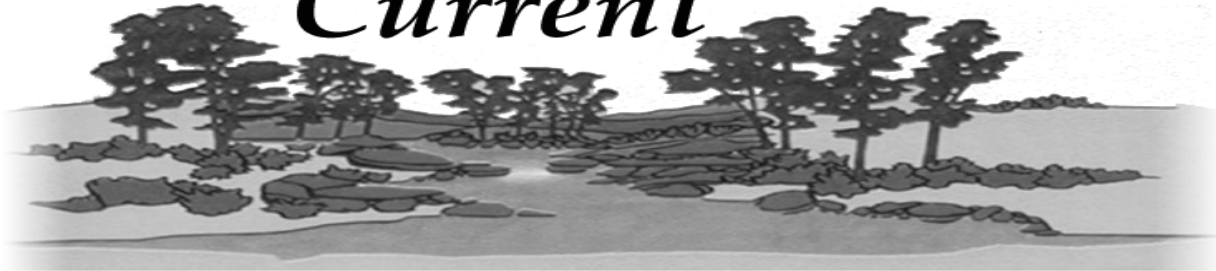


The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2006 IS ELECTION YEAR FOR DRCA

The Donaldson Run Civic Association has scheduled elections for its Executive Committee for its March meeting. Nominations will be made at the February 22 general membership meeting. The slate of nominees will be published in the March newsletter. Currently two positions are open. If you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, please contact Helen Lane (Helen@drca.org) for more information.

A board member must be able to commit to one evening meeting a month, help as needed on issues that come before the executive committee and write an article for each of our four to five newsletters that are published yearly. It is a good way to meet your neighbors and to interact with the County on issues of importance to our neighborhood. Please let us know if you can help out.

RON CARLEE TO BE AT NEXT DRCA MEETING

County Manager, Ron Carlee, will be the featured guest at the January 25 meeting of the Donaldson Run Civic Association. All residents are welcomed and encouraged to bring their questions regarding the Donaldson Run neighborhood and/or Arlington County to the 7:30 meeting.

COUNTY BOARD ADOPTS LOWER RESIDENTIAL LOT COVERAGE LIMITS

Bill Richardson

As described in previous newsletters, the County Board has been considering for some time the recommendation of its Zoning Ordinance Review Committee ("ZORC") to place greater restrictions on the size of the "footprint" of a home relative to the size of the homeowner's lot. The goal of this process has been to strike a balance between avoiding "McMansions" that are incompatible with the character of existing neighborhoods, while permitting residents to make reasonable improvements to their homes.

At its meeting of November 15, 2005, the County Board adopted a slightly revised version of the ZORC recommendation. The new rules are codified in part 32 of the County's Zoning Ordinance, which is available by clicking on "Zoning" and then "Zoning Ordinance" on the County's web site (www.co.arlington.va.us).

The new rules have two components. Both apply to the construction of new homes and to the enlargement of the footprint of existing homes. Neither precludes you from rebuilding within your footprint as it existed on November 15, 2005, if your home has been damaged or destroyed, even if that existing footprint is larger than the new rules would allow.

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**Winter DRCA Membership Meetings are Wednesday, January 25 and
Wednesday, February 22
at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School.**

President's Message

Ned W. Rhodes

Happy New Year. Much is happening in the neighborhood from construction projects to new housing developments. The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) continues to hold meetings about every other month (with time off during the summer) that are designed to update everyone on what is happening in the neighborhood. For example, at the January meeting, Arlington County Manager Ron Carlee will be our featured speaker. This is your chance to ask him questions about what is important to you about the county government. We will continue our tradition of a social half-hour before every meeting from 7-7:30 p.m.

In addition to this newsletter, we also send an email out every three to four weeks that contains items of interest to the neighborhood as well as meeting reminders. Please make sure your membership is current (see the label on the back of this newsletter) and that we have your email address. To be added to the list, email Elizabeth Apple at apple@drca.org or provide the email address on your membership renewal form. An archive of past newsletters as well as breaking information can be found at our web site, www.drca.org.

Good things are happening in our Donaldson Run neighborhood, and we thank you for your continued support. Please renew your membership, and I hope to see you at one of our meetings.

Public Spaces Master Plan Adopted

Larry Finch

On December 10, 2005, the County Board adopted a new Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP), which replaces the 1994 Open Space Master Plan. The PSMP is designed to guide decision-making for Arlington's parks, natural areas, and other public spaces including administration, funding operations, maintenance, and capital projects.

Several broad objectives provide a framework for the PSMP. The second of these objectives is Preserve and Enhance the Environment. Among the elements of this objective are:

- Create a natural resource policy and management plan
- Enhance tree canopies and natural buffers
- Preserve and enhance existing natural areas
- Pursue use of easements to protect natural areas
- Manage natural areas to maintain diverse habitats

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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 Street and 27th Streets south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

DRCA Board

President	Ned Rhodes	741-0861
1 st VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2 nd 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

Hendry House Tea

Enjoy afternoon tea and celebrate an early Valentine's Day with your favorite friend or relative at the beautiful and historic Hendry House.

Tea will be served Sunday, February 12 from 2-5 p.m. and is \$18 a person. Reservations are recommended.

The Hendry House and Fort C.F. Smith are located at 2411 North 24th Street in Arlington. For more information or to make reservations, contact Sharon Casey at 703-243-7329.

Lot Coverage Limits (continued from page 1)

First, the new rules reduce the existing 56 percent lot coverage limit by use of a sliding scale, depending on the particular zoning district. The new lot coverage limits range from 45 percent in R-5 districts, to 40 percent in R-6, to 35 percent in R-8, to 32 percent in R-10, and to 25 percent in R-20. This means, for example, that in R-8 districts (those in which lots are generally between 8,000 and 10,000 square feet in size), the footprint of your main building, accessory buildings, parking pads, and driveway together may not exceed 35 percent of the gross area of your lot.

Second, the new rules also limit the size of the main building alone. The main building footprint limits range from 34 percent in R-5 districts, to 30 percent in R-6, to 25 percent in both R-8 and R-10, and to 16 percent in R-20. For these purposes, the owner of an "undersized" lot gets the benefit of being able to build a home as large as one that could be built on a standard lot in the district. For example, the owner of a lot in an R-8 district that is only 7,000 square feet could build a home up to 25 percent of the size of an 8,000 square-foot lot, or 2,000 square feet. Conversely, owners of "oversized" lots are subject to caps designed to maintain some degree of uniformity within zoning districts. For example, the owner of an 11,500 square foot lot in an R-8 district can build a home with a footprint of up to 2,800 square feet (which is slightly less than the 25 percent limit that applies in R-8 districts would otherwise allow).

Under both the new lot coverage limits and the new main building limits, owners with front porches get a three percent increase in the otherwise applicable limits, and owners with detached rear garages get a two percent increase in those limits.

Neighborhood Conservation Update Ned W. Rhodes

Donaldson Run's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan (available on the web site www.drca.org) was accepted by the Arlington County Board in 2000. We currently have four projects in the system and following is the current status.

Stream Restoration: As has been reported numerous times in this newsletter, this project is well underway in Taylor Park. The top part of the stream in the Lee Heights Park section is fully restored (with the exception of additional plantings). Work

Winter 2006 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, January 25
Agenda: County Manager, Ron Carlee

Wednesday, February 22
Agenda: Marymount Univ.
Construction and DRCA EC
Nominations

Wednesday, March 29
Agenda: DRCA EC Elections

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.

has begun at the Utah Street entrance to the park and continues to work its way down to Military Road. Expect that trails will be closed during the restoration; see Larry Finch's article on pages 6-7 for more information. We expect the work to be completed around March of 2006.

Vermont Street: No new information from the last update in the November newsletter. The project should be out for bid with an anticipated start date of March of 2006. The streetlight component of this undertaking (our fourth project) would be done in tandem with this project.

25th Road: A 75 percent meeting was held last month to go over what will hopefully become the 100 percent plan. There were some issues to work out with street trees, but we are close to having everyone on board and hopefully this project can get started toward the end of 2006. Block Captain Tim Arthurs is doing a great job of keeping everyone on track.

Stream Restoration of Tributary B: The current stream restoration project is only concerned with one branch of Donaldson Run. Tributary B runs from the main stream all the way up to the mulch pile by Marymount University. At the December Neighborhood Conservation Committee meeting,

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Traffic Talk

Anne Wilson

Old Dominion Drive-Lorcom Lane intersection:

If you have a good memory, you might recall that when the Donaldson Run Civic Association's (DRCA) discussions about traffic concerns began in 2002, the intersection at Lorcom Lane and Old Dominion Drive was one that was identified as needing attention. Specifically, the difficult pedestrian crossing at Old Dominion Drive and the confusing signage at the intersection which states, "No Right Turn...when pedestrians are present" were seen as problems needing to be addressed. Last month, DRCA began a dialogue with the County about this intersection. As a result of this discussion, the County has agreed to install a count down timer for the "Walk-Don't Walk" signs so that pedestrians can see how much time they have to cross the street. The County agreed that the signage for the right turn onto Old Dominion Drive was confusing, and they will look into replacing the signs. They also have asked that the Virginia Department of Transportation paint a solid line demarcating the right turn lane onto Old Dominion Drive westbound. This line was inadvertently removed when Old Dominion Drive was repaved last year. Finally, the County has been asked to evaluate this intersection as a whole in regard to pedestrian access and safety.

Military Road:

DRCA's request to the County to replace the broken parabolic mirror on Military Road near 26th St was approved. DRCA appreciates the County's flexibility in responding to our request.

New Blood Needed:

The Traffic Committee's email list has dwindled in size as neighbors have found other interests or moved out of the neighborhood. Although the Committee has not met as a group in several years, members are kept apprised of the involvement of DRCA with the County in regard to traffic concerns. This communication with Traffic Committee members is important to ensure that the issues being addressed with the County are consistent with what the neighborhood feels is needed. If you have even a little interest in traffic concerns, or would like to be involved in shaping the traffic issues that DRCA is pursuing, send an email to anne@drca.org. As always, if you have any questions or comments about traffic issues, email or phone Anne Wilson at (703) 525-0344.

Marymount to Present 26th Street-Old Dominion Drive Project at February Meeting

Anne Wilson

Marymount University has filed a use permit amendment with Arlington County to develop the triangle of land bordered by 26th Street, Old Dominion Drive, and Yorktown Boulevard where there is now an asphalt parking lot. The University previewed the plans with two Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) board members in December, and the project will be the main topic of the February DRCA meeting that will be held on February 22. The proposed development of this area includes a classroom building, a 300-car parking garage, 75 four bedroom student apartments, and a 300-seat auditorium.

Arlington County has set up a task force to work on this project and two DRCA board members, Maxine Nagel and Anne Wilson, will represent the association in this group. Planning Commissioner and former DRCA president, Peter Fallon, also will serve on this task force. To learn more about the project, be sure to attend the meeting in February. There will not be another newsletter published before then, so mark your calendars now.

Sidewalk Construction Disrupts Traffic on N. 26th Street

Anne Wilson

Construction of the 26th Street sidewalk is in full swing. The neighborhood can expect disruptions on 26th Street between North Wakefield and North Upland Streets while the road is demolished to make way for the new sidewalk. Since there will be traffic delays and parking will be limited during the construction period, drivers may want to avoid this area. If work progresses as planned, the County expects construction will take about eight weeks and will be completed in late February. Anthony Jones is the County's Construction Manager for this project. If you have any questions, he can be contacted in the office at (703) 228-7494, by cell phone at (571) 220-1876, and by email at ajones@arlingtonva.us.

Schools Update

Greg Gromada and Maxine Nagel

Taylor Elementary School

Rob Hindman, Principal, reports that future Taylor School kindergarten parents will be interested in the Arlington Kindergarten Information Night at Kenmore School on January 30, 2006 at 7:00 pm. An overview of kindergarten programs and a chance to meet the principals is a highlight of the evening.

Hindman also reports:

- Arlington Schools are adopting a new elementary mathematics text book for next year. The text books that are being considered are available for citizen review at Taylor School.
- The next Taylor PTA Meeting is scheduled for February 7, 2006.
- The Annual Arlington Summer Activities Fair is scheduled for February 24, 2006, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

Finally, on behalf of the Taylor Elementary School community, Hindman extends his continued appreciation to the Donaldson Run Community. Taylor School shares news through the school and PTA websites and in the regular monthly PTA newsletter. Please feel free to call Rob at (703) 228-6275 with questions or comments about Taylor School.

Williamsburg Middle School

According to Williamsburg Middle School (WMS) 7th Grade Teacher Tobie Hendricks, WMS is in need of science fair judges for the fair on January 19, 2006. The hours for judges are from 6:30 until approximately 9:30 p.m. It is helpful to have a science background, but not absolutely necessary. If you are interested, please e-mail Tobie.Hendricks@apsva.us.

H-B Woodlawn

According to Principal Frank Haltiwanger, the music addition continues to progress on schedule, heading for completion in September 2006. H-B Woodlawn students and staff are very appreciative of the tolerance shown this year as they park in the neighborhood. If you do have concerns about street parking, the construction, or any issue involving H-B Woodlawn, please contact Principal Frank Haltiwanger at fhalt@arlington.k12.va.us or at 703-228-6363.

Yorktown High School

Yorktown High School has received a 2004-05 Virginia High School League (VHSL)-Wachovia Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity Award, an honor accorded to those schools that make sportsmanship a priority in their athletic programs. Yorktown was one of only 16 schools statewide so honored.

According to Yorktown Director of Student Activities Mike Krulfeld, the VHSL-Wachovia award is "recognition of the on-going effort in the Yorktown community--by coaches, parents and students alike--to define success on the field as both athletic achievement as well as explicit character growth in each of our student athletes."

Schools selected for the award emphasize appropriate behavior among athletes, coaches and parents and offer sportsmanship recognition programs for their students. In Yorktown's case, the sportsmanship program is an extension of the school-wide focus on mutual respect and the importance of student self-discipline and perseverance. Yorktown coaches view athletics as an opportunity to underscore these principles and as a chance to develop positive character traits in a challenging, stimulating athletic environment.

"We plan to continue to commit ourselves to developing student athletes who compete to the best of their abilities while acting with class--win or lose," Krulfeld said.

Planning is well 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. Yorktown parents have been hosting these graduation celebrations for more than a dozen years under the auspices of Northern Virginia Project Graduation, a non-profit group set up in response to a rash of graduation-related traffic accidents across the area. For more information, or to assist in planning the Yorktown 2006 Graduation Boat Party, please contact Maureen McManus at momcmanus@comcast.net

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 Services, 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

Status of Donaldson Run Stream Restoration

Larry Finch

Earthmoving activity along Donaldson Run is proceeding downstream below the Utah Street entrance to Zachary Taylor Nature Area. The "stilling basin" near that entrance was completed in early December, and water is flowing out of the basin into the stream. As work along each portion of the stream is completed, erosion-control fabric is installed to stabilize stream banks until trees and other vegetation become established.

In early December, construction work was delayed while the County searched for "cobble" (round rocks) of just the right sizes for the streambed. Rocks and other materials are now entering the park from Military Road. Because of hazards associated with heavy equipment, the Military Road entrances to the bike path and the nature trail have been closed.

Visitors can enter the park from Vermont Street, following the bike path to a point near current construction activity and then returning to Vermont Street. At present, access to the park from North Utah Street is very limited, but this will change as

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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

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

Status of Donaldson Run Stream Restoration
(continued from page 6)

work moves farther downstream. Neither the bike path nor the nature trail will connect with Military Road until earthmoving activity is completed.

The project is scheduled to be completed by March 1, 2006, provided the weather permits planting trees and shrubs in February.

4019 Lorcom Lane Development

In July 2005, the home at 4019 Lorcom Lane was sold to a developer. The developer is in the process of requesting a subdivision of the lot into two properties in hopes to build two homes for resale.

Peter Raven-Hansen and other neighbors are working together in order to ensure that all zoning and building requirements are followed. If you have any interest in the project, please contact Peter Raven-Hansen by e-mail at praven@law.gwu.edu.

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 Jan. 13-18

DRCA Meeting

Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.

Agenda: County Manager Ron Carlee
Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street

Public Spaces Master Plan Adopted

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All of these are important for the future of the wooded parks in the Donaldson Run neighborhood. The stream restoration project is one major step toward enhancing the natural buffers along part of Donaldson Run.

Additional information on the PSMP, including a list of high priority projects, can be found on the County website www.arlingtonva.us.

NC Update

(continued from page 3)

we once again asked the Committee to fund a design project for Tributary B. Due to funding limitations, our project, as well as a number of others, was not funded for this round. We will continue to bring this project forward, and our next chance will be at the June funding round.