



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

January 2004

Stream Restoration Update

Larry Finch

The long awaited stream restoration project along Donaldson Run is beginning to take shape. The goal is to identify potential stream improvements for controlling erosion, protecting trails and infrastructure, and improving water quality and in-stream habitat. The project will focus on the portions of Donaldson Run flowing through Lee Heights and Zachary Taylor Parks.

Fieldwork for the project, including surveys and measurements of the stream channel, was completed in late summer and fall of 2003. The field data that were collected from the Donaldson Run stream corridor and drainage basin were used in conjunction with existing Geographic Information System (GIS) data and maps to create conceptual designs for the restoration project.

On November 12, 2003, Arlington County and the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) hosted a community workshop to give residents an opportunity to learn more about the project and to see the initial conceptual designs for the stream restoration. DRCA Parks committee chair, Larry Finch, briefly reviewed the background of the project and introduced Jason Papacosma of Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services. Jason presented information on the county's Watershed Management Plan and how
(continued on page 3)

Are You a Member?

Steve Grand

Start the new year off right by joining the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA). Support your community by paying your neighborhood dues.

DRCA is one of the most active neighborhood associations in Arlington County. As this newsletter attests, DRCA is energetically engaged in trying to improve the quality of our community on a broad range of issues — from traffic and airport noise to infill development and parks and playgrounds. DRCA is one of the few neighborhood associations that prints a regular newsletter AND distributes it to all households in the community.

To continue to do these things, DRCA needs the support of all members of the community. Please help by paying your dues. Your dues help underwrite the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter, as well as DRCA meetings and special events.

Dues for the coming year will be \$15 per household — the first increase in many years, but still one of the best bargains in town. Only DRCA members have the right to vote at DRCA meetings. Members also receive regular neighborhood e-mails.

To become a member, please fill out the form on page seven of this newsletter and send it, along with a check made out to DRCA, to DRCA's treasurer, Ned Rhodes, at 2749 North Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

**The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is January 28 at 7:30 p.m.
at Taylor Elementary School.**

2003 Emission Test Results from Lee Pumping Station

Ned W. Rhodes

One of the conditions of the use permit for the Sprint cellular antennas on top of the Lee Pumping Station (water tower) near Wakefield Court and Old Dominion Drive is that Sprint conduct an annual measurement of the radio-frequency (RF) power density for selected locations near the site. These measurements were completed in July of 2003.

Radio emissions in the frequency range of 0.3 to 3,000 MHz are measured and reported as a percentage of the allowable exposure based on the Federal Communications Commission 1997 standard for the general population in an uncontrolled environment. Once again the measurements were less than 10 percent of the allowable standard at all the measurement sites.

To quote from the report: "The exposures measured from year to year show a high degree of variability. That variability (and magnitude) is principally a function of the changes in usage of paging and land mobile transmitters sharing the Lee Pumping Station site. The Personal Communications Service transmitter's contribution to the total is of a minor nature. The magnitude of RF exposure measured this year is lower than that measured in 2002, but similar in magnitude to that measured in previous years. Usage of land mobile transmitters, unlike that of Sprint PCS, is highly variable and is likely to account for the variability noted."

The full reports for the last four years may be read at <http://www.drca.org> in the resource area.

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 |
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| 2nd VP | Laura Peralta-Schulte | 812-8580 |
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| Director | Sherwin Landfield | 525-0005 |
| Editor | Mary Heston Cooper | 469-2242 |

DRCA Meeting Cancellation Policy

Mike Green

Since DRCA meetings are held at Taylor School, scheduled association meetings will be cancelled any time that Arlington County Public Schools (ACPS) are closed or when after school activities are cancelled. ACPS announces cancellations on its web site: <http://www.arlington.k12.va.us>, as well as on radio and television.

Stream Update (continued from page 1)

this project fits in with overall goals for improving streams and water quality. This presentation is available for viewing on the web at: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/overview.htm>.

The next speaker was Randy Sewall of Vanesse, Hangen, Brustlin, Inc. (VHB), the stream consultant selected for the project, who presented the initial designs for the restoration. Drawing on the extensive surveys and measurements of the stream channel that VHB had taken, Randy described a preliminary design for a more stable channel configuration based on the stream flow through the valley. Following his presentation, he responded to questions from attendees. This presentation is available on the web at: http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/concept_plans.htm.

On November 15, 2003 Randy Sewall led a community walk through Zachary Taylor and Lee Heights Parks to discuss the initial conceptual designs for the stream restoration. Participants were able to view the impacts of erosion on the stream channel as well as on trails and infrastructure, to ask questions and to discuss the stream restoration plans with Randy and county staff working on the project.

A second community workshop is planned for Wednesday, February 25 at 7:30 p.m. to review revised plans for the stream restoration project. This workshop, which will be held in conjunction with the February DRCA meeting, will take place at Taylor Elementary School, 2600 North Stuart Street. In the meantime, the county will be contacting those residents whose properties are adjacent to Zachary Taylor or Lee Heights Parks to discuss how the project relates to their specific properties.

The approximate project schedule is as follows:
August/September 2003 – Fieldwork conducted
September 22, 2003 – Citizen Advisory group kickoff meeting
September 24, 2003 – County staff presentation at DRCA meeting
November 12, 2003 – Community workshop to

2004 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 28
Agenda: TBA

Wednesday, February 25
Agenda: Donaldson Run Stream Restoration Project

Wednesday, March 31
Agenda: Arterial Transportation Management Study

Wednesday, April 28
Agenda: DRCA Elections and Legislative Update

Wednesday, May 26
Agenda: Parks

The time and topics of DRCA meetings are subject to change. To get up-to-date information about meeting times and agendas, be sure your membership is current and we have your email address. That way, you will be informed of any changes. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the first grade pod of Taylor School unless otherwise noted.

review conceptual plan
November 15, 2003 – Stream walk to discuss community priorities and restoration plans
November '03-January 2004 – Plans revised based on community input
February 25, 2004 at 7:30 p.m. – Second community workshop
Spring 2004 – Final design and cost estimate
Summer 2004 – Construction procurement
Fall 2004 – Stream restoration undertaken

A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) about the project is available on the project website at: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/des/epo/DR.htm>. For more information on the project one may also contact Aileen Winquist of Arlington's Department of Environmental Services at (703) 228-3610 or Larry Finch of the DRCA at (703) 528-6349.

Persistence Pays Off for Traffic Calming Committee

Anne Wilson

You may have noticed that there is now a designated left turn lane on Lorcom Lane at the Military Road intersection. This change was made as the result of the work and persistence of Donaldson Run's Traffic Calming Committee (DRTCC). Left turn lanes on Military have also been approved at this same intersection. Another positive change has occurred at the intersection of Stuart and 25th Streets where, for the past two years, residents and Taylor school parents have been requesting that four-way stop signs be installed. Thanks to their persistence and the support of the Taylor PTA and DRCA, this change was finally approved.

Other traffic/pedestrian items that are receiving attention or will be in the future include:

26th-31st Street:

Following an October meeting with Terry Bellamy, the county's traffic engineering division chief, speed and traffic count measurements were taken on 26th-31st Street between Old Dominion Drive and Military Road. The possibility of a three-way stop was suggested for the intersection of 26th Street and Vermont Street as a means of slowing traffic and making that intersection safer. Once we get the results of the county's measurements, we will follow up to see what changes might be possible on this street.

Military Road:

Military Road, between Lorcom Lane and Old Glebe Road, is one of the arterial streets that is being examined by consultants conducting the Arterial Traffic Management Study for Arlington County. At the November DRCA meeting, residents were asked for input about the problems and potential solutions for this stretch of Military Road. This information was turned over to county staff and will be considered by the consultants who will provide a concept plan addressing these concerns. We look for this plan to be presented at an upcoming DRCA meeting in the first half of 2004.

Lorcom Lane:

Locations are being evaluated for two speed indicator signs similar to those near Arlington Hospital. Neighbors who live closest to the signs must be in agreement with their placement. These signs may be installed in early 2004.

Vacation Lane-Lorcom Lane and Lorcom Lane-Old Dominion Drive intersections:

These are two areas that are not receiving attention at this time, but are on the radar screen for future action.

If you have an interest in traffic issues in Donaldson Run and would like to be on the Traffic Calming Committee, please contact Anne Wilson at anne@drca.org or by telephone at 525-0344. This is one of the easier committees you will ever be a part of, as we do much of our communication by email. When meetings come up with county staff, all members of the committee are advised so that people can choose to attend meetings for those areas that interest them. As you can see, we have been successful in achieving modest changes, so if you have a particular concern, do join our committee.

Military Road Bridge

Ned W. Rhodes

Work is scheduled to start January 19, 2004 on the construction of a new bridge over Donaldson Run on Military Road. Before the actual bridge construction can begin, various utilities must be relocated including water, gas, power, telephone and cable lines. This is the work that is ongoing now.

Once this work is finished, the contractor can begin to construct the new bridge, which will be made up of nine "U" shaped sections. This work will take about three months and during that period the road will be one lane for a portion of time and closed for short periods of time. There will be portable signs along Military Road alerting drivers to the changing conditions.

The construction supervisor is Ed Sanders and he can be contacted at (703) 228-3756. The design engineer is Stephen Siebert whose number is (703) 228-4215.

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

(please contact mary@drca.org if you are available to shovel snow.)

Many Donaldson Run residents are interested in hiring neighbors to do the jobs listed above. 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

Airport Noise Abatement Plan

Helen Lane

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and the Council of Governments has commissioned a study to forecast future noise levels of flights to and from Reagan National Airport and to develop a Noise Abatement Plan to recommend to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Sherwin Landfield and Helen Lane have represented our neighborhood at meetings of Arlington's Airport Issues Committee (AIC), which has coordinated citizen recommendations for the noise abatement plan. The AIC consensus is that aircraft should be required to strictly adhere to paths that follow the river and to use the GPS system. The AIC also supports other noise abatement measures such as minimum arrival and departure altitudes, minimum descent rates, and requirements that older aircraft engines be equipped with "hush-kits". On November 23, AIC forwarded these recommendations to Barbara Favola, who chairs the Council of Governments committee overseeing the development of the noise abatement plan.

Favola hopes to have the noise abatement plan completed before summer 2004. The FAA then will study the plan and decide how much of it to implement. The regional plan, developed a decade ago, was studied by the FAA for years. The FAA finally accepted a few of its recommendations but none became mandatory.

Implications for the Donaldson Run neighborhood with implementation of the noise abatement plan include:

-- Requiring all flights to follow the river could result in somewhat more noise on our side of the river. The largest number of aircraft not following the river are those that follow a 'foul weather approach' over the Palisades area of Northwest DC. Palisades residents report flights coming over their homes even when weather and visibility are good.

-- Traffic in and out of National Airport will increase. The 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew is an urban myth.

-- The Noise Abatement Plan that is being developed is only advisory. The FAA will respond to it as it sees fit. The best that can be hoped for from the plan is that it will mitigate aircraft noise somewhat.

If you would like to better understand airport noise issues and would like to try to do something about the noise itself, consider becoming the DRCA representative to the Airport Issues Committee. If interested, please call Peter Fallon at (703) 522-5368.

Neighborhood Conservation News

Ned W. Rhodes

The December meeting of the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) is the fall funding round in which each Arlington neighborhood can advance one project for funding. It is then considered along with all the other projects from participating neighborhoods.

At this year's meeting, Donaldson Run's fourth NCAC project was recommended for funding. This project, the addition of street lights for North Vermont Street, was recommended initially for funding in the Spring of 2002 as part of a larger project which included the installation of curbs, gutters, and sidewalks as well. At that time, due to a limited bond, the street light portion of the project was deferred. Now the entire project has been approved and will be completed at the same time. After the construction contract is awarded but prior to starting the project, a meeting will be scheduled between the neighborhood and the county to review and approve the project design.

Because the original block captain for this project moved away, DRCA is in need of a resident of North Vermont Street to direct this project. If you are interested, please contact Ned W. Rhodes (ned@drca.org) or Steve Grand (steve@drca.org). If you have an idea that can be turned into a neighborhood conservation project, please visit our web site <http://www.drca.org> and click on the NCP link.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please check your mailing label to see the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible.

Dues: \$15 per household 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): _____

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

Arlington Approves New Marathon

On December 9, Arlington's Special Event Work Group approved a new 26.2-mile footrace on Arlington's scenic "Perimeter Parkway" of multi-use trails to be run Sunday, May 2, starting at 8:00 am. The event will be coordinated by the Arlington County Running Club led by veteran marathoner and county resident Jay Jacob Wind and a coalition of 11 other DC-area running clubs.

"The marathon is designed to showcase the best of Arlington, its neighborhoods and parks, without obstructing motor vehicle traffic," said Wind. "We have the most beautiful urban village course in America."

The marathon is a benefit for the Arlington Public Schools music & athletics programs, Arlington County Civic Federation 911 Scholarship Fund, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and Special Olympics Virginia.

The spectator-friendly race starts on the Washington-Lee High School track. "We folded 11 linear miles back and forth until we got 26 miles," said Wind. Because the trail is narrow, the marathon starts in five "flights" of 50 runners

each, two minutes apart from 8:00 am on. Race awards include first three male / female overall and by five-year age group and "first in flight."

Citizens who want to run, help or ask questions can call (703) 218-2726, write racedirector@att.net or get full information on the website <http://www.pvtc.org/marathon.html>.

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.

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

DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda: TBA

Gulf Branch Nature Center Programs

All programs meet at Gulf Branch Nature Center located at 3608 Military Road in Arlington unless otherwise noted. Phone (703) 228-3403 for more information and for reservations.

604285A: NIGHT HIKE

Friday, January 30, 6:30-8:30pm.

Families with children ages 8 and up
View a slide show of night creatures and then prowl the winter forest at night at Gulf Branch Park. Dress warmly! Bring a flashlight. Hot cocoa included.

\$2 fee. Reservations required.

604286A: GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION!

Saturday, January 31, 10:00-11:00am.

Families

Learn about America's only rodent with an honorary day! Hear stories and discover fun facts about this legendary animal prognosticator!

Free. Reservations required.

TEEN VAN TRIP

603280A: ECO-EXTREME WINTER MOUNTAIN ADVENTURE

Saturday, January 31, 10am-6pm.

Ages 12-17

Explore on snowshoes. Search for signs of winter wildlife in the quiet wilderness. Activities may be modified depending on snow conditions. Dress for the weather with extra layers, wear comfortable hiking shoes, pack water and a lunch in a backpack. Location and fee TBA (\$40-\$60 range). Reservations required.

Van leaves from the Lubber Run Recreation Center parking lot, 300 North Park Drive, Arlington.

604289A: TOWARD GREENER LAWNS

Thursday, February 19, 7:00-9:00pm.

Adults

Learn ways to care for your yard that are better for people, wildlife and our waterways. Lawn care suggestions are based on the Bayscapes concepts, developed by the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.

Free. Reservations required.