



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

October 2003

Make a Difference on Saturday, October 25

Created by USA Weekend Magazine, Make a Difference Day is an annual event that takes place on the fourth Saturday of every October. Make a Difference Day is a unique program that inspires and rewards volunteers. It is a national day of helping others and a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. In 2002, three million people participated in Make a Difference Day, accomplishing thousands of projects in hundreds of towns.

On October 25 residents of Donaldson Run will participate by removing invasive plants and cleaning up trash from parks and open spaces. We'll meet at the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m. Come out and help keep our neighborhood parks beautiful! If you have your own gloves, clippers, and dull flat screwdrivers, please bring them along. Long pants and long sleeves are recommended.

For more information on this national event, check the USA Today website: www.makeadifferenceday.com. To learn more about invasive plant removal events in Arlington on October 25, please contact Jan Ferrigan at (703) 228-7636 or at jferriga@vt.edu or Kasey Spriggs at (703) 228-6401.

Candidates Night is October 22

Please join Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) for its annual Candidates Night. All candidates for the following offices have been invited to participate in this program.

7:00 p.m. County Board: Paul Ferguson, Walter Tejada, Richard Kelsey, Sarah Summerville

7:45 p.m. Commissioner of the Revenue: Ingrid Morroy, Tim Russo

8:00 p.m. School Board: Dave Foster, Larry Fishtahler

8:30 p.m. Virginia House of Delegates (48th District): Bob Brink, Steve Sass

8:45 p.m. Virginia State Senate (31st District): Mary Margaret Whipple, Kamal Nawash

Audience members will be selected at random to pose questions to the candidates. Questions, which are not prescreened, are limited to 30 seconds with one minute responses to ensure that the maximum number of topics can be covered.

Note: As a nonpartisan civic association, DRCA will not be endorsing any candidates.

The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is October 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School

Isabel and Our Trees

- Larry Finch

The winds of Isabel took a heavy toll on trees in Arlington, including the Donaldson Run neighborhood. This was a particularly bad year to experience a tropical storm because the unusually rainy weather prior to the storm left the ground saturated, resulting in more trees being uprooted.

In addition to the trees toppled by wind, many others suffered broken branches or other damage. When the damage is slight, light pruning may be all that is needed. In some cases, homeowners may be able to do the pruning themselves, provided they understand proper pruning techniques. Pruning that is done improperly can actually make the situation worse.

When trees are seriously damaged, homeowners may face difficult decisions about whether to keep them and repair the damage. Factors to be considered include the extent of the damage; the age and species of the tree; and the tree's location. Homeowners should arrange for a certified arborist to examine their trees. Because trees are valuable assets - and difficult to replace - it is often a good idea to get a second opinion.

It is important to recognize that not everyone who offers a commercial tree service is qualified to evaluate the condition of a damaged tree. Homeowners should contact certified arborists - people who have studied trees, passed the examinations required for certification, and continue to update their skills to retain certification. For a list of certified arborists, try www.goodtreecare.com or call the Arlington office of the Virginia Cooperative Extension at (703) 228-6414.

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.

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 Peralta-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

Thanks to Marymount Students

DRCA would like to thank those Marymount University volunteers who recently gave of their time to clean up the Donaldson Run stream and to remove English ivy from parkland. We all enjoy the natural resources that exist throughout the neighborhood and DRCA appreciates the efforts of those who help to make the stream and nearby parkland clean and healthy. If you would like to learn more about our stream and help out with future Donaldson Run clean up or invasive plant removal activities, contact Larry Finch at lefinch@verizon.net or (703) 528-6349.

Eliminate Ivy Now!

- Larry Finch

Fall is a good time to work on that English ivy growing in your yard or garden. Left untended, ivy will take over large areas, choking out other plants and eventually killing trees.

Your first priority should be to save the trees. As ivy climbs a tree, it blocks out sunlight and necessary air circulation, keeping the bark damp. This softens the bark, reducing the tree's defenses against insects and disease. As it climbs higher in the tree, ivy adds weight, making it more likely that the tree will be toppled by wind or ice. Eventually, ivy blocks sunlight from the leaves and kills the tree.

To keep trees healthy, it is essential to keep ivy off them. This can be done by using hand clippers to cut the ivy near the ground and at shoulder height, leaving an ivy-free band all the way around the tree. There is no need to pull ivy down from higher up in the tree because it will die when cut off from its roots.

Removing ivy from the ground around the trees is also important because it competes with tree roots for water and nutrition. Removing ivy and mulching under trees will make them healthier and longer lived.

Saving trees is not the only reason for eliminating ivy from yards and gardens. Ivy has a shallow root system that is not effective in controlling erosion, and it provides a favorable environment for problems with wildlife including mosquitos and rats. For a healthier yard and garden, ivy should be replaced with native vines such as trumpet honeysuckle, trumpet vine, or Virginia creeper, or with other low-maintenance ground covers native to Arlington.

For more information on dealing with invasive plants, contact Arlington's Invasive Species Control Program at (703) 228-6521.

**Contact Mike Pugh at
Town and Suburban Properties
for all your real estate needs.
Office: (703) 821-8210**

FALL MEETING SCHEDULE

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.

Vermont Street Lights

- Ned W. Rhodes

A curb, gutter and sidewalk improvement project was recommended for funding through the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) program in 2001 for Vermont Street between Old Dominion Drive and Utah Street. To meet the then-current program requirements, the street light portion of the project was deferred in order to keep the total project cost down. At the September 2003 civic association meeting it was decided that the street light portion of the project would be moved forward as the next NCAC project.

As originally designed, the first part of the project was to install conduit that would support the addition of street lights at a later time. Since construction has not started, it will be easy to add the street lights to the project now which may lead to some project cost reductions since all the work will be done at the same time.

The next step in the process is for the NCAC to approve the project for funding. Once that approval is obtained in December, the project will be sent to the county board for final funding approval.

Minutes of September 24 Membership Meeting

The Donaldson Run Stream Restoration Project and the Invasive Species Control Project were the principal topics of the September 24, 2003 general membership meeting of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA). President Peter Fallon opened the meeting by updating the members on pending projects. He also mentioned several efforts to deal with the aftermath of Tropical Storm Isabel which came through the neighborhood on September 18, toppling numerous trees, blocking streets, and causing major power outages.

PENDING PROJECT UPDATES

New Street Lights for Vermont Street: Last year the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) approved a DRCA project that called for sidewalk, sewer and gutter improvements on the steep stretch of Vermont Street between Old Dominion Drive and Utah Street. Before the project was submitted for approval, the neighborhood's request for Carlyle lighting along the stretch was deleted to keep the cost of the project down and to not use too many of our "new-neighborhood" bonus points on one project. Our "new-neighborhood" bonus points will expire in one year and we do not have another project ready to put forward. DRCA therefore will request that the NCAC approve Carlyle lighting for this stretch of Vermont Street at NCAC's next meeting.

Traffic Light at Old Dominion Drive and Wakefield Street: The installation of a traffic light at Old Dominion Drive and Wakefield Street is approved. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will pay most of the cost of this project. Installation is tentatively scheduled for this winter. A motion was made and passed by DRCA to endorse this project.

Bridge to carry Military Road across Donaldson Run: A bridge will be built to carry Military Road over Donaldson Run. One of the two culverts that carry Donaldson Run under the road was badly damaged in 2001 and was filled with cement. This bridge project is expected to begin soon.

Citizens' Speed Radar: Mike Green discussed the Citizens' Speed Radar System and urged members interested in monitoring neighborhood traffic conditions to volunteer.

DRCA Elections: Peter Fallon noted that DRCA elections are to be held in March. The election is for all officers and members of the Executive Committee and terms are for two years. Any DRCA member interested in any position or in serving on any committee should contact any member of the executive committee. The slate needs to be put together well before the election.

Storm-related Matters: DRCA has arranged with the county for brush pick-up over the next two weeks throughout our neighborhood.

Peter Fallon discussed the Arlington Alert System. See page 8 for more information.

Control of Invasive Plants: Jan Ferrigan, coordinator of Arlington's invasive species control program, outlined county efforts to control invasive plant species in county parks. This year Jan has been busy discussing the effort with community groups and arranging work days with volunteers. Next year she expects to concentrate on the most troublesome species and to target certain areas. The county will highlight invasive plant control activities at eleven sites on October 25 as part of National Make a Difference Day (see page 1).

Donaldson Run Stream Restoration: Jason Papacosma of the county's Department of Environmental Services outlined the status of the Donaldson Run Stream Restoration Project. Jason described the role of the consultant engaged for the project. A community workshop will be held on November 12 at 7 p.m. at Taylor School to give residents an opportunity to meet the consultant, learn more about the stream's problems and discuss possible approaches for restoring the stream and its surroundings. The project will be larger and messier than many had envisioned. However, the end result will be reduced stream erosion and pollution, better protection of the trails and bike path, better habitat for stream and woodland creatures and overall aesthetic improvement. The citizens advisory group for the project includes several DRCA representatives and is chaired by DRCA member Larry Finch. Larry can be reached at lefinch@verizon.net or (703) 528-6349.

Looking for Professional Help Around the House?

Email mary@drca.org with recommendations.

Concrete/Stone work

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

General Handyman

Karl Knudson (703) 538-3865 or cell phone (703) 216-1359, referred by Karen Hanneman, 276-0787

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

Maryen or Raul, (703) 321-5335, referred by Julia Ward Ciatti, (703) 527-8728.

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

Car Washing

Housesitting

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604

Lawn Mowing

Odd Jobs

- Riley Baldus, 527-5333

Petsitting

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922

Snow Removal

If you or someone you know would like to be added to this list, please send an email to 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 j_kolick@aol.com

Gulf Branch Nature Center Programs

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

EXTREME HIKE FOR TEENS

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. (rain date is Sunday, October 19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.)

Ages 12 and up

Feel the rush when you reach the top! Bring a friend or meet new ones! Hike steep slopes over uneven rocky terrain to see spectacular views of fall colors in Shenandoah National Park. The hike will be about five to six miles long with significant elevation gain. Wear sturdy hiking shoes, dress in layers, and pack a hearty bag lunch, snacks, and plenty of water to carry with you. \$20 fee. Reservations required.

SPOOKY SPIDERS

Wednesday, October 22, 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Ages 7-11

Take a spider hunt with us, as we look for some of the spectacular spiders in our own neighborhood. Afterwards, we will examine our finds and learn what makes spiders so special. Free. Reservations required.

PIONEER DAY FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 25, Noon - 4 p.m.

All ages

For over twenty years, friends and neighbors have gathered around the Walker Log House to celebrate our pioneer heritage. Step back into history to try your hand at some old time games and crafts. Enjoy music, dancers, and local artisans. Tour the log house, see the blacksmiths work at the forge, sample mulled cider and so much more! \$3 fee. No reservations required.

TRICK OR TREAT CRITTER AND CRAFT

Wednesday, October 29, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages 5-8

Find out more about the mysterious creatures associated with Halloween: bats, owls, and spiders. Decorate a trick-or-treat bag to take home. \$2 fee. Reservations required.

SKULLS AND BONES CAMPFIRE

Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2,

4:30 - 5:45 p.m.

Families

Join us at the Gulf Branch fire ring for lots of old-fashioned fun. These engaging evening programs are filled with entertaining activities, which may include stories, special animal guests, games and songs. \$2 fee. Reservations required.

TURKEY RAMBLE

Wednesday, November 19, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Ages 5-8

Join us as we learn all about turkeys! We'll ramble through the autumn wood to see if we can find a "wild turkey." Create your own turkey to take home. \$2 fee. Reservations required.

INDIANS OF THE POTOMAC

Thursday, November 20, 4 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Ages 7-11

The Indians of Virginia used the Potomac River as a highway. They lived in several small villages near the river right here in Arlington. Meet at the tractor barn to learn about the native peoples of the Woodland Period. Free. Reservations required.

HOLIDAY NATURE CRAFTS

Wednesday, December 3, 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Ages 6 and up (under 13 with an adult)

Get in the festive mode at Gulf Branch! Make nature-inspired crafts around the hearth. Unleash your creativity and enjoy light refreshments in a cheerful atmosphere. \$5 fee. Reservations required.

Volunteer Opportunities

Alzheimer's Family Day Center seeks a volunteer to answer phones every Thursday morning from 8:30 a.m. till 9:30 a.m. Volunteers are also needed to visit with participants, to bake goodies, and to help with administrative tasks. Wonderful team atmosphere. Volunteers must be 13 or older. Contact Joan Dutchess, Communications Coordinator, at (703) 532-8899 or afdc@alzheimersfdc.org

Arlington County Public Library - Detention Center Program needs volunteers to handle administrative tasks for "Read-to-Me," an innovative Arlington County library program that encourages inmates to read and tape-record stories for their children. Contact Susan Kaminow at (703) 228-5260.

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

DRCA Needs YOU!

DRCA is developing a new slate of officers for the upcoming March 2004 elections and is looking for some fresh faces to serve two-year terms. The slate of executive officers includes President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and four directors. The responsibilities of officers include attending DRCA executive committee meetings and general meetings (about 5-6 each per year), as well as assuming the leadership of specific neighborhood projects. A slate of candidates will be announced in early 2004.

Volunteers also are needed for a number of different DRCA projects and committees. If you have an interest in any of these positions, please contact Steve Grand at (703) 807-5166, or any other current DRCA officer for more information.

Getting Neighborhood Information Fast

When significant neighborhood events occur between newsletters, Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) relies on its email list of DRCA members to get the word out. At this time, about 25 percent of the homes in DRCA are on the email list and we would like to increase this number. Rest assured that we will not send out emails more often than necessary, and typically you will hear from us about once a month. Also, DRCA will not give your email address to anyone else. If you are not already on the email list, please sign up by sending an email to webmaster@drca.org. Please note that you need to be up to date on your dues to be added to this list.

An Evening of Music at Yorktown High School

Yorktown High School Choral and Orchestra Department presents an evening of music on Tuesday, October 21 at 7 p.m. in the school's gym. The Yorktown choral program, led by Mr. Roger Oliver, has over 100 students in five choral groups. The orchestra is led by Mr. Thomas Hartman. This is his second year with the orchestra.

Yorktown High School is located at 5201 North 28th Street in Arlington. To reach the gym, use the Yorktown Boulevard entrance.

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

DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, October 22, 7:00 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda: Annual Candidates Night

Please note early starting time.

Arlington Alerts System in Action

- Peter Fallon

During Tropical Storm Isabel, I saw, for the first time, how the Arlington Alerts system works. Although I had no electricity for my personal computer, I was able to receive updates via the text messaging capability of my digital cell phone. I received alerts telling me to avoid the Lee Highway-Lorcom Lane intersection because of downed power lines and was also alerted when free ice would be available at Washington and Lee High School. Several days later, I received a message when Route 1 was closed due to a natural gas line break. In addition to weather and traffic information, one can choose to receive notices about neighborhood crime and computer viruses. This service is free and is only available to Arlington County residents. To learn more visit the web site at www.arlingtonalert.com.

Opera Theater of Northern Virginia Announces 2003-04 Season

For its thirty-sixth consecutive season, Opera Theatre of Northern Virginia (OTNV) is continuing its policy of presenting little-known operas by famous composers while adding a new element: the premiere of a new opera, written by an American composer and commissioned by OTNV. The opera company features an intimate theatre setting, affordable ticket prices, and new American talent. All operas are sung in English.

The season opened with the area premiere of Franz Joseph Haydn's "Lo Speziale" (The Apothecary) and will close with the world premiere of Garrison Hull's "Nancy" on May 14 and 16. For more information call (703) 528-1433 or visit www.novaopera.org.