

# The Current

The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

[www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)

SPRING 2001

## MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 21st  
7:30 PM

First/Second Grade Pod  
Taylor Elementary School  
2600 N. Stuart Street

Agenda : Department of Public Works  
Update of Richmond Legislative Session

## Minutes of January Meeting

The January 22 DRCA meeting at Taylor Elementary School featured a presentation by the Arlington County Police Department on ways to prevent neighborhood vandalism.

Cpl. Todd Scroggin, DRCA's new designated officer under the Arlington Police Department's Community Policing Program, and Lt. Gay Hayslett were on hand to update neighbors on the recent rash of vandalism in the North 26th/North Wakefield Street area. The vandalism, which began in the fall but has since abated, includes burnings (leaves, Christmas trees) and destruction of mailboxes and lawn ornaments. Cpl. Scroggin and Lt. Hayslett reported that a suspect has been arrested in the burnings, and plainclothes officers were assigned to watch the neighborhood.

Scroggin and Hayslett also outlined two police department crime prevention initiatives:

Operation Identification (residents are urged to document and inscribe their valuables in the event of a burglary) and the Home Security Survey Program (Arlington Police will conduct in-home security surveys upon request.) For more information, contact Arlington Police at 703-558-2222.

Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Chairman Ned Rhodes gave a status report on DRCA's NC Plan (see separate article, page 7). In related action, DRCA members unanimously approved the design for and location of the new Donaldson Run neighborhood signs, which will be provided under the County's NC program (see separate article, page 4).

Mike Green, head of the DRCA Citizens Speed Radar program, now has 18 volunteers trained to operate radar equipment and man the speed watch outposts. Mike could use more volunteers for the effort (see separate article, page 4).

Finally, DRCA President Peter Fallon noted that the next Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 21, 2001, at Taylor Elementary School.

## Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for articles for the May newsletter is Saturday, April 21. Articles may be emailed to [eapple@rarechance.com](mailto:eapple@rarechance.com).

*The Current* is published by the Donaldson Run Civic Association. It is distributed free of charge to

all households in the **DRCA** area. **DRCA**, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization, administered by elected volunteers. **DRCA** promotes information sharing and discussion on neighborhood, local and regional issues. **DRCA is not affiliated with any political or religious group or with the Donaldson Run Recreation Assoc., which operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road.** Meetings are held at 7:30pm at Taylor Elementary School (2600 N. Stuart Street). Prior written notification will be made of all meetings. Only dues-paying **DRCA** residents are eligible to vote. **DRCA** boundaries are: Military Rd. on the east (including Marcey Rd., N. 26<sup>th</sup> St., N. 25<sup>th</sup> Pl., and N. Ridge-view Rd.); 26<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> St. on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including N. Randolph and 27<sup>th</sup> Sts., south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon St. on the west.

**DRCA Board**

President	Peter Fallon	522-5368
1st VP	Carol Fontein	243-7711
2nd VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
Secretary	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Treasurer	Ned Rhodes	741-0861
Director	Theresa Fallon	522-5368
Director	John Burlingame	516-2897
Director	Sherwin Landfield	525-0005
Director	Stephen Grand	807-5166
Newsletter	Elizabeth Apple	243-3837

**DRCA: A Force for Positive Change**

Often, we think of our “neighborhood” as just the houses on our own street and maybe another 2-3 blocks around it. Given our busy lives, we tend to take for granted the high quality of life that we enjoy in this community. Most of us don’t want to get too involved unless we feel a need to respond to some type of perceived threat to our quality of life. But in my view, the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) is an organization with members who share their time and talent to make ours a better neighborhood. The volunteers who participate in DRCA activities make our organization a force for positive change, which benefits us all.

The traditional role of the DRCA has been to ensure that information of neighborhood concern is shared throughout our community. The civic association’s leadership acts as a point of contact between our

community and the Arlington County government on neighborhood issues. Our general meetings are open to the entire community and provide a forum to discuss issues of mutual concern. Positions taken at our meetings are most often a result of open discussion following presentations by outside speakers. Meeting summaries are included in all newsletters and on our webpage. I consider these timely communications to the neighborhood, especially our newsletter, to be the “glue” that holds the civic association together.

We have also taken a leadership role by actively participating in existing county programs that address our neighborhood concerns and improve the quality of life in our community.

Notable examples of a vibrant and active DRCA include:

- Continuing to provide our newsletter all 946 households in our community, regardless of membership status. Our informal survey of other civic associations indicates that DRCA is unique in providing the newsletter to everyone. The newsletter not only reports neighborhood activities, but it also announces community events and provides a referral network for services such as baby-sitting and home repair.
- A new website ([www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)) and email list to more quickly share information with members.
- Development and adoption of our Neighborhood Conservation plan (a copy is available at our website). The plan gives us access to county staff and funds for neighborhood improvements. Currently, we are working to develop a tot lot (ages 3-5) at Taylor School, to make further improvements to our local park system, and to adopt traffic calming measures in response to members’ concerns.
- Regular visits with the Arlington Police during DRCA meetings to strengthen the community policing program.
- Improvements to local parks through grants from the Arlington County Small Parks program for the past two years. These projects (some finished, some planned) include erosion control measures in the stream, repair of split rail fences, installation of park benches, and community bulletin boards.
- Neighborhood signs (to be installed this spring).
- Regular visits from various county officials and others to provide information to members and a

forum to voice opinions on issues of neighborhood concern.

- Became a pilot member and active participant in the Citizen's Radar Program as a traffic calming measure.
- For the past 3 years, held annual candidate's nights and information sessions on bond issues.
- Continued monitoring of use permit conditions at the mulch pile, water tower, Marymount University, and other sites.

In February, DRCA Executive Committee members met and discussed the future of our organization. We recognize that after an extraordinary effort to revitalize the organization and adopt a Neighborhood Conservation Plan, we are now entering a new phase in our push to keep the DRCA active and relevant to our community.

#### What we will do:

- Our general meetings will be scheduled every other month at Taylor School. Meetings will continue to be announced in our newsletters and on the webpage. The DRCA constitution empowers the executive committee to take action when a general meeting cannot be called.
- We will publish the newsletter 4-6 times per year. We will continue to provide space for various community announcements.
- We will continue to hold our popular informational candidates night in October.
- We will also sponsor a concert in July at Potomac Overlook Regional Park for our summer social activity.

#### What you can do:

- I invite you to become a member of DRCA. Even if you can't attend our meetings, your dues and contributions support the printing and distribution of our newsletter. A membership application is included in the newsletter. Our annual dues are less than the price of a movie ticket!
- Try to attend a meeting, or alternate with a neighbor if you can't come. You don't have to come every time, but it is important that we hear from different corners of our community on a regular basis. And nothing makes me happier than seeing new faces at a meeting!
- Volunteer to help with a project of interest to you. Are you concerned with traffic issues, the

condition of our local parks? We have committees working on these matters. Are there other projects you would like DRCA to become involved in? Let us know!

- Advertise in our newsletter to help defray the printing and mailing expense. This will help enable us to continue to send our newsletter to the entire DRCA community. Contact Ned Rhodes for more information on rates and our publishing schedule.
- Continue being good neighbors to each other!

Keeping DRCA active and relevant to the community means that we need many types of support from you, our neighbors. I urge you to lend your support, your time and your talents. With your help, we can continue to be a positive force for change, making our neighborhood an even better place to live.

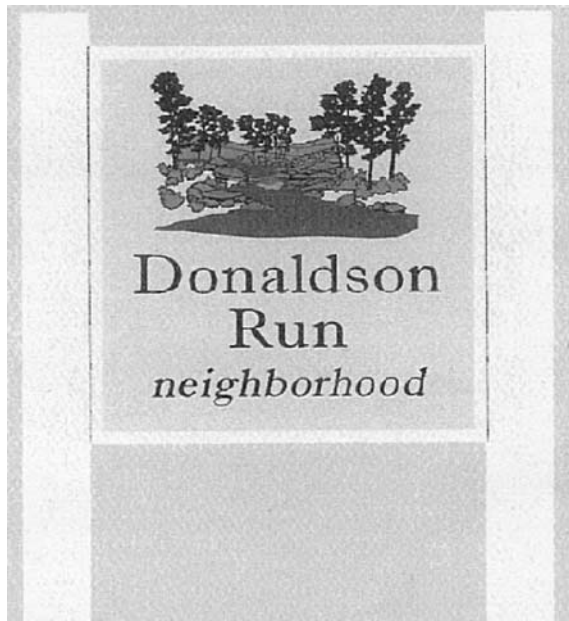
Peter Fallon,  
President

### TOT LOT

When DRCA surveyed the neighborhood for the Neighborhood Conservation Plan, residents expressed strong support for the construction of a "tot lot" at Taylor Elementary School. This playground facility would be designed specifically for the needs of 3-5 year olds and their parents. On Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 PM, DRCA will convene a meeting at Taylor to discuss the planning for such a playground. Residents interested in providing suggestions for the "tot lot" are encouraged to attend. DRCA is preparing a proposal to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee to obtain funding for the "tot lot" in its next funding round. For further information, please call me at 703-807-5166.



Steve Grand



### **Plans for Neighborhood Signs Finalized**

At the civic association meeting on January 22, tentative locations for the neighborhood signs were approved. Pending agreement of those living near the new signs, the locations are: 26<sup>th</sup> Street near the entrance to the bike path, Military Road near 31<sup>st</sup> St., Military Road near 25<sup>th</sup> Road and Lorcom Lane near Lee Highway. These locations represent the 4 corners of the Donaldson Run neighborhood boundary. It is expected that the County Board will approve funding for the signs this month, and the signs, which depict the Donaldson Run stream, should be installed in late spring. Some of the signs will be enhanced by simple, low maintenance landscaping, which the Civic Association must maintain. Therefore, sometime in the future, we will be looking for volunteers to help maintain the plantings.

Anne Wilson

### **Neighborhood Citizens Speed Radar**

Much to the surprise of several drivers who routinely speed through our neighborhood, the Neighborhood Citizens Speed Radar program has not taken the winter off. While we are not out as often in bad weather as we would like to be, we do try to be out as much as possible. As an example of the results when we are out, during a two hour period one weekday during February on 31st Street, we clocked 53 drivers speeding in excess of ten miles per hour

above the speed limit and two of them were going 50 MPH in this 25 MPH zone.

There will be another radar training class for volunteers presented by the Arlington County Police Department within the next couple of months. A number of people have already signed up to be trained but there is still room for more. The training takes only about an hour so if you are interested in doing something to make our neighborhood streets safer, sign up at the next civic association meeting.

Mike Green

### **Treasurer's Report**

There are 946 homes in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area, and I would like to see the owners/renters of each of them become dues paying members of the Association. Currently, the residents of 146 homes have renewed for 2001 and I have an additional 20 or so renewal applications to process. Residents from thirty percent of the homes responded to our Neighborhood Conservation survey, yet only fifteen percent of the homes in the neighborhood contain dues paying members.

Please check your newsletter mailing label for your current membership status. And when you talk to your neighbors as the weather gets warmer, please invite them to join us. A membership application is in every newsletter as well as on the web site (<http://www.drca.org>). Remember that you can renew for multiple years if that is more convenient (I like to deposit bigger checks anyway).

We currently have 97 persons who receive monthly email updates. If you would like to be a part of this list, simply indicate your email address on the membership application. And don't forget to print legibly as zeros and Os have a tendency to look the same.

Ned W. Rhodes  
[Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com](mailto:Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com)

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

Are you interested in becoming one of DRCA's delegates to the Arlington County Civic Federation? Contact Peter Fallon if you're interested. To learn more about the Arlington Civic Federation, visit their website at: [www.civfed.org](http://www.civfed.org)

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

Please check your mailing label to see how many residents in your home are members and the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Dues: \$5 per person per calendar year. Payment for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years (circle)

Total dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New resident: yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

(Please show name of each paying member)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

Send to: Ned Rhodes, Treasurer, 2749 N. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA. 22207

**Success is a Wonderful Thing**

Things are really starting to happen in our neighborhood. The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) planted a 35th anniversary tree (an Eastern Redbud) in our neighborhood to celebrate 35 years of Neighborhood Conservation in Arlington. The tree is in the grassy strip near the entrance to the Taylor Nature walk at the corner of Vernon and Vermont Streets.

Our Neighborhood Conservation (NC) plan is scheduled for publication this summer and will be mailed out to all dues paying members of the Association. You can review the final document on our web site at <http://www.drca.org>. Just follow the NCP link at the top.

The funding for our neighborhood signs was approved by the NCAC in the December funding round and should receive final County Board approval very soon. Anne Wilson has worked very hard to make these signs happen. The sign is colorful and should really enhance the entrances to our neighborhood.

One of the problems with success of the NC program is that there is a record number of neighborhoods participating for a limited amount of money. Included in one of the bonds approved by voters this past November was \$5 million to be used for NC projects. At the December funding round, over \$6 million in projects was submitted. Clearly, not all of the projects were recommended for funding, but each neighborhood did receive funding for its first priority project.

We are gearing up to begin to submit projects now that our NC plan has been accepted by the County Board. Our first project will be the Tot Lot at Taylor School, and I believe that the second project will concentrate on Park improvements to the Taylor Nature Area from Military Road all the way up to Utah and North 26th Streets. We will be discussing these projects at the upcoming Civic Association meetings, and we could use your input. I hope to see you all at the next meeting.

Ned W. Rhodes  
[Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com](mailto:Rhodesn@softsysgrp.com)

Have you noticed the changes on the east side of the Taylor School woods, the strip of land east of the school ground that separates it from the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant? About two years ago a work crew composed of church members and Boy Scouts from Troop 647 cleaned out two dump truck loads of trash that had been dumped over the years, from old Christmas trees and plastic-bound tree root stumps to a 50-gallon drum, wheels with tires, and large, unidentifiable metal objects.

In order to deter dumping, the Church has been landscaping its back boundary and (with permission) some of the school property perimeter. This necessitated removal of some alien invasive vines which were growing rampantly in the school woodland and onto the church grounds, including: porcelain berry, which looks like wild grape with bluish, opaque berries and can form smothering thickets; the rip-a-thumb or mile-a-minute, with its triangular bright green leaves and thorns on erect green stems which climb and spread rapidly; and multiflora roses, which root where each arching branch touches the ground. One member pulled poison ivy vines out of the trees and applied brush killer to their stems, not only along the east bottom-land, but also along the trail up to the school ground, which is used by many of the children in Scouts and other Taylor groups meeting at the church.

Last fall, Boy Scouts removed some additional trash and pulled out more invasive vines. In addition to the azaleas and other shrubbery that the church has planted, Liriope borders were set out across the entire back lawn, some in gentle curves to combat erosion and water problems. This was a follow-up to a Girl Scout planting project for initial water control. The Church hopes that these clean-up and landscaping efforts will deter further dumping and add to the beautification of our community.

Inasmuch as the Donaldson Run Civic Association encompasses not only the park, but the Taylor School woods, we trust that its members will assist in keeping all of our community trash-free and in helping to control the alien invasive species that are overtaking some of our parkland/woodland, including that adjacent to the Taylor School playground (where porcelain berry is smothering the shrubbery). Arlington County Department of Parks, Rec-

reation and Community Resources has developed a brochure, *Invaders in Our Backyards*, addressing the problem and inviting citizens to help control these invasive plants. Copies may be obtained by calling 703-228-6521.

Lola E. Rogers  
Grounds Trustee  
Church of the Covenant

If you are interested in working on the invasive plant project, please send an email to [plants@drca.org](mailto:plants@drca.org) or [parkscommittee@drca.org](mailto:parkscommittee@drca.org).

### **Directions to Taylor School**

In case you are new to our area and would like to come to the civic association meetings but haven't found Taylor School yet, here are the directions to the school. From the intersection of Nelly Custis and Military Road, continue north on Military Road. Turn left onto N. 26<sup>th</sup> Place. Take an immediate right onto N. Stuart Street. The School is located just around the bend in the road.

### **Small Parks Grants**

Thanks to Steve Grand's hard work, DRCA has received another award from the County's Small Parks Grant program! During the summer, two community bulletin boards will be installed by the County at entrances to the nature walk. These boards will be maintained by DRCA and will include announcements of various local events as well as civic association information.

### **Neighborhood Day**

On Saturday May 12, 2001, Arlington will celebrate Neighborhood Day. In addition to County-wide events, each neighborhood will try to schedule a local event. If you have an idea as to how the DRCA can help to celebrate this event, or are interested in helping to plan or coordinate DRCA's activity, call Peter Fallon.



## Neighborhood Bulletin Board

### **Architect-**

Vicky Kiechel, 202-363-7668  
Recommended by: Winnie Raven-Hansen

### **Carpenter-**

Anthony Puaranto, 703-532-4399  
Recommended by: Andrea Loken

### **Carpenter & Cabinet Maker-**

Joe Herbert, 703-351-9676  
Recommended by: P. Savarino, 703-524-4933

### **Chimney Service & Repair-**

David Cover, 703-612-8963  
Recommended by: Susan Sharpe, 522-3767

### **Dry Wall, Tile, General Repair-**

Charlie Saunders, 703-532-8304  
Recommended by: K. Richardson, 525-5270

### **Electrician-**

George Dulaney, 703-670-0819  
Recommended by: John Manning, 528-1350

### **Gardener-**

Maria Jaboori- Garden Restoration,  
703-361-9885  
Recommended by: Marian Mulcahy, 528-4299

### **Gutters & Roofing-**

John Gwynn, 301-530-6169  
Recommended by: Karen Redfern, 527-7148

### **Painter-**

John Montgomery, 703-218-2884  
Recommended by: J. Braverman, 525-5990

### **Painter-**

Edward Wilkerson, 703-524-1019  
Recommended by: Kathy Richardson, 525-5270

### **Painter-**

German Alzate, 301- 588-0632  
Recommended by: Karen Redfern, 527-7148

### **Painting (interior & exterior), drywall**

Robert Morato- A-1 Home Improvements,  
703-241-1410  
Recommended by: Kip Perrin, 703-243-0017

### **Plumber-**

John Corley- J.C Handyman Services,  
703-528-0818  
Recommended by: K. Richardson, 525-5270

### **Tree Service-**

Bill Beach, Certified Arborist  
AG&E Landscape Services, Inc, 703-239-0040  
Recommended by: Peter Fallon, 522-5368

### **Wall Paper Hanger-**

Evan Chapman, 644-4873  
Recommended by: Mrs. Lasko-Connelly, 528-6260.

*Please send your recommendations to:  
Elizabeth Apple, 4207 N 31<sup>st</sup> Street*

## August Summer Social

Over 200 people enjoyed the sounds of DaVinci's Notebook at the DRCA Summer Social held at Potomac Overlook Regional Park. The DRCA information tables provided an opportunity to meet neighbors and civic association leaders, comment on the proposed designs of neighborhood signs, get updates on the NC Plan and local matters of interest, and just enjoy the wonderful evening at this local resource. Many people who responded to the NC Survey indicated a desire to have this type of social function and the DRCA is happy to provide it.

Peter Fallon

Donaldson Run Civic Association  
C/o Ned Rhodes, Treasurer  
2749 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22207

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**This is your Neighborhood Newsletter**  
**See page 2 for Civic Assoc. information**

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**DRCA March Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 PM**

**First/Second Grade Pod**  
**Taylor Elementary School**  
**2600 N. Stuart Street**  
**Agenda: Department of Public Works**  
**Update of Richmond Legislative Session**

**Next Meeting: May 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Agenda: Neighborhood Parks**

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**Spring Cleaning?**

Arlington's department of environmental services will be hosting a household hazardous waste drop-off site on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> (Earth Day) at the I66 parking garage on N. Quincy Street between 9am and 3pm. This is a great opportunity to safely get rid of old paint, yard chemicals, and other items cluttering up your basement or garage. Additionally, you can donate building materials from your last home renovation project, old clothes and textiles, and old bicycles to needy charities at this event! For more details, call 703-228-6570.

**Meeting Place Moved**



Please look for the March meeting of the DRCA in the First and Second Grade Pod area of Taylor School. It is found by entering the front door of the school, taking the hallway to the right, making a quick left and then a quick right after the lockers.

**Taylor School Woods Cleanup &  
Beautification**