

THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 58 Number 4
December 2021

President's Corner



"Protect the quality of life in Darnestown and its environs

- *Advocate with the county government on issues of importance to Darnestown*
- *Participate in and influence development of long-term planning"*

This comes from the very top of the DCA's Mission Statement and is the reason you have heard us talk so much about Thrive Montgomery 2050. We've been advocating informally and presenting formal testimony on behalf of Darnestown for the past two years and last month reached out to you, our residents, to help as well. We have a full article around that effort in this edition but I want to address a few basic questions that may still be top of mind to many residents: What is Thrive, why is it important, and could it really have an impact on Darnestown?

Thrive Montgomery 2050 is a revision of the county's General Plan—a strategic growth plan—that lays out a vision for development for the next 30 years. It's intended to focus how and where growth should occur to accomplish a myriad of long-term objectives. In itself, Thrive doesn't change zoning, doesn't change roads, and doesn't change what's permitted on properties. Not directly, anyway.

However, Thrive is important because it's the guide that detailed Master Plans are intended to follow. Master Plans are where specific zoning and permissible uses, among other things, get defined. Darnestown is part of the Potomac Sub-Region Master Plan, a 20-year plan last done in 2003. We anticipate this will come up for revision shortly following Thrive's final approval by the County Council.

Could Thrive Really Have an Impact on Darnestown? Yes. Very

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What's Happening in Darnestown

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

Dec. 9 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Meeting

Details and a link to the meeting can be found at www.darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 20-Dec. 24

Santa Mailbox at Heritage Park

See page 4 for details

Dec. 18 | 6:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m.

Drive-In Movie

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish holiday drive-in movie featuring Elf (see page 15)

January 17–31, 2022

Butler Camp Registration

See page 14 for details

Jan. 30, 2022 | 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's Open House

See page 14 for details

Feb 1, 2022

Deadline for next issue of *The Little Acorn*
acorn@darnestowncivic.org

DCA Virtual Town Meeting December 9, 2021 | 7:30pm

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

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simply, if there are cracks in the Thrive language that expose Darnestown to unwanted growth and development then there's an opportunity for that to be taken advantage of in the future. We have heard things to the effect of "well that's not the intent," "Darnestown's not where growth is focused," and "Thrive is just visionary language and shouldn't be interpreted too literally." But we need to remember a few things. We have no control over how intent and vague language in Thrive will be interpreted and leveraged by policy makers in 2 years, 10 years, or 20 years. And we certainly know that development pressures on Darnestown and surrounding low-density areas will only intensify with time.

So, what do we do? The DCA works with the Planning Board, the County Council, and other agencies at every step in their planning processes. For Thrive, we're trying to reduce the cracks and get more precise language to our advantage so that we have more to stand

on when it comes time for the Master Plan. When the Master Plan revision does come, it's all hands on deck to influence a plan that preserves our character yet provides the improvements our residents need and want (one of the most important reason we did the recent Roads Survey). And popping up throughout we are monitoring and testifying on one-off special exceptions and zoning text amendments that can alter or undermine the integrity of the current Master Plan. And we're not alone—we've developed a strong alliance with neighboring civic and upcounty associations to bolster our collective voices.

The DCA's approach to "participate in and influence development of long-term planning" is to work collaboratively with our elected officials and policy makers. That doesn't mean we won't push and push hard, and when needed, ask our residents to do the same. We may be small in number to the other areas of the county but Darnestown has developed a strong voice. To those of you who joined that voice, thank you. We will continue to need it.

Community Updates

The Results Are In!

By the Roads Task Force • rtf@darnestowncivic.org

From June 6, 2021 to Sept 6, 2021 a survey was open to all residents of Darnestown published by the Roads Task Force, who are a group of volunteers that have been around since 2019 working on both near term improvements and long lead time ideas.

The Roads Task Force wanted to get feedback from residents and start the community conversation about the future of Darnestown. So outreach was made with posts on DCA's Website, Facebook groups and Instagram. Emails were sent from the DCA and Task Force members spread the word face to face at DSRC events.

The core of our assessment was to obtain an inventory of existing opinions that might help draw residents together to work towards common goals. The survey results give insight into what resident views are on the condition of roads, safety, mobility, comfort, amenities, and values.

Based on this survey, it is clear our residents care deep-

ly about this community and are excited about creating the future of Darnestown.

Topping the results were the Town's safety concerns, including speeding, a need for safe and comfortable walking and biking, a lack of connected sidewalks, unsafe crossing locations, and a few dangerous intersections for driving.

96% of the 439 respondents indicated that they live in Darnestown. Almost all respondents drive in the area, and nearly 70% walk in the neighborhoods at least three times a week.

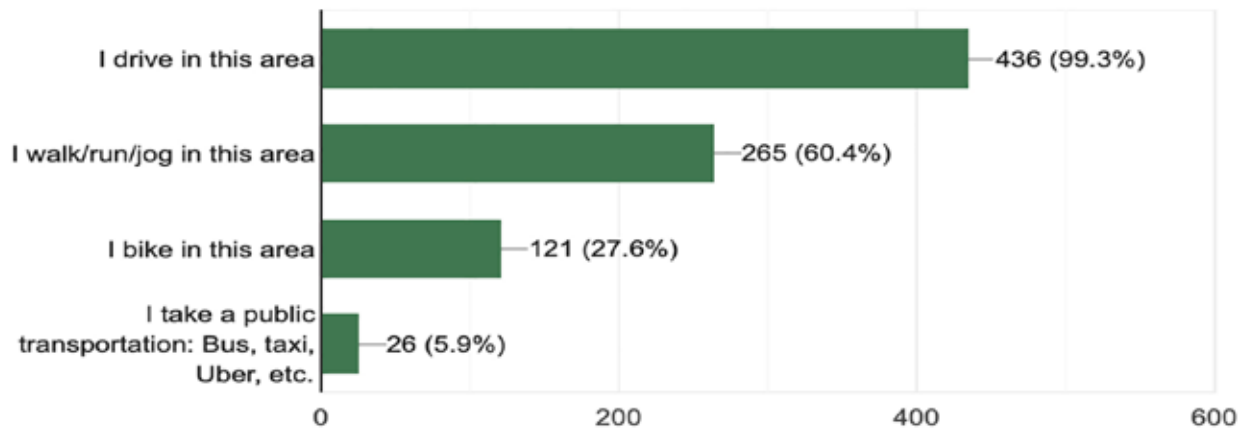
For roads within neighborhoods, top concerns mentioned were: Speeders, not walk friendly, needs more sidewalks, blind spots, and cracked road surfaces. The desired future experience is: Walkable, safe, bike friendly, smoother, slower and calm.

For major roads, top concerns mentioned were: Not

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2. Which travel modes do you use often in this area?

439 responses



Continued from 2

walk friendly, speeders, busy, bike traffic, and hard to turn onto. The desired future experience is: Safe, bike friendly, walkable, slower, and clear markers.

When asked: “Would you want to add bike lanes or bike shoulders on major bike routes (State roads)?” 88% answered yes.

When asked: “Would you want to improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and road condition on major commuting roads (State roads)?” 87% answered yes.

When asked: “Do you want to improve the intersection at Darnestown Rd & Turkey Foot Rd?” 84% answered Yes.

When asked: “Do you want to improve the intersection at Darnestown Rd & Jones Ln?” 75% answered Yes.

When asked: “Do you want to improve the intersection at Seneca Rd & River Rd?” 74% answered Yes.

When asked: “Do you want to improve the intersection of Seneca Rd & Esworthy Rd?” 71% answered Yes.

When asked: “Do you want to improve the intersection at Darnestown Rd & Seneca Rd?” 70% answered Yes.

When asked: Do you want to improve the intersection at Darnestown Rd & Germantown Rd? 61% answered Yes.

Clearly the residents in Darnestown would like the intersections and on roads in their community to be safer for drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists.

But it is also clear that residents want Darnestown to remain rural. When asked “Which of the following best describe your desire for our commercial and civic core?” 39.6% answered a “Rural Community—a comfortable walkable and bikeable defined low-density area of commercial and civic buildings, schools, places of worship, and recreational areas, with a 1 mile radius core.” 25.1% answered a “Village,” 19.8% answered “Rural,” and 15.5% want no big changes.

When looking to the future, 52% of residents expect to telecommute more than they used to.

When asked: Should we consider the impacts of climate change when planning roads? 81% said yes, noting concerns of storm water run-off, erosion, drainage, and protecting native plant and tree species.

The survey also asked what retail would be preferred: a coffee shop, eating, and drinking establishments topped the list of desired new commercial businesses.

Seasonal street banners and seasonal landscaping were among the highest ranked items for amenities.

Thank you to the 439 residents of Darnestown who submitted answers to the Roads Task Force survey!

You can find the full survey results at <https://darnestowncivic.org/rtfsurvey>

PLEASE

Slow Down • Put the Phone Down
Be Courteous • Be Visible

Thrive Update

This November, in just a matter of three days, approximately one in every seven adults living in Darnestown went on the record with the County Council on the issue of Darnestown being a named center of activity in the proposed Montgomery County Thrive 2050 plan.

The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) has been studying, researching, and discussing Thrive issues since October 2019. On July 8, 2021, the DCA proposed four Thrive adjustments, one being to Remove Darnestown from the list of “Villages and Neighborhood Centers” on page 20 of the proposed new general plan (see below for a link to the full Thrive plan draft).

The letter writing campaign the DCA initiated was due to not being able to get this adjustment completed during the council committee deliberations. The campaign was followed by a letter on November 19, 2021 from the DCA to the entire council reiterating why we think it is inappropriate for Darnestown to be a named center of activity.

The DCA wanted to be sure all nine council members heard directly from residents. And did they ever! As *The Little Acorn* goes to press, Darnestown residents have written more than 4,800 letters to our County Council.

We are thankful to be part of such a wonderful community who care so deeply. Our geography, sparse population, unmatched density of natural and heritage areas, and our nurturing residents make our community so very special.

Next steps include being sure our adjustments and rationale are familiar to all nine council members, other influential policy-makers, and working to gain their support.

The DCA hosts a ninety minute meeting every three months and Thrive has been a topic at most, if not every meeting for the last two years. Informing residents and connecting them with policymakers is a core mission of the DCA.

We urge anyone who wants to be involved to reach out to the DCA at strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org. Volunteer skill sets and time on task are constraining factors in how much work the DCA can accomplish, and we can always use more help.

For Darnestown specific information on Thrive and a link to the letter writing campaign, go to <https://darnestowncivic.org>

The full Thrive plan draft can be viewed online at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/Resources/Files/2021/PHED-CommitteeDraftThrive2050.pdf>

For more detailed information on Thrive, you can visit the plan resources page: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/thrive-montgomery-2050-resources/>

DCA News

The Darnestown Civic Association is very excited to welcome **Matt Quinn** as both the new DCA Secretary AND the new Safety Committee Chair. Matt has worked with the DCA as part of the Safety Committee for a few years, but we are excited to have him take the lead on these important roles!

A special thank you to **Stephanie Kunkle** and **Scott Plumer** for all your hard work for the DCA.

Stephanie’s relentless quest to bring community together has brought us year-round activities for all of Darnestown to enjoy.

Scott has worked diligently to inform the DCA on Thrive updates and to connect us with members of the community who can help Darnestown. We appreciate all he has done to bring awareness and knowledge to allow the DCA to be at the forefront of this important initiative.

Santa Mailbox

Darnestown now has our very own Santa Mailbox for the holidays! The mailbox is in Heritage Park (next to Harris Teeter) and will be accepting letters until Dec. 24th.



2nd Annual Menorah Lighting

The first candle of the Darnestown Menorah was lit on Sunday evening November 28th kicking off eight nights and days of Hanukkah. The Palanker family lit the first candle after reading traditional blessings in both English and Hebrew. The event was viewed on Facebook Live and supported by a handful of neighbors in person. Happy Hanukkah to all of our wonderful Jewish friends and neighbors!



Safety Committee Update

By CDR Richard (Dick) Jurgena, USN, Ret.

This will be my last submission of an article for the Safety Committee. Matt Quin has agreed to take over the job and I believe he is an outstanding candidate. His prior experience in law enforcement, and his newly accepted position as Secretary on the DCA Board give him a better perspective of the problems facing Darnestown. I will continue to serve on and support the Safety Committee.

I urge you to keep your cars locked and your drive-way lights on at night. There are three things that

discourage thieves: lights, dogs, and nosy neighbors.

Don't go out and confront the thieves. The chances they are armed are too great. Tracking devices on your vehicle can be very helpful to police in finding your vehicle before the chop shop destroys it but tracking your vehicle down yourself is not a good idea. The people who run chop shops make a lot of money selling your car parts and they will not treat you kindly. Call the Police and let them handle it.

More from the Safety Committee

By Matt Quinn

Over the past few months at least four neighborhoods in Darnestown (Ancient Oak South, Plainfield Lane, and developments off Turkey Foot Rd.) have reported groups of individuals stealing cars and valuables from garages. They've been typically hitting a specific street roughly between the hours of 3:00 and 5:00 a.m. We are not aware of any home invasions beyond the garage or any confrontations with homeowners in these encounters.

This is part of a pattern of criminal activity across Montgomery County and while an arrest has recently been made (for similar activity outside of Darnestown), we don't know if this spree is over.

We encourage all our residents to do what they

can to deter and remain safe:

- Lock your cars
- Lock garages
- Don't leave personal or valuable possessions or garage door openers in your car
- Turn on your outside lights at night
- **DO NOT** confront ... simply call 911 if you see or suspect anything

Please email safety@darnestowncivic.org if there are any non-emergency questions with which the DCA can assist. We also encourage you to provide us information on any situations that could help benefit the greater community.

See Something, Hear Something--Say Something! (By calling 9-1-1 or non-emergency 301-279-8000)

By Safety Committee Chair

The primary mission of the Darnestown Civic Association's Safety Committee is to work in partnership with both the community and the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), with the objective of identifying and resolving issues that impact public safety.

The Committee's ultimate goal is to improve the quality of life for ALL who live and work in Darnestown.

During ongoing discussions with our District's Community Services Officer (DCSO), we are apprised of criminal activity occurring in and around Darnestown. In addition to emphasizing the importance of being proactive, the DCSO repeatedly emphasizes the importance of timely reporting ALL incidents of crime.

We, in Darnestown, have been recognized by the police community for our commitment to being proactive while preventing criminal activity, along with our persistence in reporting crimes in real time.

In furtherance of this vitally important partnership, DCA and its Safety Committee strongly encourages your continued vigilance in identifying and reporting ALL crime related occurrences in the following manner:

1. Timely notify MCPD, via 911, regarding a crime

in progress or any situation YOU believe to be an emergency crime related matter, **OR;**

2. Timely notify MCPD, via 301-279-8000, of those situations YOU believe to be a non-emergency crime related matter, **AND;**
3. Timely inform DCA's Safety Committee, via **safety@darnestowncivic.org**, of ALL (Emergency and non-emergency) crime related matters reported to MCPD. Please include your contact information, which will permit a DCA Safety Committee member to contact you, if further information is needed. With your cooperation, we will realize our objective of enhancing the quality of life for ALL who live and work in Darnestown.

Thank you for your support in this vitally important initiative and please do not hesitate to contact DCA , YOUR community civic organization.

<https://darnestowncivic.org/leadership-committees/safety@darnestowncivic.org>

Montgomery County Police Department website:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/index.html>

Hiking at Butler Montessori

Come hike the trails beyond our campus using this free app **AllTrails.com** There are several mapped routes for various levels of difficulty. If the campus is closed, or if you may be late returning, please park along the driveway so you don't get locked in. You are welcome to hike the campus, but please respect that all buildings are off-limits and you are accepting liability for yourself and anyone joining you. There is a port-a-potty down by the indoor arena should you need a bathroom.

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

Butler Montessori
15951 Germantown Road
www.ButlerSchool.org
301-977-6600

Darnestown Veterans Honored, Recognized and Thanked

By Stephanie Kunkle

On November 11th, the Darnestown Civic Association and the Darnestown Presbyterian Church co-hosted a breakfast for all Darnestown Veterans and their families. The breakfast was sponsored by Operation Second Chance (www.operationsecondchance.org), a non-profit organization supporting Veterans and their families. This was a new tradition in Darnestown and it turned out bigger and better than anyone could have imagined. With more than 50 people in attendance, veterans were honored, recognized and thanked. Sheila Thomas was one of our attendees and later wrote on social media, "I was not expecting to get teary eyed at breakfast. Each Veteran introduced themselves, some regaling us with stories of where they served and what their service meant to them. It was a room of amazing, selfless people who answered a call to serve and to protect. One person more honorable than the next." Thank you Darnestown Veterans for your service and sacrifice. Darnestown is a special place and you have a lot to do with that.



A Route 28 Christmas

In October, the ministers of five churches that line Darnestown Road came together to discuss something that no one could recall ever having been done before: delivering a united Christmas message to the communities stretching from the Kentlands-Lakelands through Darnestown. While there are distinct differences in doctrine, the birth and mission of Jesus Christ is the cornerstone of each of the faiths. Not surprisingly therefore, what proved to be the final piece to link the churches together this Christmas is a remarkable 1,100 set collection of nativities that form the “Raines Collection.”

The Raines Collection came together over the life of Sam and Carol Raines. Sam’s service in the U.S. military took the couple all over the world and introduced them to artists of nativities in almost every country they visited. Over their 52 years of marriage they collected and received as gifts many unique and interesting nativities. In 2021 the couple decided to part with their collection, and just before it was almost sold to a museum, it was acquired by a family in Darnestown, MD with the promise that they would share the collection with their community.

While seeking a way to fulfill that promise, the family and the ministers found each other. Then, the ministers again found common ground while brainstorming a name for the collaborative Christmas effort. They noted that each of their church buildings lay on or about the same stretch of Maryland Route 28, and just like that, “A Route 28 Christmas” was born. The first program has yet to take place and already other churches are inquiring about participating in 2022. This year’s



Route 28 Christmas may be the first of what becomes a Darnestown tradition. If so, there can be no better community tradition than one that promotes faith, hope, charity and selfless acts of community service.

Four of the churches were able to accommodate the displays of nativities, which have been divided by coordinators from each participating church. Each church was considerate of the others in program scheduling, and there is virtually no overlap in the delivery of their Christmas programs. The community is free to visit each individual church and attend their Christmas open house, pot-luck dinner, or formal program. Families may also choose to simply walk through the nativity displays, admire the cultural differences in how the nativities are made, and return home without attending a service. Regardless, the message of Christmas—that of peace and goodwill to all—resonates through our communities this Christmas through the ministers who were inspired to work together to make this celebration possible. Information on the schedules and programs of each church can be found at Route28Christmas.com.



Santa Visits Darnestown

By Stephanie Kunkle

For the second year in a row, Santa made a visit to Darnestown. For nearly 3 hours, neighbor Scott Stone drove his fire engine around town with Santa aboard. Kids and adults alike gathered along the streets with signs and cheers. Elf Mostrom and Mrs. Claus preceded Santa and distributed hundreds of candy canes to all who were waiting for the man of the hour. Later that evening, Santa used his magic dust and lit the Darnestown Christmas tree for the season. Special thanks to Mike Moses for enchanting all of us with a train he set up in the park as well. Merry Christmas Darnestown!



A Look Back at Fall in Darnestown

DCA Fall Hike on the Seneca Bluff Trail

By Pam Dubois

Our 3rd quarterly hike in September took us from the parking lot on Montevideo Road heading north across Seneca Creek towards Darnestown Road. The hike was over 3.0 miles roundtrip on a gently rolling natural surface wooded trail. Participants included Jay Wallace, Ursula Kattner, Matt Quinn, Scott Mostrom, Sarah and Graeme Clark, Katie Rapp and Merikay Smith. One more hike was planned to explore Seneca Creek State Park on the east side of Germantown Road in November. Hope to see you on the trails in 2022.



Darnestown's 50th Annual Hoedown

By Stephanie Kunkle

The 50th Annual Hoedown in Darnestown certainly lived up to the hype. On Friday, October 8th, nearly 170 neighbors gathered at Smokey Glen Farm to dance, mingle, and feast on chicken, ribs, soup, salads and pies. Veteran caller Mac McCall kicked off the night by leading the square dancing and Donuts for Dinner ended the night with live music. We welcomed many first time attendees while many others have been attending for 40+ years! From start to finish, the night was filled with dancing, laughing and cheer. This is a cherished Darnestown tradition that is clearly not going anywhere.



Fall Artists and Farmers Market

By Stephanie Kunkle

Saturday, September 11th brought another successful market to Darnestown. With over 25 vendors, 3 food trucks and live music, neighbors were excited to support and connect directly with local Farmers and Artisans. We look forward to continuing this momentum with two more markets in 2022.

History of Halloween

By Masis Mirzaians (age 9)

Halloween first came to the U.S. in the 1840s but the observance of Halloween dates back to the ancient pre-Christian Celtic festival of Samhain, which was celebrated on the night of October 31.

The Celts, who lived 2,000 years ago in the area that is now Ireland, the United Kingdom and northern France, believed that the dead returned to earth on Samhain. People tried to appease restless spirits with what are now Halloween traditions. For exam-

ple, people used to wear costumes of MONSTERS, GHOSTS, AND DEVILS to scare away harmful spirits.

In the United States, some people do not celebrate Halloween for secular reasons, but the majority of those that don't take part in Halloween do so for religious reasons. However, in the United States, Halloween is not usually associated with religion and is celebrated on October 31.

Halloween looked more "normal" this year with kids dressed in costume, walking neighborhoods, and trick-or-treating once again. Here's a look at some Halloween fun in Darnestown.



In Spring Meadows, a hauntingly adorable parade marched to music while showing off creative costumes.



Lori Zimet once again organized a Scavenger Hunt for Darnestown families. 12 houses were part of the hunt and fun was had by all.



A trip down Esworthy showed off the annual Esworthy scarecrow contest.



At the end of Brookmeade, Vinni Mirzaians invited Darnestown to view a Halloween Spooktacular.

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue: February 1, 2022

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

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

By Jason Woodman 1094 Troop Historian

Darnestown Troop 1094 has had a very active semester so far. At the end of August we went white water rafting at Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. In September, we climbed through the trees on a ropes course at Tree Trekkers in Frederick, Maryland. In October, we went camping on the beach at Assateague State Park where we enjoyed fishing and kayaking. We attended the Seneca District Camporee where scouts compete against each other in various skills and games. We also took a 7 mile hike through Seneca Creek Park.

On August 30th the Troop met at Darnestown Presbyterian Church and held our quarterly Court of Honor. This ceremony recognized all of our Scouts achievements since our last Court of Honor in June. During the event, merit badges were presented and several scouts advanced in rank. The Court of Honor also marked changes in Scout leadership, when new Scouts assumed key leadership roles for the fall semester.

Working on achieving the highest BSA rank of Eagle is a priority for many of Troop 1094's scouts. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, one must earn at least 21 merit badges, progress through six prerequisite ranks, serve in a troop leadership position, execute a community service project, and complete a board of review.

Troop 1094 is very proud to announce their latest Eagle Scout Michael Kascic-Ramos.



*Michael
Kascic-Ramos*

Michael is a senior at Quince Orchard High School. His Eagle Project was to build eight benches for the City of Rockville's Croydon Creek Nature Center. He built two different types—Aldo Leopold and sheet. The Aldo Leopold benches are used to watch birds and the sheet benches are put around the firepit. Michael is currently applying to colleges and would like to study horticulture.

Troop 1094 has also been actively helping two more scouts on their journey to achieve the Eagle Scout rank.

On August 21st our troop helped Life Scout Carter Nasso on his Eagle project at Madison Fields Farm. Madison

Fields is a project of Madison House Autism Foundation, a national 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The foundation was created in 2007 to address the lifespan challenges facing adults with autism. The Eagle project was to make trail signs along a horse trail and to line part of the trail with logs.

On October 23rd Life Scout Nathaniel Leshin led scouts on his Eagle project for Montgomery County Parks. The project site was the Muddy Branch Greenway Trail starting at the Esworthy Trailhead. The scouts worked to complete a trail relocation and to slow future erosion on the trail.

We look forward to celebrating when Carter and Nathaniel earn their Eagle Scout rank.

Save the Date ...and Share with Troop Alumni!



Troop 1094 is also preparing to celebrate our Troop's 60th Anniversary on Sunday, May 22, 2022 at the 10:30 a.m. service at Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Following the service Troop 1094 will host a lunch in Fellowship

Hall. We are seeking Troop Alumni to join us in the celebration. Please join the "Troop 1094 Darnestown 60th Anniversary" page on Facebook for updates.

Scouting is a whole lot of fun. As you can read, Troop 1094 is really active. We want more scouts to join us. There are many local Webelos who will be spending the next several months earning the Arrow of Light, and now is the time to start planning for their transition to Boy Scouts. For more information on Scouting and Troop 1094 please see our website at www.troop1094.org or email our Scoutmaster at sm@troop1094.org or committee chair at chair@troop1094.org. Even if you were not a cub scout, come join us for a meeting and see what we are all about.

Finally, watch for Troop 1094 scouts in early 2022 to be out in your neighborhoods selling mulch for your spring yard beautification needs. As always, the scouts deliver the mulch to their customers for free. We thank everyone who has supported us over the years for our one-time annual fundraiser. This fundraiser helps us replace aging equipment and to continue supporting scouts on their scouting journey.



A Successful 2021 Season! Memberships, Swim, Camp, Tennis, Pickleball & Social Events

By Aleks Schiff

What a great 2021 season we have had, with all programing running on full cylinders and a lot of new families joining our DSRC community! If all these great things continue, we are hoping our Club could be at full capacity next summer.



*It's a Doggie take-over!
2nd Annual Doggie Dip*

Planning for next summer is already in progress, and the Board is working hard to bring some new improvements and changes to our Club, including new and expanded Summer Camp programming, resurfacing of all the courts—including new dedicated Pickleball courts, and much more.

Our racquet sports continue as the weather stays manageable, and the **Social Events** team keeps things hopping with another successful Chili Cook-off and the *2nd Annual Doggie Dip*. **Camp Green Zone** is searching for a new Camp Director for 2022, and our Demon Swim Team is looking forward to getting back into the pool for the 2022 season with Coach Pat!

Our partnership with the DCA continues to bring our community together with another successful *Darnestown Artists & Farmers Market*!

Our Club Membership is almost at full capacity and will be on a waitlist soon! Keep an eye on membership deals and join us soon! Join our Facebook page, IG and website so you don't miss out!

Our member community is like no other! We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, camp, and social events throughout the year. Our website will have 2022 information after January 1st!

Connect with the Club and Stay in the Know!
www.dsclub.com

Facebook: @DarnestownSwimRacquetClub
Instagram: @DSRClub
GM@dsclub.com
15004 Spring Meadows Drive,
Darnestown, MD 20874
(301) 330-1340

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Kathy Agate

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club gathered on September 9th at Breton Woods County Club to kick off another year of horticulture, hands on activities, and fun field trips. Programs chair, Summer Hardinge, presented an overview of the upcoming year's activities, and members signed up to host the monthly events.

The weather was spectacular for our October outing to the Distillery Lane Ciderworks. The apple orchards sit on 95 acres in Jefferson, MD—just outside the historic town of Burkittsville. It was the first licensed cidery in Maryland, and grows numerous varieties of apples that are used for regular and hard ciders. Owner, Rob Miller, gave us a wonderful private tour of the orchards, as well as personal insight into the challenges he faces in growing apple trees. We enjoyed tasting an assortment of apples, as well as various types of cider.

Our November meeting began with a video presentation of Eco-printing by Sue Bain, a member of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AFID). She demonstrated how to use seasonal florals to create botanical textile printing for scarves and table runners. Members were given a kit with seasonal materials to complete the project at home. Many in the group took the opportunity to add materials from their own gardens to personalize the final product. The results were amazing!

Looking ahead to our December meeting, we are planning a floral jewelry workshop with Ellen Seagraves, President of the Maryland chapter of the Independent Floral Designers Association (IFDA). Members will create individual pieces of jewelry using seasonal florals, and really have the chance to put their creativity on display.

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May. We currently have 38 members and always welcome visitors. If you are interested in coming to one of our meetings, please contact our club president Lisa Ruf at lisaruf@aol.com.

Schools

Butler Montessori

By Miki Boulin

January 17–31: Butler Camp Registration Opens!



Join us for nature-filled adventures this summer. Psst...exclusively for our Darnestown neighbors, use ACORN code for \$75 off of one camp session when you sign up in January! Don't Delay—sessions fill up quickly!! www.ButlerCamp.org

Cooking & Creating in Middle School?



Every week our students create and serve a delicious meal using ingredients from their organic farm. Recently, they prepared jambalaya, hush puppies, biscuits, corn, fruit, and beignets

for dessert. In the process, students learn math, life skills, biology, event planning, and more!

"Our son is presently in his final year of the Intermediate program at Butler Montessori. Butler has provided him with the tools he needs, and we as parents sought, for his educational development. In addition, Butler has afforded our family an opportunity to be engaged in a community that is focused on addressing and supporting the needs of our family in this ever-so-dynamic world."—Current Parents (8 years)

Darnestown Elementary School

By Austin Gottlieb

Darnestown Elementary School is off to a great year so far. The PTA Back-To-School Picnic was a huge success. Parents were able to relax in the field while their kids were having a blast on the inflatables. We had food from Potomac Pizza and Corned Beef King with Shaved Ice for dessert. Students are also able to enjoy outdoor lunches this year thanks to stadium cushions purchased by our PTA.

The PTA also held a "Scrub A Dub Drive" for Gaithersburg Elementary School. DES created decorated boxes filled with basic hygiene supplies such as shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper and much more. Comfort Cases also donated 400 mini toiletry kits for GES and 2 face masks for every student there. As mentioned before, Darnestown is participating in the One school, One book program this year. The book that the classes are reading is "A Boy Called Bat" by Elana Arnold. Be sure to check it out!

Mary of Nazareth

Busy Fall at Mary of Nazareth



Mary of Nazareth has been busy the last couple of months! Our new Community Space was blessed and dedicated, our grounds hosted over 2,000 people for a cross country meet, and our students came together for an

afternoon of fun during our HSA's Race for Scholars event. We ended October with a Halloween parade and are excited to celebrate our virtual Grandparents day, Christmas bingo, and Santa's Sleigh Ride!

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School Full Day PreK-8 Open House

We invite you to attend Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's Open House on January 30th from 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. Visit our STREAM lab, meet our teachers, and talk to current Mary of Nazareth School parents and students. Mary of Nazareth is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence and financial aid is available. Visit our website at www.maryofnazareth.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact MaryEllen Wray at 301-869-0940 or mwray@maryof-nazareth.org. 14131 Seneca Rd, Darnestown, MD 20874

Seneca Academy

By Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School

Seneca Academy is proud to be an International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Program! In order to

maintain that prestigious accreditation, every 5 years we go through a rigorous self-study, followed by an in-depth evaluation by a visiting team of IB educators. This year, we have begun to prepare for that evaluation and, in the process, are reflecting on our challenging Program of Inquiry, our innovative approaches to inquiry-based teaching, and our inspiring, globally-minded pedagogical practices. We invite you to

see for yourself how, through an “inspiring” rather than “compliant” approach to education, we prepare our students to be agents of change while Preserving the Wonder of Childhood. We are currently accepting applications for Kindergarten–6th Grade for next year and will open online applications for Preschool in February. Please visit our website www.senecaacademy.org to learn more and for Open House information!

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church



Christmas Eve Services in Our Renovated Sanctuary! For the first time since 2017, we will have Christmas Eve services in our historic sanctuary. Our **5:00 p.m.**

Family-Friendly Worship Service is geared especially towards families with children, and we plan to hand out a few goodies to the kids as they depart. Our **8:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service** is an adult-oriented service featuring glorious music from our Chancel and Bell Choirs. But the heart of this service is our lovely and moving sharing of candlelight in our darkened sanctuary, symbolizing the sharing of our light with the world. A brief reception with home-baked goodies will follow!

In-Person Worship and Live-Streaming Each Sunday. We continue in-person worship at **10:30 a.m. each Sunday** 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/>.

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

OLVP welcomes the community to join us for a festive holiday drive-in movie on Saturday, December 18th, featuring Elf. The show will start at 6:00 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. with pizza, popcorn and treats sold separately. Go to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/olvp-fun-drive-in-movie-night-tickets-1933654244057> to purchase tickets and plan to have some fun.



We hope to offer live Christmas Trees and wreaths for sale from Friday, December 3rd through Monday, December 13th or while supplies last. Weekday hours are 4:00 p.m.–7:30 p.m. and weekend hours are 8:30 a.m.–7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Masses will be celebrated on Friday, December 24th at 4:00, 7:00 and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Day Mass will be offered on Saturday, December 25th at 11:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome!

For information on these programs and on other activities at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, 14139 Seneca Road in Darnestown, check our website at www.olvp.org.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

We’d like to invite you to come and see and experience the loving community that is St. Nicholas Episcopal Church next to Seneca Academy. We worship on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in-person and via livestream on Zoom and on St. Nick’s Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/SaintNicks>

St. Nicholas is a Place to Belong and a Place to Become. For more information check out our website: saintnicks.com or contact Reverend Beth at rector@saintnicks.com or at 240-631-2800. You are welcome here.

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

Billet Collins | Decorative Painting

14130 Esworthy Rd, Darnestown
info@billetcollins.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

**Capital Medical Partners | Medical Office
Primary Care**

Drs. Douglas and Faith Frankel
1684 East Gude Dr, Rockville
301-217-9222
<https://www.capitalmedicalpartners.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
mikefoxrealtor@gmail.com

**Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience,
Auto Repairs**

14020 Darnestown Rd, 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@dsreclub.com

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

14119 Seneca Rd, 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 | Organic Deer, Tick &
Mosquito Control**

(833) ohDEERMoCo | (833) 643-3376
MoCoMD@oh-DEER.com
oh-DEER.com/MoCo
@ohDEERMoCo

**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 Ct, 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 Rd, 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 | Camp

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

Whitman Summer Camp | Camp

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

Windridge Vineyards | Vineyard

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

Interested in joining this list?
Please use our online application form
at darnestowncivic.org.

Darnestown Schools, Organizations & Churches

Schools

Butler Montessori School

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

Circle School/Seneca Academy

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

Darnestown Elementary School

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

Jones Lane Elementary School

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

Lakelands Park Middle School

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

Mary of Nazareth School

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

Northwest High School

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

Quince Orchard High School

15800 Quince Orchard Rd
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
301-840-4686

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

sm@troop1094.org

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

Darnebloomers.com

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
Darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

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

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

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

Fairhaven United

Methodist Church

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

Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

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

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish

Father Greg Shaffer
14139 Seneca Rd
Darnestown MD 20874
301-948-5536
Olv.org
parishoffice@olv.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

HELP DRIVE THE FUTURE OF DARNESTOWN!

Become a 2022 Member of the Darnestown Civic Association

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

- *The Little Acorn*
- DCA Hoedown
- Town Meetings
- Town Sign Maintenance
- DCA Website
- Lead Darnestown in Key Issues Impacting our residents
 - » School Zoning & Safety
 - » Road Traffic & Safety
- » Crime
- » Power & Telephone Reliability
- » Darnestown Village Development
- » Montgomery County Master Plan Development
- » Environmental & Agriculture Reserve Protection
- » DCA Contingency Legal Fund
- Firetruck Santa and Holiday Tree Lighting
- Menorah Lighting
- Veterans Day Breakfast
- American Flag Program
- Holiday Flag Program
- Farmers and Artists Markets

Visit www.darnestowncivic.org to join now!

Annual Dues are only \$35. Additional giving levels include \$50 'Friend of Darnestown,' \$100 'Sponsor,' \$150 'Acorn' Program. All paid 2022 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.



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 for 2022 in support of our community-wide interests, events 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 2022 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.

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 membership 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.

Service Providers

To be included on this list in the next issue of *The Little Acorn*, please email your contact information including your year of birth to **acorn@darnestowncivic.org** before February 1, 2022. 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

Georgia Mostrom (2007)
240-480-8622

Melissa Szwed (2004)
301-519-0645

House/Pet Sitters

Jonas Skucas (2005)	Darius Skucas (2002)
301-525-2501	301-525-2728

Notary Services

Laura Bivans	Tina Kalil
301-977-4734	301-943-9840

Elisa Lane
301-990-2993

The Little Acorn

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

Darnestown Civic Association

President:	Scott Mostrom (president@darnestowncivic.org)
Vice President:	Tim Sanders (vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org)
Treasurer:	Gretchen Brown (treasurer@darnestowncivic.org)
Secretary:	Matt Quinn (secretary@darnestowncivic.org)
Trustees:	Scott Damiecki (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
	Paul Klee (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
	Stephanie Kunkle (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)

Committee Chairs

Compliance:	Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)
Darnestown Village:	Pam DuBois (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Database:	Scott Mostrom (database@darnestowncivic.org)
Flag Program:	Tim Sanders (flag@darnestowncivic.org)
History:	Allan Luke (history@darnestowncivic.org)
Membership:	Pam DuBois (membership@darnestowncivic.org)
Roads Task Force:	Michael Centrella (rtf@darnestowncivic.org)
Safety Committee:	Matt Quinn (safety@darnestowncivic.org)
Seneca Forest Project:	James Wheeler (deer@darnestowncivic.org)
Social Events:	Stephanie Kunkle (social@darnestowncivic.org)
Softball:	Dave Bivans (softball@darnestowncivic.org)
Strategic Planning:	Tim Sanders (strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org)
Website:	Ben Jamieson (website@darnestowncivic.org)
	Neil Agate (website@darnestowncivic.org)
Welcome:	Kendra Damiecki (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
	Maya Miloski (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
	Melissa Mostrom (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Zoning:	Pam Dubois (zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

Happy New Year Darnestown!

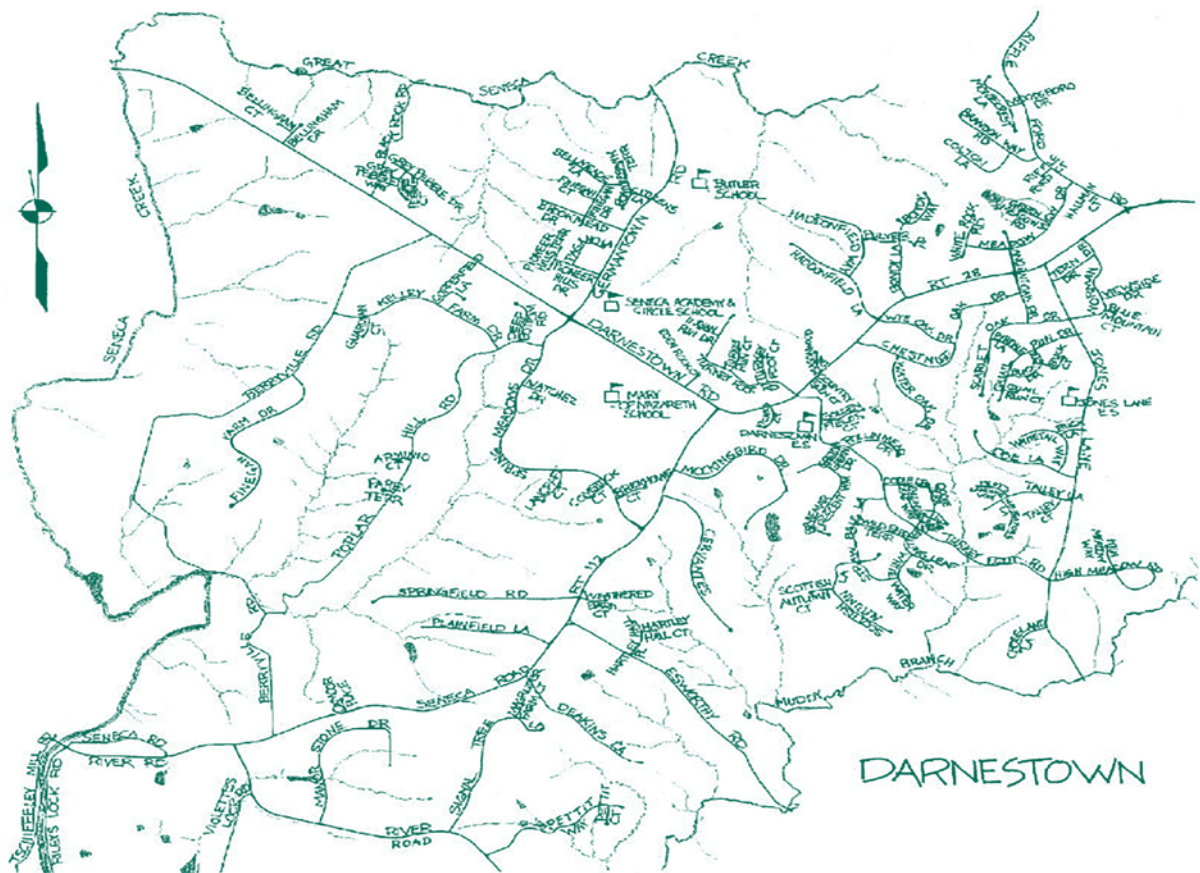
Thank you for making 2021 so memorable.
We wish everyone a healthy and happy New Year!



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

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

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DARNESTOWN