



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Spring 2004

## **DRCA Elections**

**Laura Peralta-Schulte**

Donaldson Run Civic Association Officer and Board member elections will be held at the April 28 general membership meeting. Each term of office is two years. The slate of candidates for this election includes: Peter Fallon, President; Anne Wilson, 1st Vice President; Helen Lane, Secretary; Ned Rhodes, Treasurer; Mike Green, Director; Bill Richardson, Director; and Larry Robertson, Director. Nominations for all positions also will be taken from the floor on the night of the election.

All DRCA members who pay dues by or on April 28 are allowed to vote, with a maximum of two votes per household.

## **Yorktown Boat Party**

The Yorktown Graduation Party Committee is asking for the support of the Donaldson Run neighborhood as it carries on a 17-year tradition of providing an all night, alcohol- and drug-free graduation party for Yorktown High School graduates. Since the inception of this program there have been no alcohol- or drug-related teen accidents or deaths on graduation night in Northern Virginia. Your generosity will be recognized publicly in both The Washington Post and the school newspaper. Please make checks payable to Yorktown High School Graduation Boat Party and mail to: Nancy Weinberg, 2500 N. Quantico Street, Arlington, VA 22207.

## **On May 8, "We Are the Neighborhood"**

Arlington will observe its 8th Annual Neighborhood Day on Saturday, May 8. This year's theme is "We Are the Neighborhood," and the focus of the day will be the pride residents have in the vitality and diversity of Arlington's neighborhoods.

Several annual Neighborhood Day events already have been planned, including the Arlington Community Hero Awards, the Fort Myer Military Community Twilight Tattoo Ceremony, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's Walk for Animals, and, of course, the annual Neighborhood Day Parade.

The parade will begin at 2 p.m. and travel down Wilson Boulevard from the Clarendon Metro Station to the Courthouse area, followed by a multicultural concert at the end of the route.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) will be meeting and greeting neighbors at the Taylor School Fair where there will be a trivia game and treats for all ages. Stop by and say hello or take this opportunity to talk to DRCA officers about issues that interest you. Look for us under the white canopy in front of the school. We hope to see you there and bring a neighbor! For more information on Neighborhood Day activities visit [www.civfed.org/neighday.htm](http://www.civfed.org/neighday.htm) or call Todd Dubois in the County Manager's Office at 228-3969.

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

# DRCA Meeting Minutes

Anne Wilson

The February 25, 2004 Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) meeting began with a presentation by Arlington County Department of Environmental Services Watershed Planner, Jason Papacosma. He announced first that federal agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are negotiating with Washington Golf and Country Club (WGCC) in connection with the pollution of Donaldson Run by herbicides in 2001. It is anticipated that as a result of these negotiations, WGCC will agree to undertake some environmental restoration efforts on its own property, and perhaps at other locations in the Donaldson Run watershed.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to the community forum on the Donaldson Run restoration project. Papacosma noted that in Donaldson Run, erosion has degraded both aquatic and riparian habitat.

Randy Sewell, the consultant hired by the county to design the stream restoration project, explained the technical basis for the proposed stream channel. The fundamental goal is to reestablish a stable, self-maintaining stream channel. Randy noted that the three streams that meet in Zachary Taylor Park were assigned names for the purposes of the project. Thus, Tributary A runs from Lee Heights Park through Zachary Taylor Park to Military Road. Tributary B runs from the area of the mulch pile on 26th Street, crossing Vermont Street and continuing until it joins Tributary A. Tributary C runs from the WGCC until it joins Tributary A near Military Road.

The present project is limited to Tributary A, the segment of the stream that is the most degraded. In order to restore the stream to "dynamic equilibrium," the natural meandering channel will be restored and "step pools" will be built to absorb energy. There are several places where Tributary A extends onto private property abutting the park, and the county is contacting those property owners to discuss the project. Some trees will be taken down as the stream's path is adjusted, but a substantial number of those trees are close to the stream and their roots are already being exposed due to erosion. As part of the project, the stream banks will be replanted with trees and

*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

shade-tolerant native plants. It is expected that the construction will begin in September 2004 and will take about three months. A walk-through along Tributary A will be scheduled soon to give residents an opportunity to see where the new stream channel will be located.

Arlington County recently received a \$75,000 grant from the state for the Donaldson Run project, supplementing funds from Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Environmental Services. On behalf of the neighborhood, Peter Fallon expressed appreciation to county staff for their efforts in securing the grant.

# Reforestation Project on Donaldson Run

Larry Finch

The county board has approved funding under the Small Parks Program for a project to reforest a site on the left bank of Donaldson Run, across the stream from the bike path below Vermont Street. The project was proposed by Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed (FDRW) with endorsements from DRCA and environmental organizations, including Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust, and the Audubon Naturalist Society.

The site has been overrun with kudzu and other invasive species. After removing the invasives, canopy trees will be planted first, followed by understory trees and shrubs. Goals include restoring the site to a natural wooded state; providing food and shelter for wildlife; and improving the riparian buffer to reduce erosion and improve water quality in Donaldson Run. The trees planted will be native to Arlington, emphasizing species that are found along Donaldson Run. Native trees are well suited to this climate, and their seasonal cycles provide optimum support for wildlife.

The project will serve as a case study and a teaching tool for students. FDRW will arrange for naturalists to assist teachers in explaining the project and related watershed issues to elementary school students. High school students will be invited to help with the project and to study the environmental effects of the reforestation effort.

FDRW is seeking volunteers to help take care of newly planted trees. This project provides a great opportunity for families to work together on a reforestation project right in our neighborhood. To volunteer please call Larry Finch at (703) 528-6349.

## Community Emergency Response Team Program

Ned Rhodes

The Donaldson Run neighborhood has a new Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) graduate as of April 3, 2004. Ned Rhodes joined a group of 192 Arlington County residents who are

## 2004 Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, April 28**  
**Agenda: DRCA Elections, Legislative Update and Dog Park Relocation**

**Wednesday, May 26**  
**Agenda: Arterial Transportation Management Study**

The time and topics of DRCA meetings are subject to change. Updated agendas are sent via email to our list subscribers approximately one week prior to meetings. To join our list, please add your email address to the DRCA membership application. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. in the first grade pod of Taylor Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

also CERT graduates. The CERT program was started in response to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and is a part of the Department of Homeland Security. Program participants receive about 20 hours of instruction covering disaster medical operations, disaster preparedness, fire safety, and search and rescue.

The idea behind the CERT program is to get people thinking about what can be done to prepare for man-made or natural disasters, including hurricanes and tornadoes. The CERT team will assist the first responders in setting up treatment areas, transporting victims or participating in light search and rescue. CERT volunteers are not expected to replace the police or fire department, but are to be there to assist.

CERT classes will start again in the fall. The Arlington County website has more information on the CERT program (follow the link to Emergency Preparedness) or email Ned Rhodes with questions at ned@drca.org.

# Airport Noise Abatement Plan Update

Helen Lane

A first draft of the Airport Noise Abatement Plan commissioned by our local governments is completed and ready for public hearings. When the plan is finalized it will be sent to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for possible action. Donaldson Run is represented on Arlington's Airport Issues Committee (AIC), which has coordinated citizen recommendations for the Noise Abatement Plan and is led by Steve Baur, a Woodmont resident. The AIC consensus is that aircraft should be required to strictly adhere to paths that follow the river and to use their Global Positioning Systems (GPS). The AIC forwarded its recommendations to the contractor preparing the report and to Arlington County Board member Barbara Favola, who chairs the regional committee overseeing the development of the Noise Abatement Plan.

Ms. Favola hopes to have the plan completed before summer; the FAA then will study the plan and decide how much of it to implement. Public hearings on the plan have been scheduled to be held between April 27 and April 30. The locations for these meeting have yet to be decided, but the location nearest to the Donaldson Run neighborhood likely will be in Alexandria.

Arlington's AIC is pleased that the draft includes the recommendation that all incoming flight paths follow the river from a point ten miles from the airport until landing, with outgoing flights following the same path. The AIC is disappointed that the GPS requirement is not stronger. GPS would allow stricter monitoring of flight paths and contribute to safety as well as to noise mitigation. The AIC plans to make this point at the upcoming hearings. Traffic in and out of Reagan National Airport is increasing, and while the 10 pm to 7 am curfew is an urban myth, modest limitations on aircraft noise are in effect during that period. Given modern technology, stricter noise limitations are possible, but would require federal legislation.

If you are interested in airport noise issues, consider becoming the DRCA representative to the Airport Issues Committee. Call Helen Lane at (703) 524-3417 with your comments or questions.

# Dog Park To Be Moved

Helen Lane

At the March 31 meeting of the Donaldson Run Civic Association, Peter Fallon gave an update on the search for an alternate site for the Madison Dog Park. The Madison neighborhood no longer wants to host a dog park and local history buffs are concerned that the Madison Dog Park is on the site of Fort Ethan Allen, a minor fortification during the Civil War. The county board has set up a task force of interested citizens to study alternatives to this park. In addition to Madison, six other dog parks are located in Arlington, none of which has sparked community unrest.

The task force, formally called the Fort Ethan Allen Park Community Canine Area (CCA) Relocation Task Force, is chaired by Mr. Fallon. At the task force's initial meeting on January 29, 2004, the county board instructed it to recommend a permanent location for the Madison Dog Park. Alternate sites are to be within a mile and a half radius of the current location. The task force meets semimonthly and the deadline for its recommendations is June 30, 2004.

As citizens express their opinions at the meetings, the number of viable sites is expected to decrease. Those remaining will be examined in greater detail with the goal of developing a consensus around one or several best sites. Sites must be at least 10,000 square feet and cannot be adjacent to streams.

Four possible sites have been identified in the Donaldson Run neighborhood:

- (1) The meadow behind the mulch pile on North 26th Street near Old Dominion Drive;
- (2) The basketball courts on Marcy Road or the area just behind the basketball courts. The area behind the courts belongs to Potomac Overlook Park and would require an exchange of land;
- (3) An area along Military Road that is now part of Zachary Taylor Park. This area is currently planted with hydrangeas and daffodils; and
- (4) An area near the water tower.

In addition to the above four locations in our neighborhood, fifteen other sites have been identified. Most of these will be eliminated as the task force develops a final recommendation for the county board.

## 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, 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!

Email mary@drca.org if you or someone you know is interested in providing a service listed below.

### Babysitting

- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Daniel Bronstein, 527-5714
- Meagan Vargas, 819-0275

### Car Washing

### Housesitting

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604
- Meagan Vargas, 819-0275

### Lawn Mowing

### Odd Jobs

- Riley Baldus, 527-5333

### Petsitting/Dogwalking

- Blythe Apple, 243-3837
- Riley Baldus, 527-5333
- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922
- Debbie Walker, 243-1024
- Corinne Wiesner, 527-5566

### GOING ON SABBATICAL? RELOCATING TEMPORARILY?

DONALDSON RUN FAMILY  
AVAILABLE TO HOUSESIT WHILE OUR  
HOME IS BEING RENOVATED.

STEPHANIE TEBOR: (703) 908-9212

**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 Kolick at (703) 524-5093 or by email at [jkolick@aol.com](mailto:jkolick@aol.com)**

# DRCA Traffic Committee Continues Productive Work with County Staff

Anne Wilson

In the last few months, much has been achieved through the Donaldson Run Traffic Calming Committee's work with county staff:

## **Military Road-Lorcom Lane Intersection:**

As promised by the county, the designated left turn lanes on Military Road were painted in early spring.

## **Lorcom Lane:**

Thanks to two neighbors who agreed to have a speed indicator sign adjacent to their properties, a location has been confirmed for the sign on the north side of Lorcom Lane. The county was informed, and the sign should be installed soon. A location for the sign on the south side of Lorcom Lane is still being researched.

## **Military Road:**

As reported in the last issue of *The Current*, Military Road between Lorcom Lane and Old Glebe Road is one of the arterial streets that is being examined by the county's Arterial Traffic Management Study, which is scheduled to be completed later this spring. DRCA plans to have a presentation concerning the recommendations for Military Road at our May civic association meeting. It should be noted that these will be recommendations made without resources to fund any changes. Therefore, further work will be required of the community to support improvements to this road.

Also on Military Road, thanks to the interest and generosity of Eddie and Wendy Allen, the parabolic mirror that has been broken for years is being replaced. This mirror is needed to increase visibility for vehicles turning onto Military Road from 25th Place. The community purchased the original mirror, and the county said that any replacement would have to be paid for by the neighbors.

## **Intersection of Vacation Lane and 23rd Street:**

Concern has been raised about the safety of the crosswalk at this intersection. County staff is in

the process of evaluating this intersection, which is close to HB Woodlawn School.

## **Intersections of Vacation-Lorcom Lanes and Vacation Lane-Taylor Street:**

On March 22, concerned neighbors met with county staff to look at the traffic and pedestrian issues at these intersections. Our suggestions were noted and traffic engineers will be evaluating this area.

## **26th-31st Street:**

At the civic association meeting on March 31, Terry Bellamy, Division Director for Department of Public Works (DPW), presented the results of the traffic study conducted on 26th-31st Street. Study findings confirmed what residents already knew: speeding is a significant problem on the street. DPW measures found that average speeds on the street range from a low of 27 mph by the stop sign at Upshur Street to a high of 39 mph near Old Dominion Drive. The average speed near Military Road was almost as high at 38 mph. After midnight, speeds were clocked as high as 60 mph. Mr. Bellamy, in consultation with others at DPW, discussed various alternatives to calm the traffic on this 25-mph street. One of DPW's suggestions was to install a four-way stop at Wakefield and 26th Streets, which was done on April 6. A second suggestion was to install signs at both ends of the street that inform drivers that they are entering a residential area with children and that the speed limit is 25 mph. These could be lighted signs that flash at particular times of the day.

Neighbors asked that some measures be taken at the intersection of Vermont and 26th Streets as well. Residents who live in this area reported repeated accidents in front of their houses and on multiple occasions had out-of-control cars end up in their front yards. It was recommended to Mr. Bellamy that the county install a three-way stop at this intersection for a trial period to see what impact this would have on speeds. Mr. Bellamy said that he would review this recommendation with other staff and report back to the Traffic Committee.

If you have comments about the issues we are attempting to address with the county or an interest in traffic issues and would like to be on the Traffic Committee, please contact Anne Wilson at [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org) or by telephone at 525-0344.

**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

**Treasurer's Report**

**Ned Rhodes**

Many thanks to those of you who renewed your membership with the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) for 2004 and beyond. We appreciate, as well, those of you who made generous contributions to offset the costs involved with publishing the newsletter. Your current membership status appears on the mailing label of this newsletter and Ned Rhodes is available at most DRCA meetings to take your dues checks. Dues are \$15 per household per year. You can fill out the membership application above or on our web site at [www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org).

**Arlington Teen Summer Job Expo**

Arlington's TEEN SUMMER EXPO -- an annual spring event for teens interested in summer jobs -- will be held from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 24 at Washington-Lee High School. From 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. the Arlington Employment Center will host a pre-employment workshop for all teens. The Expo is free for all participants and no pre-registration is required for teens.

Some employers will exhibit their job opportunities, while other local groups will present youth summer programs and volunteer opportunities. Employment professionals will advise students and parents on work permits and interviewing. Teens can then clarify options before exploring job postings and exhibits.

Hundreds of jobs ranging from Brand Representatives for Abercrombie and Fitch to Park Rangers for the Northern Virginia Park Authority will be available. Internships at companies like City Graphics, Inc. and Levine School of Music will be posted, in addition to dozens of restaurant positions, lifeguarding opportunities and much more. Parents are encouraged to attend. For more information call (703) 228-1404.

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PROPERTIES  
FOR ALL YOUR REAL ESTATE  
NEEDS**

**OFFICE: (703) 821-8210  
CELL: (703) 593-6320  
email:  
[mike@mikesellsvirginia.com](mailto:mike@mikesellsvirginia.com)  
[www.MikeSellsVirginia.com](http://www.MikeSellsVirginia.com)**

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

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See page 2 for Civic Association information.

## **DRCA Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.**  
**Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod**  
**2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda: DRCA Elections, Legislative Update  
and Madison Dog Park Relocation**

## **NCAC Update**

**Ned Rhodes**

Progress is being made on Donaldson Run's funded Neighborhood Conservation projects. None of the funded projects have been completed primarily due to the success of the Neighborhood Conservation program and the high number of participating neighborhoods. Although the program is overwhelmed with funded projects, this situation should improve soon since the county has increased the staff for the Neighborhood Conservation program and contracted out some of the design projects.

Two projects are moving ahead in our neighborhood. The first is the stream restoration project for Taylor Park. DRCA has had two presentations from the design consultant and construction should begin soon. The other project that has had some progress is the Vernon Street project. Citizens from the blocks involved held a design review to go over the current plan. The county likely will hold more meetings before the design is considered final and construction begins.

## **Taylor Elementary School Celebrates 50 Years**

On Saturday, June 5, 2004, Taylor Elementary School will hold a commemoration celebrating its fifty year history. The celebration, which will be held at Taylor School from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., will feature addresses by distinguished past principal Ralph Stone and current principal Rob Hindman. Each grade will present a gift to the school and there will be a Taylor History Documentary and birthday cake.

In preparation for the celebration, the school staff is asking that former students, teachers, parents, administrators and support staff share their memories of Taylor School. To share your memories and for more information about this upcoming event, visit [www.taylorpta.org](http://www.taylorpta.org).