



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

August 2003

## **Lorcom Lane URD Proposal Approved by DRCA and County Board**

**-Peter Fallon**

On July 19, 2003, the county board voted 4-1 to approve the unified residential development (URD) application for the 2.6 acre tract at Lorcom Lane and Randolph Street. A partnership of Potomac Custom Builders and JL Albrightain Companies will build 14 single-family homes on this site. DRCA devoted most of the April, May, and June civic association meetings to this topic, facilitated two worksessions with the developers and requested a site tour to focus on use permit conditions and to resolve outstanding issues with the community. Residents from three dozen nearby households and representatives of Saint Andrew's Church participated in this process.

During the planning commission hearing, the developers were criticized for not working with the community in a collaborative manner throughout the URD process. This message was also communicated by the county board during its discussion of the URD. In the final days before the county board hearing, the developers agreed to limit the "total combined footprint" (houses and driveways) under the URD proposal to no greater than what was permissible under "by-right" construction. This concession, while still keeping 14 houses, reduced the aggregate footprint for the site by over 2400 square feet. Additionally, by reducing the footprint, the setbacks from North Randolph Street and the distances between some houses were increased slightly.

The URD will create a new cul-de-sac off Lorcom Lane, rather than open North 23rd Street, to access the lots at the rear of the property. The North 23rd Street right-of-way, combined with an outlot, will remain as a natural wooded area. DRCA has initiated the process to request an abandonment of the right-of-way and removal of North 23rd Street from the county's master transportation plan to ensure the street is not built at a future date. More information on this process will be included in future newsletters.

Under the URD, the outlot adjacent to the North 23rd Street right-of-way was deeded to Arlington County at no cost. The county accepted the land without restrictive covenants to be used in a manner consistent with park space. Under the by-right option, a small house could have been built on this location. Many community participants in this process believed that saving the outlot for open space was a key benefit of the URD proposal.

The developer agreed to install (without public expense) a new curb, gutter, and sidewalk along North Randolph Street, which will remain a one-way street. At the request of the community, the county board has further limited the allowable hours of construction and has prohibited construction on Sundays.

A large white oak tree (50" diameter) will be preserved along with other mature trees around the perimeter of the property. A new homeowners association (HOA), composed of the 14 property owners, will own the tree in

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# Prior Meetings Report

## -Theresa Fallon

Following is an overview of the April, May and June Donaldson Run Civic Association meetings. For the most up-to-date information, see specific articles throughout the newsletter.

Topics discussed at the April 23 meeting were the Cherrydale fire station relocation (see page 3), Neighborhood Day (see page 4), and the Vadja property on Lorcom Lane (see front page). State Senator Mary Margaret Whipple and Delegate Bob Brink were present for a legislative update.

The May 21 meeting of the DRCA featured further discussion of development plans for the Vadja property. The second agenda item was a presentation of homeowner responsibilities under the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance.

The DRCA last met on June 21, 2003 and the main topic of discussion was the Lorcom Lane Uniform Residential Development (URD) proposal.

DRCA President Peter Fallon opened the June meeting with an update on the Fire Station Relocation Task Force's proposal for locations to be recommended to the county board for moving the Cherrydale fire station from its present site. The recommendation for three viable sites is due to the county board in late August.

A brief discussion also was held on the efforts of several neighbors, supported by DRCA, to request enforcement by the county of the Chesapeake Bay Ordinance for a house on Beechwood Circle. The matter is currently pending a decision by the county board, which recently received a petition signed by neighbors to limit the footprint of the property. The civic association was unanimous in its support of the neighbors' petition.

The Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed (FDRW) submitted a small parks grant to the county for wildflowers to be planted at park entrances in the neighborhood. The civic association unanimously passed a motion to support the FDRW in its efforts to secure the grant.

The status of the Lorcom Lane URD was discussed. It was noted that the planning commission would be

*The Current* is published several times a year and is distributed free of charge to all households in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area. DRCA, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization, administered by elected volunteers. The DRCA promotes information sharing and discussion on neighborhood, local, and regional issues. DRCA is not affiliated with any political or religious group or with the Donaldson Run Recreation Association that operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School (2600 North Stuart Street) from September through May. Follow this newsletter for meeting dates. Only dues paying DRCA residents are eligible to vote. DRCA boundaries are: Military Road on the east (including Marcey Road, North 26th Street, North 25th Place, and North Ridgeview Road); 26th/31st Street on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including North Randolph and 27th Streets, south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

### **DRCA Board**

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

discussing the URD proposal at its meeting on July 7, and that the county board hearing on the URD was scheduled for July 19.

The developer, Potomac Custom Builders, presented revised plans for the property, which reflected consideration of some of the neighbors' concerns. County staff members Marsha Smith and Luis Araya and Planning Commissioner Pamela Gillen were on hand to help answer questions about the county's URD process and the property.

Although there were some outstanding concerns regarding the updated URD, a motion to support the URD was approved with a vote of 14 in favor and six opposed.

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# Cherrydale Fire Station Taskforce To Make Recommendations in August

-Laura Peralta-Schulte

The Cherrydale Fire Station taskforce will vote August 11, 2003 to pick three preferred sites for relocation of the Cherrydale station. The locations under consideration include sites where the following businesses currently operate: Brown's Honda, Koons' Toyota, the 7-11 on North Pollard, Progressive Cleaners, and the Cherrydale Plaza Station. The Bromptons property is also on the list, but county officials have already indicated that the site is not a viable alternative. Operational considerations as outlined by the county's fire fighting staff will drive the decision.

The summer schedule precludes the DRCA from holding a membership meeting to discuss the issue. As an alternative, the Donaldson Run executive committee will meet in early August to develop a position. The committee will use feedback received from previous civic association meetings related to the issue as guidance. If you have a specific concern or recommendation regarding any of the sites under consideration, please forward them to any member of the committee.

Once the top three sites are chosen, the taskforce chair will deliver a report to the county board in mid-August detailing the taskforce's choices. The board will then make a final relocation determination in the fall. It is expected that the board will attempt to choose one of the sites preferred by the taskforce.

## Arlington Outdoor Summer Events

Sunset Parades at the Iwo Jima Memorial  
Tuesdays, 7 p.m., through August 19.  
Call (202) 433-6060 for more information.

Netherlands Carillon Concerts  
Saturdays 6-8 p.m., through August 30.  
Call (703) 289-2500 for more information.

## November Election Information

As a non-partisan civic association, DRCA does not endorse candidates for election. However, we do encourage all residents to register to vote and to participate in elections.

In order to vote in the November 4, 2003 general election, you must be registered or update your address by Monday, October 6. If you are already registered and have not moved, you do not need to register again.

For more information, visit the County Board of Elections website at:  
[www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/election.htm](http://www.co.arlington.va.us/voters/election.htm) or call (703) 228-3456.

### FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

#### Wednesday, September 24

Agenda:

- 1) Annual update from Parks and Recreation Department
- 2) Traffic light proposal for Old Dominion Drive at Wakefield Street (DPW)

#### Wednesday, October 22

Agenda:

Annual Candidates Night

Note: This meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

#### Wednesday, November 19

Agenda: To be determined

#### December, 2003

No meeting planned

Note: All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the first grade pod of Taylor School unless otherwise noted.

## **Make Your Street More Appealing and Safe**

**-Anne Wilson**

For anyone interested in making their street more attractive in a way that also enhances traffic calming and pedestrian safety, I encourage you to look at a couple of projects near our neighborhood: the landscaped triangle at the corner of 25th Road at Florida Street (one block off George Mason Drive), and the traffic circle on Edison Street between Yorktown Boulevard and Little Falls Street. There is funding available to pursue such projects through the county's Neighborhood Conservation Program. If you live on a wide street or intersection, and are interested in exploring whether your street might qualify for such an improvement, contact Anne Wilson at [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org) or at (703) 525-0344.

## **DRCA Neighborhood Day a Success**

**-Anne Wilson**

DRCA joined other Arlington County groups in the fun and festive Neighborhood Day celebrations that took place on May 10 despite rainy weather. Many children and a few adults participated in our trivia contest at Taylor School. DRCA representatives were available to discuss the hot neighborhood topics of the day, most notably the URD proposal for the Vadja property. (For information about the status of this project, see page 1.)

The DRCA Pet Brigade made its debut in the Arlington County parade. We had some very handsome dogs and a contingent of cute children dressed up as animals. Although it did rain on our parade, it was great fun to meet neighbors and experience the diverse entertainment at the parade including a barbershop singing group, mariachi bands, and groups lobbying for both sides of the stadium issue. Next year, DRCA hopes to improve and expand these activities, and you are all welcome to become involved and join in the fun.

## **Sidewalk Stories**

**-Peter Fallon**

There are a number of sidewalk projects going on in the Donaldson Run community. Here is a brief update:

### **4000 and 4100 block of Lorcom Lane:**

As part of the roadway project, the Department of Public Works (DPW) constructed or replaced sidewalks in these blocks. Traffic nubs were included to encourage traffic calming. The road project is to be completed this summer and speed indicators will be installed afterwards.

### **North Randolph Street (between Lorcom Lane and North 23rd Street):**

As part of the URD approval, the developer will be required to install a sidewalk along one side of Randolph Street. The sidewalk will be paid for by the developer.

### **Vermont Street (between Old Dominion Drive and North Utah Street):**

This curb, gutter, and sidewalk project was approved last year under the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) program. Although the project is behind schedule, the county has contracted with an engineering firm to complete the design work. A block meeting to review the final design is expected to take place later in 2003.

### **North 25th Road (off Military Road):**

The block's petition for curb, gutter, and sidewalk was endorsed by DRCA and approved by the NCAC. The project will move forward and the residents will be contacted by the county to review the final project design and implementation schedule later in 2003.

### **4200 block of North 25th Street:**

Due to the proximity to Taylor Elementary School, the county has initiated a curb, gutter, and sidewalk project under the "Safe Routes to School Program." There is opposition to the project among residents of this street. DPW will provide an updated design to the residents in September 2003.

Anyone interested in having a sidewalk constructed along his or her street should contact DPW for more information on how to proceed.

## **West Nile Virus Found in Donaldson Run**

This June the first known human case of West Nile virus in Donaldson Run was documented. County and state officials are currently monitoring the situation and have advised all residents to take steps outlined below to prevent new cases.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-borne virus that can cause encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or meningitis (inflammation of the lining of the brain or spinal cord) in humans or other animals. The virus appeared for the first time in the U.S. during a 1999 outbreak in New York that killed seven people. The first human case of the virus in Virginia appeared in 2002.

In areas where West Nile has been detected, only a small proportion of mosquitos are likely to be infected. Most people bitten by an infected mosquito do not become sick. Less than one percent of people who are infected become seriously ill. Ten to fifteen percent of those seriously ill die.

Symptoms generally appear three to fourteen days after exposure. People over age 50 are at greater risk of severe illness. Mild symptoms include slight fever, headache, body aches, swollen glands and a rash. Severe symptoms include high fever, intense headache, stiff neck and confusion.

The public can help state and local officials monitor for the virus by reporting dead crows, bluejays and birds of prey to their local health department. Selected birds will be tested. Birds must be tested within 24 hours of death or they become too decomposed.

Residents should take steps to control mosquitoes from breeding around their homes by removing all containers where rainwater collects, such as potted plant trays, buckets and toys. Eliminate all standing water from gutters, roofs and stairs. Finally, protect your family by wearing long, loose, light-colored clothing, using bug repellent or by staying inside when mosquitoes are biting.

## **Arlington County Farmer's Markets**

Arlington Farmer's Market - Saturdays 8 a.m. to noon, at North Courthouse Road and North 14th Street.

Columbia Pike Market - Sundays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Eck erd Park, corner of Co lumbia Pike and Walter Reed Dr .

## **Neighborhood Conservation News**

- Ned W. Rhodes

The June meeting of the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) is called the Summer Funding Meeting because it is when we consider which projects to recommend for funding from the Neighborhood Conservation Bond. For the first time in the three years I have been involved with the program, the committee agreed to fund every neighborhood's first priority project. This meant that 23 projects were funded for a total cost of about \$2.9 million dollars.

The projects included neighborhood signs, curb, gutter, sidewalk, street light, parks and beautification projects. Included with these recommended projects was the curb, gutter, sidewalk and street light project on 25th Road, which is Donaldson Run's third NC project. The estimated time to complete these NC projects is projected to be between two and three years under the best of circumstances, but because of the increased amount of the Neighborhood Conservation bond, the NCAC has been able to fund more projects. This, in turn, has overloaded the small NC staff and is resulting in project delays of a year or more. The NCAC is addressing these delays with the County staff, and we are looking at contracting out more of the design process as well as hiring additional staff to assist in implementation. For now, all we can do is wait for sufficient resources to free up to start our projects.

The next step in the process is for the list of recommended projects to go before the County Board at a Fall meeting for final funding approval. The next NCAC funding round is scheduled for December, so now is the time to get the ball rolling if your block would like to initiate a Neighborhood Conservation project. Check our web site ([www.DRCA.org](http://www.DRCA.org)) under the NCP section for the details on how an idea becomes a project or contact an Executive Committee member for additional information.

# Lee Heights in Transition to What?

-Lori Huffman

The imposing peak of a roof pierces the tree canopy across the street, crowning a huge two story home created from the wreckage of a decrepit brick rambler. A builder bought the house for less than \$200,000, razed it to the foundation, erected in its footprint a show-house that dwarfs its neighbors, and sold it for over \$700,000. Some area home owners are raising the roofs on their own one-story homes to gain living space while keeping the amenities of our close-in neighborhood; but frequently it is a builder who purchases these modest properties to construct mammoth houses that are priced way out of the reach of most of the neighborhood's current residents.

The attic window to the right of my computer frames my next-door neighbor's "Sold" sign. It is one of four houses sold in the last month within a two block radius. All have sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars more than their sellers paid for them as recently as the real estate "bust" years of the 1990's. Our Lee Heights neighborhood of modest brick one and two-story post WWII homes (just a hop, skip and a jump from all those government jobs across the river) is in transition. But to what?

When we moved from Capitol Hill six years ago, it was after years of combing the Maryland and Virginia suburbs for a neighborhood we could afford that gave us a settled feel. We had toured the tract mansions off the beltway, admired their cavernous rooms and modern touches, and decided that the lifestyle they projected did not fit us.

The Arlington house we ended up buying felt right. Much smaller than most of the houses we had trooped through with our ever-hopeful realtor, it was the one that felt like and looked like home. And the commute seemed much more humane than from Silver Spring or Fairfax.

Six years later our house looks the same, but the neighborhood around it does not. Every large, privately owned parcel of land within a mile of us has been scooped up by developers; the older homes that once presided over ample yards demolished; and from three to a dozen million dollar homes

built or planned where one or two sat before; huge homes with little or no yard. Our formerly eclectic neighborhood of ramblers, colonials, and split levels shaded by towering trees and connected by narrow, winding roads, is taking on a schizophrenic appearance.

Remodeling and expanding are normal in a neighborhood that people want to stay in. A good remodeling breathes new life into older homes. But I cringe when a home is flattened to erect something ostentatious in comparison, and am more deeply saddened by the gobbling up of green space at the expense of venerable oaks and magnolias.

Builders cannot be faulted for building gorgeous homes that people will pay inordinate sums to own. But why must these trophy homes be shoehorned into placid and already snug neighborhoods? Do builders construct modestly priced housing anymore? The implication is that those of us in three bedroom homes have somehow not obtained the American Dream of bigger, better, more. Yet these homes were the American Dream of our parents' generation.

A house is not a permanent structure. A hundred year old house is an oddity, around here anyway. It's unrealistic to envision our neighborhood unchanged years from now. It is the middle class character of the area that I will mourn.

*Lori Huffman is a Donaldson Run resident. Any responses to this article are welcomed and should be directed to the editor at [mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org).*

## Summer Concert Schedule

Lovely Potomac Overlook Regional Park is the setting for Saturday evening concerts through the rest of the summer. Bring the family and a picnic dinner and enjoy the sounds of a variety of musicians. All concerts begin at 7 p.m.

**August 16** - Blue Steel (blues)

**August 30** - The Mountain Fever Band (bluegrass and "old country")

**September 13** - Vocal Express (vocal ensemble)

## Looking for Professional Help Around the House?

If you have had a good experience with a professional who has worked for you and you'd like to let others in the neighborhood know about it, please email the editor at [mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org).

### Concrete/Stone work

Universal Stone (703) 644-7777, referred by Anne Wilson, 525-0344

### Housecleaning

Vivian Villarroel (703) 256-0973, referred by Connie Sorrentino, 528-2551

Professional Housecleaning Services, managed by Alba Isabel, (703) 928-9089, referred by Rob Jones, 276-0545

Mercedes Roldan, (703) 243-2962, referred by Laura Jackson, 312-0541

Aida Sales (703) 273-6140, referred by Nedji Ellsworth, 243-4329

### Landscaping and Yardwork

Andrew Preziosi (703) 525-6170, referred by Leslie Curley, 243-9459

TP Lawn Service, owned and operated by Tuan Phan (703) 569-4433 or cell 571-243-8737, referred by Connie Sorrentino, 528-2551

Jose Sales (703) 273-6140, referred by Nedji Ellsworth, 243-4329

### Painting

Gerardo Ayala (703) 256-0997, referred by Robert Cooper, 469-2242

## Need a Job Done? Hire a Neighbor!

### Babysitting

- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Beverly Jones, 528-4593
- Anna Raven-Hansen, 8 41-1787

### Car Washing

- Mike Cassidy, 465-1685

### Housesitting

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604
- Anna Raven-Hansen, 841-1787

### Lawn Mowing

- Mike Cassidy, 465-1685

### Odd Jobs

- Riley Baldus, 527-5333

### Petsitting

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Mike Cassidy, 465-1685
- Anna Raven-Hansen, 8 41-1787
- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922

### Snow Removal

- Mike Cassidy, 465-1685

*If you or someone you know would like to be added to this list, please send an email to [mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org)*

**Do you have notice of a community event that you would like posted on one of Donaldson Run's kiosks?**

**Contact Maxine Nagel or Alan Kolic at (703) 524-5093 or by email at [jkolick@aol.com](mailto:jkolick@aol.com)**

# New County Emergency Alert System

The Community Alert System is a real-time text messaging service that allows people who live or work in Arlington to receive emergency and public safety alerts on mobile devices including cell phones, pagers, and personal digital assistants and to e-mail addresses.

Alerts will be sent by Arlington's Emergency Communications staff. Types of alerts include life safety, fire, severe weather, or disaster notification alerts. The alert will provide information on what happened and where to go for more information (i.e., "Chemical accident @ I-395 and Glebe Road. Avoid area." or "Severe weather storm warning. Tune to TV/radio.")

Registration is free of charge and completely voluntary. The service does not replace existing public safety warning methods also used by the County.

To register go to [www.arlingtonalert.com](http://www.arlingtonalert.com). Create an account and register your email, cell phone, pager, blackberry device or PDA. Choose a password that is easy for you to remember. Complete the registration form. You will find a link on the County's home page as well.  
<http://www.co.arlington.va.us>

# Water Storage Tank Project

-Larry Finch

At the March DRCA meeting, a representative of the Department of Public Works reviewed plans to restore two buried tanks near the water tower. These large tanks have been in service since 1958 and are in need of major repairs. In addition, valves and underground piping must be replaced. An automatic control valve that has repeatedly malfunctioned and diverted water into Donaldson Run also will be replaced.

This project is now getting underway, and one of the first tasks will be to excavate around the tanks to

get access for repairing them. Retaining walls will be required for the excavations, and those living near the site probably will hear the sounds of the pile-driver as steel pilings are driven into the ground to support the retaining walls. This work is scheduled to be done between the hours of 7 a.m. and 6 p.m.

The plan is to keep one tank in use at all times, but some decrease in water pressure and minor service interruptions may occur. The entire project should be completed in about one year.

# Prior Meetings Report

(continued from page 2)

The motion passed was:  
*By ballot, the DRCA general membership supports the proposed URD with the conditions listed in the draft staff report for the 4014 Lorcom Lane properties. The DRCA membership requests that the continued concerns of the nearby property owners along Lorcom Lane, North Randolph Street, and North 23rd Street be balanced and accommodated through additional reasonable use permit conditions in the final URD approved by the county board.*

Peter Fallon provided several other updates during the meeting:

- o State authorities have completed their study of the run-off problem from last summer that occurred at the Washington Golf and Country Club (WGCC). According to Arlington County, the State is currently in negotiations with the WGCC over appropriate actions based on its study.
- o The construction along Lorcom Lane at Randolph Street is scheduled to be completed later this summer, pending additional utility work.
- o DRCA meetings will resume in September, and candidates' night will be scheduled for October. See page three for meeting dates .

**The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School**

# Traffic Calming Report

-Anne Wilson

Although progress has been slow, due in part to the bad winter and wet spring, members of the Traffic Calming Committee are hopeful that their ongoing collaboration with the county will eventually result in improvement to some areas of the neighborhood. The county did implement the committee's suggestion to slightly shorten a parking zone, thereby improving visibility for pedestrians crossing 26th Street at the bike path. This part of the street has been repaved, and the crosswalk should be repainted soon. Other traffic calming news includes:

**Crosswalk at Military by Taylor Park:** County staff has agreed to pedestrian improvements at the Military Road crosswalk by Taylor Park. This work will be part of the project to replace the culvert that runs under Military Road in this area. The work is scheduled to begin in late summer.

**Military Road /Lorcom Lane intersection:** After meeting with several members of the Traffic Calming Committee and walking around this intersection on a very cold day in January, county staff agreed that having designated left turn lanes might be helpful to traffic flow and feasible at this intersection. Further analysis is needed before changes can be made.

**26th/31st Street:** The Arterial Transportation Management Study is finally getting off the ground, and the first meeting of the committee overseeing the study is scheduled for July 24. It is hoped that DRCA will have representation on this committee. Since 26th/31st Street is designated as a minor arterial by the county, any improvements to control traffic on this street are subject to rules that the county has established for arterial roads.

**Vacation Lane/Lorcom Lane intersection:** Despite repeated efforts to establish a neighborhood-county staff work group to begin looking at the traffic and pedestrian issues at this intersection, a first meeting has yet to be scheduled. The ball is in the county's court, where it has been since last March.

If you have any comments or want to get involved in DRCA's traffic calming efforts, contact [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org).

# Stream Restoration Study to Begin in August

-Larry Finch

The Donaldson Run Civic Association received Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee funding in 2001 for a major project in neighborhood parks. One element of that project – and the first to be implemented – relates to stream restoration. The project provided funds to hire a consultant to study Donaldson Run in order to identify potential stream improvements which function to control erosion and improve water quality and in-stream habitat. The project will focus on the portion of the stream flowing through Lee Heights and Zachary Taylor parks.

During a county-wide stream inventory conducted in 1999, the segment of Donaldson Run within Zachary Taylor Park was identified as one of the highest priority locations for stream restoration because of the significant degradation of the streambed and streambanks and the high potential for restoration.

County staff and a representative of DRCA recently reviewed proposals for the project, and a consultant has been selected. The review team chose Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., an experienced firm that has completed many other stream restoration projects in Northern Virginia. Arlington County is providing additional funding from its watershed management program for the effort.

Fieldwork for the project, including surveys and measurements of the stream channel, will begin in early August. During the first two weeks in August, residents may see members of the consultant team and county staff conducting measurements in the stream. The field data that is collected from the Donaldson Run stream corridor and drainage basin will be used in conjunction with existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data and maps to create some proposed conceptual designs for the restoration project.

In early November, the county and DRCA will host a community workshop to gather public input on the initial proposed conceptual designs. Residents

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# **Board Approves Traffic Calming Projects**

## **Totaling \$706,000**

### **More than 100 Traffic Calming Projects Planned; 36 Projects Approved Since 2001**

The Arlington County Board recently approved recommendations for six new traffic calming projects totaling \$706,000. The approved projects affect eight civic association neighborhoods and approximately 11,294 vehicles each day. The projects are part of a larger program that includes more than 100 traffic calming projects countywide.

"This is an example of the Board responding to requests from the community to slow traffic, making neighborhoods safer for pedestrians and children," said Arlington County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson.

Traffic calming projects have been approved for:

- South Kenmore Street between Walter Reed Drive and Shirlington Road (Nauck Civic Association);
- North Irving Street between 10th Street North and North Pershing Drive (Lyon Park and Ashton Heights Civic Associations);
- 8th Street South between South George Mason Drive and South Glebe Road (Alcova Heights Citizens Association);
- North Florida Street between North George Mason Drive and 26th Street North (Yorktown Civic Association);
- North Kensington Street between 8th Road North and North Carlin Springs Road (Bluemont Civic Association) and
- North Lexington Street between Patrick Henry Drive and 18th Street North (Westover and Tara-Leeway Civic associations).

The projects, recommended by the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Committee (NTCC), consist of several measures, including nubs, speed cushions, speed humps, textured gateways with crosswalks and textured raised crosswalks.

Money to fund the projects will come from the Street, Highway and Community Conservation Bond under the Neighborhood Traffic Calming program.

NTCC is a citizen advisory group appointed by the Board in 1999 to support the vision of Arlington as an "urban village" by reducing the impact of vehicular traffic and improving pedestrian and bicyclist safety within and around neighborhood areas in Arlington County. Twice a year the NTCC makes recommendations to the Arlington County Board. Since NTCC's inception, the Board has approved funding for 36 traffic calming projects.

#### **Arlington's Public Community Process**

The NTCC makes recommendations to the County Board about traffic calming projects. Before the NTCC makes its recommendations, each project must meet adopted criteria, go through a community plan development process and have substantial community support.

Resources are focused on neighborhood streets that have the most severe problems in terms of traffic speed, volume, accidents, and are in close proximity to public and private facilities. During the past year, Arlington received requests for traffic calming assistance from residents of 28 different streets. For each request, staff collects traffic data, evaluates conditions and prioritizes each one. A priority-ranked list currently contains 94 locations that qualify for traffic calming. Later this summer, the NTCC will select the next four to five streets to receive assistance.

## **Volunteer Opportunities**

**Argus House Boys Group Home** near the Rosslyn metro station is operated by the local juvenile court. The home needs volunteers to tutor residents, assist case managers, perform clerical tasks, and/or maintain the facility. Flexible hours and days, a minimum commitment of four months. Volunteers must undergo a criminal background check. Contact Rick Strobach, Group Home Manager, at (703) 228-0422 or [rstrob@co.arlington.va.us](mailto:rstrob@co.arlington.va.us)

**Inova VNA Home Health** is recruiting volunteers to provide companionship to lonely, homebound patients. Volunteers are asked to spend one to two hours a week talking with a patient, running errands, and doing odd jobs. Visiting can be done during daytime, evenings, or weekends. Training provided, placements based on geographic preferences. Contact Adele Jenney at (703) 916-2882 or [adele.jenney@inova.com](mailto:adele.jenney@inova.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 one)

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

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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (please show name of each paying member)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to **Donaldson Run Civic Association.**

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

## Membership Update

- Ned Rhodes

Please check the mailing label on the last page of this newsletter to verify your Donaldson Run Civic Association membership status. You may fill out the membership application above, or find one on our website at [www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org). Dues are only \$5 per person per year and the membership year is the calendar year. The money goes to support the newsletter (published four to five times a year and sent to every household within the DRCA boundaries), our Neighborhood Day activities, and our general membership meetings. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

### New to the Neighborhood? Let Us Know Who You Are!

Contact Anne Wilson (703- 525-0344 ) or Laura Peralta-Schulte (703- 812-8580 ), two Donaldson Run residents who will welcome you to the neighborhood and help answer any questions you have.

## Gulf Branch Nature Center Programs

### BLACKSMITHS' OPEN FORGE

**Saturday, August 16, Noon-4:00 p.m.**

All ages. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Join the Blacksmiths' Guild of the Potomac as members use fire and muscle to form raw materials into useful tools and beautiful objects. Free. No reservations needed.

### NIGHT HIKE IN THE SUMMER WOODS

**Saturday, August 23.** Upon registration you will be assigned a specific time slot between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. to begin your guided circuit hike.

Bring the family and join us for a nighttime hike through the forest. We'll use all of our senses in a search for nocturnal animals and the other hidden wonders of nature after dark. Bring a flashlight and be ready to walk quietly through the woods. Before or after your hike, join us inside the nature center for some light refreshments, a special prize, and, of course, to wish the owl "goodnight!" \$5 fee. Reservations required.

**Gulf Branch Nature Center is located at 3608 North Military Road in Arlington. Phone 703-228-3403 for more information.**

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

## **DRCA Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 24, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod**  
**2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda: Annual update from Parks and Recreation Department  
and  
Department of Public Works presentation on the traffic light  
proposal for Old Dominion Drive at Wakefield Street**

## **Stream Restoration Project**

(continued from page 9)

will meet the consultant team and have an opportunity to evaluate the designs and provide comments on them.

The stream restoration work is expected to be completed late next year. That means other phases of the DRCA Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee project, including construction of new bridges and entrance gateways, should get underway early in 2005.

For more information on the project, please check Arlington County's website at: [www.co.arlington.va.us](http://www.co.arlington.va.us). You may also call Larry Finch at (703) 528-6349 or Aileen Winquist of Arlington's Department of Environmental Services at (703) 228-3610.

## **Lorcom Lane URD**

(continued from page 1)

common and be responsible for its continued maintenance. As an incentive to protect this tree during construction, the county board required the developers to post a \$10,000 bond and to fund the initial maintenance reserves for the HOA. As part of the landscape plan, the developer also agreed to plant 30" diameter trees in the front yards of the new houses. Consistent with our bylaws, each individual home within the new HOA will be eligible for DRCA membership.

Many thanks to all of the interested neighbors, county staff (Marsha Smith and Luis Araya), planning commissioners, and the developers for their willingness to meet and discuss concerns about this site. Thanks also to Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church for working with DRCA on the URD and for providing space for additional meetings. All involved gave up much of their personal time to participate in this process and to forge a compromise that balanced competing priorities.