

The Current



The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

www.drca.org

September 2002

FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 25

- Small Parks Project Grant Application
- Arlington DPW Project at Lorcom Lane and Randolph Street
- Department of Public Works' Annual Report

Wednesday, October 16
Candidates Night

- 7 p.m. County Board
- 8 p.m. U.S. House of Representatives
- 9 p.m. Arlington School Board

Wednesday, November 20
Civic Associations and Emergency Preparedness
(Arlington Police and Civic Federation)

Note: All meetings will begin at 7 p.m.

President's Letter

- Peter Fallon

As summer begins to wind down, I'd like to welcome our newest members to the Donaldson Run Civic Association's (DRCA) executive committee:

Helen Lane – Secretary
Laura Peralta-Schulte – 2nd Vice President
Mike Green – Director

Helen is our local historian and is very active in our parks committee. Helen was instrumental in the development of our neighborhood

conservation plan and in our Taylor Park project. Laura has been a lead organizer for our annual Neighborhood Day activities and is the interest survey coordinator. Mike continues to serve as chair of our citizen's radar team and is a past president of DRCA. I would also like to extend my appreciation to Carol Fontein, John Burlingame, and Maxine Nagel for their sage advice over many years of service to DRCA.

Additionally, Mary Heston Cooper has agreed to become our newsletter editor, giving Elizabeth Apple a much-deserved rest. I'm grateful that Elizabeth and Maxine will continue to help Mary with the newsletter. Maxine has agreed to manage our neighborhood bulletin boards (kiosks) located throughout the DRCA community.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to help with DRCA's projects. We have active committees working on traffic calming, park improvements, and other issues. If you have an idea for a project or would like to help us out, please contact a member of the executive committee (listed on page 2 of the newsletter) or come to one of our general meetings. Everyone is welcome.

General Election

Tuesday, November 5, 2002.

Deadline for voter registration is **October 7, 2002.**

For more information (including voter registration forms and absentee ballot applications), please visit the County Board of Election website at:

<http://www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/>

County Responds to DRCA Traffic Calming Requests

-Anne Wilson

The dialogue with the county concerning traffic calming and pedestrian safety in Donaldson Run has begun, and some improvements have been made. The improvements include the “laddering” of the crosswalk on Military Road by Taylor School and new “Stop Ahead” signs on North Stuart Street. Also, a stop limit line has been added to Vermont Street at the intersection with 26th Street. More importantly, our neighborhood is on record with the county about our traffic concerns, and we have started a coordinated effort to resolve traffic issues. This was helpful last month when it was learned that the county was planning to begin a major road project on Lorcom Lane that could exacerbate the speeding problem that already exists there. Members of the traffic calming committee joined neighbors most directly affected by the future roadwork at an on site meeting. As a result of this meeting, the county has postponed their plans until the wider Donaldson Run community has the opportunity to weigh in on the proposed changes. This will be a major topic at our next civic association meeting on September 25.

The Donaldson Run Traffic Calming Committee (DRTCC) has requested that the county evaluate the following locations with the eventual goal of improving pedestrian and traffic safety:

- 1) Military Road between Marcey Road and Nellie Custis Drive
- 2) The Lorcom Lane intersections at Military Road, Trenton Street and Old Dominion Drive
- 3) Vacation Lane intersections at Taylor Street, 25th Street, and Utah Street and the 4300-4400 block of Vacation Lane
- 4) 26th -31st Street between Old Dominion Drive and Military Road

DRTCC has asked for a meeting with the Department of Public Works to review our concerns in more detail and it is expected that this meeting will take place within the next month.

There will be a short presentation by the DRTCC at the civic association meeting on September 25. If you have any questions or want to express additional concerns, please plan to attend the meeting or contact Anne Wilson at anne@drca.org or by telephone at (703) 525-0344.

The Current is published several times each 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 7:00 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School (2600 North Stuart Street), from September through May. 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
Newsletter	Mary Heston	Cooper 469-2242

School Is In Session -- Please Drive Safely

-Mike Green

The members of the Radar Team, who see dangerous driving every time they are out, want to remind everyone that school is back in session and children are playing, walking, and biking on our neighborhood streets. In our neighborhood, ONLY Military Road and Lorcom Lane are 30 miles per hour; ALL of the other streets are 25 miles per hour. Remember, too, the school zone speed limit is 25 miles per hour on Military Road. Please obey the speed limits.

Treasurer's Report

-Ned Rhodes

Fall is almost upon us and DRCA has a lot of interesting meetings planned for the coming months. To those of you who continually support the civic association with your dues, thank you for your support. Many thanks, as well, to those of you who include a little extra as a contribution to the newsletter. Your most generous contributions are used to cover the printing costs and postage. To the rest of you, we have a deal: join the civic association now and we will give you the rest of 2002 for free and extend your membership to include 2003. The cost is only \$5 per person per year and the money is used to support civic association activities which include such things as the tree we planted at Taylor School during Neighborhood Day, refreshments for the meetings, and all costs associated with the printing and publication of the newsletter. An application is included in all issues of the newsletter and can also be found on the web site at www.drca.org. Your current membership status can be found on your newsletter label. If you include your email address on your application, you will be added to our email list of 200 families. We send out notices of general interest to the community every four to six weeks as well as meeting reminders. This list is kept in strict confidence and will not be sold. I look forward to visiting with you all at a coming meeting.

Sales Tax Referendum Forum

A forum on the sales tax referendum will be held on Monday, September 30 at 7 p.m. at the National Rural Electrical Cooperative (NRECA) in room CC-2 at 4301 Wilson Boulevard (across from the Ballston Common Mall).

Complimentary parking will be available at NRECA. The event is being cosponsored by the Arlington Coalition for Sensible Transportation (ACST), The League of Women Voters, The School of Public Policy at George Mason University (GMU), and the American Association of University Women (AAUW). Local experts, both those who support the transportation sales tax referendum (Al Eisenberg of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and Stephen Fuller of GMU) and those who oppose it (Stewart Schwartz of the Coalition for Smarter Growth and Ed Risse of Synergy Planning, Inc.) will provide information and views on the referendum. A moderator from GMU will present questions from the audience to the speakers.

Donaldson Run Impacted by Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Program

-Laura Peralta-Schulte

On November 5, 2002, Arlington County voters will have the opportunity to vote on a Community Conservation Bond that includes six components:

- Community and Neighborhood Conservation \$17,105,000
- Parks and Recreation \$20,500,000
- Public Safety Facilities \$5,600,000
- Pedestrian Systems, Streets, Highways, Transit \$10,000,000
- Metro \$12,500,000
- Storm Drainage \$1,500,000

The Community Conservation Bond provides funding for the construction and rehabilitation of streets, curbs and gutters, bikeways, sidewalks and other pedestrian ways as well as traffic calming efforts. Importantly, this bond issue provides \$9,000,000 over two years for citizen-initiated improvements through Arlington County's Neighborhood Conservation Program.

Participation in the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee is a unique experience. It provides an opportunity for residents to work within their civic associations and with support from Arlington County staff in the preparation of a Neighborhood Conservation Plan and for the resulting construction of neighborhood improvements such as curbs, gutters and sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, mini-parks, beautification and other capital projects. The Arlington County government takes a novel approach to neighborhood planning and conservation; rather than county staff making decisions about your neighborhood and residents finding out about projects when digging begins, citizens of Arlington can guide their own changes and invest their tax dollars in what the community wants.

In October 2000, Ned Rhodes volunteered to lead the neighborhood's Neighborhood Conservation Plan Committee and became the neighborhood representative to the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). He established a timeline for the completion of the plan and volunteers worked diligently, soliciting comments from the neighborhood for its preparation. By October 2001, the plan was not only completed, but had received acceptance

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NC Program (continued)

from the Civic Association, NCAC and County Board. With a completed conservation plan in hand, the neighborhood could begin devising projects. Immediately, the NCAC approved funding for the placement of four neighborhood signs. Today, the signs greet residents and visitors alike and increase the neighborhood's visibility.

The integrity and maintenance of green space in the neighborhood was highlighted in Donaldson Run's NC Plan. Work quickly began on projects to maintain Zachary Taylor Park. This park runs through the neighborhood and contains a long path, ideal for bikers, joggers, and walkers alike. Residents wanted to ensure that Taylor Park, a defining aspect of the neighborhood, was maintained. Working with the NCAC, the civic association has received funding for vast park improvements including a study of the stream to address streambed erosion and the stream's long-term health, repairs to pedestrian and vehicular bridges and various beautification projects. Additionally, the residents asked for more signage to increase awareness of the park, thereby encouraging more visitors. Finally, Donaldson Run has worked with NC staff to develop beautification projects and to address street conditions.

The NCAC receives funding from bond money that the Arlington County citizens approve every two years in a bond referendum. From this money, the NCAC rations funds to neighborhoods by using an equitable point system. Although they would like to see all neighborhood projects funded, they are bound by financial constraints. In the upcoming bond referendum and capital improvement plan, the Arlington County Board verified its confidence in NCAC methods by increasing the bond funding level from \$5 million to \$9 million.

Donaldson Run residents and other Arlington taxpayers will have the final say regarding the Community Conservation bond on November 5.

Don't forget!

Bring photo ID to vote AND support the annual PTA Election Day bake sale at Taylor Elementary School

DRCA Development Issues - Peter Fallon

During the summer, neighbors near two local properties expressed concern to DRCA about potential residential development issues. Updates will be reported at DRCA general meetings and in our newsletter as new information becomes available.

2841 Beechwood Circle:

The new property owner has made an application to Arlington County to tear down the existing unoccupied single family dwelling and replace it with a new larger single family home. The property appears to be sited on a portion of the Donaldson Run watershed protected by the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance. In addition to the stream, a number of mature and rare trees are at risk under the current development plan. While certain "by-right" property rights exist, Arlington County Department of Public Works and Department of Environmental Services personnel are working with nearby neighbors, DRCA, and the applicant to determine the applicability of the ordinance and its consequences.

Responding to the concerns of approximately ten nearby households, DRCA arranged for a tour (from beyond the perimeter of the property) of the site with county board chairman Chris Zimmerman and member Paul Ferguson. Several county staff members assigned to this issue were also present. The county board members were sympathetic, but acknowledged that the ordinance (which is based on Virginia's ordinance) has limitations. Under the ordinance, approval would likely be an administrative matter if the applicant meets the necessary requirements and demonstrates that the project would not be harmful to water quality in the watershed. Consistent with existing county policy, the board members directed the staff to continue consulting with the community and to ensure compliance with the ordinance. If necessary studies (required by the ordinance) conclude that a threat to the watershed exists, further action by the county board may be possible at that time which would limit development within a certain perimeter of the stream.

DRCA's executive committee recognizes that under Virginia law, certain property rights exist (e.g., right to occupy the existing dwelling and

(continued on page 5)

DRCA Development Issues (continued)

make improvements), but is concerned about excessive development, loss of trees, damage to the fragile surrounding ecosystem, and the potential precedent associated with not fully enforcing the ordinance. After a period of discussion, the committee passed the following motion:

DRCA's executive committee strongly supports the concerned neighbors of 2841 Beechwood Circle in their request that Arlington County enforce all applicable elements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance to protect the fragile environment in the adjacent watershed from future development.

The motion passed unanimously, all executive committee members present and voting.

4014-4026 Lorcom Lane:

This property consists of several recorded lots (zoned R6 and R8) along Lorcom Lane, Randolph Street, and the North 23rd Street easement behind St. Andrews Church. The property apparently has been transferred to an estate. Nearby neighbors have expressed concern about the likelihood of the existing home being torn down and a dozen (or more) new homes being constructed. In response to the concerns of multiple neighbors, DRCA President Peter Fallon contacted Arlington County to discuss what options might be available for community input when a design is put forward for these properties.

Under state and county law, any owner of the property can submit a "by-right" building application. In essence, this means that an applicant submits a building plan to Arlington County. If the plan meets the existing setback requirements, lot coverage, height limitations, etc., the county is required by law to approve the building permit. No further action is necessary by the county staff or county board. Neither the civic association nor the adjacent property owners are consulted.

While a developer always retains the by-right option, the county has created the "uniform residential development" process. Under this option, adjacent neighbors and the civic association would have an opportunity to participate in work sessions with county staff and the developer to make potential changes to the proposal. This site plan is sent for review to

various public commissions and the county board for approval. In exchange for agreeing to participate in the county's established site plan approval process, the developer could receive certain incentives (e.g., more density, relief from setbacks, waiving of certain permit fees, etc.).

At this time, DRCA is not aware of any proposals to redevelop the property or market the property for sale. As noted on page seventeen of DRCA's Neighborhood Conservation Plan, a portion of the existing house (the Joseph Tabor Johnson House) dates from 1907, which may also present some historic preservation issues. DRCA will continue to monitor the situation as best it can. It is our hope that the eventual property developer will agree to work with the community under the uniform residential development process to limit the impact of new houses on the surrounding neighbors.

Vermont Street Project

-Steve Grand

The project to make improvements on the south end of Vermont Street continues to advance. As you may recall, a number of residents on Vermont Street petitioned the county to install curbs, gutters, and sidewalk on the stretch of Vermont Street between Old Dominion Drive and Utah Street. The resulting project, with the support of DRCA, was approved by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in May. The Vermont Street project will go to the county board for approval on September 28.

If approved, the project should take about 24 months to complete. There will be several opportunities for citizen input and review during both the design and construction phases.

English Ivy or Bust!

Help reclaim Donaldson Run for native plants. Enjoy outdoor exercise, good company, and admire your accomplishments at the end of the morning! On Saturday, October 19, meet at 9 a.m. at the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park (parking on 30th Street). Jan Ferrigan with the Virginia Cooperative Extension will lead the team. Please bring your work gloves. Contact Larry Finch at 703-528-6349 for more information.

<p>Mark your calendars for Candidates Night October 16 at 7 p.m.</p>

Taylor Elementary School Update - Steve Grand

If you have been by Taylor Elementary School recently, you may have noticed the new butterfly patio near the entrance to the school. The patio is part of a new environmental science education program which aims to take advantage of the abundant natural beauty and resources to be found on and around the Taylor School grounds.

A butterfly garden will soon be created on the patio, as will other gardens elsewhere around the school. Donaldson Run residents are invited to visit the grounds and are encouraged to volunteer to assist with the new environmental science program.

Taylor School, along with DRCA, continues to push for the construction of a tot lot on the property. The county has told the school that it is at the top of the list for funding for playground improvements. It is anticipated that a citizens committee will be formed in the spring to help design the tot lot, with construction beginning soon thereafter. If you would like to be a part of this committee, please contact Steve Grand at 703-807-5166.

Principal Robert Hindman thanks DRCA for its continued support and for its participation in the Neighborhood Day events at the Taylor Spring Fair.

Friends of the Donaldson Run Watershed News

Friends of the Donaldson Run Watershed (FDRW) will meet on Tuesday, September 24, at 7 p.m. at the Church of the Covenant, 2666 Military Road. The meeting will involve the planning of activities for the coming months, including activities in cooperation with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE) and Potomac Overlook Regional Park. There will also be a report on aquatic life in Donaldson Run as the stream recovers from the herbicide incident of a year ago. Everyone concerned about the health of our neighborhood streams and parks is urged to attend. Contact Larry Finch at 528-6349 for more information.

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
- 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

Snow Removal

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com

Car Washing

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com

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 or send an email to aew@comcast.net

It's that time of year!

Safeway, Giant, and Harris Teeter will continue their annual support of local schools based on customer purchase levels. It is not necessary to save cash receipts! Just present your store card at the customer service desk and designate the school of your choice. Taking a few extra moments on your next shopping trip will allow the school to accrue points from all of your future purchases.

DPW Project on Lorcom Lane at Randolph Street

- Peter Fallon

In 1987, the county board approved a master plan for Lorcom Lane. At that time, the number of travel lanes was reduced to one in each direction and parking was added. In 1992, the plan was updated and the county board approved a concept to super-elevate (or bank the road upwards approximately two feet) the north side of Lorcom Lane at the Randolph Street curve and to add sidewalks along the south side. Now that utility work has finally been completed along Lorcom Lane, the Department of Public Works (DPW) is seeking to implement the new roadway project. A sidewalk would be built along the south side from Randolph Street to Vacation Lane. Some sidewalks would be replaced between Military Road and Randolph Street as well. The project will take approximately six months and will include non-rush hour lane closings. DPW's view is that the super-elevation is necessary to properly align the roadway and bring it up to standard. The contractor was scheduled to begin work on September 4.

Neighbors closest to the intersection contacted DRCA with concerns about the lack of current information about the project, concerns about the impact of super-elevation, and other related issues. At DRCA's request, DPW has held two meetings with the neighbors and made some changes to the plans. However, community concerns remain. Some residents have questioned whether the super-elevation component is truly necessary. Others are concerned that by making the curve easier for cars to negotiate, the result will be higher average speeds along already busy Lorcom Lane (specifically, along a stretch of the road used by students traveling to and from HB Woodlawn School and Taylor Elementary School). Feedback regarding the proposed construction of new sidewalks, however, has been very favorable.

Residents with concerns about adding the super-elevation to Lorcom Lane are encouraged to drive along Arlington Ridge Road where DPW has used super-elevation. The super-elevation affects cars driving toward Glebe Road. Arlington Ridge Road differs from Lorcom Lane in that it has more sweeping curves and a steep downhill grade as you head toward Glebe Road. Neither of these two elements is proposed for Lorcom Lane. However, if you get out of your car at 24th Street, you can see a super-elevation that is

similar to the work planned for Lorcom Lane. DPW has stated that Arlington Ridge Road has the same six percent grade planned for Lorcom Lane.

DPW has agreed to postpone the start of construction and will make a presentation at the September 25 DRCA general meeting. DRCA residents along Lorcom Lane and nearby side streets are especially encouraged to attend this important meeting to better understand the project. A modified project will likely begin before the end of the year; therefore, this is your opportunity to weigh in. If you are unable to attend our meeting, please contact executive committee members Peter Fallon, Anne Wilson, or Mike Green beforehand to share your concerns about the project.

The DRCA meeting will begin at 7 p.m. (a half hour earlier than usual). Per our bylaws, only dues-paying members are permitted to vote. Therefore, please send in your membership renewals in advance or arrive early on September 25 to allow time to process your membership.

Come to a free performance of the **Commodores**, the United States Navy's premier jazz ensemble, on **Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m.**

Under the direction of Master Chief Musician Leland V. Gause, the Commodores offer the finest in America's true classical music – **JAZZ!**

This concert is sponsored by the **Yorktown Choral Department Guest Artist Series**, under the direction of Roger Oliver, and will be held in the auditorium of Yorktown High School, 5201 North 28th Street in Arlington. For more information call (703) 228-5450 or go to www.navyband.navy.mil/commodores.htm

Sewage Release in Donaldson Run

During the evening of August 20, a force main at the Donaldson Run lift station (at Military Road and Donaldson Run Park) ruptured, resulting in the release of sanitary sewage into Donaldson Run. The estimated volume of the release was several thousand gallons. A more specific number will be available when the official report to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is completed. Arlington DPW repaired the ruptured main within a few hours.

Potomac Overlook Solar Energy Project

DRCA continued its annual support for Potomac Overlook in 2002. Since 1999, DRCA has sponsored one of the featured concerts in the outdoor summer series and held our summer social gathering at the park. This year in lieu of our summer social (which typically conflicted with the Arlington County Fair weekend), DRCA made a contribution to the new solar electricity installation at the park. Solar cells will be installed along the roof of the outdoor stage. The power generated by the solar installation is returned to the power grid and net billed by Virginia Power. It is hoped that this solar installation will generate about twenty percent of the nature center's electrical needs.

If you would like to make a contribution to this project, or learn more about it, please visit the park on Marcey Road or contact the nature center at (703) 528-5406.

Natural History Series

Potomac Overlook Nature Center will be the place to meet for the Fall Natural History Series called "Getting to Know Our Place." Attend any or all of the programs which cost \$5 a program or \$20 for the entire series. Those attending at least three of the sessions may also attend the special canoe trip at the end of the series. Each program includes an indoor and outdoor section. Call (703) 528-5406 for reservations.

Sunday, September 22, 2 p.m.

"Geology: More Than Just Rocks"

Saturday, October 5, 8 a.m.

"Birds in Migration"

Sunday, November 24, 2 p.m.

"Trees: Identification, History and Uses"

Sunday, December 8, 2 p.m.

"Human History of Potomac Overlook Regional Park"

Sunday, December 15, 1 p.m.

Canoe Trip to Pohick Bay Regional Park (for those attending a minimum of three programs in the series)

MOMS Meet Monthly

The MOMS Club of North Arlington is a support group for mothers who stay home with their children, including those who have home-based businesses or work part-time but are at home with their children during the day. The group offers a wide range of activities, including special programs for mothers, play groups for children, a MOMS Night Out and get-togethers for the whole family. The MOMS club also performs a service project for needy children in our community. Membership is open to all moms living north of Route 50 in Arlington. There are also chapters in Falls Church, Alexandria, and South Arlington. Children are welcome at all MOMS club activities. Our monthly social is held on the second Thursday of each month at the Cherrydale United Methodist Church at Nellie Custis Drive and Lorcom Lane. Call 1-866-248-7670 ext. 1021 for more information or email arlnmomsclub@onebox.com

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

**Arlington County Civic Federation
- Mike Green**

DRCA has been a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation since 1954. The civic federation is the umbrella group of neighborhood associations and other groups. The positions taken by the civic associations are always considered and often implemented by the county board.

The civic federation has input into many county issues including the budget, site plans, schools, environmental affairs, parks, transportation, legislation, zoning, public safety, and cultural affairs, just to name a few. There are many more areas that I have not mentioned about which the civic federation makes recommendations to the county board.

You can help the DRCA and your community by becoming a representative to the civic federation. Peter Fallon, as DRCA president, appoints four representatives and four alternates to the civic federation. If you're interested in serving, call Peter at 522-5368 for information about becoming a DRCA representative. For more information on the civic federation, visit its website at <http://www.civfed.com>

Neighborhood Kiosks

In the past year, several neighborhood bulletin boards (kiosks) were installed within our community. These kiosks were installed as a result of DRCA's small park grant awards and DRCA has agreed to maintain them. To maintain an attractive appearance and reduce litter, the DRCA executive committee adopted the following policy, which is consistent with the policies of other Arlington neighborhoods and with county ordinances:

- notices must be posted beneath the protective plexiglas. Any notices posted outside the plexiglas will be removed. Notices for yard sales, estate sales, political advertising or paid services (e.g., gutter cleaning, yard work, etc.) will not be considered for posting.
 - to advertise a community announcement, contact Maxine Nagel at bulletinboard@drca.org
- Everyone's cooperation is appreciated.

DRCA Email List

Dues paying members of the civic association may join our email list. The email messages include a monthly update and meeting reminders. If you would like to join our email list (email address are NOT shared with anyone else), please provide the necessary information on your membership application. Please write clearly to ensure that we get the address correct. Thank you!

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 Association information

DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, September 25, 7:00PM
Taylor Elementary School
2600 N. Stuart Street
Agenda: Small Parks Project, DPW Annual Report and
DPW Project at Lorcom Lane and Randolph Street

Help Keep DRCA Strong

As you can see from this newsletter, your civic association has been very active this summer. We understand that many of our neighbors are extremely busy and are unable to be active participants in the association. However, one way that you can show your support is by making sure that your membership is up to date. You can check the status of your membership by looking at the mailing label above. A membership application can be found in each issue of the newsletter. Thank you for keeping DRCA strong.

DRCA Tee Shirts for Sale

Have you seen one of your neighbors in a hot, new Donaldson Run Civic Association tee shirt? For just twelve dollars, you too can sport a Donaldson Run shirt that all your neighbors will admire. The white tee shirt has the initials DRCA on the front along with the Donaldson Run logo; the back reads Donaldson Run Civic Association. If you would like to order one, please contact Laura Peralta-Schulte at laura.ps@starpower.net.

Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Autumn Activities

Sunday, October 13, 2 p.m.

In Search of a Living Planet: An Introduction to the Gaia Theory – This program will explore the science and history of the Gaia Theory through an outdoor inquiry and an indoor talk. The works of James Lovelock, a British scientist who developed the Gaia Theory, and Lynn Margulis, a microbiologist who has been one of Lovelock's longtime supporters, will be examined. Ages 14 and older.

Sunday, October 20, 2 p.m.

Art and Nature – A look at nature through the eyes of the artist. Learn from artists themselves and put your creativity to work in the great outdoors. Ages 8 and older.

Saturday, October 26, 7:30 p.m.

Haunted Halloween Hike – The annual scary walk and s'mores cookout. Not recommended for children younger than five years of age. Tickets (\$5) for this program go on sale at 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 12.