

# THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 59 Number 4  
December 2022

## President's Corner



One of the things I find really cool about flying is the experience. Whether you're first class or coach, the crew works hard to make sure that you are part of the flight. Think about it—the pilots and flight assistants greet you as you board the plane and the pilot gives you updates all along the trip. While I

surely want a head's up before a water landing, it's probably not critical that I know we're 3rd in line on the tarmac, that it's 45 degrees and clear where we're landing, or that we're at 32,000 feet for our cruising altitude. But it's great information and I feel a part of the journey.

While the Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) has tried to do a better job of keeping our neighbors updated and engaged, we know we still have work to do. Some of you may know us because you've attended a Town Hall or come to one of the various events we hold throughout the year—from Food Truck Thursdays and Farmers Markets to our Annual Hoedown, Menorah Lighting, and Santa's Tour of Darnestown. Others may only know us from *The Little Acorn* that's sent out quarterly to all 2,000+ Darnestown homes.

So today I want to say a few words about who we are. First, we're all just volunteers—none of us are paid. There are 7 of us that are on the annually elected Board and another 15 or so that are pretty steady, active volunteers. We come from all corners of Darnestown and represent a broad spectrum of ages, interests, and perspectives. Regardless of the task each of us has taken on, we're all volunteering because we love Darnestown and we love this community.

Our formal Town Hall meetings are once every quarter (March, June, September, and December) but as a core volunteer group we meet the third Tuesday of each month. These monthly meetings are technically our Executive Board meetings but are open to any resident. Many of our non-Board volunteers regularly attend and

*Continued on page 2*

## What's Happening in Darnestown

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

**Dec. 18 | 5:00 p.m.**

**Menorah Lighting**

Details will be posted at  
[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org)

**Feb 1, 2023**

**Deadline for next issue of *The Little Acorn***  
[acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@darnestowncivic.org)

**March 2, 2023; May 4, 2023**

**Seneca Academy Parenting Series Workshops**

[www.senecaacademy.org](http://www.senecaacademy.org)

**April 13, 20, 27; May 4, 11, 18**

**Butler Motessori Farm & Forest Explorers Program**

[www.butlerschool.org/forest](http://www.butlerschool.org/forest)

We wish you all a  
Healthy and Happy New Year!

## Our next DCA Virtual Town Meeting will be in March 2023

Information about the meeting and both the links to join virtually and to view the recorded meeting will be available at  
[www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org),  
by email, and on the Darnestown Facebook page.

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neighbors periodically attend, particularly if there's an issue they want to raise to the Board. We have a strict rule to leave politics at the door, approach challenges and opportunities collaboratively, and our goal is simple: to do the best that we can to foster our sense of community and serve the interests of our members with the resources we have.

The two biggest resources we can leverage are volunteers and funding, and there is certainly more we'd like to do for our town if we had more of each. Membership dues are voluntary starting at \$35/year and

our door is wide open for volunteers. Recently we had a resident who was concerned with the lack of cell service in Darnestown and wanted to see if we could get a single zip code for all of Darnestown (currently we're spread across three or four different zip codes). I said we'd love to help but we also need the help, and now that resident is driving those initiatives with the backing of the DCA.

So, if there's something specific you want to lead for Darnestown—or even if there isn't but you just want to be more involved with the community you call home—reach out to us or come to one of our monthly meetings ... we'd love to have you on the flight crew.

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## Community Updates

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### A Roundabout Future

*Roads Task Force—[rtf@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:rtf@darnestowncivic.org)*

The Maryland Department of Transportation's State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) built its first modern roundabout in 1993. Maryland has been a national leader in modern roundabout usage. At Maryland intersections where roundabouts were installed to replace existing intersections, accidents of all types have been reduced by over 60 percent, and accidents resulting in injuries have been reduced by over 75 percent.

During RTF discussions with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation we learned Darnestown has an opportunity to have a roundabout installed. Montgomery County's Vision Zero Work Plan for FY 22-23 includes initial funding for a roundabout at Seneca Road and Esworthy Road. Community outreach is expected to begin during the first half of next year.

Communities often oppose roundabouts, complain loudly upon initial use, and then applaud their effectiveness after adapting to a more comfortable, lower conflict, safer experience. Our experience is likely to be similar. The single lane roundabouts we would likely see around Darnestown are especially easy to

navigate. We plan to ask for, and help with, extensive communication to minimize disruptions caused by construction and early use issues.

During the summer of 2021 the RTF Community Survey indicated strong support for improving our intersections. Signal and marking improvements at our main junction of MD-112 and MD-28 have been requested. At other intersections, roundabouts may be effective and efficient at addressing our safety and throughput concerns. We hope to make spot improvements and look for opportunities to make more substantial changes where needed.

We have requested better signage and markings along Esworthy Road. A speed study done earlier in 2022 supported everyone's anecdotal experience of aggressive driving taking place on Esworthy.

We continue to explore education, engineering, and enforcement paths to achieving our mission of increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all.

We welcome your views, ask for your support, and need professional level volunteer work to be a part of our collaboration with the County and the State.

**PLEASE**

**Slow Down**

**Put the Phone Down**

**Be Courteous**

**Be Visible**

# Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) Seneca Bluff Hike

By Pam DuBois

Who knew the DCA's fall hike on November 5th would be blessed with T-shirt weather? The DCA hike started at the southern end of the Seneca Bluff Trail at the Old River Road trailhead next to the historic "Pooles Store" and went up to the Montevideo Road parking lot and back. This is one of our longer hikes that covered almost four miles of rolling terrain. We enjoyed beautiful Seneca Creek vistas, although the water level was low and the one creek crossing was completely dry.

Conversations on the trail spanned food, travel, flora, and rocks. And not just any rocks; one of four repre-

sentative stones on the grounds of the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. that comprise Cardinal Direction Markers (north-south and east-west axis markers) is local to our area (Monocacy Valley/Sugarloaf Mountain).

Participants included (from left to right) Dave Hsu, Ursula Kattner, Paul and Mary Pegnato, Jay Wallace, D. Hernandez, Matt Quinn, Stephanie and John Kunkle (and their dog Nittany), and Ahilan and Ash Kurlekar. Nice that more than half the crew were first-time DCA hike participants!



## Cardinal Direction Markers

Many of us know that our area is rich with Native American history. But did you know that a stone from our area has been used to represent the eastern cardinal direction marker at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.? Four stones were placed on the museum grounds along the north-south and east-west axes and honor the Native cultures of the north, south, east, and west. The Eastern marker stone that was mentioned during the Seneca Bluff Hike, was excavated in May 2004 from nearby Sugarloaf Mountain. It is 544-million-years old and weighs 5,000 pounds. It is made of quartzite, a stone used by the local Native peoples to make arrowheads. The stone was excavated after a ceremony conducted by Karenne Wood (Monacan) was performed to bless the boulder. It now sits facing the U.S. Capitol building, "a location intended to encourage continued positive relations between local Native peoples and the U.S. government."<sup>1</sup>



Flickr.com/Richard Johnson

1. *The Land Has Memory: Indigenous Knowledge, Native Landscapes, and the National Museum of the American Indian*, Edited by Duane Blue Spruce, Tanya Thrasher, The University of North Carolina Press, 2009.



# All Safe on The Homefront

By Matt Quinn

As DCA's Safety Chair, I am pleased to report that YOUR vigilance in deterring criminal activity within the Darnestown environs has been working.

During DCA's ongoing discussions with Montgomery County Police Department's (MCPD) 1st District Community Services Officer, we continue to hear favorable news; specifically, that the area in and around Darnestown has among the fewest reported incidents of criminal activity.

Note: To review MCPD's weekly crime summaries, please access the below link: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/data/weekly-crime-summaries.html>

Reminder—Darnestown is in the 1st District and located in police beat "B2."

As mentioned, a major contributing factor to this low

crime rate is our community's continued vigilance, along with DCA's ongoing active partnership with MCPD. My respected mentor and former longtime DCA Safety Chair Richard "Dick" Jurgena deserves much credit as it was Dick's influence with MCPD and various County officials that eventually served to consolidate the Darnestown patrol area into one police district and one police unit. It is this consolidation that has significantly streamlined DCA's ability to more effectively communicate and partner with MCPD regarding all safety related matters impacting Darnestown.

To the people of Darnestown, thank YOU for all you do to make Darnestown a quiet and safe community. As a gentle reminder, please continue to report all criminal activity in a timely manner to MCPD, along with providing a courtesy notification to DCA, via email: [safety@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:safety@darnestowncivic.org).

## Santa Mailbox

Darnestown's Santa Mailbox is out for the holidays! The mailbox is in Heritage Park (next to Harris Tee-ter) and will be accepting letters until December 24th. Be sure to stop by and mail your letters to Santa at the North Pole.



## Softball News

The DCA 2022 Softball season has ended with Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield taking home the championship. Here are the final stats:

TEAM	W	L	GB
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	9	1	-----
Central Darnestown Swingers	5	3	3.0
Jones Lane	4	6	5.0
Western Darnestown	1	9	8.0

(thanks to Joe Gazda for keeping the schedule and stats up-to-date)



Our 2022 championship team, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield

## 3rd Annual Menorah Lighting

The first candle of the Darnestown Menorah will be lit on Sunday evening December 18th kicking off eight nights and days of Hanukkah. The **Slavin** family will light the first candle after reading traditional blessings in both English and Hebrew. Happy Hanukkah to all of our wonderful Jewish friends and neighbors!



## Butler Montessori Farm & Forest Explorers: Free Children's Nature Class

Thank you to all our wonderful Darnestown neighbors who participated in our fall Farm & Forest Explorers program (free nature class for children ages 2-5). The children enjoyed meeting chickens and horses, hiking our trails, and learning about plants and nature. Join us in the spring for more outdoor family fun! Sign up for a class at [www.ButlerSchool.org/forest](http://www.ButlerSchool.org/forest)

Spring 2023 Schedule

- April 13, 20, 27
- May 4, 11, 18

## Santa Visits Darnestown

*By Stephanie Kunkle*

Santa and Mrs. Claus made a visit to Darnestown on Sunday, December 4th. For nearly 3 hours, neighbor Scott Stone drove his fire engine around town with Santa and Mrs. Claus aboard. There was a new addition added to the parade this year. "Kenny," a mini Japanese firetruck, donated by neighbor Deborah Ziffer, followed Santa and Mrs. Claus. Over 500 candy canes were distributed to the hundreds of neighbors aligning the streets. Many neighbors hosted gatherings with fire pits while waiting for the "Big Man" to arrive. Later that evening, Santa used his magic dust and lit the Darnestown Christmas tree for the season. Merry Christmas, Darnestown!





## Darnestown's 51st Annual Hoedown

The 51st Annual Hoedown in Darnestown was another fun-filled event! On Friday, October 7th, more than 160 neighbors gathered at **Smokey Glen Farm** to dance, mingle, and feast on chicken, ribs, soup, salads and pies.



Everyone's favorite caller, **Mac McCall**, led the square dancing portion of the evening with favorite dances like "The Virginia Reel."



The night ended with live music from **Billy and Boogie** who brought the energy and rocked the pavilion. This cherished Darnestown tradition continues to be a favorite night of the year for many neighbors.

Mark your calendars for October 6, 2023 so you are sure not to miss next year!





# 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 donated by Roy Rogers and Operation Second Chance ([www.operationsecondchance.org](http://www.operationsecondchance.org)),

a non-profit organization supporting veterans and their families. This was the second year for this new tradition in Darnestown. With more than 50 people in attendance, veterans were honored, recognized and thanked. Thank you, Darnestown veterans, for your service and sacrifice.



## Hike Butler Montessori's Campus Year-Round on Weekends

We'd love for our Darnestown neighbors to explore our campus and trails on weekends. Here is our hiking trail PDF <https://indd.adobe.com/view/92a0c9e7-3f18-498f-b34c-c95801b343fc>. You can also use the AllTrails app <https://www.alltrails.com/explore/recording/recording-sep-06-12-39-pm--2?p=23961330>. We recommend that visitors park their cars outside the gate to avoid being locked in. Questions? Contact [admin@butlerschool.org](mailto:admin@butlerschool.org).

Butler Montessori  
15951 Germantown Road  
[www.ButlerSchool.org](http://www.ButlerSchool.org)  
301-977-6600



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## Meet our New Business Member

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Carpet & Flooring has been a flooring provider in Montgomery County for over 30 years, and in Darnestown for over 15 years, and serves the D.C., Northern VA, and MD communities. With high quality products and fast turnaround times, they pride themselves on their customer service. Regardless of job size or needs they treat every job the same and ensure customer satisfaction. They provide all flooring needs, including wall to wall carpeting, runners, custom area rugs, hardwood installation, sanding and finishing, and luxury vinyl planks.

For samples of their work, check out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/carpetandflooringllc>.

For more information, or to reach out with any questions and to set up an appointment for a free estimate, head over to their website [www.carpetandflooringcenter.com](http://www.carpetandflooringcenter.com).

**Carpet & Flooring**  
14115 Seneca Rd  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
240-477-7260

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### HELP DRIVE THE FUTURE OF DARNESTOWN!

#### Become a 2023 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](http://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 2023 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.

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

Deadline for the next issue: **February 1, 2023**

Email ideas, questions or articles to: [acorn@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@darnestowncivic.org)



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# Organizations

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## Planning for the Offseason! Memberships, Swim, Camp, Tennis, Pickleball & Social Events

*By Aleks Schiff*

**After a great 2022 season, we turn our focus to some maintenance and housekeeping.**

Planning for next summer is already in progress, and the Board is working hard to bring some new improvements to our Club, including the recent resurfacing of



all the tennis courts and now four designated pickleball courts.

Our racquet sports will continue as long as the weather stays manageable and the **Social Events** team keeps

things exciting with another successful Chili Cook-off and the *3rd Annual Doggie Dip*. **Camp Green Zone** is happy to announce that Alyssa Bessasparis will be returning as Camp Director for 2023 with registration opening by the end of January. **The Demon Swim Team** is looking forward to another winning season with Coach Pat!

Our **Membership** waitlist continues to grow, and the off-season is the perfect time to think about joining. Make sure you connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, and our website to keep up with the latest information!

We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, camp, and social events throughout the year. Our website will have 2023 information after January 1st! **[www.dsclub.com](http://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@dsrclub.com](mailto:GM@dsrclub.com)** • 301-330-1340

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown

## DarneBloomers Garden Club

*By Tracy Lang*

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club held our first meeting of 2022–23 on September 8th. We were happy to be meeting in person this year at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, with special thanks to Diane Romney for assisting us in finding alternate accommodations. Newly-appointed Programs chair,



*September flowers*

Becky Hanley, presented an overview of the upcoming year's activities, which include presentations on native grasses, poisonous plants, floral arranging, and farming of the future, as well as several hands-on activities, a service project, and a planned field trip for our annual May luncheon.

Our October meeting, held at Bretton Woods Recreation Club, fea-

tured an excellent presentation by Marie S. Rojas, a Montgomery County Master Gardener, on ornamental grasses and grass-like plants for landscaping. Marie provided an informative and comprehensive overview of both desirable and invasive species, including gorgeous photographs, common names, and details on plant size, habit, growing conditions, propagation, and—of utmost importance to most of us Darnestown gardeners—deer resistance!

Our November meeting will feature a presentation by Sarah Campbell Needham of Leafhopper Designs on poisonous plants, and, in December, we will be creating elegant floral arrangements for the holidays in our first hands-on activity of the year.

The Darne Bloomers Garden Club meets the second Thursday of every month from September through May, typically at Bretton Woods Recreation Club. If you are interested in visiting with us or becoming a member, please email us at **[Darnebloomers@gmail.com](mailto:Darnebloomers@gmail.com)**. You are welcome to visit our website at **[www.darnebloomers.com](http://www.darnebloomers.com)**. Happy Gardening!

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## Schools

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### Butler Montessori

*An AMI-accredited school serving children  
ages 6 weeks to 15 years old*

#### Butler Camp Enrollment Opens Tuesday, January 17!

Join us for nature-filled adventures this summer. *Psst... exclusively for our Darnestown neighbors, use the code ACORN to receive \$75 off one camp session* when you sign up in January! Don't delay—sessions fill up!! The camp sold out quickly last year.

Butler camp serves children ages 4 ½ to 16.  
**[www.ButlerCamp.org](http://www.ButlerCamp.org)**



### Darnestown Elementary School

*By Jacob Miller*

The students and staff of Darnestown Elementary School (DES) have enjoyed a wonderful fall semester. They had the honor of hosting Ada Ari, an inspiring author who visited DES for an assembly. Thanks to the PTA for putting on a great event, the first annual Pumpkin Palooza. Right on the heels of the Pumpkin Palooza fun, the staff and students enjoyed the annual Scholastic Book Fair.

Ada Ari is an accomplished author that was born and raised in Nigeria. She visited Darnestown to read her books, *The Spiders Thin Legs* and *The Turtle's Cracked Shell*, which all of the students loved. Ada was also kind enough to teach the students about African culture. She accomplished this by bringing amazing African artifacts that the students could pick up and learn about. Ada Ari's mission is to promote diversity and inclusion in children's literature. She was a wonderful guest at DES.

Pumpkin Palooza, the newly created DES annual celebration of fall was a smashing success, and the turnout was amazing! Families enjoyed the beautiful fall weather out on the blacktop and then entered the gym where there was wonderful live music, math, art, and science stations for students and families to partake in. Finally, after the fun activities, families ventured to the cafeteria through the pumpkin path to enjoy some fall-themed treats in the cafeteria.

As usual, the annual Scholastic Book Fair was a great experience for both staff and students. Sales on the first day were record breaking! Ms. Lang loves seeing the students come to the Media Center to buy books and trinkets.

Mark your calendars—our annual Bingo Night will be held on Friday, February 10th! The school year has been great so far; keep going strong, Mustangs!

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### Georgetown Hill Early School

*By Nicole Reap*

We are in late fall, and looking forward to winter, with snowmen, sledding, hot chocolate and pink noses! With winter comes illnesses like COVID, RSV, and the flu. We are all trying our best to stay healthy, especially with our little ones. In November, our three-year-old classes learned how to keep their bodies healthy by eating nutritious foods, getting plenty of sleep, exercising, and of course, washing our hands! The children made delicious smoothies and rainbow fruit skewers. They had dance parties, meditation and yoga time. They learned about their amazing bodies and the dif-



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## Schools (continued)

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*Continued from page 10*

ferent body parts, including our skeleton and muscles, and talked about why we need to visit the doctor, even when we feel well. In our dramatic play areas, we set out doctor's kits and life-size x-rays on light tables so that the children can investigate what our bones look like. We also set up a dentist office where the children could practice brushing teeth in a sensory bin.

Here are some tips to keep your preschooler healthy this winter:

1. Get adequate sleep and keep a consistent bedtime routine. Preschoolers should be getting 10-13 hours of sleep each day, including naptimes.
2. Exercise daily! It not only keeps your body healthy; it helps with behavior and stress issues!
3. Practice healthy eating habits. Eat plenty of fruits and veggies, whole grains, proteins and dairy.
4. Wash hands regularly. Model how to properly wash your hands to your child.
5. Keep up with immunizations and well visits to your pediatrician.

We hope that you all have a healthy and happy winter season!

For more information about our preschool or to schedule a tour, please call 301-284-8144.

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### Seneca Academy

Seneca Academy is proudly celebrating its 40th anniversary! What started in 1983 as a tiny preschool in Jodi Thurmond's home on Pulver Place, has become a thriving International Baccalaureate World School with students from 2-years-old to 6th grade, on a beautiful 6.5-acre campus. Although we have grown, what hasn't changed since our founding, is our commitment to keeping child development and research-based educational practices at the center of our mission. Our motto this year is "40 Years of Preserving the Wonder of Childhood." We invite you to experience this for yourself by attending a Parenting Series Workshop (evenings of 3/2/23, 5/4/23) or attending a virtual Open House! Please visit [www.SenecaAcademy.org](http://www.SenecaAcademy.org) for more information.

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## Churches

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### Darnestown Presbyterian Church

**Christmas Eve Services!** We will hold two services on Christmas Eve in our historic sanctuary. Our **5:00 p.m. Family-Friendly Worship Service** is geared towards families with younger children, and features plenty of music, stories, candles, and perhaps a few goodies as well. Our **8:00 p.m. Traditional Candle-light Service** is a more adult-oriented service featuring glorious music from our Chancel and Bell Choirs. But

the heart of this service is the lovely sharing of candle-light in our darkened sanctuary, symbolizing the sharing of our light with the world. A brief reception with home-baked goodies will likely follow the service!

**In-Person Worship and Live-Streaming Each Sunday.** We continue in-person worship at **10:30 a.m. each Sunday**, and we love to see visitors! We simultaneously live-stream on YouTube (search for "Darnestown Presbyterian Church" and subscribe!), and check our church website for worship times and other updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.

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### Fairhaven United Methodist Church

**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

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## Churches (continued)

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*Continued from page 11*

church. Our Gospel, Sanctuary, and Handbell choirs offer special music throughout the year. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month and on other special Sundays. The zoom link can be requested from our church administrator at [fairhavenumc@gmail.com](mailto:fairhavenumc@gmail.com).

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services—Saturday, December 24th**

**7:00 p.m.**—Family Service: our children and youth lead us in service of lessons and carols, with musical selections by the Gospel and Sanctuary choirs. Prelude music, offered by the Gospel Choir, begins at 6:45 p.m.

**10:00 p.m.**—Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols—Holy Communion will be celebrated

### **Christmas Day Worship Service—Sunday, December 25th at 10:30 a.m.**



12801 Darnestown Road  
Gaithersburg, MD  
[www.fairhavenumcmaryland.com](http://www.fairhavenumcmaryland.com)

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### **Our Lady of the Visitation Parish**

We were thrilled to offer our annual live Christmas Tree and wreath sale again this year. If you missed us, be sure and purchase a beautiful fresh tree from our festive lot next year.



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



For information on these programs and on other activities at Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, located at 14139 Seneca Road in Darnestown, check our website at [www.olvp.org](http://www.olvp.org).

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### **St. Nicholas Episcopal Church**

St. Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, will be visiting St. Nicholas Episcopal Church on Sunday, December 4th at the 10:00 a.m. worship service. Everyone—especially children—are invited to meet St. Nicholas and to learn about his amazing life. You are welcome to attend in person or via livestream through St. Nicholas' Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/SaintNicks/>.

Christmas Eve Services will be held on Saturday, December 24th at 4:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. The 4:00 p.m. service is primarily for families with young children and the 7:30 p.m. service is a more formal service with choir, sermon, and communion. Both services will be livestreamed through St. Nicholas' Facebook page—<https://www.facebook.com/SaintNicks/>.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church  
15575 Germantown Road  
Darnestown, MD 20874  
[www.saintnicks.com](http://www.saintnicks.com)  
240-631-2800



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# Business Directory

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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 at [www.darnestowncivic.org](http://www.darnestowncivic.org) 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  
mbrezovec@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@dsrclub.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

**Seneca Studio | Original Handcrafted Furnishings**

240-812-1792  
Senecastudio.com  
lukasz@senecastudio.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](http://darnestowncivic.org).

## 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)  
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(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.



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# Darnestown Schools, Organizations & Churches

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## Schools

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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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@dar-nestowncivic.org](mailto:acorn@dar-nestowncivic.org) before February 1, 2023. 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

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Liv Gabri (2009)  
240-353-7079

Jonas Skucas (2005)  
301-525-2501

## Notary Services

---

Tina Kalil  
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane  
301-990-2993



**Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.**

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: [dca@darnestowncivic.org](mailto:dca@darnestowncivic.org)

Website: [darnestowncivic.org](http://darnestowncivic.org)

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