



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 58 Number 3
September 2021

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom



In each issue of *The Little Acorn*, I'm fortunate to have this space to share some thoughts on Darnestown. I do my best to formulate something timely and relevant (and hopefully logical), but admit the theme is often just based on what's hitting me at the time. Sometimes it ties in with what the DCA's up to, but not always.

Recently I've been thinking a lot about the "community" that is Darnestown. Like most of you have undoubtedly experienced, there are moments—a scene, an event, maybe a conversation—where it hits you "this is what Darnestown's all about." I've had many of those and have heard neighbors share some of their own with me.

The inspiration to write about this started two months ago after a Darnestown Coed Softball League game. After spending a couple of hours with new and old friends on a hot afternoon, it was a milder Sunday evening by game's end. As we all filtered back to our cars, the sun was setting over the open fields, casting an orange glow on the American flags that waved gently on Darnestown

Continued on 2

DCA Virtual Town Meeting September 23, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

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

What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

Sept. 11, 2021 | 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Artist and Farmers Market

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

Sept. 12, 2021 | 11 a.m.

Picnic at Darnestown Presbyterian Church

See page 12 for details

Sept. 18, 2021 | 11 a.m.

**Molly's 7th Annual ASAP Walk
and Roll for a CURE!**

Bretton Woods Recreation Center

See page 9 for details

Sept. 23, 2021 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Hall Meeting

www.darnestowncivic.org

Oct. 8, 2021 | 6:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m.

50th Annual Hoedown

See page 6 for details

Oct. 23, 2021 | 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

GICF's First Community Yard Sale

See page 12 for details

Nov. 1, 2021

Deadline for next issue of *The Little Acorn*

acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 6, 2021

Darnestown Presbyterian Church Bazaar

See page 12 for details

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

President's Corner (continued)

Continued from 1

Road. Yes, I know that sounds cheesy, but standing there in the parking lot it struck me—this IS Darnestown.

Later in the summer I stopped in briefly at one of the Darnestown Swim Team meets. Chatting with a good friend, he shared that he thought the swim meet was quintessential Darnestown. Darnestown parents and kids all together, he argued, cheering on one another, and rallying for the hometown Demons. Having not been to a swim meet there since I was 14 and wearing a Demon speedo myself, I had to think about it for a moment from that perspective. Yeah, that's right, this is quintessential Darnestown.

So, I've been thinking about all of these great "this is what Darnestown's all about" moments that have impacted me—community gatherings, conversations with neighbors, my kid's Darnestown soccer teams—but had been struggling to pin it down, or at least how to express it. I knew the common denominator was people—friendliness, unity, support, etc.—but I still couldn't put my finger on it. Not until a couple of days ago, still struggling and already very late on submitting this to our editor, Amber Colleran. I like to use the expression "it's not procrastination, it's optimizing my opportunity for success." My wife's not the biggest fan of that and Amber's always very patient but I do think it applied here.

My youngest has been dealing with a health issue for over a year that hopefully is just an acute condition but it's taking some time. We've had incredible support from friends and neighbors throughout, and I recently reached out on the Darnestown Facebook page for some advice. I got some good help and there was one particular neighbor, who at the time I hadn't even met in person, offering to do some investigation and even did some research on his own. I ran into him at the Harris Teeter on Monday, the first time we've really had a discussion. He again offered his sincerest support and advice. A ten-minute conversation, a 'hang in there,' and it felt like I'd known him for years. And just after we spoke, standing there in the Harris Teeter aisle, it finally hit me. Caring. That's what I was trying to put my finger on. All of my Darnestown moments come back to that.

I'm fascinated to hear from other neighbors what your "this is what Darnestown's all about" moments are. If you'd like to share please just send to acorn@darnestowncivic.org, and we'd love to put it in the next Acorn. I'll even give up this space.

Other Ways the DCA is Working for You

Whole of Darnestown

Community volunteer and communication initiatives to support the wellbeing of Darnestown residents. For more details please visit <https://darnestowncivic.org/wod/>

Roads Task Force

The DCA has a group of volunteers dedicated to increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

DCA Scholarship Opportunities

The DCA offers two scholarship opportunities for high school seniors who reside in Darnestown: The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) Scholarship and The Bruce Deppa Scholarship program. To read about the 2021 scholarship recipients see [page 3](#). To read a submission from a 2021 recipient, see [page 4](#). For more details please visit darnestowncivic.org/dca-scholarship.

Community Events

Softball, Food Trucks, Farmers Markets and more. The DCA hosts community events in an effort to bring residents of Darnestown together. See [pages 3-6](#) for details on our latest community events.

All DCA efforts are supported by our members. To become a member, please visit darnestowncivic.org/memberships or use the form on [page 19](#).

The DCA is looking for a member to fill the Secretary position

Duties of the Secretary

- Attend, take notes, and prepare minutes of executive board and general meetings
- Prepare and email Action Items from executive board meetings

If you are interested in taking a more active role in the DCA, please contact dca@darnestowncivic.org.

Community Interest

2021 Scholarship Winners Announcement

By Stephanie Kunkle

The Darnestown Civic Association is excited and proud to announce the winners of the 2nd Annual DCA Scholarship and the 2nd Annual Bruce Deppa Scholarship. All applicants were graduating seniors within the DCA boundaries.

The DCA Scholarship which supports the applicant(s) who demonstrated civic engagement was awarded to Timothy Thomas and Ashley Mostrom. Tim graduated Northwest High School and is starting his freshman year at St. Mary's College of Maryland to study Economics. He will also be playing men's lacrosse for the Seahawks. Ashley is also a graduate of Northwest High School. She will be attending Vassar College where she is studying Behavioral Science and playing women's basketball.

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship which supports the applicant who embodies all things Darnestown was awarded to Heather Gross. Heather graduated Northwest High School and is starting her freshman year at the University of Maryland, where she is planning to study Biology.



Ashley Mostrom, Scott Mostrom, Timothy Thomas, and Heather Gross

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA's mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. Once again, the applicant pool proved that Darnestown's future is bright! Congratulations Tim, Ashley and Heather. The Darnestown community wishes you lots of success as you begin your new journey!

Brood X Invades Darnestown

As summer is closing, we look back at the Brood X invasion of 2021! They lived underground for 17 years and emerged in massive numbers. Neighborhoods like Ancient Oak, which has been around since the '60s saw large numbers as it was their third brood. Younger neighborhoods like Finnegan Farm saw smaller numbers as this was their first brood. But no matter how old the neighborhood, as you traveled through Darnestown, the evidence was there—Brood X was everywhere. Here's a look at Darnestown during the great cicada invasion of 2021.



The Little Acorn

By Heather Gross

For an acorn to become a tree it must fall, be planted, receive sun and water, and avoid becoming squirrel food.

An acorn is the youngest stage of an oak tree—a stage where potential is stored. For an acorn to make the leap to the ground it must be ready. Participating in Darnestown Elementary School’s Girl Scout troop helped me to prepare for my future leaps. From first to fifth grade I developed confidence through challenging myself in our many activities. One big challenge for me was to break through my shyness and my goal of leading my troop in cookie sales allowed me that success. At first, ringing my neighbors’ doorbells and approaching strangers at Giant seemed impossible but after some time, I realized that it was not as hard as I thought it would be. In fact, I learned to enjoy it. Not only did I end up selling the most boxes of cookies in my troop for three consecutive years, I also met people in my community and found that they loved our troop’s spirit more than they loved the cookies. On the ropes courses I was able to overcome my fear of falling and realize that no matter what happened I would be safe—the harness would catch me and I would be okay. Both of these activities allowed me to overcome obstacles in a safe, supportive environment.

After the jump into life, just like the acorn, I was inspired to lay my roots, sprout, and find my own way through life. While selling cookies I was able to make connections within my community to create

my foundation. Through meeting my neighbors, I was provided with opportunities for being a Mother’s Helper and I then earned the trust necessary to babysit. The roots of trust were established through these connections and after years of being on the swim team and guiding younger swimmers, working in the snack bar, and lifeguarding, I became a Lifeguard Manager. My leadership roles were developed as I was put in charge of other lifeguards, pool cleanliness, and the safety of patrons.

After gaining my confidence and my community’s trust, and learning how to handle responsibilities, I have grown, branched out, and influenced others. Volunteering with our local charity, Comfort Cases, has been a major part of my life for over six years. I have enjoyed leading packing parties and helping people in need. From being the first Bat Mitzvah to have her service project focus on Comfort Cases, to now, it has always been important to me to help others feel included. When my family was given the honor to help light Darnestown’s first Menorah for Hanukkah I was excited to be included and loved sharing our traditions with the Darnestown community.

Darnestown has helped me grow into an inclusive leader, community builder, and trustworthy neighbor. This community has been a perfect environment for me, like the little acorn, to grow, influence, and be ready for the next leap.

Softball Update

The DCA adult softball season has come to an end. There were five rainouts, three of which were in a row. Not the best support from Mother Nature! Here are the final standings:

TEAM	W	L	RF/RA	GB
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	7	0	2.741	----
Central Darnestown Swingers	3	4	1.044	4.0
Western Darnestown	2	5	0.726	5.0
Jones Lane	2	5	0.571	5.0

Thank you Robert McGuire for the photos from the softball games! You can view and purchase these pictures at <https://irishking.smugmug.com/Sports/Darnestown-Softball/>



Photos by Robert McGuire

DCA Spring Hike to Historic Black Rock Mill

Our 2nd quarterly hike in June took us from the parking lot on Darnestown Road by the bridge over Seneca Creek through the woods to the historic Black Rock Mill on the banks of the Seneca Creek. It is the best choice for a representative mill still in existence in Montgomery County. The hike was approximately 3.0 miles roundtrip on a gently rolling natural surface wooded trail.

Participants included Ann Satsangi (who helped lead the way), Jay Wallace, Ursula Kattner, Matt Quinn, Betty Loggia and her daughter Jackie, Matt Arnold and his son Jack and me. Everyone enjoyed the mask free experience!

We're planning our next hike to explore Seneca Creek State Park on the east side of Germantown Road spanning from near The Butler School over to Turkey Run Court and Haddonfield territory. The hike will be followed by a tailgate. Look for the email invite and DCA Facebook post in early fall.



Darnestown's Flag Program

There is a particular sense of pride and patriotism one feels when entering Darnestown between Memorial Day and Labor Day. On every pole from town center on Rt. 28 through Spring Meadows Dr., U.S. Flags are flying. The flag program—originally led by our local Boy Scout troop for just Memorial Day and Labor Day—has become a summer tradition in Darnestown. It is funded by the DCA, but the real hard work is accomplished by Tim Sanders who hangs the flags for our small town. This year, with the help of Katie Sanders, Darnestown was once again decorated with the red, white, and blue colors of our national flag. The next time you drive on Rt. 28 in the summer, take a look at all the beautiful flags lining the street! Thank you, Tim and Katie, for all your hard work to keep this summer tradition alive.

Twenty-Five

By DCA Roads Task Force

Thank you for responding to our survey. We'll be bringing you the results at the September Town Meeting and on the web. We appreciate your participation and invite you to let us know of issues and concerns as they occur.

As you have likely noticed, most of our neighborhood streets do not have sidewalks. Road safety professionals often talk about the three E's: Engineering, Education, and Enforcement. It takes twenty-two feet LONGER to react at 35 mph versus 25 mph and ANOTHER twenty-nine feet LONGER to stop. A total of fifty-one feet longer. Your peripheral awareness narrows by half at 35 mph vs. 25 mph. The numbers above are for better than average drivers paying complete attention.

The safe speed in our neighborhoods is 25 mph or under. No matter how difficult, time consuming, or useless as it might seem, the safe and comfortable speed is 25 mph or under. There is no privilege or entitlement to operate your vehicle at higher speeds. In fact, you have a responsibility to operate your vehicle at or below the posted speed limit. Safe speed gives you and everyone else time to safely react.

Speeding is always someone else's problem. Speeding is a big concern. We ask that you consider whether speeding is okay when you do it. Don't be the one to proclaim, "They are not even going the speed limit!"

We can make walking safer by reducing speeds. To reduce speeds, we can start by eliminating our own speeding.

* * * * *

Slow Down

Put the Phone Down

Be Courteous

Be Visible

* * * * *

Darnestown Civic Association

Proudly Presents



Darnestown's 50th Annual

HOEDOWN

Friday, October 8, 2021

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

SMOKEY GLEN FARM

Main Pavillion

16407 Riffle Ford Road

6:30-8:00

Dinner/Drinks

.....

8:00-9:30

Square Dancing

Featuring
Darnestown's
Favorite Caller
Mac McCall

.....

9:30-11:30

Live Music
(Donuts for Dinner)

TICKETS:

\$40/pp: DCA Member

\$50/pp: Non Member

FOOD:

Chicken ★ Ribs ★ Soup

Beans ★ Potato Salad

Salad Bar ★ Pies

ALL-INCLUSIVE

OPEN BAR:

Beer ★ Wine ★ Liquor

LIVE MUSIC



Visit DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG to purchase tickets.
Reservations must be made by Sept. 30, 2021. No tickets at the door.

DARNESTOWN

www.darnestowncivic.org

Fire Prevention

As we put the hot days of summer behind us and start thinking about cooler nights, many of us will relax around a warm fire in our homes, or enjoy an evening outside by a fire pit. But what happens if the fire you are enjoying becomes out of control? Are you prepared?

Understanding what you can do in the event of a fire is your first line of defense. The DCA was fortunate to have a very engaging fire safety presentation by Jim Resnick, retired Battalion Chief & Senior Outreach & Education Manager with the MCFRS Community Risk Reduction Team, at our March 18th town hall. For those who couldn't make it, you can still view it online by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rD-w9fVQQGfw>. The fire safety presentation begins at minute 19:30.

October is Fire Prevention Month. The goal of Fire Prevention Month (and week October 3rd–9th) is to raise fire safety awareness, and help ensure your home and family are protected. This year's national theme for Fire Prevention Month is "Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety" with a focus on working, in-date smoke and carbon monoxide alarms, and the different alerting (and life-saving) sounds they make. During this month, fire departments provide education to their communities, and encourage parents and loved ones to practice fire prevention and whole home safety.

Our local Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service has designed the following safety checklist to promote safety in your home. Please review these tips and eliminate any potential hazards in your home—it could just save your life.

1. Does your home have smoke alarms on each level? Do you test them monthly? A working smoke alarm doubles your chances of surviving a fire. Be sure to test your smoke alarms; every smoke alarm comes with a test button. MCFRS recommends that people test their smoke alarms at least once a month. Smoke alarm units should be replaced every eight to ten years according to manufacturer's instructions. Always test your smoke alarms immediately after returning from holiday or after a longer period of absence.

2. Does everyone know what to do in case of a fire? Create a home escape plan, plan two ways out of every room, choose a meeting place outside where everyone will gather after they've escaped to take attendance and practice your plan with a fire drill today. Make

sure that each escape route is as direct as possible.

3. Can we find you if we need to? Are your house numbers clearly visible from the street? Please provide 5 inch numbers with contrasting background. Seconds count in an emergency.

4. Smoke kills—many people don't know that smoke from a fire is a major cause of fire-related deaths. Instincts may prompt people to run to safety when they encounter smoke when crawling low under smoke is the best thing to do.

5. Cooking left unattended is the leading cause of home fires. Home-fire injuries often occur within the first 15 minutes of cooking.

6. Call 9-1-1 and do not try to extinguish the fire. A fire can double in size every 60 seconds and a delay in notifying 9-1-1 can cause further injury/death and property damage.

7. Smoking materials are the leading cause of fire deaths in the United States. If you must smoke, designate an area to smoke and use large non-tip ashtrays, soak cigarette butts and ashes before discarding. These fires typically start when someone abandoned or improperly disposed of smoking materials. Never smoke in bed, when sleepy/impaired or on medication that makes you drowsy.

8. Don't overload electrical outlets/circuits. Do not place cords under rugs. Replace any that are cracked, frayed or have loose connections.

9. Be vigilant when using candles. Keep candles away from anything that can burn and put them out when you leave the room or go to sleep. Over the past decade, the number of candle fires has almost tripled.

10. Do you give space heaters space? Keep fixed and portable space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn and follow all manufacturer instructions.

11. Do you put ashes from your fireplace or wood stove in a metal container for proper disposal? Leftover ashes and embers can start fires long after the intended fire has gone out. Properly dispose of ashes in a metal container with a lid—never in a cardboard box, plastic trash can or bag. Store the container outside away from your house/combustible material and never in the garage.

Continued on 8

Continued from 7

12. Residential fire sprinklers save lives and property. Sprinklers contain/control fires. Although smoke alarms are essential in every household, they're designed to detect, not control, a fire. Consider the tax benefits when retrofitting your home with residential fire sprinklers.

Some additional fire and safety information can be

found at the following link:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/citizens/index.html>

And for information about the use of fire pits, fire bowls, and chimineas go to

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DPS/Resources/Files/FPCC/outdoorfire.pdf>

Kids On Bicycles

By Caraline Hickman

Robb Hampton grew up riding his bike along the tree lined streets of Darnestown. Whether playing with neighborhood friends, or mountain biking through the woods, Robb's fondest childhood memories included biking. As he grew older, that love of biking only grew. What started as an easy way to explore the world around him expanded to include competing in road and mountain bike races and commuting to work daily.

When the lockdown in 2020 hit, Hampton found himself unemployed with a lot of extra time on his hands. He knew he wanted to do something positive for his community. At the same time, Hampton began to notice that similarly, many of his neighborhood kids were at odds with nothing to do.

Then, during a discussion with Ridgeview PTSA President, Jess Bellerez about food inequity in local communities, an idea suddenly struck Hampton.

Bellerez told Hampton how there are many kids with access to food, either through school or other sources, but a lack of consistent transportation prevented them from regularly accessing those critical resources.

"I instantly saw the opportunity to help provide consistent transportation for those kids, while also providing a productive source of recreation and fun for kids in need. Even though there is a national bike shortage, I was convinced that by repairing and repurposing donated bikes that many households have laying around, we could make a big impact." Hampton said. He saw a chance for the community to step up and help support vulnerable kids.

And so, Kids on Bicycles was established.

What initially began as a chance to give free bikes to a handful of kids, quickly grew as word spread that he was providing refurbished bikes for free, and the num-



ber of eager recipients grew longer and longer.

Hampton quickly saw the need for reliable transportation for lower income students was greater than he realized, and adjusted his scope accordingly.

Now, this local Darnestown boy wants to make sure that every kid in America has access to the reliable transportation that a bike provides.

How can you help? Tax deductible donations of money and bikes are the lifeblood of Kids On Bicycles. Easily make a tax deductible donation at <https://www.kidsonbicycles.com/>.

Molly's 7th Annual ASAP Walk and Roll for a Cure

Hello! My name is Molly Lichtenstein, I am 28 years old and have lived in Darnestown since I have been three years old. I am now a kindergarten teacher for Montgomery County, at Woodfield Elementary School! In previous years, I would have stated that I suffer from Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and many related disorders. But, I think it is time that I change my tune. But, let me back up a bit!

Chiari Malformation is a serious neurological disorder where the bottom part of the brain, the cerebellum, descends out of the skull and crowds the spinal cord, putting pressure on both the brain and spine, and disrupting the normal flow of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF); also known as Arnold-Chiari, ACM, ACM I, ACM II, CM.

Due to the displacement of the cerebellum and the disruption of spinal fluid flow there is a condition known as Syringomyelia, a serious neurological disorder where a fluid-filled cyst, known as a syrinx, develops inside the spinal cord, stretching the cord and damaging nerve tissue.

When I was sixteen years old I was diagnosed with Chiari Malformation and Syringomyelia after a soccer injury that would not heal. My life as I knew it stopped and I was forced to rethink EVERYTHING about how I lived and what my goals were. But, like I said before I am changing my tune on how I look at things. I GOT to rethink my life. How many people get that opportunity? Not only did I get to rethink things, but I really learned some hard lessons on what is important: FAMILY, Friends, God and Faith are on the top of my list.

My life has been taken and flipped upside down... several different times... but through it all I have learned some very important things!

1. NEVER STOP FIGHTING FOR ANSWERS AND A CURE!

Molly's 7th Annual ASAP Walk and Roll for a CURE!

September 18th, 2021

Bretton Woods Recreation Center

15700 River Rd.

Germantown, Md. 20874

- Registration at 10 a.m.
- Walk at 11 a.m.

2. Family and Friends are KEY in getting through EVERYTHING!!!

3. Don't sweat the small things... ENJOY EVERY MOMENT!!!

ASAP is the American Syringomyelia and Chiari Alliance Project and was founded in 1988 by Barbara and Don White. ASAP began as a grass roots organization in the White's spare bedroom due to the frustration they encountered when Barbara was diagnosed with Chiari malformation and syringomyelia.

Thank you all for your support!

See you in September!

Molly Lichtenstein

Molly_lichtenstein@asap.org

240-483-2395

Registration link: <https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?p=register>

Donation link: <https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?p=sponsor&participantid=87430>



HarvestShare

By Dara Ballow-Giffen

HarvestShare helps people share the bounty of their backyard gardens with families struggling with food security.

HarvestShare matches collection sites with local food assistance providers so families benefit from the generosity of people and gardens close to home. In 2020, HarvestShare's Darnestown collection site amassed over 200 pounds of delicious and nutritious produce we shared with food insecure families through the Upcounty Hub, So What Else, and Gaithersburg Help. Across the county, HarvestShare collected over 8800 pounds of produce! As of early August, Darnestown has collected 108 pounds of produce to share with our larger community.



Kaia Giffen helps to collect donations for HarvestShare.

HarvestShare has offered monthly gardening education talks the first Wednesday of the month. Talks on topics like improving your summer garden, pest control, and planning your fall are recorded and posted on our site. Check the website to register for future classes or join our mailing list at <https://mailchi.mp/harvestsharemd/harvestshare-signup>.

I am proud to be part of a community that shares so much with our community! Help us donate more in 2021 than we did in 2020 by donating fresh produce from your garden, your CSA share, or farmers market to the Darnestown collection site at 14805 Braemar Crescent Way on Sundays 10-2 or check <https://harvestsharemd.org/collection-sites/> for the full list of collection locations.



Meet Our New Business Member

At Real Computer Solutions, We Stay True to Our Word

Ashot "Vinni" Mirzaian, M.C.P., GSEC, CM-ITI, President

Real Computer Solutions offers a plethora of services in the IT field that are customized and tailored to the client. Whether you are building out a new space and need help setting up the network infrastructure, your agency is looking to update its current network requirements, or your Wi-Fi is spotty in your home, learn how Real Computer Solutions (RCS) can help you figure out the perfect solution to fit your needs!

Our team is full of IT professionals that not only have a great design eye but know exactly how to solve problems on the fly. Pivoting to continue setting up a network due to complications with space requirements is something we do all the time. We are very flexible

when it comes to adjusting our game plan to make our client happy and save them time.

We partner with the best in the business and are certified in the best IT solutions to help with any project, network set up or managed IT solution for your home, business, or government agency! With over 25 years of experience, we have learned how to quickly design the best solution for our client all while providing a seamless process with great customer service.

"Like Us" on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/RealComputerSolutions>

DCA 2021 Membership

Additional DCA Members

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

BUSINESS (\$250)

Capital Medical Partners
Real Computer Solutions, Inc.
Dennis & Marie Stiles,
Stiles Dentistry

ACORN (\$150)

Ashod & Maryna Mirzaiaans
Craig & Michelle Rathbone
Fran & Joe Rothenberg
Kevin Ricci
Mark & Stephanie Gustavson
Seneca Academy

SPONSOR (\$100)

Beth & Elihu Zimet
Chris & Sheila Thomas
David & Janet Buchanan
Katie & Russell Johnson
Mark & Lindsey Roschewski
Matt Suissa & Bryan Catalano

FRIEND (\$50)

Anil & Rati Shukla
Bettye Wolfe

Cathleen Cherry-Mann
Chris Boguean & Andrea Pohl
David & Holly Parker
David & Sharon Ann Queen
Denise & Gabe Chang
Doug & Mitzi Harlor
Geoffrey & Betsy Clasper
Gross Family
Jack & Linda Knowles
Jack & Peggy Hart
Jay Wallace & Ursula Kattner
Jon & Lauren Mullen
Joseph & Carmen DiPietro
Joseph & Carrie McIntyre
Katherine Dodson
Lydia Schindler
Lynn Meister
Martyna Fox
Mary & Jimmy Rill
Michael & Laurie Romanoff
Peter & Summer Hardinge
Peter Johnson & Andi Dennison
Ruta & Tomas Skucas
Sam & Kathleen Coriell
Tommy & Elizabeth Gladnick
Vicki & Jay Wheeler
Victor & Marya Gomez

BASIC (\$35)

Atarod & Azarnouch Modjtabai
Aubrey Bursch & Jonathan McIntyre

Barbara & Greg Linteris
Betty & Tom Loggia
Chris & Elizabeth Miller
David & Caitlin Rogers
David & Lemmietta McNeilly
David & Lisa Ruf
Ed & Christina Scopin
Edward & Kathy Wall
Elizabeth Coskun
Eric & Gwendolyn Vitale
Giffen
Heineman Family
Jenn & Kraig Bauer
John & Lisa Cohen
Kathy Alexander & Leo Eskin
Martha & Vincent Drake
Nadia & Larry Skiscim
Nick & Myrtis Brame
Pamela Powers & Clay Hough
Paris & Courtney Capalupo
Peri Schuyler
Peter & Veronica Tunon
SangHee Jeong & Mattia Bonsignori
Scott Tompkins & Rhonda Yates
Smith Family
Steve & Jennifer Moss
Ted & Stewart Johnson-Scott
Tom & Laura Tran
Tom & Tassej Mariana
William Halpern & Naomi Weiss



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.

Visit www.darnestowncivic.org or mail the form below 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*.

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church



You're Invited to Our September 12th Picnic! After our 9:30 a.m. outdoor worship service (at which you are welcome), your whole family is invited to our child-friendly picnic starting at 11 a.m. The picnic will be mainly outdoors, and will feature plenty of food, games, and festivities. No need to RSVP or bring anything—just come and enjoy a real family outing.

You're Invited To Our November 6th Bazaar! We're planning for this year's Bazaar to be bigger and better than ever, as construction now is complete and the worst of Covid seems behind us. We'll feature crafts, jewelry, books, baked goods, auction items and more, plus a hot lunch in our cafe. Come enjoy this Darnestown institution!

In-Person Worship and Live-Streaming Each Sunday. We continue in-person worship in compliance with safety protocols, and simultaneously live-stream on YouTube and Facebook (search for "Darnestown Presbyterian Church," and subscribe!). Please check our church website for worship times and other updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

By Zachary Kuehn

Hello Darnestown! The Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship (GICF) has reopened for in-person church services! Please join us in person or online at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays at the Gaithersburg Chinese Alliance Church located at 13101 Darnestown Road, or virtually at www.gicf.church. Our Fellowship will



Please join us for GICF's first ever

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

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GAITHERSBURG, MD 20878

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- SELLERS SELL AND KEEP PROFIT
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RAIN OR SHINE

For more info, contact: yardsale@gicf.church

be celebrating our 2nd anniversary on October 3rd after rebranding our English-speaking congregation to be more inclusive of the international diversity prevalent in our Darnestown community.

To celebrate and demonstrate our church's commitment to service, we started a community garden in mid-April which has produced over 160 lbs. of fresh produce as of July 30th! We've donated our harvest to "Gaithersburg CARES Hub" who delivers food and essential health items to families in need right here in Gaithersburg. If you're interested in giving back to the community, come volunteer in our garden! We can provide SSL hours for those that need them! Although the growing season is halfway done, we still have several 4' x 8' plots open and available for gardeners out there. We provide a drip irrigation system and bi-weekly fertilizing. We hope to provide even more plots next season!

We've almost finished remodeling our Community Center and will be inviting you to participate in activ-

Churches (continued)

ities and classes we host or use our facility for your own small group activities. Our free “Conversational English” classes will begin again for the Fall semester. Stay tuned for more information on everything!

Please join us for a service and learn more about the ways our church is growing this year! More information can always be found on our website www.gicf.church; and if you have any questions about the Community Garden, Community Center, or our Church Fellowship, please email us at welcome@gicf.church.

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church



Our Lady of the Visitation Parish is happy to welcome our new pastor, Father Greg Shaffer! Our founding pastor, the Rev. Raymond L. Fecteau has retired after

a 30 year effort to establish a Catholic Church in Darnestown. Fr. Greg has been assigned to take us to the next level and to grow us into a vibrant and active Catholic community. As we pick up the pieces after the pandemic, we WELCOME BACK all practicing Catholics and strongly encourage all new members of the community to come check us out. Mass will be celebrated after Labor Day on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m., on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and at 11:00 a.m. and on Sunday nights at 5:00 p.m. Many new activities are being planned so be sure to visit www.olvp.org to stay informed.

14135 Seneca Road, Darnestown, MD 20874
www.olvp.org
301-948-5536

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church is worshipping indoors and via livestream on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. We are asking everyone to wear a mask to protect young children when indoors. Sunday School for PreK, K and 1st thru 5th grade begins on Sunday, September 12th. Sunday School meets during the worship service. Additional Christian formation and study groups will be listed on the church’s website: www.saintnicks.com. Everyone is welcome!

Schools

Summer = Learning & Laughter @ Butler Montessori

Summer Preschool (ages 3–6)

From biology-themed hikes to multiplication practice using Montessori beads, our Summer Primary students enjoyed learning AND having fun this summer. This combination of exploration and education creates the perfect balance, consistency, and support our young children need to thrive and grow.

Summer Elementary (ages 6-12)

Our new Summer Elementary, part of our year-round

schooling options, sold out in less than a day! Why? It offered students and parents exactly what they wanted: engaging academics and fun adventures. Students visited blueberry farms and hiked to waterfalls all while learning biology, geology, math, literature, local history, and more!

“My child loved summer elementary. We loved that she had a lot of fun and also kept up her academic skills over the summer.” —Summer Elementary Parent

Butler Camp (ages 4-16)

Another campstastic season full of nature adventures and serious fun! Thanks to our wonderful families and

Schools (continued)

counselors for filling our campus with love, laughter, and learning.

“My child came home happy—and exhausted—every day! From exploring in the woods and creek to the pool to the fun games, there was always a fun, interactive activity for her to engage in. Plus she made some new friends!” —Jean, camp parent



Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

The new school year is underway and we are very glad to be back at school! Our preschool program is Maryland State Department of Education accredited. We use a PLAN based curriculum, meaning that we focus on Playing, Learning, the Arts, and Nurturing. This fall, our twos and threes will be learning about our families, our community and school routines. Our science focus will be on weather, rocks and geology, our five senses, the changing of seasons and all things fall! Our PreK



will be learning about our community, habitats and our healthy bodies. Kindergarten will be learning about Maryland, the Chesapeake Bay and helping others.

At GHES, we take every precaution to make sure that our children, families, and staff are safe and healthy. We have a few spots available in our twos and threes classes so please contact us at 301-284-8144 for more information and to schedule a tour.

Darnestown Elementary School

By Austin Gottlieb

Darnestown Elementary School was very excited to have all students return to 5 day a week, in person learning! We are also welcoming Mrs. DaSilva as the new assistant school administrator. We were able to hold Kindergarten Orientation, Open House, and Back to School Night all in person this year.

Darnestown Elementary is participating in the One School One Book program where every classroom will read the same book. There will be a kick-off event in September to reveal the book. Our annual Back-To-School picnic will be held on September 10th to start the school year with some fun! We are looking forward to supporting our sister school, Gaithersburg Elementary, throughout the year. Be sure to be on the lookout for PTA events, fundraisers, and community service opportunities during the school year. We are looking forward to an awesome 2021-2022 school year!

Northwest High School Lacrosse Team

By Nadia Skiscim

We are incredibly proud of the Northwest High School Lacrosse team for winning their first-ever lacrosse Region Championship by beating Quince Orchard High 15-9. By winning the regional championship, this team qualified for the Maryland state lacrosse playoffs making the Maryland state 4A quarterfinal game. This 2021 team made it further in the playoffs than any previous NWHS lacrosse team.

There were several Darnestown players on the team: Max Esposito, Noah Gies, Corey Gross, Tyler Her-

Schools (continued)

rman, Charlie Thomas, Tim Thomas, John Michael Wallmark, Chase Wilson, and coach Larry Skiscim.

This was a stand-out year with several players receiving post-season awards: First-team all-division and first-team All-County: John Michael Wallmark (defense/faceoff). First-team all-division: Max Esposito (attack) and Tim Thomas (midfield). Second-team all-division: Noah Gies (defense) and Charlie Thomas (attack).

Congratulations to the 2021 Northwest High School lacrosse team and to these Darnestown boys!



Northwest High School lacrosse team



Charlie Thomas, NW Principal Jimmy D'Andrea, Corey Gross, Chase Wilson, and Tim Thomas

Seneca Academy

By Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School

As we look ahead to a new school year, we take a moment to reflect on 2020-2021. So many things looked different at Seneca Academy as we learned safely in-person last school year: full-time mask-wearing, frequent hand-washing, daily health screenings, desk shields, and lots of open windows, among other mitigation and safety measures. But even in the midst of these changes, so much remained the same. Our students and faculty worked together to embody the International Baccalaureate Learner Profile, to pursue knowledge and compassion, to learn and play, to gather and grow. Our parents used the virtual world to form a community and to organize fun-filled events for our students like our STEAM Fair, game nights, story times, dance parties, and spirit days, all while being steadfastly committed to keeping each other safe. There could not have been a better example of what it looks like to successfully preserve the wonder of childhood!

Now that we look ahead to 2021-2022, we continue our commitment to safely learning in-person. We are thrilled that we will be welcoming even more families to the Seneca Academy “village” as we expand to add 6th Grade! It is not too late to join our amazing learning community! Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through 6th Grade. Call the office at 301-869-3728 or email info@senecaacademy.org to inquire about class availability and to schedule an info-sharing session!

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!

Organizations



Summer 2021, What A Year!! Swim, Tennis, Camp, Memberships

By Dave Hardy

After so much winter uncertainty, COVID numbers plummeted just in time for a safe and full reopening of the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club on Memorial Day weekend! And what a year it was. Read below for some highlights and things to look forward to as we already begin thinking about and preparing for the 2022 season!

With brand new LED lighting all around the Club you could see the difference a year made with no COVID restrictions in place and membership way up! We had more than 75 new families join DSRC this year and we still have room for a few more as we head into 2022! We are approaching our cap of 450 families. If you want to join, act soon, and don't miss out!

Tennis & Pickleball had a great season and will con-

tinue well into the fall with programming for children, adults, advanced players, and amateurs. Come join the fun!

Demon Swim Team had an amazing season going 4-1 in F division and getting 2nd at Divisionals. We look forward to 2022 and have moved up two divisions! Camp GreenZone reached their capacity and have been creating summer memories not soon to be forgotten. An all-day camp hosted completely at DSRC; Camp GreenZone provides fun for all ages! And our Social Events have been amazing with live music on the pool deck, adult social crab feast, sip and paint event, teen night, movie and raft night; so much fun and a fall chili cook-off still to come!

Come join the fun—our member community is like no other! We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, and social events throughout the year. Check out our current membership information and details on all our programming at www.dsclub.com.

Connect with us for the latest updates!

Facebook: [@DarnestownSwimRacquetClub](https://www.facebook.com/DarnestownSwimRacquetClub)
Instagram: [@DSRCclub](https://www.instagram.com/DSRCclub)
GM@dsclub.com
301-330-1340

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.

6-Twelve | Convenient Mart
14100 Darnestown Rd
301-990-1700
6-12beerwinemart@gmail.com

Allstate | Insurance & Financial Services
14100 Darnestown Road, Suite D,
Darnestown
301-670-4150
larryakinde@allstate.com

Billet Collins | Decorative Painting
14130 Esworthy Road, Darnestown
info@billetcollins.com

Bretton Woods | Recreation Center
15700 River Road, Darnestown
301-948-3357
bwrc.org

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

Capital Medical Partners | Medical Office Primary Care
Drs. Douglas and Faith Frankel
1684 East Gude Drive, Rockville
301-217-9222
<https://www.capitalmedicalpartners.com>

Clark Tree Services | Tree Service
5 Finegan Ct, Darnestown
240-560-8733
daniel@clarktrees.com

Business Directory (continued)

Michael D. Fox | *Real Estate*

Compass Real Estate
14100 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
mikefoxrealtor@gmail.com

Darnestown Shell | *Gas,*

Convenience, Auto Repairs
14020 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
darnestownshell@gmail.com

**Darnestown Smiles | *Family
Dentistry***

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

Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club

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

**Guardians Complete Land Care |
*Landscape and Tree Care***

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

Jose Carbajal | *Lawn &*

Landscaping, Tree removal,
Snow removal, Fire wood
14111 Esworthy Rd, Darnestown
jose.lawnandlandscaping@gmail.com

**McConnell Heating & A/C, Inc. |
*HVAC Installation and Service***

14701 Poplar Hill Rd, Darnestown
301-537-8524
office@mcconnellhvac.com

**Mercer Goods | *Watches and Leather
Goods***

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

**Noahs' Preferred Properties | *Real
Estate Management***

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

ohDEER|

14856 Poplar Hill Rd, Darnestown
mocomd@oh-deer.com

**Preferred Insurance Solutions, LLC |
*Auto, Home and Business Insurance***

20030 Century Blvd, Suite 201,
Germantown
301-428-3344
ins@preferredinsurancesolutions.com

Real Computer Solutions, Inc. |

IT and Technology Support
1 Research Court, Suite 450, Rockville
301-330-REAL (7325)
<https://www.realcomputersolutions.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 | *Swim
School***

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

The Surrey Inc.

14120 Darnestown Road, Darnestown
301-299-8225
thesurreyinc@aol.com

**The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | *Estate
Planning Law Office***

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

United Service Specialists

7559 Rickenbacker Dr, Gaithersburg
dispatch@calluss.com

Valerie Fuster | *Realtor*

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

Valley Mill Camp

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

Whitman Summer Camp | *Camp*

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

Windridge Vineyards

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:

November 1, 2021

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

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

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

Father Greg Shaffer
14139 Seneca Rd
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
Olv.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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Maya Miloski (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Melissa Mostrom (welcome@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 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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