

The Current



The Newsletter of the Donaldson Run Civic Association

www.drca.org

WINTER/SPRING 2002

MARCH MEETING
Tuesday, March 19th**
7:30 PM

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

Agenda: Elections, NCP vote,
Military Road Bike Lane

**** Please note date change****

Minutes of January Meeting

A discussion of the proposed expansion of the area's Metrorail system, including an extension of the line to Dulles Airport and the possible addition of stations in Arlington County, topped the agenda at the January 29, 2002 meeting of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA).

DRCA President Peter Fallon introduced Arlington Transit Coordinator Jim Hamre, who outlined Metrorail's Core Capacity Study that addresses the long-term growth of the rail system. Hamre, who also serves as County Board President Chris Zimmerman's point man on mass transit, noted that Zimmerman is seeking citizen input by March 1, 2002, on the Metro expansion plan proposal. Mr. Zimmerman had originally planned to lead this discussion, but was unavailable due to a conflict with the Board's carryover meeting scheduled for the same time.

According to Hamre, the Metro study recommends extending the orange line to Dulles Airport and reconfiguring service through Rosslyn to increase ridership capacity. The plan also envisions the addition of up to three new stations in Arlington, possibly along the I-66 corridor. The new line, Hamre said, would also serve Tyson's Corner. The focus of Metro's Core Capacity Study was on relieving congestion and meeting ridership projections on the orange line, rather than adding new capacity to under-served areas of the region.

The proposed expansion plan would accommodate up to one million daily riders and would carry a pricetag of \$4.5 billion over the next 20 years. Hamre stressed that the proposal is still in the planning stages and that the study has not been endorsed or approved by the Arlington County Board. He urged citizens to share their thoughts with County Board members.

If you're interested in learning more about this proposal, just follow the link from the DRCA website (www.drca.org) to view the powerpoint slides used in the discussion. Since this proposal is in the initial planning stages, DRCA did not take a position on this proposal. Comments from audience members were favorable on the general concept of metro expansion.

On another Arlington transit issue, Hamre reported that the new Arlington Transit (ART) bus service, introduced on December 30, 2001, has attracted approximately 1,100 riders daily.

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

The service, offered in the Ballston, East Falls Church, and Crystal City corridors, supplements Metrobus service and features small, compressed natural gas (CNG) buses that are environmentally friendly. In response to a question from the audience, Hamre indicated that ART service may be added to Military Road by the end of 2002 to supplement reduced Metrobus service.

Following Hamre's presentation, Fallon introduced Officer Tim Brennan who is Donaldson Run's assigned officer under the Arlington Police Department's Community Policing program. Officer Brennan gave neighbors an overview of the current Arlington police manpower strengths (the department is currently about 30 percent understaffed) and a report on crime in the North Arlington area.

Brennan reported that manpower strengths are down in part because of the high standards of the Arlington Police Department. Often, Brennan said, it takes many months to hire an officer. With respect to neighborhood crime, Brennan noted that crime is low in North Arlington and mainly confined to auto break-ins, purse snatchings, and some home break-ins. Brennan advised neighbors to keep their homes and automobiles locked.

In general announcements, Fallon noted:

--The County Board has approved a three-year extension of the Voicestream/Sprint use permit for its antenna at the Lee Heights Pumping Station (see article, page 9);

--Arlington County has installed three community bulletin boards at the entrances to Donaldson Run's parks (awarded under the County's Small Parks program);

-- Recently Arlington County has been performing maintenance tasks in Zachary Taylor and Lee Heights Parks;

--Mike Green's Citizen Radar Watch program has been out and operating. Green reported that the program seems to be working; speeders were down by 50 percent at the last radar stakeout;

--Elections for 2002-2004 DRCA officers and board members will be held at the March meeting. Fallon urged anyone who was interested in running to contact Stephen Grand (703-807-5166), chairman of the nominating committee.

Volunteers Needed to Help With Neighborhood Day

May 11 is Neighborhood Day in Arlington County. DRCA celebrated Neighborhood Day for the first time last year when we dedicated our neighborhood signs and met lots of neighbors at the Taylor School Fair. We would like to build on last year's success. If you are interested in helping, please contact Anne Wilson at (703) 525-0344 or Anne_Wilson@appliedis.com

DRCA Elections

At the March 19th civic association meeting, residents will elect the members of the DRCA Board for a two-year term.



The proposed slate of officers is as follows:

President	Peter Fallon
1st VP	Anne Wilson
2nd VP	Laura Peralta-Schulte
Secretary	Helen Lane
Treasurer	Ned Rhodes
Director	Stephen Grand
Director	Mike Green
Director	Sherwin Landfield

Nominations also will be accepted from the floor. All dues-paying DRCA members are eligible to vote.

Stephen Grand

North Vermont Street NC Proposal Vote

A group of residents on North Vermont Street has presented a petition to the county seeking Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) funds for improvements along the stretch of road running from Old Dominion Drive to North Utah Street. Through the NCAC process, the county makes funds available to neighborhoods for high priority projects that enhance the physical environment and quality of life of a neighborhood. At the March 19th meeting, DRCA members will vote on whether to endorse the proposal.

The proposal would add concrete curb in sections where it is now missing and gutters on both sides of North Vermont, leaving the street approximately 36 feet in width with parking on both sides. The existing concrete sidewalks would be replaced where necessary and driveway aprons would be redone, with a planting strip left between sidewalk and curb. The conduits for lights -- but not the lights themselves -- would be installed on the west side of North Vermont Street.

DRCA members are encouraged to come discuss and vote on the North Vermont Street proposal at the March 19th meeting.

Stephen Grand

DRCA Meets with Marymount University Officials

On February 13, Anne Wilson, Ned Rhodes and Sherwin Landfield of the DRCA Executive Committee had an informative meeting with Marymount's president, Dr. James Bundschuh, and Dr. Linda McMahon, Vice President of Student Services. The purpose of the meeting was to continue a dialogue between the Civic Association and the University on areas of concern and interest and to review the Neighborhood Conservation Plan recommendations pertaining to Marymount.

Marymount will soon begin developing a strategic plan for the future, and Dr Bundschuh assured the DRCA representatives that the Civic Association would be involved early on when/if the school develops new campus construction projects. At this time, the school is well under the student cap that was established in 1992 when the parking garage was built. When asked about Marymount's landscape practices, the President reviewed the type of fertilizer treatments used on campus, stating that Marymount's landscape practices reflect "good stewardship of the land." The University will look into enhancing the landscaping adjacent to the parking garage. Marymount is aware of the complaints about litter on 26th Street, and their staff is cleaning this area on a daily basis. However, parked cars sometimes obscure the trash that is then revealed when the cars leave. It was suggested that the University consider installing a trash receptacle in that area.

Many activities at Marymount may be of interest to DRCA residents. Athletic events are inexpensive and open to the public. Their women's basketball team is currently ranked 25th in the country. Displays of art and a spring fashion show are ongoing events that are also open to the public. In the future, DRCA will publicize some of the many events at the University.

Anne Wilson

Membership Report

The financial state of the Association continues to be good as dues renewals are starting to pour in. I have over 96 renewals posted for the new year. Your current membership status can be found on the mailing label of this newsletter. We would like to thank the many residents who are taking advantage of multiple year renewals and those who have been generous with an additional contribution to the newsletter.

The big news is that the County has finally published our neighborhood conservation plan. We will mail a copy to all dues-paying members sometime this spring. I will have copies to distribute at the next meeting, so if you would like to pick up your copy and save us the postage, that would be great. Note that the conservation plan is also available as a Word, PDF or html document on our web site (follow the NCP link in the banner).

Currently our membership stands at 203 families out of the 947 homes to which we mail. Periodic DRCA emails concerning items of interest and meeting announcements are sent to 152 people. If you would like to be added to that list, simply email the webmaster@drca.org, and I will add your name. Please note that if you receive this newsletter, you are within the Donaldson Run Civic Association boundaries and we would love to have your support.

The web site (<http://www.drca.org>) continues to evolve. Stop by and give it a look.

Ned W. Rhodes
rhodesn@softsysgrp.com

Friends of Donaldson Run

A new group, Friends of Donaldson Run, met in January and February to discuss measures for enhancing the health of streams and parks in the Donaldson Run watershed. The group, which will meet again in March, is concerned with the entire watershed, from the sources of the streams all the way to the Potomac.

At the February meeting, Katherine Mull described the activities of Friends of Sugarland Run, a well-established group in Loudoun and Fairfax Counties. Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of possible projects for

Friends of Donaldson Run including volunteer activities and outreach efforts to bring problems to the attention of residents of the watershed. Special projects include stream monitoring and debris cleanup, working with neighborhood residents to reduce stream pollution and efforts to remove English ivy and other invasive species from the parks. Participants expressed particular interest in improving wildlife habitat in the streams and nearby wooded areas.

Larry Finch described the DRCA project to find ways to control erosion and stabilize stream banks in Taylor Park while minimizing the negative effects on the natural environment. Reaction to the project was favorable. The consensus reached at the February meeting was that Friends of Donaldson Run should work closely with Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT), and other organizations working for environmental improvement in Arlington.

The next meeting of Friends of Donaldson Run will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20, at The Church of the Covenant, 2666 Military Road. Everyone with an interest in preserving the health of streams and parks in the Donaldson Run watershed is urged to attend.

Larry Finch

Future Meetings

Please add these meeting dates to your calendar:

Tuesday, April 16, 2002--This is an additional meeting. Representatives from the Washington Golf and Country Club will give a presentation which will be followed by a legislative update by Senator Whipple and Delegate Brink.

Tuesday, May 14, 2002-- Agenda- "State of the Parks"

Meetings will begin at 7:30 p.m.

President's Letter

In the past few years, we have taken many steps to reinvigorate the Donaldson Run Civic Association. Regularly, I receive phone calls, emails, letters, and comments from people on the street complimenting DRCA for its hard work and success. Of course, I occasionally get some criticism, too. I share this feedback with the other executive committee members and we try to learn from it.

While a third of the households in the neighborhood contain dues-paying members, I'm often surprised that more people don't show their support by joining DRCA. Although not the "official problem solver" for the neighborhood, the DRCA tries to help people with neighborhood issues. The executive committee has always talked in terms of DRCA's service to "the overall neighborhood" rather than just "the members." We would like to see more of you join DRCA. Becoming a member is an important, yet easy way for each member of the community to make a contribution to DRCA's success.

Here is a sample of some of the responses I hear when I encourage people to join the DRCA. With an attempt at humor, I'll try to counter each point and share some of our philosophies.

I don't like to swim!

That's fine, we don't have a pool! The pool on Marcey Road is operated by the Donaldson Run Recreation Association (DRRA). We are not affiliated with DRRA, but many residents of DRCA are also members of the DRRA pool. Both organizations take their names from the local stream. Members of the pool may live within DRCA, but could also live within other civic associations located around Military Road.

I don't live in Donaldson Run, I live in "Lee Heights!"

Lee Heights and Broyhill Hills are two of the many subdivisions that make up the Donaldson Run Civic Association. The sub-division name was added to the official county land records at the time your lot was recorded by the original homebuilders. The subdivision name serves as part of the legal identifier of your property and

will remain on the Arlington County land records into perpetuity. The civic association is comprised of a larger area (over 950 homes in DRCA's case). Recently, neighborhood signs were installed at various entry points to the DRCA community.

If you are receiving this newsletter, you live within the Arlington County recognized boundaries of the Donaldson Run Civic Association and neighborhood conservation district. If you live on the edge of the neighborhood, you may also be receiving a complimentary copy of another civic association's newsletter.

Civic associations are always "against" something!

Granted, one of our roles is to act as a "watchdog" when there is a perceived threat to the community's quality of life. However, we certainly have matured beyond that narrow role in recent years. Our primary focus is on "neighborhood-building" activities. We're striving to move beyond the traditional view that the neighborhood is a collection of houses and to create an identity of a close-linked community of people with shared interests. We try to help the community come together and solve problems affecting many of us.

I don't want to be subject to a bunch of "rules!"

We are not a homeowners association. DRCA is one of Arlington County's recognized civic associations and has been a member of the Arlington County Civic Federation since at least 1954. Our members are not subject to any additional rules or covenants ("CCR's") restricting use of our properties beyond the Arlington County Code. In other words, you can paint your house any color you like. While we certainly encourage everyone in the community to maintain a well-kept house exterior and yard (otherwise it looks bad for all of us), we are not in the business of code enforcement.

I'm not the volunteering type.

That's fine, you don't have to be to join DRCA. If you want to become active, we can certainly find something for you to do. But, if you prefer not to get too involved, then we respect that, too.

I get the newsletter in my mail, so I must already be a member.

Not necessarily so! We send the newsletter to everyone in the community as a way to keep the community at-large aware of matters of mutual concern. To become a member, you need to complete a membership application (found on page 7) and pay annual dues (\$5 per person).

Please look at your mailing label to determine if you are a currently a member of DRCA. Volunteers walking every block of the community developed our mailing records, and the name on the mailing label reflects the last known member from that address. Once you complete a new member application, we'll update the mailing label so that your name appears on it.

I'm new to the neighborhood and don't know anyone yet.

Well, this is a great way to meet people!

I have other obligations on your meeting dates.

We realize that many people have standing commitments for their time. To that end, we've tried moving our meetings to different days of the week to enable more people to attend a meeting. We try to keep meetings informal and give everyone a chance to speak. Diversity of opinion, willingness to compromise, and respect for neighbors are encouraged. You don't have to come every time, but we'd like to see you every so often. Why not alternate DRCA meetings with a few of your neighbors? That way, we get to hear from someone on your street each time!

I don't need DRCA, I can speak for myself.

As well you should! DRCA does not represent individual residents in disputes with Arlington County. The civic association acts as a liaison with the county on matters of broader neighborhood concern or in matters involving multiple households. We share information and provide leadership when appropriate. We do not

become involved in disputes between individual neighbors.

I'd rather let others do the work.

Now, that's an honest answer! Fortunately, we have an active group of volunteers who have enabled DRCA to be involved in many things in the past few years. However, these volunteers could use your involvement. Please take a moment to think about what DRCA could accomplish if we had your help.

It's easy to join DRCA. Just complete the membership application included in this newsletter. For convenience, you can join for multiple years if you like. At a minimum, your membership will help cover the costs associated with printing and mailing your copy of the newsletter. DRCA members can also be part of an email list to receive monthly updates of civic association activities.

If you like, please share some of your interests on the membership application. We use this information to plan meeting programs and other activities. If you would like to become more involved, then we invite you to join one of our committees, help with our newsletter production, or help organize an activity. Your individual level of participation in DRCA is up to you, and we welcome whatever level of involvement you wish to offer.

Membership is open to homeowners and tenants. As the saying goes, "no salesman will call and there is no obligation to purchase." At the end of 2001, we had over 535 individual dues-paying members representing over a third of the houses in our community. Let's make that number even higher in 2002!

Again, I hope you will join DRCA, and I invite you to work with us to ensure that our community remains a great place to live.

Peter Fallon
President

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	528-4593
	(Nanny)	525-8509
	Audrey Soffer(15)	
Pet Sitting	Blythe Apple	243-3837
	Riley Baldus	527-5333
	Beverly Jones	528-4593
	Audrey Soffer	525-8509
House Sitting	Blythe Apple	243-3837
	Riley Baldus	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 anne_wilson@appliedis.com.

Water Tower Antenna Report

For the last four years, DRCA has received a copy of the measurements of the radio frequency (RF) fields near the Lee Pumping Station made on behalf of Sprint PCS as a condition of its use permit. The emissions are measured just outside the pumping station fence, at 24th, 25th, Wakefield, Vernon and Woodrow Streets as well at Wakefield Court.

The magnitude of RF exposure measured this year was higher than that measured in 2001, but similar in magnitude to that measured in 1999. All recorded measurements have been substantially below the exposure permitted by the FCC's 1997 standard for the general population. The measurements show that the antennas and transmitters have an average output of less than 12% of the allowable energy set by the FCC standard, running from a peak low of 2.5% to a peak high of 12.3% of the allowable standard. DRCA will continue to monitor the tests performed each year and I will be posting the reports from the last four years on the web site (<http://www.drca.org>) in the near future.

Ned W. Rhodes
rhodesn@softsysgrp.com

DRCA Park Project Approved

At its February 23 meeting, the Arlington County Board approved funds for 13 projects under the Neighborhood Conservation program, including \$212,500 for park projects proposed by DRCA (see Fall '01 newsletter). Some of the DRCA projects are directed toward environmental goals while others are intended to make the parks safer and more user-friendly.

Projects include:

- engaging a consultant to study stream hydrology and erosion, the first step in an erosion control and stream restoration project in Taylor Park. Project design will take into account the need for operating in a wooded park with limited access for heavy equipment.
- planting trees in areas where mature trees have been lost, including an area near the Utah St. entrance to Taylor Park, along the bike path above Vernon St., and along an abandoned construction road on a steep hillside in Taylor Park.
- replacing two bridges along the bike path and two pedestrian bridges along the nature trail in Taylor Park with safer, more attractive bridges. A new pedestrian bridge will be built in Lee Heights Park to link two sections of the park separated by the stream valley. These bridges will be designed to fit their natural setting.
- building entrance gateways, with appropriate landscaping, at the park entrances at 26th St, Utah St, and Military Road. Aging guardrails at

the Vernon Street and Vermont Street entrances will be replaced.

Larry Finch

**Taylor Elementary Fair,
Saturday, May 11, 2002
11am to 3pm
Volunteers of all ages needed
Call : Mona Steffen
703-465-1354**

Volunteer Opportunities

- The Arlington County Fire Department is looking for volunteers to assist in its new Child Safety Seat program. Two volunteers will be in charge of helping set up, greet parents, and assist during the safety checks for about 3 hours on Tuesday evenings. The checks will be held at the local Fire Stations.

Please contact the Arlington County Volunteer Office at 703-228-1760 for more information on these and other volunteer opportunities.

A Cappella



Come hear Yorktown High School's Madrigals, Washington & Lee High School's Madrigals, H-B Woodlawn's Chamber Singers, and The Overtones from James Madison University on Saturday, March 16th at 7 PM at the auditorium at Yorktown High School (entrance on Yorktown Boulevard). Ticket prices are \$3 in advance and \$4 at the door. Contact the Yorktown Choral Department at 703-228-5369 for more information.

- Meals on Wheels is recruiting 2-member volunteer teams to drive and deliver meals to homebound persons. Help is needed weekdays, once a month or more from 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.
- The Arlington Public Schools Partner in Education Program is recruiting tutors and lunch buddies to help students of all ages during the school day.

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 Activities Group
Holds Initial Meeting**

The Donaldson Run interest survey netted a good response from neighbors wanting to participate in various leisure and community activities. As a follow up to the survey, there was an organizational meeting for all who signed up for activities on March 5. The pur-pose of the meeting was to get the groups organ-ized and give participants an opportunity to meet each other.

New leisure activities include a book club, a gardening group, a mothers' club, a walking group, a bridge group and an athletic activity group. New community activities include a welcome to the neighborhood committee, an events committee, a community service committee and a yard sale committee. The survey also produced new support for existing Association community activities, such as the parks committee, the traffic committee and the speed watch group.

Membership in the groups is open to all Donaldson Run residents. Those who would

like to join should contact Laura Peralta-Schulte at 703-812-8580 or laura.ps@starpower.net for further information. You can also complete the full interest survey that is available on the internet at http://www.drca.org/interest_survey.htm

Laura Peralta-Schulte

Lee Pumping Station update

Cellular phone antennas were installed on the Lee Heights water tower in 1995. Sprint and Voicestream operate the equipment under a county-approved use permit, which was renewed by the Arlington County Board on Saturday, January 26, 2002.

At DRCA's request the existing use permit conditions will remain in force and the new term will not exceed three years. For a copy of the county staff's recommendation to the County Board and the use permit conditions, please see <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/cbo/meetings/2002/6c7.pdf>.

Peter Fallon

Donaldson Run Civic Association
C/o Ned Rhodes, Treasurer
2749 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22207

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**This is your Neighborhood Newsletter
See page 2 for Civic Assoc. information**

**DRCA Meeting
Tuesday, March 19th 7:30PM**

**Taylor Elementary School
2600 N. Stuart Street
Agenda: Elections, Military Road Bike Lane,
NCP project vote**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 16, 2002
Agenda: Meeting with representatives of the
Washington Golf & Country Club, Legislative update with
Senator Whipple & Delegate Brink**

Potomac Overlook Regional Park

Saturday, April 20, 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. - "Key Chain Hike" This 9 mile hike proceeds from the park, down Donaldson Run to the Potomac River and then downstream to Key Bridge. Across Key Bridge, the route continues up the C&O Canal to and across Chain Bridge. The last leg of the journey is down-river to Donaldson Run and back up to the park. Hikers should expect easy to fairly difficult terrain and should bring a lunch and drink. Hikers must be at least 12 years old.

Sunday, April 21, 2 p.m. - Bull Run Wildflower Walk (at Bull Run Regional Park). The woods make an exclamation of delight with over a hundred acres of bluebells, spring beauties, and a number of other wildflowers. No reservations are required for this popular 1 ½ mile walk.

Sunday, May 5, 1-4 p.m. - The 17th annual Potomac Overlook Regional Park Open House and Heritage Festival. This is our annual "big event" with food, music, and activities for all ages.

For more information, please call 703-528-5406.