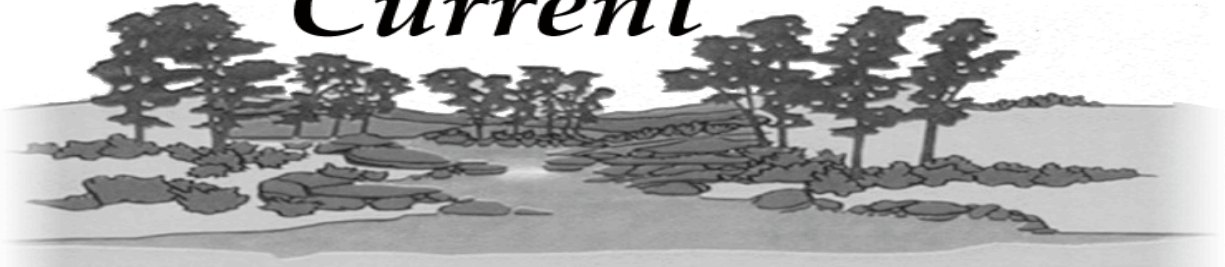


# The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

November 2006

## Marymount University Project

*Anne Wilson and Maxine Nagel*

Marymount University's proposal to build a classroom/dormitory/parking facility on its property at North 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive was discussed once again at the September 20, 2006 Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) meeting at Taylor Elementary School. Concern about increased traffic that the facility would bring to the neighborhood was the focus of the meeting, which featured a presentation by Arlington Transportation Planner Rob Gibson, who also served on the Marymount Task Force. Following the traffic discussion, DRCA neighbors agreed on a preliminary set of conditions--listed below--that they would like to have included in the use permit for the project, should it garner County Board approval. Neighbors also approved a resolution withholding consent to or concurrence with the Marymount proposal until all questions and concerns about the project have been aired and addressed.

Mr. Gibson provided a powerpoint overview of the Marymount proposal and the anticipated traffic issues that would accompany it. He noted that updated traffic counts taken on a Marymount "busy" day have been done but have not been completely analyzed. Mr. Gibson said that traffic analysts will be calculating current delays at the major intersections near the university and projected delays should the project be approved. One

objective, he said, is to develop a baseline of current delays and determine a threshold above which the County would take remedial action. Of particular concern is the 26th Street/Yorktown Boulevard intersection, which would bear an estimated 90 percent of the traffic generated by the new garage and which would earn an "F" (unacceptable) for level of service (LOS) during peak times of the day. Following his presentation, Mr. Gibson fielded questions. He indicated that the new traffic signal approved for Old Dominion Drive and 26th Street should be installed in the not-too-distant future, which should have a positive impact on 26th Street traffic. Further, he noted that Marymount will be required to provide both an event management plan (for the proposed auditorium) and a parking management plan covering both the construction and post-construction periods. Finally, he confirmed that the County will work with Marymount on the idea of providing a 26th Street "gateway" into the Donaldson Run neighborhood as a traffic calming measure.

Following the traffic discussion, DRCA Vice President Anne Wilson presented a preliminary list of items that DRCA would like to have included as part of the project's conditions, in addition to the standard conditions that the County would require. DRCA members voted overwhelmingly to approve the following conditions:

- 1) Pedestrian walkway must be part of project.

(continued on page 4)

**The next DRCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, November 8  
at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School.**

# President's Message

*Ned W. Rhodes*

## The "Arlington Way" Appears Not To Be Working

My understanding of the "Arlington Way" is that citizens and interested parties meet and discuss a project or topic for as much time as it takes to resolve as many issues as possible before the matter goes before the County Board. This does not seem to be the case, however, with the Marymount Parking Garage/Classroom/Dormitory project.

The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) has waited patiently while the task force met to discuss the project and come to consensus. To our credit, we did not want to render an opinion until the task force had a chance to do its job. The task force members have asked Marymount University questions, and a reading of the minutes of the five task force meetings will show that questions were asked, but that answers were never received. In addition, the task force final report is not available to us, so we as a civic association don't really know what consensus was reached.

Now that the task force has completed its review, the applicant has scheduled the matter to be heard before the County Board in November. This sets the schedule for when this matter will be heard by the various Commissions as each has to hear the matter and render an opinion in time for the November County Board meeting. Normally this would be fine, but in this case DRCA is missing vital pieces of information on which to make an informed decision. We have pointed out this lack of information to the various Commissions, County staff and members of the County Board, yet the matter is still scheduled to be heard before the County Board in November. This does not seem to be the "Arlington Way" as I understand it.

At our September 20 meeting, DRCA passed a resolution stating that we did not have enough information with which to make an informed decision, and we requested specific traffic, event and pedestrian studies so that we could more fully evaluate the impact of this project on our neighborhood. In addition, we made it quite clear to County staff that we needed this information by October 6, which was our newsletter deadline. The DRCA executive committee believes that when there is an important decision to make, sufficient time must be given to the membership to evaluate the situation. This translates into requiring that the matter be published in the newsletter that comes out before the meeting.

The fact of the matter is that we don't have the information we requested, although County staff has indicated that they hope to have it to us by October 13, a full week after our newsletter deadline.

Here is the situation as I read it:

1. The County Board is scheduled to hear this matter on November 14.

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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 26<sup>th</sup> Street, North 25<sup>th</sup> Place, and North Ridgeview Road); 26<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> Street on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including North Randolph Street and 27<sup>th</sup> Streets south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

### DRCA Board

President	Ned Rhodes	741-0861
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Mike Green	525-9414
Secretary	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Treasurer	Elizabeth Apple	243-3837
Director	Larry Finch	528-6349
Director	Greg Gromada	465-8564
Director	Tim Arthurs	527-4565
Director	Bill Richardson	525-5270
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242

# Right Tree, Right Place, Right Now

*Larry Finch*

At the Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting on November 8, Tree Steward Elizabeth Rives will present a talk called "Right Tree, Right Place, Right Now."

Ms. Rives points out that Arlington has been losing tree canopy rapidly and that this problem is not limited to Arlington: communities across the country are losing five trees for every one that is replanted. Loss of tree canopy is not only changing the character of neighborhoods but also having profound negative effects on the environment.

In the Donaldson Run neighborhood, many residents have room to plant one or more canopy trees. By planting trees, you can make a real contribution to ameliorating the effects of tree loss -- but only if you do it right! Young trees provide very modest environmental benefits; trees provide significant environmental benefits only if they are healthy and live a long time.

Ms. Rives notes that trees should not be planted where they will interfere with buildings or power lines. They should not be planted where they cannot survive cold winters or hot summers. Her talk will include tips on selecting appropriate trees for your yard and identifying the best sites for planting them. In addition to helping with these choices, she will offer tree planting and maintenance tips.

This explains "Right Tree, Right Place" in the title of Ms. Rives' talk. Concerning the "Right Now" part of the title, she notes that the best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, but the second best time is NOW.

Please join us on November 8 to hear this very interesting talk!

## Repairing Storm Damage along Donaldson Run

*Larry Finch*

In the last newsletter, we reported on the extensive damage in Arlington parks from the storm last June. The restored portion of Donaldson Run fared better than many other streams in the County, but there was damage at several points. Stabilizing streams in the Donaldson Run neighborhood is particularly challenging because we have steep hills, resulting in runoff from streets, driveways and other impervious

surfaces moving very quickly into the streams and resulting in surges of stormwater.

During the summer and fall, County staff conducted a detailed survey of the stream channel, checking the restored stream against the stream design. They identified some changes that are needed to increase stability, including raising the streambed at some points and making changes in several of the rock structures. This work should be done during the next two months or so.

After work on the stream channel is completed, small trees along the stream will be replaced as necessary, probably in the early spring. When the planting is completed, there will be some 400 young trees along restored portions of Donaldson Run. As those trees mature, they will not only provide welcome shade for park visitors, but their roots will help to stabilize the stream channel in future storms.



### Fall 2006 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, November 8

Agenda:  
Tree Steward Talk and Discussion  
and  
Marymount University Project Update  
and Discussion

*Join us at 7 p.m. for a social half hour.*

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.

# Marymount University's Building Plans

(continued from page 1)

2) Directions that the university publishes should direct drivers to the campus using major roads (Old Dominion Drive and Glebe Road), not the neighborhood streets of 26th/31st Street and Yorktown Boulevard.

3) Delivery trucks that will block traffic getting into the loading dock must make deliveries during non rush hour periods.

4) Establish a permanent university-neighborhood relations committee that is coordinated and hosted by Marymount University (MU). The purpose of this group is to resolve issues that arise and improve communication and cooperation between MU and the nearby neighborhoods. During construction of the project, these meetings will be held on a monthly basis with the construction project manager attending the meetings. Once construction has ended, meetings will be held at least quarterly. This group will provide a report of its work to the County Board on an annual basis.

5) Mechanical equipment shall be screened so as not to be visible from public rights of way.

6) Exterior lighting should meet requirements of police department and be consistent with the proximity of the project to residential homes.

7) MU to maintain current levels of parking (684 spaces) on Glebe Road campus.

8) MU will enact practices, such as including parking fees, into the tuition cost for commuting students, which encourage students to park on campus rather than on nearby residential streets.

9) Parking for activities on the new site must be accommodated on MU campus and satellite lots.

10) Two traffic studies: 1) Traffic counts conducted by County on 26th Street both before and after construction 2) Traffic delays at the Yorktown/26th Street intersection during peak periods. If, as a result of these studies, it becomes clear that there needs to be further traffic control in the area of the project, this change is enacted in as short a time as is reasonably possible.

11) Suitable trash receptacles will be installed on 26th Street to minimize the existing trash in the street problem.

12) A security guard will be posted at the project at all times. MU to provide the neighborhood with a phone number to access security personnel at any time. If security issues arise in the park or in the neighborhood as a result of the project, university security in the area will be increased.

13) MU will report campus crime statistics to DRCA on a quarterly basis.

14) Landscaping will be watered and maintained. (This has not been the case with the existing garage.)

15) Use permit be reviewed annually.

16) A "gateway treatment" of narrowing the road be constructed between the university and the neighborhood.

17) The current use permit condition of measuring campus activity by the class enrollment be revised to include total campus activity that may not be reflected in the enrollment numbers.

18) A cap be placed on the number of students living on campus or in university-arranged housing located off campus.

19) Traffic light that has been approved at Old Dominion Drive-26th Street be installed prior to the beginning of construction.

20) The clock tower will not ring or make any other noise.

During construction:

1) Construction trucks are routed in and out of project via major roads: Old Dominion Drive and Glebe Road, not the neighborhood streets of 26th/31st Streets and Yorktown Boulevard.

2) The neighborhood is to be advised 48 hours in advance of any road closures needed during construction.

3) Any traffic detours are to be routed onto major roads, not onto 26th Street or Yorktown Boulevard.

4) Streets are cleaned of construction dirt at end of day, and other methods available are used to keep spreading dirt and dust to a minimum.

5) Hours of work specified.

6) MU to provide neighborhood with a contact person accessible by phone at all times (24/7) who has the authority to resolve issues related to construction in a timely way.

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# Marymount University Project

(continued from page 4)

Street Parking:

- 1) On street parking on 26th Street between Old Dominion Drive and Yorktown Boulevard be eliminated to make space for left turn lane.
- 2) On street parking on north side of 26th Street between Yorktown Boulevard and the bike path be metered parking that is limited to two hours. This will allow short-term users of the MU library and the park to have parking. Currently, during the school year, these spots are used all day by MU students.
- 3) On street parking on south side of 26th Street be eliminated to allow space for a right turn lane onto Yorktown Boulevard.
- 4) The three streets around the project be a “no stopping or waiting” area. All deliveries are to be made through the parking garage/loading dock.

Other items:

- 1) If indicated, the county will modify the hours and conditions of zoned parking on nearby streets.

After approval of the use permit conditions, DRCA members voted in favor of the following resolution withholding its concurrence with the proposed Marymount project until the University and the County have provided all the information and studies needed to make an informed decision:

*Whereas – The Donaldson Run Civic Association wants to be a positive instrument for all of the activities that occur within our geographic area; and*

*Whereas – The Donaldson Run Civic Association does not want to be obstructionist when positive improvements are suggested for our neighborhood; and*

*Whereas – Marymount University has proposed a construction project at the intersection of 26th Street and Yorktown Boulevard; and*

*Whereas – Marymount University has been asked for detailed information concerning the project; and*

*Whereas – Marymount University has provided some information about the project but has failed to provide sufficient data concerning the impact the proposed construction will have on the neighborhood; and*

*Whereas – The Donaldson Run Civic Association would like to be able to make an informed recommendation to the Arlington County Board concerning the Marymount University project.*

*Now Therefore – The Donaldson Run Civic Association, assembled in a General Membership Meeting this 20th day of September 2006, hereby resolves as follows:*

*A. The Donaldson Run Civic Association withholds its consent to or concurrence with the proposed construction effort until Marymount University has provided sufficient information upon which to make an informed decision.*

*Further:*

*The Donaldson Run Civic Association requests that independent traffic studies detailing traffic, parking and event and pedestrian movement be completed; and*

*The Donaldson Run Civic Association requests that a Level of Service (LOS) study be done for the intersections affected by this project that will detail the current LOS for the hours of 6 am to 12 midnight for a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when Marymount is in full session. Based upon the traffic being generated by this project, the LOS should be projected for each of the affected intersections for the same day and time period.*

*The Donaldson Run Civic Association requests that, based on the plans currently proposed, the population density and lot coverage be reduced significantly and the potential for security issues on the proposed site be reduced by Marymount University committing to provide for 24-hour security on the site; and*

*The Donaldson Run Civic Association requests that the final Marymount Task Force report be completed and distributed to citizens for evaluation.*

*The Donaldson Run Civic Association needs time to evaluate these studies and reports before they can be considered by our membership at regularly scheduled meetings. Materials need to be available 30 days before a meeting so that they may be distributed to the membership via mail.*

The Marymount proposal is now working its way through the County process. In September, the proposal was presented to the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC), which provides a forum for

(continued on page 6)

# Marymount Project

(continued from page 5)

issues to be resolved before a project progresses to public hearings. The issues and questions raised by DRCA at the SPRC included concerns about traffic (especially at the Yorktown Boulevard-26th Street intersection), density of the project, and the lack of data and reports, including an updated traffic study and task force report, that are needed for the neighborhood to fully evaluate the project. Ned Rhodes, Anne Wilson, and Maxine Nagel represented DRCA at the SPRC meeting; several Donaldson Run neighbors also attended the meeting and added their perspectives. The next SPRC is scheduled for mid-October.

The timeframe for public hearings on the Marymount project has been delayed from what was published in the last issue of The Current. Tentative dates for future meetings are: Transportation Commission, October 26; Planning Commission, October 30 with carryover on November 1; and County Board, November 14. If you would like to voice your opinion on the project, these public meetings provide that opportunity. For updated information about this process, sign up for DRCA's Marymount email list by sending an email to [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org).

# H-B Woodlawn School Update

*Greg Gromada*

According to Principal Frank Haltiwanger, H-B Woodlawn staff is happily teaching in the new music addition. The construction crews continue to occupy the parking lot as punch list items are completed. Thank you for your patience during this project!

The school's first concerts are October 24 (choral) and October 26 (instrumental). Although the concerts will be in the old auditorium, this would be a good time to walk through the new space. As you may recall, the new space does not increase the enrollment of H-B Woodlawn; it provides appropriate music instruction space.

The instructional year is off to a great start. Any interested rising sixth or ninth grade families should check out the APS website (<http://www.arlington.k12.va.us/>) under Schools, then School Options and Choices to learn about the application process for H-B Woodlawn, which begins in November.

If you would like more information or have any other matter involving H-B Woodlawn, please contact Principal Frank Haltiwanger at [fhalt@arlington.k12.va.us](mailto:fhalt@arlington.k12.va.us) or at 703 228-6363.

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

# Neighborhood Development Update

*Peter Fallon*

## Lorcom Lane/Old Dominion Drive/Upton Street

As reported in the last edition of this newsletter, these three lots are being developed "by-right." The County has administratively approved building permits for the Upton Street lot and one of the lots on Old Dominion Drive (at Lorcom Lane). A permit has not been issued for the third lot, pending further review by staff of the proposed building height. All three lots are subject to the new lot coverage restrictions approved by the County Board in November 2005. The lots are zoned R-8.

## 2200 Block of Vermont Street

Three houses are under construction along Vermont Street (at Vernon Street). These lots were developed "by-right" therefore, no public hearings were required prior to administrative approval. Building height and lot coverage calculations are consistent with county practice for the R-8 zoning district. These building permits were issued prior to the adoption of the lot coverage limitations, and therefore were grandfathered in under the old 56 percent rule. Per county review, these properties are also in compliance with the newer restricted coverage limits.

## Lorcom Lane (at Randolph Street)

The applicant withdrew his application to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) for a subdivision to create two conforming lots.



# Treasurer's Report

*Elizabeth Apple*

Interested in a fall sale? Join Donaldson Run Civic Association now for just \$15 per household and you'll receive a free, two-month DRCA membership! That's right--by sending in your 2007 dues now, we'll add you to the DRCA roll immediately and give you November and December absolutely free. It's the best deal in town, and it's easy to do--just fill in the form on page 9 of this newsletter.

Many of your neighbors are already dues-paying DRCA members--our membership has grown to 399--but with 956 households in the DRCA boundaries, we think we can do better. Membership dues help pay for production and distribution of this newsletter, which is published about four times yearly and which is delivered to every house within Donaldson Run. We think it's important to keep Donaldson Run neighbors informed of issues and activities that directly impact all of us, and the newsletter has been one way to do that--but we need your continued support to keep that newsletter coming.

Another way to stay informed is by joining the DRCA email list, which now numbers approximately 250. If you're not on the list but would like to be, send your email address to [Ned@drca.org](mailto:Ned@drca.org).

## Is Your Sidewalk Pedestrian Friendly?

*Mike Green*

Now that fall is upon us and the growing season for many plants has come to an end, it is time to look at how our vegetation affects those who use the sidewalks in front of our homes. It is important to balance the many benefits that trees and landscaping provide with the need to provide safe, unobstructed pathways for pedestrians and clear sight lines for vehicles.

All residents, owners and renters alike, are required by Arlington County Code to keep their sidewalks clear of obstructions from the sidewalk edge to a height of ten feet. Residents on corner lots have an additional responsibility to keep sight lines clear for drivers at intersections.

Owners of properties who fail to keep their sidewalks clear can be cited. In addition, the county may pass on, to the property owner, the costs of clearing the obstructions should the county find it

necessary to remove encroaching plant material or debris from the public right-of-way.

Landscape professionals and agencies like the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service are excellent resources should you need instructions on proper pruning methods to maintain healthy plants while complying with the law regarding sidewalk obstructions. The telephone number to speak with a Virginia Master Gardener is 703-228-6414.

If you encounter an obstructed sidewalk in front of a neighbor's home, you are encouraged to speak with your neighbor as he or she may be unaware of the problem. If a solution cannot be worked out, residents may contact the Arlington County Office of Community Code Enforcement at 703-228-3232.

In some areas of Donaldson Run, the vegetation along the sidewalks may belong to Arlington County. If this is the case, maintenance concerns about county-owned trees and shrubs should be directed to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources at 703-228-6525.

The information in this article was taken from the booklet: "Right Plant, Right Place: Keeping Sidewalks Clear While Maintaining Healthy Landscapes." This booklet is available from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Resources.

The trees and landscaping within the Donaldson Run Neighborhood contribute immensely to our quality of life and make our environment more livable. At the same time, unobstructed sidewalks promote pedestrian use by providing safe, healthy and enjoyable access. If we all work together, we can have both beautiful vegetation and usable sidewalks.

### DRCA Needs You!

The Donaldson Run Civic Association is looking for an interested neighbor to fill the position of Treasurer on the DRCA Board. After many years of dedicated involvement with DRCA, Elizabeth Apple is stepping down. We greatly appreciate her service to the neighborhood. If you would like to become involved in the DRCA, please contact Ned Rhodes at [ned@drca.org](mailto:ned@drca.org) for more information.

## 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

### Electrician

Jerry Hancock (Ensign Electrics), (703) 217-2070, referred by Karen Hanneman, 276-0787

### Fencing

Delaney Adkins (Adkins Bros. Fencing), (703) 642-8051, referred by Kathy and Bill Richardson, 525-5270

### General Contractor

Karl Knudson, (703) 538-5865, carpentry, tile work, small additions, decks, referred by Karen Hanneman, 276-0787

### Handyman and Landscaping

Joseph Clemente, (703) 535-6989, referred by Jeanne Svikhart, (270) 525-6263

### Housecleaning

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

### Landscaping and Yardwork

Joseph Clemente, (703) 535-6989, referred by Jeanne Svikhart, (270) 525-6263

Andrew Preziosi, (703) 525-6170, referred by Leslie Curley, 243-9459

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

### Painting

Edward Wilkerson (C.W. Wilkerson and Sons), (703) 524-1019, referred by Kathy and Bill Richardson, 525-5270

## 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
- Juliana and Gabrielle Mannino, 276-7746
- Caroline Robinson, age 16, 528-1129
- Joan Robinson, age 14, 528-1129

### Housesitting

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

### Petsitting/Dogwalking

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



**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](mailto: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/Comment:

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

Mail to: Elizabeth Apple, Treasurer, 4207 North 31<sup>st</sup> Street, Arlington, VA 22207

## President's Message

(continued from page 2)

2. DRCA needs to vote on the project using whatever information we currently have or may have in the weeks before our November meeting
3. This is not the "Arlington Way" as I understand it.

DRCA will be devoting time at our November meeting to get an update on any traffic, event or pedestrian studies that may be completed by then. We will then need to consider and vote on a motion to approve or disapprove the project so that we can send our recommendation on to the County Board.

As of October 11, we have received no new information since our September 20 meeting. I was promised information and I may get it and I may not. What I will promise to do is post any information that I receive on the DRCA web site ([www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)). There will be a link there that will

take you to a page dedicated to the Marymount Parking Garage project. I will alert the civic association, via our email list, if we receive any new documents and where to find them on our web site.

Do I like doing business this way? No, I do not, but we have no choice. If you would like to let the County Board know your opinion on this project or the process, I encourage you to write them at [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) or give them a call and arrange a meeting. The DRCA executive committee has already met with County Board Chair Chris Zimmerman. We have meetings scheduled with two other County Board members and we are working to get meetings with them all. In addition, we have scheduled a meeting in late October with the President of Marymount University to discuss the project.

Your opinion really does count and you should have ample opportunity to speak your mind at the various Commission hearings (see page 6) as well as at the November County Board meeting. Check the DRCA web site for the latest documents about the project and plan on coming to the November 8 meeting to vote on this project.

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

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## **DRCA Membership Meeting**

**Wednesday, November 8 at 7:30 p.m.**  
*A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.*

**Agenda: Arlington County Tree Steward  
Presentation and Marymount University  
Project Update  
Taylor Elementary School  
2600 North Stuart Street**

## **Invasive Plants Removal**

October 21 is "National Make a Difference Day" and the occasion will be marked by invasive plant removal activities at several sites across Arlington. One of these will be Zachary Taylor Park, where volunteers will work, starting at 9 a.m., to remove English ivy and other invasive plants.

Invasives pose a serious threat to native plants and wildlife in our parks, and this event provides a great opportunity for families to work together to reduce this threat. This activity is being organized by Friends of Donaldson Run Watershed in cooperation with DRCA and the Remove Invasive Plants (RiP) program. Volunteers should wear long sleeves and work gloves. Bottled water will be provided. For more details, call Larry Finch at 703-528-6349.

## **Clarendon Day**

Clarendon's street party will be held on October 21 from noon to 6 p.m. and will include continuous performances by area bands, food from all corners of the earth, art activities for children, and arts and crafts for sale. The festival will center around the Clarendon Metro, along Wilson and Clarendon Boulevards. For more information call 703-812-8881 or go online to <http://www.clarendon.org>

## **All Arlington Salon**

A juried all media exhibition for artists who live, work, study or maintain studios in Arlington County. Opening Reception: Wednesday, October 25, 6- 9 p.m. Ellipse Arts Center 703-228-7710  
<http://www.arlingtonarts.org/ellipseartscenter.htm>