



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

May 2005

## Donaldson Run Civic Association Update

Ned W. Rhodes

Since the beginning of the year, the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) Executive Committee has been monitoring a number of neighborhood issues. These include a Unified Residential Development (URD) on North Upton Street, a Unified Commercial Development (UCD) at Wakefield Street and Old Dominion Drive, the proposed ZORC regulations, our active Neighborhood Conservation (NC) projects, the construction on Military Road, traffic calming issues and sidewalks on 25th Street. Your input on these issues is important to us. Please read the newsletter, attend the general membership meetings and express your opinions so that we can formulate a policy. Here is a summary of where we are on these items:

1. Based on no community objections, the executive committee has agreed to not oppose the URD on North Upton Street. The applicant went out of his way to involve DRCA and we commend him for that effort.
2. The executive committee is still evaluating the UCD project that is just outside of our neighborhood. We have asked our neighboring civic association, Old Dominion, how we can help them with this project and we are waiting on their answer.
3. DRCA has devoted time at two meetings to discussing the complex issue of the proposed (Update continued on page 2)

## Annual Meeting on Parks

Larry Finch

The annual Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting on parks will be held on May 25. A naturalist will describe plants and animals found in our neighborhood parks and discuss the backyard wildlife habitat program. An environmental planner will review the Donaldson Run stream restoration project, scheduled to begin in July (see article on page three). Attendees also will learn how to contact Parks Department staff to report park maintenance issues.

This meeting will be held at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road. There are only a few parking spaces at the center and they should be saved for participants who really need to park nearby. Others are urged to carpool – and to use street parking.

The meeting will begin at 7:30 on Wednesday, May 25. Starting at 7:00, there will be an opportunity to enjoy refreshments and meet your Donaldson Run neighbors. If you have questions, please contact Larry Finch at 703-528-6349.

## Arlington Farmers' Market

Enjoy fresh produce, freshly baked breads, meats, eggs, cheeses, mushrooms, honey, and more at the Arlington Farmers' Market, every Saturday from 8 am until noon at the intersection of Courthouse Road and North 14th Street.

**The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center.**

## Update (continued from page 1)

ZORC regulations. We encourage you to make your views known to the County Board since the regulations have differing effects on each property.

4. Our Neighborhood Conservation projects continue to move ahead. We will learn more about the Donaldson Run stream restoration project at the general membership May meeting. DRCA voted to move restoration of Tributary B forward as its number one NC project for the next funding round. Please see the previous two issues of the newsletter for information on the other NC projects that are in the works.

5. Our traffic committee continues to work on neighborhood traffic concerns, which are reported in each newsletter and at each meeting.

6. The bridge construction is scheduled for completion in May of this year and periodic updates are available on our web site ([www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)).

7. Director Greg Gromada has a full report of the 25th Street sidewalk situation on page six of this newsletter.

One of the things we have added to our membership meetings is a social half-hour before each meeting. These half hours give us all a chance to interact in a relaxed setting. I've enjoyed talking to new neighbors as well as getting better acquainted with other neighbors that I only see at civic association meetings. Plan on coming a little early to the May meeting (which will be held at Gulf Branch Nature Center) and enjoy some refreshments, tour the nature center and introduce yourself to the Executive Committee and your neighbors.

I am very excited by the topic for the next meeting as it has to do with the parks in our neighborhood. I'm looking forward to hearing about the construction plans for the stream restoration in Donaldson Run that I hope will be starting in a few months. Larry Finch is leading the meeting and you will find more details in an article on page three of this newsletter.

The year is almost half over. At this juncture, we'd like to remind you to renew your membership for this year. Please support the efforts of the civic association with your membership and make sure that we have your current email address so that we

*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

can send you meeting reminders and other timely neighborhood news.

I look forward to seeing you at the May 25 meeting. We will take a break for the summer and pick up our meeting schedule in September. Feel free to email me at [ned@drca.org](mailto:ned@drca.org) if you have any questions or comments. Have a great summer.

**Potomac Overlook's  
Spring/Summer Concert Series  
Begins on Saturday, May 28, at  
7 PM**

# Stream Restoration Project

Larry Finch

Stream restoration work along Donaldson Run is scheduled to begin in July. This project will include significant earthmoving activity along the stream from Lee Heights Park through Zachary Taylor Park to Military Road.

Construction is expected to take about four months, with work proceeding downstream from Lee Heights Park. When work begins in Zachary Taylor Park, the nature trail along the right bank of the stream will be closed for safety reasons. In addition, the bike path along the left bank may be closed briefly during some phases of the project.

Relocating the stream will require removal of a substantial number of mature trees, but many of them are already threatened by stream erosion. Shrubs, ground cover, and wetland plants will be planted as work on each portion of the stream is completed. In addition, several hundred small trees will be planted along the entire length of the project in the fall.

For many years, the technique typically used to control erosion along Arlington streams (including Donaldson Run) was to place large rocks and even concrete along the stream banks. However, that technique has many undesirable side effects: placement of rocks along streambanks usually contributes to increased erosion of the streambed nearby and streambanks elsewhere along the stream—simply shifting the erosion problem downstream.

This will be a "natural" stream restoration project. Relocating the stream will restore the sinuosity often seen in streams in rural areas. The channel also will be broadened to accommodate stormwater runoff and will incorporate strategically-placed rock structures in the stream to dissipate the energy of flow, mimicking formations found in nature. These design techniques should stabilize the stream without using rocks or other hardening methods along stream banks. The slope of the banks of the restored stream also will be much gentler, facilitating access to the stream for park users.

## 2005 Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, May 25**

**Agenda: Our Parks**

Note location: Gulf Branch Nature Center,  
3608 Military Road  
There will be a social half hour beginning at  
7 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 28**

**Agenda: Legislative Update**

**Wednesday, October 26**

**Agenda: TBA**

**Wednesday, November 16**

**Agenda: TBA**

The dates, times 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.

During the two years this project has been underway, there has been significant community input. DRCA organized workshops in 2003 and 2004, and the neighborhood has been well represented on a stream restoration advisory group that has met with the stream consultant to work out the details of the project.

Now project design has been completed and the final plans will be available for review at the May 25 meeting. That meeting will provide the final opportunity for residents to comment on the project before construction begins.

If you have questions, please contact Larry Finch at 703-528-6349 or Aileen Winkvist of Arlington's Department of Environmental Services at 703-228-3610.

## Traffic Update

Anne Wilson

### Lorcom Lane:

Due to the conflicting radar of the speed indicator signs on Lorcom Lane, the County determined that the sign on the south side of the street should be moved. The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) is in the process of contacting the neighbors who live at the proposed new sign location. Once permission is given, the County can proceed with this change. It is hoped that this will solve the problem of the signs not working properly.

### 26th -31st Street:

At the DRCA meeting in March, Randy Bartlett, the Director of the Department of Environmental Services, advised that plans were being developed for a sidewalk on 26th Street along the country club property through the Vermont Street intersection. County staff believes that, if constructed, the sidewalk would enhance pedestrian safety and reduce the speed of traffic in the area. However, nearby neighbors continue to feel strongly that a three-way stop should be installed immediately. Homeowners who live adjacent to the proposed new sidewalk also have concerns. This is clearly a work in progress, and it is getting serious attention from county staff.

### Military Road and Intersection of Old Dominion and 26th Street

As part of the County's traffic light initiative, DRCA proposed the installation of a traffic light at Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street, and a pedestrian and speed activated traffic light in the area of 26th Street or 26th Road (north side of Military Road). Donaldson Run also supported the Bellevue Forest Civic Association's proposal for a pedestrian and speed activated light at Military Road and 30th Street. A contractor hired by the county is in the process of evaluating the 14 locations that were suggested for new traffic lights, and it is expected that this analysis will be completed in mid May. The consultants also will be developing safety enhancement concepts for all proposed locations, even those that are not selected as sites for traffic lights. Once the site selections have been made, county staff plans to present the findings to the communities involved.

For more information on the Traffic Committee, contact Anne Wilson at [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org).

## Community Wildlife Habitat Neighborhood Challenge

Chase Raines

The Donaldson Run neighborhood has an opportunity to be recognized as a wildlife friendly area by the National Wildlife Federation as part of the Community Wildlife Habitat challenge. The goal is to have as many homes as possible certified as "backyard habitats" by the Audubon Naturalist Society. Civic associations certifying at least five new properties by September 30, 2005 will receive recognition from the Arlington County Board. The civic association certifying the most new properties will be awarded a prize.

The purpose of this challenge is to turn backyards into good wildlife habitats for birds and other small animals. It takes four criteria in order for a property to be certified as a wildlife habitat: food, water, shelter, and places to raise young. Three sources of food, such as a bush with berries or a birdfeeder, and one source of water, such as a birdbath, are required for a wildlife habitat. In addition, your backyard must have bushes, trees, or stone walls to serve as cover and places to raise young. To certify your property just fill out the online form at [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org) showing that your property meets the four criteria.

For more information on the Wildlife Habitat Challenge, come to the May 25 DRCA meeting at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Denise Chauvette, a naturalist at the nature center, will be on hand to discuss the challenge and other park and wildlife issues. If you have any questions about the program or certifying your property see [www.arlingtonenvironment.org](http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org) or contact Chase Raines at 703-524-4957 or by email at [nanhraines@aol.com](mailto:nanhraines@aol.com).

## Taxi Discounts for Seniors

Super Senior Taxi gives 50 percent discounts to Arlington County residents, age 75 and over. Purchase coupon books until June 30. For more information call 703-228-1700.

# **Pedestrian and Traffic Concerns at 23rd Street and Vacation Lane**

**Kris Marceca and Anne Wilson**

For a number of years the neighbors who live around the intersection of Vacation Lane and North 23rd Street have been trying to call attention to the conditions and traffic patterns at that intersection which, at times, can be quite dangerous. In 2004 the County did a traffic assessment of this intersection and determined it did not qualify for a four-way stop. Neighbors continued to be concerned about the speed of traffic through the intersection and the danger this posed to the pedestrian traffic in the area. The main entrance to H-B Woodlawn School is several hundred feet from the intersection, and adjacent to the intersection is a school bus stop used by a number of elementary and middle school students who live in the area. Complicating matters further, the part of Vacation Lane that extends from this intersection to Military Road is the property of Arlington Public Schools.

Last fall, a number of neighbors in the area signed a petition requesting that the County take steps to control the speed of cars in the area, enhance pedestrian safety by installing crosswalks and improved signage, and provide a hard surface area for children to stand on while waiting for the school bus. This last request was made so that students would not need to stand in the street to avoid the snow and mud as they do now. Nearby neighbors were invited by H-B Woodlawn officials to a meeting to discuss these issues. In response to neighbors' input at this meeting, Frank Haltiwanger, Principal of H-B Woodlawn, sent a memorandum to the transportation officials with Arlington Public Schools and Arlington County requesting the following: 1) installation of a four-way stop at the intersection of 23rd Street and Vacation Lane; 2) installation of a concrete pad to serve as a school bus stop near the intersection; 3) addition of school-children-safety signage with flashing lights along Vacation Lane in both directions. Since many of the neighbors in this area have specific concerns about the safety of the Taylor students at this bus stop, Taylor School Principal Rob Hindman and the Taylor PTA have been kept apprised of these issues as well.

If you have questions or comments about this issue contact Anne Wilson. (email: [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org); phone: 703-525-0344). Thanks to Kris Marceca for her work on this issue.

## **Crime Prevention Unit of Arlington County**

Crime Prevention Services offered by the Arlington County Police Department are available by contacting the Crime Prevention Unit by phone, email or mail. The following services are available free of charge to the citizens of Arlington County:

- \* Residential Premises Security Survey
- \* Commercial Premises Security Survey
- \* Neighborhood Watch Information
- \* Bicycle Registration
- \* Crime Prevention literature
- \* Crime Prevention Presentations to civic, service or professional organizations.

Crime Prevention topics include techniques you may implement to reduce your chances of becoming a victim of burglary, robbery, larceny, fraud, identity theft, or workplace violence. Presentations and literature can be provided as a general crime prevention overview or to address specific concerns or issues.

Submit requests by mail to the Arlington County Police Department, Crime Prevention Unit, 1425 North Courthouse Road, Arlington, VA 22201

Send requests via email to [hhurlock@arlingtonva.us](mailto:hhurlock@arlingtonva.us) or [azavadil@arlingtonva.us](mailto:azavadil@arlingtonva.us), or call: Heather Hurlock at 703-228-4051 or Amy Zavadil at 703-228-4092.

Provide us with your name, address, phone number, the best hours to reach you and service(s) of interest.

Presentations and Security Surveys can be scheduled at your convenience.

## **25th Street North Sidewalk**

**Greg Gromada**

In 2001, Arlington County initiated a Safe Routes to School project and proposed adding a sidewalk on North 25th Street between Stuart Street and Vacation Lane. In addition to helping achieve the goal of improving pedestrian conditions and safety around schools, the county believed that constructing a sidewalk on 25th Street would fulfill one of the policy goals included in the Arlington Pedestrian Transportation Plan of having a sidewalk on at least one side of every neighborhood street.

In order to gauge the range of community support for the sidewalk, the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) held a special meeting on March 14 to discuss this issue. The meeting was held in collaboration with the County and the immediate homeowners and was promoted by Taylor Elementary School. Five hundred flyers were distributed to the homeowners closest to 25th Street North, and an e-mail was sent out by DRCA to all of the civic association e-mail listserve subscribers. Taylor Elementary School and the Taylor School PTA posted notices about the meeting. Close to forty neighbors attended the meeting, the majority of whom were homeowners on 25th Street North. Of the attendees, only four expressed support for the sidewalk. In addition, DRCA only received e-mail from one other resident, who was unable to attend the meeting, expressing support for the sidewalk.

As a follow up to the March 14 meeting, the issue was discussed again at the March 30 DRCA General Membership meeting. Only two residents from the community vocalized support for the sidewalk.

The homeowners on 25th Street North feel that the county is moving forward on the sidewalk plan without having studied viable alternatives to enhance pedestrian safety. The residents have requested that the county look into the possibility of closing 25th Street to traffic before and after school to allow children to walk in the street. County staff does not feel that this is a good idea because of concerns about how the closure would be

enforced and concerns about the confusing message being given to children that sometimes it is appropriate to walk in the street. The neighbors have also questioned the need for a new sidewalk on 25th Street when there is an existing sidewalk on Vacation Lane and Stuart Street that provides access to Taylor School. They believe the county should further research improvements to the sidewalk on Stuart Street and signage related to pedestrian and traffic safety in the area.

The North 25th Street sidewalk proposal was thoroughly discussed in *The Current*, which is mailed to every home (some 950) in DRCA and an extra effort was made to reach out to the 500 closest homeowners with flyers. DRCA does not believe there is sufficient community support (which includes the neighborhood, PTA and school) for construction of a sidewalk on 25th Street and believes that there are viable alternatives to ensure that there is a safe route to Taylor School.

## **Vernon, Vermont and Upton Streets Project Summary**

**Ned W. Rhodes**

The Vernon-Vermont-Upton Streets project consists of installing missing curb and gutter on the east side of North Vernon Street and the south side of North Vermont Street. The intersection of North Vermont Street and North Upton Street will be narrowed to a more conventional configuration with the former paved area becoming green space. A new sidewalk will be added to the north side of the southern portion of Vermont Street that intersects with North Upton and the gap in the sidewalk on the northern most portion of Vermont Street will be connected with a new tree-friendly sidewalk. All pedestrian crossings will be shortened by narrowing the road widths in those areas. New storm drain inlets will be added to better manage rainfall runoff, and a new pedestrian bridge will be installed at the creek.

The DRCA Executive Committee is monitoring this project and will be holding a design meeting with County Staff on May 19. The neighbors in the immediate area met with the County on the project throughout last year. Please contact Ned W. Rhodes ([ned@drca.org](mailto:ned@drca.org)) if you need additional information or have comments on this project.

## Professional Help Around the House

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

### Computer Support Services

Cameron Jones, (571) 217-3596, referred by Rose Bannigan, 524-6722

### 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

R & M Cleaning Service,  
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) 553-0678 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
- Jennifer Carpenter, 525-9414
- Debbie Walker, 243-1024
- Corinne Wiesner, 527-5566

## Water-Friendly Garden Tour

The public is invited to a free Water-Friendly Garden Tour on Sunday, June 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. at selected sites in Northern Virginia. The properties highlight the benefits of landscaping that is designed to retain rainwater. Also featured will be rooftop rainwater collection systems and backyard wildlife habitats. The tour is sponsored by the City of Falls Church, Arlington County, and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE). A listing of tour sites and addresses is available on the ACE website, <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org>, or can be requested by calling 703-228-6427.

**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)**

# Schools Update

Greg Gromada

## Taylor Elementary School

Rob Hindman, Principal of Taylor Elementary School, would like to invite all friends in the community to attend this year's Taylor School Spring Fair on Saturday, May 7. There will be crafts, games and fun for all! The fair is held rain or shine. See you at the fair!

Taylor School is projecting an enrollment of 599 students for school year 2005-2006. Enrollment will be down slightly from the current enrollment of 618 students due to a slight school boundary change that sent some students to Jamestown and Ashlawn Schools.

Taylor School students recently raised \$8,789.38 to benefit the American Heart Association by conducting a Jump Rope for Heart Event at Taylor School. Taylor students have donated in excess of \$10,000 to community agencies this year.

## Williamsburg Middle School

The addition of the new wing at Williamsburg Middle School created the county's largest classroom, the Williamsburg Middle School Courtyard. It features a stream, pond, native plants, and butterfly garden. It also features students engaged in hands-on outdoor lessons. The next goal is the design and construction of a teaching pavilion. There are plenty of volunteer opportunities in the courtyard including plant donation, planting workdays, fundraising, and possible Eagle Scout projects. If you would like to help or would like more information, please contact [Tobie\\_Hendricks@apsva.us](mailto:Tobie_Hendricks@apsva.us), science teacher at Williamsburg Middle School.

## Yorktown High School

Following are the upcoming music events at Yorktown High School:

Tuesday, May 24: The Yorktown Jazz Band will perform at the first annual "Concert on the Lawn," at 6 p.m. The event will take place on the lawn outside Yorktown's auditorium entrance on Yorktown Boulevard and is free of charge.

Thursday, May 26: The Yorktown Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, and Symphonic Band will perform at their annual spring concert beginning at

7 p.m. in the Yorktown Auditorium. The YHS Concert and Symphonic Bands recently earned "Superior" ratings at the 2005 District Band Festival, and the Symphonic Band has been designated a "2005 Virginia Honor Band." The concert is free of charge.

Thursday, June 2: Yorktown High School's Choral groups will put on their spring concert, which is free of charge, at the Yorktown Auditorium beginning at 7 p.m.

Tuesday, June 7: Yorktown's Strings--the Orchestra and the Guitar Ensembles--will perform their final concert of the year beginning at 7 p.m. in the Yorktown Auditorium. Admission is free.

## H-B Woodlawn

Plans for the Music Annex continue at H-B Woodlawn. Frank Haltiwanger, H-B Woodlawn Principal, continues to extend an invitation to all interested neighbors to attend the planning sessions. For more information, please contact H-B Woodlawn at 703- 228-6363.

For more information about other events at each of the area schools, please access the county school website: [www.arlington.k12.va.us](http://www.arlington.k12.va.us)

## Dear Donald,

I just moved into the neighborhood and have brush in my back yard that I want to get rid of. What is the most efficient and environmentally friendly way to do this?

Overgrown on Vacation Lane

Dear Overgrown,

At no cost to you, the County will pick up brush that is put curbside or in the street in front of your house. They will collect any brush that is less than 18" in diameter. Pickup is every other week and can be arranged on the County's web site or by telephone at (703) 228-6570. Your brush then is converted into mulch and may end up back in the neighborhood on our mulch pile. By the way, the County will deliver mulch to your house for a small fee. To learn more about both of these programs, go to: [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and click on "trash and recycling" under the list of services.

(If you have a question relating to the Donaldson Run neighborhood that you think would be of interest to others, send it to Dear Donald, c/o newsletter editor, Mary Cooper ([mary@drca.org](mailto:mary@drca.org)).

## Madison Dogs

Madison Dogs is a website for users of the Madison Community Canine Area. See [www.geocities.com/madisondogs/index.html](http://www.geocities.com/madisondogs/index.html) for more information. Following is a listing of items of interest or of dog-related activities taking place in and around Arlington.

### Public Spaces Master Plan

A draft of The Arlington County Public Spaces Master Plan has been released. The new Plan will replace the 1994 Open Space Master Plan. For more information go to: [www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/forums/openspace/ParksRecreationForumsOpenspaceOpenSpaceMain.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/ParksRecreation/forums/openspace/ParksRecreationForumsOpenspaceOpenSpaceMain.aspx)

The County will conduct several public meetings to seek input on the draft plan. Representatives of ArlingtonDogs and Madison Dogs will be attending the meetings to make sure dog parks are represented.

### Animal Welfare League of Arlington's 10th Annual Walk for the Animals!

Saturday, May 14 at Bluemont Park  
Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., Walk kicks off at 9:30 a.m. Go to [www.awla.org/walk2005.html](http://www.awla.org/walk2005.html) for more information. If you are unable to join the Madison Dogs team, but want to make a pledge, please contact [madisondogs@yahoo.com](mailto:madisondogs@yahoo.com).

### Neighborhood Day, Saturday, May 14

Neighborhood Day Parade at 2 p.m., Wilson Boulevard, from Clarendon to Courthouse. ArlingtonDogs most likely will have a team walking in the parade, so if you want to walk in the parade (with or without your dog), join the ArlingtonDogs team. Check [www.arlingtondogs.org](http://www.arlingtondogs.org) for details in the coming weeks.

### ArlingtonDogs (A'Dogs) Volunteers

ArlingtonDogs is looking for volunteers who want to get involved in their efforts to promote dog parks. Please contact A'Dogs if you have an interest or, if you are not a member, please consider joining. [www.arlingtondogs.org](http://www.arlingtondogs.org)

## Appreciate ART

Peter Fallon

Arlington Rapid Transit or "ART" service is designed to provide flexible and convenient public transportation between Arlington's neighborhoods and local landmarks, schools, shopping, and metro stations. Service is every 30 minutes during morning and evening peak, and hourly at midday. For more information, including downloadable schedules, visit

<http://www.commuterpage.com/ART/schedules.htm>. Timetables also are posted at each bus stop.

Recently, ART introduced bus service along Lorcom Lane. Route #62 provides service to the Courthouse and Ballston Metro stations. Other stops along this route include the Lyon Village Shopping Center at Spout Run and the Lee Heights Shops.

ART route #53 continues along Military Road between EFC Metro and Ballston Metro (by way of the Madison Senior Center and W-L High School). Current service on both routes #62 and #53 is limited to weekdays during rush hour.

In March, the bus system saw its highest monthly ridership ever at 76,592 passengers. ART service is evaluated periodically by the County and changes will be made to optimize service. Fares and transfers are comparable to WMATA's Metrobus. Reduced fares are available for regular commuters, senior citizens and disabled passengers. Service is free for Metro "flashpass" users, anyone transferring from Metrobus, and on "Code Red" (high ozone) pollution alert days.

Riders can board the ART buses along either Lorcom Lane or Military Road and be at a metro station in 12 minutes, without taking the extra time to park a car. ART is yet another example of how Arlington is an exemplary urban village.

**Join your Donaldson Run neighbors at a "social half hour" at 7 p.m. , Wednesday, May 25, just before the DRCA General Membership Meeting.**  
**We'll see you at our one-time only location--Gulf Branch Nature Center.**

## ZORC: Views of DRCA

At its March 30 meeting, the members of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) discussed the proposed zoning ordinance amendments, known as ZORC. A chart summarizing the county staff recommendations to tighten limitations on the area within an individual residential lot that could be covered by buildings and pavement was distributed. We were informed that over 90 percent of the residential lots in Arlington are within the proposed limitations, which would not affect coverage already in place.

Tighter restrictions would serve to preserve neighborhood green space but could limit what property owners choose to do in the future and might limit the resale value of properties. Currently all residences in Arlington are restricted to a 56 percent "footprint." In our neighborhood most of the lots are zoned R-8 (8,000 square foot minimum size). Under the proposed ordinance R-8 lots would be subject to a 35 percent coverage limitation. A poll was taken to indicate the views of Civic Association members present. The vote was 23 in favor of and six opposed to some tightening of the restrictions.

The County Manager has proposed that exceptions to the new ordinance be allowed to benefit current residents who wish to remodel to accommodate growing families or special needs. A poll was taken to gauge support for the exceptions concept proposed by the County Manager. The result was 18 in favor of the County Manager's proposal, 3 in favor of the ZORC proposal as it stands, and 11 abstentions. Those abstaining generally felt that not enough information had been developed to allow them to make a judgement on the County Manager's concept.

The poll is an indication of the views of those present at the meeting. It may or may not reflect the views of the larger Donaldson Run Community, which includes over 950 homes.

## ZORC Discussion

**Ned W. Rhodes**

The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) devoted time at two of its recent meetings to wrestle with the lot coverage recommendations. The article above summarizes DRCA's last

meeting where again the issue was discussed and votes were taken to see if a consensus could be reached on the matter.

The high number of abstaining votes regarding the County Manager's proposal is of concern. Many residents have no idea how the proposed restrictions would affect their own lot and their ability to add on to their existing home. DRCA believes that additional outreach needs to be done by the County to supply residents with a clear picture of whether their homes will be conforming or non-conforming if either the ZORC or County Manager recommendations are enacted.

The Civic Federation has taken the lead in asking for just this type of information. County residents can download information about the civic association area from the County's website. Spreadsheets showing lot data are there. Be sure to check the "Z Outside Civic Association" for properties that should be within your boundaries. These spreadsheets provide current lot coverage and how much space owners have for expansion under the ZORC proposals.

Three maps for each civic association also are available:

- 1) Map of undersized, standard, and oversized lots;
- 2) Map showing properties that would be nonconforming for the house footprint; and
- 3) Map showing properties that would be nonconforming for overall coverage.

The link for the spreadsheets and map is: [www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/forums/lotcoverage/CPHDForumsLotcoverageLotCoverageMain.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/forums/lotcoverage/CPHDForumsLotcoverageLotCoverageMain.aspx). Look at the section titled, "Civic Association Lot Coverage Information." In addition, the Civic Federation hosted a forum on the topic of the ZORC regulations and has posted the handouts and survey results at: <http://homepage.mac.com/mooretraining/FileSharing1.html>

This issue impacts Donaldson Run residents in different ways. I urge you to learn more about the issue and let the Planning Commission and County Board know your feelings. Staff is recommending deferral of this issue until the Planning Commission meeting of June 6, 2005 and the County Board meeting of June 18, 2005.

Contact [cphd@arlingtonva.us](mailto:cphd@arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-3525. Staff will be available to answer your questions.

## 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

A gentle reminder to everyone to send in his/her dues. At present, about one third of the Donaldson Run Civic Association households provide financial support for the civic association. Without your dues, we cannot publish the newsletter that keeps everyone up to date on what is going on in our neighborhood. So if the last newsletter has been put aside, please take another look at your mailing label on page 12. If the label does not have your name on it, consider filling out the form above and sending it in with your check. If the label says "expired" please consider renewing. And if your label is incorrect, send me a reminder and I'll gladly correct my records.

## Missing Links Program

Neighborhood Conservation is pleased to announce the re-establishment of Arlington County's Missing Links Program in order to complete portions of missing sidewalks in residential areas that span three properties or less. For more information contact the Community Housing Planning and Development, Neighborhood Services Division, Neighborhood Conservation Program, phone: 703-228-3830, or go to [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us)

## Medicare Part D Townhall

Do you want to know more about the upcoming Prescription Drug Coverage under Medicare?

Are you eligible for the "Extra Help" for people with limited income?

If you are a Medicare Beneficiary, have you thought about how Part D will affect you?

Would you like to ask questions about Medicare Part D?

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, join the Arlington Agency on Aging, a representative from Social Security, and the Health Assistance Partnership for an informational Medicare Part D Townhall. This FREE Townhall will be held on Monday, May 16, 2005 in the Auditorium of Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22201.

Townhall is from 6:30 pm – 9:00 pm. To reserve your space or for additional information, please contact Lori Hughes at 703- 228-1700.

Donaldson Run Civic Association  
c/o Elizabeth Apple, Treasurer  
4207 North 31st Street, Arlington, VA 22207

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

**Postmaster: Please deliver May 10-12**

## **DRCA Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 25 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Agenda: Our Parks**

***Note different location: Gulf Branch Nature Center,  
3608 Military Road***

***social "half hour" at 7 p.m.***

## **Spring/Summer Concert Series Begins in May**

Potomac Overlook Regional Park's first concert of 2005 is on Saturday, May 28 at 7 p.m. Celtic songs of Moonfire will open the concert season. Join your neighbors at these other concert dates as well:

June 7 - contemporary folk songs of Randy Barrett

June 25 - Summer Solstice Percussion Festival

July 9 - folk song artists Cletus Kennelly and Lori Kelley

July 23 - rock and folk-rock music of Second Story Band

August 6 - 21st century klezmer-style music of the Alexandria Kleztet

August 20 - blues and folks songs of Michael Mulvaney and Randy Latimer.

August 27 - TBA

All concerts are at 7 p.m. and the series runs into September. Concert guests may bring picnic suppers but no alcohol. Donations of about \$5 per person are requested to help fund the series.

## **Explore Donaldson Run**

**Larry Finch**

Enjoy a spring nature walk along Donaldson Run, led by Cliff Fairweather, naturalist with the Audubon Naturalist Society.

Participants will meet at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, at the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park. As we follow Donaldson Run through the park, Cliff will describe the plants and animals that live in the stream and the nearby woods. All ages are welcome. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water. We will return to the starting point around 3:30 p.m.

The walk is sponsored by Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed, the Audubon Naturalist Society, and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment. For more details, call Larry Finch at 703-528-6349.