



THE LITTLE ACORN

THE DARNESTOWN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
darnestowncivic.org

Volume 62 Number 2
Summer 2025

President's Corner



Solar Farms in Darnestown?

The short answer is yes. A 3.2-acre solar farm is currently under construction on a 10-acre rural residential property within a subdivision off River Rd. in Darnestown. This project, called 'Project Santa Rosa,' is being built by Chaberton Energy. Chaberton has also just proposed a much larger solar farm, 'Project Victoria,' for 25 acres of solar on an abutting 42-acre rural residential lot that directly fronts River Rd. The diagram on page 2 shows the approximate locations.

Now, for as long as I can remember, the biggest development concerns to our residents have been around high-density housing and land uses that didn't conform to county standards. Solar has never been in that discussion before and the dynamics around it are a little different.

First, solar—is good, right? Who can possibly be against increasing production of solar power? It's green, it's renewable, it's the direction we need to go as humans on Earth. I just put solar panels on my roof last year. But what if it's big, you see it out your window or drive by it every day, and what was once a field of natural green is now a sheet of black. And what if it was literally in your back yard?

Montgomery County provides for a 'limited use' of solar on certain residential property types, many of which apply to residential properties across Darnestown. 'Limited use' means it's allowed on certain residential properties but implementation is limited. For solar, the property has to be a minimum of 3 acres, the farm can't

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What's Happening in Darnestown

Further details can be found in this issue.

August 1, 2025

Deadline for the September issue of *The Little Acorn*

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

Sundays through Aug. 3, 2025

5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Darnestown Adult Softball League Games

Cliff Bland Park

See page 7 for details

SAVE THE DATE!

Darnestown's 54th Annual

•HOEDOWN•

Friday, October 3, 2025

6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.

SMOKEY GLEN FARM

Main Pavilion

16407 Riffle Ford Road

Tickets will be available online in August.

Visit **DARNESTOWNCIVIC.ORG**

for more details.

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

Go to darnestowncivic.org.

Continued from page 1

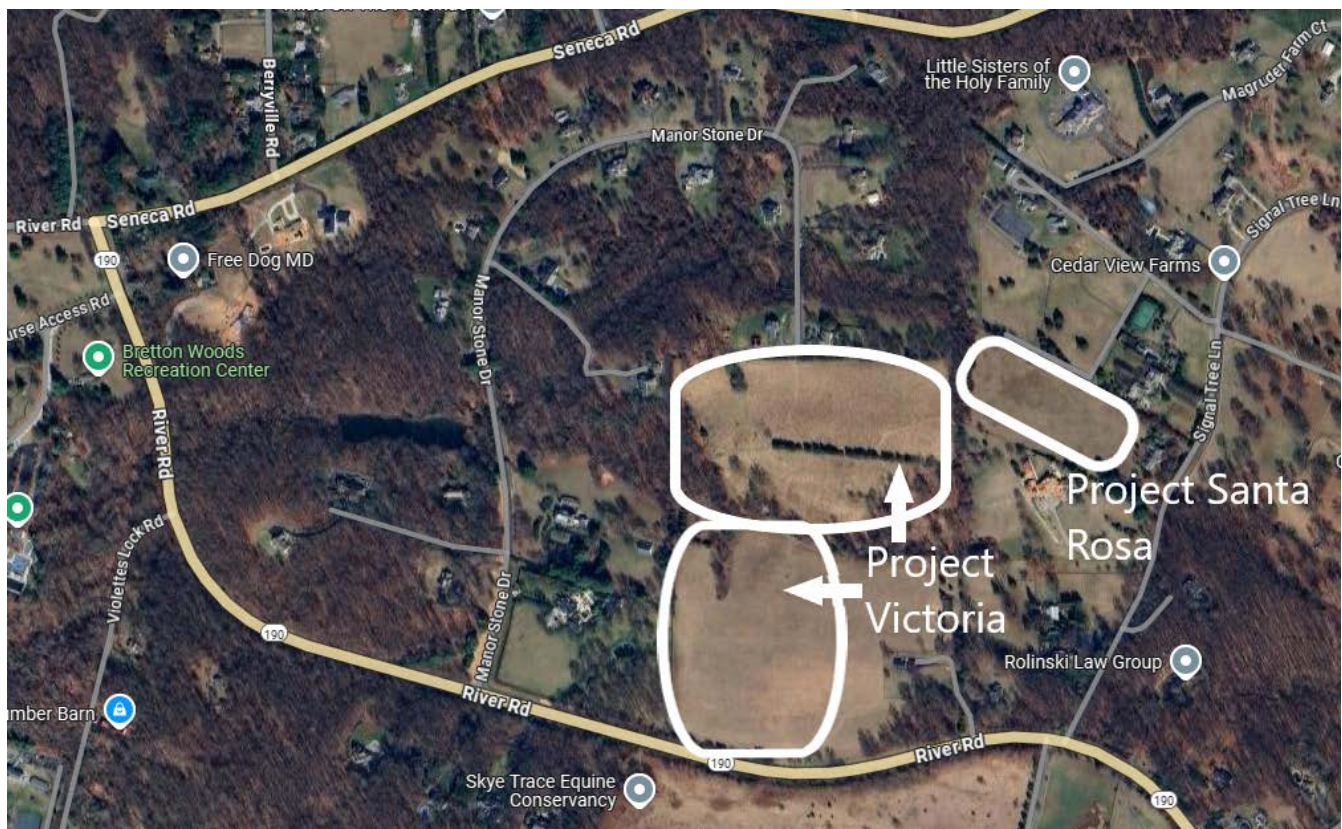
produce more than 2.0 megawatts (MW) of electricity, and there's a bunch of other environmental and implementation restrictions and safeguards.

However, regardless of the County's 'limited use' policy or the review and recommendations of the Montgomery County Planning Board, the final approval is in the hands of the state, specifically the Maryland Public Service Commission (MPSC). Recent legislation from the state that will take effect this summer is intended to streamline the approval process for solar farms, shifting authority from local to state government.

The proposed, larger 25-acre solar farm 'Victoria' will produce 4.25 MW of electricity, more than twice what the County permits for that property. The applicant has petitioned MPSC stating *"the Applicant is following all the zoning codes required by Montgomery County with the exception of the proposed system size of 4.25 MW, which is not allowed in the RC zone... The Applicant respectfully asks the Commission to use its well-established authority to issue a CPCN [Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity] for the Project and preempt Montgomery County's zoning regulations that conflict with the State's strong policies encouraging community solar development."*

It may sound like I'm taking a strong position against solar farms in Darnestown. I'm not—my intent is to only provide the limited facts that I know and begin the discussion on this because I am confident this isn't the last time a solar farm will be proposed somewhere in Darnestown. The Darnestown Civic Association has not taken a position and won't until we get more public input and discussion. However, while we all support increasing solar power production, I am concerned about the implementation of solar farms (where, how, and how big) as it directly impacts our residents and the rural residential character of our town.

In our Town Hall meeting in July, we will have a panel of County and State representatives join to help educate us on the policies, processes, and potential impacts of solar farms, including environmental and health impacts. We will not focus specifically on the merits of these two solar farms on River Rd., but they will serve as solid reference points as we learn and ask questions. More details on the Town Hall will be posted on our website and emailed. We hope you can join us to learn more. If you are not able to attend, we will also provide a link online to the recorded meeting. If you have immediate concerns or questions, or have an interest in volunteering for the DCA around this issue, please email zoning@darnestowncivic.org.



Community News

2025 Scholarship Winners Announcement

By the Darnestown Civic Association Scholarship Committee

The Darnestown Civic Association is excited and proud to announce the winners of the 6th Annual DCA Scholarship and the 6th Annual Bruce Deppa Scholarship. All applicants were graduating seniors within the DCA boundaries.

The DCA Scholarship which supports the applicant who demonstrated civic engagement, was awarded to **Yana Tagoe-Mocumbi**.

The Bruce Deppa Scholarship, which supports the

applicant who embodies all things Darnestown, was awarded to **Jacob Hagen**.

The DCA Scholarship program seeks to further the DCA's mission of supporting and enhancing the lives of Darnestown residents, specifically the youth. Once again, the applicant pool proved that Darnestown's future is bright! Congratulations Yana and Jacob. The Darnestown community wishes you lots of success as you begin your new journey!

DCA Scholarship Essay

By Yana Tagoe-Mocumbi

I've lived in Darnestown my whole life. For the past 18 years, this community has been more than just where I live. I've been fortunate enough to learn in Darnestown, make friends in Darnestown, explore Darnestown, and work in Darnestown. This town has shaped who I am by surrounding me with a community that values inclusion, diversity, and mutual support. In Darnestown, I have experienced firsthand what it means to live in a place where people care about one another, where neighbors become extended family, and where every individual, regardless of background, is encouraged to grow, support, and contribute.

Growing up here taught me the value of connection and consistency. I've learned how important it is to contribute to the spaces that help you grow. My schools, my neighbors, family, and friends around town have been part of my journey, teaching me patience, resilience, and curiosity. I've benefited from classrooms and friendships that reflect a wide range of perspectives. Being raised in such an environment has taught me empathy and open-mindedness, values I will carry throughout my life.

Growing up in this environment instilled in me a desire to give back in ways that matter. I've always believed in contributing to the spaces that helped raise you, that's why I began volunteering at my former elementary school, Jones Lane Elementary. Helping teachers in their classrooms and volunteering at school events. Returning to that space not only allowed me to express my gratitude

but also gave me the chance to support young students the way I was once supported.

I've also done this by working at Georgetown Hill, a local preschool, where I help run the after-school program. It's my way of investing in the next generation of Darnestown kids. Being a positive role model for the children I work with, offering them support, encouragement, and consistency, feels like a full-circle moment. I was once a child shaped by this community, and now I get to help shape it in return. My time at Georgetown Hill has deepened my appreciation for education and care work. It has taught me patience, creativity, and how powerful small gestures can be, whether it's helping a child solve a problem, celebrating their achievements, or simply being there to listen. I like to think that in some small way, my presence helps them build confidence, feel safe, and enjoy learning.

Both my volunteering and work experiences have deepened my appreciation for Darnestown's commitment to raising thoughtful individuals. I've also seen firsthand how our town's diversity enriches our schools and neighborhoods, encouraging empathy, perspective, and shared growth.

Living in Darnestown has made me a better person, teaching me the importance of giving back and encouraging me to always strive for kindness. And in turn, I've worked to give that same sense of care and belonging to others in this town, especially its youngest members. I'm so proud to be from Darnestown, and even more proud to contribute to the community that helped raise me.

Community News (continued)

Spring Social Events



On Sunday, April 6th, the Darnestown Presbyterian Church and Darnestown Civic Association partnered and held its much-loved annual Easter Egg Roll, drawing families from across the community for an

afternoon of festive fun. The event transformed the church grounds into a colorful springtime celebration. Children delighted in a traditional egg hunt and egg roll, eagerly racing to collect brightly colored eggs hidden throughout the lawn. In addition to the main event, there were family-friendly activities including face painting, arts and crafts stations, and a cheerful cake walk. A highlight for many young attendees was meeting the Easter Bunny, who posed for photos and spread joy among the crowd. Adding a local touch, Pleasant Hills Farm provided fresh spring flowers, giving families the opportunity to take home a bit of the season. The afternoon served as a joyful gathering that captured the spirit of community and the renewal of spring.

On Saturday April 27th, we held the 3rd annual Darnestown Clean Up Day. Despite the less than ideal weather, volunteers came out to help clean up the streets of Darnestown. A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who generously gave their time and effort to help cleanup our community.

Thank you to everyone who made our Darnestown community events such a success! From volunteers to attendees, your support and spirit help keep our town connected and thriving.

Meet Our New Business Owner

Johnson Roofing Service

Johnson Roofing Service is a trusted, family-owned business proudly serving Maryland, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia for over 60 years. Built on a legacy of quality craftsmanship and dependable service, the company specializes in roof repairs, replacements, inspections, and maintenance for both residential and commercial properties. With a focus on long-term durability and customer satisfaction, Johnson Roofing combines traditional values with modern solutions to ensure every project is completed efficiently and to the highest standard. As part of a broader network that includes Johnson Chimney Service, the team is committed to protecting homes from the top down, offering professional expertise and peace of mind to



generations of satisfied customers. For more information, visit www.johnsonroofingservice.com or email info@johnsonroofingservice.com.

Community News (continued)

School Boundary Study

In early June, Montgomery County Public Schools released their initial boundary study options for the opening of Crown High School and the expansion of Damascus High School. The initial study indicates that no changes are expected to elementary school assignments, but middle and high school feeders could shift—so it's important to stay informed! To keep the community informed, The DCA is providing an FAQ overview below.

Why is there a boundary study?

To support the opening of the new Crown High School (near Crown/Rio) and expansion of Damascus High School.

How could this effect Darnestown kids?

It could alter their assigned middle school (currently Lake-lands MS) and high school (currently Northwest HS).

When will this take place?

Any changes will take effect in the fall of 2027, when Crown High School is set to open. According to the facts section of the boundary survey website, “the superintendent of schools supports that the new boundaries be implemented beginning with grades 9 and 10 in the 2027-28 school year and that rising grade 11 and 12 students remain at their current high school of attendance.”

How are the decisions being made?

Over the course of the next year, there will be public hearings, surveys, and opportunity for public input, as well as revisions of the initial plans that were shared in June.

- Ultimately, final plans will be approved by the Montgomery County Board of Education (targeted for fall '26)
- The four main factors that are being considered in this boundary change decisions are:
 - Demographic characteristics of student population
 - Geography

- Stability of school assignments over time
- Facility utilization

Is there opportunity for public input?

Yes, there will be plenty of opportunity for survey-based, written, and public hearings to express your opinion. The Initial Options Feedback Survey can be found at the link below or by scanning the QR code here.



<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScFJdfdw3J1V0hIMZI440SsK5P40X-SRTNRrMQla-mbl0g3PA/viewform>

What is the DCA's role in this?

- Our primary role is to communicate information and make sure parents have an opportunity to review all of the information and express their concerns and opinions so they are heard directly by the School Board, who is making the ultimate decisions.
- The DCA will discuss and ask for community input at the July town hall meeting and will conduct our own surveys of residents to get input on several factors.
- The DCA was actively involved in the Boundary Study when Seneca Valley was rebuilt (though ultimately Darnestown kids were not impacted). In that study the DCA did take a formal position, but only after overwhelming consensus by the community. We don't know yet if the DCA will take a position on this. The DCA will only take a position and advocate for specific plans and assignments based on a formal consensus of our members.
- We are looking for parent volunteers to help us with this effort and engage/communicate with our community. If you're interested please reach out to president@darnestowncivic.org

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/MCPSBoundaryStudies> or scan the QR code here.



We Welcome Your Submissions to *The Little Acorn*

Deadline for the next issue: **August 1, 2025**

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

Community Sports

Swimming Hall of Fame

We are excited to announce that Coach Pat Tozzi of the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club will be inducted into the Montgomery County Swim League Hall of Fame on July 8, 2025.

Pat Tozzi, or Coach Pat as he likes to be called, has been the Head Coach for the Darnestown Swim and Racquet Club since 2013. An exceptional coach and mentor, he has coached close to 1,200 swimmers at more than 180 different summer swim meets during his time as the Head Coach of Darnestown.

Coach Pat has a passion for teaching swimming skills. Whatever time of day you go to the Darnestown pool during the summer swim season, you stand a good chance of finding him on the pool deck or in the water. It is obvious that he loves to teach and that he cares about each swimmer and each swimmer knows that he cares about them.

Each summer, Coach Pat devotes much of his time to the youngest swimmers at Darnestown, patiently teaching them to swim or even just to float on their back or



put their head under water. When you come to the Darnestown pool during the swim season, you will often see him in the shallow end of the pool helping beginners take their first strokes.

His love for the sport is infectious and each year Darnestown swimmers (and their parents) look forward

to the swim season and all that it offers. Coach Pat has taken many swimmers to new heights and created life-long memories for swimmers and their families.

Congratulations to Coach Pat on this tremendous honor! Darnestown is lucky to have you!

Max Esposito Named All-American

Darnestown's Max Esposito was named All-American by USA Lacrosse Magazine and the USILA for the 2nd year in a row. He was also invited to the prestigious Senior All Star Game featuring the best of the best in Men's Division 3 lacrosse. Esposito claimed honorable mention honors and All-Americans are chosen by national lacrosse contributors, coaches and conferences across the country. Esposito also is claiming All Region honors as well.

Max, a former Northwest High School graduate, recently graduated Concordia University Wisconsin and the school awarded him its Male Career Achievement. Along with All-American honors, Esposito has a long list of offensive achievements in his college lacrosse career. He possesses all offensive scoring records for both the school and the Northern Athletics Collegiate Conference (NACC). He was named the NACC Offensive Player of the Year 3 straight years, as well as first Team All-Conference. As a team captain, he led the Concordia Falcons to consecutive tournament final appearances.

Esposito ends his career with 397 points (196 goals and



201 assists) and among the all time offensive scoring leaders for D3 men's lacrosse. Along with being the most productive offensive player in school and conference history, Max excelled off the field as well.

Scholastically he has been on the Dean's List and has been recognized as a USILA Scholar All-American. This fall, Max will continue with graduate school in at Concordia University Wisconsin, where he will also be a coaching assistant for the team, lead the Strength & Conditioning program and teach youth lacrosse at local club teams.

Community Sports (continued)

Darnestown Softball in Full Swing!

Darnestown was blessed with two beautiful Sundays to open the 2025 season with Opening Day taking place April 13th. Game 1 featured Western Darnestown (WD) taking on Bondy-Haddonfield-Ridgefield (BHR) in a close contest with WD leading by three runs into the bottom of the seventh inning. It wouldn't be enough, however, to secure the win as BHR, being the perennial powerhouse they are, managed to get the bats going scoring four runs to end the game. Game 2 featured the Central Darnestown Swingers (CDS) challenging the defending champions, Jones Lane (JL) in an epic battle of lead changes throughout regulation. With the score tied at 14 in the bottom of the seventh, CDS had a chance to win the game with the winning run on base and two outs. JL's stellar infield, however, turned a grounder into a fielder's choice out taking the game into extra innings. Neither team could advance a runner across home plate in the eighth inning. Due to the rapidly setting sun the game ended in a tie.

Two more great games were played April 27th with CDS edging BHR 14-11, and JL securing alone the top of the league standings besting WD 15-9.

Games are on Sunday evenings (5:00 p.m. and

6:30 p.m.) lasting through August 3rd. Come on out to the Darnestown local Cliff Bland Park and join us to cheer on your favorite team and/or play. Teams are still signing on new players, in particular to help fill the inevitable line-up gaps due to summer vacations. Please contact Dave Bivans (softball@darnestowncivic.org or 301-977-4734) if you're interested in playing, would like a copy of the schedule, or need additional information.



FIRST PITCH: Steve Groff (BHR) delivers the ball s to Peter Moyer (WD) lead-off batter, with Jackie Miller (BHR) catching, Matt Legge (JL) umpiring, Sheila Thomas (BHR defending 3rd base, and Paul "Crash" Goetz (BHR) playing 1st base.

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:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| • <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 23 and mail it to the DCA!

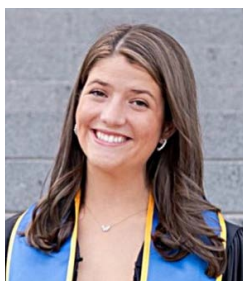
Annual Dues are only \$35. Additional giving levels include

\$50 'Friend of Darnestown,' \$100 'Sponsor,' \$150 'Acorn' Program.

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



Congratulations Darnestown's 2025 Graduates!



Lindsay Barrow
University of Notre Dame

Lindsay is graduating with a major in Neuroscience and minor in Poverty Studies. She will be attending the University of Maryland Medical School in the fall.



Madison Bechard
University of Kentucky

Madison is graduating summa cum laude in just 3 years with her undergraduate in Psychology; minor in Philosophy. Madison will be attending the University of New Hampshire School of Law in the Fall.



Maggie Brady
Quince Orchard High School

Maggie will be attending the University of Maryland Honors College to study Social Data Science.



Connor Matthew Bunting
Northwest High School

Connor will be attending Indiana University to study Finance.



Esther Clark
Northwest High School

Esther will be attending Brigham Young University—Idaho to study Child Development, Recreational Therapy, or Marriage & Family Studies.



Shane Conroy
Northwest High School

Shane will be attending Coastal Carolina University in the fall.



Trey Cook
Northwest High School

Trey will be attending Indiana University Kelley School of Business-Finance.



Anna Driscoll
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

Anna will be attending Boston University College of Arts and Sciences to study Biology on the Pre-Med track.



Claire Driscoll
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

Claire will be attending Washington University in St. Louis to explore her options in general studies.



Max Esposito

Concordia University Wisconsin

Max will continue with graduate school at Concordia University, where he will also be a coaching assistant for the team, lead the Strength & Conditioning program and teach youth lacrosse at local club teams.



Heather Gross

University of Maryland

Heather is graduating with a double major in Criminology & Criminal Justice and Psychology and a minor in Neuroscience. She is an aspiring Criminal Investigator.



Elaina Hagen

*Northwest High School
Marymount University—MBA*

Elaina is working as a Marketing Coordinator on the Core Cyber Team at Carahsoft Technology.



Jake Hagen

Northwest High School

Jake will be attending High Point University to study Business. He will be a Presidential Scholar and Business Fellow.



William James Herrington, IV

University of Maryland

William is graduating (3.92GPA) with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. He is planning to pursue his Master's Degree in Information Technology.



Ian Hodges

Northwest High School

Ian will be attending Montgomery College to study Computer Science, with a planned transfer to the University of Maryland to secure his 4-year degree in Cyber Security. He will be working at Strosniders hardware for the summer to help pay for school.



Stella Humphries

*Our Lady of Good Counsel
High School*

Stella will be attending Loyola University of Maryland to study Biopsychology & Pre-Physician Assistant Track. Her future career goal is to become a Physician's Assistant.



Lila Koundinya

Northwest High School

Lila will be attending James Madison University to major in Elementary Education.



Ari Mazziotta

Capella University

As a non-traditional student working full time, Ari graduated with an MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and will begin his employment with Congruent Counseling Services in June.



Ethan Merkle

Gonzaga College High School

Ethan will be attending the University of Maryland to study Mechanical Engineering.



Ashley Mostrom

Vassar College

Ashley is graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Psychological Science. She plans to continue her education pursuing her Master's in Forensic Clinical Psychology.



Georgia Mostrom

Quince Orchard High School

Georgia will be attending the University of South Carolina to study Psychology.



Faith Pleisse

Quince Orchard High School

Faith will be attending Miami University (in Ohio) to study Political Science.



Max Ressa

St. John's College High School

Max will be attending Washington and Jefferson College to play baseball and study Business.



David Rogers

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology

David is graduating with a BS in Mechanical Engineering. He has secured employment with Barry-Wehmiller Papersystems as a Field Service Engineer.



Makai Davis Scheer

*Laurel Hall School,
Frederick Maryland*

Makai will be attending Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida to study Cybersecurity.



Matthew Shoykhet

Thomas S. Wootton High School

Matthew will be attending the Cleveland Institute of Music to major in Trombone Performance and minor in Business.



Kemal Fideli Stegman

Northwest High School

Kemal will be attending University of Maryland Honors College—Cybersecurity to study Computer Science and Pre-Med.



Josie Tyree

Good Counsel High School

Josie will be attending the University of Delaware to study Business Entrepreneurship.



Caleigh Wilson

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and University Pamplin
College of Business*

Caleigh is graduating with a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and Information Systems. She will be returning to Virginia Tech to earn her Master's Degree in ACIS in the fall.



Elizabeth "Ellie" Wilson

University of Amsterdam

Ellie is graduating with a Master's of Biological Sciences with a concentration in Biomedical Data Analysis. She is planning to remain in Amsterdam to pursue a career in Bioinformatics.



Lillian "Lily" Wilson

Northwest High School

Lily will be attending Ohio State University Fisher School of Business to study business.



Hailey Youngman

Northwest High School

Hailey will be attending Elon University to study Political Science with a major in Pre-Law.



Luke Zic

University of Maryland

Luke has graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Computer Science. He will be working at Amazon Web Services as a software development engineer starting in the fall.



Mark Zic

Stanford University

Mark has graduated from Stanford University with a Ph.D. in Physics. He is working at Northrop Grumman in the Future Technical Leaders program.



Sofie Zic

Boston University

While working toward her Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering (BME) at Boston University, to be completed in 2027, Sophie has also earned her MS in BME this year.

Congratulations
Darnestown's
2025
Graduates!

DCA 2025 Membership

This membership listing should be effective through May 2025. Members who have joined since then or were mistakenly left off will be captured in the September issue of *The Little Acorn*.

Business

6-Twelve Convenient Mart
Melissa Bernstein Homes,
RLAH—Christine's
International Real Estate
Birchwood Holiday Lighting &
Lawn care
Bretton Woods Recreation
Center
Brezovec & Associates
Jose Carbajal Lawn &
Landscaping, LLC
Carpet and Flooring LLC
Clark Tree Services
Darnestown Shell
Darnestown Smiles
Darnestown Swim &
Racquet Club
Valerie Fuster, Realtor
Georgetown Hill Early School
Johnson Chimney Service
Johnson Roofing Service
Lowe-Tilson Insurance &
Associates
ohDEER
Pleasant Hills Farm
Preferred Insurnace
Solutions, LLC
Miguel Saba, Realtor,
Compass Real Estate
Seneca Studio
Smokey Glen Farm
Stiles Denistry
SwimLabs Swim School
The Tyra Law Firm, LLC
United Service Specialists
Valley Mill Camp
Windridge Winery

Acorn

Matt & Heather Ahrens
Susan Allaway
Mike & Connie Barnhart
Dana Carlson
Seneca Community Church
Michael & Katie Cronin
Scott & Kendra Damiecki
Worth & Karen Edwards
Sandy Merber & Anrdea Grant
Steve & Sharon Groff
Paul & Holly Klee
Mary & Peter Los
Brian & Tracy Lang

David & Sandy Lennhoff
Phil Levinton & Robin Gross
Brad & Liz Long
William Lowe
Brian & Maya Miloski
Charles and Tina Petzold
Craig & Michelle Rathbone
Fran & Joe Rothenberg
Benjamin Saul
Rob & Reece Scheer
Fran Soistman
Ursula & Paul Rivers;
Jessica Stephens
Josephine Trenchard
Jim Weiss & Rosetta Cavallo
Jeff & Kristin Wharton
Dieter Willkomm

Sponsor

Joan Abell & William Bowman
Guy Armantrout & Susan Keyes
Andrea Barnhart & Caroleene
Paul
Dave & Laura Bivans
Jeff & Tara Bryson
David & Janet Buchanan
The Cerne-Mulhern Family
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Cerone
Dan & Monica Dean
Cliff Dean & Janice Raburn
Sean & Donna Delaney
Steve & Carole DeMinco
Luanne Deppa
Eric Smart & Pam DuBois
Margery Edmundson
Louise A Evans
Lawrence & Marilee Giebel
Elizabeth Girard
Mark & Darci Glass-Royal
Maria Gomez & Mauricio
Camargo
Mary & Jeff Goodie
Amy & Len Gross
Peter & Summer Hardinge
Paul Hobelmann & Mindy
Willer
Thomas Howard
Stephen & Stella Hsu
Marcos & Kate Hsu
Takao Ikegami
Katie & Russell Johnson
Susan Kick
Sandy & Terry Killen

Kirk Kley
Laura Bankeroff & Joann
Koutsoukis
Kaspars & Dagnisa Kreslins
Gerard & Bonnie Kunkel
Stephanie & Jon Kunkle
Mike & Marti McAllister
Rick & Reine Moore
Steve & Jennifer Moss
Joel & Barbara Mykilebust
Rebecca & Shane Neff
Beth O'Connell
Patterson-Troike Family
Scott & Barbara Plumer
Crissy Powers
Priscilla Rippeon
Michael & Linda Roberts
Roschewski Family
Tim & Katie Sanders
Cary Silverman & Robin Lang
Rick & Lida Stifel
ML Jones & SL Swartz
Linda & Terry Sweeney
Betty Sweet
Rob & Janet Swisher
Doug & Bridgette Theurer
Jerry & Verna Van Wert
Bill & Laura Warshauer
Steve & Melody Williams
Shawn & Shida Ziglari
Beth & Elihu Zimet
Larry & Faye Zoeller

Friend

Patricia Abell
Eric & Marsha Abramson
Richard Adamson
Isaac & Fay Adato
Kathy & Neil Agate
Cheryl & Bill Amick
Beth & Joe Barbera
John & Karen Barkley
Ed & Kim Barrow
Tina Bosse & David Schwab
Steve Boukedes & Caroline
Owen
David Boulton & Celia
Kingsbury
Peter Boyd & Ellen Klosson
Delwin & Alicia Brockett
Benjamin & Christina Buchta
Diego & Alicia Calderon
Jim & Joan Carlberg

Brad & Carol Carter
Eugenio Cerutti & Sarah
O'Byrne
Darrell & Becky Cheripko
Ron Chesemore
Steve & Bobbi Christiansen
Kevin & Amber Collieran
Carolyn & Tom Conlan
Sam Coriell
Luke Cowart
Bonnie & Mike Crough
Karen & David Danoff
Jacob H. & Gerritdina
W.C. de Bruin
Peggy Dennis & Sackett Family
Joseph & Carmen DiPietro
Keith & Marilyn Donson
Rich & Janice Edwing
Cindy Eldridge
Nancy El-Hibri
David Engleman
Dave & Beth Erdman
Buddy Ey & Leslie Tripp
Glen Fitzpatrick & Sharon
Burns
Kristine R Fletcher
Pat Foley
Gary & Debbie Friedlander
Lorice Frost
Jim Garner
Paul & Beth Gaukler
Lewis & Lynn Gertz
Jo & Bob Gilman
Thomas & Elizabeth Gladnick
Jim & Pam Grant
William Halpern & Naomi
Weiss
Ansis & Lisa Helmanis
William & Kimberly Herrington
Julian Hill & Erika Cornell
Hodges Family
Mary Horwitz & Cagle Fair
I.J. & Jan Hudson
Said Jahanmir
Eric & Kristin Jodts
Peter Johnson & Andi Dennison
Maris & Anita Juberts
John & Tina Kalil
Florence Kasule-Payne
Keith & Christina Kiedrow
Mike & Jackie King
Kevin & Krista Kirk
Jack & Linda Knowles

DCA 2025 Membership (continued)

Shank & Laura Koundinya	Stephen & Jeanette Staton	Donald Crehan	Alex & Ruchi Kaine
Lisa Kristiansen & Steve Robinson	Brad & Theresa Stone	Scott Cress	Emily & Kevin Kane
Mark & Nancy Labus	Mark Sweet	Cindy Cresser	Rob & Carol Kasunic
Marjorie Leach	Betsy Tolbert Luecking	Kristen & Steve Crook	Jerry & Tara Kavadias
Joel & Paula Leber	Clark Torell	Randy Crow	Nancy Keshishian
Gregory & Barbara Linteris	Peter & Veronica Tunon	Madeline & Steven D'Alessio	Nannette King
Michael & Deb Lofttus	Carl & Kelly Tyree	Michael Davis	Ed & Betty Kingman
The Lubenetskis	Jim Veirs	Julia A Davis	Thomas & Jane Kochuba
Nancy Magurn	Mike Verkouteren	Jonathan DeCarlo & Chelsea Cook	Jeff & Marcy Kopp
Tassey & Tom Mariani	Steve & Debbie Waechter	Jim & Pam Del Vecchio	Anita Kowalski
Matthew & Lisa Markiewicz	Jay Wallace & Ursula Kattner	Thomas & Antoinette DeRosa	Tim Kurjian
Keith & Terri McAllister	Laura & Mike Wallerstedt	Anil & Sarla Dhingra	Brendan & Bonnie Lane
Loretta & Rick Mead	Kevin & Jennifer Warne	Joseph & Karen DiPeppe	John & Nancy Larue
Joel & Jamie Miller	Bob & Elizabeth Weaver	Margaret (Pat) Dolan	Carolyn Lebsock
Bob & Jennifer Miller	James & Nea Wheeler	Maureen M, Dufresne	Laura Ledgard
Mark & Vicki Mostrom	Timothy Wiegand	Frederick Duque	Le Lemon
Jon & Lauren Mullen	Bud & Jackie Wildman	Carol & Steve Dutil	Bill & Julie LeWarne
Mort Neufville	Laura & Gene Wilkes	Diane Epstein	Allison & Jason Liebler
Cook-Nguyen Family	Joel & Sarah Andrew Wilson	Rosemary Eshman	Jim & Randa Locke
Cindy & Scott Norcross	Stacey & Derek Woodward	Ron & Nancy Farhood	Nikolay Lorinkov
Jim & Dori O'Sullivan	Charlie & Donna Yanjanin	Ulgen Fideli & Jason Stegman	Harald & Donna Ludwig
Josephine Ocran-Appiah & Michael Appiah	Scott & Tracy Youngmab	Fran & Ken Finkelstein	Robert & Haiwen Mackleer
Carol & Raymond Palfrey	Karen & Matt Zappone	Diana & Tim Foley	Kathleen McConnell
Nitesh & Setul Patel	Basic	Ingrid Fraley & Hugh Fisher	The McDougall Family
Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Petruccilli	Matt Davis & Patricia Albrecht	James & Maria Frid	Peggy McEwan
Deno Photinakis & Family	Anthony & Jill Amato	Beth Garagusi & George Sengstack	Joyce McMillen
Matt & Julie Pietras	David & Margaret Andreadis	Joe & Dee Gazda	David & Lemmietta McNeilly
Charles & Smriti Popenoe	Paul & Peg Arnold	The Giraud Family	Peirce & Melbalynn Cook
Adriana & Paul Quattrociochi	Pam & Bob Baer	Sue & Michael Gottlieb	Steven & Pamela Mendelsohn
Matthew Quinn	Dorothy M. Bailey	Tom & Kelly Greenawalt	Mark Menzel
Michael & Paige Rafferty	Richard & Susan Hess	Jessica Hahr & Darrin Phillips	Ben & Ana Meyers
Bob & Angie Randall	Kraig & Jenn Bauer	Henry & Patty Hairston	Victor & Carol Micit
Charlie & Kathy Recknor	William G Becker	Bill Hardy	Jerry & Avid Miller
Jane & Tim Riggott	Mr. David Flinchum & Dr. Jennifer Beitler-Flinchum	Mr. & Mrs. Mike Harrigan	Carolyn & Rene Miranda
Caitlin & Dave Rogers	Marc & Robin Blass	John Hart	Charles & Nancy Moles
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Chris & Elizabeth Rorick	Miles Braun	Anna & Karl Heineman	Barton & Gail Moorstein
Joan & Marthy Roth	Holly & Paul Buehler	Thekla Hellwig	Scott & Melissa Mostrom
Susanna Sammons & Jim Lykins	Nicki Bunting	Kyle & Michelle Henson	Yoosof & Carol Mozaffari
Jim & Kathleen Savitz	Cyndi & Larry Cain	Anthony & Maryann Huffert	Tim & Caitlin Mueller
Aleks & Jay Schiff	Erik Carlson	Craig Jakubowics	Arwah Nayar
Lydia Schindler	Peter & Lisa Carothers	Alan Janos	Eric & Corinne Nelson
Joseph Scopin	Ruth Chesler	Bandelee Jeffrey-Coker	Doug & Nancy Norr
Hratch Semerjian & Peggy Tamburello	Richard Chiapparoli	SangHee Jeong & Mattia Bonsignori	Audra O'Neil
Robert & Linda Shaver	Natnarin Wunplensi	Alberto & Marianella Jimenez De Lucio	Victor & Carol Omelchenko
Don & Mary Sherman	Larry & Sue Ciorlito	Bob & Bonnie Johnson	Roger & Linda Oxley
Amy & Pete Silins	Graeme & Sarah Clark	Gibbes & Marianne Johnson	Matthew & Jennifer Patner
Bhupendra & Ana Singh	Jay & Lori Clogg	Steve Jolles	Steven Paul & Sandy Brodie
Peter & Martha Sklavos	Janice Long Coe & Keith Sinner	Nahyung & Eung Joo	Dereck & Sharlene Paul
Jeff & Merikay Smith	Paul Coffin	Glory Joseph	Todd & Sandy Pearce
Gerald & Roberta Solis	Michael & Veronica Cooper	Christine A. Josset	Joann Pearcy
Jan Micare & Carl Sponberg	Frank & Janet Cornelius	Isabelle & Kevin Juhring	Martin Riskam & Kathleen Petro
	Robert Cornelsen		James & Brenda Pettry
			Robert & Mariana Phifer
			Dan & Wendy Pinchas

DCA 2025 Membership (continued)

Travis & Clare Pincoski
Gail & Peter Plamondon
Veneta & Vlad Polyanov
Martha Popovic
Philip & Patricia Poulos
Stephen & Lindsay Probus
Robert Purcell & Suzanne Emerson
David & Susan Quackenbush
David & Sharon Queen
Katie Rapp
Gerald Reed
Richard & Winnie Ricker
Thomas Riojas
Carlene W. Roggin
Diane & Dan Romney

Jill & Doug Ross
Brenda & James Rouse
David & Lisa Ruf
John & Terry Sabin
Doug & Sallie Santangelo
Jerry & Janet Scanlan
Tom & Sarah Scherer
Rick & Carol Schnatz
Lothar Schuettler & Gretchen Carroll
The Scyphers Family
Mr. & Mrs. Geza Serenyi
The Rev. Greg Shaffer, Pastor
Bill & Maryann Sharp
Kim Shedd & Eric Steel
Helen Sherman

Robert W. Sherrin
Larry & Nadia Skiscim
Nadia Skiscim
Joe & Sabrina Sladek
Midge Smith
Dettie Stack
Ken Steben
Dennis & Marie Stiles
Mike & Arlene Szwed
Quoc & Sharon Tran
Noel & Neil Tyra
Syd & Jing Ulvick
Cliff & Abby Veirs
Eric & Gwendolyn Vitale
Steven & Ernette Wagner
Justin Kaufman & Susie Warner

Jeff & Natalie Watkins
Dean Watts
Linda & David Weiss
Carole Welsch & William Rust
Michelle & Tom Wentz
John & Judy Wilkinson
Cindy Williams & Greg Foels
Jim & Margaret Wilson
Carl & Fe Wlotzko
Rob & Diane Woods
Ryan & Rumi Young
Christine & Larry Youngblut
Maryam Zavar
Robert Zweibel

Organizations

Darne Bloomers Garden Club

By Tracy Lang

In February, the Darne Bloomers met at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in the Kentlands, where Alexa Franklin of Potomac Garden Center gave a presentation on styling with house plants, including the benefits of having plants in the home (including improved air quality), and tips for improved growing (including using good peat soil). They brought many beautiful house plants to show the group as they spoke. After the presentation, members created kokedama arrangements using a variety of plants including ferns, cyclamen, orchids, flowering kalanchoe, and smaller terrarium-sized plants. To make the kokedama balls,



Kokedama Cyclamen

the soil was removed from the plant roots, with sphagnum moss added to the roots for the orchids. Next, a container of good quality soil was moistened in a bowl and formed into a ~6-8" ball depending on the size of the plants selected. The ball was split open and re-formed around the plant roots, then wrapped in a sheet of live moss that was secured by wrapping with fishing line and finished with a few turns of decorative

jute or ribbon. The arrangements need to be kept moist but have lasted for months.

For the March meeting at Bretton Woods, Rosarian Jon Gazarek of the Potomac Rose Society provided a comprehensive presentation on all things roses. Jon travels the world for roses and assists in bringing new roses to market. Jon shared his love of roses, his extensive knowledge of current trends (more focus on fragrance) and happenings in the rose industry, and his travels to famous rose farms and growers throughout the world. His enthusiasm for his subject matter was inspiring, and his slides were spectacular. John also shared some of his favorite fragrant roses (Perfumed Kiss, Gabriel, and Für Elise), and recommended five disease-resistant roses for the garden: Firefighter; Bliss Parfuma; Bo-scobel and Gertrude Jekyll (both David Austin roses); and Princes Charlene de Monaco. At the end of his presentation, he accepted questions from the group and recommended a number of his favorite gardens to visit along the East Coast, including the Kathrine Dulin Folger Rose Garden at the Smithsonian.

In April, the Darne Bloomers assembled for our annual service project, creating bedside bouquets for local assisted living centers. These miniature bouquets, arranged in mint julep cups, are a favorite of the group, and this year's "recipe" was a muted combination of one large peach mum, surrounded by delicate spray

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Organizations (continued)

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2025 Service Project

roses, lavender and fuchsia alstroemeria, white and deep pink stock, and pale pink and white wax flowers, along with lavender, gold, and green fillers. Members were provided with a “recipe”, flowers, greens, and cups, then allowed to create!

Each arrangement was completed with a signed card and delivered to seniors at The Village at Rockville Retirement Community.

For the annual May luncheon, the Darne Bloomers met at Oatlands Historic House and Gardens in Leesburg, VA for an enthusiastic and fact-packed guided tour of the mansion as well as a self-guided tour of the grounds and gardens. Our tour guide brought the history of the plantation and its inhabitants to life and had an answer for every question we could dream up. The grounds feature a number of outbuildings, as well as formal gardens, an herb garden, a reflecting pool, woods and fields, and several trails. The hostess group outdid themselves with a catered luncheon served in the Carriage House on tables draped in sage green and peach with matching pastel centerpieces and a gift box for each member and guest including a potted herb ready to plant and homemade shortcake bars, nestled in peach and sage tissue paper.

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 also welcome to visit our website at www.darnebloomers.com. Happy Gardening!

Exciting Member Summer Events Announcement!

We have some fun and exciting events coming up this summer at DSRC that you won't want to miss! From social nights to tournaments, there's something for all our members. Looking to join? Sign up for our

membership wait list here: <https://dsrclub.com/membership/> As a member you will gain access to our community of Social events, Member activities, Camp Green Zone Summer Camp for kids, and Tennis and Pickleball teams and instruction for all ages! Our Demon Swim Team had another successful registration for a strong team this summer in Division B. Here is a snapshot of our Summer Tennis and Pickleball offerings:

Pickleball Socials:

All Members are welcome to join us every other Friday night for a fun, casual evening of pickleball! These social nights are a great way to meet new people, enjoy friendly games, and share some delicious appetizers.

Dates:

- July 11th & 25th
- August 8th & 22nd

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Details:

Open play for all skill levels. Bring an appetizer to share and your own beverages. We're considering getting a babysitter for parents with young kids to encourage attendance!

Tennis and Pickleball Offerings:

Our Member Tennis and Pickleball Summer Offerings: For more details: <https://dsrclub.com/membership/>.

- Adult Weekend Warrior Programs
- Summer Clinics for Adults and Juniors
- Drop-in Classes for Adults
- Pickleball for Juniors and Adults.

Family Pickleball Tournament

Organized by Gregg—stay tuned for dates and more details from him!

Mark your calendars and enjoy a summer full of fun! We can't wait to see you out there! For any questions, feel free to reach out to gm@dsrclub.com.



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Organizations (continued)

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Girl Scout Troop 33217

Troop 33217 had another fun year growing together. This group of 4th and 5th grade girl scouts spent the fall exploring the Hillwood Museum and gardens, hiking in Rock Creek Park, participating in democracy, and crafting with FiberArts. The troop welcomed winter by returning to the Darnestown Holiday Home Tour for a bake sale, where their delicious treats impressed lots of neighbors and even Santa! The girls held on tight for a slick snow tubing adventure at Harper's Ferry, and dressed to impress for etiquette class, where they worked on refining their manners and building confidence for social gatherings. The group jumped into spring by searching for secret doors and hidden rooms at the O Street Mansion and learning the skill of geocaching at Black Hills Discovery Center. The troop is excited to wrap up the year with a few more activities together and the opportunity to celebrate the girl scouts who are graduating elementary school. We are so proud of you and wish you lots of success in all of your adventures great and small in middle school! We hope you always stay curious and keep an open heart. Congratulations to Zaria, Maiya, Chloe and Sanyu!



States where Scouts can excel in their outdoor skills while having a bunch of fun. In summer, the Northern Tier High Adventure Base allows Scouts the opportunity to conduct amazing canoeing treks in the boundary waters of Canada and upper Minnesota. In winter, the Northern Tier High Adventure Base allows Scouts the opportunity to participate in amazing cold weather activities during their "Okpik" (means Snowy Owl in the Inuit language) program in which Scouts learn how to thrive in subzero temperatures, travel across frozen wilderness lakes, and construct their own sleeping structures out of snow.

After flying into Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, the Troop's two crews then had a 5- hour bus ride north to Ely, which is right next to the Canadian border. Once we arrived at the Northern Tier High Adventure Base, we were busy from the very start. First, we were broken into two separate crews of 8 Scouts and three adults each and then introduced to our "Interpreters" (crew guides). We then conducted detailed planning for our cold-weather activities for the week and then got issued all of our cold weather gear before staying in cabins for the night. The next morning, our cold weather adventures began.



*An image of the sunset taken by Ryan Draisen,
Life Scout of Troop 1094*

Troop 1094 Conducts Cold Weather Training in Minnesota

By Holden Pollard, Historian, Troop 1094

This past winter, Troop 1094 of Darnestown sent two full crews to Scouting America's Northern Tier High Adventure Base in Ely, Minnesota to participate in a rugged cold weather high adventure experience. Scouting America has four national level high adventure bases in the United

States where Scouts can excel in their outdoor skills while having a bunch of fun. In summer, the Northern Tier High Adventure Base allows Scouts the opportunity to conduct amazing canoeing treks in the boundary waters of Canada and upper Minnesota. In winter, the Northern Tier High Adventure Base allows Scouts the opportunity to participate in amazing cold weather activities during their "Okpik" (means Snowy Owl in the Inuit language) program in which Scouts learn how to thrive in subzero temperatures, travel across frozen wilderness lakes, and construct their own sleeping structures out of snow. After flying into Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, the Troop's two crews then had a 5- hour bus ride north to Ely, which is right next to the Canadian border. Once we arrived at the Northern Tier High Adventure Base, we were busy from the very start. First, we were broken into two separate crews of 8 Scouts and three adults each and then introduced to our "Interpreters" (crew guides). We then conducted detailed planning for our cold-weather activities for the week and then got issued all of our cold weather gear before staying in cabins for the night. The next morning, our cold weather adventures began. During our time in the wilderness, our two crews had an amazing time. Some of our awesome activities included snow shoeing, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, ice skating, ice fishing, playing broom ball, and curling. Everywhere we went, each crew member had to pull their own sled with all their own gear along with some crew gear. Each night, our crews usually slept in established campsites right next to the edge

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Organizations (continued)

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of the lake, but one night, our crews actually slept out on the ice in the middle of the lake. That was really cool. None of us had ever done that before. During the trek, we never used tents. Instead, we built windbreak structures while sleeping under the stars. A windbreak structure is made out of snow and has four walls about three feet tall on all sides where the scouts sleep in the middle to keep the wind from hitting them.

While they were there, we all earned several cool awards. One of the awards was the Duty to God Patch. To earn that patch, we had to say the Northern Tier grace before every meal and hold a brief daily devotion. Another award that we earned was the Okpik Winter Trek Patch. To earn that patch, we had to camp out in the wilderness for at least two nights and hike at least seven miles.

I interviewed one of our Star Scouts, Ryan Helgerman, about his experience at Northern Tier, and he said: “The experience was a 10 out of 10 and many memories were made!” Overall, the Scouts and adults that went to the Northern Tier High Adventure Base this



An image of our crew hiking across Flash Lake taken by Matthew Meyers, Life Scout of Troop 1094

past winter had a great time and made many memories along the way.

During 2025, Troop 1094 will be participating in two more awesome high adventure trips. In June, our Troop is sending one crew back to Northern Tier in Minnesota to participate in a 10-day canoeing trek in the Canadian boundary waters. And in December, our Troop is sending a crew to Sea Base in Florida to participate in a 7-day Coral Reef sailing adventure. We love high adventure trips!

Schools

Butler Montessori Named Disney on Broadway School of Excellence Program!

Butler Montessori is honored to have been named a Disney on Broadway School of Excellence program! This prestigious award celebrates our students’ outstanding creativity, leadership, and dedication to the performing arts. Our Upper School students (Grades 7-12) brought the magic to life this May with Disney’s Frozen JR. After months of hard work, students took on roles both on stage and behind the scenes—from acting and singing to costume design and tech management—creating an unforgettable experience for our community.

“Our students are so lucky to have this opportunity to dive deeply into every aspect of a musical production. The process challenges them to think creatively, work



collaboratively, and practice patience and resilience. Through acting, singing, dancing, building, painting, and designing, our students develop a great love and appreciation for live theater!” —Emma Rodwin, Upper School Director

We are so proud of our students for their dedication and passion. Thank you to everyone who supported and attended this spectacular performance!

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Schools (continued)

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Darnestown Elementary School

By Parker Silverman, 5th grade student

Hello Darnestown! I am pumped for a new article! This is going to rock the paper. It is the end of the year and I am so happy! Summer break is coming and middle school is coming for me. I am scared for middle school but right now this is *The Little Acorn* so let's get this going. Darnestown Elementary school is having such a great year! The students at our school are working hard but still getting in some fun. The PTA held the popular basketball event, Mustang Madness (considering our mascot is a mustang.) Not only was there a raffle but tons of different basketball events including different competitions of all ages. There were also snacks in the cafeteria. Next, we had Top Golf, which as a student at DES, I would say was one of the best. Lots of students came to play golf with other students at the popular and fun golf entertainment place!

There is so much more to talk about. We had International Night with tons of different countries, plus a flag parade and soccer in the field. In case that doesn't sound fun, there was food from different cultures at the tables! My favorite part of this article is probably the end of school activities. We have field day, the spring picnic, and promotion for the 5th graders! At field day there are fun activities across the entire school area. At the spring picnic there will be inflatables, a DJ, and food trucks! At the promotion, 5th graders will be graduating with fancy clothes, a podium, and banners. I cannot believe it's been that long since we started kindergarten. I have been writing with *The Little Acorn* for two years and I cannot possibly explain how happy I am about it. It has been so fun! I am proud that I, an 11-year-old, have been writing for a community newsletter. I am looking forward to writing for *The Little Acorn* next school year!



Northwest High School

Over the 2025-26 school year, Northwest High School athletics earned 10 division championships—including the first-ever for Field Hockey in school history—along with two county championships, 2 region championships, a number of school records in swimming and track, and an individual state championship in Track & Field.

Looking ahead to summer, many of our teams will offer voluntary camps and conditioning sessions. Participating programs include Football, Flag Football, Cross Country, Cheer, Boys Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Wrestling, Basketball, and Poms. The full summer schedule is available at **NorthwestAthletics.org** under the MORE tab, or by scanning the QR code.



Seneca Academy

Spring at Seneca

This spring, our teachers and students created magical experiences in and out of the classrooms on a daily basis. We played, hiked through the woods, practiced yoga, stomped in puddles, had visits from community helpers, learned about cultures around the world, designed wind-powered cars, volunteered at Comfort Cases, created original artwork, sang and played songs together, toured a creamery, explored different genres of literature, conversed in Spanish, grew plants from seeds, presented research based on the United Nations Sustainability Goals, and SO much more!

Summer at Seneca

We still have spots in our summer preschool program for rising three-year-olds through rising kindergartners! Students will get to play, learn, create, and grow

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Schools (continued)

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together! They'll examine a different continent each week, using art, literature, science, games, and more to go "around the world" in eight weeks.

You can choose from a half-day program from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. or a full-day program from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit <https://www.senecaacademy.org/summer-at-seneca> for more information and to register!

Looking Ahead to Fall

We are now enrolling for 2025-2026 for the following programs:

- Parent's Day Out (two or four days per week for

children who will be two by Sept. 1st. Potty training is not required.)

- Preschool Threes (two-, three-, or five-day options with before/after care available.)
- Pre-K Fours (four- or five-morning options as well as an extended day class, which is popular with older fours/young fives. Before/after care is available.)
- Kindergarten–Fifth Grade (Limited openings. Before/after care is available.)

For more information, please visit www.SenecaAcademy.org or make an appointment to tour our beautiful campus through July. Please email info@senecaacademy.org to schedule!

Churches



Darnestown Presbyterian Church

By Larry Ciorlito

Consider Participating in Our Choirs! Music is central to our worship, and our vocal *and bell* choirs practice weekly in preparation. We welcome everyone to our choirs- no tryouts needed. If you are interested in joining us, simply ask any member of our church for guidance.

Summer Schedule. We now worship at 10:30 a.m. year-round, so our Sunday schedule will not change this summer. First-time visitors receive a loaf of freshly baked bread, so why not pay us a visit and get a loaf this summer?

Worship and Live-Streaming Each Sunday. We worship at **10:30 a.m. each Sunday**, often preceded by Christian Education, 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/>.



Our Lady of the Visitation Catholic Church

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

Summer is finally here. Get to the beach. Get some sun. GET TO CHURCH on Sundays! Our Mass schedule remains:

Saturday – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday – 9:00 am, 11:00 a.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
12:05 p.m. and 6:05 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday
8:30 a.m. and 12:05 p.m.

Saturday
9:05 a.m.

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

**Melissa Bernstein Homes,
RLAH – Christine's International
Real Estate | Realtor**

726 Turtle Pond Land, Gaithersburg
301-908-4007
www.melissabernstein.com

**Birchwood Holiday Lighting and
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

Brezovek & Associates | Financial Advisor

15120 Water Oak Dr., Darnestown
301-320-1483
mbrezovek@ampf.com

**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

**Johnson Chimney Service | Chimney Repair
& Restoration**

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

**Johnson Roofing Service | Residential &
Commercial Roofing Solutions**

14115 Seneca Road, Darnestown
301-949-1700
www.johnsonroofingservice.com/
info@johnsonroofingservice.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
[@ohDEERMoCo](http://www.oh-DEER.com/MoCo)

**Pleasant Hills Farm | Specialty Cut
Flower Farm**

14820 Kelly Farm Drive, Darnestown
240-281-2110
www.pleasanthillsfarm.com
amy@pleasanthillsfarm.com

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

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

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/](http://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

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 August 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

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: Amy Kurtenbach (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)

Join the “Darne” Community!

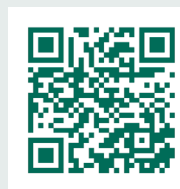
We would love to have you as part of our Darnestown Civic Association community. Check out the various way to get involved below and help us be a voice for Darnestown!

Welcome Amy Kurtenbach!

The DCA is excited to welcome Amy Kurtenbach to the board of directors as the new Treasurer! Thank you Amy for stepping into this important role!

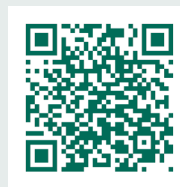
Become a Member

Join the DCA and help drive the future of Darnestown. You can register for a DCA membership online by going to **darnestowncivic.org/memberships/** or by scanning the QR code here.



Follow us on Facebook

Follow the DCA on Facebook for news and updates about neighborhood events and committee projects. Go to **www.facebook.com/DarnestownCivicAssociation** or scan the QR code here.



If you are a member of the DCA and are interested in taking on a more active role, please let us know by reaching out to **dca@darnestowncivic.org**.

To Learn more about the DCA go to **https://darnestowncivic.org**

DCA Membership Renewal/Application Form

Membership Category, please check one:

☐ Basic \$35 ☐ Friend \$50 ☐ Sponsor \$100 ☐ Acorn \$150 ☐ Business \$250

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Spouse/Partner First Name _____

Spouse/Partner Last Name _____

Business Name _____

Please indicate how you would like to have your name(s) appear in the annual membership listing:
(if you leave the line blank we will use your first and last names, to opt out see below)

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number(s) _____

1st E-Mail Address _____

2nd E-mail Address _____

Make Check Payable to:
Darnestown Civic Association

Mail to:
14100 Darnestown RD
STE G
Darnestown, MD 20874

The following section allows you to opt-out of having information related to your members published by the DCA. If you would like your information listed in *The Little Acorn* or in a DCA Directory you can skip this section.

The DCA publishes a list of our paid members in *The Little Acorn*, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

☐ DO NOT publish my name in *The Little Acorn* membership listing.

The DCA occasionally publishes a directory for its membership, please check below if you do not want your information provided:

☐ DO NOT publish my name and contact information in the DCA directory.

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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