

The Current



The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

www.drca.org

SPRING 2002

MAY MEETING
Tuesday, May 14th
7:30 PM

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

Agenda: Legislative update with Senator
Whipple and Delegate Brink and
“State of Our Parks”

Minutes of April 16 Meeting

The items on the agenda at the April 16, 2002 meeting of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) were the improvements in a playing field at Marymount University and the steps taken to upgrade the fairways at Washington Golf and Country Club. Plans were also discussed for DRCA participation in Neighborhood Day on May 11, which will coincide with the Taylor Elementary School Spring Fair (see pg. 4). The next regular meeting, scheduled for May 14, will feature a legislative update from Senator Mary Margaret Whipple and Delegate Bob Brink and a briefing from the County Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Marymount information session participants were Linda McMahon, Director of Student Affairs; Rod Mack, Maintenance Director; and Bill Finney, Athletics Director. The practice field to be improved is at the back of the campus

abutting the Country Club. The grass turf on the field, used for soccer and lacrosse practice and for student pickup games, has not held up under the wear it receives and will be replaced by a synthetic turf. The lighting on the field will also be changed. The new lighting is designed to better illuminate the field but will be shielded to minimize light glare to surrounding campus buildings and the general neighborhood. This field is not used for intercollegiate competitions and does not have bleachers. It is not to be used after 10 pm and the lights will be turned off at that hour or earlier. DRCA members were pleased to have such an authoritative heads up about the project. Some concern, however, was expressed about the potential for increased light pollution and noise. The project is expected to begin to be completed by mid-June.

The speaker for the Washington Golf and Country Club was Bob Mortenson, the chairman of the WGCC Greens Committee, who discussed some of the circumstances that led to last August's pesticide incident which killed much of the life in Donaldson Run stream. Mortenson, who is a landscape and golf course architect and knowledgeable about golf course management, noted that maintaining attractive fairways is not easy in the mid-Atlantic region, which is a transition zone because neither northern nor southern grasses thrive here. At WGCC the rye grass used on the fairways was also hit by blight.

Mortenson said that the club tried for several years to establish new fairways of the bent grass variety by over-seeding, but this did not work. Therefore, the club decided to kill the old grass first and then reseed. Basimid was selected as

The Current is published four times each year and 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. 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 Assoc. that operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road.** Meetings are held at 7:30 pm at Taylor Elementary School (2600 N. Stuart Street), usually in the third week of the month (see newsletter prior to meeting), from Sept. through May. Only dues paying **DRCA** residents are eligible to vote. **DRCA** boundaries are: Military Rd. on the east (including Marcey Rd., N. 26th St., N. 25th Pl., and N. Ridgeview Rd.); 26th/31st St. on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including N. Randolph and 27th Sts., south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon St. 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	
Director	Stephen Grand	807-5166
Director	Sherwin Landfield	525-0005
Newsletter	Elizabeth Apple	243-3837

the herbicide for this task because it could be applied as a one-time treatment and make the use of other chemicals unnecessary for the next three years. The manufacturer supervised the application over a period of several days.

On the night of August 23, there was a hard rain with nearly an inch falling in a short time. The Country Club was unaware of the havoc caused downstream until Saturday when volunteer stream monitors, on discovering a major kill of eels and crayfish in Donaldson Run stream, alerted the Fire Department. The Fire Department responded quickly to what was a serious hazardous material situation and traced the contamination to the WGCC.

Although the WGCC was advised by its lawyers not to make any statements about the incident, Mortenson said that he personally felt that the neighborhood deserved an explanation. Aileen Winquist, Director of the County Department of Environmental Services stream-monitoring program, reported that lawyers for the club and appropriate county, state and federal agencies currently are trying to reach a settlement. She also said a report on the incident is under review by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Meanwhile, the club is working with the International Audubon Society to improve pest and weed management and water conservation with the goal of obtaining certification as an Audubon Sanctuary. Mortenson offered to have another speaker from the club give the civic association an update on grounds management activities at a future meeting.

Association President Peter Fallon announced that a fourth bulletin board kiosk has been installed at Marcy Road Park. Anyone wishing to post a notice on the boards should contact Maxine Nagel (703) 524-5093 so that the notice can be put under the plexiglas.

Treasurer's Report

During the election meeting in March it was pointed out to me that I have been vague. Those of you who know me know that this is not normal, and so I am taking the opportunity to set the record straight. **Membership in the Donaldson Run Civic Association is by the calendar year.** It is not through September or October, but January through December each year. Your mailing label always contains your current membership status that I will interpret here. If it says "2 Members through 2002" then that household has two members for the period January-December 2002. If the label says "Please renew or join" then you are not currently a member of the association. Note also that if the newsletter comes to "Resident," your house has never been a member and we would invite you to join. I hope this clears things up.

Currently 253 households out of the 950 within our boundaries are members of the association that represents 417 individual members. Many of you are long-term members and we thank you for that. I am seeing many first-time members

and we would like to welcome you to the association. And many of you have made additional generous contributions to the news-letter to be used for printing and postage and we are very grateful to you as well.

Our periodic email list has 184 subscribers. I have to tell you that it is sometimes hard to interpret the email addresses that I receive on the renewal notices. A one looks like an “l” and an “m” looks like an “n”. So if you think you should be on the list and did not receive a notice about the April 16th meeting, then please email me at ned@drca.org and tell me you want to be on the list. If you do that, I can just copy and paste your address and I am sure to get it correct. And if you have any suggestions as to how to make the content of these emails more useful, please tell us.

Ned W. Rhodes
ned@drca.org

Arlington’s 6th Annual Neighborhood Day

On Saturday, May 11, Arlington will celebrate the **6th Annual Neighborhood Day** and you are all invited to join in. Neighborhood Day began in 1997 as part of a year long celebration of community and is a day for Arlington residents to enjoy their neighborhood and build community

The day is marked by a variety of events – some local, organized in each neighborhood and some countywide, such as the Dog Walk, the Neighborhood Day Parade and Festival, and the Ft. Myer Twilight Tattoo military ceremony. The Neighborhood Day Parade starts at 2:00 PM and travels east on Wilson Boulevard from the Clarendon Metrorail Station to North Wayne Street near the Court House Station. The Festiveal will be held on the Court House Plaza from NOON to 4:00 and will include music, singing and dancing from the many countries that contribute to Arlington’s rich diversity. For more information on the day’s activities, go to www.arlington.va.us.

Need a Job Done? Why Not Hire a Neighbor!

One result of the interest survey is that we are developing a list of neighbors who, for a fee, are willing to do jobs such as babysitting, pet sitting, car washing, etc. Here is the list to date:

Service Provided	Name	Phone Number
Babysitting	Riley Baldus (16)	527-5333
	Beverly Jones (Nanny)	528-4593
	Audrey Soffer(15)	525-8509
Pet Sitting	Blythe Apple	243-3837
	Riley Baldus	527-5333
	Beverly Jones	528-4593
	Audrey Soffer	525-8509
House Sitting	Blythe Apple Riley Baldus	243-3837 527-5333
Lawn Mowing	Riley Baldus	527-5333
	Jeff Soffer (12)	525-8509
Gardening	Riley Baldus	527-5333
Snow Removal	Riley Baldus	527-5333
Car Washing	Riley Baldus	527-5333
	Jeff Soffer	525-8509
Odd Jobs	Riley Baldus (wiring, electronics, and minor home repairs)	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.

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

Neighborhood Conservation Update

I think I have mentioned this before, but I wanted to make sure. The Donaldson Run Neighborhood Conservation report that was accepted by the County Board in October 2000 has finally been published. I have been passing them out at the March and April meetings and I will also have some on hand at the May meeting.

We plan to mail a copy to each (paid) member of the Civic Association in late May or early June. I am trying to hand out as many as I can so that we can cut down on the mailing expens. For those of you who can't wait or want to see the pictures in color, you may download the report from the web site at www.drca.org and go to the NCP button at the top of the page.

With this being the final funding round of the bond that finances the Neighborhood Conservation project, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee has been wrestling with how to best use the remaining funds. The final decision was to limit the projects to \$250,000.

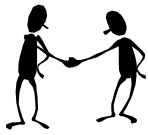
Projects costing more may be submitted, but they have little chance of being funded.

DRCA has two projects in the works. The first is the improvements to Taylor Park that should be getting started this fall. We are about to submit a project for paving, curbs and gutters for Vermont Street that was approved at the Association's March meeting. We encourage neighbors to work with the Association when they have a project in mind and to involve us early in the process so that we can help. There is a process that one has to go through to bring a project before the Association for approval. This process was outlined in the Winter 2002 issue of the Association newsletter. Email me if you need more information on what it takes to turn an idea into a Neighborhood Conservation project.

Ned W. Rhodes
ned@drca.org

Newsletter Editor Needed

No experience needed, training available.
Computer software -- Microsoft Word.
For more information contact Elizabeth Apple-
703-243-3837



DONALDSON RUN

2002



NEIGHBORHOOD DAY

**JOIN US ON SATURDAY MAY 11, AS THE
DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATES NEIGHBORHOOD DAY.**

**FROM 11:00-3:00 WE WILL BE MEETING AND
GREETING NEIGHBORS AT THE TAYLOR
SCHOOL FAIR WHERE WE WILL HAVE
CONTESTS FOR BOTH YOUNG AND NOT SO
YOUNG INCLUDING OUR POPULAR AND
NEWLY REVISED DONALDSON RUN
NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY QUIZ WITH PRIZES.
THERE WILL BE FUN HANDOUTS FOR ALL
INCLUDING COLORING BOOKS FOR THE KIDS.**

**THERE WILL BE A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY
WITH LOCAL DIGNITARIES AS DRCA
DONATES A TREE TO TAYLOR ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

**WE HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY CAN
JOIN US. AND BRING A NEIGHBOR!!!**

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
Tuesday, May 14th 7:30PM
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and "State of Our Parks"**

**Next Meeting: September, 2002
Agenda & Date: To Be Announced**

Friends of Donaldson Run

Rain Barrels: Help Prevent Stream Erosion and Save Water for Your Plants

Concerned about the serious erosion of Donaldson Run and its tributaries? The newly formed "Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed" recommends buying a rain barrel.

Much of our local stream erosion is caused by storm surge, the excess amount of water that runs off our roofs, down our driveways and streets, and directly into the streams just after a heavy rain. Homeowners can prevent such excess run-off in several ways:

1) Make sure all downspouts drain into a garden

or lawn.

2) Collect water from your downspout in a rain barrel

3) Create a rain garden which will absorb and purify the runoff water.

If you're interested in purchasing a rain barrel, we've found a company that sells 50 gallon rain barrels made of recycled pepper barrels. For more information, please contact Amy White at 703-243-6889.

The next Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 5th. Location TBA. See local kiosks for future