

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

darnestowncivic.org

Volume 61 Number 3 Fall 2024

President's Corner

Note from the President

By Scott Mostrom



I want to take a moment to thank the people who are as much the fabric of our Darnestown community as any of

us who live here. While a big part of our lives are the neighbors we chat with on the street or who have become good friends, we rely on the people who support us on a daily basis-the staff in our schools and employees in our businesses, churches, and other organizations.

For those we see the most, we are not a nameless face, or at least not an unrecognized face. We may not even recognize it, but the smiles, the friendly banter, and the personal touch we receive for whatever it is we need are a huge part of what makes Darnestown special.

My journeys into town (journey being a 4-minute drive) typically center around the Harris Teeter or 6-12. The great staff at the 6-12 have been there for years and years, and my kids have grown up knowing the legend, Dave (or 'Mr. Dave' as they call him). Often referred to as the Unofficial Mayor of Darnestown, I'm pretty sure there isn't anyone in Darnestown who knows more people. Next door are Mr. and Mrs. Han at the cleaners, who have gone above

What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

Sept. 21, 2024 Molly's Walk and Roll Bretton Woods Recreation Center To register or to donate, go to: www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?id=6518

Sept. 21-22, 2024 **Fairhaven United Methodist Church Homecoming Weekend** See page 14 for details or go to www.fairhavenumcmaryland.com

Sept. 22nd | 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (rain date is Sept. 29th) Our Lady of the Visitation Fall Festival Parish Grounds Details at www.olvp.org

Sept. 26; Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 9:15-10:15 a.m. and 10:30-11:15 a.m. **Butler Montessori Farm & Forest Explorers Free Children's Nature Class** For details go to www.ButlerSchool.org/forest

Oct. 4, 2024 | 6:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. **53rd Annual Hoedown** Smokey Glen Farm www.darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 1, 2024 Deadline for the Winter Issue of The Little Acorn Email ideas, questions or articles to acorn@darnestowncivic.org

Nov. 2, 2024 **Darnestown Presbyterian Church Annual Bazaar** For details go to www.darnestownpc.org

Nov. 11, 2024 | 10:00 a.m. The Seneca Academy **Free Parenting Series** Picking Your Battles & Setting Limits for Healthy Development For more information or to register go to www.senecaacademy.org/ parenting-series/

Nov. 11, 2024 | 9:30 a.m. Veteran's Day Breakfast Darnestown Presbyterian Church www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 14, 2024 **Holiday Home Tour** Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 15, 2024 **Darnestown Tree Lighting** Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 15, 2024 Santa Visits Darnestown Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

Dec. 25, 2024 **Darnestown Menorah Lighting** Details will be posted in November at www.darnestowncivic.org

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and beyond for me when I really needed a quick turnaround.

Across the street, I look forward to seeing the friendly faces of the Harris Teeter staff when I go shopping and have relied on their help and support for countless things. For those of you who do go the Harris Teeter, you've no doubt formed bonds with staff depending on what you shop for and have gotten to know them on a first name basis. For me, a constant stop is the pharmacy, and I can't tell you how much I rely on and trust Nate and Sharlene—and just look forward to catching up with them. And I can't go any further without mentioning Tim. I swear I don't know anyone who goes to the Harris Teeter who doesn't know Tim, and I'm pretty sure Tim remembers each of them by name. The greeting of 'Hey Mr. Mostrom' each time I see him reminds me that I'm not just in any store ... this is Darnestown.

I know I've done a terrible injustice by only mentioning a few by name, but you know the people who have that impact on your daily life here. Please be sure to thank them and let them know that they are a critical part of making Darnestown the best community around.

DCA 2024 Memberships

Additional DCA Members

We welcome the following DCA members who have either joined since the last publication of *The Little Acorn*, or were mistakenly left off the last membership listing.

Acorn

John & Susan Krimigis Scott & Melissa Mostrom Gerald Reed

Sponsor

Wilney Audain & Dana Carlson Tina Bosse & David Schwab Jon & Stephanie Kunkle Carrie & Joseph McIntyre Betty Sweet

Friend

Eric & Marsha Abramson Anders & Jackie Apgar Peter Boyd & Ellen Klosson The Coester Family Luke Cowart Bob & Jen Miller

Steve & Jennifer Moss Mortimer & Masie Neufville Peter & Martha Sklavos Susan Warner & Justin Kaufman

Basic

The Giraud Family Tom & Amanda Hart & Family Kyle & Michelle Henson Mario Herranz-Pons & Nancy Jiminez Christine Josset Tammy Kennedy David & Lemmietta McNeilly Nadia & Larry Skiscim Neil & Noel Tyra Michael Yaremko



DCA News

Darnestown's 53rd Annual Hoedown is Friday, October 4th

The 53rd Annual Darnestown Hoedown is coming up. Join the DCA on Friday, October 4, 2024 as we host another night full of dancing, music and lots of laughs. The adult only event takes place in Darnestown, at Smokey Glen Farm (16407 Riffle Ford Road) from 6:30 p.m.–11:30 p.m. It's a one-of-a-kind experience starting with square dancing and ending with live music from local musicians Billie and Boogie. The menu includes chicken, ribs, soup beans, potato salad, salad bar and pies. Tickets are \$55 per person for DCA member, and \$65 per person for non-members. It is a night you won't forget! Tickets will be sold until September 28, 2024. Contact **social@darnestowncivic.org** with any questions about the event. We hope to see you there!

Go to **www.darnestowncivic.org** or scan the QR code to purchase tickets and for details



DCA News (continued)



Steve Groff, Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield captain presents the DCA softball championship trophy to Matt Legge, Jones Lane captain.

First time Champions!

Since joining the Darnestown Softball League in 2019, the Jones Lane team had never finished higher than third place. But 2024 immediately felt different when, in the opening game of the season, Jones Lane decisively defeated the 3x reigning champion Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) 28-17. The momentum from the first game continued throughout the season, with Jones Lane finishing the season with an 8-1 record (the one loss to Western Darnestown) and a 3.5 game lead over 2nd place Central Darnestown Swingers. For the season, rain usually plays a bigger part in canceling games, but in 2024, there was only one rainout (the fewest since 2006!) ... but there were two heat outs, which may be the first time that has occurred.

Overall, this season was extremely competitive, which was evident given two ties occurred (there had only been one total from 2016-2023!), four games were decided by one run, and multiple extra-inning games taking teams into the Sunday evening sunsets. In matchups between the top two teams of 2024, the games between Jones Lane and Central Darnestown were epic, with the three matchups between the two decided by a TOTAL of 4 runs, and included two walk off hits and one extra inning affair. Jones Lane won all three of those games, but given how tight each game was, if a couple of bounces had gone Central Darnestown's way, the trophy would be in their hands.

So with that, the summer season sets on the Darnestown Softball League. A big thank you to the DCA and everyone who played in or supported the league in 2024. There were over sixty unique players that participated through the course of the season and Sunday nights at Darnestown Park were filled with community members and their families, making it the place to be! A big congratulations to the Jones Lane team for securing their first Championship, but looking forward, it will be anyone's guess who will take the title next year!

FINAL RESULTS

TEAM	W	L	Т	GB
Jones Lane	8	1	0	
Central Darnestown Swingers	4	4	1	3.5
Western Darnestown	2	5	2	5.0
Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield	2	6	1	5.5

Village News

New Village Center Tenants

By Pam DuBois

Challenge Martial Arts

Challenge Martial Arts, formerly known as American Martial Arts Academy, relocated from the Kentlands to a new state-of-the-art facility in the Darnestown Village Center. The school has trained nearly 1,000 students in its eleven years in the community.

Challenge Martial Arts offers a wide range of classes for children, teens, and adults, focusing on self-defense, discipline, and physical fitness along with an advanced leadership training class. For more information, please visit **kentlandstkd.com**, call (301) 330-4004 or email **info@kentlandstkd.com**.

BAUS Design

BAUS Design provides professional kitchen and bath designers online. With over ten years of experience

in the Kitchen and Bath Industry, we provide design solutions for homeowners, builders, contractors, and remodelers of new or remodeled kitchen & bathroom spaces.

All you have to do is send your measurements or blueprint, so our team of designers collaborates with you to develop a design to suit all your material needs from cabinets, tile, fixtures, lighting, countertops, and accessories.

Our designers are up-to-date with the latest design trends and interactive 3D design software to provide you with professional and tailor-made designs, including 3D renderings, layout plans, elevations, and material specifications to suit any space. For more information, call 301-391-2287 or 240-614-1327 or email **info@baususa.com**.

Charitable Events

Molly's ASAP Walk and Roll for a Cure

By Molly Luchtenstein

The time of year has come again. Time to raise money for ASAP! My name is Molly Lichtenstein. I am 31 years old! When I was 16, I was diagnosed with Chiari and Syringomyelia after a soccer injury would not heal. Chiari Malformation (Arnold-Chiari) is a serious neurological disorder where the bottom part of the brain, the cerebellum, descends out of the skull and crowds the spinal cord, putting pressure on both the brain and spine, causing many symptoms. Syringomyelia is a chronic progressive disease in which longitudinal cavities form, a syrinx, in the cervical region of the spinal cord. This characteristically results in wasting of the muscles in the hands and a loss of sensation.

After my first surgery at 16, I realized there was a huge lack of awareness in the medical community and the general public. That needed to be changed! From that day on, my life has changed, I have participated in and organized walks for the benefit of Chiari and Syringomyelia since 2009. Last year was INCREDIBLE!! With help from so many people, we had an awesome walk, golf tournament, tennis round robin, and an AMAZING AUCTION! We raised over \$60,000!!! WE raised a total of \$60,606!!! This is absolutely incredible! Your support humbles me!

This year is the 10th anniversary of Molly's ASAP Walk and Roll for a Cure! I have a goal of raising \$100,000! Will we get there? I don't know. But what I do know is we will be spreading awareness as far as we can reach, we will be building community with some amazing people, and we will be funding MUCH needed research for better treatment for Chiari Malformation, Syringomyelia, and related disorders!

Since my first surgery in 2009, I have had over 60 brain and spine surgeries, and I have been diagnosed with many other underlying issues: Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome, Hydrocephalus, 4th nerve palsy, and tethered cord syndrome. You see, for the last 15 years, that number has continued to climb. I want it to STOP at 63



INVITES ALL DARNESTOWN VETERANS TO A



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

Charitable Events (continued)

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and never get any higher! I know that is short sighted with my degenerative issues, but I want to make a difference. When I repeat about it being a tough year, it is not for sympathy, but for education. You see, I was under the impression that I would finish surgery and be good as new...That was over 60 surgeries ago. I have learned a lot since then and fight with myself constantly about "my path." "We plan, God laughs!" is a slogan I truly live by. Through "failure" after "failure," I have learned that it is all part of the journey, part of MY journey. I don't understand the reasons, but I am confident that part of my "grand plan" is to raise money for research and awareness of the illnesses that have taken so much from my family and me. But, the same illnesses have also given me so much. I have learned to stop and smell the "mums," so to speak. I have learned to appreciate everyday situations.

I want to make a change! If I can accomplish anything in life, my wish would be to help find a cure, or a much better treatment, for Chiari and its related conditions. I have come to realize that throughout my life, I will always have setbacks, but as long as I continue to move forward, with the help of my family and friends, anything is possible! The past year has been challenging, but it has shown me that I can genuinely do ANYTHING with Molly's Army of Angels surrounding me! Thank you for your continued support and love through this crazy thing we call life!

We will hold our walk this year on September 21st, 2024, at Bretton Woods Recreation Center. We have some fun new events—Camp Chiari Kids featuring some fun brain crafts, a ladybug release in honor of or in memory of a loved one (to replace the dove balloon release), an auction, an amazing lunch from the grills made possible by none other than DSRC Men's night group, and much more!

I am passionate about furthering research in Chiari and Syringomyelia, and I look forward to "Walking and Rolling" for a cure! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me!

To register go to: https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?p=register

And choose a team or make your own! To donate go to: https://www.wizathon.com/mollys-asap-walknroll/?p=display&action=team_ Page&id=8601

Thank you so much for your continued support!



Charitable Events (continued)

3rd Annual Darnestown Elementary School PTA Charity Golf Tournament

By Jennifer J. Moss



Deep gratitude is extended to the golfers, sponsors, volunteers, donors, and vendors who 'PUTT' energy and enthusiasm into supporting Darnestown Elementary School's 3rd Annual Charity Golf Tournament on May 20th at Bretton Woods Golf Course. With

record breaking fundraising results and player participation, the event directly benefited DES's ongoing programs impacting our community as well as the mission of CaringMatters (caringmatters.org).

DES students made the day extra special by creating signs to cheer on tournament teams with the hope of their classroom's foursome winning a donut 'HOLE'-in-one party. Students in each grade also created cards of care for CaringMatters' local clients facing serious illnesses.

The DES PTA is extremely thankful 'FORE' the following key contributors:

Title Sponsor

Miguel Saba—Compass Real Estate

Darnestown Driver Sponsor

Pettit Family Charitable Foundation

Mustang Mulligan Sponsors

Bargain Movers CaringMatters Edelman Financial Engines Wells Fargo Advisors

Awards Sponsor

United Business Technologies

'Hole' Lot Of Good Sponsors

6-12 Convenient Mart/ Akshat Enterprises, LLC **Bartlett Tree Experts Bella Ballet** Coffee Talk with Margaret **Comfort Cases** Fairhaven United Methodist Church Gladnick Family & Cosmetic Dentistry Pipeworks Plumbing, Heating & Air Rubin Insurance— A Division of Blue **Ridge Risk Partners** The Bolding Family The Chowdhury Family Unity Design Build

Signage Sponsor EGI Printing & Graphics

Photography Brock Priddy





Yard Display MoCo Sign Gypsies

Special Donors

Dogfish Head Alehouse Dustin Stearns—PGA Pro Isaac's Poultry Market Metzger Winery PB Dye Golf Course TopGolf—Germantown Warner Theatre

Caringmatters:

Leigh Bluestein—*Chief Communications Officer* Amy Bayersdorfer— *Chief Operations Officer* Allison Stearns—*Chief Executive Officer*

Planning Team & Volunteers

Lauren Bolding Amber Colleran Kevin Colleran **Diana Foley** Chris Foster Carrie Klingenberg Lauren Mooney Jenn Moss-Tournament Co-Chair Anna O'Dwyer Jon Kunkle Miguel Saba-Tournament Co-Chair Darshan Jain—DES Principal Bretton Woods Golf Course Staff

Free Activities and Events

Farm & Forest Explorers: Free Children's Nature Class

Calling all Darnestown neighbors! Join us for the fall 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 fall! Sign up for a class at **www.Butler-School.org/forest** and create unforgettable memories with your little ones.



- Fall 2024 Schedule
 - September 26
 - October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
- Time: Thursdays @ 9:15–10:15 AM and 10:30–11:15 AM
- Age: Children ages 2–5 and an accompanying adult. Siblings welcome.

Cost: Free!



Seneca Academy Free Events

Friday Friends Playgroup:

Seneca Academy is offering a free playgroup open to all parents and caregivers of infants to two-year-olds. We will be gathering and playing in a toddler-friendly classroom on the second Friday of the month beginning in November. Please visit **www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends** for more info!



Parenting Series:

The Seneca Academy Parenting Series returns in-person again this school year! Dr. Michelle Parker, a child psychologist and our Head of School, will be presenting three separate workshops.

- Picking Your Battles & Setting Limits for Healthy Development—November 11, 2024 (10:00-11:30 a.m.)
- Parenting in the Digital Age—January 30, 2025 (6:30-8:00 p.m.)
- Learning How to Parent from the Inside Out-March 27, 2025 (6:30-8:00 p.m.)

These workshops are free and open to the public. Save the date for "Picking Your Battles & Setting Limits for Healthy Development" on Monday, November 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Seneca Academy. For more information or to register visit: https://www. senecaacademy.org/parenting-series/.



Free Activities and Events (continued)





Darnestown Presbyterian Church and Corewood Care present:

Caregiver Camp

Are you caring for an older relative or spouse who is living with cognitive decline such as Alzheimer's disease or a similar diagnosis? Families are the major providers of long-term care which can enact an emotional, physical, and financial toll on caregivers.

Join us for a FREE five-week, educational-resource program. The course is offered in-person and online. The program is limited to 25 people.

Sessions will feature a legal, financial, or medical professional. A new topic will be discussed each week, in addition to Q&A with experts in the field.

Participants commit to attending all five sessions.

Open to 25 people.

A new topic will be discussed each week, in addition to Q & A with experts in the field.

Dates: Every Tuesday in October (Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Time: 10:30 am to 12pm

Location: Darnestown Presbyterian Church, rm: Library

Address: 15120 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown MD.

Sign up: Email: Church@Darnestownpc.org Call: 301-948-9127

The program is limited to 25 people!! Sign up TODAY!!



As a local and private agency, Corewood Care delivers professional, personal, and compassionate care services to every client. We offer the services of licensed caregivers and care managers—available 24/7. Care managers offer individualized support, advocacy, resources, and referrals. We are experts in aging, here to guide you through and formulate a service plan. Rest easy knowing you have a professional in your corner!

Organizations

Cub Scout Pack 436

By Andy Sussman



Darnestown Cub Scout Pack 436 wrapped up an exciting 2023-24 year with an end of year picnic at Darnestown Local Park and a weekend at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, VA. It was a great year for Pack 436 with countless Cub Scouts earning achievements and moving up in the ranks.

The year was highlighted by two Cub Scouts earning the Supernova STEM medallion, and several scouts bridging to join their next adventure as Scouts. Pack 436 also saw several scouts giving back to their community by collecting donations for the Scouting for Food program and participating in the Giving Tree program to ensure families in need received Christmas gifts.



Pack 436's activities throughout the year included Supernova STEM achievements, bridging to the next level (Scouts), learning about giving back to the community,

rocket building/launching, pinewood derby, rock climbing, healthy living, archery, hiking, biking, sports events, adventure park ziplining, and swimming.

The Scout's motto of 'do your best' helped each scout learn from their adults and peers throughout the year of the scout law (trustworthiness, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courteous, kindness, obedience, cheerful-



ness, thriftiness, bravery, cleanliness, and reverence). Scan the QR code here or go to **www.troopwebhostcs.org**/ **Pack436NorthPotomac**/ to learn more and join!



Another Summer Comes to a Close! Swim, Tennis, Pickleball, Camp, Social

By Aleks Schiff

What a great summer season we had! Our membership was very busy having fun this summer with lots of great programming at the Club!

Demon Swim Team's Coach Pat led our amazing swimmers to a 4-1 season, and they will continue in B Division for the 2025 season. At Divisionals, the Demons secured



a 2nd place to end a great season this year! We hope to see all our swimmers back in 2025.

Camp GreenZone had another amazing summer full of fun programming led by our Director, Alyssa, and her team of counselors. Camp weeks were full and the kids had a wonderful time playing and learning! Our new Gazebo was a welcome addition for all the activities.

Our Social Events team worked hard to create and host another season of fun new events along with old favorites, keeping our community of all ages engaged throughout the season.



Tennis & Pickleball were led by our new Pro Gregg with all the fun clinics and playtime our members enjoy! With our newly resurfaced courts, the play will continue with an exciting fall schedule, so remember

to keep coming out to the courts into the fall. We are a year-round active community with swim, ten-

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Organizations (continued)

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nis, pickleball, camp, and social events throughout the year. Memberships are on a waitlist. Hurry and join the waitlist now for the 2025 season at **www.dsrclub.com**.

Connect with us for the latest updates! Facebook: **@DarnestownSwimRacquetClub** Instagram: **@DSRClub GM@dsrclub.com** 15004 Spring Meadows Drive, Darnestown, MD 20874 301.330.1340

Scouts BSA Troop 1094: Building Leaders and Strengthening Our Community

Founded over 60 years ago, Scouts BSA Troop 1094 is dedicated to fostering leadership, responsibility, and adventure among our youth. Commitment to youth leadership development, community service and environmental stewardship are the cornerstones of our program. Scouts participate in weekly troop meetings, monthly outdoor outings and events, and summer and winter camps. While learning essential skills such as camping, cooking, and first aid, Scouts gain a deep appreciation for citizenship and for our natural resources.

Leadership development is central to Troop 1094. Through a structured rank advancement program that includes merit badges, leadership positions, and service projects, our scouts learn to take initiative, work as a team, and lead by example. Many former scouts credit these experiences with helping them choose a college major and pursue engaging careers, highlighting the lasting impact of their experiences as a Scout.

Community service is a vital aspect of our troop's activities. Over the past year, Troop 1094 has organized numerous service projects, including our annual Scouting for Food drive, community clean-up efforts, and flag ceremonies honoring war veterans and those who serve our country. These projects benefit the community and provide our scouts with a sense of gratitude and purpose. Many of our scouts aspire to become an Eagle Scout, the highest youth rank in Scouting. One of our scouts, Jason Woodman, received this year's Eagle



Ryan and Kepler at Philmont Scout Reserve in New Mexico

Scout Project of the Year award from the National Capital Area Council. His scouting journey has continued with additional service projects that have earned him the BSA's Distinguished Conservation Service Award.

This year's outings included a Seneca District Cook-a-Ree competition, water sports at Raystown Lake, a visit to Fort Frederick to explore Revolutionary War history, and whitewater rafting in Ohiopyle, PA. Troop 1094 also attended an annual summer camp, where scouts engaged in activities like canoeing, sailing, waterskiing, rock climbing, archery, metal working, rocketry and citizenship education earning a combined 100 merit badges.

Upcoming outings include a High Adventure week at Scouting's Sea Base camp in the Florida Keys, where scouts aged 12-13 will learn to sail, snorkel, fish, kayak, and experience the local ecology. Earlier this summer, 11 scouts aged 14-17 completed a 12-night backpacking trip in the rugged terrain of the Philmont Scout Reserve in New Mexico.

Troop 1094 remains committed to developing well-rounded, responsible, and community-minded individuals. Despite the commitment scouting requires, many of our scouts also participate in club and elite-level athletics, academic competitions, and play musical instruments. We invite interested families of boys (ages 11-17) to join us for a Skills Outing event in November to meet other Scouts and adult leaders and to enjoy outdoor activities. For more information, please contact the Committee Chair at **Chair Troop1094.org**. All local boy or girl BSA troops (age 11-17), or cub packs, can be found by searching "Be A Scout" (**beascout.org**).

Schools

Butler Montessori

Serving Students from Infancy-High School

New High School Expands to 11th Grade!

At Butler Montessori, we're not your typical high school students. Instead of just sitting in class all day, we get to do amazing things! We plan trips to other countries, explore different cultures, and learn how to be independent adults. It's a real-life adventure.



We also get to try out different jobs through internships and even start our own businesses! It's preparing us for life beyond school—like how to manage money and make our own decisions. Butler helps us figure out who we are and what we want to do with our lives.

If you're looking for a high school that's fun and



challenging, Butler Montessori is the place to be! Schedule a tour today (find out more)

To learn more visit www.ButlerSchool.org/ highschool



Darnestown Elementary School

By Parker Silverman, 5th Grade Student

I must say I am excited to get back to the school year. If you don't like school, I will make you reconsider. Near the start of the school year at Darnestown Elementary School, we have Pumpkin Palooza, our Halloween celebration, and then the Book Fair in November. I am excited for all these upcoming events.

Starting a new school year may feel weird but you will get used to it. Let's work hard on our reading, writing, and math. As a special interview for the new school year I asked DES library media specialist Mrs. Lang what she thinks of the new school year. "So many exciting possibilities!" she said. Such an inspirational quote.

I humbly ask if more DES parents could join the PTA as they are the people that fund and plan our out of this world events! We welcome the new teachers and students that are now working at DES. Happy new school year and see you soon!



Northwest High School PTSA & Booster Club Update

By Paul Rivers, Kimberly Summers, and Jennifer Moss

Con-JAG-ulations is extended to our Northwest High School Class of 2024 for:

- 96% graduation rate
- 39 graduates earning a high school diploma AND *Continued on 13*

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associate's degree from Montgomery College

- 36% of Class becoming first-generation college bound students
- 94% of Class planning to attend a 2-or 4-year college or university
- 70% of Class taking college-level courses during high school
- 74% of Class completing Advanced Placement courses
- 24% of Class taking one or more college classes at Montgomery College
- 11 graduates committing to play on college athletic teams
- 75 graduates receiving Maryland Seal of Biliteracy
- 102 graduates being honored as Minds in Motion Scholar Athletes, earning 3.25+ GPA while playing a sport
- 81,948 Student Service Learning (SSL) hours
- 1,400 admission offers to 241 different colleges, universities, and career programs

With over 2,400+ students from 60 different countries, NWHS offers academically rigorous programs to include 30 different Advanced Placement (AP) Courses, Ulysses (signature program), Montgomery College Early & Middle College Programs, and 3 National Academies: Biotechnology, Finance, Fine Arts.

NWHS's PTSA & Booster Club is deeply committed to supporting and promoting our more than 100 extracurricular activities at Northwest High School, including academic, athletic, and performing arts programs. It is our mission to foster strong relationship building opportunities between parents, students, administrators, alumni, and our community—certainly to include Darnestown.



To learn more about how you or your business can PAW-tner with the NWHS JAGS during the 2024-2025 school year, please visit **www.nwhsptsa.org/sponsors/** or scan the QR code provided. Questions or ideas? Contact Jenn Moss at **sponsorships@nwhsboosters.org**.

By investing valuable volunteer time and/or becoming a sponsor with the NWHS PTSA & Booster Club, you will **empower students and enrich our community** in the most impactful of ways. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Seneca Academy

Seneca Academy is looking forward to our 42nd school year! As an IB World School, we have a long tradition of helping our students become knowledgeable, caring, open-minded, principled, and balanced communicators and thinkers. There is no better way to do that than by actively engaging with the environment and our community. Here on campus, students will make use of our National Wildlife Federation Habitat not only for a variety of phenomenal daily recess experiences, but also to explore topics from math and physics to art and creative writing. As they venture off-campus, the trips they take will focus on how students can begin to see the world from multiple perspectives. Our preschoolers will also be busy building competencies by exploring the world around them and by engaging in age-appropriate thought-provoking problem-solving (also known as play!). It is not too late to join our amazing learning community! Limited spaces are available in our programs for ages 2 through Grade 5. Please email info@senecaacademy.org to inquire about class availability and to schedule a tour!



Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

Annual Bazaar on November 2nd. The Darnestown Presbyterian Women's Bazaar is coming again to Darnestown this fall! As always, it will feature crafts, home décor, holiday gifts, books, jewelry, and plenty of home baked goods and jams—plus a hot lunch or homemade dessert in our Café. Proceeds from the Bazaar support multiple local charities—come enjoy and support this Darnestown institution!

Darnestown Presbyterian is Family Friendly! We love to welcome families with children to our church. Each of our services features a Children's Message, after which children attend "Junior Church," which provides tailored lessons and activities. We are also considering periodic "Intergenerational Worship" services, in which children share in a more "child-friend-ly" service. And of course, we have a Nursery available for our smallest friends (up to age 4) with two attendants each Sunday.

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship All Year. Our year-round schedule now features a single Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m., followed by fellowship over coffee and light treats. Check our website for updates (www. darnestownpc.org/), and check out our services on our YouTube channel. We love to welcome visitors please visit us this fall!



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.

Homecoming Weekend—September 21-22

Join us as Fairhaven members and families, past and present, celebrate our annual homecoming weekend!

Saturday, September 21—Coffee House 7 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Members and friends of Fairhaven share their talents in a varied program of music, comedy, poetry, drama and.... Refreshments, fellowship and fun will be in abundance!

Sunday, September 22—Bishop Marcus Matthews, Guest Preacher

Continued on 15

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue: November 1, 2024

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

Churches (continued)

Continued from 14

All of our choirs will offer special music, Holy Communion will be celebrated, and a message will be offered with the theme, "Let the Spirit Guide You Home." Bishop Matthews was a pastor, district superintendent and reisdent bishop (now retired) in the Baltimore-Washington Conference.

Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

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



Our Lady of the Visitation Parish welcomes everyone to come and experience our joy-filled community. Faith Formation Programs for children ages 3 to 5 through high school will begin on Sunday, September 15th. Plan to bring your pets to the church parking lot on Sun-

day, October 6th at 12:15 p.m. for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Mass continues to be celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5:00 p.m., on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and on Sunday nights at 5:00 p.m. Please

visit our website, **www.olvp.org** for all the latest news and updates, and check out our podcast at **olvpcatholicexpression.podbean.com**.

St. Nicholas' Dedication of New Building

On Sunday, June 30, 2024, the Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, dedicated the Roberta Miller Learning Cottage to the Glory of God. The learning cottage will be used primarily for faith formation of children, youth and adults. Roberta Miller, for whom the cottage was named, was a dedicated parishioner at St. Nicholas who volunteered in many capacities including teaching Sunday School. She also was an educator and administrator in the Montgomery County School System for more than 30 years.



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

Jennifer M Beitler, DDS PC | *Dentist* 9601 Blackwell Road Ste. 240, Rockville 301-972-0260 info@jenniferbeitlerdds.com

Birchwood Lawncare | Landscape

Services 13424 Haddonfield Lane, Darnestown 301-275-5417 kricci2@verizon.net

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 *Continued on 16*

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Business Directory (continued)

Continued from 15

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

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

10121 River Road, Potomac 301-980-3083 Direct 301-299-6000 Office Valerie@LNF.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

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 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 St, Gaithersburg 301-947-6900 smile@stilesdentistry.com Stilesdentistry.com

SwimLabs Swim School | Swim School 353 Muddy Branch Road, 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 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

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 senecachurch.org

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 Pack 436 www.troopwebhostcs.org/ Pack436NorthPotomac/

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



Ways to join the DCA!

You can register for a DCA membership online by going to **darnestowncivic.org**, by scanning the QR code here, or you can join by mail by using the form on page 19!



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 November 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

Notary Services
Melissa Szwed (2004) 301-519-0645
Georgia Mostrom (2007)
Jennifer Juhring (2004) 240-575-0009
Rachel Clark (2005) 240-618-5809
Esther Clark (2007) 240-328-9842

Notary Services

Tina Kalil	
Elisa Lane	
House/Pet Sitters	

Liv Gabri (2009)	240-353-7079
Kirabo Payne (2009)	202-257-9378
Jonas Skucas (2005)	301-525-2501



Santa Mailbox Returns to Darnestown

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

Publisher:

The Little Acorn

Amber Colleran (acorn@darnestowncivic.org) Darnestown Civic Association

Darnestown Civic Association

President:	Scott Mostrom (president@darnestowncivic.org)
Vice President:	Paul Klee (vicepresident@darnestowncivic.org)
Treasurer:	Open (treasurer@darnestowncivic.org)
Secretary:	Open (secretary@darnestowncivic.org)
Trustees:	Kellie Hodges Stephanie Kunkle Will Lowe (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)

Committee Chairs

Compliance:	Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)
Communications Lead:	
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 Neil Agate
Welcome:	(website@darnestowncivic.org) Pam DuBois
welcome.	Maya Miloski Melissa Mostrom
Zoning:	(welcome@darnestowncivic.org) Miguel Saba
Zonnig.	(zoning@darnestowncivic.org)

DCA Membership Renewal/Application Form				m
Membership Category, please check one:				
□ Basic \$35 □ Friend \$50 □ Spo	onsor \$100	🖵 Acorn \$150	🖵 Busin	ess \$250
First Name				
Last Name				
Spouse/Partner First Name				
Spouse/Partner Last Name				
Business Name				
Please indicate how you would like to hav (<i>if you leave the line blank we will use your</i>				ership listing:
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: 0 Darnestown RD STE G estown, MD 20874	ŀ	You can also register for a DCA membership
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 <i>The Little Acorn</i> or in a DCA Directory you can skip this section.			online by going to darnestowncivic.org or by scanning the QR code here.	
The DCA publishes a list of our paid mem below if you do not want your information		<i>ttle Acorn</i> , please cl	heck	
DO NOT publish my name in <i>The Little</i>	<i>e Acorn</i> memb	ership listing.		
The DCA occasionally publishes a directo below if you do not want your information	•	bership, please che	eck	
DO NOT publish my name and contac	t information	in the DCA directo	orv.	

Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.



14100G Darnestown Road Darnestown, MD 20874 Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org Website: darnestowncivic.org PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID Suburban MD Permit No. 4889

