



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 62 Number 1
Spring 2025

President's Corner

Notes from the President

By Scott Mostrom



Our nation is experiencing some very significant changes. The approach and merits of those changes are for each one of us individually and our politicians (which thankfully, I am not) to figure out. The DCA has stayed out of

politics, with the exception of local issues within our mission that have a direct impact on the Darnestown community as a whole.

Having said that, regardless of whether you support or oppose some of these changes, we cannot ignore the need to support our neighbors that are impacted. Several people in Darnestown have lost their jobs in the past couple of months. Many others face uncertainty pending the trickle-down effects of a smaller federal government, more restrictive and decreased federal funding to programs and nonprofits, and international trade changes.

So how can we help each other out? First, leave politics at the door. If my neighbor is out of a job or facing uncertainty, I could care less about whether they're red or blue. The fact that they may have a different opinion doesn't make them any less a person, parent, or neighbor trying to do their very best. Second, lend an ear. You may not be able to do anything else to help, but being a sympathetic friend when it counts makes a huge difference.

If you can take the time to help connect them with

Continued on page 2

What's Happening in Darnestown

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

**April 3, 10, 24; May 1, 8, 2025 | 9:15–10:15 a.m.
& 10:30–11:15 a.m.**

Butler Montessori Farm and Forest Explorers
For details go to www.butlerschool.org/forest

April 5 | 8:00–11:00 a.m.

Marching Cougars Annual Yard Sale
Quince Orchard High School
See page 11 for more details

April 6, 2025 | 2:00–4:00 p.m.

Easter Egg Roll
Darnestown Presbyterian Church
For details go to www.darnestowncivic.org

April 11, 25, May 9, 2025 | 10:00–11:15 a.m. Seneca Academy Friday Friends Playgroup

For details go to www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends

April 16, 2025

Darnestown Softball Opening Day!

Details can be found on page 2.

Email softball@darnestowncivic.org for more information

May 1, 2025

Deadline for Summer Issue of *The Little Acorn*
acorn@darnestowncivic.org

May 1, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Seneca Academy Parenting Series
For more information and to register, go to
www.SenecaAcademy.org/parenting

May 16, 2025

**2025 DCA Scholarship and
Bruce Deppa Scholarship Deadline**

Details can be found at www.darnestowncivic.org

May 19, 2025

Annual Darnestown Elementary School Golf Tournament
Details can be found on page 6

Continued from page 1

someone you know or a networking group, then please help them. And, if you're comfortable passing their resume onto your current employer, even better. Finally, the DCA is looking into anything we can offer, even if it's information on networking or support resources. More to come.

Our world is becoming increasingly uncertain. I know we have the full spectrum of political views across the 2,000 households in town, but the one thing that we all have in common is that we are Darnestown. We need to focus on that first and do the one thing that we can control—support and help each other.

Community Update

Spring Training...Nearly Here!

By Dave Bivans

As this is being written we're one week away from the spring prognosticator-rodent with hopes for a very cloudy day in Punxsutawney, PA and the frigid cold of the past couple of weeks is but a distant memory. **Darnestown Softball** season will begin April 6th with Spring Training followed by a 12-game schedule from April 13th through August 3rd (no games on "holiday" weekends). All games are played Sunday afternoons/evenings at Darnestown's very own Cliff Bland Park.

All Darnestown homeowners, or other men (29+ years old) and women (24+ years old) residents, are eligible to play on one of the league's four neighborhood-based teams (Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield, Central Darnestown Swingers, Western Darnestown, and defending 2024 champions Jones Lane). If you are interested in joining a team or need additional information please contact Dave Bivans at (301) 977-4734 or softball@darnestowncivic.org. Whether player or cheerleader we look forward to seeing you this spring and summer at the Park!

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

Go to
www.darnestowncivic.org



DARNESTOWN EASTER EGG ROLL

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

*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

Community Update (continued)

Safety Committee Update

By Matt Quinn

The DCA Safety Committee obtains information in a variety of ways regarding criminal activity occurring within the Darnestown environs (depicted on map, found on last page of *The Little Acorn*), to include:

- 1) the Montgomery County Police Department's website (Weekly Crime Summary Report—montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/data/weekly-crime-summaries.html), to include ongoing discussions with our District Community Operations Supervisor;
- 2) our ever-vigilant Darnestown residents. Per MCPD's weekly crime summary report there have been few significant incidents within the Darnestown environs during the last three months (November 2024-January 2025.) In December 2024, there were three reported thefts from vehicles, along with a garage burglary; all involving no forced entry.

Per MCPD's website:

- Don't make it easy for car thieves. Take your keys and valuables with you and remember to lock your doors when leaving your vehicle unattended.
- Need an emergency police response? Dial 9-1-1.
- Need a non-emergency police response? Dial (301) 279-8000.

The DCA Safety Committee is aware that there are various websites that provide general information to the public regarding incidents of criminal activity throughout the U.S., among them is spotcrime.com. Recently, the community has expressed concern regarding criminal activity in the Darnestown environs as reported on the referenced websites, to include burglaries. Upon checking with our MCPD partners, we learned that the burglaries reported on these websites were actually burglary alarms that MCPD responded to and determined to be accidental alarms.

Mail theft continues to be an issue throughout the U.S. Our MCPD District Community Operations Supervisor has provided the link below, which includes a variety of information to assist those who are impacted by mail theft related incidents.

Go to montgomerycountymd.gov/pol/fraud/mail-theft.html or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



Courtesy Reminder:

In addition to timely reporting matters of criminal activity directly to MCPD, please also provide pertinent information to the DCA at safety@darnestowncivic.org, so that when appropriate, the DCA can keep the Darnestown community informed.

2025 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 16, 2025. For

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



Community Update (continued)

Seneca Road Residential Projects Status Updates

By Pam DuBois

Seneca Farm (Under Construction)

D.R. Horton began construction on this 27-home development in Fall 2023. As of January 2025, 14 homes are now occupied. Another five homes are under construction and under contract to be sold with anticipated closings through May. Three additional homes have been built and are actively being marketed for sale starting at \$1.78 million. Sale prices vary for these five and six-bedroom homes (6,000 +/- square feet) depending on lot size, location, custom upgrades, etc. There are four home sites awaiting construction that are expected to be completed this Fall. The model home will also be available for sale. For more information: DRHorton.com/Maryland

Four Village Center Residential Lots

14116 Seneca Road: This single-family home (blue house) situated on a one-acre site located closest to the Village Center was completed in 2023.

14124 Seneca Road: Has officially been subdivided

into three 2+ acre lots that were all sold as development sites in Fall 2023. The purchasers of the first lot adjacent to 14116 Seneca Road have yet to move forward with development; construction of the home on the middle lot is complete; and the third lot is back on the market. According to the seller, once a replacement buyer is found for the third lot, the earliest possible completion would probably be in mid-2026.

The seller of these three lots is still in the process of completing the County required roadway infrastructure improvements which include stormwater management, a shared-use path (bike and pedestrian friendly) and tree plantings. Although the State and County required the removal of several well-established trees, new plantings compatible with the power lines will include flowering trees along the road and deciduous trees along the shared-use path. The frontage improvement process has been involved with both weather delays and lengthy regulatory approvals with an anticipated completion before summer.

HELP DRIVE THE FUTURE OF DARNESTOWN!

Become a 2025 Member of the Darnestown Civic Association

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

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

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 14 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 2025 members will be listed in an upcoming issue of *The Little Acorn*.



Free Activities and Events

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.

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.

Dates: Every Tuesday in April (April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29)

Time: 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Location: Darnestown Presbyterian Church
15120 Turkey Foot Road, Darnestown MD
(zoom option available as well)

Sign up TODAY!!

Email: Church@Darnestownpc.org

Call: 301-948-9127

Seneca Academy Free Events

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 second Friday of the month through May. Due to popular demand, we have added some “bonus” sessions in April. Please RSVP at www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends.



Parenting Series

Save the date for our FREE parenting talks! Join us on Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. for “Learning How to Parent from the Inside Out,” which explores the “backpack” we carry from our own childhood into parenthood. On Thursday, May 1, join us for “Parenting in the Digital Age” to learn how to help children develop a healthy relationship with technology. For more information and to RSVP, please visit www.senecaacademy.org/parenting-series.



Explore Nature with Farm & Forest Explorers!

Darnestown families—join Butler Montessori’s Spring 2025 Farm & Forest Explorers program! Designed for children ages 2–5 and their caregivers, this free outdoor class offers hands-on farm experiences like harvesting vegetables and collecting eggs, plus guided nature exploration on our 22-acre campus.

Dates: April 3, 10, 24, May 1, 8

Times: Thursdays at 9:15–10:15 a.m. & 10:30–11:15 a.m.

Location: Butler Montessori, 15951 Germantown Rd

Cost: Free (registration required)

Dress for the weather—rain or shine, we explore! Limited spots available.

Sign up today: www.ButlerSchool.org/forest or scan the QR code with your smart phone



Events for Charity



4th Annual Darnestown Elementary School Charity Golf Tournament

By Jenn Moss & Miguel Saba

Do a ‘HOLE’ lot of good by joining in the Darnestown Elementary School PTA’s 4th Annual Charity Golf Tournament at Bretton Woods Golf Course on Monday, May 19th! Proceeds from this year’s fundraiser will benefit DES PTA programs and Community FarmShare.

Make a difference as a committed community ‘PUTT’-ner by becoming a tournament sponsor and/or golfer. Get involved today by visiting our fundraiser’s website using the QR code provided or by going to app.eventcaddy.com/events/4th-annual-darnestown-es-pta-charity-golf-tournament.

Overview of DES PTA Programs:

Community-building social events including school picnics, family game night, winter dance, international night, community breakfasts, Pumpkin Palooza, and Mustang Madness



- 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 and safety patrol officer training
- Staff appreciation to express gratitude to teachers and staff
- Learning opportunities and reading initiatives, to include the Scholastic Book Fair
- Ongoing outreach and hands-on service projects to support community needs, often in partnership with Gaithersburg Elementary (DES’s sister school) and nonprofit organizations

Overview of Community Farmshare (www.communityfarmshare.org)



Community FarmShare was founded in 2020 at Peas and Peace Farm in Poolesville with the mission to build a connected, thriving, local food system by increasing access to nutritious local foods, building farmer capacity, and improving the health and nutrition of our local community.

Community FarmShare’s initiative involves different stakeholders with a common vision.

- Many volunteers are from rural areas, understanding the value and challenges of local small-scale farms, and have long histories of working with growing food and bringing about positive change in the community.
- Local farmers, who care deeply about growing healthy food, using organic, regenerative farming methods so that all eaters can eat well and be healthy, while stewarding the earth for the future.
- Area families facing barriers who receive locally grown fruit and vegetables through Community FarmShare. Community FarmShare distributes the food through 4 Mobile Markets, and partnerships with 13 MCPS schools in their Farm to School Program as well as 6 healthcare providers and 2 school based health centers in their Food is Medicine Program.

‘TEE’ up to support meaningful school programs and address food insecurity with local farmers and families during the DES PTA’s 2025 Tournament!



To learn more go to app.eventcaddy.com/events/4th-annual-darnestown-es-pta-charity-golf-tournament or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

Organizations



Get Ready for an Unforgettable Summer at DSRC!

As the warm weather approaches and the days are becoming longer, we are preparing for another sensational summer at DSRC. The upcoming season promises to be one of the best yet, with tons of action and adventure in store across every area of the club—from Camp GreenZone to Racquet Sports (Who wants to play Pickleball?), Social Events, and the Demon Swim Team.

Thank You, Members!

A huge thank you goes out to our amazing members for sharing your feedback and helping us improve the club. During the off season, we made some HUGE updates! We are so excited to report we have a new roof for our clubhouse as well as having our Racquet courts refinished. Along with some smaller tweaks to our drainage system and our perimeter fencing.

Racquet Sports with Gregg Van Dine

This spring, our Racquet Sports program is back in action, led by the one and only Gregg Van Dine. Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned pro, Gregg will be running engaging and fun sessions for all ages. It's the perfect opportunity to sharpen your skills and have some fun!

Did Someone say Pickleball?

The fastest growing sport in America has taken over at DSRC! Are you curious about the fastest growing game in the country? It's popular for many reasons. It's easy to start playing once you know the rules, there are many levels of play so people can find groups of their own level to have fun. Adult and Junior Leagues start in May of 2025! Fun filled evenings for the whole family. More information available on dsrclub.com/pickleball/

Can't-Miss Social Events

Our Social Events team is planning a lineup of amazing activities starting with our Kickoff Weekend. Be on the lookout for our first annual adults only Summer Soiree as well as lots of new activities and events for

all ages throughout the summer. Keep an eye on our website for the full event calendar, and be sure to mark your calendars—these events are not to be missed!

Demon Swim Team: A New Season Ahead

The Demon Swim Team is gearing up for another strong season in the B Division, and we can't wait to see our swimmers back in the pool. Coach Pat and Coach Noah will be leading the charge, and we're expecting another big team to join in on the fun. Registration for Swim lessons and Swim Team start in April.

Camp GreenZone: Get Ready for Summer Fun!

Summer at Camp GreenZone is shaping up to be something special, with the return of Camp Director Alyssa and new programs that are sure to keep the kids entertained all summer long. Registration is open and is quickly filing up, so grab your spot today!

Join Us Before It's Too Late!

Our membership waitlist is growing, and spots are filling up fast for 2025. Don't miss out on everything DSRC has to offer—sign up today and make sure you're part of the action!

Stay in the Loop

Want to stay up-to-date on all the latest news, events, and updates at DSRC? Follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or visit our website at www.dsrclub.com. We're always sharing exciting news and updates, so don't miss out!

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Tracy Lang

In November, the Darne Bloomers Garden Club met at Bretton Woods Recreation Club for a hands-on activity creating elegant floral arrangements on a tri-pod armature led by Mary Rill. To create the armature, each member was provided with three 18-20" sticks of similar diameter and two zip ties. The sticks were tied loosely together at the center point using a zip tie, then stood on end and spread apart to create a tripod base and top. When the structure was free-standing (and this part was a little tricky), the zip tie was tightened, creating a surprisingly stable base. Next, a piece of pre-cut, pre-soaked Oasis was pressed into the center of the three sticks and taped in place, further stabilizing the tripod. Members were pro-

Continued on 8

Organizations (continued)

Continued from 7



November flower arrangements using a tripod

vided with a gorgeous assortment of roses, mums, and hypericum berries in fall oranges, reds, golds, and purples, as well as assorted purchased and foraged greens and fall elements. The finished products were spectacular and ranged from tightly packed globes to free-form explosions of flowers. Best of all, the tripods can be collapsed and re-used.

In December, the club again met at Bretton Woods, for a first-ever program entitled “How Do You Holiday?”, in which member volunteers shared their holiday traditions. Several of the presentations focused on holiday meals and food traditions, with members sharing family recipes, snacks and cookies, tips on place settings, and hands-on demonstrations, including how to shape and braid Pulla Bread, a Finnish Christmas bread, as well as a presentation on Hanukkah traditions, including a primer on the rules of playing Dreidel. Another presentation focused on home-made holiday decor ideas including how to create curtains of seasonal greens for the windows, make and decorate home-made wreaths, and embellish sugar pine pinecones for display. Finally, members received a master course in tying festive bows from Lisa Ruf and Peggy Thomas who demonstrated how to create a series of different bows, ranging in degree of difficulty. The presentation also included tips on how to revive previously-used ribbon as well as a discussion of the pros and cons of dove-cut vs. angle-cut ribbon ends. The program was a great success and is sure to be repeated in future years!

For our January meeting, Ami Wilbur, Floral and Event Décor Designer at Hillwood Estate Museum and Gardens. Hillwood was the Washington home of heiress, businesswoman, and society hostess Marjo-

rie Merriweather Post, who stipulated in her will that fresh cut flowers would be on display in the mansion at all times. Ami provided a glimpse into her role in the creation of floral arrangements and displays on the property, which includes formal and cutting gardens as well as greenhouses, noting that planning is already in the works for the 2026 cutting gardens, and that trends at the estate include shifting from traditional cutting flowers to more native plants and away from typical symmetrical arrangements toward more natural but still traditional ones. As she spoke, Ami created a gorgeous all-sides arrangement including lady slipper



Ami Wilbur arrangement from the January meeting of the Darne Bloomers Garden Club

orchids, bells of Ireland, kale, gorgeous green cabbage roses, white freesia, and hellebores, as well as green grapes and tangerines, noting that she likes to incorporate everyday items into her floral designs. The arrangement was awarded to a lucky member at the end of the meeting.

Upcoming activities include a hands-on activity creating Kokedama ball arrangements, a lecture

and presentation on garden roses in March, and our annual service project in April, creating bedside bouquets for local assisted living centers. 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!

We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue:

May 1, 2025

Email ideas, questions or articles to:

acorn@darnestowncivic.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.

Welcome to our New Director of Music Ministry!

We're thrilled to welcome **Matt May** as our new Director of Music Ministry! Matt is an award-winning pianist, an accomplished organist, and a passionate educator. Very active in sacred music, Matt has led musical worship for the PCUSA General Assembly, as well as for various churches and cathedrals of different denominations throughout the United States and Europe. Welcome to DPC!



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, and check our church website for worship times and other updates: <http://www.darnestownpc.org/>.



Fairhaven United Methodist Church

12801 Darnestown Road
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 18 at 7:00 p.m. A service to remember and reflect on Jesus' suffering and crucifixion.

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 8:00 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 27!

Noon-2:00 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!

Women's Day, Sunday May 4 Join us for worship and fellowship as the United Women in Faith lead our Women's Day celebration. Dr. Kisha Davis, Montgomery County Health Officer and a daughter of Fairhaven, will be our "guest" speaker.

St. Nicholas Episcopal Church

15575 Germantown Road at Seneca Academy
www.saintnicks.com

Worship Service

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School (PreK-5th Grade)

Sunday 10:15 a.m.-11:20 a.m.

Holy Week & Easter

Wednesday, April 16 at 7:00 p.m.
Tenebrae Service

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Agape Dinner and Maundy Thursday Eucharist

Good Friday, April 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Liturgy

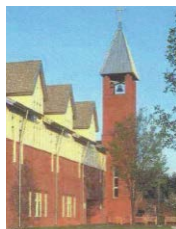
Easter Sunday
Festive Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

St. Nicholas has space available to rent.
Please email info@saintnicks.com or call
240-631-2800.

*Experience God's Love and a Loving Community
A Place to Belong—A Place to Become
Continued on 10*

Churches (continued)

Continued from 9



Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

14135 Seneca Road
Darnestown, MD 20874
www.olvp.org

301-948-5536

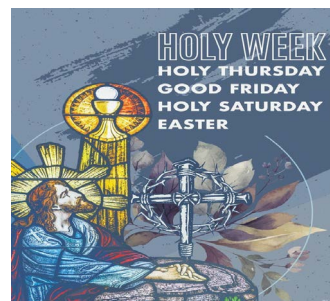
2025 LENTEN SERVICES

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays, March 7 through April 11
6:30 p.m.

PASSION / PALM SUNDAY April 12-13

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



HOLY THURSDAY Mass of the Lord's Supper	April 17 7:00 p.m.
GOOD FRIDAY Celebration of the Lord's Passion	April 18 7:00 p.m.
HOLY SATURDAY The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night	April 19 7:00 p.m.
EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD Sacred Liturgy	April 20 9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

Schools

Butler Montessori

An AMI-accredited school serving
infants through high school
15951 Germantown Rd, Darnestown, MD

Adventure Awaits with Butler Camp's Wilderness Explorers!



Darnestown families—give your child the ultimate outdoor adventure this summer with **Wilderness Explorers** at Butler Camp! Designed for ages 7–10, this two-week camp features hiking, creek exploration, bushcraft skills,

archery, and more on our scenic 22-acre campus next to Seneca Creek State Park.

Session Dates:

- **Session 1:** June 23–July 3 (Closed July 4)
- **Session 2:** July 7–July 18
- **Session 3:** July 21–August 1
- **Session 4:** August 4–August 15

“My daughter loves your camp. This was her fifth year, and she still finds it exciting and enriching. Your coun-

selors and staff are amazing. They bring great energy every single day!”

Enrollment is now open, and spots are filling fast—this camp is likely to sell out! Secure your child's adventure today: www.ButlerCamp.org.

Darnestown Elementary School

By Parker Silverman, 5th Grade Student



Hello from Darnestown Elementary School. It is my pleasure to write for you. I would like to go over some events and big announcements that have happened at DES since the last time I wrote. The first event is the school dance. It was a Candyland theme! There were full bowls of candy that you could take an unlimited amount from and music blasting across the room! There was even a DJ! As someone who was there, I can confirm that it was fun.

The second thing I would like to go over is snow days! After the new year, day after day there was more and

Continued on 11

Schools (continued)

Continued from 10

more snow. It has been nearly two weeks now of snow just sitting on the ground. The reason I am bringing this up is because we had so many days off of school because of them. I hope you all had some nice snow days!

Next, I would like to go over Bingo Night. It was so much fun! Almost the entire school played Bingo at Lakelands Park Middle School. Plus, at the end there was a raffle students could participate in to do a special activity with a staff member chosen by the staff member themselves. The last but not least thing I would like to go over is Valentine's Day! Each class had their own special Valentine's celebration where parents could participate to help. It was a lot of fun! Thank you for reading this article in *The Little Acorn*. Have a great day!

Kindergarten Registration is Now Open!

Students who are 5 years of age are eligible to register. Please visit <https://www.montgomery-schoolsmd.org/info/enroll/kindergarten> or call Darnestown ES at 301-284-4260. Save the date for Kindergarten Orientation on April 30th.



Please Note: For the 2025-2026 school year, Kindergarten registration will be online through the ParentVUE portal starting February 3rd. Registration sessions will be held in person beginning March 17, 2025.

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org

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 second Friday of the month through May. Due to popular demand, we have added some "bonus" sessions in March and April. Please RSVP at <https://www.senecaacademy.org/fridayfriends>.

- **Parenting Series:** Save the date for our FREE parenting talks! Join us on Thursday, March 27, at 6:30 p.m. for "Learning How to Parent from the Inside Out," which explores the "backpack" we carry from our own childhood into parenthood. On Thursday, May 1, join us for "Parenting in the Digital Age" to learn how to help children develop a healthy relationship with technology. For more information and to 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, 2025 through rising kindergartners. At registration, you can choose any or all of the eight weeks so you can work around your family's vacation plans. To learn more or register, please visit 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 2025-2026 school year and we'd love to have you. Learn about why we were voted "Best Preschool" and "Best Private School" by *Washington Family* and *Montgomery Magazine* readers, as well as "Best Place to Work". Learn more here: www.senecaacademy.org/what-our-village-says.

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

QO Marching Cougars



Come out and support the QO Marching Cougars at their annual yard sale on Saturday, April 5 at Quince Orchard High School. Donations of gently used clothing, toys, books and household items accepted from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m. Sale from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. 50% off starting at 10:30 a.m. Cash and paypal accepted! Proceeds are used to increase participation by providing band scholarships for students.

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

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

Business Directory (continued)

Continued from 12

**The Tyra Law Firm, LLC | Estate
Planning Law Office**

199 East Montgomery Avenue,
Suite 100, Rockville
301-315-0811
neilytra@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

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

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



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.

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, 2025. 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

Jennifer Juhring (2004)
240-575-0009

Georgia Mostrom (2007)
240-480-8622

Melissa Szwed (2004)
301-519-0645

Notary Services

Tina Kalil
301-943-9840

Elisa Lane
301-990-2993

House/Pet Sitters

Liv Gabri (2009)
240-353-7079

Kirabo Payne (2009)
202-257-9378

The Little Acorn

Editor: Amber Colleran (acorn@darnestowncivic.org)
Publisher: 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: Elizabeth Rorick (secretary@darnestowncivic.org)
Trustees: Kellie Hodges (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Stephanie Kunkle (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)
Will Lowe (trustee@darnestowncivic.org)

Committee Chairs

Compliance: Michael Gottlieb (compliance@darnestowncivic.org)
Communications Lead: Kellie Hodges (communications@darnestowncivic.org)
Darnestown Village: Pam DuBois (village@darnestowncivic.org)
Database: Scott Mostrom (database@darnestowncivic.org)
Flag Program: Tim Sanders (flag@darnestowncivic.org)
History: Allan Luke (history@darnestowncivic.org)
Membership: Pam DuBois (membership@darnestowncivic.org)
Roads Task Force: Michael Centrella (rtf@darnestowncivic.org)
Safety Committee: Matt Quinn (safety@darnestowncivic.org)
Seneca Forest Project: James Wheeler (deer@darnestowncivic.org)
Social Events: Stephanie Kunkle (social@darnestowncivic.org)
Softball: Dave Bivans (softball@darnestowncivic.org)
Strategic Planning: Tim Sanders (strategicplanning@darnestowncivic.org)
Website: Ben Jamieson (website@darnestowncivic.org)
Neil Agate (website@darnestowncivic.org)
Welcome: Pam DuBois (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Maya Miloski (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Melissa Mostrom (welcome@darnestowncivic.org)
Zoning: Miguel Saba (zoning@darnestowncivic.org)



Darnestown Civic Association, Inc.

14100G Darnestown Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

Email: dca@darnestowncivic.org

Website: darnestowncivic.org

PRSR STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Suburban MD
Permit No. 4889

