nd Annual Chili Cook-off with 10 delicious entries, and plans to continue events this winter at local wineries! And, our **Demon Swim Team** is looking forward to getting back in the pool for a strong 2020 swim season with Coach Pat!

**Current NEW Member Offer:** Mention this *Little Acorn* article and get \$200 off the initiation fee! Contact Dave Hardy at [GM@dsrclub.com](mailto:GM@dsrclub.com).

Now is a perfect time to grab our off-season **membership promotions**, so make sure to check our Facebook page and website for the latest offers. We are a year-round community and offer tennis, pickleball, and social events throughout the year.



*Congratulations to Peter Carothers & Paul Will, this year's Men's Tennis Tournament Champs!*

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## School News

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### Darnestown ES

*By Ashley Mostrom*

Autumn was a very busy time for the Mustangs! Students worked hard in the annual PTA Read-a-Thon. fundraiser and read thousands of minutes to earn money for the school. Better yet, as an extra motivator, Principal Mark Craemer promised to spend the day on the roof if students met the goal. On September 27th, he made good on his promise and spent the day working and broadcasting from the roof of the school. All students had the opportunity to visit this unique learning space during the day and agreed it was definitely a “high” light of the school year.

The remainder of the year promises to stay busy as well. The SERT team is hard at work encouraging green practices in the school and are planning a community wide Spring Cleanup. Stay tuned for details.

Lastly, in December, the fifth grade students will participate in the traditional Colonial Day. This unique experience transforms the school gym into a colonial village. Students, teachers, and volunteers are all outfitted in colonial garb and are treated to a special lunch featuring original colonial recipes. Students spend the day visiting stations such as the Apothecary, Wigmaker, Blacksmith and the General

Store. This is the 21st year of this amazing learning opportunity for students.

If you are interested in supporting your local public school, be sure to visit the PTA website to see how you can help.

[www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org](http://www.darnestownelementary.my-pta.org)

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### Mary of Nazareth Catholic School Smiles, Compliments and Gratitude!

*By Katherine Schulz*

Smile was the first ACTION in our year of “Virtues in ACTION” initiative at Mary of Nazareth School. The goal of the Virtues in ACTION initiative is to remind us that virtues don’t have to be demonstrated through grand gestures, but everyday acts like smiling. A smile can help to make someone feel welcome, respected, and included in the community.

When faculty and staff returned from the summer, they were greeted with a smile, actually 46 smiles! A bulletin board in our front hall was adorned with a picture of each faculty and staff member smiling with the caption of what makes them smile.

*Continued on Page 12*



“Spending time with my family at the beach,”  
“Driving across the country with my friend” and  
“Holding my new baby granddaughter,” are just a  
few of the things that make members of our faculty  
and staff smile.

This month, the 8th grade took the lead in  
showcasing the virtue of giving compliments.  
Students learned about filling up each other’s buckets  
by sharing kind words. They designed posters that  
spread a message about being positive toward others  
and wrote compliments for their friends, family, and  
school community that were displayed. Each month,  
a grade will take over the virtue in ACTion and  
spread its message throughout our Mary of Nazareth  
School Community.

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## Butler Montessori School

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



### January 2 Butler Camp Registration Opens

Join us for nature-filled  
adventures this summer.  
Use **SUMMER2020**

code for \$200 off when you sign up for three or more  
sessions! This promotion will only be good from  
January 2-31! Don’t Delay—sessions fill up quickly!  
[www.ButlerCamp.org](http://www.ButlerCamp.org)

### January 16, 8:00 a.m. Explore the Lower Elementary (ages 6-9)!

*“Butler is a place for  
kids to discover passion,  
explore creativity, and  
turn mistakes into  
learning opportunities. Its caring staff, attentive  
teachers, and community-focused families provide  
such a constant foundation, so kids could learn and  
grow to be well rounded and confident individuals.”*  
—Bobby C., current parent



Join us for Explore the Lower Elementary and  
meet our AMI-trained, caring teachers, learn about  
our unique Montessori curriculum and see the  
classrooms in action.

## Georgetown Hill Early School

*By Nicole Reap*

If your child attends Georgetown Hill or if you have  
driven by our campus, I am sure you can’t help but  
notice the construction going on. The children love  
watching all of the exciting changes being made.  
They especially enjoy seeing all of the different  
construction equipment. We have been watching  
workers as they dig in the ground and lay pipes for  
water, pour cement for sidewalks and floors, and  
add new tile to our roof. Construction can be messy  
and inconvenient for us adults, but for children, it is  
a great first-hand way to learn how things work and  
are built. It won’t be long before the construction is  
done, and our school will be complete!



Our **TK** class has been learning all about Maryland,  
the Chesapeake Bay and its native animals, and  
about the Earth and space. Our **PreK** class is hard at  
work learning about the solar system. They are also  
discussing elections and voting and conducting their  
very own poll to decide on a special activity! Our  
**Threes** classes have been learning about rocks and  
geology. The **Twos** classes have been learning how  
they can use their five senses and the weather.

Each class is enjoying our outdoor classroom, new  
this year, thanks to our wonderful TAPSS (Teacher  
and Parent Support System). The children explore  
with all their senses. For many of us, it’s our favorite  
part of the day!

For more information about our preschool and  
school-age programs, please call us at 301-527-1761.

## Seneca Academy

*By Priscella Celentano*

As part of Seneca Academy's integrated IB curriculum, our upper elementary students recently had the opportunity to extend their learning off the shores of Chestertown, MD on board the Sultana!



While helping to sail the 18th-century schooner, they participated in hands-on explorations ranging from Chesapeake

Bay ecology to colonial trade and navigation tools. Students brought these varied experiences back to the classroom the next day and wrote poetry inspired by their time on the Sultana.

Field trips are one of the many ways we implement our inquiry-based, transdisciplinary, experiential curriculum! To learn more, please join us at an upcoming Open House on Saturday, January 11th at 9:30 a.m. or Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. We also host Walk-In Wednesday Tours on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 9:30a.m., February through April.

The Seneca Academy Parenting Series hosted by child psychologist, Dr. Michelle Parker, continues! Save the date for our last two workshops of the school year: "Parenting in the Digital Age" on March 4th and "Secrets to Raising Confident, Resilient Children" on April 29th. To learn more or register please visit: <https://www.senecaacademy.org/parenting>.

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## Church News

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### Darnestown Presbyterian Church

*By Larry Ciorlito*

**MAKING PROGRESS!** We now expect completion of our campus renovation by February 2020 (yay!), and plan to stage an introductory event soon thereafter. Among other enhancements, the



project provides full ADA compliance, expanded welcoming/gathering space, and enhanced

seating—and we can't wait for you to see it! Check out our new webpage for schedules and updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

**NOW SCHEDULED: Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar.** Our Bazaar is now scheduled for **Saturday, December 7, 2019**. The Bazaar, which will be staged primarily in our Fellowship Hall, will run from 8:30 to mid-afternoon and offers something for everyone (crafts, home décor, gifts, jewelry, and Christmas ornaments). Home baked goods and jams will be available in the "Country Kitchen," and a Silent Auction of items will tempt holiday shoppers. You can also enjoy a hot lunch or homemade dessert

in our Café. **Proceeds from the Bazaar support multiple charities**, so come join us, meet your friends and neighbors, and support your community in the process. Contact [dpwbazaar@gmail.com](mailto:dpwbazaar@gmail.com) with any questions. **Hope to see you there!**

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### ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Worship Service—Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

Sunday School (PreK–5th Grade)

Sunday 10:15–11:20 a.m.

Yoga – Mondays at 7:00 p.m. – donations requested

**Christmas Eve – December 24**

4:00 p.m. – Combined Family Worship Service with Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Christmas Pageant and Communion

7:30 p.m.—Festive Christmas Service with Communion, Music starts at 7:00 p.m.

**Ash Wednesday – February 26**

6:00–8:00 a.m. – Drive-through Ashes in St. Nicholas' Parking Lot

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

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## Service Providers

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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](mailto:Acorn@darnestowncivic.org) before February 1, 2020. 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 babysitters and mother's helpers must be under 21 to be listed.

### Babysitters & Mother's Helpers

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**Christina Palfrey (2002)**  
301-503-7672

**Melissa Szwed (2004)**  
301-519-0645

**Heather Gross (2002)**  
301-646-8192

### Pet Sitters/House Sitters

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**Maureen McAllister**  
301-802-4993  
[maureen.mca8@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.mca8@gmail.com)

### Chicken Sitters

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

### Tutors

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**Farnez Eivazi | Math**  
301-717-8346  
[efarnaz@gmail.com](mailto:efarnaz@gmail.com)

**Maureen McAllister**  
*Stats & Research Methods*  
301-802-4993  
[maureen.mca8@gmail.com](mailto:maureen.mca8@gmail.com)

### Notary Services

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**Laura Bivans** 301-977-4734

**Tina Kalil** 301-943-9840

**Elisa Lane** 301-990-2993

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## Darnestown Schools, Organizations & Churches

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### Schools

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**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](http://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

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**Boy Scout Troop 1094**  
[sm@troop1094.org](mailto:sm@troop1094.org)

**Darne Bloomers Garden Club**  
[darnebloomers.com](http://darnebloomers.com)

**Darnestown Civic Association**  
14132B Darnestown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
[darnestowncivic.org](http://darnestowncivic.org)

**Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club**  
15004 Spring Meadows Drive  
Darnestown, MD 20885  
301-330-1340  
[www.dsclub.com](http://www.dsclub.com)  
[gm@dsclub.com](mailto:gm@dsclub.com)

### Churches

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**Darnestown Presbyterian Church**  
15120 Turkey Foot Road  
Darnestown, MD 20878  
301-948-9127  
[darnestownpc.org](http://darnestownpc.org)  
[dpchurch@comcast.net](mailto: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](http://olvp.org), [parishoffice@olvp.org](mailto: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](http://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  
Secretary: Susan Allaway | secretary@darnestowncivic.org  
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](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Suburban MD  
Permit No. 4889

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## Business Directory

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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](mailto:daniel@clarktrees.com)

### **Darnestown Shell | *Auto repair and Fuel***

10420 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown

301-840-8515, [darnestownshell@gmail.com](mailto:darnestownshell@gmail.com)

### **Darnestown Smiles | *Family Dentistry***

14128 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown

240-477-8251, [mail@darnestownsmiles.com](mailto:mail@darnestownsmiles.com)

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

2403 Research Blvd, Ste. 350, Rockville

301-258-7773, [Wlowe@lowetillson.com](mailto:Wlowe@lowetillson.com)

### **Melissa Bernstein Homes | *Realtor***

9711 Washingtonian Blvd, North Potomac

301-908-4007, [melissagbernstern@gmail.com](mailto:melissagbernstern@gmail.com)

### **Preferred Insurance Solutions**

***Auto, Home and Business Insurance***

20030 Century Blvd, Ste. 201, Germantown

301-428-3344

[ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com](mailto:ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com)

### **Secco Plus Cleaners, Inc | *Dry Cleaning***

14100 Darnestown Rd, Ste. A, Darnestown

301-869-5400

### **Smokey Glen Farm | *Event Facilities and BBQs***

16407 Riffleford Rd, Darnestown

301-948-1518, [jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com](mailto:jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com)

### **Stiles Dentistry | *Dentist***

333 Main St, Gaithersburg

301-947-6900, [smile@stilesdentistry.com](mailto:smile@stilesdentistry.com)

### **Windridge Vineyards Farm | *Farm, Winery***

PO Box 149, Adamstown

301-607-4399, [robert@windridgefarm.com](mailto:robert@windridgefarm.com)