



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 58 Number 1
March 2021

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom



If 2020 was like being stuck in an elevator and missing out on a great party, then 2021 is like waking up the next morning still stuck in that same elevator ... so

far anyway. I'm not here to bemoan 2020 though, or what we missed out on—hopefully we'll be out of the elevator soon. Instead, I look back and am reminded of that old adage, "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade."

Even the most jaded of us about 2020 have to admit it: we were forced to make lemonade in one way or another ... and yes, we enjoyed it. Even though it was often done out of necessity, we were forced to be creative, work around the obstacles, and with others make a positive out of a negative. And since most of us don't typically make lemonade—especially out of fresh lemons—we tried things for the very first time. It was probably too tart or too sweet at first, but the great thing about doing things for the first time is that thrill of trying it, challenging yourself ... and knowing there's only room for improvement.

In 2020 we saw evidence of this in Darnestown: honking cars lined up with screaming kids to wish their friend a happy birthday, parents learning what 'new math' really is, and families doing things together they'd never done. With our kids, we made our own family card game we play every night ... one that I have no doubt will soon captivate and sweep the nation.

Looking back at the DCA's year, we were handed a big fat lemon in the spring just like everyone else. Stephanie Kunkle, our new Social Chair at the time, had a whole new suite of social events planned that had to get put back into the closet. But we made lemonade with what we had and tried new things for the first time, which we take great pride in.

And no, the first time doing anything isn't perfect. Our farmers market couldn't get any local produce because of the timing, and our food truck canceled the morning of, but it was still great. We had about 25 local businesses and artisans able to showcase their talents to our town. When we couldn't have the Annual Tree Lighting in the center of town because of COVID, out of thin air Stephanie thought to bring Santa to the town.

Continued on 2

What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

March 18, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Meeting

www.darnestowncivic.org

April 18, 2021

Softball Opening Day

May 1, 2021

Deadline for next issue of *The Little Acorn*

acorn@darnestowncivic.org

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

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The planned 2-hour tour around town with the Santa caravan was actually a frigid 3 hours, but the kids waited and the neighborhood streets were lined. It was an incredible success. And a few days later, also for the first time, we had a Menorah and Menorah lighting ceremony within our Town Center.

We were forced to change how we operate. We began virtual Town Halls out of necessity and arguably drew more attendance than in-person meetings. That worked so well, in fact, that we used that platform for

topic-focused Town Halls on the coronavirus, racial equity, college admissions, virtual learning, and the County's School Resource Officer program. These are all things we'd never done before that, hopefully, will become a staple moving forward.

Despite the serious challenges that have come with the pandemic, we should all take a moment to appreciate our resiliency and creativity. For those of us with kids or grandkids, hopefully this will make them stronger. And as 2021 moves along, let's hope there's less need for us to make our own lemonade.

Community Update

Road Resources

By DCA Roads Task Force

The Roads Task Force has gathered a handy list of resources for our Darnestown residents. You can use these to request road-related services or to become involved in planning the future of our local roads.

County road requests:

- **Streetlights:**
https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Traffic/streetlight_maint.html
- **Traffic signals, signs, markings (email):**
mcdot.trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov
- You can also use the county's 311 system to call or go online and create a service request for most issues.

State road service request:

- https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customer/lookup?request_for_service

Pedestrian Master Plan:

The purpose of this plan is to enhance the pedestrian experience in Montgomery County. Walking should be a preferred means of travel. Walking should be comfortable, convenient, safe and direct. The plan will strengthen the existing culture of walking and expand it in the years ahead.

- <https://mcatlas.org/pedplan/>
- <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/#background>

Rustic Roads Master Plan:

The Rustic Roads Feedback Map provides an online platform for community members to give comments that will be useful to planners during the update to the Rustic Roads Functional Master Plan. Feedback is open-ended and includes: What physically, historically or culturally makes this road special or unique? Does this road feel safe? If not, where and why does it feel unsafe? What features of the road, roadside or its surrounding landscape should be preserved?

- <https://mcatlas.org/rusticroads/>
- <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/>

#WALKINGHERE:

- <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/pedestrian-master-plan-outreach/>

The online version of *The Little Acorn* is on the DCA website, in color, and the links in articles are live.

The Roads Task Force is always happy to hear from you; drop us a line anytime at rtf@darnestowncivic.org.

When driving, please stay alert, put the phone away, and slow down. Warmer weather is arriving and there will be many more bikers and pedestrians on our roads. And if you are walking or biking, stay safe! Please wear high visibility accessories. Be courteous and be sure you and your children understand who has the right-of-way in various situations. Be alert to those who do not honor rights-of-way and choose the safest course of action.

Darnestown Celebrates the Holidays!

By Stephanie Kunkle



Left: Santa driving through Darnestown on an antique firetruck

Above: Elf Mostrom and Mrs. Claus helped spread the holiday cheer

Right: Santa lit the holiday tree for the season



Even though many of us would like to forget the year 2020, the Darnestown community had other plans. We ended the year with a December to remember! Our community came out in full force and made the holidays extra special this year. On Sunday, December 6th, Santa made a special visit and traveled around town on an antique firetruck. He (along with Mrs. Claus and Elf Mostrom) were able to spread holiday joy and wave to hundreds of community members, both kids and adults alike. Santa's tour ended at our town Holiday tree in Darnestown Heritage Park where he threw his magic dust and lit the tree for the season.

A few days later on December 10th, the first night of Hanukkah, we lit Darnestown's very own 6 foot menorah. With the help of the Gross family, the first candle was lit and traditional blessings were recited over Facebook Live. The evening was the start of a new annual tradition in Darnestown.



The Gross family in front of Darnestown's 6 foot menorah at Darnestown Heritage Park

Why Do We Not Have Sewer Service?

“Help Create the Future of Darnestown”

Density. What is density and how do we enjoy low density? Density refers to people per square mile, space between dwelling units, and space between businesses. Traffic congestion is another hallmark of density. For our community, traffic congestion is primarily due to overflow traffic from the main highway and arterial roads nearby.

One of the main drivers of dense development is infrastructure. Specifically, sewer and roads. Our area has had a septic-only and two lane road policy since 1980. These policies keep our density low.

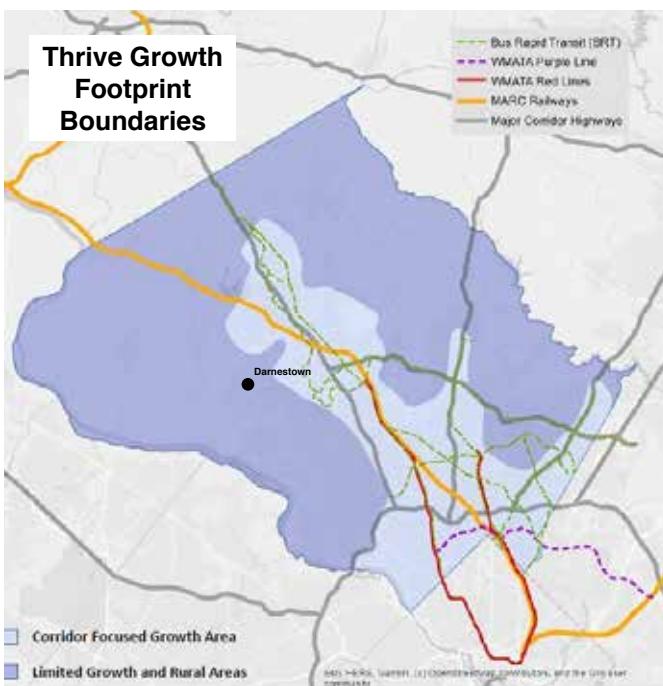
Once sewer and or roads are in place, eventually the pressure, driven by social, economic, and or political reasons, to develop higher densities becomes overwhelming, and wins out over the large lot zoning and other countervailing regulations and community preferences. Often one of the elements leads to the “logical inclusion of the other” and the area is overrun. A single large exemption can set precedent and become a foot-hold for future dense development endeavors. Containing the sewer service envelope and restricting road expansions are the primary means to preserving the consistently low density across the entirety of our community.

Darnestown residents enjoy open spaces, varied and ever present natural features, heritage sites, and personally experience a connection to the local ecosystem. Many of us think of Darnestown as an heirloom and

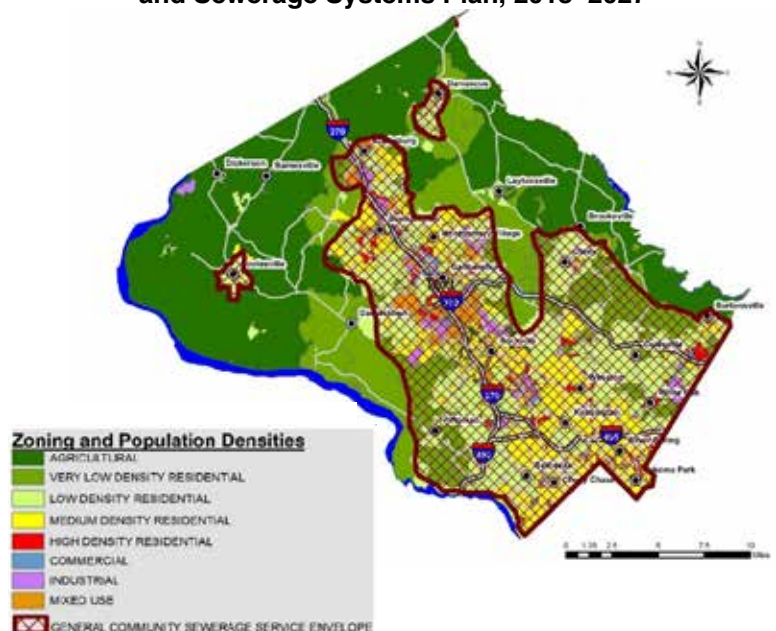
wish to leave it open, abundant, healthy, chock full of natural amenities and sustainable for the people who follow us.

In the maps below you can see how precarious our position is relative to the current envelope of provided sewer service. The fact that we are sandwiched by three regionally critical watersheds helps us protect our low density but also means we have responsibilities to protect the ecosystem around us. The DCA has begun an effort to describe how to go about meeting those responsibilities by drafting a creed around living in concert with nature, and invite you to contribute to the effort.

Rural living is resilient, healthy, equitable living in a sustainable, harmonious coexistence with the natural environment and heritage sites. Stewardship of all ecosystem components, especially regionally critical systemic components such as native plants, watersheds, groundwater and soils is the prime guiding factor in planning human activities in Rural Communities. Curation of heritage sites and their surrounds is an exceptional feature of Rural Communities. Open spaces, low levels of impervious surfaces, and low occupancy densities span the entirety of Rural Communities. Rural Communities strive for sufficiency in production and consumption of water, food, energy, and waste disposal, first and foremost with local resources.



Montgomery County Comprehensive Water Supply and Sewerage Systems Plan, 2018–2027



Septic and Wells in a Covid Age

By Art Slesinger

If you live in Darnestown, you most likely have a septic system and a private water well. During this unprecedented pandemic, you may be increasing your use of bleach and antibacterial products to ensure clothing and surfaces are clean. You may have concerns regarding the challenges the Covid virus presents to these water systems.

The good news is the normal use of bleach in laundry or for cleaning surfaces consumes much of the bleaching agent. You would have to use massive quantities to damage the microorganisms that live in your septic system. Any residual bleach will be consumed by surfaces or the septic tank itself. Remember the system has two parts—the tank and the leach field, with its many feet of porous piping. The tank serves both as a surge protector and settling basin. It is not well mixed so your residual bleach may just disturb a small layer of sewage in the tank. It is doubtful it would ever get into the leach field where bacteria and soil further degrade the organic material and filter our waste components. So just remember to have the tank pumped out every few years and don't put eggshells or coffee grounds into your system as they could block the flow through the porous piping.

If you have a septic tank, you probably have a well.

If your house is decades old, the well casing can rust and no longer fully protect the water in the well. The well has, besides the pump, two pieces of plumbing. The porous piece down the well, called the screen, allows the water to flow into the well and be pumped out. The casing starts at the surface and protects the well from communicating with rain water. When the well was drilled, the casing, which is tapered on the lower end, was pounded into the rock at the top of the aquifer. Your well, several hundred feet deep, is designed to take water from a deep aquifer that is NOT connected to the surface water. In fact, building codes prohibit a well from being completed in the surficial aquifer. Rain water gets many contaminants in it like raccoon scat, deer droppings, fertilizer and pesticides. You don't want that getting down the well. So find your well casing, which sticks out of the ground about a foot or two. If it looks bent or heavily rusted it may no longer be serving the purpose of isolating your well from the dangers of drinking surface water. A well driller can fix that problem. If you are not sure, have a sample of the water taken and analyzed. The report will tell you if the water meets the drinking water standards. If the well water contains a lot of chloride, it suggests that road salt, and hence other undesirable elements, may be getting into your water.

Darnestown Softball 2021!??

By Dave Bivans

It's early February as we go to press and the world continues to churn and suffer from the pandemic, but vaccines are now on their way (along with COVID-variants) to hopefully save us from work-from-home, endless virtual meetings, and social distancing and isolation. Unbelievably, and surprisingly, the county issued our permit for the season, with field use to start in April. For now, Opening Day for Darnestown's co-ed adult softball league is anticipated to be **Sunday, April 18th**. Of course, that can change and we will keep our coaches and players informed based on the safety and health guidelines in effect and our team's preferences.

If you're not on a team yet and would like to sign-on, please contact Dave Bivans at 301-977-4734 or dnlbivans34@verizon.net. Stay well, and until then, enjoy the snow!

DCA Virtual Town Meeting March 18, 2021 7:30pm

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

A Smarter Dog, A Healthier You: How Training Your Dog is Good for You Both

By Diana Foley, Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT-KA)

Many of us are in the midst of working overtime to take care of ourselves and our families, and if you're one of the many Darnestown residents who jumped on the "pandemic puppy" bandwagon, that may also include the added responsibilities of caring for your new four-legged family member. But whether your dog is a new addition to your household or a longtime companion, training your dog can be a great addition to a mental and physical wellness routine—it's not only good for your dog, it's also good for *you*!

Reduce Your Stress

When you think about stress relief, you may think of yoga, meditation, or those long-gone days at the spa, but research has shown that simply having a companion animal in your life can provide stress relief. Studies have indicated that having a dog (or cat, or even a rabbit) can lower blood pressure and reduce the heart rate, and that almost any form of physical activity can reduce stress by boosting feel-good endorphins, distracting you from daily worries, and lowering symptoms associated with depression and anxiety. Training your dog gets you up and moving, and mentally and physically engaging with your dog through exercise, play, or teaching a cool new trick is an excellent way to take some time out and remove yourself from life's daily stressors.

Focus on the Positive

Dog training not only exercises your dog's mind, but yours as well. Despite how the saying goes, you *can* teach a dog—young or old—a variety of new tricks or behaviors, and the concentration needed to time your treats and praise so that your dog understands exactly which behavior earned him the rewards requires you to stay focused, positive, and fully engaged with your dog during your training session. For the dog parent, research indicates that learning and practicing new skills is a way to keep your mind sharp, and training your dog is a skill that will require learning and practice for both you and your dog (not to mention, it can help you keep your mind and your fingertips away from "doom scrolling!").

Improve Your Physical Fitness

An important piece of the training process is expanding your dog's skills *outside* of your home—and we

can all use a little time outside the house these days. The perfect *sit/stay* you get in your living room won't happen at the park until you have practiced there. Teaching good leash manners means getting out for lots of walks in order to practice, which means getting outdoors and getting active. Dog sports such as Agility, Freestyle, Tracking, and many others also require a lot of physical activity on the part of dog owners, requiring us to get off our sofas and start moving!

Enjoy Safely-Distanced Socialization

Since, for safety reasons, much of our socializing these days is done outdoors, why not include our furry friends? Dogs that are socialized, especially from a young age, often have calmer and more polite behavior around strangers and other dogs. Many dogs aren't well-suited for the dog park or don't yet have the training or social skills for off-leash play. Meeting up with a friend or neighbor to regularly walk your dog with a buddy or even a group of dogs can encourage good leash manners and friendly dog-to-dog social skills—and you both get the benefits of exercise and social interaction.

If you want to explore an all-you-can-watch virtual buffet of tricks and behaviors to train your dog from the comfort and safety of your home, visit the YouTube Channel *Dog Training by Kikopup*. For more formalized dog training support, *Your Dog's Friend* in Rockville is offering online and in-person classes.

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. Membership dues 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, using the form in this issue.

Thank you for your support!



Where Summer Memories Are Made!

Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club is a private, member-owned community Club offering swim, tennis, full day camp, and social activities for all ages.

Our amenities include:

- Full-day nature, pool, and tennis camp
- Kids Tennis and Swim Teams
- Extensive individual and group tennis and swim lessons
- 16 acres of park-like surroundings, including an 18-hole Disc Golf Course
- 6 lighted tennis courts – newly resurfaced
- 4 lighted pickleball courts
- 25-meter pool with a diving well and 2 dedicated lap lanes
- Wading pool with gradual-entrance slope
- Playground and swings with rubber mulch for safety
- Family picnic pavilion, recreation area, and Snack Shack
- Social Events including: opening and closing day parties, adult tennis, adult and teen socials, movie/raft night, live music, school's out celebration, and new member social!

Visit www.dsclub.com for more information.



Visit our pool, tennis courts, & camp!

15004 Spring Meadows Dr. Darnestown, MD 20874 301.330.1340

Contact our GM, Dave Hardy GM@dsclub.com

www.dsclub.com



Participating in Your Darnestown Community— A Membership Reminder



Resident engagement is key to the identity of Darnestown that benefits us all. The combination of a broad-based membership, pooled financial resources and civic involvement provides the foundation for your community association's (DCA) many initiatives and activities. Please join your neighbors and fellow DCA volunteers by updating your membership in support of our community-wide interests and programs.

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

- *The Little Acorn*
- DCA Spring Social
- DCA Hoedown
- Farmer's Market
- Holiday Tree and Menorah Lightings
- Town Meetings
- Local hikes
- Email Alerts
- Town Sign Maintenance
- American Flag Program
- Holiday Flag Program
- DCA Website
- The Whole of Darnestown (WoD) Volunteer Program
- Advocating everyday issues that impact Darnestown
- School safety and boundary changes
- Road construction and traffic safety
- Utility reliability
- Village center development
- Zoning
- Public safety
- Cell towers
- Montgomery County Master Plan updates
- State and County trail network
- Deer population
- Agricultural Reserve
- Environmental issues
- DCA Contingency Legal Fund

Visit www.darnestowncivic.org to join or renew now!

Annual Dues are only \$35. Additional giving levels include \$50 'Friend of Darnestown,' \$100 'Sponsor,' \$150 'Acorn' Program. There is also a \$250 Business Membership category. All paid 2021 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.

The **easiest way to join/renew** is to go on-line at: <http://www.darnestowncivic.org>. This option assures that we accurately register your membership information. If you prefer to pay by check, simply fill out the form on page 15 of this issue and mail it to us with your check. Wonder if you have paid already for 2021? Look it up on the DCA webpage.

2021 Scholarship Opportunity

Calling all graduating high school seniors living in the DCA boundaries! The Darnestown Civic Association has two scholarship opportunities for you:

The DCA Scholarship, which supports an applicant who has demonstrated civic engagement.

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship, which supports an applicant who embodies all things Darnestown.

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA's mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. For scholarship details, application guidelines, and deadlines, check the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org.

Farmers and Artists Markets

Our first market was such a success we are planning more for 2021. Dates and times will be listed on the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org. We hope to see you there!

Darnestown's Little Free Library

By Mary Geis

Montgomery County Public Libraries remain closed but the Brookmead Little Free Library (14501 Brookmead Drive) book-sharing box is open for business! Readers of all ages are invited to take a book and leave a book. I am happy to share my obsessive love of reading with neighbors and friends. Read along with me on Instagram [@booknerdy.af](https://www.instagram.com/booknerdy.af).

Little Free Library is a nonprofit that builds community, inspires readers, and expands book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led little libraries. Through Little Free Library book exchanges, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. Learn more at <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>.



Organizations



Preparations for a Safe Summer of 2021 are Underway! Join us, Memberships Available

By Aleks Schiff

As we look toward an exciting summer season in 2021, we are working hard to put plans in place for a safe opening! Planning for the summer is almost complete, and we are hoping to have all our programming fully active—Summer Camp, Swim Team, Tennis and Pickleball, Yoga, and Social Events.

We are completing the resurfacing of both the main and baby pools with a new whitecoat in March and continue to prioritize other capital improvements for the Club.

Tennis & Pickleball are starting in the spring, and we are optimistic for a Spring Tournament, so stay tuned! Our **Social Events** team has some great events planned for all ages, and our **Demon Swim Team** is looking forward to getting in the pool this year.

We are very excited to announce we have a new Camp Director, Nicki White, who will kick off a



*Camp Director,
Nicki White*

fantastic **Camp GreenZone** with a lot of engaging programming for the kids. We also plan to bring back our popular **Yoga** classes.

Come join the fun—our member community is like no other! We are an active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, and social events throughout the year. Check out our current **membership pro-**

motions at www.dsclub.com.

Connect with us for the latest updates!

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

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

GM@dsclub.com

15004 Spring Meadows Drive,
Darnestown, MD 20874
301-330-1340

Organizations (continued)

Boy Scout Troop 1094 SPRING MULCH IS HERE!!!

To our past customers, THANK YOU for supporting our annual fundraiser, and for being so understanding last year when COVID rolled in.

For mulch customers old and new: even though snow is on the ground, it is that time of year... We are now taking orders for Spring 2021 Mulch. Delivery will be the weekend of March 20th, and \$2.50 of the price of each bag is tax deductible. Orders will be processed online this year, with payments through PayPal.

If your favorite Darnestown scout from Troop 1094 reaches out to you directly, he will supply you with a custom URL link to the ordering form. Alternatively,

use the link here and mention the name of the scout (if known) in the “special instructions” field, along with any delivery instructions: <https://scoutsales.org/?1338.76.329>.

With your support, we can continue to offer programs that teach youth in our community citizenship, leadership, and outdoor skills.

Our 2020 programs were cut back slightly, but we still managed several camping treks and multiple community service projects. We are pleased that 3 young men earned Eagle Scout in 2020, the highest award in Scouting.

Thank you for supporting your local Boy Scout Troop!

DarneBloomers Garden Club

By Lisa Ann Ruf

The DarneBloomers Garden Club is enjoying yet another successful year under the leadership of President Marie Stiles. Like many other groups in our country, we ZOOM’ed right into it. In September, we gathered together through technology to catch up, share thoughts and concerns, and of course, talk about gardening. Many members had started gardens and many members expanded their gardens with more vegetables into the modern day “Victory” gardens. As always, there was a lot of discussion about deer deterrents.

In October, there was a socially-distanced plant swap. The Fall is a superb time to divide your perennials, and share. Members set up tables in a neighborhood cul-de-sac and safely brought and took home plant specimens from other member’s gardens.



Longwood Gardens in December

The Club also participated in a hands-on project, where kits were delivered to participating members and The Good Earth Garden Market gave instruction

virtually. The Indoor Container Garden kit workshop was a resounding success. Members were able to enjoy their creations inside as the outside gardens started to hibernate.

One of the highlights of the year was a virtual lecture about the Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve. Claudia Kousoulas and Ellen Letourneau, who coauthored *Bread and Beauty*, spoke about the inception of the Reserve and the ongoing journey of the 93,000-acre expanse. Their book includes recipes, profiles, essays, and photographs tracing the Reserve’s history, but also touches on the contemporary challenges faced by family farms. It also profiles the shared community efforts required to preserve this special place.

The DarneBloomers Garden Club program lineup for 2021 includes a lecture about caring for your boxwoods by a boxwood expert, a lecture about the upcoming Cicada invasion and how to protect your landscape, and another socially-distanced lecture and kit for the Club’s version of Tulipmania.

If you are interested in visiting with us or becoming a member, please email us at Darnebloomers@gmail.com. You are welcome to visit our website at www.darnebloomers.com. Happy Gardening!

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Worship Status

Suffice it to say that the last year has not proceeded as we had planned. But as people of faith, we trust that God has a plan—even if it doesn't always align with our own! We still cannot welcome you for in-person worship, but we continue livestreaming our services (see below). We pray that we can soon welcome you face-to-face for worship and for other events. Please refer to our website for current updates.



Livestreaming Sundays At 10:30

We livestream services on YouTube and Facebook (search for “Darnestown Presbyterian Church,” and *subscribe!*). Here’s a link to our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=darnestown+presbyterian+church

If you would like a personal, socially distanced tour of our renovated campus, please contact Larry Ciolorito at Ciolorito@comcast.net or Kathy Kurkjian at kpk1@comcast.net. And please check our church website for updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church’s worship services continue to be livestreamed on St. Nicholas’ Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/SaintNicks>, and on Zoom, Sundays at 10:00-ish. We would love for you to worship with us. For more information email Rev. Beth at rector@saintnicks.com.

www.saintnicks.com

Schools

Butler Montessori

Serving Children Ages 2 to 16

www.ButlerSchool.org • (301) 977-6600



How do children learn to resolve conflicts?

Our Elementary children learn how to discuss and resolve issues with respect and kindness. It’s not uncommon for a student to invite a peer to the Peace Table to talk about a problem, listen, and come up with a

solution. Conflict resolution skills will serve them now and in the future!

What’s your plan for summer?

Butler Camp was amazing for my family! It was the perfect blend of fun outdoors while staying safe during the pandemic. I’m so grateful to your entire staff! We’ll be back next year for sure! —Erin C., 2020 Camp Parent

Imagine your child enjoying a summer of swimming, hiking, creeking, archery, fishing, and canoeing all in a safe, caring community. Keeping your child safe:
*Highly trained/certified counselors *Small groups
*Safety protocols *Masks/social distance a priority!

Butler Camp serves children ages 4½ to 16.

Darnestown promo: \$75 off one session with code **DARNESTOWN**. Valid through March 31. (Excludes Hodgepodge. Cannot be combined with other offers.) www.ButlerCamp.org

Schools (continued)

Darnestown Elementary School

By Vicki Mostrom

MCPS instruction may still be virtual, but everyone at Darnestown Elementary School continues to be Mustang Strong. The entire community is so proud of the staff, students, and families as we continue to learn and grow together. Though instruction looks different, learning is still happening every day. Students are meeting in virtual spaces to enjoy recess, evening story time, and collaborate on virtual projects. This is 21st century learning in action!

Looking ahead, the PTA is planning a Virtual Bingo Night and a Cultural Arts assembly for the spring. This will be a great opportunity to still enjoy our school traditions and bring the students and their families together for nights of fun. The entire school community is looking forward to warmer days when students may return safely to school.

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Did you know that Georgetown Hill will be offering kindergarten and first grade this fall? We know how many children are struggling with online learning, especially the youngest students. That is why we are excited to offer an in-person, private program that is accredited by MSDE. We offer small class sizes with enhanced health and safety measures. Before and Aftercare hours are offered on-site, as are summer, winter, and spring break camps. And of



course, we are enrolling for our twos, threes, and pre-kindergarten classes for the fall too. Our award-winning P.L.A.N. curriculum is a play-based curriculum that lays the groundwork for social, emotional, and learning success. For more information, please call 301-284-8144 or visit **Georgetownhill.com**.

Seneca Academy

By Dr. Michelle Parker

Seneca Academy is pleased to announce the expansion of our elementary program to include sixth grade for the 2021–2022 school year! The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (IB PYP) provides an excellent framework for sixth-grade students as they prepare to move from elementary to middle school. We are excited to see the amazing things our sixth graders will learn as a result, especially when they get to learn in person every day!

In other wonderful news, Seneca Academy, in partnership with Georgetown Hill, is bringing back its summer camp this year! Come join us on our 6.5-acre National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat for two-week learning and outdoor adventures all summer long. Get ready to learn, grow, and have fun with this incredible inquiry-based camp! Stay tuned to the Seneca Academy website for more details.

We continue to accept applications for our Preschool 3's, Prekindergarten 4's, and elementary programs for Kindergarten through Grade 6, and will begin to accept applications for our very popular Parent's Day Out for 2-year-olds on March 22. We anticipate all classes for next year to fill quickly so now is the time to join our village! Please visit **www.SenecaAcademy.org** for more information.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information References

In this unprecedented time, the DCA wants to make sure all of our residents have the resources they need, in terms of prevention, preparedness, and support. See our website at **darnestowncivic.org** for links to Montgomery County, State of Maryland and CDC websites, which offer a wide range of information and resources.

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

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

15004 Spring Meadows Dr.,
Darnestown
301.330.1340
GM@dsrclub.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

The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | Estate Planning Law Office

199 East Montgomery Ave, Suite 100
Rockville
301-315-0811
neiltyra@tyralawfirm.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 | Camp

14131 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-820-8008
whitmanssummercamp@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.

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

May 1, 2021

Email ideas, questions or articles to: acorn@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

The Little Acorn

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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. 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

Esther Clark (2007)
240-328-9842

Rachel Clark (2005)
240-618-5809

Jennifer Juhring (2004)
240-575-0009

Ashley Mostrom (2003)
240-277-8526

Melissa Szwed (2004)
301-519-0645

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
301-990-2993

DCA Membership Renewal/Application Form

Membership Category, please check one:

☐ Basic \$35 ☐ Friend \$50 ☐ Sponsor \$100 ☐ Acorn \$150 ☐ Business \$250

First Name _____ Last Name _____

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

Business Name _____

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)

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 RD
STE 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.



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14132B Darnestown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org
Website: darnestowncivic.org

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