



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

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September 2020

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom



For those of us who take great pride in living in Darnestown, we're often confronted with the question, "Where is Darnestown?" If you're like me, you've probably stumbled to answer that question cleanly. We're certainly not as well-known around the DMV as our neighboring towns. In fact, I'll often say "Darnestown is tucked between Germantown and Gaithersburg near the Potomac River," just so people have a rough idea and don't think we're in some totally remote part of the state.

You'll see "Darnestown" occasionally show up on a TV weather map, and I was proud to hear that our resident national sports reporter was broadcasting from home recently with the caption, "Live from Darnestown." You don't see Darnestown often in the media, and frankly there's some beauty in others not really knowing about Darnestown or exactly where we are. At the same time, it's important for those of us who proudly call it our home to have an identity and understand it.

If you can successfully answer where we are, you may be even further pressed with the question "What is Darnestown?" Yeesh ... usually I won't even attempt to answer that one. But let's try now—what *is*

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What's Happening in Darnestown

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

Sept. 12 | Darnestown Farmers Market
Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

Sept. 17 | 7:30 p.m.
DCA Town Meeting
www.darnestowncivic.org

Sept. 30 | Census Deadline

Sept. 21 | 10:00 a.m.
Molly's Virtual ASAP Walk & Roll
Corner of Wye Oak and Route 28

Oct. 10 | Butler Montessori's
50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration
<https://www.butlerschool.org/community>

Nov. 3 | 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Election Day

DCA Virtual Town Meeting September 17, 2020

Help Define the 'Vision for Darnestown's Future'

Please join us for a brainstorming and input session to help us drive future planning for our Darnestown community, including roads, schools, residential development, and development of our village.

The link to join virtually will be available at www.darnestowncivic.org, by email, and on the Darnestown Facebook page.

Remember: You can view the *The Little Acorn* online in full color and with clickable links. Go to darnestowncivic.org.

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Darnestown? Well, in the last edition of *The Little Acorn*, we featured an article on how the Darnestown area was settled and got its name. The related research to produce the article was also the basis for the DCA adopting “1803” in our branding, which you may have already seen. Because Darnestown isn’t incorporated or ‘established,’ there has never been an official date for when Darnestown began. While 1803 isn’t official either, we’ve adopted it as 1803 because that marks the establishment of the first post office, named “Darnes,” and the area soon became known as Darnestown.

In our more recent history, many may not know that the DCA actually started in the 1960s as the GDCA, the Greater Darnestown Civic Association. A couple of decades ago the GDCA launched an effort to better define our borders and the residents we serve. After very careful consideration, borders were established (you can see them at www.darnestowncivic.org/darnestown-boundaries-map/) and the association dropped “Greater” from the name. Borders were drawn based on several criteria—historical association to the Darnestown community, natural borders, etc.—but a critical one was including homes that utilize septic. I mention this because almost all of Darnestown’s homes use ‘septic’; sewer lines, for the most part, end near our borders. Septic, and the need for land to support it in every residential and commercial lot, is what allows us to maintain our rural residential zoning and our ‘open space.’

While these borders are used by the DCA and are technically unofficial, “Darnestown” is recognized by the United States Geological Survey and by the United States Census Bureau as a census-designated place (CDP); in fact, the “Darnestown CDP” borders almost exactly align with the borders drawn by the DCA.

Hopefully this will allow you to better answer those ‘Darnestown’ questions next time they come at you. More importantly though, the point is that “Darnestown” is what we, as a community, choose it to be, and leads to the next question, “What will Darnestown become?” How will Darnestown be affected by the changes going on around us and how we will evolve and prosper as a town? How will zoning, roads, schools, businesses, and our identity as a community change? The role of the DCA is to help drive and influence that and it’s based on your input and that of all our neighbors.

I encourage you to attend our Town Meeting on September 17th where we’ll have a brainstorming and input session to get your ideas on how to help define the vision for our future (details are posted at www.darnestowncivic.org). We want all perspectives. We’ll also discuss the active planning initiatives that the DCA is involved in right now at the county and state levels (the Roads Task Force article in this edition highlights some of that work). I hope you can attend, and if you have a keen interest to join our planning team efforts please reach out to me at president@darnestowncivic.org.

2020 Scholarship Winners

By Stephanie Kunkle

The Darnestown Civic Association is excited and proud to announce the winners of the 1st Annual DCA Scholarship and the 1st Annual Bruce Deppa Scholarship. All applicants were graduating seniors within the DCA boundaries.



Matthew Nagy

The DCA Scholarship, which supports the applicant who demonstrated civic engagement, was awarded to Matthew Nagy. Matthew graduated Quince Orchard High School and is starting his freshman year at University of Georgia in the Honors Program pursuing Finance and Real Estate.



Adele Williams

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship, which supports the applicant who embodies all things Darnestown, was awarded to Adele Williams. Adele graduated Northwest High School and is starting her freshman year at Cornell University pursuing Communications and Government.

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA’s mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. And the inaugural applicant pool proved that Darnestown’s future is bright!

Community Update

Security Update: Keeping our Neighborhoods and Parks Safe

Richard (Dick) Jurgena, USN, Ret.

Many times, we see or hear something and think we should report it. Then we think, “Oh well, why waste my time, nobody will do anything about it anyway.” I have heard that more than once about a problem we are having on Black Rock Road at the mill where the road crosses Seneca Creek. We have an environmental and safety problem at that location in the summertime when too many visitors set up cooking and picnic sites and spend the day in and along the creek.

The environmental problem is created when visitors with no access to public restrooms and trash receptacles, leave litter and waste behind.

The safety problem is created when vehicles are parked on the roadway and emergency vehicles are restricted and sometimes blocked from being able to either access or transit the area. This results in fire, EMT, and police delays in responding to calls by residents or visitors to the park. The road is properly marked with “No Parking” signs; sadly, many ignore the signs and leave their vehicles unattended on the road.

I point all of this out to illustrate my point that it does do some good to report even the small infractions. People residing in the areas bordering Black Rock Road have been reporting violations of cars parked in “No Parking” zones for years, and this past summer neighbors on both sides of Black Rock Road aligned and had meetings, some that included the Montgomery County Police and Department of Natural Resources. During the summer the coordinated efforts by County police to monitor the parking, as well as DNR police, have yielded great results. Thanks to them and the Darnestown Civic Association’s team of Road Warriors, we have now gotten some recognition of the problem. In July, a press release was issued by Officer Tara Bond, MCPD, noting in part: “Please be aware that we will be enforcing the parking laws, which could result in your vehicle being issued a parking citation and/or towed if you are illegally parked in the future. One particular area of concern that we have received

multiple calls for service for parking violations and/or complaints is the Black Rock Mill.”

The full the press release can be found at <https://nextdoor.com/agency-detail/md/gaithersburg/montgomery-county-police-department/>.

We can all play a small part in keeping our neighborhoods and parks safe, so if you see something, please say something.

The Man Behind the Flags

From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Darnestown comes alive with U.S. flags adorning the center of town along Rt. 28 and through Spring Meadows Drive. A project originally led by Darnestown’s local Boy Scout troop for just Memorial Day and Labor Day, flying the red, white, and blue colors throughout the summer has now become an annual Darnestown tradition. While the DCA funds the flags, the real leader of the effort to make this happen each year is Tim Sanders, who took the reigns several years ago. And yes, that includes Tim scaling each telephone pole with a ladder to put up and take down each flag. We all take great pride in seeing our little town show its patriotism, and we thank you Tim for all of your hard work to make this happen.



Softball Update

Due to the Coronavirus, the 2020 Softball season has been cancelled. We hope to see everybody back healthy and ready for the new season in the spring of 2021.

Birthday Card Drive Update

By Anderson Harlor and Henry Scherer

Thank you, Haddonfield HOA, our neighborhood, and Darnestown for making our birthday card drive for foster and homeless kids a success. You donated over 400 cards, which will be divided up and sent to three different locations:

Comfort Cases: This organization provides foster children with comfort cases to hold their belongings. Thank you, Mr. Scheer, for offering to get these cards to local kids.

<https://www.comfortcases.org>

St. Jude's Ranch for Children: This foster agency works very hard to keep siblings together.

<https://stjudesranch.org>.



The Birthday Party Project: This organization provides birthday parties for homeless children. During the pandemic, they are sending birthday boxes because they can't go into shelters.

<https://www.thebirthdaypartyproject.org>

Thank you to all who donated. Because of your generosity, many kids will have a chance to feel special on their birthday.

HarvestShare

By Dara Ballow-Giffen

What's better than growing your own vegetables and fruit right in your backyard? Sharing your abundance!

HarvestShare provides an outlet for our over-productive backyard gardens and allows us to help fight food insecurity in our community. Produce can be brought to collection spots around the county and HarvestShare will match donations with organizations distributing food locally to those in need. The current health crisis has increased demands on food pantries. Together we can pool our donations and have a big impact.

The garden season isn't over yet! Fall is a great time to grow cool-loving crops like greens, radishes, chard,



Dara Ballow-Giffen and daughter, Kaia, collect donations from over-productive backyard gardens to help fight food insecurity in our community.

kale, broccoli and cabbage. Plant an extra row or two and donate to fight food insecurity in our county.

Produce, eggs and honey can be delivered to the Darnestown collection location (14805 Braemar Crescent Way) on Wednesdays and Sundays 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The full list of collection sites, dates, and recipient organizations can be found on <https://www.harvestsharemd.org/>.

Census Deadline

The U.S. Census Bureau announced in August that the deadline for filling out the census has been cut short by an entire month. The new deadline is **September 30, 2020**.

Along with being your civic duty, responding to the census has a larger community impact. Data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

If you have not filled out your Census form yet, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail. Go to montgomerycountymd.gov/census/ for more information.

Supporting our BIPOC* Neighbors and Friends: #blacklivesmatter Comes to Darnestown

By Sara Rouhi

The national reckoning on race and racism in American life has touched every corner of the United States including here in Darnestown. As BLM rallies have swelled across the country, residents from Darnestown, Gaithersburg, and Germantown came out for multiple family-friendly shows of support to our Black and POC (people of color) neighbors and friends.

These non-political, human rights-focused events were meant to raise awareness about systemic racism and to communicate support to our Black neighbors in light of the tremendous show of national unity since the murder of George Floyd earlier this year. (Full disclosure: I organized two events myself, but many have been organized by students, activists, and legislators around the region.)

While Darnestown is an affluent and predominantly white community, its demographics—like the country's—are changing. With more black, brown, and immigrant neighbors (like myself) either moving in or passing through, it's vital to show our support for them. This turbulent time in our history calls for public shows of unity with our neighbors.

I'm tremendously grateful to all who came out to support our BLM efforts—especially young families and kids. Not only are we supporting our neighbors, we're learning about first amendment rights to protest peace-

fully as well as inculcating anti-racism in our communities. I am so proud of the efforts of our residents to ensure this is an ongoing effort.

To find more resources for the community that might be of interest:

- Join the Darnestown Racial Justice Working Group on Facebook
- Follow Will Jawando's work the MoCo County Council: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/jawando/> and <https://www.facebook.com/Councilmemberjawando/>

To understand our area's own history of racism:

- Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission, specifically cases in Darnestown and Poolesville: <https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/>
- Maryland Lynching Memorial Project <https://www.mdlynchingmemorial.org/lynchings-in-maryland>

To learn about current legislative efforts to address systemic racism and police brutality:

- Law Enforcement Trust and Transparency Act: https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=23082&Dept=1
- Racism as a public health crisis: <https://www.wusa9.com/article/news/local/maryland/montgomery-county-declares-racism-public-health-crisis/65-34db8cf1-4b76-4de2-8c60-42ad02e33600>

Questions or comments? Contact Sara Rouhi at sitcloseandwatch@gmail.com or follow/DM her on Twitter at @RouhiRoo.

**Black Indigenous People of Color = BIPOC*



Darnestown families and friends show their support at the community BLM Support Picnic and Fundraiser at Darnestown Park.

2020 Presidential General Election Dates

Early Voting

Oct. 22–Oct. 29
8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Election Day

Nov. 3
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For voter information and links to register visit <https://www.elections.maryland.gov>

Engage

By DCA Roads Task Force

The Roads Task Force is engaging with the county and expects to begin discussions with the state soon. We generally introduce ourselves as “Vision Zero Darnestown, a project of the Darnestown Civic Association’s Roads Task Force. We are dedicated to eliminate vehicle-involved death and severe injury while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.”

We have worked with Montgomery Planning on their 2020 Growth Policy update, which looks at the adequacy of roads and schools related to new development, their Thrive 2050 General Plan, and their joint project with the county Department of Transportation called Complete Streets. We have given testimony on all three projects. We continue to build our working relationship with these departments and our county, state and federal elected officials. These relationships of course come with a need for us to act responsibly and professionally and we endeavor to continuously improve our capabilities.

Whether it be a long-range plan or the need for a sign repair we are prepared to try our best to make it happen.

We have begun an inventory of our approximately 118 streets including six rustic roads within our proper border and ten more just outside. Most of our roads do not have sidewalks, curbs, or shoulders. We are gathering current conditions and needed improvements including signs and pavement markings.

Darnestown has three traffic signals including the light at 28 and Riffle Ford Road. Although the light at the center of town (28 and 112) has been improved we have noted the need for additional improvements.

A sampling of issues we have weighed in on include neighborhood ingress and egress, the River and Seneca junction, the too high 45 m.p.h. speed limit on Seneca, overflow traffic from 270, an improved maintenance regime, and a more collaborative, context driven response from the state regarding our needs for MD-190, MD-112, MD-28, and MD-118.

The roads belong to all of us and we encourage you to be part of our efforts.

Email rff@darnestowncivic.org with questions, comments, concerns, and ideas.

Please slow down and always be courteous. If you are walking or biking, please wear highly visible accessories or vests.

(Not So) Social Update

By Stephanie Kunkle

Hi Neighbors! I hope we all made the best of Summer 2020. I know for my family it will be one to remember. We started the summer by participating in the Darnestown Memorial Day Virtual Walk. It was wonderful to see so many neighbors out and about that morning and uniting as a community. It was another example of how unique and special Darnestown is.



Unfortunately, due to the times, the DCA will be canceling the Darnestown 50th Annual Hoedown in October. The Hoedown is always a town favorite where friends and neighbors gather for dinner, drinks, and dancing. We will be rescheduling it for fall of 2021 so be sure to keep brushing up on your square dancing moves!

We continue to strive to bring new social events to the community. At time of press, we are finalizing the details for a farmers market on September 12th. Be sure to stay tuned and check for updates at www.darnestowncivic.org. As always, please contact me (social@darnestowncivic.org) with any suggestions or questions you may have regarding social events.

Ask Diana

Diana Foley answers questions about pet behavior and training

Q: *My dog is very aggressive to other dogs when he is on his leash. In our home, he is super friendly and sweet but when I walk him in our neighborhood or on the canal, he barks and growls, his hair stands up on his back and it is embarrassing! If a dog is passing, I can get him to sit and wait for the dog to go by to get a treat, but I'm not always able to do that. Do you know what could be causing this problem and is there a way to solve it? He is a mutt—part Blue Heeler and part Lab.*

A: Hi Kristin, thank you for your question. The behavior you describe is commonly referred to as “leash aggression” or “dog reactivity,” meaning a dog who displays threatening or aggressive behavior towards other dogs including barking, growling, or lunging. You are certainly not alone—this is one

of the most common behavior problems for which owners seek training, and a similar question was asked in a previous issue.

To address your first question, this behavior can be caused by under-socialization as a puppy, a traumatic experience, a genetic predisposition, or a combination of multiple factors. In many cases a dog can appear “fine” with other dogs as a puppy or adolescent, but the aggressive displays begin when the dog matures and his tolerance for novel things, like strange dogs, is lower. What’s most important to remember is that at its core the behavior is usually the result of fear. Your dog is extremely stressed by the presence of these other dogs and he is using threats to keep them away.

The treat technique you are using is an excellent starting point and I encourage you to meet with a professional trainer who can help you put a long-term training plan in place. (You can find a list of local trainers at yourdogsfriend.org) The good news is that there is always room for improvement, and a trainer can help you design a customized training plan that meets the needs of your dog and your lifestyle, and also provide some tips for safely managing the behavior in the meantime. (Many trainers are offering virtual consultations during the pandemic.) Unfortunately, there is no quick fix because you are not trying to teach your dog a new behavior (like “roll over”) but rather you are trying to change his emotional response. This requires practice and consistency over a period of time. If you’d like to read more about “dog reactivity” and effective training techniques to help your dog improve, I highly recommend the book *Feisty Fido: Help for the Leash-Reactive Dog* by Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. and Karen B. London, Ph.D.

Butler Montessori’s 50th Anniversary Virtual Celebration! October 10, 2020

We want to thank our Darnestown community for being part of our journey. Please join us for a virtual celebration to kick off our 50th year on October 10, 2020. We’d love for our Darnestown neighbors to join us. Learn more at www.Butler-School.org/community.

Despite Pandemic, “Pawsitive” Things Are Happening at Our Local Warrior Canine Connection—and the World is Watching

By Diana Foley

The world may be facing unprecedented challenges, but you wouldn’t know it watching a mama dog gently clean her newborn pups or a young litter of Labs at play. If you want to get your fix of tiny paws, round bellies and clumsy frolicking, you can have a virtual front row seat to a world-class service dog training program being run around the clock by a local non-profit.



Sisters Rowan and Briony Orrison-Jones watch a Lab and her puppies on the WCC “puppy cam” from their home in Darnestown.

Warrior Canine Connection (WCC) breeds and trains Golden and Labrador Retrievers as service dogs for wounded Veterans. WCC’s location in Boyds allows anyone a peek into some of their most important work—raising the pups who will become

service-dogs-in-training—via their “puppy cam” hosted on Explore.org. WCC says their puppy cam has always had a strong following, but viewership and binge-watching has skyrocketed during the Coronavirus pandemic. They’ve received notes from ICU nurses in Seattle and schools from across the country letting them know how uplifting the puppy cam has been during these stressful times. And the camera’s reach is global, with international views from Mexico, France, New Zealand and many more countries. The puppy footage runs live, 24 hours a day, with cameras showing their whelping room, puppy play room, outdoor play pen, and more. If you need an instant mood booster, you can watch WCC’s litters grow and blossom at <https://explore.org/livecams/warrior-canine-connection/puppy-whelping-room>.

You can also view WCC’s first ever virtual celebration on September 26th on the organization’s Facebook page, and watch the ceremonial “passing of the leash” of these highly-trained service dogs to the Veterans they are permanently paired with.

Molly's Virtual ASAP Walk & Roll and Auction 2020

By Molly Lichtenstein

This year, things for the walk will be different. We will not be able to walk at Bretton Woods, there will be no group pictures, and no live speeches. This year has been so tough on so many. But, there is still so much that I hope we are able to do! We are still able to SPREAD AWARENESS, RAISE FUNDS, and SUPPORT EACH OTHER! Things will be different for sure, but I hope you will join us



in the effort to spread awareness and raise funds for Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia, and related disorders. On September 19th, I will be walking in my neighborhood and I hope you will walk in yours! We will have a set-up on the corner of Wye Oak and Route 28 that will have all of our sponsors displayed, the 2020 walk t-shirts for people to safely pickup, and items for awareness. We will have an auction online that will run for the week of 9/12 - 9/19. Please reach out to me with any questions: Molly_Lichtenstein@asap.org and please take lots of pictures on walk day and post them on our virtual walk page! I hope to "see" you all on September 19th!

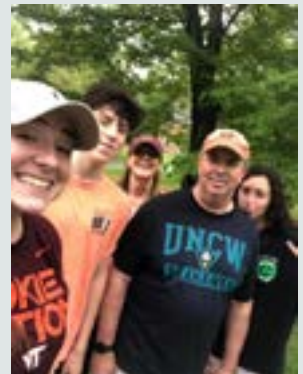
To register go to:

<https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?id=4810>

To donate go to:

https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?p=display&action=team_Page&id=6704

Darnestown Residents Seen Around Town Participating in the Darnestown Memorial Day Virtual Walk



DCA News & Notes

DCA Appoints Gretchen Brown as New Treasurer

Last month the DCA Executive Board welcomed Gretchen Brown as our new Treasurer. Gretchen has been a Darnestown resident for 13 years and brings more than 20 years of financial leadership experience at Marriott. We are thrilled to have her as part of the team and join the DCA Executive Board. Guy Armantrout, who had served as the DCA Treasurer for 13 years, stayed on well beyond his original plans as we searched for a replacement. Thank you, Guy, for your years of dedication to the DCA and Darnestown—we all owe you a big debt of gratitude!

Amber Colleran New Editor of *The Little Acorn*

Amber has been assisting the DCA for some time as a graphic artist with much of our new branding and has stepped up as our new editor, starting with this edition of *The Little Acorn*. Wonderful to have you join us Amber! Special thanks to outgoing editor Susan Allaway who has done an incredible job for the past two years following Susie Gooch's 5 years as editor. Susan will still continue on the Executive Board as DCA Secretary.

The DCA needs your Support!

Become a member!—the more members we have, the more impact we will have as an organization with the county and state governments. The funds support the publication of *The Little Acorn* and community-wide events. It's a bargain at \$35/year!

The best way to become a member is to register and pay online at darnestowncivic.org; the second best way is to register online and mail a check in, using the form at the back of the issue.

Thank you for your support!

Organizations



2020 Summer Is SAVED! We Made it Work!

By Aleks Schiff

Nothing has been easy in 2020, and planning anything has been a moving target. But our contingency planning paid off and we were able to save summer for our members!

Thanks to our wonderful directors, coaches and staff thinking creatively, and with all mandated safety measures in place, we are very pleased we have been able to offer the majority of our programs since mid-June:

- **Tennis & Pickleball Programs**, with camp, clinics, and lessons for kids and adults.
- **Swim Program**, with camp and private lessons.
- **Family Yoga**, outdoors on Tuesdays & Thursdays.
- **Pool Time**, with a reservation system.
- **Disc Golf Course**, easy and fun for the whole family!

We were even able to safely honor our **2020 Demon Swim Team Seniors**, even though the swim league season was canceled.

We couldn't have done it without the support and cooperation of our wonderful member community! So, check out our membership offers and come join us! We will continue to maximize all programming safely for our members throughout the rest of the season, so keep checking our website for the latest information! www.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)



Our 2020 Demon Seniors! Jake Noznesky, Annie Cress, Alex Edwing, Bailea Edwing, Matthew Eldridge, with Coach Pat Tozzi

Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Patrick Pamukcoglu
Troop 1094 Historian

Darnestown's Boy Scout Troop 1094 began 2020 with several great camp outs, troop events and community service outings. We started strong with more than 20



Klondike Derby

scouts and adults visiting Seven Springs Ski Resort in Champion, PA for our annual ski outing. Next, we gathered for the Klondike Derby at Little Bennett Campground where scouts competed with other troops in a skills

competition. Pictured is the Troop 1094 entry that took Second Place.

Our favorite outing of the year was our annual trip to a real hunting lodge located near Wardensville, WV, for a fun-filled winter outing that included rifle and shotgun shooting, archery, a variety of scouting skills (such as first-aid and wilderness survival), as well as plenty of free time to play cards and board games in the cabin. We all had a great time!



The Hunting Lodge

The troop managed to squeeze in one last outing in early March right before 'quarantine,' when we journeyed to historic downtown Philadelphia and toured



Liberty Bell

Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the National Constitution Center. After learning about the exciting beginnings of our nation's government, we headed across the Delaware River to the Battleship *New Jersey* located in Camden, NJ. The troop was able to explore the ship and spend the night in the bunks as the crew of the USS *New Jersey* once did!



Battleship New Jersey

Being a boy scout in Troop 1094 is not just about getting to see and experience new things as described above. The Boy Scouts of America also teaches young people to be good citizens, provide service to others, and trains them to become leaders in their community and beyond. Each year our troop conducts several community

service projects ranging from cleaning up the grounds of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church (our sponsoring organization), cleaning one of the nation's War Memorials in Washington DC, participating in Wreaths Across America, and organizing Eagle Scout projects to help the community. Eagle Scout is the highest achievement or rank attainable in the Boy Scouts and requires great determination and commitment. As such, only four percent of Scouts have earned this rank. Thus far in 2020, an impressive three members of Troop 1094 achieved the rank of Eagle Scout: Andrew Victory, Matthew Magnani, and Travis Mulford! One of the culminating milestones on the path to Eagle Scout is the Eagle Service Project, in which the scout plans, develops, and provides leadership to others in a service project that is helpful to the community, a school, or religious institution. The service projects of Troop 1094's new Eagle Scouts included refurbishing Jones Lane Elementary School's outdoor learning amphitheater, construction of a walking path at Seneca Creek Park, and a conservation landscaping project at Meadowside nature center. Andrew and Travis will be attending University of Colorado in Boulder this fall, while Matthew will head to Washington University.



Andrew Victory



Matthew Magnani



Travis Mulford

The outings and activities described above are only made possible with support of the Darnestown community, in part by participating in Troop 1094's annual hardwood mulch fundraiser. Although the troop was able to secure sales to a large number of members in the local community, we unfortunately could not deliver those orders due to the state-wide 'lock-down' to help slow the spread of COVID-19. We want to thank the people of Darnestown for their generosity and understanding during these unprecedented times, and for their continued support of our troop!

Lastly, Troop 1094 is open to youth in grades 6-12 and is always looking for new members (you don't have to be a present cub scout to join). If interested in learning more about Troop 1094, please contact Rosemary DeRose, Committee Chair at chair@troop1094.org.

School News

Butler Montessori: Ready for Fall!

By Miki Boulin

“Of all the years we have spent with Butler Montessori, each year has brought amazing growth. In that regard, this year will be no different.”

—Michelle, parent

Sun & Safety: This summer, we enjoyed having small groups of children back on campus! Not only did the children have a blast exploring our 22-acre campus, but we used this opportunity to implement safety protocols that will be used when we return in person.



Ready for Fall: Whether we come together in-person or virtually, we’ve created a safe, engaging learning environment tailored to our students’ individual interests and pace. We’re committed to supporting our students’ social, emotional, and academic needs on- and off-campus.

School doesn’t feel like school here! Our Middle School students not only run their own organic farm and micro-economy but also use math and science in building projects. Recently, students designed and constructed a fire-pit, learned how to split their own wood, and then built a fire using flint. #lifeskills

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

November 1, 2020

Email ideas, questions or articles to:
acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Elementary School

By Ashley Mostrom

Darnestown Elementary School might be virtual this fall but the staff is working hard to make sure the students and the school are as connected as ever. All classes will be participating in the One School, One Book program. The entire school will be reading the same book with his/her homeroom classes. Students will have the opportunity to share the literacy experience with not only students in their own classes but with other grade levels as well. On top of that, classes will be participating in weekly Community Circle activities to learn more about each other, ask questions of others, and explore topics relevant to the lives of students.

Finally, we would like to give a shout out to the students and staff of DES. This spring DES was recognized as a Maryland Green Ribbon School. This honor means that the students of Darnestown are committed to green practices in and out of school. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Magaha and SERT (School Energy and Recycling Team) for all of their efforts.

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Our preschool is open and thriving! We are taking every precaution to keep your child, your family and our teachers happy and healthy.

New for this year, we are excited to offer a Kindergarten program for children who turn five by September 1, 2020!

Our kindergarten program is designed to teach critical skills across all developmental domains using a play-based curriculum called

P.L.A.N. (Play, Learning, Arts, and Nature). The advantages of our kindergarten program include smaller class sizes, individualized attention, focus on the arts, and learning through play. To learn more about our amazing school, please contact us at 301-284-8144.



Seneca Academy

By Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School

What a year 2020 has been for Seneca Academy! We, like all local schools, closed our doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic in March and quickly moved to remote learning. The financial strain of this transition led our Board of Trustees to sadly announce the school's permanent closure in April; by May, however, our dedicated families had garnered enough support that we will now be open to serve students again in the fall! As a small school, we are uniquely positioned to offer an academically inspiring and developmentally appropriate preschool and elementary program with as much in-person learning as possible under public health guidelines. Come see how we preserve the wonder of childhood (whether in-person or virtually) even in these uncertain times!

Church News

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciorlito



Live-Streaming Sundays At 10:30

We continue live streaming our 10:30 a.m. Sunday service on YouTube and Facebook (just search for “Darnestown Presbyterian Church”). And while we can't yet welcome the general public, our renovated campus is complete! Contact Larry Ciorlito at Ciorlito@comcast.net or Kathy Kurkjian at kpk1@comcast.net to arrange a personal, socially distanced tour.

Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar

We are excited to announce a “Virtual Bazaar” this

fall! **Online bidding and ordering will be available October 24th through November 4th, with curbside pickup Saturday, November 7th.** You can bid online for Silent Auction items, order food “to go” (our famous frozen apple pies, prepared homemade soups), and you'll find homemade crafts at our new **online store**. We plan to have homemade baked goods available to buy on-site November 7th as well. All details will be at, <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

Introducing Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

By Zachary Kuehn



Hello Darnestown! GICF is an international English ministry located within Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church. The church was founded by David, Nancy, Jordan, and Melodie Wong in 1985, and the church property on Darnestown Road has hosted Mandarin, Cantonese, and English services since 1987.

GICF is part of the family of churches within the Christian and Missionary Alliance. GICF welcomes all members of our community. Our mission is to glorify God by connecting people to God and one another, growing as authentic followers of Jesus Christ, and impacting our community, both locally and globally. The church has been home to several youth and vacation bible programs in the past, sponsors missionaries abroad, and continues a range of online streaming services and prayer groups.

Please join us at www.gicf.church for Sunday online streaming worship at 11:30 a.m. We greatly look forward to connecting with you!

Business Directory

Looking for a local business? The generosity of these local businesses helps to pay for the printing and distribution of *The Little Acorn*. You can also access this listing on our website under the **Community Information** tab.

Allstate | Insurance & Financial Services

14100 Darnestown Road, Suite D, Darnestown
301-670-4150
larryakinde@allstate.com

Bretton Woods | Recreation Center

15700 River Rd, Darnestown
301-948-3357
bwrc.org

Brezovec and Associates

15120 Water Oak Dr, Darnestown
301-300-6279
michael.brezovec@gmail.com

Clark Tree Services | Tree Service

5 Finegan Ct., Darnestown
240-560-8733
daniel@clarktrees.com

Michael D. Fox | Real Estate

Compass Real Estate
14100 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-938-3148
mikefoxrealtor@gmail.com

Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry

14128 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
240-477-8251
mail@darnestownsmiles.com

Guardians Complete Land Care | Landscaping

14119 Seneca Road, Darnestown
240-328-5805
steve@guardianslandcare.com

McConnell Heating & A/C, Inc.

HVAC Installation and Service
14701 Poplar Hill Rd, Darnestown
301-537-8524
office@mcconnellhvac.com

Mercer Goods | Scott Vuocolo

15600 Indian Run Ct, Gaithersburg
609-647-6830
scott@mercergoods.com

Noahs' Preferred Properties | Real Estate

313 Main St, Kentlands
301-674-0990
jnoah@noahsproperties.com

Preferred Insurance Solutions

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

Smokey Glen Farm

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

Stiles Dentistry | Dentist

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

SwimLabs | Swim School

353 Muddy Branch Rd, Gaithersburg
240-801-4518
ddombay@swimlabs.com

Valerie Fuster | Realtor

Long and Foster, Inc.
10200 River Rd, Potomac
301-299-6000 office
301-980-3083 direct
Valerie@LNF.com

Valley Mill | Camp

15101 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-948-0220
evelyn@valleymill.com

Whitman

Summer Camp

14131 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-820-8008
whitmansummercamp@gmail.com

Windridge Vineyards Farm

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

Interested in joining this list?

Please use our online application form at
darnestowncivic.org.

Darnestown Schools, Organizations & Churches

Schools

Butler Montessori School

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

Circle School/Seneca Academy

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

Darnestown Elementary School

15030 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-548-4260

Jones Lane Elementary School

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

Lakelands Park Middle School

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

Mary of Nazareth School

14131 Seneca Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-0940
Maryofnazareth.org

Northwest High School

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

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Rd
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 Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
Darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

15004 Spring Meadows Dr
Darnestown, MD 20874
dsrclub.com
gm@dsrclub.com
301-330-1340

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

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

Fairhaven United Methodist Church

Rev. Kenneth Hawes
12801 Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-5433

Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

13101 Darnestown Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-869-8343
welcome@gicf.church

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Rev. Dr. Raymond L. Fecteau
14139 Seneca Rd
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
Olvp.org
parishoffice@olvp.org

Seneca Community Church

Rev. Kenneth N. Nelson
13900 Berryville Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-869-9326

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
Saintnicks.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 acorn@darnestowncivic.org before August 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. 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

Melissa Szwed (2004)
301-519-0645

Ashley Mostrom (2003)
240-277-8526

House/Pet Sitters

Jonas Skucas (2005)
301-525-2501

Darius Skucas (2002)
301-525-2728

Notary Services

Laura Bivans
301-977-4734

Tina Kalil
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane
301-990-299

The Little Acorn

Editor: Amber Colleran (acorn@darnestowncivic.org)
Publisher: Darnestown Civic Association
Proofreader: Sarah Scherer

Darnestown Civic Association

President:	Scott Mostrom (president@darnestowncivic.org)	Trustees:	Scott Damiecki (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Vice President:	Tim Mueller (vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org)		Paul Klee (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Treasurer:	Gretchen Brown (treasurer@darnestowncivic.org)		Tim Sanders (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Secretary:	Susan Allaway (secretary@darnestowncivic.org)		

Committee Chairs

Compliance:	Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)	Social Events:	Stephanie Kunkle (social@darnestowncivic.org)
Darnestown Village:	Chris Collins (village@darnestowncivic.org)	Softball:	Dave Bivans (softball@darnestowncivic.org)
Database:	Open (database@darnestowncivic.org)	Strategic Planning:	Tim Sanders (strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org)
Flag Program:	Tim Sanders (flag@darnestowncivic.org)	Website:	Ben Jamieson (website@darnestowncivic.org)
History:	Allan Luke (history@darnestowncivic.org)	Welcome:	Neil Agate (website@darnestowncivic.org)
Membership:	Elizabeth Weaver (membership@darnestowncivic.org)		Kendra Damiecki (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Safety Committee:	Dick Jurgena (safety@darnestowncivic.org)		Maya Miloski (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Seneca Forest Project:	James Wheeler (deer@darnestowncivic.org)	Zoning:	Tim Mueller (zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

DCA Membership Renewal / Application Form

Membership Category, please check one: Basic \$35 Friend \$50 Sponsor \$100 Acorn \$150

Please indicate how you would like to have your name(s) appear in the annual membership listing:
(if you leave the line blank we will use your first and last names, to opt out see below)

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Spouse/Partner First Name: _____ Spouse/Partner Last Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number(s): _____

1st E-mail Address: _____

2nd E-mail Address: _____

Make Check Payable to: **Darnestown Civic Association**
Mail to: **14132 Darnestown Road, Suite B**
Darnestown, MD 20874

The following section allows you to opt-out of having information related to your members published by the DCA. If you would like your information listed in *The Little Acorn* or in a DCA Directory you can skip this section.

The DCA publishes a list of our paid members in *The Little Acorn*, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

DO NOT publish my name in the Little Acorn membership listing.

The DCA occasionally publishes a directory for its membership, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

DO NOT publish my name and contact information in the DCA directory.

Emails are not published and only used to communicate DCA related information with our community.



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

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