



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 60 Number 1
March 2023

President's Corner



By Scott Mostrom

Each of us has a story for how our family came to call Darnestown home. Some of us sought it, some of us were born into it, and some of us, including my family, stumbled into it.

In the spring of 1978 Mom decided to tag along with one her close friends, who was just starting as a real estate agent, to look at a three-story colonial on Black Rock Road. Mom wasn't looking to move from our home in Rockville but fell in love with the house. Somehow, she was able to convince Dad, who in general was as excited for change as a large boulder in mud, to come out and meet them. Reluctantly he did and

after getting lost on the way out was in quite the mood by time he arrived. As Mom tells the story, Dad walked in the front door, made a straight line to the back of the house, and spent the rest of the time in the backyard chatting with current owner.

While Mom loved everything about the house and property, the backyard was all that Dad needed to see and was sold. On the drive home he asked my Mom "So, was there an upstairs?" True story. And if you're wondering—yes there was an upstairs and without it there wouldn't have been rooms for his three sons.

So, in August of '78 we made the westward trek to Dar-

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What's Happening in Darnestown

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

March 23, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Meeting

Go to www.darnestowncivic.org for more details.

March 26, 2023 | 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunt

Darnestown Presbyterian Church
See page 2 for more details.

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

**Butler Montessori Farm
& Forest Explorers**

See page 5 or go to www.ButlerSchool.org/forest for more details.

April 22, 2023

Darnestown Cleanup Day

See page 2 for more details.

April 23, 2023

Darnestown Softball Opening Day

See page 4 for more details or e-mail dnlbivans34@verizon.net.

April 29, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Farmers and Artists Market

See page 2 for more details.

May 1, 2023

Deadline for next issue

of *The Little Acorn*

Submit articles to
acorn@darnestowncivic.org.

May 4, 2023 | 6:30 p.m.

Seneca Academy Parenting Series

See page 6 or go to www.senecaacademy.org for more details.

May 15, 2023

**2023 DCA Scholarship and
Bruce Deppa Scholarship Deadline**

See page 3 for more details.

May 25 | 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Food Truck Thursday

See page 2 for more details.

September 8, 2023

Mollys Mulligan

(More details to come in the June issue.)

September 16, 2023

Mollys Walk and Roll

(More details to come in the June issue.)

September 30, 2023 | 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Comfort Cases 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit

www.comfortcases.org/benefit/

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nestown. Though only 16 miles, as a 7-year-old at the time it felt like we were blazing the Oregon Trail. Crossing over 270 may have as well been crossing over the Mississippi River. After leaving the center of Rockville there was literally just one traffic light along the entire stretch of the 'old Rt. 28' that went past Travilah Road out to Darnestown. It was a simple two-lane stretch with no Shady Grove Hospital, Great Seneca Highway, or Quince Orchard High School, and the only highlight I remember along the way was the 'Ugly Duckling' deli until you hit McDonald's and a bit of civilization again.

Darnestown itself was just a stop sign at the Shell station (Texaco at the time). There was an old bank in the lot behind the Texaco but no Harris Teeter or the 6-12 and other shops across the street. While there have been massive changes on the 16-mile route out, that stretch of Rt. 28, starting at Riffleford Rd. and going through Darnestown, remains just about the same as it was then.

I don't think any of us, my parents included, knew what an important role Darnestown would play in our lives, or that the three sons would move from those upstairs bedrooms to homes of their own in Darnestown to raise their families. Since our move my parents have seen a combined 48 school years' worth of their kids and grandkids pass through Darnestown Elementary. And my Dad, the boulder in so many ways, would happily and very proudly call Darnestown home for his family for the rest of his life.

Do you have an interesting family story or historical information on Darnestown? We would love to hear from you! Contact acorn@darnestowncivic.org

DCA Town Meeting

March 23, 2023 | 7:30 p.m.

**For details, go to
www.darnestowncivic.org.**

Spring Events in Darnestown

Spring is in the air and it's time to head outside. We hope you can join us for these fun and exciting community events.

Darnestown's 2nd Annual Easter Egg Roll

The Darnestown Civic Association and the Darnestown Presbyterian Church are excited to host the 2nd annual Community Easter Egg Roll on the front lawn of the Darnestown Presbyterian Church on Sunday, March 26, 2023, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. There will be photos with the Easter Bunny, face painting, crafts, an egg roll, egg hunts, and flowers from Pleasant Hill Farm. There will be three egg hunts for different age groups this year. Ages 0-4 are at 2:30 p.m., 5-9 is at 3:00 p.m. and 10+ is at 3:30 p.m. This is a free event for the Darnestown community.

Darnestown Clean-Up Day

In conjunction with Earth Day, Darnestown will be holding their own clean-up day on Saturday, April 22nd. More information will be listed on the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org and on social media closer to the date of the event.

Farmers and Artists Markets

The first Farmers and Artists Market of 2023 will be on April 29th from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club. If you are a vendor and would like to participate, please contact Stephanie Kunkle at social@darnestowncivic.org.

Food Truck Thursday is Back

The Darnestown Civic Association in partnership with the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club are excited to bring back Food Truck Thursday. This year we are making it bigger and better with only one night of trucks. So, it's a cannot miss event. Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 25th from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. This is a community-wide event and open to all. Details on the trucks and how to preorder will be listed on the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org closer to time of the event.

**To stay up to date on all community events,
visit www.darnestowncivic.org.**

Community Update

Safety Chair Update

By Matt Quinn

As the newest Safety Chair of our Darnestown Civic Association (DCA), I am pleased to say that I love the job. For those who are considering applying for this prestigious volunteer position, hopefully in the distant future, the lawful duties and authority are akin to the day in the life of Sheriff Andy Taylor and Deputy Barney Fife. Hopefully, many or some will recall or are watching the reruns of the TV show “Andy of Mayberry,” where Andy and Barney are responsible for keeping the peace in the town of Mayberry. Well, much like Andy and Barney, the Chair of the DCA Safety Committee is expected to effectively partner with the community and Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) for the purpose of maintaining the peace and safety of our small but influential community of Darnestown.

With that said, in my capacity as the Sheriff-like person in Darnestown, I would like to informally deputize everyone in our community and strongly encourage all, that if and when you see or hear something that rises to the level of criminal activity, that you will promptly contact MCPD...and also send a courtesy notification to me at safety@darnestowncivic.org.

We have recently learned that some property related crimes (i.e. crimes of opportunity, theft of vehicle, etc.) have occurred in and around our community and that the information is not always being reported to MCPD.

Per MCPD’s mission statement:

“We are committed to working in partnership with the community to identify and resolve issues that impact public safety.” Our vision statement reads, “The MCPD, in cooperation with the community we serve, will work to enhance community relations and build trust through transparency, accountability, and strong leadership.”

Thanks to current and past leadership, DCA has established a very productive and professional relationship with MCPD. The DCA Safety Committee is available to the community as a resource and/or facilitator regarding safety matters impacting Darnestown.

Who knows, Hollywood may come knocking to film the next “Andy of Mayberry” right here in Darnestown.

Thank you for all you continue to do to make Darnestown a safe place to live, work and visit.



THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION AND
DARNESTOWN SWIM & RACQUET CLUB BRING YOU THE

DARNESTOWN FARMERS & ARTISTS Market

SATURDAY APRIL 29 from 9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

DARNESTOWN SWIM AND RACQUET CLUB
15004 SPRING MEADOWS DR.

2023 Scholarship Opportunity

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

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

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

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA’s mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. The deadline for submissions is **May 15, 2023**. For more scholarship details and application guidelines, check the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org.

Springtime Resources and Reminders

Roads Task Force—rtf@darnestowncivic.org

Just a reminder about a few handy service request and active planning feedback resources.

Pedestrian Master Plan:

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

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

County road requests:

Streetlights:

https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Traffic/streetlight_maint.html

Traffic signals, signs, markings (email):

mcdot.trafficops@montgomerycountymd.gov

You can also use the county's 311 system to call or go online and create a service request for most issues.

State road service request:

https://marylandsha.secure.force.com/customercare/request_for_service

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

The Roads Task Force is always happy to hear from you, drop us a line anytime at [**rtf@darnestowncivic.org**](mailto:rtf@darnestowncivic.org). 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 consider joining our work effort.

Springtime always brings with it the challenges of sudden and increased needs to share and give way. Please be aware of your role in keeping everyone safe.

PLEASE

Slow Down Put the Phone Down

Be Courteous Be Visible

Communications Lead for the DCA

The DCA is seeking a Communications Lead to help drive the DCA's outbound communications and outreach to our community. The volunteer position will be responsible for updating and maintaining content on the DCA's website as well as crafting outbound mass emails to promote upcoming social events, meetings, and our advocacy work. This is an important role to lead our public-facing communications that will help us to better engage with our members. The position requires good writing skills and attending our monthly Executive Board meetings and quarterly Town Hall meetings. No technical background is required and the role is not anticipated to exceed 8-12 hours per month.

If you're interested and want to help make a difference in Darnestown, today and for our future, we encourage you to reach out to us at [**president@darnestowncivic.org**](mailto:president@darnestowncivic.org).

Spring is Almost Here!

By Dave Bivans

And you know what that means ... Darnestown softball isn't far behind! **Sunday, April 16th will be Spring Training Day** for DCA adult co-ed softball, our 33rd season (in 34 years accounting for the bye-year in 2020). All are welcome to join in the fun playing (no minimum ability requirements) and/or cheering on your favorite teams and players. Once again we're looking forward to fielding four neighborhood-based teams (Western Darnestown, Central Darnestown Swingers, Jones Lane, and defending champion Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield).

The 12-game season will begin with **Opening Day on April 23rd** and extend through August 6th (no games on DCA "holiday" weekends). All games are played Sunday afternoons/evenings at Darnestown's very own Cliff Bland Park.

If you're interested in joining a team or need additional information, please give me a call (301-977-4734) or shoot me an email ([**softball@darnestowncivic.org**](mailto:softball@darnestowncivic.org)). I'm looking forward to seeing you for some friendly neighborhood fun!

Deer Fence Project at Twelve Years

By James Wheeler

My family moved to our Darnestown home 34 years ago, to a wooded site that adjoins Seneca Creek State Park. In those days the park's forest appeared to be thriving. Familiar forest floor plants, hardwood saplings, and understory trees flourished under a canopy of mature hardwoods.

Over the years the park's forest has changed. The native plants and saplings on the forest floor have largely disappeared, apparently eaten by our large population of white-tailed deer. In their place is a carpet of Japanese stiltgrass and wavyleaf basketgrass, both of which are aggressively spreading invasive plants that our deer do not eat.



In 2010 the DCA decided to fund a demonstration project to see if the forest environment could recover without the pressure of hungry deer. With the Park's permission, DCA allocated funding and a group of volunteers

built two experimental enclosures to isolate parts of the forest from deer.

These 8-foot fences each enclose about an acre and are in differing forest environments, one on the flood plain near the Route 118 bridge, and the other on high ground near Haddonfield Way. The fences were completed in early 2011, and since then volunteers have inspected the sites regularly, monitoring the results, and repairing damage caused by falling limbs and trees.

Twelve deer-free years have produced striking results. Inside the fences the forest is starting to recover, with hardwood saplings of white and red oak, tulip poplar and hickory along with an understory of dogwood, ironwood, mountain laurel, sassafras, and others. There are indications that the invasive grasses are less of an issue with competition from other vegetation. In places the undergrowth is now very thick and it will be interesting to see whether and how this may evolve with as new hardwood regrow.

I'm planning to set up a tour of the sites and show the results, probably in May when the plants have leafed out enough to identify. Watch for an email from the DCA with specifics. More information about the project, including photos, is available on the DCA web site www.darnestowncivic.org.

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

We invite our Darnestown neighbors to the spring Farm & Forest Explorers program, a free nature class for children ages 2-5 and their caretakers.

Children enjoy meeting chickens and horses, hiking our trails, and visiting the creeks and pond while 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.

Spring 2023 Schedule
April 13, 20, 27
May 4, 11, 18



**You can view the
The Little Acorn
online
in full color
and with
clickable links!**

**Go to
darnestowncivic.org**




Seneca Academy Parenting Series: Parenting in the Digital Age

Seneca Academy continues with its parenting series that is free-of-charge and open to the whole community! Workshops are presented by Dr. Michelle Parker, Head of School at Seneca Academy and a child psychologist.

Come join us for the upcoming workshop “Parenting in the Digital Age,” which will take place on **May 4, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.**

For more information or to RSVP visit: <https://www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/>



DARNESTOWN EASTER EGG ROLL

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
*from 2pm-4pm at
Darnestown Presbyterian Church*

*Join us for pictures with the Easter Bunny,
face painting, crafts, egg roll, egg hunt,
cake walk, & flowers from Pleasant Hills Farm!*

EGG HUNT SCHEDULE

*Ages 0-4 at 2:30pm
Ages 5-9 at 3:00pm
Ages 10+ at 3:30pm*

CO-SPONSORED BY:
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
Darnestown Civic Association

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

It's been a while since Boy Scout Troop 1094 has provided an update to *The Little Acorn*! As we emerge from COVID restrictions, the Troop is resuming a full schedule of activities. August kicked off with a visit to Williamsburg, Yorktown, and Jamestown as well as our troop picnic at Seneca Creek State Park before the start of the 2022-2023 school year. Our fall camping trip to Assateague Island was unfortunately canceled due to Hurricane Ian but we are looking forward to resuming our annual trip in 2023. Several scouts participated in the Baltimore Area Council's Orienteering program. Orienteering was started by the Swedish military in the 1800s as a competition for service members to complete navigational challenges using only a map and compass. The sport is popular in Europe and is gaining in popularity in America and is popular with our Scouts.

The troop continued the fun with a day trip to Mount Vernon in January. The troop toured the grounds, placed a wreath on President Washington's tomb and completed the Mount Vernon Orienteering Course as well as the Mount Vernon Scavenger Hunt.

Scouting is about more than just fun. The Boy Scouts of America teaches leadership, good citizenship, and service to others. These lifelong skills are the cornerstone of community engagement. Each year our troop leads several service-related activities, including Scouting for Food, Wreaths Across America, and grounds clean-up for our sponsor organization, Darnestown Presbyterian Church.

Any update would be remiss without mentioning our Eagle Scouts. Eagle Scout is the highest rank a troop member can achieve and nationwide only four percent of scouts earn this rank. Eagle Scouts demonstrate sustained commitment to the Scout Law, motto, and oath. Eagle Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges; merit badges are awarded to scouts by completing activities within a particular area of study (for example, camping, cooking, game design, robotics). Merit badges permit scouts to explore various sports, scientific disciplines, and careers in depth.

Eagle Scouts must plan, organize, and complete an extensive service project. These projects often span multiple days and organizations in Darnestown are often the beneficiary of these projects. Troop leadership

is pleased to announce that the following members of Troop 1094 achieved the Eagle Scout Rank in 2022:

- Nate Leshin (March 2022)
- Peter DeRose (August 2022)
- Neil Marwaha (September 2022)
- Jonah Karst (October 2022)
- Taran Leshin (December 2022)
- Fred Mulford (December 2022)
- Connor Vafa (December 2022)
- Carter Nasso (January 2022)

We are very proud to have these young men in our troop and we believe they represent the best of Darnestown.

The Troop 1094 Planning Committee will feature a few Eagle Scouts in each issue of *The Little Acorn*. This month we'd like to introduce readers to Peter DeRose and Jonah Karst.



Peter DeRose

Peter DeRose, senior at Quince Orchard High School, achieved Eagle Rank August 2022. For his eagle project, Peter led a team in refurbishing a fishing dock at the Izaak Walton League in Rockville. His favorite scout memory was the annual "Scouting for Food" Manna Food Bank drive that collected non-perishable items for Montgomery County residents. Peter's favorite hobbies are playing tennis, basketball, and going to the gym. He hopes to attend University of Maryland or University of Pittsburgh in the Fall.



Jonah Karst

Jonah Coltrane Karst, from Darnestown Boy Scout Troop 1094, achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in October 2022. Jonah is a senior at Northwest High School. Through Scouting Jonah was able to satisfy his adventurous spirit by going backpacking and overnight camping with his fellow scouts. During the summer of 2022, Jonah got the chance to go backpacking in the mountains of New-Mexico for 10 days; where he strengthened his bond with his peers and advanced his scouting skills.

Troop 1094 is always welcoming new members in grades 6-12. Please contact our committee chair at chair@troop1094.org.

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Organizations (continued)

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Comfort Cases 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit:

Fostering Focus On The Future

Celebrate Comfort Cases' 10th Anniversary! Having kicked off the year distributing our 200,000th Comfort Case to reach the arms a child in foster care, we welcome you to become a sponsor and/or attend the **Comfort Cases 2023 Annual BBQ Benefit: Fostering Focus on the Future**. The fall fundraising festivities will be held at The Comus Farm in Dickerson, MD on Saturday, September 30, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The semi-'farm'al event will include awards, auction, dinner, and entertainment.

Comfort Cases was founded by the Scheer Family here in Darnestown with the mission of inspiring communities to bring dignity and hope to youth in foster care. Over the past decade we have provided Comfort Cases filled with items of comfort and personal care to children and youth (ages newborn to 21) in foster care in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom.

To become a sponsor and/or purchase tickets to our largest celebratory fundraiser of the year, please visit: <https://comfortcases.org/gala/>

Please reach the event chair, Jenn Moss, at jmoss@comfortcases.org with questions or ideas.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Tracy Lang

In November, the Darne Bloomers Garden Club gathered at Bretton Woods Recreation Club for a presentation by Sarah Campbell Needham of Leafhopper Designs on poisonous plants and flowers, with a special focus on those used in floral designs and gardens, including, among many others, bleeding hearts, daffodils, hellebores, hydrangeas, lantana, lily-of-the valley, and tulips. The presentation was both colorful and fascinating and ended with Sarah providing an alarmingly long list of plants and flowers organized by their scientific and common names, with their associated level(s) of toxicity—from major (serious illness or death) to less so (skin rash or irritation).



Our December meeting at Bretton Woods was a hands-on activity. Members were provided with a gorgeous and plentiful assortment of greens and flowers and a silver or gold compote vase with a chicken-wire pillow to create a holiday floral arrangement. The flowers included stems of amaryllis, alstroemeria, roses, hypericum berries, and striking lime green and burgundy orchid blooms; optional small fruits were provided to round out the arrangements. With these amazing materials on hand, plus generous tips and advice from our experienced floral designers, each of us left the meeting with a striking creation for the holidays.



For the Darne Bloomers service project in January, members once again created small floral arrangements for inpatients at local care facilities, including the Village at Rockville Health Center, the Smith-Kogod Residence at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, and two smaller facilities located along Darnestown Road, the Nightingale House and Darnestown Gardens Assisted Living. For the arrangements, members were provided with mint julep cups for vases, a floral "recipe," assorted flowers and greens, and a very entertaining demonstration of how to create the arrangements, provided by two of the committee hostesses, Peggy Thomas, a former club president, and new member, Holly Buehler.

In February, we had a floral arranging demonstration by Sidra Forman and in March we will have a living wreath presentation. 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. You are welcome to visit our website at www.darnebloomers.com. Happy Gardening!

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Organizations (continued)

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2023 Summer Preparations are Underway!

By Aleks Schiff

Even though we have had a mild winter, we still look forward to an exciting summer season! We have been working hard to get the Club ready during the off-season! Programing for the summer is almost complete in all areas—Summer Camp, Swim Team, Tennis and Pickleball, and Social Events.

We have refinished our tennis courts and now have 4 dedicated Pickleball courts. In addition, we will continue to prioritize several other capital improvements around the Club.



Summer's Calling!

Tennis & Pickleball are starting in the spring, and we look forward to having a new Pro to lead the program! Our **Social Events** team has many great events planned for all ages so check out our website for

the schedule. Our **Demon Swim Team** has moved up to the B Division and is looking forward to a strong season. The registration dates will be posted soon.

Camp GreenZone, with Alyssa's return, is bigger and better this summer with more engaging programming for our membership.

Our membership is currently at full capacity, but you can still join our waitlist—our member community is amazing! We are a year-round active community with tennis, pickleball, swim, and social events throughout the year. Check out all our latest information 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@dsrclub.com • 301-330-1340

15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown



P.E.O. is a Philanthropic Educational Organization founded in 1869. 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. P.E.O. Chapter AD originated in Darnestown but we have members who live in Germantown, Rockville, Damascus and Gaithersburg.

One of our six projects is the STAR scholarship which is a \$2500 scholarship for an exceptional woman in her final year of high school and plans to attend an accredited postsecondary education institution in the U.S. or Canada in the next academic year.

Eligibility for the STAR scholarship:

- Exhibits excellence in leadership, academics, extracurricular activities, community service and potential for future success
- Minimum cumulative unweighted GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- In the final academic year of secondary education and is 20 years of age or under at the end of the calendar year
- Plans to attend an accredited U.S. or Canadian postsecondary institution, full or part time, in fall of the academic year after graduation
- U.S. or Canadian citizen or legal permanent resident recommended by a local P.E.O. chapter

If you know of a possible candidate for this scholarship please contact randalocke@gmail.com. The candidate will need to be recommended by Chapter AD. It is recommended that the process be started in the Spring or Summer so that the application can be submitted between August 15 through October 15th.

Chapter AD meets the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. and usually has a monthly social that includes members and friends. Membership in P.E.O. is open to 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 Randa Locke at randalocke@gmail.com.

Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday & Easter Services. Join us on Palm Sunday (April 2nd) and Easter (April 9th) in our historic sanctuary! These services are worship and musical highlights every year, and we hope you can join us! And stay afterward on Easter for some baked goods and snacks to follow.

Easter Egg Roll! Darnestown Presbyterian Church and Darnestown Civic Association will hold our **2nd annual Community Easter Egg Roll** on Sunday, March 26th beginning at 2:00 p.m.! This primarily outdoor event is a great family outing, and the Easter Bunny *will* make an appearance. Come celebrate Spring on our front lawn!

Organ Dedication Concert—May 21st! We will hold a concert starting at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 21st, to formally dedicate our beautiful new organ. Check our social media and web pages for details.

In Person Worship/Live-Streaming. We worship at **10:30 a.m. each Sunday** and live-stream on YouTube. Please check our church website for updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.



St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church
15575 Germantown Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.saintnicks.com
240-631-2800

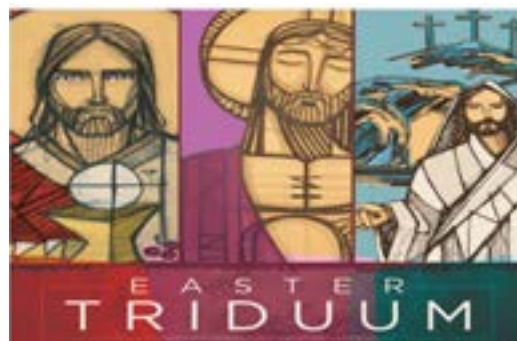
Easter Day Service will be on Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

14139 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.olvp.org • 301-948-5536

2023 LENTEN SERVICES

Stations Of The Cross	Fridays, February 24 - March 31 6:30 p.m.
Passion /Palm Sunday Sacred Liturgy	April 1- 2 Saturday, 5:00 p.m. Sunday, 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. Healing Mass, 5:00 p.m.



Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper,	April 6 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Stations of the Cross, Celebration of the Lord's Passion	April 7 3:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
Holy Saturday The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night	April 8 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of The Lord Sacred Liturgy	April 9 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

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Churches (continued)

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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. Our Gospel, Sanctuary, and Handbell choirs offer special

music throughout the year. Holy Communion is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of every month and at other special Sundays. The Zoom link can be requested from our church administrator, fairhavenumc@gmail.com.

Good Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m. A service to remember and reflect on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, April 9 at 7:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Joyous services to celebrate the Resurrection! 3 choirs will share music at the 10:30 a.m. service and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Earth Day Celebration, Sunday April 23 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. on the church grounds

Join us for an outdoor festival to celebrate Earth Day! Interactive exhibits for children and adults as we honor the wonders of God's good creation! (Raindate: Sunday, April 30)

Schools

Butler Montessori

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

One of the yearly highlights that our older students recently participated in is the Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN) program. Students (ages 9–15) come together in after-school study groups where they receive guidance and support for researching their topics and writing position papers using the format of the United Nations to create solutions for current world issues. There are also



opportunities to participate in online working sessions and social meetups with global peers.

The process culminates with a 4-day trip

to New York City for a global education simulation experience that enables upper elementary and middle school students to learn about the operations of the UN and its role as the world's largest international peace-keeping and humanitarian organization.

Learn more about this life-changing experience: www.montessori-mun.org

Learn More about a Montessori Middle School education at www.ButlerSchool.org.

Darnestown Elementary School PTA Charity Golf Tournament

Join in the 2nd Annual Darnestown ES PTA Charity Golf Tournament at Bretton Woods Golf Course on Monday, May 22. Proceeds will benefit the DES PTA and Comfort Cases. To purchase sponsor packages and/or tickets to play, please visit our website at: <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/second-annual-darnestown-elementary-pta-golf-charity-tournament> or scan the QR code to link directly to our website.



Questions? Please reach Miguel Saba, Tournament Chair, at miguel@miguelsaba.com OR Jenn Moss, Co-VP Fundraising & Community Service, at moss3210@gmail.com.

Continued on 12

Schools (continued)

Continued from 11

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Community service is a big part of our curriculum at Georgetown Hill. Thanks to our amazing families, we were able to donate over 180 pounds of food to Gaithersburg Help this year. We have donated to several other charities this year, including Share Baby Inc. and Germantown Help. As I am typing this article, our TK class is deciding on which animal foster/rescue organization they will be supporting. The children will be writing letters to the volunteers at the shelter, making dog biscuits for the dogs, and collecting items for the organization.

This school year has been going by so fast! I can't believe it is already time to think about summer. Georgetown Hill has an amazing summer program for your little ones from two years old up to school-agers! Join us for play-based learning encompassing nature exploration, water activities, music and movement, sports and fitness, and the arts. We are now enrolling for summer camp and the 2023-2024 school year. Call the Darnestown campus for more information at 301-527-1761

Seneca Academy's School Notes

By Dr. Michelle Parker

At Seneca Academy, we really believe in hands-on, experiential learning. What better way to achieve this than field trips? Thus far, our students have taken flight at iFly to study forces, used orienteering skills to navigate their way out of a corn maze, traveled around Darnestown to see how a community works, run an assembly line together in Baltimore, volunteered their time with local nonprofit Comfort Cases, and so much more! Of course, big adventures have happened on our campus as well! Whether exploring our green space through walks or gazing at the moon in the night sky through a telescope, Seneca Academy is a truly magical place for students to play, learn, and be immersed in a sense of wonder!

In other wonderful news, Seneca Academy is pleased to announce a new weekly enrichment program for rising 3-year-olds through rising 5-year-olds this summer! Come join us on our 6.5-acre National Wildlife Federation Certified Schoolyard Habitat for learning and outdoor adventures for seven weeks of the sum-

mer. Get ready to play, create, learn, grow, and have fun learning "around the world"! Visit the Seneca Academy website at <https://www.senecaacademy.org/summer-at-seneca> for more information and to register.

We continue to accept applications for our Preschool 3s, Prekindergarten 4s, and elementary programs for Kindergarten through Grade 5, and will begin to accept applications for our very popular Parent's Day Out for 2-year-olds on March 27. We anticipate classes for next year to fill quickly; now is the time to join our village! Please visit www.SenecaAcademy.org for more information.

Maryland's Largest School District
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential

Will your child be 5 years old by September 1, 2023?



Kindergarten registration is now open!

Families can use the following methods to register:

Are you new to MCPS?

You will need to create a ParentVue account [here](#) or scan the QR code to the right.



Are you already an MCPS parent/guardian?

Follow this [link](#) to register online or scan the QR code to the right.

1. You can use your ParentVUE account to access Online Registration.
2. If you don't have a ParentVUE account, contact your home school and they will provide you with your activation letter.



Do you need to register with printed forms? Please contact your school directly. You can determine which school is assigned to your address by using the [School Assignment Locator](#)

.....
[Learn More about the MCPS Kindergarten Program \[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/kindergarten\]\(http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/kindergarten\)](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/kindergarten)

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

May 1, 2023

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

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 at 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

DB&C Home Restorations | Kitchen & Bath Remodeling & Home Improvements

14905 Braemar Crescent Way,
Darnestown
301-641-0718
Loraine@dbchomerestorations.com

Valerie Fuster, Realtor | Long & Foster Real Estate Inc.

10121 River Road, Potomac
301-299-6000
vfuster@icloud.com
valfuster.com

Georgetown Hill Early School | Preschool

15120-B Turkey Foot Road
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com
darnestown@georgetownhill.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-ohDEERMCo | 833-643-3376
MoCoMD@oh-DEER.com
www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo
@ohDEERMCo

Pleasant Hills Farm | Specialty Flower Farm

14820 Kelley Farm Drive
240-281-2110
www.pleasanthillsfarm.com

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 Riffelford 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

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 | 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

If you are a Darnestown school, organization or church and would like your name added to this list,
please send your information to acorn@darnestowncivic.org

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

Georgetown Hill Early School

15120-B Turkey Foot Road
Darnestown, MD 20878
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com

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

14100G Darnestown Rd
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.Darnestowncivic.org

Girl Scout Troop 33217

troop.33217@gmail.com

P.E.O. International

www.peointernational.org

Churches

Darnestown Presbyterian Church

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

Liv Gabri (2009)
240-353-7079

Kirabo Payne (2009)
202-257-9378

Jonas Skucas (2005)
301-525-2501

Notary Services

Tina Kalil
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane
301-990-2993

The Little Acorn

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(acorn@darnestowncivic.org)
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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: Mail to:
Darnestown Civic Association 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.

You can also register for a DCA membership online by going to **darnestowncivic.org** or by scanning the QR code here.





Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

114100 Darnestown RD, STE G

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

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