



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

January 2003

Neighborhood Conservation News

-Ned Rhodes

Donaldson Run currently has two neighborhood conservation (NC) projects approved. The first involves improvements in Zachary Taylor Park and Lee Heights Park. Stream stabilization and restoration are two big components of this project along with improvements to the bridges and gateways within the parks. I expect to see things begin to happen this summer. Please see the Erosion Control Project article on page 5 of this newsletter.

The second NC project that has been approved for our neighborhood is paving, curbs, gutters, and sidewalks for Vermont Street. I am afraid there is not much progress on this project as of yet. We are still waiting for the assignment of project numbers. Once that is completed, the final planning can take place and the project will be scheduled for construction.

Two other NC projects are still in the planning stages. Both have passed the petition process on the neighborhood streets involved and now those block captains must move the projects forward as per our process that is documented on the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) website (follow the NCP link at the top). Once a project has passed the petition process, it must be presented to the DRCA Executive Committee at one of its meetings. An article describing the project then needs to be written and published in the DRCA newsletter to inform the entire neighborhood of the project. Finally, a presentation and question and answer session needs to be held at a civic association meeting where the entire neighborhood will vote on which project to send forward as our first priority project for funding at the June Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee meeting.

It is always better to involve the Donaldson Run Civic Association early in the planning stages of NC projects. Feel free to contact any executive committee member if you have questions.

WINTER MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesday, January 29

Agenda: Presentation on proposed update to county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance

Wednesday, February 26

Agenda: Special Election Candidates Night

Wednesday, March 26

Note: All meetings will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School in the First Grade Pod.

Radar Team Report

-Mike Green

Due to a number of factors (weather, work, and vacation schedules included), the radar team has not been out much in the past few months. When we were observing traffic, however, it was apparent that our absence was noted by many drivers. The average speeds in our neighborhood appeared higher than we had been experiencing recently.

We do need to get out more often. But to do that, we need more volunteers. If you are interested in helping to monitor speeding traffic in our neighborhood, please contact anyone on the DRCA executive committee. You will be contacted when the next training session with the Arlington County Police Department is scheduled.

Traffic Calming Report

-Anne Wilson

The Donaldson Run Traffic Calming Committee (DRTCC) is in a period of regrouping after getting the county's response to our concerns. It seems that dealing directly with individuals in the Department of Public Works (DPW) may be a more effective way to have our concerns addressed than the centralized approach we have been using. To this end, committee members are following up individually with county staff about a number of concerns including the safety of two crosswalks on Military Road and getting additional signage on 25th Street near Military Road. The following is an update on other areas of concern that were not covered in the last newsletter.

Military Road/Lorcom Lane intersection: DPW has responded that no change in lane directions (i.e., designating a left turn only lane) is feasible due to church parking on Sunday in this area.

Crosswalk on 26th Street near mulch pile: DPW has agreed to adjust the parking zone by the crosswalk on 26th Street. **26th/31st Street:** The most recent report from the county is that the consultant who will be studying the functional classification system of streets and arterial traffic calming is due to begin work in March. DRTCC has requested that one of our neighbors be appointed as an at-large member to the committee that will be working with this consultant. **Vacation Lane/Lorcom Lane intersection:** The county has agreed to work with DRCA neighbors to improve the safety at this intersection. **Synchronization of**

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

lights on Lee Highway/Old Dominion Drive: The county advises that signal timing along this corridor will be optimized as part of a county-wide initiative mandated by VDOT that will take place in the near future. **Military Road/Nelly Custis Drive intersection:** DPW advises that they will soon use time lapse photography to observe traffic flow and evaluate the need for improvements at this intersection.

Other issues that need attention include the Old Dominion Drive/Lorcom Lane intersection and the Military Road and 26th Street intersection near Taylor School. DRTCC will continue to work with DPW to improve the safety at these intersections. As always, if you have any comments or want to get involved with DRTCC, contact anne@drca.org.

Need a Job Done? Hire a Neighbor!

Babysitting

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Beverly Jones, contact at 528-4593
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787

Car Washing

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Xavier Meisinger, contact at 524-2177

Housesitting

- Blythe Apple, contact at 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Kirk Hanneman, contact at 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, contact at 527-4604
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787

Lawn Mowing

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Danika Globokar, contact at 524-2177
- Xavier Meisinger, contact at 524-2177

Odd Jobs

- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333

Petsitting

- Blythe Apple, contact at 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, age 16, contact at 527-5333
- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com
- Beverly Jones, contact at 528-4593
- Anna Raven-Hansen, age 16, contact at 841-1787
- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922

Snow Removal

- Mike Cassidy, contact at tjc_home@msn.com

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 mhestonc@aol.com

Winter Tree Walk at Potomac Overlook Regional Park

On Saturday, February 1 at 2 p.m., a park naturalist will lead a walk through Potomac Overlook Regional Park. Participants will become familiar with the woods in winter and learn to recognize trees by their bark and buds. The naturalist will discuss the uses and folklore of trees



in the park. The winter tree walk is for adults and children aged six years and older. Participants should meet at the nature center in the park.

Potomac Overlook is within walking distance for many Donaldson Run residents, but for those who prefer to drive, the parking lot is at the end of Marcey Road. For reservations, call 703-528-5406.

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

Watershed Year Kickoff

A major environmental event, "Kicking Off a Watershed Year," will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29 at Taylor Elementary School. There will be activities for all ages including games, exhibits, live animals, music, refreshments and more.

This event will mark the start of a year-long program of activities called "2003--A Watershed Year." Potomac Overlook Regional Park is taking the lead on the program, with the participation of such diverse organizations as Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, The Arlington Department of Environmental Services, the Audubon Naturalist Society, Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed, Gulf Branch Nature Center, Marymount University, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, the National Park Service, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, Taylor School, and Tree Stewards.

A watershed is the area of land that drains into a particular stream or river. The watershed year activities will focus on Donaldson Run watershed, the area that drains into Donaldson Run. All are invited to the kickoff event. For further information contact Larry Finch (lefinch@verizon.net or 703-528-6349).

Playground Planning

-Steve Grand

Several years ago a Donaldson Run neighborhood survey revealed much interest in the installation of playground equipment, particularly for younger children. Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) has been working with Taylor Elementary School to try to build a "tot lot" (a playground for 2-4 year olds) on the grounds of the school. Taylor School looks likely to receive funding from the school system to construct such a playground this summer.

DRCA would like to explore further with residents what kinds of playground equipment they would like to see within the Donaldson Run neighborhood, whether at Taylor school or in other green spaces. A meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 4 at 7 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School to discuss playgrounds. All interested residents are encouraged to attend. For more information, please contact Steve Grand at 703-807-5166.

**Rental Available in Bethany Beach, DE
House sleeps 11+, one block from beach,
five blocks south of main beach.
If interested, please call
Elizabeth Apple, 703-243-3837**

Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Ned Rhodes, Treasurer
2749 North Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MERRIFIELD, VA
Permit No. 2863

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

DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, January 29, 7:30 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda:

Presentation on the proposed update to the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance

Note: a vote on the matter will be taken

Membership Update

-Ned Rhodes

As we start our new year, please take a moment to check your newsletter mailing label above to verify your membership status. Membership in the Donaldson Run Civic Association is on a calendar year basis and the dues are \$5 per person per year. Please consider renewing for multiple years to cut down on paperwork and to show your support of the work DRCA continues to do in our neighborhood.

Erosion Control Project

-Larry Finch

In early spring, experts will begin studying neighborhood streams and developing alternative approaches for controlling erosion in Lee Heights Park and Zachary Taylor Park. This will be the first phase of the parks project approved last year for funding under Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program.

Arlington County invited contractors to submit proposals for the project with a January 14 deadline. A review committee will now study those proposals and recommend the best qualified

contractor. DRCA and relevant county departments will be represented on the review committee.

The project will be implemented in three phases:

-- In phase I, the contractor will analyze stream conditions and develop alternative approaches for erosion control. The contractor will meet with neighborhood residents to discuss options. Since there may be tradeoffs between erosion control and the loss of trees, it is important for residents to have an opportunity to express their views. Time allotted for phase I is five months.

-- In phase II, the contractor will develop a final design for the stream project and cost estimates. Time allotted for phase II is three months.

-- In phase III, the contractor will provide construction management services to the construction contractor. Time allotted for phase III is six months for construction and another twelve months for post-construction maintenance.

The NC project also includes funds for new bridges in Lee Heights Park and Zachary Taylor Park. However, since the bridge sites may be affected by erosion control work, bridge construction will be delayed, pending final design of the stream project.