



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 61 Number 1
Spring 2024

President's Corner

Notes from the President



I know I often focus this article around Darnestown as our “home,” maybe too much. That’s not just because we literally live here and all have that in common. I think it’s because, for most of us, it’s not a stop along the way, it’s the

destination—where we want to settle, raise our families, and possibly grow old. We’re passionate about it. So, when there are things that could impact our home—our family, our security, our sense of comfort, or any of the values you put around “home”—we stand up like the hair on my dog’s back when the Amazon delivery driver comes to the front door.

In our upcoming Town Hall on March 21st, we are going to touch on a few things that may tickle some of those hairs.*

We will discuss the proposed circle at Esworthy Rd. and Seneca Rd., a Montgomery County effort intended to reduce speed and improve safety at the existing “Y” intersection. The County held a meeting last month and there were strong and varied opinions on both sides. Some were in favor of the circle as the right approach to improve safety while others felt that the intrusiveness, design, and expense were overkill based on the accident data or that other speed and intersection options should be considered to improve safety. The Darnestown Civic Association (DCA) does not have a position on this, but we want to provide updates on the County’s process and open the topic for general discussion.

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What’s Happening in Darnestown

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

March 21 | 7:30 p.m.

DCA Town Meeting

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

April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9 | 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Butler Montessori Farm and Forest Explorers

Go to page 3 or www.butlerschool.org/forest for more information.

April 13, 2024

Darnestown Clean Up Day

Details will be available at www.darnestowncivic.org closer to the event.

April 14, 2024

Darnestown Softball Opening Day!

Details can be found on page 3.

Email dnlbivans34@verizon.net for more information

May 1, 2024

Deadline for Summer Issue of *The Little Acorn*

acorn@darnestowncivic.org

May 2, 2024 | 6:30 p.m.

Seneca Academy Parenting Series

“Parenting in the Digital Age”

For more information and to register, go to www.SenecaAcademy.org/parenting

May 17, 2024

2024 DCA Scholarship and

Bruce Deppa Scholarship Deadline

Details can be found at www.darnestowncivic.org

May 20

3rd Annual Darnestown Elementary School

Charity Golf Tournament

Details can be found on page 7

Continued from page 1

We'll also provide an overview and timeline for a school boundary study that's coming our way. A re-districting effort for the new Crown High School (targeted for a 2027 opening) will most likely be combined with re-districting to support a Clarksburg High School expansions and Damascus High School renovations. This re-districting will include 11 high schools and their feeder middle schools and encompasses the entire northwest half of the County. Most pertinent to Darnestown Elementary and Jones Lane Elementary kids, all of the closest high schools—Northwest (where DES is currently routed), Quince Orchard, and Poolesville high schools—are all included.

One final thought on Darnestown as our “home.” It is “*our* home.” It is shared. As neighbors, it's expected that we will not all agree on every issue. I hope that middle ground can be found on contentious issues but that may not always be possible. But it's also expected, very simply, that each of us is civil and respectful. While that civility is deteriorating in too many places in our world, our town's culture is and always has

been better than that. So, stand tall in your position but please do it the Darnestown way. Your neighbors will still be your neighbors long after any issue has breezed through town.

* While the online version of the Spring issue of *The Little Acorn* was available before the Town Hall on March 21st, the printed edition may be in mailboxes after that date. If you would like to hear the recorded Town Hall meeting, a link will be available on the Darnestown Civic Association's website at www.darnestowncivic.org.

DCA Town Meeting

March 21, 2024

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.

Community Update

We want YOU!

Spring is almost here...and that means Darnestown softball. We will once again be fielding four neighborhood-based teams (Western Darnestown, Central Darnestown Swingers, Jones Lane, and three-peat champion Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield) and each team continues to look for new players to strengthen their rosters. The league is open to Darnestown homeowners, or other men (29+ years old) and women (24+ years old) Darnestown residents. If you're interested in joining the fun, let me know (301-977-4734 or softball@darnestowncivic.org) and we'll get you to your team.

This year's season will begin Sunday, April 7th for Spring Training followed by Opening Day April 14th. The 12-game season will continue through July 28th, with all games played Sunday afternoons/evenings at Darnestown's very own Cliff Bland Park (no games on DCA “holiday” weekends).

We look forward to the warmer weather and seeing everyone, whether player or fan, for another great softball season.



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

Go to
www.darnestowncivic.org



Community Update (continued)

2024 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 17, 2024. For more scholarship details and application guidelines, check the DCA website at www.darnestowncivic.org, or scan the QR code to the right with your smart phone to go directly to our scholarship page.



Farm & Forest Explorers: Free Children's Nature Class

Calling all Darnestown neighbors! Join us for the spring Farm & Forest Explorers program, a free nature class designed for children ages 2–5 and their caretakers.

Children will have a blast meeting chickens and horses, hiking our scenic trails, and exploring the wonders of creeks and ponds while learning about plants and nature.

Let's embrace the beauty of the outdoors and enjoy some family fun together this spring! Sign up for this free class at www.ButlerSchool.org/forest and create unforgettable memories with your little ones.

Spring 2024 Schedule: April 4, 11, 18, 25; May 2, 9

Time: Thursdays at 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. and 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.

Age: Children ages 2–5 and an accompanying adult. Siblings welcome.

Cost: Free!



Community Update (continued)

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 2, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.**

To learn more and RSVP, please visit <https://www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series> or use your smart device to scan this QR code.



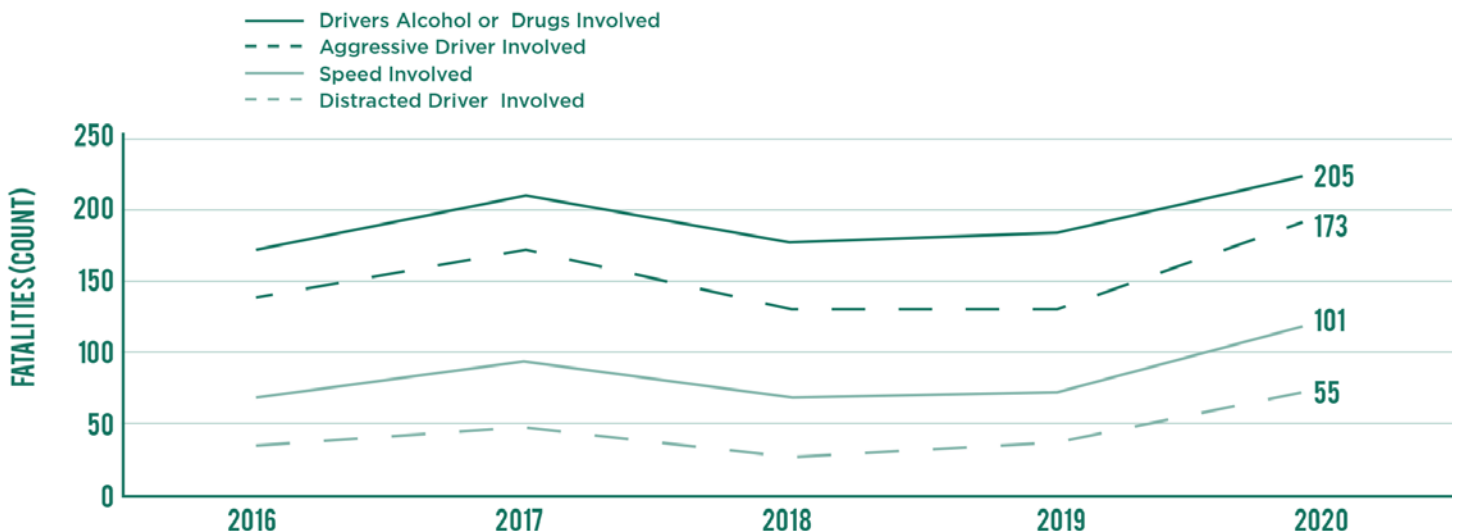
Spring is Here!

Roads Task Force — rtf@darnestowncivic.org

With spring’s warmer weather, you’re likely seeing more bicycles and pedestrians on our streets. In Darnestown, sidewalks are limited, and roads are a shared space for all. For drivers, sharing the road begins with the understanding that cyclists and pedestrians face unique safety challenges, such as being smaller and less visible. When driving, please stay alert on neighborhood roads and obey posted speed limits. As the nice weather brings more people outdoors, join us in helping to keep everyone safe on our roads.

Please Give Your Straight Up Full Attention

FACTORS RELATED TO FATAL MOTOR CRASHES, 2016–2020



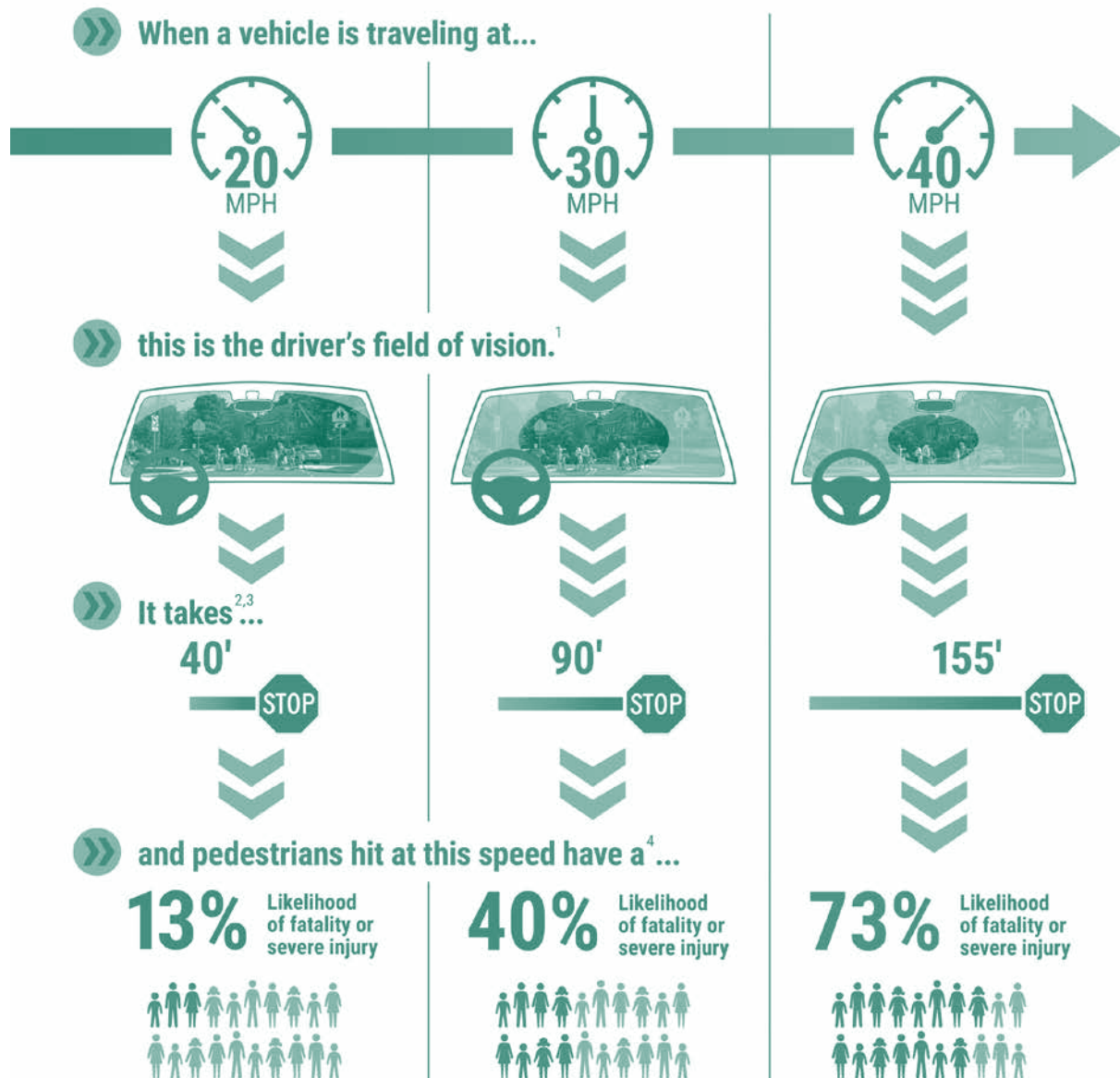
Maryland Department of Transportation. Statewide Crash Summary (cited 2022 May 16).
Retrieved from <https://zerodeathsmd.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/StatewideBR-2020Apr25-2022.pdf>

Community Update (continued)

Continued from page 4

Please Stay At or Under 25 MPH in Our Neighborhoods

» VEHICLE AND PEDESTRIAN COLLISION SPEED AND SURVIVAL PERCENTAGE «



¹ A. Bartmann, W. Spijkers and M. Hess, "Street Environment, Driving Speed and Field of Vision" Vision in Vehicles III (1991).

W. A. Leaf and David F. Preusser. Literature review on vehicle travel speeds and pedestrian injuries. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Dept. of Transportation, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 1999).

² Braking distances do not account for braking reaction time.

³ AASHTO Green Book—A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, 7th Edition. American Association of State and Highway Transportation Officials, 2018.

⁴ Tefft, Brian C. Impact speed and a pedestrian's risk of severe injury or death. Accident Analysis & Prevention. 50. 2013.

Figure 9-1: Relationship between speed and crash survival for people walking

PLEASE
Slow Down Put the Phone Down Be Courteous Be Visible

Community Update (continued)

Luke Pohl-Bogdan wins “Your Art, Our Earth” Poster Competition

This past October, **Earthday.org**, the driving force behind the global celebration of Earth Day and the leading advocacy group championing climate education for students worldwide, invited students across the United States to participate in a poster competition. The task was to visualize **Earthday.org**'s theme for Earth Day 2024, *Planet vs. Plastics*. A panel of judges, including the award winning actress and Co-Founder of *Make It Cute*, Amanda Seyfried, chose the winners.

Darnestown's own Luke Pohl-Bogdan, age 8, won the 5-17 age category. “All of the submissions brought to life the theme in unique ways, but Luke...demonstrated a special understanding of the urgency needed to tackle the global plastics crisis.”

“It made me really proud to win the poster competition as this is the start of my artistic journey,” said Luke, “Plastics are destroying Earth and harming animals. We must act before Earth becomes a big waste pile. I

like to draw action cartoons and we need action to save Earth from plastics.”

Congratulations, Luke, and Happy Earth Day!



Luke's winning entry from the 2024 Earthday.org poster contest

HELP DRIVE THE FUTURE OF DARNESTOWN!

Become a 2024 Member of the Darnestown Civic Association

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

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

*To join electronically, visit www.darnestowncivic.org
or use your smart device to scan the QR code!*

To join by mail, fill out the form on page 15 and mail it to the DCA!

Annual Dues are only \$35. Additional giving levels include
\$50 'Friend of Darnestown,' \$100 'Sponsor,' \$150 'Acorn' Program.
All paid 2024 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.



Events for Charity

3rd Annual Darnestown Elementary School Charity Golf Tournament

By Jenn Moss and Miguel Saba

Darnestown Elementary School's PTA is proud to host the 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Bretton Woods Golf Course in Darnestown, MD on Monday, May 20th. This year's fundraiser will benefit DES PTA programs and the ongoing work of CaringMatters.

You are invited to do a 'HOLE' lot of good by taking part in the special event as a sponsor and/or golfer! To learn more about how to become an impactful donor



or register to play, visit the tournament website at <https://app.eventcaddy.com/events/3rd-annual-darnestown-elementary-pta-golf-charity-tournament>, or by using the QR code.

DES PTA Programs Impacted:

- Community-building social events including school picnics, family game night, school dance, and community breakfasts
- Cultural arts, science, and reading assemblies held throughout the school year
- Classroom supply needs for teachers and the DES Media Center
- Student activities such as field trips, safety patrol offi-

cer training, and 5th grade promotion celebration

- Staff appreciation events to express gratitude to teachers and staff
- Annual DES PTA International Night and Scholastic Book Fair
- Charitable giving to support local elementary school students and families while engaging the DES community in service projects

Overview of CaringMatters:

CaringMatters was founded as Hospice Caring in 1989 and is headquartered in Gaithersburg.

With services delivered free-of-charge, CaringMatters serves children, adults and families in Montgomery County facing serious illness and grieving the death of a loved one. CaringMatters increases community awareness and advocacy about end-of-life concerns, advance care planning, and grief. Support programs for the whole family offered include Good Grief Clubs, Camp Erin, Family Nights, and workshops. (Learn more at: www.caringmatters.org)

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the 3rd Annual DES PTA Charity Golf Tournament!

Organizations

Kage Tupa, Darnestown Troop1094, Earns Eagle Scout

By Kepler Offenbacher, Troop Historian



Kage Tupa

Kage Tupa, a student at Poolesville High School, has recently earned the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout. Kage states this challenging yet rewarding journey has been filled with great memories made alongside some of his closest friends who are also Scouts in the Darnestown based Troop 1094.

For his Eagle Scout project, Kage chose to rebuild the

Montgomery County Police Department's K9 agility training obstacles. These obstacles play an essential role in training police dogs by learning agility and how to navigate various challenges. Kage chose his Eagle project as replacing the aging structures and he did this by preparing a project plan and a budget for wood and tools to do the construction. The decision to take on this project was not only a testament to his commitment to community service but also a personal connection, as his mother serves as a K9 officer.

Throughout the time Kage has been a Scout, he has actively participated in activities that have contributed to his growth as a Scout and an individual. One notable adventure was the Philmont expedition which is a Scout reserve in New Mexico where Troop 1094 went on a 12-

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Organizations (continued)

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day backpacking adventure. Kage and his fellow Scouts found many opportunities to demonstrate their outdoor skills and teamwork by helping each other during the relentless rain and challenging terrain that they faced.

Another memorable outing was to the battleships USS Wisconsin and USS New Jersey, where Kage delved into the history of naval vessels and got to stay overnight in the bunks. Reflecting on his scouting experiences, Kage recalls one of the favorite merit badges he earned was Woodworking, where he and his friends each crafted an intricate birdhouse. Kage was pleased to see a bird moved into the house shortly after it was placed in his garden at home. Kage's journey to Eagle Scout demonstrates his dedication but also highlights the impact of scouting on his character and skills.

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Tracy Lang

In November, the Darne Bloomers Garden Club met at Potomac Garden Center to create holiday swags. Members were provided with a large bag of assorted greens, including purchased bay laurel and seeded



Holiday Swags

eucalyptus branches, and foraged nandina leaves and berries, magnolia leaves and pods, and crepe myrtle seed pods contributed by committee members. The swags were assembled by creating small bundles of leaves and berries secured with wire at the base and then wiring the overlapping bundles to a 5' length of rope. This simple process

yielded lush, green garlands that were beautiful with or without the addition of further "accessories." We thank Potomac Garden Center for welcoming our group and for all their assistance in setting us up with the perfect workspace for this large project.

At our December meeting at Bretton Woods Recreation club, Irene Eckstrom, Master Gardner and contributing editor of Montgomery County's gardening newsletter, *The Seed*, gave a presentation on Climate

Change and Gardening. The presentation covered a wide range of topics, including the difference between climate and weather, the greenhouse effect, and the decline in the insect population, as well as how to use ecological thinking in gardening, with information and recommendations specific to Montgomery County gardens. Suggestions included leaving dead stems and stalks in the garden until February or March to provide shelter for bees, mulching with fallen leaves (no shredding needed) to avoid soil compaction, and diverting downspout water to lawns and gardens. Irene also shared some surprising ecological benefits for a couple of notorious summer pests. Did you know that Japanese stilt grass can help control erosion, or that mosquitoes are active pollinators, and their larvae are a good source of fish food?

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 Nightingale House on Darnestown Road, and Darnestown Gardens As-



Service Project Bouquet

sisted Living. For the arrangements, members were provided with mint julep cups for vases, and flowers and greens for creating arrangements of splashy coral pink Free Spirit roses, peach spray roses, pale yellow stock, solidago (goldenrod), and feverfew (mini daisy blooms on an airy stem). Members were

provided with cards and pens to add individual notes to their arrangements. This is always a very gratifying project, and this year the results were outstanding!

Upcoming activities include presentations by Kathy Jentz, author of the book *Groundcover Revolution*, in February, and Claudia Kousoulas, author of *Private Gardens of the Potomac and Chesapeake: Washington, DC, Maryland, Northern Virginia*. 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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Summer 2024 is Calling! Preparations Underway

By Aleks Schiff



As winter wraps us in its chill, we eagerly await the warmth and excitement of the upcoming summer at DSRC! It is the season of action and excitement as we dive into planning to spruce up the Club for a bustling and fun-filled time ahead! We are in the final stretch of crafting an epic summer lineup across all fronts!—**Camp GreenZone, Demon Swim Team, Racquet Sports, and Social Events.**

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing members for their valuable input and contributions! With your support, we are thrilled to announce the installation of a fantastic new water slide and the repairs of our tennis courts.

Our Racquet Sports

are starting back up in the spring with our Pro, Bruce Goldstein, and we look forward to him leading a fun and engaging program for all ages! Our **Social Events** team has many great events planned for all ages so check our website for the schedule. **Demon Swim Team** will swim in the **B Division** again this summer and we look forward to another large team and a strong season with Coach Pat! The registration dates will be posted soon.



Camp GreenZone is gearing up for an action-packed summer! With Camp Director Alyssa back, exciting programs are in store. Plus, get ready for a new Gazebo—a

perfect spot for our campers to create unforgettable memories!

Our **Membership** waitlist continues to grow, join now and so you do not miss out on 2024!

Make sure you connect with us on Facebook, IG and at www.dsclub.com 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, details on all our programming are at www.dsclub.com.

Connect with the Club and Stay in the Know!

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

European Union Open House

By Andrea Pohl

I truly appreciate Darnestown for its rural beauty, quaintness, and close-knit community. Yet, upon moving to the area, I have also been pleasantly surprised by the diversity of cultures and heritage found among our neighbors. With this in mind, and as I work at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Washington, DC, I would like to invite everyone to an exciting upcoming event in 2024.

On May 11, 2024 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., the Embassies of the European Union (EU) will open their doors to the public! Bring your family and friends for a cultural immersion in food and drink, art, history, national dress, music, and dance at the EU Open House. Speak to Ambassadors and diplomats at the Embassies of Czechia, Germany, France, Italy, Poland, Greece, Sweden and many more.... I hope you can all make it!



Photo credit: Jessica Lynn Tucker

*Former Oklahoma Czech
Slovak Queen Anna
Sedivy-Thompson*

EU Open House

May 11, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

www.euopenhouse.org

Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Easter Services. Join us on Easter for 10:30 a.m. worship in our historic sanctuary! Our Easter services are worship and musical highlights of our liturgical year, so we hope you can join us in worship, then stay afterward for snacks and some social time to follow.

We're Calling a New Senior Pastor! Our beloved Pastor, Neill Morgan, and his wife Nancy are retiring to New York state, so for several months our Pastor Nominating Committee has been seeking out and interviewing candidates for our Senior Pastor position. By the time this is published, we hope to know the identity of our new Pastor, and to soon have them here in Darnestown!

Worship and Live-Streaming Each Sunday. We worship at **10:30 a.m. each Sunday**, usually preceded by Christian Education at 9:00 a.m., and we love to welcome visitors to our child-friendly services. Check out our services on YouTube (search for "Darnestown Presbyterian Church"), and check our church website for worship times and other updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.



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, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. A service to remember and reflect on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, March 31 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Joyous services to celebrate the Resurrection! 3 choirs will share music at the 10:30 service and Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Earth Day Celebration, Sunday April 21! 1:00 p.m. – 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!

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

2024 LENTEN SERVICES

Stations of The Cross

Fridays, February 16 – March 22, 6:30 p.m.

Passion / Palm Sunday • March 23 – 24

Sacred Liturgy

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.



Holy Thursday • March 28

Mass of the Lord's Supper: 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday • March 29

Stations of the Cross: 3:00 p.m.

Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 7:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday • March 30

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night: 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday of The Resurrection of The Lord • March 31

Sacred Liturgy: 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Schools

Butler Montessori

An AMI-accredited school serving infants through high school

Middle School Students Plan, Prepare & Serve Community Lunch!

At Butler, the Community Lunch program empowers middle school students to take charge of planning, shopping for, and preparing weekly meals. Students not only utilize ingredients from the school's farm but also learn valuable skills in budgeting as they shop for additional items at the grocery store. Once



the meal is meticulously prepared, the students take on the responsibility of serving it to faculty, staff, and visiting parents and guests. This unique initiative not only imparts crucial life skills but also provides practical experience in budgeting for meals, taking orders, and interacting with guests. Occasionally, special guests participate in Community Lunch, sharing foods from diverse cultural backgrounds. The program also incorporates a linguistic element, as students are encouraged to speak Spanish while preparing the meals, adding an extra layer of skill development to this enriching experience.

Let's start off with the school dance.

There were lights, there was music. It was amazing! The PTA even hired a DJ to kick it off. The stars were coming out at night. With our stunning principal Mr. Jain and so many more dressed up dancers.

Let's move on to the school ice skating night.

There were tons and tons of students from DES caught spinning on the ice. They were skating the night away.

Next let's go to the Darnestown Elementary School Week of Service. Tons and tons of people were bringing in canned goods to give to the Manna Food Center where they will then give it to people in need. The boxes were becoming full and were given right away.

Now, to a rather fun topic, the DES Family Fun Game Night where not just students, but entire families come in to win away. There was a staff raffle (All funded by the PTA), and when I say lots, I mean lots of prizes.

And last, but not least, let's go over the newly created STEM and Science Expo, with students putting hard work into the science projects.

For their science projects they could put any educational discovery into their masterpiece and share it with the DES community. Then for the STEM part of STEM and Science Expo students could explore technology, math, science, and robotics.

Amongst all this fun, students and staff have been working hard on their school subjects and responsibilities. Good night Darnestown Elementary School!



Darnestown Elementary School

Parker Silverman, 4th grade student

Darnestown Elementary School has been the best of the best! It's true. Our school has been working hard to make it better than ever and they have succeeded.

Georgetown Hill Early School

By Nicole Reap

Did you know that play is an important part of your preschoolers life? Yep! It's a crucial aspect of their development. Through play, children refine motor skills, enhance social interactions, and boost cognitive abilities. Play is a powerful tool in shaping happy, healthy, and well-rounded individuals. Whether it's building blocks, imaginative role-play, or outdoor activities, each play session contributes to their physical, emotional, and intellectual growth.

Continued on 12

Schools (continued)

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Play fosters creativity, problem-solving, and communication skills, laying the foundation for future learning. At Georgetown Hill, play is the most important part of our curriculum. Come play with us! We are now enrolling for summer camp and for the fall. For more information about Georgetown Hill, please call 301-284-8144 or visit us at www.georgetownhill.com.



*Ryan Humphreys, age 3,
plays with shaving cream in
Ms. Nicole's threes class.*

Seneca Academy

At Seneca Academy, we believe and put into practice the idea that “it takes a village to raise a child.” As we support students on their academic, social, and emotional journeys, we are also here to provide partnership to their families. We are building villages *together*! Here are a few of the ways you can join us!

Friday Friends Playgroup: All parents and caregivers

of infants to two-year-olds are invited to a free monthly playgroup! We will be meeting on the first Friday of the month through May. Spaces are limited! Please RSVP at <https://www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends>.

Parenting Series: Save the date for our final FREE parenting talk of the school year! Join us on Thursday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. for “Parenting in the Digital Age” to explore how to help children develop a healthy relationship with technology. To learn more and RSVP, please visit <https://www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series>.

Summer at Seneca: Preschoolers will be going “around the world” in eight weeks this summer! This program is designed for toilet-trained students who will be three by September 1, 2024 through rising kindergartners. At registration, you can choose any or all of the eight weeks so you can work around your family’s summer plans. To learn more or register, please visit <https://www.senecaacademy.org/seneca-summer>.

Parent’s Day Out (2s) – Fifth Grade: It is not too late to join the daily life of our village! Limited spots remain for the 2024-2025 school year and we’d love to have you. Learn more here: <https://www.senecaacademy.org/what-our-village-says>.

We hope to welcome you to the Seneca Academy village soon!

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, 2024. 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! 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

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

Allstate | Insurance & Financial Services

14100 Darnestown Road, Ste. D,
Darnestown
301-670-4150
derekkaplan@allstate.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 Avenue, Chevy Chase
301-908-4007
www.melissabernstein.com

Birchwood Lawncare | Landscape Services

13424 Haddonfield Lane,
Darnestown
301-275-5417
kricci2@verizon.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 Road, 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 Court, Darnestown
240-560-8733
daniel@clarktrees.com

Darnestown Shell | Gas, Convenience, Auto Repairs

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

Darnestown Smiles | Family Dentistry

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

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

15004 Spring Meadows Drive,
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
www.valfuster.com

Georgetown Hill Early School | Preschool

15120-B Turkey Foot Road,
Darnestown
301-527-1761
www.georgetownhill.com
darnestown@georgetownhill.com

JB Fitness | Personal Trainer

13120 Colton Lane, Darnestown
301-943-5580
JBfitness1hour@hotmail.com

Johnson Chimney Service | Chimney Repair & Restoration

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

Kerrana Kangen | Alkaline Ionized Water

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

Life is Better Traveling | Travel Agent

15204 Jones Lane, Darnestown
240-506-6430
kris@lifeisbettertraveling.com

Lowe-Tillson Insurance & Associates, Inc. |

Full-Service Insurance Agency
2403 Research Boulevard, Ste. 350,
Rockville
301-258-7773
www.lowetillson.com
service@lowetillson.com

Noahs' Preferred Properties | Real Estate Management

313 Main Street, Kentlands,
Gaithersburg
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

Pleasant Hills Farm | Specialty Flower Farm

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

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

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

Real Computer Solutions, Inc. | IT and Technology Support

1 Research Court, Ste. 450, Rockville
301-330-REAL (7325)
www.realcomputersolutions.com

Miguel Saba Realtor | Compass Real Estate

12435 Park Potomac Avenue Ste R-1, Potomac
240-775-0509
miguel@miguelsaba.com
www.miguelsaba.com

Seneca Studio | Original Handcrafted Furnishings

240-812-1792
Senecastudio.com
lukasz@senecastudio.com

Smokey Glen Farm | Event Facilities and BBQs

16407 Riffleford Road,
Darnestown
301-948-1518
jsweet@smokeyglenfarm.com

Stiles Dentistry | Dentist

333 Main Street, Gaithersburg
301-947-6900
smile@stilesdentistry.com

SwimLabs Swim School | Swim School

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

The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | Estate Planning Law Office

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

United Service Specialists | HVAC Services

7559 Rickenbacker Drive,
Gaithersburg
dispatch@calluss.com

Valley Mill Camp | Camp

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

Wilniq Auto Body & Mechanical Repairs | Auto Body Shop

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

Windridge Vineyards | Vineyard

15700 Darnestown Road,
Darnestown
301-607-4399
robert@windridgefarm.com

**Interested
in joining this list?**

Please use our online
application form at
www.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

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

Organizations

Boy Scout Troop 1094

sm@troop1094.org

Cub Scout Troop 436

committeechair@pack436.com

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

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

The Little Acorn

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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:
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.

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.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

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