

The Current

The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

www.drca.org

LATE SPRING 2001

MAY MEETING

Wednesday, May 23rd
7:30 PM

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

Agenda : An evening with Parks &
Recreation Dept. "State of Our Parks"

Virginia's higher education. Delegate Brink noted that a number of important issues, including transportation and a review of the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) tests, did not receive adequate attention. Senator Whipple reported that legislators were successful in changing license requirements for young drivers. Drivers under 18 will not be able to drive between 12 midnight and 4 a.m. In addition, teens will not be able to obtain a learners permit until 15 1/2 and must be 16 years, 3 months to receive a driver's license.

Minutes of March Meeting

An update on the 2001 Virginia Legislative session by State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple and State Delegate Bob Brink topped the agenda at the March 21 DRCA meeting at Taylor Elementary School. The meeting also featured a presentation by Arlington County Public Works officials Terry Bellamy and Joe Durkey on the condition of neighborhood streets and signs and County efforts on neighborhood traffic calming.

Senator Whipple and Delegate Brink reported that 2001 was a "short" session in which legislators were charged with making mid-course budget corrections in order to bring the state budget into balance by July 1. Disagreement over the phase-in of the car-tax repeal resulted in adjournment without the necessary mid-course corrections. The lawmakers noted that Gov. Gilmore was in the process of making

Arlington Public Works officials Durkey and Bellamy reported that they have been conducting an assessment of neighborhood streets, signs, and sidewalks with an eye toward traffic calming and street safety. Equipment will be set up to document traffic volume and speed along the 26th/31st Street corridor. In addition, some of the neighborhood crosswalks and center lines will be repainted and new signs will be installed along a number of streets to enhance safety and improve traffic flow. Durkey and Bellamy also entertained questions about traffic trouble spots in the DRCA neighborhood and agreed to look into a number of concerns raised by DRCA members. In some areas, for instance, overgrown shrubbery has made for dangerous intersections. Durkey and Bellamy noted the problem spots and indicated that action would be taken to correct them.

(continued on page 3)

spending cuts to bring the budget into balance; many of those cuts appear to be aimed at

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

What is the Donaldson Run Civic Association?

Every year around this time, *The Current* prints a description of DRCA, including its goals and rules, for its residents. We hope you will consider joining. DRCA, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization administered by elected volunteers. DRCA promotes informational sharing and discussion on neighborhood, local, and regional issues. DRCA is not affiliated with any political or religious organization, nor with the Donaldson Run Recreation Association, which operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road. Meetings are open to everyone. Diversity of opinion is respected on all neighborhood topics.

Membership Eligibility

The mailing label on this newsletter indicates the latest year for which you have paid dues. Your label should have your name and "member (s) through 2001" if you are a current voting member. Dues cover a calendar year (Jan.-Dec.). See the form on the inside back page for details on joining.

Association membership is limited to individuals who live within the DRCA boundaries, which are: Military Road on the east (including Marcey Rd.); 26th St./31st St. on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (N. Randolph and 27th Streets south of Lorcom Lane are included); and Vernon St. (one-way hill) on the west.

Membership dues are \$5.00 per person per calendar year. Only members may vote at DRCA meetings. Non-DRCA residents may not be members, but may subscribe to the newsletter for \$5.00 per year.

Voting in DRCA

Occasionally at our general DRCA meetings we vote on neighborhood issues. Be aware, however, that DRCA leadership cannot always anticipate a vote or even that an issue will be on the agenda far enough in advance to announce it in the newsletter before the meeting. If there is an item that concerns you on the meeting agenda, we urge you to attend.

The DRCA Constitution states that only DRCA members may vote. This policy prohibits the sharing of a single membership (e.g., the husband votes one month, the wife votes the next month). Prior to calling a meeting to order, the President will allow time for non-members, including former members whose dues are not current, to pay their membership dues and thus be eligible to vote.

The Current

The Current is published by DRCA volunteers and is distributed free of charge to **all** households in the DRCA area. The membership of DRCA supports a newsletter as the best way to keep neighbors informed of the many local and regional issues that concern us all. Membership dues, contributions and advertisements cover the cost of printing and mailing. The newsletter may contain paid advertisements, which should not be construed as an endorsement by the DRCA or the Executive Committee.

TOT LOT



In the last newsletter, we mentioned DRCA's efforts to build a Tot Lot --a playground facility for 2-5 year olds -- at Taylor Elementary School. We are pleased to report some good news on that front. We

have been informed by Taylor's principal that school officials intend to pursue funding for such a facility next year from the School Board because of the expected addition of a Montessori program at Taylor school. They have assured us that DRCA will be included in the planning process so the facility meets the needs of both the school and the community.

Steve Grand

(continued from page 1)

In general announcements, DRCA President Peter Fallon announced that board member Anne Wilson is arranging two DRCA activities in conjunction with Arlington's Neighborhood Day Celebration on Saturday, May 12. DRCA will set up an informational table at the Taylor School Fair from 11am-3pm that day. At 4 pm on May 12, one of four new

DRCA neighborhood signs will be dedicated. The sign will be located at the corner of 25th Road and Military near Nelly Custis. Please see page 4.

Neighborhood Citizens Speed Radar

You may have seen members of the Neighborhood Speed Watch team out operating radar this spring. Although we have not been out much because of the cold weather, we are resuming our operations with the advent of longer and warmer days. Even if you don't see us, please remember that we are checking vehicle speeds throughout the neighborhood in an effort to make our streets safer for kids, bikers, pets, and all of us. Please set an example for your family and those with whom you share the road by obeying the speed limits at all times.

Since the last citizens radar class last year, about a dozen neighborhood association members have expressed interest in getting trained by the Arlington County Police to be part of the Neighborhood Speed Watch team. We will be setting up a class in the near future and will contact those who have already signed up. If you are interested in participating, please e-mail me at <mike@maddnova.org> as soon as possible.

Mike Green

Neighborhood Parks

The DRCA Parks Committee is developing an integrated plan for dealing with problems and opportunities in our neighborhood parks. The problems include the loss of mature trees due to storms and other causes; the growing presence of non-native invasive plants, and erosion along some sections of the streams. The committee is discussing these problems with experts from the County and private organizations. With respect to erosion, the committee will work with the Division of Environmental Services as experts there develop a stream restoration program for our neighborhood.

The committee is also considering projects that could be undertaken using Neighborhood Conservation funds. Possibilities include: building safer and more attractive bridges over streams; putting picnic tables

in one or two readily accessible locations; installing bulletin boards at park entrances for posting notices of neighborhood activities; enhancing entrances to the parks; placing signs along park trails to identify interesting native plants, trees and noteworthy features; putting signs on trails to show distances to key points; installing two or three benches along the bike path between Marymount University and Military Road; controlling non-native invasive plants; re-establishing native plants in the parks; and reforesting areas where large numbers of trees have been lost.

Members of the Parks Committee met on April 18 with two County experts: arborist Scott Gravatt and natural resource program coordinator Rebecca Feldberg. The group walked along the bike path from 26th St. to Vermont St. to survey the state of the trees and other plants in the park.

One area along the bike path had been hard hit by a severe winter storm, when strong winds toppled a number of mature trees. The open areas around the fallen trees are an invitation to invasive plants, and the committee may propose reforestation of selected areas as one element of an integrated program of park improvements.

A more general problem stems from the presence of invasive plants. Many of the trees are being covered by English Ivy, which can kill even mature trees. Controlling vines on the ground is difficult and may worsen erosion problems. Controlling them in trees is easier: ivy can be cut near the ground, leaving the upper parts of the vines to die. Gravatt judged the threat to the trees as serious and urged that this task be given a high priority.

At present, any ivy eradication projects would have to be undertaken by volunteers. Because this is one of the most serious problems in our parks, the committee recommends that the County allocate resources for dealing with invasive vines.

Those interested in participating in Parks Committee activities should contact me at lefinch@bellatlantic.net or 703-528-6349.

Larry Finch

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

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 31st 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**

**DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, May 23rd, 7:30 PM**

**First/Second Grade Pod
Taylor Elementary School
2600 N. Stuart Street
Agenda: An evening with Parks & Recreation Dept.
“State of Our Parks”**

Next Meeting: September

Neighborhood Bulletin Board

It has come to our attention that some of the names and numbers on the previous Neighborhood Bulletin Board were out of date. Therefore, we are asking for new referrals. DRCA members who would like to recommend a craftsman or a company to their neighbors should send their recommendation to capple@rarechance.com. Please include your name and phone number so that a neighbor may contact you for more information.

**Wanted: Old Photos of Our
Neighborhood**

Do you have any old photographs of the Donaldson Run neighborhood (such as of the old Birchwood School) and its environs that you would like to loan out for others to enjoy on Neighborhood Day? If so, please contact Anne Wilson at 703-525-0344 or by email at anne.wilson@appliedis.com.

**Newsletter Deadline: Saturday June
16th Articles may be emailed to
capple@rarechance.com.**