



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 59 Number 3
September 2022

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom



When someone you know passes away it gives you pause, with a flurry of thoughts to remember and consider. When someone very close to you passes away your mind goes a million directions, seeking clarity like a lighthouse lamp circling into a deep fog.

With time that fog will lift, and while some ships will have already sailed out of sight, carrying with them the mysteries that won't be resolved, eventually you gain some clarity. One of those points of clarity, at least for me, is gaining appreciation for someone's interests and passions. Those things that made them who they were—things that I accepted but never fully understood. Perhaps that's because I'm no longer viewing them from my perspective and just now taking the time to fully understand the heart and spirit that was behind them.

Now I know death is not a typical topic for the 'Notes from the President' but then again not many of my articles are typical, so just bear with me.

Bob McGuire, a long time Darnestown resident, passed away in August. I knew Bob a bit from the softball league and chatting with him around town and at many of our DCA events. It seemed most times I saw Bob he had this big fancy camera strapped around his neck. I always thought, 'Hey, he likes to take pictures ... that's great'.

The last time I saw Bob was this past spring—it was either the Farmers Market or one of the Food Truck Thursday events at the pool—and we spoke for a few minutes.

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What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

Sept. 22 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Meeting

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

Sept. 29; Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27; Nov. 3

Butler Motessori Farm & Forest Explorers Program

www.ButlerSchool.org/Forest

Oct. 7 | 6:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m.

51st Annual Hoedown

Smokey Glen Farm

www.darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 1 | All Day

Deadline for the September issue of *The Little Acorn*

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

Nov. 10 | 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Seneca Academy Parenting Series:

Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain

www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/

Nov. 11 | 9:30 a.m.

Veteran's Day Breakfast

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 4

Santa comes to Darnestown and Tree Lighting

Details and map of Santa route will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 18

Menorah Lighting

Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

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I don't recall how we got onto it, but he began to tell me how he and his family had moved to Darnestown years ago and how much he absolutely loved Darnestown ... that he was a lifer. He spoke not just with passion and sincerity but with an intensity that leaves an impression. It wasn't until I heard of his passing that it hit me. He wasn't just taking casual photos because he liked using that camera. He was capturing the essence of the community that he adored.

Much closer to home, my older brother Tucker passed away unexpectedly in June. It has been like the lighthouse and the fog for all of us Mostroms this summer. Tuck was a Darnestown lifer as well but more subtle for me to grasp.

Because he wanted to live in a townhouse (and there aren't any in Darnestown) he did the next best thing and bought one right across from Riffleford Rd. While technically 100 yards outside of our official borders, he considered himself Darnestown and so did I. It doesn't mean we didn't give him a hard time about it though.

At our family Sunday breakfasts we'd hit on some of the recent goings-on in town and recently he wanted to really understand how the county planning efforts could affect us. By far, though, his favorite topic was the roads. He would lay out his detailed ideas for turn lanes, intersection changes, stop-light timing ... honestly to the point that I got so cross-eyed I finally turned him loose to our Roads Task Force and he joined them.

As strange as it sounds for someone whose entire immediate family lives in Darnestown, I don't think I realized just how much this town meant to him until he passed. The strength of his Darnestown relationships and how he continued to maintain those from his youth became clear very quickly. Darnestown was home, it was family, and it was where he planned to stay and grow old. He wanted to make sure it evolved but still continued to have the same feel that he grew up with.

There's no great way I can conclude this except to say that we will all carry on, including the DCA. We will continue to steward and support this incredible community. And while our focus is our current neighbors and the next generation, we're guided by the light of all of those who have cherished Darnestown and called it their home.

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

2022 Executive Board Election Results

The Nominating Committee is proud to announce that on June 16, 2022, the following officers were elected to serve on the Board for the Darnestown Civic Association:

- President: Scott Mostrom
- Vice President: Paul Klee
- Treasurer: Gretchen Brown
- Secretary: Matt Quinn
- Trustee (3 yr): Will Lowe
- Trustee (2 yr): Scott Damiecki
- Trustee (1 yr): Stephanie Kunkle

The DCA is always looking for additional leaders from our community to provide their insight and support for the Association. If you live in Darnestown and are interested in taking a more active role in the Civic Association, please let us know by reaching out to dca@darnestowncivic.org.

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 darnestowncivic.org/wod/.

DCA Scholarship Opportunities

The DCA offers two scholarship opportunities for high school seniors who reside in Darnestown. To read about the 2022 scholarship recipients and read a submission from a 2022 recipient, see page 3. For more details please visit darnestowncivic.org/dca-scholarship.

Roads Task Force

The DCA has a group of volunteers dedicated to increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. To learn more about what the the Roads Task Force, see page 4.

Community Events

Softball, Food Trucks, Farmers Markets and more. The DCA hosts community events in an effort to bring residents of Darnestown together. See page 1 for our upcoming events.

All DCA efforts are supported by our members. To become a member, please visit darnestowncivic.org/memberships or use the form on page 15.

2022 Scholarship Winners Announcement

*By the Darnestown Civic Association
Scholarship Committee*

The Darnestown Civic Association is excited and proud to announce the winners of the 3rd Annual DCA Scholarship and the 3rd Annual Bruce Deppa Scholarship. All applicants were graduating seniors within the DCA boundaries.

The DCA Scholarship which supports the applicant who demonstrated civic engagement was awarded to **Colette Kaufman**. Colette graduated Quince Orchard High School and is starting her freshman year at University of Michigan in the Honors Program pursuing Biology (Pre-Med). In addition to her 4.0 grade point average (unweighted), Colette is a pre-professional ballet dancer at the Washington Ballet.

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship which supports the applicant who embodies all things Darnestown was awarded to **Corey Gross**. Corey graduated Northwest High School as a member of the Ulysses Program. Corey was an active member of both the Lacrosse and Wrestling teams of Northwest High School. He is starting his freshman year at University of Maryland pursuing Computer Science and Applied Mathematics.

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 Colette and Corey. The Darnestown community wishes you lots of success as you begin your new journey!

DCA Town Meeting September 22, 2022 | 7:30 p.m.

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.

DCA Scholarship Essay

By Colette Kaufman

I've found "my people" everywhere I turn in Darnestown. This community has been my physical home my entire life, but it's the people who live here that have made Darnestown home in my heart. Everywhere I look, I'm greeted by a memory of my earliest days here; while driving past Harris Teeter on Darnestown Road, I see myself selling Girl Scout cookies for the first time; while walking around Darnestown Park, I remember my weekly soccer practice where I was surrounded by my teammates who would eventually become my best friends; while swimming at Darnestown pool, I am reminded of the excitement I felt the very first time I saw my name next to "1st place" on the timesheet after a swim meet.

I've found that no matter how large my problem is, I can find some solace in my Darnestown community. I find serenity in the nature that makes up Darnestown, in biking the White Loop and in hiking the Seneca Ridge Trail. I find comfort in our Darnestown traditions, in the excitement at school all week in anticipation of the Quince Orchard vs. Northwest game and in the beauty of the Darnestown Christmas tree during the annual tree lighting. But most of all, I find healing in giving back to my Darnestown Community.

Amidst the despair during the beginning of quarantine, I found hope in teaching free ballet classes over Zoom to Darnestown children. After my hip surgery from a devastating dance injury, I found an escape in tutoring my peers at Ridgeview Middle School and Quince Orchard High School in math and French. In the face of stress, I found tranquility and joy in volunteering at the Manna Food Center. And in spite of my greuling ballet training, I found sheer happiness in doing outreach performances at nursing homes and hospitals surrounding the Darnestown area.

In my work throughout the Darnestown community, I have identified my central driving force: the hope to find healing in helping others. It is the people that compose Darnestown, and Darnestown itself, that have made me realize my dream to dedicate my life to healing others, as a scientist and a physician, committed not just to my individual patients, but to their community. I believe that I am who I am because of the people that surround me, so I want to thank Darnestown for giving me the experience of being a part of a community, the opportunity to give back to others, and the ambition to work towards my goal of helping others as a doctor.

Planning and Roads

Roads Task Force — rtf@darnestowncivic.org

Roads, paths and trails shape our travels and our settlement patterns. Waterways similarly influence our mobility and place making. Geography of course drives the location of roads and settlements. Darnestown's perimeter is about eight-five percent defined by waterways inside of parkland. Our main junction is said to be where two trails met. Our land use pattern defines where things are, and our roads define how we travel between them. Planning and roads are closely linked. When we seek community or road improvements or move to protect what we have, we often encounter both planning and road elements.

Below we present a quick recap of some roads and planning issues we've been working on. MC Planning and MC DOT representatives have presented at DCA Town events and met with DCA volunteers about these issues.



Montgomery County's proposed new General Plan named Thrive Montgomery 2050 has been stalled at the County Council for most of the year. With a majority of the County Council being seated in January 2023 likely to be new councilmembers, a lengthy marred process, and a lack of definitive policy guidelines, especially around failures cited in previous plans, we expect a tumultuous ride if the plan is not disapproved and sent back to Planning for a newly programmed work effort.

The work sessions that were expected at the beginning of the year are now not scheduled for September and October but still could be. We have had no real acknowledgement of our points. We have categorically and coherently made the case as to why Darnestown should not be a named center of activity. Our points are specific, accurate and actionable. Our ideas are nondisruptive.

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/master-plan-list/general-plans/thrive-montgomery-2050/thrive-montgomery-2050-resources/



The Complete Streets Design Guide has been adopted by the Planning Board and awaits action by the County Council. A joint effort by MC DOT and Planning, Complete Streets are roadways that are designed and operated to provide safe, accessible, and healthy travel for all users.

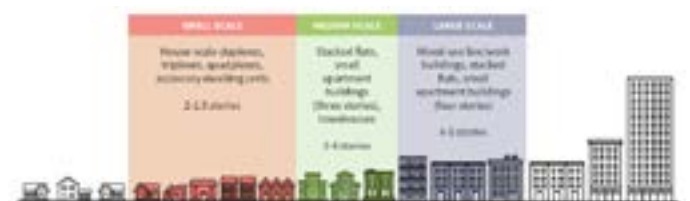
www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/complete-streets/



The Rustic Roads Master Plan update is in the final work stages at Planning. Rustic roads are historic and scenic roadways that reflect the agricultural character and rural origins of the County. Preservation of rustic roads must be achieved by retaining certain physical features of rustic roads and by certain right-of-way maintenance procedures.

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/highway-planning/rustic-roads/rustic-roads-functional-master-plan/



The Attainable Housing Strategies initiative went to final draft form at the Planning Board in January 2022. It is stalled. Among many things, it proposes to allow duplexes on all half acre lots in the county. We have proposed that lots on septic be excluded from the policy in the same way lots on septic are excluded from many other density initiatives proposed in the

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plan such as multifamily buildings at the Darnestown Junction around Rt. 28 and Seneca Rd.

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/housing/attainable-housing-strategies-initiative/



The Pedestrian Plan will make walking and rolling safer, more comfortable, more convenient and more accessible for pedestrians of all ages and abilities in all parts of the county. The plan will complement the 2018 Bicycle Master Plan and plans for other modes of transportation through strategies for making streets safer and more accessible. This plan will be comprehensive. In addition

to prioritizing needed infrastructure, it will recommend new and amended policies and operational practices, design standards and programming. We hope to invite county personnel to one of our upcoming Town Meetings or hold a special Town Hall with them.

www.montgomeryplanning.org/planning/transportation/pedestrian-planning/pedestrian-master-plan/



Please get in touch. Help us address current issues and plan the future. All of us benefit from your insights. We also benefit when you step in and apply your skills for time on the overwhelming number of tasks we need to execute on.

PLEASE

Slow Down

Put the Phone Down

Be Courteous

Be Visible

DCA 2022 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

- Allstate Insurance & Financial Services
- Bretton Woods Recreation Center
- Carpet & Flooring LLC

Acorn

- David Clark & LeeAnne Gelletly
- Charles and Tina Petzold
- Kevin Ricci
- Fran Rothenberg
- Seneca Community Church
- Andy & Christina Swick

Sponsor

- Amy Gross

- Sandy and Terry Killen
- Michael & Susan Moses

Friend

- Eric and Marsha Abramson
- Dr Marvin & Sharon Beitler
- Michel Bonard
- Martha Bowen
- Cyndi & Larry Cain
- Jim & Joan Carlberg
- Mary Horwitz & Cagle Fair
- Molly Imming
- Betty & Tom Loggia
- Keith & Terri McAllister
- Gail Peck
- Joslyn Read
- Tim and Katie Sanders
- Joe & Lorie Shenego

- Kerrie Thomas-Armstrong
- Sonny Tohan

Basic

- Dorothy Bailey
- Kraig & Jenn Bauer
- Anne Bird
- Tim & Kathy Kurkjian
- Kathy Petro & Marty Riskam
- Marie Collins & Kenneth Rowe
- Mike & Kate Sufczynski
- Winter & Corrie Troxel
- Robert & Elizabeth Weaver
- Scott Thomkins & Ronda Yates

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 on page 15 in this issue.

Thank you for your support!

Darnestown Civic Association

Proudly Presents



Darnestown's 51st Annual



HOEDOWN

Friday, October 7, 2022

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

SMOKEY GLEN FARM

Main Pavillion

16407 Riffle Ford Road

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Dinner/Drinks

.....

8:00-10:00 p.m.

Square Dancing

Featuring
Darnestown's
Favorite Caller
Mac McCall

.....

10:00-11:30 p.m.

Live Music

(Billy and Boogie)

TICKETS:

\$45/pp: DCA Member

\$55/pp: Non Member

FOOD:

Chicken ★ Ribs ★ Soup

Beans ★ Potato Salad

Salad Bar ★ Pies

ALL-INCLUSIVE

OPEN BAR:

Beer ★ Wine ★ Liquor

LIVE MUSIC



Billy and Boogie

Visit DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG to purchase tickets.

Reservations must be made by Sept. 30, 2022. No tickets at the door.

DARNESTOWN

www.darnestowncivic.org

Community News

Farm & Forest Explorers Program

Join Butler Montessori's **Farm & Forest Explorers** Program and experience farm life and nature through fun, hands-on activities. From harvesting carrots to collecting chicken eggs, each class introduces children to key environmental concepts. Learn and grow while you explore our organic, student-run farm and 22-acre nature-filled campus! Registration Required. Perfect for children ages 2-5 and accompanying adult. Siblings welcome. Rain or shine. Free! For more information and to register, visit [www. ButlerSchool.org/Forest](http://www.ButlerSchool.org/Forest).

**Thursdays at 9:15 am & 10:30 a.m.,
September 29;
October 6, 13, 20, 27;
November 3**



DARNESTOWN
DARNESTOWN CIVIC
ASSOCIATION

INVITES ALL DARNESTOWN VETERANS TO A

VETERANS DAY

Breakfast

*** NOVEMBER 11 ***

DARNESTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

15120 TURKEY FOOT RD

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

In honor of Veterans Day, we invite all Darnestown Veterans and their families to a **FREE** breakfast at the Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Thank you for serving and sacrificing for the freedom of our nation.

Sponsored by  **OPERATION
SECOND CHANCE**
Helping Heroes Move On



Santa Mailbox Returns to Darnestown

Darnestown will once again have our very own Santa Mailbox for the holidays! The mailbox will be in Heritage Park (next to Harris Teeter) after Thanksgiving and will be accepting letters until December 24th.



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

Deadline for the next issue:

November 1, 2022

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

Organizations

Molly's Walk

By Molly Lichtenstein



Hello! My name is Molly Lichtenstein, I am 29 years old and have lived in Darnestown since I was three years old. I am now a kindergarten teacher for Montgomery County, at Woodfield Elementary School! I have a few genetic conditions that need more research for

better treatments and the goal is for a cure! I have Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia, Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, and many related disorders and they make everyday things tough. But, with the support of my family, friends, and community ANYTHING is possible!

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. My focus moved off my beloved sport, soccer (I can't play contact sports), to focus on family, friends, and new passions. I didn't know it then, but one of my "new" found passions would be fundraising for ASAP.

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.

We started with a walk & roll and have since grown quite a bit. We now have the Molly's 8th Annual Walk & Roll, Molly's Mulligan 2022 (a golf event), Molly's Match (a tennis event), and Molly's Amazing Auction (silent auction that ends on walk day)! I am incredibly proud of these endeavors, as well as INCREDIBLY thankful for the AMAZING team of people who helps in their own ways!

Thank you all for your support! I hope to see you in September!



P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization where women celebrate the advancement of women through education. P.E.O. was founded in 1869 placing it among the oldest women's organizations in North America. Originally begun as a friendship society at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, P.E.O. has evolved into one of the largest nonsectarian, community-based organizations with nearly 6,000 chapters and almost a quarter of a million members in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and six Canadian Provinces. In Maryland there are 30 Chapters.

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Organizations (continued)

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P.E.O. Chapter AD here in Darnestown has been in existence since 1991 and has been quite successful in supporting the P.E.O. philanthropies. This year we sponsored a Northwest senior who received a \$2500 STAR Scholarship and two international students pursuing postgraduate study. To date Chapter AD has sponsored women who have received over \$101,000 in financial assistance for educational purposes.

As a philanthropic organization, P.E.O. supports six philanthropies that include ownership of Cottey College, a women's college in Nevada, MO, and five programs that provide higher educational assistance to women through scholarships, grants, awards, and loans. The cumulative amount of assistance provided to recipients is more than \$250 million.

In 2022 Chapter AD's fundraising events included participation in the April Darnestown Farmers and Artist Market, a yard sale in May and a July Sneaker Fund-raiser. Future fundraisers include a September 17th yard sale, an October and December event.

Chapter AD meets the second Saturday of every month at 10 AM and usually has a monthly social that includes members and friends. Membership in P.E.O. is open to all women 18 years of age and older. The P.E.O. sisterhood has no political or religious affiliation. If you would like to learn more about P.E.O. please visit www.peointernational.org. To learn more about the local P.E.O. Chapter AD in Darnestown please contact Terri Bodnar at TMBodnar64@gmail.com or Randa Locke at randalocke@gmail.com.



A Very Successful Summer of 2022! Swim, Tennis, Camp, Social

By Aleks Schiff

Summer of 2022 is in the books! WOW, what a season.

Our membership is at full capacity, and the pool has been hustling and bustling all



Our Undefeated Demons: 5-0

summer with all our families. It has been wonderful to see our community having so much fun enjoying all the great programming the Club has to offer!

Demon Swim Team had an UNDEFEATED season this year and are **Division D Champs**, thanks to Coach Pat's leadership and the strong swimmers on our team.

Camp GreenZone was so popular, we ended up opening more space halfway through the season. Camp Director Alyssa and her counselors did a fantastic job with a lot of engaging programming for the kids.

Social Events team worked hard and hosted many new events and old favorites, to keep our community of all ages engaged throughout the summer—and there's more to come through the fall!

Tennis & Pickleball season was very active all summer, and will continue going through the fall, thanks to the leadership of our **Tennis Pro Teri**. So, remember to keep booking your courts time through your Member-Splash account.

We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, camp, and social events throughout the year. **Apply now for 2023 memberships** and get on the waitlist. More details on all our programming is at www.dsclub.com.

Connect with us for the latest updates!

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

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

GM@dsclub.com • 301.330.1340

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown

Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Annual Bazaar on Nov. 5th! The 2022 Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar will be bigger and better than ever! You name it, it will be there—crafts, home décor, holiday gifts, books, jewelry, home baked goods and jams, a Silent Auction—and perhaps a hot lunch or homemade dessert in our Café. **Proceeds from the Bazaar support multiple local charities**—come to enjoy and support this Darnestown institution!

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

In-Person Worship/Live-Streaming. We continue in-person worship, and we live-stream on YouTube and Facebook. In mid-September we transition back to 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship, with weekly child and adult Sunday School. Please check our website at www.darnestownpc.org for worship times and other updates.



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

12801 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD
www.fairhavenumcmaryland.com

Hybrid Worship Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m. Join us for worship in the sanctuary or via Zoom. Our service is fully interactive for those at home and at the church.

Soloists and small groups offer special music throughout the summer to enhance our worship celebrations. At this time all in person attendees are required to wear masks. The Zoom link can be requested from our church administrator, fairhavenumc@gmail.com.

Homecoming Celebration! Sunday, September 25: Join us for worship and fellowship at 10:30 a.m. as we welcome family, friends, visitors and long-time members for at our annual Homecoming Celebration! The Rev. Dawn Hand, Superintendent of the Central Maryland District, will be our guest preacher. Music will be offered by all 3 of our choirs. A time of fellowship will follow the worship service. Don't miss this lively celebration of our heritage and Christian family.

Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship

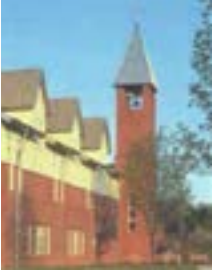
Hello Neighbors! We welcome all of you to enjoy the good weather and friendships at Gaithersburg International Christian Fellowship. This Fall we will have outdoor activities for the Darnestown and Gaithersburg communities to come and enjoy a time of fun and fellowship. Please stay tuned for our Fall event in October and check out our Upcoming Events page (www.gicf.church/event-list/)! This summer we opened our Alliance Community Garden for the second year to welcome the community to come and tend the garden that gives back by helping to provide fresh, healthy produce to those in need. We also offer small plots to our neighbors to grow their own personal garden. You can check out our Facebook page [@MDAlliance-CommunityGarden](https://www.facebook.com/MDAllianceCommunityGarden) for more details. Feel free to join us for the harvest and we look forward to next spring to start our third season of growing! See our schedule of events for more information on what fun events we have to come. We hope to see you soon!

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

Continued on 11

Churches (continued)



Continued from 10

Our Lady of the Visitation Parish welcomes everyone to come and experience our vibrant, growing community. On **Saturday, September 10**, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., we will have a **White Elephant**

Sale featuring all kinds of household treasures and

on **September 25**, from noon to 3:30 p.m., our **Parish Festival** will be held on the parish grounds, with foods, rides and fun games for all.

Mass continues to be celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m., on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. and on Sunday nights at 5 p.m. Please visit our website www.olvp.org for all the latest news and updates.

Schools

Butler Montessori

Serving children ages 6 weeks to 15 years

Excited for school? YES!!

Children excited to go back to school? That's what our students are saying! With a student-run organic farm, miles of hiking trails and creeks, and outdoor classrooms, it's no wonder they're eager to return. As Landon, a Butler graduate, said, **"Because of the people, you want to come back every day. Because of the people, you try to do your hardest, and because of the people, you don't want to leave, even hours after school has ended."** Here's to another extraordinary year at Butler Montessori!

New Addition: Infant Montessori Program (ages 6 weeks – 18 months)

Our Nido Program provides a home-like environment for young children. In this carefully prepared space, we serve the needs of the child for independence, movement, order, love, and security. This is not a daycare setting. It's a high-quality program taught by AMI-certified Montessori Guides designed to support your child's growth and development. Interested? Visit www.ButlerSchool.org/nido.



Darnestown Elementary School

By Jacob Miller

The Darnestown Elementary School (DES) staff was thrilled to open up the doors for the 2022-23 school year! The first event of the year was everyone's favorite, The Back to School Picnic.

The annual scrub-a-dub kit donation drive was a huge success. In case you don't know, this event benefits our sister school, Gaithersburg Elementary. We collected much needed health and hygiene items to help the GES students and families have to a clean start to the year.

DES is gearing up for its first annual Pumpkin Palooza, taking place on Friday, October 21. Students will have the chance to carve pumpkins for the pumpkin parade pathway. There will also be a scarecrow building competition between classes and many more exciting activities at the event.

The yearly Scholastic Book Fair will take place November 3-11. Students and families will be able to buy books and goodies. The week of the Book Fair is always an exciting one for our students!

Everyone has had a great start to the school year and we can't wait for the months to come.

Schools (continued)

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Welcome back to a new school year! We have many new families joining us this year and want to welcome you and thank you for sharing your little one with us. At the beginning of the school year, it is normal for your child to have some separation anxiety. And it is totally normal for you as a parent, to have some anxiety as well. Both of my children attended Georgetown Hill for preschool. My oldest daughter, Rachel, had a hard time at drop-off, and it broke my heart. But it didn't last long, and as soon as she realized that mommy always come back, she was able to relax and enjoy her time at school. My youngest daughter, Madison, however, ran into her classroom and never looked back. I have to admit that it made me a little sad, but I was so happy that she was comfortable and loved going to school. Here are some tips to help you and your little one:

- Visit the classroom before school starts if possible and meet the teachers.
- Read books about going to school and talk about all of the fun things that your child will do at school.
- Send in a family photo to school with your child. Family photos will be posted in your child's classroom so that your child can view it at any time. Also, send in a "lovey" that your child can hold on to, especially if they are staying for naptime.
- When saying goodbye, give them a hug and kiss and tell them that you love them. Also, tell them

how happy you will be to see them when you pick them up. Do not come back after you have said goodbye or linger in the hallway. Your child's teacher will take over from there. Teachers have many nurturing strategies to help your child settle their anxieties.

Seneca Academy

Seneca Academy is looking forward to celebrating our 40th anniversary this school year! As an IB World School, we have a long tradition of helping our students become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, and balanced communicators and thinkers. There is no better way to do that than by actively engaging with the environment and our community. Here on campus, students will make use of our 6 ½ acres of National Wildlife Federation Habitat not only for a variety of phenomenal daily recess experiences, but also to explore topics from math and physics to art and creative writing. As they venture off-campus, the trips they take will focus on how students can begin to see the world from multiple perspectives. Our preschoolers will also be busy building competencies by exploring the world around them and by engaging in age-appropriate thought-provoking problem-solving (also known as play!). **It is not too late to join our amazing learning community!** Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through Grade 6. Please email info@senecaacademy.org to inquire about class availability!

The Seneca Academy Parenting Series

The Seneca Academy Parenting Series will return this school year! Dr. Michelle Parker, a child psychologist and our Head of School, will be presenting three separate workshops. These workshops are free and open to the public. Save the date for "Understanding Your Child's Developing Brain" on Thursday, November 10 from 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Seneca Academy. For more information or to register visit: www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/.



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, Darnestown
301-990-1700
6-12beerwinemart@gmail.com

Allstate | Insurance & Financial Services

14100 Darnestown Road, Ste. D, Darnestown
301-670-4150
derekkaplan@allstate.com

Ameriprise Financial—Brezovek & Associates | Financial Advisor

15120 Water Oak Dr., Darnestown
301-320-1483
mbrezovek@ampf.com

Jennifer M Beitler, DDS PC | Dentist

9601 Blackwell Road Ste. 240, Rockville
301-972-0260
info@jenniferbeitlerdds.com

Melissa Bernstein Homes, RLAH, Berkshire Hathaway | Realtor

4600 N. Park Ave., Chevy Chase
301-908-4007
www.melissabernstein.com

BK Lang Contracting Co Inc. | Residential Roofing

15721 Pagano Ln., Darnestown
301-775-7635
bklang@comcast.net

Bretton Woods | Recreation Center

15700 River Road, Darnestown
301-948-3357
www.bwrc.org

Jose Carbajal | Lawn & Landscaping, Tree removal, Snow removal, Firewood

14111 Esworthy Rd, Darnestown
jose.lawnandlandscaping@gmail.com

Carpet & Flooring LLC | Carpet & Flooring Services

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
240-477-7260
majid@carpetandflooringcenter.com

Clark Tree Services | Tree Service

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

Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience, Auto Repairs

14020 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
301-840-8515
darnestownshell@gmail.com

Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry

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

Darnestown Swim & Racquet Club | Swim, Tennis, Summer Camp & Disc Golf Club

15004 Spring Meadows Dr, Darnestown
301-330-1340
GM@dsreclub.com

Johnson Chimney Service | Chimney Repair & Restoration

14115 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-949-1780
www.johnsonchimney.com/us/
walter@johnsonchimney.com

Kerrana Kangen | Alkaline Ionized Water

14115 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-518-9455
www.kerranakangen.com
joni@kerranakangen.com

Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. | Full-Service Insurance Agency

2403 Research Blvd. Ste. 350, Rockville
301-258-7773
www.lowetillson.com
service@lowetillson.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
www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo
@ohDEERMoCo

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

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

Real Computer Solutions, Inc. | IT and Technology Support

1 Research Ct, Ste. 450, Rockville
301-330-REAL (7325)
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

The Surrey Inc. | Gifts & Riding Clothing & Equipment

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

SwimLabs Swim School | Swim School

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

Tabor Design Build | Home Improvements

15740 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville
301-417-6570
www.tabordesignbuild.com

United Service Specialists | HVAC Services

7559 Rickenbacker Dr, Gaithersburg
dispatch@calluss.com

Valley Mill Camp | Camp

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

Wilniq Auto Body & Mechanical Repairs | Auto Body Shop

14125 Seneca Rd, Darnestown
301-545-1800
www.wilniq.com
autobody@wilniq.com

Windridge Vineyards | Vineyard

15700 Darnestown Rd, Darnestown
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
www.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

www.Darnebloomers.com

Darnestown Civic Association

14132B Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.Darnestowncivic.org

Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club

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

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

15120 Turkey Foot Rd
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-948-9127
www.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

www.Olvp.org
parishoffice@olvp.org

Seneca Community Church

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

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

Rev. Beth O'Callaghan
15575 Germantown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
240-631-2800
www.Saintnicks.com

Service Providers

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

Liv Gabri (2009)
240-353-7079

Jonas Skucas (2005)
301-525-2501

Notary Services

Laura Bivans
301-977-4734

Tina Kalil
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane
301-990-2993

The Little Acorn

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

Darnestown Civic Association

President: Scott Mostrom
(president@darnestowncivic.org)
Vice President: Paul Klee
(vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org)
Treasurer: Gretchen Brown
(treasurer@darnestowncivic.org)
Secretary: Matt Quinn
(secretary@darnestowncivic.org)
Trustees: Scott Damiecki
(trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Stephanie Kunkle
(trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Will Lowe
(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: Pam DuBois
(welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
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:
14100 Darnestown RD
STE G
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.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

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