



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Winter 2005

## **STARTING THE NEW YEAR**

**Ned W. Rhodes**

Happy New Year to everyone. The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) had a good year and dealt with some interesting issues at the membership meetings. As we move ahead this year, we are going to try some different things in the hope that more of you will attend the membership meetings.

For example, at the January meeting, we are going to host a social half hour from 7pm until the meeting begins at 7:30. We encourage you to come a little early to meet and to socialize with your DRCA officers and neighbors. The membership meeting will begin promptly at 7:30, and on the agenda is a discussion of the new zoning ordinances that the County is considering, followed by a panel of two realtors who will discuss what is driving housing prices in our neighborhood. Both topics should be of interest, and we hope you will mark your calendar for January 26 at 7pm at Taylor Elementary School.

DRCA will hold five or six membership meetings this coming year and publish four newsletters. At this time, officials from the Department of Public Works will speak at our March meeting. In May, we are looking into meeting at either Potomac Overlook Park or Gulf Branch Nature Center to discuss a nature-related topic as well as the stream restoration project in Taylor Park. The topics for our September and November meetings

are open and Candidates Night will be in October, as it has been for the past four years.

In order to keep up with civic association events, I encourage you to renew your dues and to include your email address with the form and payment so that we can send you periodic notices of upcoming events and pending issues. We do not sell the list and only use it for DRCA-related communications.

I look forward to seeing you at the January meeting. Feel free to email me at [ned@drca.org](mailto:ned@drca.org) if you have any questions or comments as we go through the year.

## **DRCA TO ADDRESS ZORC LOT COVERAGE PROPOSALS CONCERNING IN-FILL DEVELOPMENT**

**Bill Richardson**

DRCA has invited County staff and other proponents of changes to the maximum lot coverage permitted for residential structures to outline their proposals at its next meeting on Wednesday, January 26. Rob Swennes, Vice Chairman of the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) and a member of the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC), and Jim Snyder, a Planning Supervisor in the County's Department of

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**The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, January 26  
at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School .**

# ZORC PROPOSALS

(continued from page 1)

Development and Master Planning, will be at the meeting.

The lot coverage proposals are now under active review by the County Board. At its December 11 meeting, the Board postponed consideration of staff-proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance provisions. Because the staff's version of these changes differs from that previously recommended by the Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC), particularly as they apply to additions to existing homes, the Board concluded that it required further study of the differences between the two proposals. The Board currently plans to make its proposal (which would then be subject to further public comment) at the February board meeting.

Since 1964, the Zoning Ordinance has permitted construction on residential lots of up to 56 percent of the size of the lot. In light of concerns that this limit has led to the construction of very large homes that change the character of the surrounding neighborhood (so-called "McMansions"), the staff has proposed lower limits, ranging from 25 percent in R-20 districts up to 45 percent in R-5 districts, with additional limits on the size of front porches and rear garages. The staff's proposal mirrors the conclusions of the prior ZORC study in most respects, except that the staff would give more latitude for construction of additions to existing homes. It would do this by applying the new limits only to "new construction." This term would include new homes (including teardown and replacement jobs), but would not include additions, except for very substantial ones – those that either (1) relocate more than 50 percent of the main building's outer walls or (2) more than double the main building's footprint.

Further information can be found on the County's website in the summary of the agenda items for the Board's December 11 meeting. Go to: <http://www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/CountyBoard/meetings/2004/dec/1211/index.htm> and then go to agenda item 43. Additionally, please attend the January 26 Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting if you would like to be heard on this subject.

*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	Ned Rhodes	741-0861
1st VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2nd VP	Mike Green	525-9414
Secretary	Helen Lane	524-3417
Treasurer	Elizabeth Apple	243-3837
Director	Larry Finch	528-6349
Director	Greg Gromada	465-8564
Director	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Director	Bill Richardson	525-5270
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242

## **FALL FOR FALLEN FROM PROUST**

Beginning January 11, Signature Theatre presents a play by the author of *Nijinsky's Last Dance*, *In The Garden* and *Melville Slept Here*. In *Fallen From Proust*, Norman Allen gives us a comic tour-de-force. All bets are off in a world where Republican affiliations are anathema, homosexuality is passe, and an ancient volume of Proust holds the key to all mysteries. At the Signature, located at 3806 S. Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington, from January 11 to February 20, 2005.

# TRAFFIC UPDATE

Anne Wilson

## Lorcom Lane:

Speed indicator signs were activated this fall. However, as those of you who use Lorcom Lane know, the signs have worked sporadically. Due to the placement of the signs, some of the radar signals deflecting off cars disrupt the operation of the sign on the opposite side of the street. If the problem cannot be resolved by adjusting the calibration of the sign, then one of the signs will have to be relocated.

## Intersection of Vacation Lane and 23rd Street:

In September, several neighbors met with county staff to look at this intersection. Staff indicated that the suggestion for a painted crosswalk at the intersection was possible and that a concrete pad might be installed at the corner where school children wait for the bus. Now, children wait on grass or in the street, which is a dangerous situation given the amount of traffic in this area that is generated by HB Woodlawn School. The speed of traffic on Vacation Lane between 23rd Street and Military Road also was discussed. Since the school system owns the part of Vacation Lane that is adjacent to HB Woodlawn, County staff plans to discuss the issue of speed with the principal of the school.

## Intersection of Vacation Lane and Taylor Street:

As reported in the last newsletter, Jeff Sikes from the County's Transportation Division plans to look at this intersection with an engineer to evaluate this area. Mr. Sikes has reported nothing new.

## 26th -31st Street:

In late September, the County's proposal to reconfigure the intersection of Vermont Street-26th Street by extending a curb to narrow the intersection was shared with neighbors. In response to concerns that the proposal would not affect the speed of traffic on 26th Street, County staff reconsidered the options and, in mid November, returned with a proposal to extend a curb on 26th Street and add a traffic circle. The consensus of the group of nearby neighbors and others who use the street was that a three-way stop would be preferable in that it would be a simpler, less expensive option that would reduce speeds in the immediate vicinity of the

## 2005 Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, January 26**

**Agenda: Zoning Ordinance  
Review Committee (ZORC)**

**Discussion**

**and**

**Real Estate in**

**Donaldson Run Presentation**

**please note: social "half hour"**

**at 7 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March 30**

**Agenda: Department of  
Public Works/Department of**

**Environmental Services**

**Presentation**

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.

intersection. This request for a three-way stop is being referred to the County Manager. If he gives the go-ahead to explore this option, then additional input will be sought from the neighborhood before a final decision is made.

## Military Road:

At the DRCA general membership meeting in September, the recommendations generated by the County's Arterial Transportation Management (ATM) Study were presented. The goal of the ATM study is to identify strategies that will enhance the safety and efficiency of travel of pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users, and motorists by using a balanced approach to the design and operation of an arterial roadway in context with its surrounding land use. Along Military Road, the consultants conducting the study recommended that this be achieved by narrowing the traffic lanes, adding

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# FRIENDS OF DONALDSON RUN WATERSHED ACTIVITIES

Larry Finch

Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed (FDRW) organized two outdoor events in October:

## *Invasive Plant Removal*

On October 23, "Make A Difference Day," projects for removing invasive plants and trash were held in parks across Arlington. Our neighborhood effort was on the left bank of Donaldson Run, at the site of a reforestation project funded under the County's Park Enhancement Grant (PEG) program. Kudzu and other invasive plants had completely overrun the site, killing all of the trees.

With about 50 volunteers, we had by far the biggest turnout of any project in Arlington. Participants included a dozen Cub Scouts and more than two dozen Marymount University students. It was particularly helpful to have these young people work on the steep hillside at the site.

This small army of volunteers made short work of the invasive plants, clearing the site so that trees can be planted as the next step in the reforestation process. Later, County workers covered the hillside with erosion-control fabric to hold the soil in place until native plants become established. FDRW organized this "Make a Difference Day" activity in cooperation with Northern Virginia Conservation Trust and the Donaldson Run Civic Association.

## *Stream Walk*

On October 31, FDRW organized a walk along Donaldson Run, led by Cliff Fairweather, a naturalist with the Audubon Naturalist Society. Richard Bailey, a naturalist at Potomac Overlook Regional Park, also joined the walk.

The weather was clear and brightly colored leaves were still on the trees. The walk was well attended, with participants from across Arlington, including members of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Urban Forestry Commission, Master Gardeners, and Tree Stewards.

Cliff Fairweather led the group along Donaldson Run below Military Road, stopping along the way to describe the plants and animals that live in the stream and nearby woods. As the group walked along the edge of Potomac Overlook, Rich Bailey added insights about the plants and wildlife in that park.

The stream walk was organized by FDRW and co-sponsored by the Audubon Naturalist Society and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). FDRW plans to organize a stream walk along the upper part of Donaldson Run next spring.

Those interested in learning more about FDRW activities should contact Larry Finch at [lefinch@verizon.net](mailto:lefinch@verizon.net) or 703-528-6349.

## TRAFFIC UPDATE

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two pedestrian- and speed-activated traffic lights, and narrowing the entrances to side streets off Military Road. Some of the concerns raised by residents at the meeting included whether there would be enough space for trucks and emergency vehicles to enter the side streets and a possible reduction in on-street parking. These concepts and recommendations are in the very early stages of development and are subject to further neighborhood input. At present there is no funding to implement the recommendations. A resolution was passed at the meeting to support the concept of the ATM study and to request that the County, with additional citizen input, further develop the plans for Military Road.

As always, if you have questions or comments about these or any other traffic issues, or would like to be on the Traffic Committee, contact Anne Wilson. (email: [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org); phone: 703 525-0344).

**DISCUSS CURRENT AND FUTURE TRENDS  
IN THE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN THE  
DONALDSON RUN AREA.  
JOIN CAROL MCEWEN OF WEICHERT  
REALTORS AND LIBBY ROSS OF  
LONG & FOSTER AT THE  
JANUARY 26 DRCA MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING, 7:30 P.M.**

## **Professional Help Around the House**

Email [mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org) with recommendations.

### **Concrete/Stone work**

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

### **General Contractor**

Karl Knudson, (703) 538-5865, carpentry, tile work,  
small additions, decks, 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

A Cut Above Lawn and Landscaping Service,  
Patrick Rankin, (703) 536-3183, referred by  
Kathryn Ricard and Greg Gromada, 465-8564.

## **Need a Job Done? Hire a Neighbor!**

Email [mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org) if you or someone you know is  
interested in providing a service listed below.

### **Babysitting**

- Daniel Bronstein, 527-5714
- Meagan Vargas, 819-0275

### **Housesitting**

- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604
- Meagan Vargas, 819-0275

### **Petsitting/Dogwalking**

- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894  
or Megan at 524-4922
- Debbie Walker, 243-1024
- Corinne Wiesner, 527-5566

## **COUNTY GIVES TAXI DISCOUNTS TO SENIORS**

Super Senior Taxi gives 50 percent discounts to  
Arlington County residents, age 75 and over.  
Purchase coupon books until June 30; coupons never  
expire. Applications at the Agency on Aging,  
Commuter Stores, and Senior Centers. For more  
information call 703-228-1700 (TTY: 703-228-1788)  
or e-mail: [Arlaaa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:Arlaaa@arlingtonva.us)

## **DRCA MEETING CANCELLATION POLICY**

In the case of inclement weather during scheduled  
DRCA General Membership meetings, the meetings  
will be cancelled any time that the Arlington  
County Public Schools are closed or when  
after-school activities are cancelled.

**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)**

## **ARLINGTON SENIORS IN ACTION**

The Office of Senior Adult Programs, a part of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources located at 300 North Park Drive in Arlington, is offering the following programs in the coming months.

The Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 North Culpeper Street, will host a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., Tuesday, January 18 at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Joseph Smith will present a program entitled "African Americans Make A Difference." Cost is \$2 which includes lunch. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 703-228-4839.

Telling your life story in an organized and interesting manner is the subject of a four-part series beginning Wednesday, February 2 at 10:30 a.m. at the Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. The cost is \$12 for the series. Registration is required; call 703-228-0555.

"Great Decisions" is the name of a program for seniors who meet the second and fourth Saturdays of the month to discuss current affairs. The group meets at Culpepper Garden Senior Center (lower level), 4435 North Pershing Drive. This year's top pics will include U.S. intelligence reform, China, Russia, Sudan, global poverty, outsourcing of jobs, and the Middle East. For more information call 703-228-4403.

Strength training for seniors will be available at the Madison and Langston-Brown Senior Centers. Staffed by a certified personal trainer who can offer assistance. Cost is \$45 for 15 sessions. Call for days and times, 703-228-4745.

Arlington Senior Golf Club is preparing for its 2005 golf season. Meetings set for January 19 and February 16, 11:30 a.m., Culpepper Garden Senior Center (lower level), 4435 North Pershing Drive. Registration required, 703-228-4766.

Senior Singers Chorale resumes rehearsals at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway, in preparation for April concert. New singers welcome. Group meets every Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Call for details, 703-228-0555.

Free blood pressure screenings for seniors every Tuesday, 9:30 a.m., Dawson Terrace Senior Center, 2133 North Taft Street. Call for directions, 703-228-6300.

AARP's safe driving refresher course for seniors will be held January 25 and 26 at Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4435 North Pershing Drive (lower level) and February 28 and March 1 at Lee Senior Center, 5722 Lee Highway. Cost is \$10. Participants must attend both days to receive certificate, which some insurance companies recognize for a discount. To register call 703-228-0555 (Lee) or 703-228-4403 (Culpepper).

Understanding annuities is the topic of a program for seniors, Monday, February 28, 10:15 a.m., Madison Senior Center, 3829 North Stafford Street. No fee. Call to register, 703-228-5285.

## **LEARNING IN RETIREMENT**

The Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute (ALRI) is a wonderful, non-profit volunteer organization, affiliated with George Mason University, which provides exam-free, non-credit, college-level courses, as well as special events, lectures, and volunteer activities. It's an opportunity to keep the brain cells alert and active while having fun and meeting new people.

Membership is open to all individuals over 50 years of age regardless of residence. The ALRI curriculum offers approximately 30 courses per term including the Arts (music, fine arts, theater), History, Literature, Law, Politics and Public Affairs (current economic, political, and international issues), Science and Engineering, the Social Sciences (religion, culture, anthropology), and Health and Wellness. Full descriptions of ALRI's most recent courses can be found on our website at <http://arlingtonlri.gmu.edu> (no www). The catalog of spring offerings will be available in early February with classes beginning in early March.

Annual membership is \$55 and the current fee for each course is \$45. For further information please call 703-228-2144 or check our website.

# **TAYLOR ELEMENTARY'S ROB HINDMAN NAMED ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2004 "PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR"**

Taylor Elementary School Principal Robert L. Hindman has been named the Arlington Public Schools 2004 "Principal of the Year" and winner of The Washington Post's Distinguished Educational Leadership Award for Arlington.

Now in his seventh year as the principal at Taylor, Hindman provides instructional leadership that is demonstrated by a pattern of rising student achievement. He accommodates students with special needs through the strategic use of faculty and staff, encourages collaboration among faculty, and is extremely involved in before- and after-school activities. He also takes a proactive role in working with his staff to develop educational strategies that will enable all children to perform well academically and socially.

"The kinds of results evident at Taylor do not happen by accident. They are in large part attributable to Rob's focus on instruction, his insistence that plans reflect the end of improved student learning, and his tendency toward shared and distributed leadership," said Superintendent Dr. Robert G. Smith.

Since he began his tenure as principal, Hindman also is credited with maintaining open lines of communication between the school and the community, remaining highly visible in the community and available to parents and students at all hours. Hindman's extensive experience in special education has been an asset to Taylor, which has served as a model school for inclusive special education.

Since 1978, when he began his career in education as an elementary adaptive physical education teacher at the Devereux Foundation (the world's largest private foundation for neurologically impaired and brain injured students), Hindman has worked as a physical education teacher, adaptive

teacher, and classroom teacher at the elementary and high school levels in Virginia and New Jersey. He also has coached high school varsity swimming, soccer, and track. Before becoming principal at Taylor, he was the school's assistant principal for just less than one year.

He is the chairman of the United Way Campaign at Taylor and serves as the chair of the APS Health & Physical Education Advisory Committee. Last year he served as the chair of the School Health Advisory Board. He has served on various recreational and education foundation boards throughout his career and was a member of the Arlington YMCA Board of Management.

Hindman earned a bachelor's degree in health, physical and safety education from West Chester State College in 1976 and a master's of education degree in administration and supervision from George Mason University in 1987.

On November 15, Hindman and 16 other principals in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area received the Distinguished Educational Leadership Award from The Washington Post. He also was honored by the Arlington School Board during its meeting on December 2.

*Contributed by Arlington Public Schools  
Department of School and Community Relations.  
For more information contact 703-228-6004.*

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED  
TO JOIN YOUR  
DONALDSON RUN NEIGHBORS  
FOR A SOCIAL HALF HOUR ON  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26.  
WE'LL GATHER AT 7 P.M. JUST  
BEFORE THE DRCA GENERAL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT  
TAYLOR SCHOOL.**

# **OUR LIVING STREAM: STREAM MONITORING IN DONALDSON RUN, 2004 UPDATE**

**Larry Finch**

Since April 2001, volunteers have monitored the aquatic life in Donaldson Run. Water samples are taken three or four times a year at a location a few hundred feet downstream from Military Road. Although Donaldson Run was once a natural spring-fed stream, today it is subject to much stress brought about by suburban development. Much of the water the stream carries today is runoff from our neighborhood streets and roof tops. The storm sewers that carry this runoff feed directly into Donaldson Run. Given the steep terrain in our neighborhood, during heavy rainfall the runoff turns our placid little run into a raging torrent. The chemistry of the stream also is affected by the fertilizers and pesticides used in our yards and gardens and at the Washington Golf and Country Club.

Monitor volunteers look closely at the samples from the stream trying to spot little water creatures, known as freshwater macroinvertebrates. These are big enough to be seen with the naked eye if one looks carefully. However, a microscope is needed to identify some of the creatures correctly. The purpose of the monitoring is to assess the health of the stream. Some macroinvertebrates are very sensitive to pollution or severe natural events, while others are more tolerant. Thus the number and type of macroinvertebrates in our stream provide a good clue to the stream's general health.

Monitoring results in autumn of 2004 indicated that stream health for the stretch being monitored is about what it was in April 2001. There have been ups and downs during that period, and one dramatic decline in the fall of 2001, after a serious runoff incident involving the Washington Golf and Country Club (WGCC). The Club had applied a dose of a pesticide/herbicide called Basimid G that was washed into the stream by a heavy summer rainfall. The stream life in the Country Club branch and in Donaldson Run below where the Country Club branch enters the stream was killed;

Gulf Branch was also affected. Stream monitors who happened to be monitoring the day after the rain discovered the dramatic die off. The stream also is inhabited by eels, which under normal circumstances are rarely seen. The presence of the scores of dead eels made the monitors immediately aware that a poisoning had occurred. The Arlington County HAZMAT team was notified and traced the source of the poison to the country club. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been investigating the fishkill and is currently close to finalizing a settlement with the WGCC.

Stream life seems to have recovered since then 2001 incident. Apparently macroinvertebrates slowly moved into the devastated area from the upstream branches that were not affected by the herbicide. The macroinvertebrates in question are insects that inhabit running water in their immature or nymph stages for periods of up to several years before emerging for relatively brief lives as adult flying insects. These insects include Mayflies, Stoneflies and Caddisflies, Dobson flies, Dragonflies, Craneflies, Black flies, and Midges. In this group the ones found in Donaldson Run are fairly pollution tolerant; these include several types of Mayflies, Caddisflies, Black flies, and Midges. Absent is the Stonefly, which needs cleaner, colder water.

The crayfish, which are beloved by children who get a chance to investigate stream life, are not insects but are crustaceans, a different class of creature. Crayfish are fairly tolerant of both pollution and children. In Donaldson Run, the great enemy of the crayfish is the raccoon.

Almost anyone with an interest in stream life can become a stream monitor. It requires about six hours of training, in which participants are instructed in stream monitoring methods and learn about stream life. Those who pass a rigorous quiz are certified as "Team Leaders." Volunteers who haven't passed the quiz can serve as monitors as long as they monitor with a Team Leader. Under the Arlington County program, monitoring is done at specific monitoring stations. Training programs are sponsored by the County in conjunction with the Audubon Naturalist Society. If you are interested in participating please contact Aileen Winquist, a County environmental planner, who heads the stream monitoring program at [awinquist@arlingtonva.us](mailto:awinquist@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-3610.

# NCAC PROJECT UPDATE

Ned W. Rhodes

The Donaldson Run Civic Association has four projects in the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) hopper. Here is an update on their status.

## **Project N349 – Donaldson Run Stream Restoration:**

There have been some problems obtaining the necessary construction easements from a few property owners along the stream. It appears that construction probably will not begin until April of 2005, which is a delay of about three months.

## **Project N362 – Street Improvement on North Vermont Street:**

This project was funded in November of 2002 and had a projected completion date of November 2004. There has been a 50 percent design meeting with the neighbors, and the project has just now completed the 50 percent plan stage. Additional refinements are required to bring the project to a 90 percent design stage when another meeting will be held with the neighbors. It may be another year until the project reaches the 90 percent design phase, and, if all goes well, construction could start in the Spring of 2006.

## **Project N412 – Street Lights for Project N362:**

The large street improvement project for Vermont Street was broken up into two projects that will most likely be built at the same time. This part of the project is to install street lights along the improved section of Vermont Street, and it shares in part of the design for project N362. This project may also be started in the Spring of 2006.

## **Project N402 – Street Improvement on North 25th Road:**

Only survey work has been done here, and it is estimated that in ten months a 50 percent design will be completed so that a meeting with the neighborhood can be scheduled. I cannot begin to guess when construction might start.

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee met in early December to decide which projects would be recommended for funding. The committee assigns points to each project based on

various criteria. Our restoration project for Tributary B fell in the middle of the pack; based upon the amount of money the committee wanted to spend out of the bond that was approved in November, only the top ten projects on the list were funded. Our Tributary B project was not one of them. The committee normally spends about one quarter of the bond each funding round since the bond has to last two years.

Based on the design and construction backlog as noted above, this is not really a bad thing. If the neighborhood again votes Tributary B as our highest priority project at our March meeting, we will be able to renew our request for funding for this project at the Summer NCAC funding round in June of 2005. DRCA will keep you posted.

## **DEAR DONALD DEBUTS**

Beginning with this issue of *The Current*, the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) plans to have a regular column to answer questions posed by neighbors. Send your questions or concerns to our newsletter editor, Mary Cooper (mary@drca.org). Since membership dues for 2005 are now due, today's question is a timely one:

Dear Donald,

I appreciate all the work that the civic association has been doing in recent years. But why do I need to pay \$15 a year for membership dues when I don't have time to attend any meetings and I know that I will get the newsletter for free anyway?

Signed ... An Anonymous Neighbor

Dear AN,

Those of us who are involved in the civic association understand that this is a very busy area, and some people just don't have the time or energy to attend our meetings. Donaldson Run has approximately 950 homes in the neighborhood, and typically about one third of these households pay membership dues. Most of the money is used to pay for the printing and postage of the newsletter, and we feel that it is important for everyone in the neighborhood to be kept advised of neighborhood issues. One way that you can show your support of our efforts is to be sure to keep up to date on paying your dues.

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## **TRAFFIC SIGNAL INITIATIVE**

Anne Wilson

At DRCA's September General Membership meeting, members were asked for input on the County's traffic light initiative. The County had asked neighborhoods to propose locations for five new signals at intersections with high pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Donaldson Run residents identified seven locations where a traffic light might be helpful. As a result of the September meeting discussion, two locations were sent on to County staff for consideration. They are:

- Old Dominion Drive at 26th Street
- Military Road in the area of 26th Street or 26th Road (north side of Military Road) for a pedestrian and speed activated signal

Data is being collected on all 14 locations throughout the County where civic associations proposed new traffic signals. This data, along with field observations, will be evaluated by a consultant who will make a recommendation to the County. The County then will select the five locations for the new traffic signals. Neighborhood input will be sought in the design of the traffic signals, and it is anticipated that the lights will be installed next fall.

If you have any questions or comments about this, contact Anne Wilson (anne@drca.org or (703) 525-0344).

**CONTACT MIKE PUGH AT  
TOWN AND SUBURBAN  
PROPERTIES  
FOR ALL YOUR REAL  
ESTATE NEEDS**

**OFFICE: (703) 821-8210**

**CELL: (703) 593-6320**

**email:**

**mike@mikesellsvirginia.com**

**www.MikeSellsVirginia.com**

## **SIGNATURE THEATRE AND ARLINGTON SCHOOLS**

[www.sig-online.org/siginschool.htm](http://www.sig-online.org/siginschool.htm)

A new addition to the Signature Theatre's expanding cadre of unique, quality educational programs, The Apprentice at Signature offers hands-on professional experience to young performers and designers. The apprentices, seven theatre arts students from HB Woodlawn, Wakefield, Washington-Lee, and Yorktown High Schools, are part of the Arlington Public School Fine Arts Apprentice Program. The students were selected based on their commitment to the arts and their desire to learn more about theatre, especially the craft of acting. The Apprentice at Signature, in conjunction with the Fine Arts Apprentice Program, is designed to enhance the Arlington Public School program by providing the students with an opportunity to see all of this season's productions at Signature—new musicals, new plays, and a classic Sondheim. Following each show there will be a forum for the apprentices to talk informally with the actors about their work and experiences in the theatre.

The apprentices also will have an opportunity to work on their own acting skills and apply some of the techniques talked about in the forums. A series of audition workshops will be led by Education Director Marcia Gardner for the students to work on their auditioning skills: how to select and prepare audition material, how to craft a resume, and how to present themselves during an audition. The Apprentice at Signature hopes to provide an entry-level opportunity for the next generation of theatre professionals.

Signature Theatre also has developed the Signature in the Schools education program. This program uses theatre to open the minds and broaden the viewpoints of local teens while engaging them in a positive and creative experience. A recipient of The Washington Post's prestigious Community Service Award, Signature in the Schools reaches approximately 750 students annually through theatre workshops, in-class discussions, an after-school program, and the production of an original play.

## 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: Elizabeth Apple, Treasurer, 4207 North 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22207

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Elizabeth Apple

It's that time of year again--Donaldson Run Civic Association dues are due! Looking for a gift for that special neighbor? How about a year's membership in the DRCA?

Membership costs \$15 per family for a calendar year, one of the biggest bargains in town, and all dues-paying members are eligible to vote on issues that arise in DRCA's general membership meetings.

Though dues are not tax deductible, they do serve an important, non-profit purpose: DRCA dues help underwrite the cost of publishing and mailing our neighborhood newsletter, *The Current*, to every household (more than 900) within the DRCA boundaries. Our membership dues, in addition to the generous extra contributions of many of our neighbors, have enabled us to send the newsletter three to four times annually.

DRCA dues can be paid in two ways. Fill out the form at the top of this page and mail it, with a check, to DRCA Treasurer Elizabeth Apple. Or, pay at any general membership meeting. We hope to see familiar faces and many new ones at our upcoming meetings!

The Current

## DEAR DONALD'S DEBUT

(continued from p. 9)

Arlington County counts on its civic associations for input as issues arise, and DRCA works continually with the County on issues that are of importance to all parts of our neighborhood. Your support of the civic association will allow us to continue to monitor and communicate items of interest to the neighborhood. It also gives you a voice in starting up improvement projects such as curb, gutter, street light, and park enhancements through the County's Neighborhood Conservation Program. With a high percentage of dues-paying members, DRCA can show the County that we have the active support of our constituency, even if our attendance at meetings may not always be large. Writing a check to DRCA does not take much time, but it does show a level of support which we appreciate. Also, by paying your dues and giving us your email address, you will be notified in a timely way when important developments occur.

I hope I have convinced you to join DRCA for 2005. A membership application is at the top of this page.

Sincerely, Donald

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Winter 2005

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

## DRCA Meeting

**Wednesday, January 26 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Taylor Elementary School, First Grade Pod**  
**2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda: Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC) Discussion  
and Real Estate in Donaldson Run Presentation**  
*please note: social "half hour" at 7 p.m.*

## MOVIE STARS, MAMMALS AND MORE

### #622286M: WILD ONES: MAMMAL GAMES

Wednesday, January 19, 3-4:30pm.

Ages 6-10.

Join the "Wild Ones" nature club at Gulf Branch!  
Each month we learn about a different mystery of  
nature through hands on activities. In January,  
exercise your inner squirrel or skunk while  
participating in hyperactive games indoors and  
out. Dress for the weather. Free.

Reservations required.

Meet at GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER, 3608  
Military Road, Arlington, VA 22207, 703-228-3403.

### #624287B: POLA NEGRI MOVIE NIGHT,

Thursday, January 20, 7-9pm.

Ages 18 and up.

Pola Negri (one of the queens of the silent screen)  
lived in the Nature Center when it was still a  
private home. Learn a little about this screen siren  
and watch one of her movies. Popcorn and soda  
will be served. \$5 fee per person.

Reservations required. GULF BRANCH NATURE  
CENTER, 703-228-3403.

### #622286X: BIRD HOUSE BUILDING,

Saturday, February 19, 3-4pm.

Adults with children ages 10 and up.

Soon birds will be migrating back to our area and  
looking for nesting sites. We'll talk about local  
birds as each family builds a wooden bird house and  
feeder to take home.

\$8 fee per family. Reservations required.

GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER, 703-228-3403.

### #624287D: MOON MADNESS,

Thursday, Feb. 24, 7:30-8:30pm.

Adults.

Learn about the moon – why it seems to change,  
theories about its formation, myths and legends  
from around the world, and more. We'll go outside  
to study the Full Moon, finding and identifying  
lunar landmarks with telescope and binoculars.  
Hot cider will help keep us warm.

\$3 fee per person.

Meet at FORT C.F. SMITH PARK & HISTORIC  
SITE – Tractor Barn, 2411 North 24th Street,  
Arlington, VA 22207, 703-243-7329.