



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

September 2005

DRCA Is Ready for Fall Events

Ned Rhodes
ned@drca.org

Welcome back from summer break! The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) is once again on the move, getting ready for its first fall general membership meeting on September 28 at Taylor Elementary School. The meeting will feature a legislative update from Virginia Delegate Bob Brink and Virginia Senator Mary Margaret Whipple. We will once again host a social half hour before the meeting, starting at 7 p.m. and will start the main meeting program at 7:30 p.m. In addition to the legislative update, there will be a report on traffic issues of concern to the neighborhood, an update on the stream restoration effort that has started in Donaldson Run and discussion about the upcoming Walkabouts scheduled for October 1.

Donaldson Run is one of three featured neighborhoods for the Walkabouts. The Walkabout is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. on October 1 at Taylor School. More information is available at www.walkarlington.com. Plan on coming out to walk with the County Board and Abby and me.

DRCA will also meet on November 16. We plan on having the same format: a social half hour starting at 7 p.m. and the main meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. County Manager Ron Carlee is

scheduled to be our guest speaker so come prepared with questions and suggestions for him.

This year the executive committee has decided to try something different for what has traditionally been DRCA's Candidates Night in October. Instead of having our own Candidates Night, we suggest that DRCA members attend Candidates Night gatherings in other neighborhoods. Please see the list of candidate forums on page two of this newsletter. Additional information about these forums can be found at www.edfendley.com.

The Donaldson Run Stream Restoration effort has finally begun. The civic association receives weekly reports on the progress and I know the project crew is off to a good start in Lee Heights Park. Soon the crew will be starting at the Utah Street outfall. Be advised that the nature trail through the park may be closed at times as construction equipment is moved around the park and work is done on the exposed pipes in the streambed. The project crew will try to re-open the nature trails on weekends if possible. For more information, please visit the County web site dedicated to the project at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/EnvironmentalServices/epo/EnvironmentalServicesEpoDr.aspx>.

Once again the County is going to be considering Option 3 of the Lot Coverage issue this Fall. Information about how this option affects you can be **r e a d** **a t** <http://homepage.mac.com/mooretraining/FileSharing1.html>.

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The Next DRCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School .

DRCA Is Ready for Fall

(cont inued from p. 1)

When you get to this website, you will see several folders. The new data is in the folder marked "Third Option Analysis." Download the file, which is a zipped Excel document. Do not try to open it on the site. The issue affects individual home owners in differing ways and we urge you to become familiar with the issue and make your opinions known to the County Board.

I hope to see you at our upcoming September and November meetings. To those of you who are currently members (see your mailing label), I thank you for your continued support of DRCA. To those of you who are not members or have let your membership lapse, I ask that you consider joining our ranks. Your dues pay for this newsletter and DRCA would appreciate your support.

Candidates Night Forums

The following is a list of Candidates Night Forums sponsored by Arlington County groups and neighborhood civic associations.

September 21, 7 p.m. Ashton Heights Civic Association will host a Candidates Night at the Arlington Arts Center at the corner of Wilson Boulevard and North Monroe Street.

October 5, 7 p.m. The American Association of University Women will host a forum at Central Library.

October 12, 7 p.m. Aurora Highlands Civic Association will host a Candidates Night at the Aurora Hills Community Center.

October 19, 7 p.m. Cherrydale Civic Association hosts Candidate Night.

October 20, 7:30 p.m. Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance (AGLA) forum to be held at NRECA at 4301 Wilson Boulevard.

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

October 24, 6:30 p.m. Arlington Citizens for the Arts Forum at Gunston Middle School.

For the latest information on these Candidate Night Forums and on others not listed here, go to www.edfendley.com and click on "calendar".

**ELECTION DAY is November 8.
The deadline to register to vote is
October 11.**

**To register to vote contact the
Office of Voter Registration at
(703) 228-3456.**

County Board to Consider Revised Lot Coverage Proposals at November Meeting

Bill Richardson

As noted in our last three newsletters, the County Board has been reviewing for some time proposals designed to address the issue of "McMansions." Those proposals have now been further modified, and in July the Board advertised the changes and scheduled a vote on them at its meeting on November 15, 2005. For the staff's summary of the latest revisions, see www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/CountyBoard/meetings/2005/jul/0709/45ab-revised.pdf.

Since 1964, the County's Zoning Ordinance has permitted construction on residential lots of up to 56 percent of the size of the lot. The Zoning Ordinance Review Committee (ZORC), appointed by the Planning Commission, has proposed to reduce this limit. The goal of this process has been to strike a balance between avoiding drastic changes to the character of neighborhoods arising from a single large construction project, and permitting homeowners to make reasonable improvements. For help in calculating how much latitude the ZORC proposal would give you for new construction on your lot, or expanding your existing home, see www.co.arlington.va.us/Departments/CPHD/Forums/lotcoverage.

ZORC's proposal would not make any existing structures unlawful, and it would set limits that are consistent with the size of 94.5 percent of current homes in Arlington. However, the staff has now recommended further changes from the ZORC proposal (in addition to those the staff previously recommended) that are designed to simplify and relax the limits. In simplest terms:

- ZORC's coverage limits would use a sliding scale depending on zoning district, ranging from 45 percent in R-5 districts down to 25 percent in R-20 districts. The staff's scale would permit 50 percent coverage in R-5 and R-6 districts; 45 percent in R-8 districts; 40 percent in R-10 districts; and 35 percent in R-20 districts.

2005 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, September 28

Agenda: Legislative Update

There will be a social half hour beginning at 7 p.m.

The regular meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16

Agenda: Guest Speaker, County

Manager Ron Carlee

Social Half Hour, 7 p.m.

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. at Taylor Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

- The staff would also generally deal more favorably with "oversized" and "undersized" lots, because its percentage limits would be based on actual lot size and not on the minimum sized lot for the zoning district in which the lot is located (e.g., 10,000 feet in R-10 districts).

- The staff has also created an exception for remodeling projects – those that retain at least 50 percent of the outer perimeter of the existing structure. Such projects would remain subject to the existing 56 percent coverage limit. While previously the staff would have limited this exception to remodeling projects that less than double the size of the existing structure, it has now proposed to eliminate any new limit based on the size of such projects. □

These various proposals will be the main item for discussion at the October 4 meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation. See www.civfed.org for further details.

New Sidewalk Coming to 26th Street by WGCC Golf Course

Anne Wilson

County staff met with neighbors in June to discuss the installation of a sidewalk along 26th Street. The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) first expressed an interest in this sidewalk in its Neighborhood Conservation Plan in 2000. The county has a policy of wanting to have a sidewalk on at least one side of every street, and since there is no sidewalk along the stretch of 26th Street that borders the Washington Golf and Country Club, county staff was interested in moving this project forward. It was also hoped that, in addition to enhancing pedestrian safety, the sidewalk would reduce the speed of traffic in the area.

At the June meeting, staff advised that the sidewalk would be four feet wide with a two foot grass strip. Space for the sidewalk would come from the existing street. The configuration of the Vermont-26th Street intersection would be changed to make it a 'T' rather than its current 'Y' configuration. The corners on Vermont Street will be extended so that the street crossing is not as long as it is presently, and there will be a bit more green space at the intersection as well as along the sidewalk. Plans call for a "laddered" (high visibility) crosswalk across 26th Street at Vermont Street on the east side of the intersection.

There will be on street parking on the south side of the street across from the golf course. The golf course side of the street will be a no parking zone. Closer to the intersection of Vermont where there are houses on both sides of the street, there will be alternating of parking and no parking zones on both sides of the street. The goal is for every homeowner to have some on street parking in front of his or her house. Plans displayed at the meeting showed how this could be accomplished.

Overall, meeting attendees were in favor of the project. Questions were raised about several issues, including how drainage on the street would be affected. The county will respond to DRCA about these concerns. There will be an update about this project at the September 28 DRCA meeting.

Donaldson Run is Wildlife Friendly

Chase Raines

The Donaldson Run neighborhood is on its way toward receiving recognition 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, and 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 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. All it takes to certify your property is to fill out a simple online form at www.arlingtonenvironment.org showing that your property meets the four criteria.

So far, eleven properties in the Donaldson Run neighborhood have been certified. The deadline for certifying your property is September 30. If you have any additional questions about the program or certifying your property see <http://www.arlingtonenvironment.org/programs/wildlifehabitat/registration.htm> or contact Chase Raines at 703-524-4957 or by email at nanhraines@aol.com.

Bicycle Classes

Allen Muchnick, a League of American Bicyclists Cycling Instructor, will teach cycling courses through local adult education programs in Northern Virginia. Most classes meet on weekday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m.

For more information go to: http://www.vabike.org/ed_much.htm

Arlington Offers Emergency Preparedness Seminars, Events

Arlington County is hosting a number of activities during September, National Preparedness Month, to help those who live and work in Arlington become better prepared for an emergency. The County is working in support of a larger initiative in the National Capital Region - "Be Ready. Make a Plan." -- to raise resident preparedness.

"The tragedy of Hurricane Katrina reminds us all how important it is that each of us is prepared for any emergency," said Jay Fisette, chairman of the Arlington County Board.

Arlington's emergency managers encourage everyone who lives, works or visits Arlington to sign up for its free Arlington Alert service, that sends emergency text messages to mobile devices and email. Sign up at www.arlingtonalert.com.

Throughout September, residents can learn how they can best prepare for emergencies. Arlington's Office of Emergency Management -- together with Arlington's Citizen Corps Council and the Arlington Red Cross -- is holding a number of events throughout September to help Arlingtonians become better prepared. The emergency preparedness seminars will include more in-depth information and will assist participants in developing their own personal and family plans.

In addition to a list of the seminars and events, people can visit the Arlington County website, learn how to make a plan, and download helpful tools and checklists. Visit www.arlingtonva.us; click on "Emergency Preparedness" in the gray box.

All emergency preparedness events are free and open to the public; no need to RSVP or make a reservation.

Remember!
The school year has begun and children are walking to and from school.
Please drive slowly.

Traffic Lights Recommended for Two Intersections near Donaldson Run

Anne Wilson

About a year ago, Arlington County asked civic associations where they believed new traffic lights were needed in their neighborhoods. The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) submitted two locations: the intersection of Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street, and the intersections of 26th Street/Road (north side of Military Road). These areas, along with 13 others in the County, were studied for traffic, pedestrian and bicycle volume as well as accident history. As a result of the study, County staff approved plans to install a traffic light at the intersection of 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive. Staff is now seeking approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the new light. A traffic light was not approved for Military Road near 26th Street/Road, but the consultants made some recommendations which, if implemented, would make this a safer, more pedestrian friendly area. DRCA, along with concerned neighbors, is continuing to work with the County in an effort to make the Military Road-26th Street area a safer one for drivers and pedestrians.

A traffic light was also approved for Glebe Road and 26th Street. The executive committee of DRCA questions whether this light is really needed and is concerned that a light at Glebe Road and 26th Street might encourage drivers to cut through the Donaldson Run neighborhood on 26th- 31st Street. A letter was sent to the County expressing concern about the installation of a new light at this location.

The other three intersections where traffic lights have been approved are 26th Street-Sycamore Street, Yorktown Boulevard-Harrison Street, and Washington Boulevard-North Nelson Street.

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; phone: 703 525-0344).

VDOT Exploring Possible Expansion of Westbound I-66 in Arlington

Bill Richardson

This past March, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) released the results of a federally funded feasibility study of various options for addressing traffic congestion on I-66 westbound from Rosslyn to the Dulles access road. The study concluded that the "most feasible and effective concept" was to widen I-66 to add a fifth lane to be used for high occupancy vehicles (HOV), high occupancy toll (HOT), and/or an express busway. Based on this study, VDOT recommended that the I-66 widening project be approved by the Commonwealth Transportation Board for further review, which would include an analysis of its environmental impact as a prerequisite to federal funding.

In April, the Arlington County Board passed a resolution sharply critical of this study. In August, however, the pending state review process for this project was mooted by federal appropriations legislation, which provided funds sufficient for VDOT to proceed with spot improvements of traffic flow on the segment from Fairfax Drive to Sycamore Street. That project would expand the deceleration/acceleration lane between these two exits. It now will be subject to further review to determine whether it requires acquisition of additional right-of-way, whether it would be suitable for certain design exceptions to minimize the need for additional space, and what its environmental impact would be.

I-66 has had a long and controversial history in Arlington, which has never shared the enthusiasm for expanded use of I-66 expressed by local governments in outlying suburbs and their representatives in Congress. In 1977, U.S. Transportation Secretary William Coleman reached a compromise decision to approve the state's application for federal funding for this segment of I-66, subject to certain conditions. Those included an agreement by the state to "[n]ot construct any highway lanes in the I-66 right-of-way beyond the four which I am now approving." However, federal fiscal year 2000

appropriations legislation purported to abrogate this condition and to place in VDOT's hands the authority for "operation, maintenance, and construction" of this segment of I-66.

Prior to the conduct of this recent feasibility study, Governor Warner had asked that any potential improvements be located within existing right-of-way and that the study include no-build, transit, and HOV/HOT options. The County Board's criticism of the study related in part to both of these points. First, as noted above, it is unclear the extent to which the project will require the acquisition of additional right-of-way. Second, the County Board pointed out that the study's recommendations were not responsive to the public's determination that bus and/or rail transit improvements are its preferred choice for dealing with congestion in the I-66 corridor. Only 27 percent of those surveyed in the study identified the lack of additional lanes as the cause of westbound congestion, and bus and/or rail improvements were selected (by those living both inside and outside the Beltway) as their first choice to reduce congestion. The VDOT study also concluded that a "no-build" alternative, including reinstating HOV-3 together with the Dulles Metro Extension as contemplated in the region's long range plan, resulted in better traffic operating conditions on I-66 than several of the concepts evaluated in the study.

Learn About New Medicare Benefit

A new Medicare prescription drug benefit starts January 1, 2006. All Medicare beneficiaries should learn about this new coverage in order to decide whether or not to take this option. People with lower incomes may qualify for "extra help" which could assist them in paying the premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. The Arlington Agency on Aging and the Arlington Commission on Aging have scheduled informational talks and Q&A sessions to help seniors and their family members make informed choices. Contact Suellen Newman for more information at (703) 228-4879. The dates for the first two sessions are:

Wednesday, September 21, 1 p.m. at the Lee Senior Center, and
Monday, September 26, 10:15 a.m. at the Madison Senior Center.

Professional Help Around the House

Email 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 if you or someone you know is interested in providing a service listed below.

Babysitting

- Daniel Bronstein, 527-5714

Housesitting

- Kirk Hanneman, 527-4604
- Mindy Hanneman, 527-4604

Petsitting/Dogwalking

- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894
or Megan at 524-4922

Your Neighbors Need You!

Are you a born babysitter? A reliable raker? A dogged dog walker? Maybe a sharp shoveler or a plant protector? Your neighbors need you!

The Hire A Neighbor listing is becoming shorter as neighbors move on. If you have a skill that you can provide to a Donaldson Run neighbor, please contact the newsletter editor at mary@drca.org. The deadline for the next newsletter is October 15. Your neighbors will thank you!

**Do you have notice of a
community event that you would
like posted on one of
Donaldson Run's kiosks?
Contact Maxine Nagel at
(703) 524-5093 or by email at
jkolick@aol.com**

Schools Update

Greg Gromada

Taylor Elementary School

Taylor Elementary School joined other Arlington County schools in starting classes on September 6, 2005. Taylor School has a projected enrollment of 599 students, down slightly from a 2004-2005 enrollment of 619 students. A boundary adjustment has sent some former Taylor students to Ashlawn and Jamestown Schools. Enrollment in the past few years has been as high as 650.

Taylor School began the year with two new kindergarten teachers and a new vocal music teacher. Taylor families welcomed back many veteran teachers.

Taylor School experienced several incidents of vandalism during the month of July. Please report suspicious behavior or acts of vandalism to the school office or directly to Arlington Police.

Taylor's principal, Rob Hindman, appreciates his school's supportive community. Taylor School shares news through the school and PTA websites and in the regular monthly PTA newsletter. Feel free to call him with questions or comments about Taylor School.

Williamsburg Middle School

According to Williamsburg Middle School Teacher Tobie Hendricks, workers are literally "raising the roof" in the school courtyard.

The major focus of the courtyard development will be designing and building a teaching pavilion. More classes are being held in the courtyard and an area is needed in which to conduct these classes. The pavilion will provide a setting with whiteboards and seating for the students. With the designs of architect John Burke and the support of Studio27 Architecture, the pavilion will showcase sustainable building materials that are environmentally friendly.

The last two years of planting at Williamsburg's courtyard are paying off as the plants grow larger and reproduce. The stream bed is filling in to the delight of the school's three box turtles and the numerous wild birds that nest in the courtyard shrubs and bathe in the stream. The school will

continue with new plantings this year and add some bulbs this fall for beautiful spring color.

A huge thank you goes to Kristen Bishop for building a display board honoring all the courtyard donors. It will be hung in the small hallway connecting the courtyard to the cafeteria. Kristen completed this project as her Girl Scout gold award. Williamsburg has many options for Girl Scout and Boy Scout projects.

Williamsburg still needs the help of parents and families to keep the courtyard growing. Workdays will be announced on the morning announcements. If you would like to volunteer or add your name to our e-mail list, contact Tobie Hendricks (Tobie_Hendricks@apsva.us), 7th grade teacher.

In addition, Williamsburg is seeking judges for the science fair, which will be held in January. A science background is helpful, but not required. If you would like to volunteer or would like more information e-mail Tobie_Hendricks@apsva.us.

H-B Woodlawn

According to Principal Frank Haltiwanger, earthmoving has begun in front of the school in preparation for installation of a temporary. This portable classroom will remain in front of the school for the duration of the construction of the future music addition (behind the auditorium).

Construction on the music addition began in August, and the staging area is the lower parking lot below the auditorium. The 21 parking spaces in this lot will be taken over by the construction crews and will be reopened to the H-B Woodlawn community when construction is completed. An increased number of staff and students will be parking in the neighborhoods during the project. All will be encouraged to be good neighbors.

Soccer families should park on the other side of the building (by the cafeteria) for practices and games in the coming year. While there will be access to the field (the gate will be relocated to the left), parking will be more available on the cafeteria side of the school.

Please call Principal Frank Haltiwanger if you have any question at 703-228-6363, or you can reach him at fhalt@arlington.k12.va.us.

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Schools Update

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Yorktown High School

Yorktown High School's annual Back to School night will take place on Thursday, September 29 at 7 p.m. Parents will have an opportunity to go through an abbreviated version of their student's eight-period day and meet their teachers in a classroom setting. In addition, representatives from various student and parent organizations will be on hand in the school cafeteria to provide information on the many activities that take place at Yorktown. Parking is usually tight on this popular evening--plan to carpool if at all possible!

Planning already is underway for Yorktown High School's 2006 Graduation Boat Party, an all-night alcohol- and drug-free celebration for Yorktown's 2006 graduates. This annual event--to be held next year on the evening of June 22, 2006 aboard the paddle-wheeler Cherry Blossom--generally draws up to 80 percent of the graduating class (all graduates are invited and encouraged to attend). Entertainment, food, and fun are the drawing cards, and parents of the attendees can rest easy knowing their grads are celebrating in a safe, chaperoned environment. For more information, or to assist in planning the Yorktown 2006 Graduation Boat Party, please contact Maureen McManus at momcmanus@comcast.net.

Help Wanted

Mike Green

Have you ever thought that you might want to do something to help make your community safer? One of the greatest dangers facing the residents of Donaldson Run is the threat of death or serious injury from speeding traffic. That is why we have a group of citizens trained to use a police radar unit to measure the speeds of vehicles in our area. Those drivers who speed are then sent letters from the Police Department informing them of the incident and reminding them that speeding is dangerous. No fines or points are associated with these letters. If you would like to assist with this activity, please contact Mike Green at 703-525-9414 for further information.

Arlington Historic Events

Antique Appraisal by Dr. Jerome Ford

Ball-Sellers House, 5620 S. Third Street
Saturday, September 17, 2005, 1-4 P.M.
Telephone (703) 379-2123 for a time slot (up to 3 items @ \$5 each).

CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY SERIES: The Brave Men of the Signal Corp

Wednesday, September 21, 2005 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Join this hands-on program for ages 7-11 to learn the secret codes sent using flag and telescope. \$2 fee per person. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register online at <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program #612601A. Fort C.F. Smith Park & Historic Site, 2411 N. 24th Street, Arlington; 703-243-4342.

Historic Arlington Days

Friday, October 7, 2005 7:30 p.m.
This year's program will celebrate the "Music of Arlington." The event will explore the musical traditions of Arlington House during its historic period. Event activities include performances by the Federal City Brass Band and baroque violinist Risa Browder. Attendance at this event is free, but is by reservation only. Call (703) 235-1530. Parking at Arlington House is available only with a reservation for the event.

CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY SERIES: Haversacks - A Soldier's Necessities & Luxuries

Wednesday, October 19, 2005 3:30-4:30 p.m.
Join this hands-on program for ages 7-11 to learn about the items a soldier would carry. Reservations required: call 703-228-4747 or register on-line <https://registration.co.arlington.va.us/> and reference program # 612601B. Fort C.F. Smith Park & Historic Site, 2411 N. 24th Street, Arlington ; 703-243-4342.

Civil War Era Dinner

Saturday, October 29, 2005
Seatings at 5:00 p.m. and 7:00p.m.
A delicious journey to our culinary past. Sit down dinner includes entrée, salad, vegetable, dessert and drink, all cooked in the manner of the 1860s. Call 703-243-7329 to make reservations or for information. Fort C.F. Smith Park & Historic Site, 2411 N. 24th Street, Arlington .

Arlington Employment Center Holds First Annual JobFest and Career Week

Arlington Employment Center (AEC) is hosting its First Annual October JobFest. The event will be held on Saturday, October 15, from 10 am to 2 pm at the NRECA Conference Center, located at 4301 Wilson Boulevard in Arlington. JobFest is a dynamic one-day event designed to bring together businesses and professional jobseekers for networking and recruiting. Guest speakers will be featured as well as professional resume critiques, a session on Speed Interviewing, and prizes for drawings.

To kick-off JobFest, AEC also will host a series of workshops for jobseekers during Career Week (October 3-7). At Career Week, free workshops on resume writing, interviewing, career exploration, job search, and more will be offered. Class space is limited; therefore, registration is required to attend Career Week workshops. Registration deadline for Career Week is Friday, September 30. JobFest's deadline for registration is Wednesday, October 5. Pre-registration is recommended for JobFest. For more information or to register, send an e-mail to aecmarketing@arlingtonva.us. We hope to see you there!

Arlington: Most Walkable County in the U.S.

Join in on a Walkabout (tour) through the Donaldson Run neighborhood, a part of the most walkable county in the U.S.

On October 1 at 11 a.m. join your neighbors, pets, and the Arlington County board for a one hour walk through our neighborhood. The walk will begin at Taylor Elementary School, 2600 N. Stuart Street.

Maps and souvenirs will be given to all participants and five pedometers will be raffled off. The Walkabout is free and no reservations are required. For more information visit www.walkarlington.com.

Arlington's Crime Rate Continues Historic Drop

Matt Martin

Crime statistics for 2004 released recently by the Arlington County Police Department show that Arlington's crime rate is continuing its historic decline. The total number of serious crimes in Arlington dropped by 5.9 percent from 2003 to 2004 and the crime rate is at its lowest point since 1962.

In the last decade, Arlington's crime rate has fallen by 56 percent. "We are once again fortunate to see a reduction in serious crime in Arlington," said Chief Doug Scott. "Although Arlington is an exceptionally safe and secure community, there are pockets of vulnerability within the County. The Police Department is committed to reaching out to these populations in order to reduce their likelihood of being victimized."

In 2004, there were 5,104 "index"—or serious—crimes in Arlington, 320 fewer than in 2003. The most significant decreases were in robberies, which dropped by 11.5 percent, and vehicle thefts, which fell by 17.7 percent. There were 493 vehicle thefts in Arlington last year, the first time in two decades that fewer than 500 vehicles were stolen. Index crimes—homicides, forcible rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, arsons, burglaries, larcenies and vehicle thefts—are the eight categories generally used by law enforcement as a standardized measure of the incidence of crime. Arsons in Arlington are investigated by the Fire Marshal and are not reported by the Police Department. The crime rate—the number of index crimes per 100,000 people—was 2,585 in 2004, down from 2,754 in 2003.

Save the Date!
**Four Mile Run Restoration
Master Plan Meeting.**

**Wednesday, September 21,
7 PM - 9:30 PM.**

**Gunston Middle School cafeteria,
2700 South Lang Street, Arlington**

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

The balance in the checking account of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) now stands at \$5,097.54. So a special thank you is in order to members who have sent in their dues. To those who haven't paid dues, a reminder that it is not too late to send them in for 2005. Each of the quarterly newsletters now costs the Association about \$700.00 to print and mail to every household in the DRCA boundary.

If you are unsure whether you have already renewed for 2005, please check the mailing label on the last page of this newsletter. Membership information is included at the top of your mailing label in gray. If your label says "Resident", the members of the DRCA Board invite you to join your neighborhood civic association. We look forward to seeing you at the September 28 meeting and hope you come early for cookies!

Dear Donald,

How can I be sure not to miss what is new and happening in Arlington County?

Sincerely,
Bored on Upton Street ☐☐

Dear Bored,
The Arlington Insider is a biweekly electronic newsletter that is short but chock full of news about what is happening in Arlington. For example, the current issue contains information about new restaurants and the new wireless hotspot in Arlington. Practical information such as the location of street construction also is included in the newsletter. To check out The Insider, go to Arlington's web site at <http://www.arlingtonva.us> and click on Arlington Insider, which is in a list on the left side of the page.

(Dear Donald is a regular feature in The Current. If you have a question relating to DRCA or the neighborhood that you think would be of interest to others, send it to our newsletter editor, Mary Cooper, at mary@drca.org).

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 Sept. 14-16

DRCA Meeting

Wednesday, September 28 at 7:30 p.m.

**Agenda: Legislative Update
Taylor Elementary School**

social "half hour" at 7 p.m.

Stories from the Attic: A Memoir Writing Workshop Series

Explore ways to express stories and memories in writing through a variety of individual and group exercises in eight workshop sessions. Instructor Ellen Herbert, MFA, is an award-winning published writer and teacher of writing. The workshop is designed both for writers seeking publication and those wanting to write their stories to pass on as a record of family history.

"Stories from the Attic" comes to Arlington seniors from The Writer's Center, a non-profit community of writers that conducts hundreds of writing workshops annually.

This workshop series (9/14 - 11/2) is supported through the senior recreation fund of the Arlington Community Foundation. Participant cost: \$24. Group size is limited. To register, phone 703-228-6300.

Signature Theatre's "Urinetown" Extended Through October 16

Already sold out for the entire month of September, "Urinetown" has been extended through October 16 due to the demand for tickets.

The critics love it: "Signature's 'Urinetown,' in fact, feels tighter and funnier than the New York original." — Peter Marks, The Washington Post

"Four out of four stars! Signature's troupe is almost absurdly talented, at the top of their game both vocally and as actors." — Jayne Blanchard, The Washington Times

Signature Theatre is located at 3806 South Four Mile Run Drive in Arlington. For more information call (703) 820-9771 or on the web at <http://www.signature-theatre.org>.