



# The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

November 2002

## A Report From the Traffic Calming Committee

-Anne Wilson

At the September civic association meeting, a report was given detailing the work of the Donaldson Run Traffic Calming Committee (DRTCC) and listing, in detail, the committee's areas of concern. In addition to the already identified problems, it became clear at the meeting that the intersection of Vacation and Lorcom Lanes posed problems for both pedestrian and vehicle traffic and should also be included in the list of concerns. Since county staff indicated at the meeting that it might be possible to make some improvements to this intersection as part of the work being done on Lorcom Lane, neighbors' concerns about this intersection were collected and promptly forwarded to county staff. The county responded that fixing this intersection would need to be handled as a separate project because the problems and possible solutions require more study and public input.

A week after the civic association meeting, eleven members of the DRTCC met with county staff from the Department of Public Works (DPW) to discuss the following areas of concern that were previously submitted to DPW:

- Intersections of Military Road at Nelly Custis Drive and at Lorcom Lane
- Intersection of Lorcom Lane and Old Dominion Drive
- Crosswalks on Military Road by Taylor School and near Zachary Taylor Park

- Crosswalk on 26th Street at the bike path
- Lorcom Lane
- Military Road between Nelly Custis Drive and Marcey Road
- Vacation Lane including intersections at Taylor Street, 25th Street and Utah Street.
- Intersection of Stuart Street and 25th Street
- 26th-31st Street (between Old Dominion Drive and Military Road) and the intersection at Vermont Street.

**November DRCA meeting  
Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.  
Taylor Elementary School  
2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda: Proposed DRRA Pool  
Expansion & Civic Preparedness**

Once again, the committee went on record, this time face to face, with county staff about its concerns. While it was suggested that the county examine these problem areas prior to the meeting, for the most part this was not done. County staff agreed to examine some of the concerns, but other issues, such as the intersection of Lorcom Lane and Old Dominion Drive, were left with no plan of action. One area the county plans to begin addressing next year is the intersection of Stuart Street and 25th Street as well as pedestrian safety on 25th Street between Vacation Lane and Stuart Street. Vacation

## Traffic Calming

(continued from page 1)

Lane meets the criteria for traffic calming, but with its present ranking of 45 on the county's list, it is unlikely there will be any changes for several years. County staff advises that no changes are made without input from neighbors living in the area.

With regard to the well-documented speeding problem on 26th-31st Street, DRTCC sent a letter asking that this street be included as part of the Arterial Transportation Study that is scheduled to begin early next year. One purpose of this study is to examine traffic calming options for arterial streets such as 26th-31st Street. DRCA first heard about this study approximately two years ago. DRTCC was advised that the study would begin within the first quarter of 2003.

DRTCC remains committed to these issues and will continue to follow up with the county to see that our streets become safer for both drivers and pedestrians. To become involved with this committee, please send an email to [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org).

## DRCA Parks Projects

-Larry Finch

Earlier this year, the county board approved a DRCA request for Neighborhood Conservation funds covering several major projects in parks in our neighborhood. Projects include replacing aging bridges in Zachary Taylor Park and building stone gateways for several park entrances.

The first of these projects to be initiated will be engaging a consultant to analyze approaches for controlling stream erosion in Lee Heights Park and Zachary Taylor Park. As the study progresses, DRCA will invite residents to meet with the consultant to learn the results of the study and to express their views on alternative approaches. Contact Larry Finch with questions about these projects at [lefinch@bellatlantic.net](mailto:lefinch@bellatlantic.net) or (703) 528-6349.

*The Current* is published several times a year and is distributed free of charge to all households in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area. DRCA, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization, administered by elected volunteers. The 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 Association that operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School (2600 North Stuart Street) from September through May. Follow this newsletter for meeting dates. Only dues paying DRCA residents are eligible to vote. DRCA boundaries are: Military Road on the east (including Marcey Road, North 26th Street, North 25th Place, and North Ridgeview Road); 26th/31st Street on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including North Randolph and 27th Streets, south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

### DRCA Board

President	Peter Fallon	522-5368
1st VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2nd VP	Laura Peralta-Schulte	812-8580
Secretary	Helen Lane	524-3417
Treasurer	Ned Rhodes	741-0861
Director	Theresa Fallon	522-5368
Director	Mike Green	525-9414
Director	Stephen Grand	807-5166
Director	Sherwin Landfield	525-0005
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242

## Tax Time is Nearing Are You Volunteering?

The AARP Income Tax Aide program is seeking volunteers to prepare Federal and Virginia Income Tax returns for seniors and others. No prior experience is required, but the ability to work with people and numbers is needed. Call (703) 743-5017 to reserve space in a class. A one-day orientation will be held in December and five weekdays of training will take place in January. After training, commitment will be four hours a week from February to mid-April.

## **Need a Job Done? Why Not Hire a Neighbor!**

### **Babysitting**

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc\_home@msn.com
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Beverly Jones, contact at 528-4593
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787

### **Petsitting**

- Blythe Apple, contact at 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc\_home@msn.com
- Beverly Jones, contact at 528-4593
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787

### **Housesitting**

- Blythe Apple, contact at 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787

### **Lawn Mowing**

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Xavier Meisinger, contact at 524-2177

### **Snow Removal**

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc\_home@msn.com

### **Car Washing**

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc\_home@msn.com
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Xavier Meisinger, contact at 524-2177

### **Odd Jobs**

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333

If you know someone who would like to be added to this list, please complete the interest survey found at [http://www.drca.org/interest\\_survey.htm](http://www.drca.org/interest_survey.htm) or send an email to [laura@drca.org](mailto:laura@drca.org)

## **Yorktown Winter Prelude Spotlighting Yorktown's Choral Ensembles & String Orchestra**

Wednesday, December 4, 2002  
at 7 o'clock in the evening  
Yorktown High School Auditorium  
and



## **Yorktown Band Winter Concerts Featuring Yorktown's Concert & Symphonic Bands**

Thursday, December 12, 2002  
at 7 o'clock in the evening  
Yorktown High School Auditorium

### **Role Models Needed**

AHC, Inc. (formerly Arlington Housing Corporation) is looking for caring volunteers to work as tutors/mentors at four community centers located in Arlington. Volunteers will assist students for 1 1/2 hours once a week in the evening, helping with homework and serving as positive role models.

## Ivy Removal Event

-Larry Finch

Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed (FDRW) sponsored an invasive plants removal project on Saturday, October 19. This was an official event of the county's Invasive Species Program, and the coordinator of that program was present to provide guidance to volunteers. Neighborhood residents joined volunteers from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and the county's Remove Invasive Plants (R.I.P.) group in cutting English ivy from trees near the Utah Street entrance to Zachary Taylor Park.

Ivy can damage and kill even mature trees, and residents are encouraged to check the trees in their yards. If ivy is present, hand clippers should be used to cut it near the ground and at shoulder level. Ivy higher up in the tree will die and rot away; it should not be pulled down because that can break small branches and damage trees. Beyond cutting ivy off the lower trunks, eliminating it from the ground above the root system will also contribute to the health of the trees. Anyone with questions about English ivy or other invasive plants can contact Larry Finch (lefinch@bellatlantic.net or 703-528-6349).

Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed meets monthly at the Nature Center in Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Meeting notices are posted on the neighborhood kiosks in the parks.

## Neighborhood Conservation News

-Ned Rhodes

The county board approved the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) funding package at its September 28 meeting. This means that the curb, gutter, and paving improvements that we have worked on for Vermont Street are now funded. Once a project is funded by the county, it is assigned a project number, final plans are prepared, neighborhood meetings are planned, and then the work can actually be performed. This process can take as long as 24 months, but the good news is that the project will now move forward. As a result of all the hard work that went into writing the Donaldson Run Neighborhood Conservation Plan, we have the opportunity to develop projects that can improve our neighborhood. These projects are citizen-driven, meaning that the neighborhood decides what things need to be done. If you have an idea that you would like to turn into a project, please read about the NC process on our website ([www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)) after following the NCP link at the top. Or, email or call one of the Donaldson Run Executive Committee members and we will help you get started.

Did you know that Arlington County will take down a dead tree that is on county property if it threatens personal property such as a fence or house? One neighbor found this out the hard way when a dead tree, located on parkland, fell on her fence. She was advised that the county would have taken the tree down if they had been aware of it. If you have such a situation, the man to call is the County's Urban Forester, Tony Ruth, at (703) 228-6527.



## 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 one)

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

New resident: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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.**

Mail to: Ned Rhodes, Treasurer, 2749 North Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207

### Treasurer's Report

-Ned Rhodes

The time to renew is upon us and I am starting to see the renewals trickle in. Please check the address label on this issue of the newsletter to verify your current membership status. If you are not presently a member, please join now for 2003 (at \$5 per person per year) and we will mark you as current for the rest of 2002 as well. Pay for as many years as you like. A membership application is included in each issue of the newsletter or you can download one from the web site at [www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org). The Donaldson Run Civic Association is composed of about 940 homes. Approximately 350 households are members of the association and can vote on civic matters. The civic association appreciates your membership and encourages every household to join. DRCA is busy working on traffic issues on Lorcom Lane, beautification issues on Vermont and North 25th Road and park improvements for Taylor and Lee Heights Parks. Please join us.

### Potomac Overlook Regional Park: The Sustainable Path

Join your neighbors at Potomac Overlook Regional Park as the theme for 2002, "The Sustainable Path," continues.

Autumn activities at Potomac Overlook include:

**Saturday, November 16, 2 p.m., Giving Thanks with Stories.** Come listen to stories of thanks from around the world and even tell a story of your own if you wish. This program is open to children and adults ages six and older.

**Sunday, December 1, 1-4 p.m., Holiday Crafts Workshop.** Create your own holiday wreath from natural materials. Supplies and a helping hand will be provided. Adults. Cost is \$12.

**Sunday, December 22, 2 p.m., Wisdom of the Elders.** Celebrate the "wisdom of the ages" in this annual winter solstice event at Potomac Overlook. Ages eight to adult. Potomac Overlook Park is located at the end of Marcey Road, phone: 528-5406.

*Thanks to Robert Cooper and Anne Wilson for their help with the new Current masthead.*

Donaldson Run Civic Association  
c/o Ned Rhodes, Treasurer  
2749 North Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207

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This is your neighborhood newsletter  
See page 2 for Civic Association information.

**DRCA Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 20, 7 p.m.**  
**Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod**  
**2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda: Proposed DRRA Pool Expansion and Civic Preparedness**  
**(Arlington Police and Civic Federation)**  
*Save the date for our winter meeting: January 29, 2003*

**Civic Preparedness**

**- Stephen Grand**

In light of recent events, Arlingtonians are understandably concerned about our ability as a community to respond to a range of natural and man-made emergencies. On November 20, DRCA will host a session on civic preparedness as part of the general meeting. The session is a part of the Public Preparedness Initiative which the Civic Federation has undertaken in conjunction with local civic organizations over the last seven months. The program will include presentations by the following:

- a representative of the police department, first district, on the reestablishment of a Neighborhood Watch program, but this time focused on communications, mutual assistance, the identification of vulnerable neighbors (due to age, disability, etc.), and the utilization of local resources (4-wheel drive vehicles, CB's, ham radios, CPR and Red Cross-trained neighbors, etc.);  
- Mark Penn, Deputy Director for Emergency Preparedness for Arlington County, on how the county has organized its emergency preparedness;

- Dr. Susan Allan, head of Arlington's Public Health Department, on dealing with various contagions, whether chemical, radiological, or biological;  
- Jackie Snelling, head of the Citizen Corps Council and a Civic Federation delegate, on what you as a citizen need to do to prepare and what you should expect of your government;  
- a representative of the Red Cross on various training opportunities from First Aid, CPR, DAT and AEDs to courses on Health Services in a Disaster and Shelter Management as well as volunteer opportunities;  
- a representative who will discuss the new Community Emergency Response Team, a pilot program that is the first in the state of Virginia.

***A writing portfolio was found on October 21 on the picnic table at Lee Heights Park (2400 N. Taylor Street). The owner should contact Peter at Peter@drca.org to claim it.***