

The Current



The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

www.drca.org

WINTER 2002

JANUARY MEETING
Tuesday, January 29th
7:00 PM

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

Agenda: Proposed expansion of Metrorail,
Speaker: Chris Zimmerman, Chair,
Arlington County Board

Minutes of November Meeting

Arlington County Manager Ron Carlee was on hand at the November 14, 2001 DRCA meeting to provide neighbors with a report on the activities of his office since he assumed the job last February. Carlee's presentation was followed by an update from Ned Rhodes on DRCA's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) plan activities.

Carlee outlined Arlington County's response to the September 11 attack on the Pentagon, noting that the County's fire and police departments and emergency response workers did an excellent job of containing a dangerous situation. Carlee pointed out that the fire on the roof at the Pentagon was a top concern; unless controlled, the fire could have severely damaged the entire building and compromised national security. Carlee expressed pride that the various Arlington entities involved in the Pentagon effort cooperated fully with one another to help mitigate a difficult situation.

Carlee then discussed the County's Fiscal 2002 management plan, noting that the County's four main priorities are to upgrade the Arlington web site so that more citizens can use it for county transactions; to expand Arlington's "urban village" concept so that Arlingtonians can enjoy the benefits of small-town life; to continue to support environmental protections in Arlington County; and to foster community participation in Arlington (town meetings, etc.) so that all voices can be heard.

Following Carlee's formal presentation, the County Manager took questions on a wide variety of topics, including the recent stream pollution incident at Washington Golf and Country Club; neighborhood traffic calming; recent parking issues at the 26th Street mulch pile; invasive vine control in the county parks; and staff accountability. Carlee also noted that the county does not have any current plans under development for the salt dome, mulch pile, Lee Pumping Station, or the county-owned residential properties near N. 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive. Carlee stressed the importance of County staff working with Arlingtonians, and he invited residents to contact him (703-228-3120) with suggestions or concerns.

NC Chairman Ned Rhodes then updated neighbors on projects related to DRCA's neighborhood conservation plan (see article, page 4).

In general announcements, DRCA President
(Cont'd. page 2)

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	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

Peter Fallon noted that:

--DRCA has been successful in focusing attention on the poor condition of the stretch of Vermont Street running from Lee Highway to Vacation Lane. The street is now paved. Vermont Street residents had been seeking the repaving work for more than a year;

--the County has also fixed the large sink hole at the Lee Heights Park near Utah Street/Vacation Lane;

--DRCA board member Anne Wilson will head up a committee to explore traffic calming measures for the 26th/31st Street area;

--DRCA neighborhood surveys are available at the association web site (drca.org) to enable neighbors to weigh in on areas of interest;

-- New DRCA officers will be elected in March 2002. Anyone interested in running should contact DRCA executive board member Steve Grand, who is heading up the nominating committee (see article, page 7).

Following the general announcements, Fallon noted that concern had been expressed about the possible elimination of the school crossing guard who works the 26th Road/Military Road intersection. DRCA members unanimously voted to support the retention of the crossing guard (see article, page 6).

President's Letter

Happy New Year!

Last March, I wrote an article for the newsletter that outlined a vision of how DRCA's role could go beyond the traditional watchdog responsibilities of a civic association and work towards general improvements in our community's quality of life. I am happy to report that we had many achievements to celebrate in 2001!

The civic association seeks to focus county attention on neighborhood concerns and to obtain results. Our recent successes include getting a portion of N. Vermont St. repaved and improved park maintenance.

We also helped to foster a greater sense of community identity through the installation of neighborhood signs (to be landscaped this spring) and community bulletin boards.

We have successfully sought funding under the county's NC program to replace the bridges in Taylor Park, address erosion problems, and reforest portions of the park.

In response to concerns about speed of traffic on neighborhood streets, we have requested additional "enforcement actions" by the Arlington Police and Sheriff departments. In the future, you will be seeing officers issuing speeding tickets on Military Road and Lorcom Lane. We will soon begin an effort to develop traffic calming measures on N. 26th/N. 31st Street and other neighborhood streets. We will also continue our involvement in the Citizen's Radar program.

Upon the request of the school community, we have shown our support for our local schools by working with Taylor School to develop a tot lot, participating in the annual Spring Fair, working to maintain crossing guards, and backing the renovation of Yorktown's athletic fields.

We continue to monitor county use permits governing nearby special sites. These use permits are periodically reviewed by Arlington County, and DRCA provides input to the County Staff and Board during each renewal process.

We hold general meetings bimonthly at Taylor Elementary School. These meetings almost always include a presentation from a county leader or official followed by questions from the audience. In addition, while DRCA is a non-partisan organization, we do encourage the community to vote in general elections. To that end, DRCA has held candidate forums for the last four years. Presentations by candidates have been followed by question and answer sessions. Information on bond issues and voter registration has also been provided.

We continue to use our newsletter, website, and monthly email messages to keep the community informed of local happenings and to publicize events at nearby sites.

All of the achievements above would not be possible without the efforts of so many active volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize them for their special efforts on behalf of DRCA.

Anne Wilson: Vice President

Anne chaired our Neighborhood Day Committee, coordinated our participation in the Taylor Spring Fair and co-developed our neighborhood interest survey. As DRCA's liaison to Marymount University, Anne has led our outreach efforts. Our attractive neighborhood signs are due in large part to Anne's efforts in working with DRCA members and county staff.

Ned Rhodes: Treasurer

Ned handles our finances, maintains our Membership database, maintains our website, answers email, sends out our email reminders, and prints the newsletter labels. As our NCAC representative, Ned represents our community and advocates for DRCA's NC projects. Each

year, Ned puts his experience to use reviewing the emissions report for the cellular antennas on the nearby Lee Pumping station.

Steve Grand: Director

Steve continues to help coordinate our annual small park grant applications and acts as DRCA's liaison to Taylor School. His efforts led to the successful retention of the crossing guard at the intersection of Military Road and N. 26th Road. Steve continues to pursue the development of a tot lot at Taylor School.

Elizabeth Apple: Newsletter Editor

The newsletter is perhaps the single most important service DRCA provides to the community. In addition to formatting our newsletter, Elizabeth also coordinates with the print shop and takes the newsletter to the post office.

Maxine Nagel: Secretary

Maxine keeps our minutes and reminds us of what we did or didn't do. She also helps Elizabeth proof and edit the newsletter.

Sherwin Landfield, Theresa Fallon, Carol Fontein: Directors

As members of DRCA's executive committee, they join the other officers in participating in our planning sessions (held in months the general membership doesn't meet) and offer their time on specific issues facing the community. Sherwin represents DRCA at the Arlington County Civic Federation, of which DRCA has been a continuous member since 1954. Theresa labels and bundles the newsletter for bulk postal delivery.

Larry Finch: Chair, Parks Committee

Larry serves as DRCA's primary contact with the park and recreation staff. He has worked tirelessly with the county staff to develop our recent NC project for Taylor Park, worked to get the invasive plants removed, and followed up on the August 2001 herbicide runoff in the Donaldson Run streams.

Helen Lane: Parks Committee & Neighborhood Day Committee

In addition to being an active member of our parks committee, Helen regularly participates in stream monitoring events to ensure the health of Donaldson Run streams. Helen is also our resident historian and developed our neighborhood history quiz.

Mike Green: Chair, Traffic Calming Committee
Mike continues to lead our work with the citizen's radar program. He has also acted as our liaison with the Department of Public Works and the Arlington Police Department.

Bert Kolick
Bert, a senior at Yorktown High School, developed our website and periodically updates it.

Ron Ohlerich
Ron walked every street in our neighborhood to update our mailing database records.

Laura Peralta-Schulte
As a member of our Neighborhood Day Committee, Laura co-developed our interest survey (and collected the results), hosted our sign dedication reception, and continues to follow up on the herbicide runoff issue.

I would also like to thank the many other volunteers who have worked on the Citizen's Radar program, provided input at out meetings, participated in our candidate forums, worked on our Parks Committee, and taken part in other neighborhood activities.

Ultimately, our efforts are limited only by the contributions our volunteers can offer. We are seeking nominations for our Board and can always use additional volunteers for our work. If you would like to see DRCA become involved in other activities, this is your opportunity to step up and help move us in that direction. At a minimum, I hope that you will continue to show your support for DRCA's work and renew your annual membership in our organization. At the end of the last year, we had over 500 individual dues-paying members, representing more than one-third of DRCA households. Without question, 2001 was a great year for DRCA, and with your help, 2002 will be even better!

Donaldson Run Day

There was a good turnout of children and adults for Donaldson Run Day held at Taylor School on Saturday, November 17. In addition to speakers, the program included nature walks in Taylor Park and information tables with literature on the activities of participating organizations.

The program covered the human and natural history of Donaldson Run, including the effects of urban development and measures that can help protect the stream and wooded parkland. Naturalists led walks through Taylor Park, giving attendees an opportunity to learn about plant and animal life in the stream and nearby woods.

Representatives of participating organizations included Cliff Fairweather of the Audubon Naturalist Society; Martin Ogle and Mike Healy of Potomac Overlook Regional Park; Aileen Winquist of the Arlington Department of Environmental Services; Mike Nardolilli of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust; and Elenor Hodges of Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment.

Cliff Fairweather described steps that can be taken to preserve the natural environment of our streams and parks. He also announced plans for organizing a group, "Friends of Donaldson Run," which would work to protect and preserve the natural environment of streams and stream-valley parks in the watershed.

Noting the importance of wooded buffers to the health of our streams, Mike Nardolilli explained the benefits of conservation easements, which permit landowners to protect these wooded areas while qualifying for tax benefits or monetary compensation.

Everyone interested in protecting Donaldson Run is invited to an organizational meeting of "Friends of Donaldson Run" at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 23, at the Potomac Overlook Regional Park Nature Center. For further information, call Aileen Winquist of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services at 703-228-3610.

Larry Finch

Needed: Crossing Guard at Military and 26th Roads

The Arlington Police Department, which currently has a shortage of crossing guards, had identified Military and 26th Roads as one crossing where usage by students was low and the guard could potentially be redeployed. Responding to safety concerns, DRCA passed the following resolution at the November meeting:

"In response to the concerns of local parents regarding safety issues associated with crossing Military Road, DRCA supports maintaining an official crossing guard at the inter-section of N. 26th Road and Military Road to assist parents and children traveling to and from Taylor Elementary School." This resolution was sent to the Police Department, and DRCA has since received word from the Police Department that the crossing guard will be maintained for the remainder of the school year. In the meantime, the Arlington Police Department is actively seeking new recruits to serve as crossing guards. For more information, contact Alice Morris, Supervisor of the Police Department's Crossing Guard Unit, at 703-228-4075

How an Idea Becomes a Neighborhood Conservation Project

At our November 14, 2001 meeting, we had a good discussion on how ideas become Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects. There are two types of projects that the neighborhood can sponsor: civic association sponsored projects and grass roots projects. An example of a civic association sponsored project is the Zachary Taylor parks improvement project that was recently approved by Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC). This project has been discussed at most of our meetings over the past eight months and has been directed by our Parks Committee (chaired by Larry Finch). Grass roots projects are those that usually benefit a small portion of the neighborhood and may include improvements such as curbs, gutters, sidewalks and streetlights.

Under NCAC guidelines, neighborhoods can advance only one project per funding round, and there are two funding rounds each year (June and December). It is important, therefore, that there be procedures in place to ensure that potential projects be considered fairly and openly by our community.

The NCAC requires that the neighborhood file a "letter of intent" on its first priority project at the end of March and September respectively. To ensure that our membership has the necessary information to make an informed vote among multiple projects and competing priorities, the

following guidelines will be used to advance grass roots projects.

1. The block seeking a project must select a volunteer block captain who should be a DRCA member.
2. The block captain will then contact the Arlington Dept. of Public Works (DPW) concerning their project. The county may require the affected homeowners to sign multiple petitions as evidence of support for a project. The first petition is used to gauge interest in the project by the affected homeowners. It is the responsibility of the block captain to obtain individual homeowner signatures to satisfy the county's petition requirements.
3. Once the first petition has been signed by 60% (county requirement) of the affected homes, a block meeting will be held between county representatives and the homeowners to discuss the project specifics. When the civic association is informed of this block meeting, a member of the DRCA executive committee will be assigned to assist the block captain.
4. The project is refined at the block meeting and a second petition (with project specifics) is then sent out. If the second petition is approved by 60% of the affected homes, then the project is eligible for consideration by DRCA for advancement in the NC funding cycle. NOTE: completion of petitions does NOT automatically advance a project for funding and implementation. County procedures require that a project be specifically identified as "DRCA's number one priority" in order to be implemented under the NC program.
5. After the second petition is approved, the block captain will be required to make a brief presentation about the project to the DRCA Executive Committee. The purpose of this meeting is to ensure that all funding alternatives are considered. At that meeting, the project scope may be modified to increase its likelihood of being approved by the NCAC.
6. After the Executive Committee meeting, the block captain will submit a brief summary article for publication in the DRCA newsletter to enable DRCA members to have complete information about all NC projects prior to voting.
7. At the March or September meeting, the block captain will make a presentation about the project to the general membership and ask for the membership's support.
8. Those dues-paying members of the civic association present at the general membership

meeting will then vote on all eligible NC projects and identify a number-one priority project that will be advanced to the NCAC for funding consideration. Please note: DRCA bylaws prohibit the use of voting proxies.

Because each NC project must be approved by the membership before it is advanced for funding, it is vital that the DRCA be involved early in the process and that sufficient notice be given to all the members of the association, the newsletter article and meeting with the Executive Committee are essential. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on this process.

Ned W. Rhodes
rhodesn@softsysgrp.com

Members Needed for New Traffic Calming Committee

Are you and your neighbors concerned about too much fast and dangerous traffic on your street? Would you like to explore the possibilities of traffic calming measures that might be appropriate for your location and could be funded by Neighborhood Conservation (NC) monies? If so, please join the new Traffic Calming Committee. Our NC Plan identified a number of streets where residents were concerned about the speed and volume of traffic. This new committee will pursue resolving these problems when there is sufficient support by the residents directly affected. By participating on this committee, you can be sure that your part of the neighborhood is considered for appropriate traffic calming measures. If you are interested in joining this effort, please contact Anne Wilson (email: anne.wilson@appliedis.com; phone: 525-0344)

Candlelight Concerts at Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Join us for a new kind of music event at Potomac Overlook Regional Park-- acoustic music in its pure form . . . no amplification, no electricity, nothing but the clear tones of human voice and instruments. Candlelight, hot coffee and tea, and homemade sweets will add to these mid-winter celebrations.

Saturday, January 19 - Michelle Swan, Urban Acoustic Singer & Songwriter

Saturday, February 16 - Jody Marshall, Carey Creed & Grace Griffith, Guitar, Hammered Dulcimer & Vocals

Both concerts begin at 7 p.m.. Reservations are required for these concerts. Space is limited to 50 people, so please call early. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Potomac Overlook Regional Park is located at the end of Marcey Road, off of Military Road. Call 703/528-5406 for reservations and more information.

Tot Lot

As mentioned in previous newsletters, a "tot lot" designed for 2-4 year olds is scheduled to be built at Taylor Elementary School. Planning for the new playground will begin this winter, with construction anticipated this summer. Officials at Taylor have indicated that they would like to engage members of the Donaldson Run community in the planning process. If you would like to be involved, please contact Steve Grand at 703-807-5166.

Open House

The MOMS Club, a national support group for at-home mothers, is sponsoring an Open House on Thursday, February 14, 2002 from 10am-12pm at the Cherrydale Methodist Church, located at 3701 Lorcom Lane. For more information, please call Tammi L. McKinley (703) 234-3950 x3403.

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

It's That Time of the Year

It is time to renew your Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) dues for the year. Check the mailing label on the back of this newsletter for your current membership status and then return the enclosed membership form along with your check to me. Multiple year renewals are cheerfully accepted. Include your email address if you would like to receive periodic emails on neighborhood issues and events. Some of the benefits of membership include the ability to vote on DRCA issues and Neighborhood Conservation projects, a quarterly newsletter, email updates and a copy of the soon-to-be-published DRCA Neighborhood Conservation report. Yes, you heard correctly. Our NC plan is currently in production and should be published this January.

We look forward to your support in the coming year, and please check out our web site at www.drca.org.

Ned W. Rhodes

Nominating Committee

Want to become more involved in your community? Interested in helping make your neighborhood an even better place to live? Consider joining the Executive Committee of the Donaldson Run Civic Association. DRCA is seeking nominations for Executive Committee members for 2002-2003. Officers and Board members serve two-year terms.

Elections will be held at the March civic association meeting. We are looking to add new, dynamic individuals to the Donaldson Run team. For more information, or to nominate yourself or a neighbor, contact Steve Grand at 703-807-5166.

Future Meetings

Please add these meeting dates to your calendar:
Tuesday, March 12, 2002- Elections
Tuesday, May 14, 2002- Agenda- TBA

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, January 29, 7:00 PM**

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

**Agenda: Proposed expansion of Metrorail
Guest speaker: Chris Zimmerman**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2002
Agenda: Elections, Vote on NCP project**

Bulletin Board policy

Recently, neighborhood bulletin boards were installed at the Vermont Street entrance to Taylor Park and at the N. Utah Street entrance to the Lee Heights Park. These bulletin boards were installed as result of DRCA's 2000 small park grant award. and DRCA has agreed to maintain them. To maintain an attractive appearance, the DRCA Executive Committee has adopted the following policy, which is consistent with the policies of other Arlington neighborhoods and with county ordinances.

All notices must be submitted to the DRCA contact person listed on the bulletin board or sent to bulletinboard@drca.org. Notices will be posted beneath the protective plexiglass. Any notices posted outside the plexiglass will be removed. Notices for yard, estate sales, political advertising, or paid services (e.g. gutter cleaning, tree work, etc.) will not be considered for posting.

**Please note: January meeting will
begin at 7:00 p.m.**