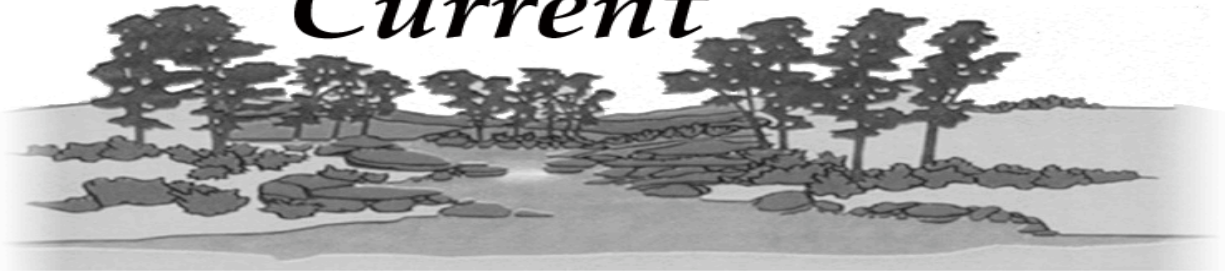


The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

January 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ned W. Rhodes

Happy New Year and make sure you shovel the sidewalk in front of your house this winter. I am writing this almost a month before you will receive this and we have a winter storm approaching which is the reason for the seasonal reminder concerning sidewalks.

I believe the Association has had a good year. We have not always been able to get exactly what we wanted, but I believe we have the ear and the respect of the County Board and County offices. We have made an effort to make our meetings interesting and it has always been my goal to follow our meeting agenda so that meetings don't drag on. I am surrounded by great people on the Executive Committee who continue to work hard for the Civic Association. Please join me in thanking Anne, Mike, Maxine, Arleen, Larry, Greg and Bill for their continued service. All of these people have signed up for another term and you will have the opportunity to elect them at our March 2008 meeting. Please see the article on page 11 for further details.

I would also like to thank Mary Heston Cooper for her hard work in putting our newsletter together. I know it is a struggle to get all of our input on time and meld it into an informative newsletter and she does a great job. All of the Civic Association newsletters are available for downloading from our website (www.drca.org) and we have decided to experiment this year with giving you the option of receiving the newsletter in email format only. If enough people select this option, we will be able to save money on publishing and postage costs.

You will be able to make this selection when you renew your membership by checking the appropriate box and please make sure that your email address is legible. Arleen and I have had some interesting discussions as to whether that is an "eye" or an "ell."

(continued on page 3)

"GLIMPSES OF OLD ARLINGTON" TOPIC OF JANUARY 23 MEETING

Anne Wilson

The Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) has invited local historian, Kathryn Holt Springston, to share some Arlington history with us at our first civic association meeting of 2008. A former employee of the Smithsonian, Ms. Springston has lectured for the Smithsonian on various Arlington-related topics. In her presentation for DRCA, she will show pictures of old Arlington and talk about Arlington's early prominent families, including the Marceys and the Donaldsons. This will be a special evening and a rare opportunity to learn more about the history of our area from a local expert.

The meeting will be held at Taylor School on Wednesday, January 23. There will be a social half hour from 7 to 7:30 with refreshments, and the agenda will begin at 7:30pm.

**The next Donaldson Run Civic Association General Membership Meeting is
Wednesday, January 23, at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School.
A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.**

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS COMING SOON TO MILITARY ROAD

Anne Wilson

You may have noticed that some crosswalks on Military Road have become more visible because they are now painted in a "laddered" design. This is only one of the changes that will be coming to the Military Road area as the result of concerns relating to traffic speed and pedestrian safety that have been expressed over the years by residents in the Donaldson Run and Bellevue Forest neighborhoods. At the DRCA meeting last September, County consultants presented recommendations that were discussed, tweaked, and eventually approved by the majority of those in attendance, which included some Bellevue Forest neighbors.

There are four locations where more pedestrian improvements are in the process of being made: the 26th Street and 26th Road areas near Taylor School, 30th Street near the entrance to Zachary Taylor Park, and near a bus stop at 31st Street. Rubberized medians will be installed on Military Road at the intersections of 26th Road, 30th Street, and 31st Street. In addition, some of the corners at 26th Road and 26th Street will be extended (nubbed) to shorten the distance for pedestrians and improve visibility for drivers. A "yield to pedestrians" sign will be added to the middle of the three crosswalks on Military Road. It is hoped that these measures will not only make Military Road a safer route for pedestrians, but will also allow drivers better visibility and safety as they enter and exit onto Military Road. You may wonder why the County is using rubberized medians rather than installing longer lasting concrete medians. The primary reason is cost. A rubberized median also allows the opportunity to assess the impact of a solution that is less permanent than concrete.

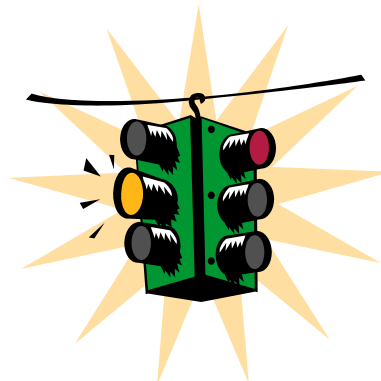
Other measures that are part of the plan include installing dynamic speed signs which will show drivers how fast they are going, and a pedestrian activated flashing light for the crosswalk at 26th Road. At press time, the rubberized medians were in the process of being ordered, so if the weather cooperates, hopefully we will see these changes in early 2008. If you would like to review the full report on the Military Road Study, go the web site at:

<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/planning/studies/MilitaryRdStudy.aspx>. If you have any questions or comments, contact Anne Wilson.

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	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Treasurer	Arleen Rhodes	741-0861
Director	Larry Finch	528-6349
Director	Greg Gromada	465-8564
Director	Bill Richardson	525-5270
Director	vacant	
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242



NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ned W. Rhodes

On December 13th, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) had its first funding round in two years. The only projects eligible for funding were projects that were on the last list two years ago and had firm construction costs associated with them. The NCAC suspended the funding of projects due to cost overruns of existing projects and the backlog of projects in the construction queue. During the suspension period, committee members participated in an inventory of existing curb, gutter, sidewalk, streetlight, and parks in each neighborhood. From this inventory, neighborhoods were to list what items they were missing and might potentially want to have constructed. We identified such items as dark streets and missing sidewalks. This list will be consolidated into a master list that the County Board and County Manager will be able to reference as to what it would take to completely "build out" the county. This should also form the basis for future funding of NCAC projects.

Since 2000, DRCA has submitted four projects that have received funding. The stream restoration on part of Donaldson Run was our first project and that has been completed. Our second and fourth projects were curb, gutter, sidewalk, and streetlight construction on Vermont Street, which has also been completed. Our third project is a street improvement project on North 25th Road. This project remains stalled at the 50 percent design level but I am hopeful that we will see the 100 percent design and construction in 2008.

Nine projects were recommended for funding at the December NCAC meeting including our project for continued stream restoration of Donaldson Run. Our project proposes design and construction services for a stream restoration project to control erosion along the branch of Donaldson Run identified as Tributary B, from the confluence with the main channel to North Vermont Street. NCAC will contribute \$350,000 and the Department of Environmental Services (DES) has agreed to contribute an additional \$650,000! Thank you, DES, for your continued support of our most valuable stream.

The NCAC package will go to the County Board for approval in February. From there, we will enter the design phase, much like we did with the original stream restoration, and then the construction phase.

2008 Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, January 23
Agenda: Arlington County
Historian,
Kathryn Holt Springston**

**Wednesday, March 26
Agenda: DRCA Executive
Committee Elections
and County Manager, Ron Carlee
(Mr. Carlee is tentatively scheduled.
Confirmation will be sent via email)**

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 1)

If you have questions for the Executive Committee, the best way to get hold of us is via email (ned@drca.org). It is easy for me to forward the email on to the Committee member who can best answer your question.

Treasurer Arleen wants to remind you that dues for the Civic Association are due at the beginning of the year and that you have to be a member for 60 days in order to vote on Association business. In addition, your membership gives you access to our periodic email announcements concerning upcoming meetings and events.

Thank you for your continued support, and please renew your membership (status is always listed on the membership label). If you are not currently a member, please consider joining and attending our meetings.

DEAD TREES REMOVED FROM PARKS

Larry Finch

Visitors to Zachary Taylor Park and Lee Heights Park in the late fall may have seen crews with chain saws removing trees from the parks. Those trees were dead and they were removed to reduce hazards to park visitors.

Most of the dead trees were in Zachary Taylor Park. Altogether, 24 trees were removed from that park, primarily tulip poplars but also a few oaks. Two dead tulip poplars near the Military Road entrance are scheduled to be removed sometime this winter. In addition, two dead oaks were removed from Lee Heights Park.

When the trees were removed, some trunks were left standing. Arborists refer to those as "snags", and they were kept because they provide valuable wildlife habitat. Woodpeckers, for example, find insects in snags as they decompose. Most regular visitors to Zachary Taylor Park probably have often seen – and heard – Pileated woodpeckers feeding on dead trees and snags.

The trees that died were along Donaldson Run near the stream restoration activities. Most probably died because of damage to their roots or the compaction of soil around their roots by heavy equipment. It is possible that some of the trees could have survived if the contractor had taken greater care to protect their root systems. On the other hand, a decision was made prior to the start of the stream restoration project not to remove healthy trees that appeared to have a reasonable prospect of surviving, recognizing that some of them probably would die. That decision appears to have paid off: many trees near the construction areas appear to be doing well.

There is also some *good* news concerning trees in Zachary Taylor Park and Lee Heights Park: most of the 400 young trees planted along Donaldson Run following stream restoration survived the drought and appeared to be healthy as the summer ended. When those trees mature, they will shade the area along the stream and help to reduce erosion from stormwater runoff.

PROJECT ACORN

Larry Finch

In October, DRCA participated in "Project Acorn", which made oak seedlings available free to Arlington residents willing to plant and take care of them. This was the last part of Arlington's

celebration of the 400th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown.

These were Cherrybark oak seedlings, which the Virginia Department of Forestry grew from acorns collected at the Jamestown historic site. When the colonists arrived in Jamestown, they found vast hardwood forests, and oak lumber reportedly was their first export to England. The seedlings made available through Project Acorn are directly descended from the trees the colonists found 400 years ago.

Project Acorn was organized by Friends of Thrifton Hill Park with assistance from Arlington's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources. As part of this project, 16 families in the Donaldson Run neighborhood planted Cherrybark oak seedlings in their yards -- living symbols of historic Jamestown.

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Ned W. Rhodes

Anne Wilson and I attended the first Neighborhood Relations Committee meeting with Marymount University on October 15, 2007. The purpose of this committee is to foster ongoing communication between the University and the neighborhood. We discussed the preliminary enrollment numbers for the University and the total number of existing parking spaces currently on campus. The University is in the process of hiring an Owner's Representative to act on behalf of the University during construction. As of this date, this person or firm has not yet been identified, nor has a contractor been picked for the actual construction. No firm date has been established for construction to begin, as additional work needs to be performed with respect to design and construction documents that have to be completed before they can break ground.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2008. The committee will devote time to the issue of where construction workers will park during construction and when to expect updates on the various aspects of the project. The University has indicated that their goal is to begin construction sometime in 2008.

The University continues to extend invitations to the neighborhood for campus events. DRCA will pass them on through the newsletter and periodic emails. A few of us attended the November 27 Marya McLaughlin Lecture with Gordon Peterson. He told many a story about his coverage of local events over the years and people he has met. This series is held once a year, and I look forward to the next lecture.

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 and by Francis Mirza, 528-4277

Concrete/Stone work

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

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

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

Vivian Villarroel, (703) 256-0973, referred by Connie Sorrentino, 528-2551

Landscaping and Yardwork

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

Jose Sales, (703) 273-6140, referred by Nedji Ellsworth, 243-4329

Painting and/or Wallpapering

Boris Gogev (Absolutely My Best), (703) 582-4029, referred by Christine Crutsinger, 243-8495

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 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

Petsitting/Dogwalking

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

DC LEADS NATION IN WALKABILITY

A couple of years ago the American Podiatric Medical Association named Arlington #1 on its list of Top 10 Best U.S. Walking Cities. Recently we learned that the entire Washington D.C. area ranks #1 in walkability according to a report by Christopher Leinberger titled "Footloose and Fancy Free: A Field Survey of Walkable Urban Places in the Top 30 U.S. Metropolitan Areas."

The report says that the Washington, D.C. area has the most regional-serving walkable urban places (20) per capita in the country. The major reasons for the high number of walkable urban places in Washington are 1) the success of the Metrorail system and 2) the aggressive use of "overlay zoning districts" that allow and promote walkable urbanism around Metro Stations. Of the twenty walkable areas in the DC area, seven are in Arlington. The twenty areas give the DC metro area the highest per capita, thus landing us in the top spot. The report included Ballston, Clarendon, Rosslyn, Crystal City/Pentagon City, Carlyle, Court House, Shirlington, and Reston Town Center as being among the twenty walkable places in the region.

**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 how many residents in your home are members and the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible. Note that only members whose dues have been paid 60 days in advance are allowed to vote on civic association business.

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 _____ Email only copy of newsletter yes _____ no _____

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____ email address: _____

Address: _____

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment:

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

Mail to: Arleen Rhodes, Treasurer, 2749 N. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207

**REMINDER: PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES IN ADVANCE
IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN DRCA ELECTIONS
AND OTHER VOTES**

Bill Richardson

This spring DRCA members will have the chance to vote at the bi-annual election of officers and directors of the Association. From time to time, DRCA meetings also include opportunities to cast your vote on issues of interest to our neighborhood. Recent examples include the Marymount site plan, the relocation of the dog park, and County proposals relating to lot coverage restrictions.

Under the DRCA Constitution, any adult (over 18) full-time resident of a member household may vote in Association elections. However, membership at any meeting is limited to those households whose dues have been paid and who have been added to the rolls at least 60 days before the meeting. We encourage you to make sure you have paid your dues in advance so that we can have maximum participation on issues of interest to our neighborhood that we put to a vote.

MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

Marymount University wishes you a New Year filled with joy! We hope you will be able to join us for events in the upcoming spring semester.

FINE ARTS & DESIGN FACULTY EXHIBITON IN THE BARRY ART GALLERY

You are invited to join the Marymount community for the opening reception of the Fine Arts and Design Faculty Exhibition on Friday, January 18, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Reinsch Library's Barry Gallery. The exhibit will feature works by seventeen Marymount faculty members, including paintings, graphic design, sculpture, and mixed media. The exhibition runs from January 18 to February 28 and admission is free. The Gallery hours are Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m - 8 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

For more information, contact: Shelley Dutton (703) 284-1549 or Laurie Callahan (703) 284-1648.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS UPDATE

Greg Gromada

Taylor Elementary

Taylor School was recently the recipient of several additional Jamestown Oaks. The trees are descendants of the oak trees on Jamestown Island. They are planted behind the school adjacent to the wooded area.

Williamsburg Middle School:

Science Fair, January 30 5:00-9:00 pm
Volunteer judges needed: Contact Heather Green at Heather_Green@apsva.us

February 13 and 14
Spring Musical: Guys and Dolls Junior
7:00 pm

February 21 Wind Ensemble Pre-Festival Concert at Yorktown High School, 7:00 pm

February 27 Orchestra Pre-Festival Concert at Washington-Lee High School, 7:00 pm

February 29 Wind Ensemble District Festival at Kenmore Middle School, 7:00 pm

Counselor of the Year

Susan Flynn, counselor at Williamsburg Middle School, was recently named Counselor of the Year for Arlington Public Schools.

Yorktown High School

January 19-Theatre Department One Act Plays- 7 p.m.

February 9- Science & Engineering Fair
February 21- Band Concert- 7 p.m.

March 25 Blood Drive

HB Woodlawn School

January 17, 18 & 19 - One-Act Play Festival

Jan 31, Feb 1,2 - Urinetown, The Musical

Feb 14, 15, 16, 17 - The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds

March 6, 7, 8 - Macbeth

April 17, 18, 19 - Cappies Show -As Bees in Honey Drown

May 7 - Middle School Show - Boys & Ghouls Together

May 22, 23, 24 & 25 - Holes - All Grades Show

June 7 - 24-Hour Play Festival

Numerous requests have been made by neighbors and our neighborhood schools to remember to clean up after your dogs. Thank you!



WHY TWENTY-ONE?

Mike Green

Currently there are a few individuals who are questioning the effectiveness of the 21-Minimum-Drinking-Age law. There are those in Arlington who are on both sides of this issue because of its emotional appeal. Although it is often easier to acquiesce to a young person's desire to try "adult" activities, we as parents and friends need to be certain that we are not doing more harm than good.

The Website, www.why21.org, is a resource that anyone concerned about this issue should examine. It is designed to help educate those who may not understand the issues involved and why the law is so important, not only for the safety, but also for the health both physical and mental, of the young adults in our community.

This site provides the facts, statistics and research studies necessary to understand the science behind the 21-Minimum-Drinking-Age law, its effectiveness and the undeniable truth that it saves lives. The site also offers information on how alcohol affects the teen brain, the realities of underage drinking, facts debunking common myths and a history of the drinking age law. There are also resources and tips for parents, educators and communities on preventing underage drinking.

Within the scientific community, there is no controversy and the scientific evidence is not in question. Here are just a few items that researchers have discovered:

Alcohol is the number one youth drug problem in America. More young people die from alcohol-related causes than from all other illicit drugs combined.

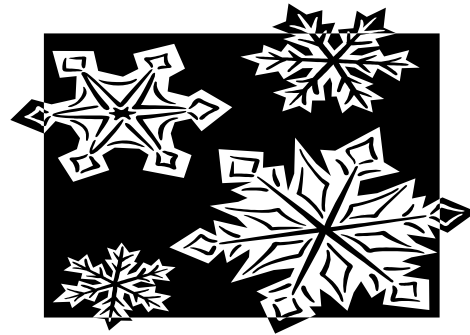
The human brain continues to develop into a person's mid-20's. Damage from alcohol while the brain is still developing can be long-term and irreversible.

People who begin drinking in their teens are at greater risk for becoming alcoholics as adults.

In 2003, the Centers for Disease Control reviewed 49 studies on the effects of changing the minimum drinking age law. Almost every study found that increasing the minimum drinking age to 21 saved lives, with an average decrease in traffic fatalities of 16 percent.

Many of us in Donaldson Run have ongoing opportunities to help shape the lives of young people. Knowing the facts about one of the many

issues facing our youth today can help make the future brighter for our families, our friends and our neighbors. It takes just a few minutes to learn a lot at www.why21.org.



THINK GLOBALLY, SHOVEL LOCALLY

As winter approaches, your friends at WALKArlington want you to know that we value your safety! Arlington winters can coat our sidewalks with everything from sleet and ice to snow and whatever you call that nasty gray slush churned up by cars and plows.

Arlington pedestrians need to get where they're going regardless of the conditions, so we ask that you consider these reminders and help keep your neighborhood's sidewalks passable this winter.

All Arlington property owners are responsible for clearing their own sidewalks of snow and ice. Residents of houses on corner lots should pay special attention to keeping crosswalk access clear.

Arlington apartment property managers (and business owners) are responsible for removing snow and ice from their properties. Residents/tenants should notify their property managers when sidewalks need to be shoveled.

Arlington snow often turns into ice within one day. Since ice is much denser than snow, it's best to shovel within 24 hours. Snow should be shoveled onto your yard, not into the street.

If you know a neighbor who might need help keeping sidewalks clear this winter, please offer to lend a hand, for everyone's sake!

For tips on safe shoveling, visit www.coloradospineinstitute.com/subject.php?pn=welness-snow-shoveling. Once your sidewalks are clear, check out www.WALKArlington.com/health/winter.html for some tips on winter walking.

SENIOR NEWS

2008 OVERNIGHT TRIPS for SENIORS

Call 703-228-4748 for more information

April 28-May 1 Ohio Amish County
June 9-14 The Rocking Horse Ranch Resort,
Highland, NY
July 14-19 Bar Harbour, ME
September 8-17 Mt. Rushmore, Black Hills &
Badlands, SD

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Great Decisions Current Events discussion group,
10a.m.-noon, and Saturdays, Culpepper Garden
Senior Center. Free. Call for information, 703-228-
4403

Ice skating, Mondays, 8:00 a.m.-9:15 a.m., seniors
only, Kettler Iceplex, Ballston Mall. Fee is \$1 which
includes skate rental. For information call 703-228-
4745.

Join seniors at the Wisdom Works Connections Café,
Thursdays, 1p.m.-3p.m., Walter Reed Senior Center.
Explore volunteer opportunities plus recreation,
learning and social connections.

Chess club , Mondays, 10 a.m., instruction, 10:30
a.m., games, Madison Senior Center. No fee. Call for
details, 703-228-5285.

Mah Jongg, Mondays, American style, 10 a.m.,
Aurora Hills, 703-228-5722; Thursdays, American
and Chinese style, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown, 703-
228-5321. No fee.

Scrabble, Fridays, 10:15 a.m., coaching available.
Call for details, 703-228-0955.

Poker, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m., Lee Senior
Center, 703-228-0555. Newcomers welcome.

Dining Out Clubs The Lunch group dines out on
the first Thursday and the dinner group dines on the
second Wednesday of each month. Call for details,
703-228-5285.

Music appreciation group at Culpepper Garden
Senior Center meets every Friday, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30
p.m.

Crafters workshop, every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. – 1
p.m., Culpepper Garden Senior Center. Call for
details, 703-228-4403. No fee.

Yarn Crafters, Aurora Hills Senior Center, meets
every Monday, 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m., to knit and crochet

items for charities. Yarn and patterns provided. Call
for information, 703-228-5722.

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly), weight loss
support group, meets every Monday, 9:30 a.m. a.m.,
Lee Senior Center. \$24 annual dues includes
monthly newsletter. Call for details, 703-228-0555.

Oil and acrylic painting classes, taught by Larry
Isham, Mondays, 10 a.m.- noon, Lee Senior Center
and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. – noon, Culpepper Garden
Senior Center. Cost is \$24 for four two hour classes.
Call for details, 703-228-4403.

All types of exercise classes and programs are
offered at senior centers including aerobics, pilates,
tai chi, yoga, strength training, flexibility, balance,
walking clubs, water exercises, personal trainers and
weight rooms. Call for information, 703-228-4745.

Table tennis, 10 a.m.-noon, Walter Reed Senior
Center. Group plays Mon.-Fri. Newcomers
welcome with or without experience. No fee. Call
for details, 703-228-0955.

Pickleball is available for seniors in the mornings,
Mon.-Fri., Thomas Jefferson Community Center.
Sport is similar to tennis with a low net, plastic
paddle and ball. No fee except annual registration of
\$15 with Office of Senior Adult Programs. For more
information, call 703-228-4745.

Volleyball for Seniors every Tuesday, Langston-
Brown Senior Center, 1:30 p.m. (practice), 2 p.m.
(games). Great exercise; all level of players welcome.
No fee. Call for information, 703-228-4745.

Are you interested in golf, tennis, senior basketball?
If so, call Jennifer Collins, Office of Senior Adult
Programs, 703-228-4745.

Performing Arts Groups

Lee Jammers, Madison Senior Center, 2nd & 4th
Mondays, 10:15 a.m., 703-228-0555

Just Playin' Country, Madison Senior Center, 1st &
3rd Mondays, 10:15 a.m., 228-0555

Encore Chorale, L-B Senior Center, every Tues., 2
p.m., 703-228-5321

Merrymakers, TJ Comm. Center, every Wed., 10:30
a.m., 703-228-5920

Songfellows, Culpepper Garden Sr. Center, every
Thurs., 10:00 a.m., 703-228-4403.

All groups welcome new members. Call for more
information, 703-228-4744.

2007 SAW MANY GAINS FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY

Diana Sun

Arlington County government preserved Buckingham Villages and 300 units of affordable housing, completed key capital projects and reduced its carbon dioxide footprint by 1,060 tons during 2007, County Board Chairman Paul Ferguson said at a year-end press conference at the County's new Emergency Communications Center.

"We've attended to basic needs this year," Ferguson said. "We finished key capital projects and made real progress on others. We repaired and improved infrastructure, completed Neighborhood Conservation projects and got off to a good start in our long-term effort to reduce County government's greenhouse gas emissions."

Ferguson noted that the County maintained its Triple-A rating with bonding agencies for the seventh consecutive year, kept real estate taxes the lowest of any major jurisdiction in Northern Virginia, and maintained an unemployment rate well below the state and federal average despite a national economic slowdown. Among the year's highlights:

FRESH AIRE MOVES FORWARD

Chairman Ferguson announced the County's Fresh AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions) program on January 1, 2007. Under the program, Arlington committed to reducing government greenhouse gas emissions 10 percent from 2000 levels by 2012.

During 2007, Arlington held its energy consumption flat, even as it added new facilities, and increased its purchase of wind-generated energy. These efforts allowed the County to reduce its carbon dioxide footprint in 2007 by 1,060 tons.

Through Fresh AIRE, the County sponsored free energy audits for homes and businesses, gave away thousands of energy-efficient light bulbs and held dozens of workshops on energy efficiency. It established a permanent funding stream for environmental programs by enacting a residential utility tax.

"We've made real progress this year in controlling our energy consumption, and in helping residents and businesses learn how to cut consumption and hold down costs," Ferguson said. "Fresh AIRE is on track, and I am confident that we will reach our goal

of reducing greenhouse gases generated by County operations and facilities 10 percent by 2012."

COUNTY COMPLETES KEY CAPITAL, INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

The County completed the Shirlington Branch Library and Signature Theatre complex, and opened a completely renovated Greenbrier Park, which now offers first-rate athletic facilities to the entire Arlington community. "We are nearing completion on the state-of-the-art Emergency Communications Center and advancing construction of the Fairlington Community Center, the Shirlington Transit Station and the Four Mile Run Connector," Ferguson said.

The County also opened a transition center for those directly impacted by the Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) process, and established a fund for curb and gutter work throughout the County to pave unimproved streets.

BUCKINGHAM VILLAGE PRESERVED

One of the County's most significant achievements, Ferguson noted, was the approval of a community plan to preserve much of the 17-acre historic Buckingham Villages, including 300 new committed affordable apartments and several new public amenities.

FERGUSON STEPPING DOWN AFTER 12 YEARS ON BOARD

Ferguson, who was elected Clerk of the Arlington County Court in November, is leaving the Board after 12 years of service.

"Arlington is a healthy, thriving, diverse community," Ferguson said. "Our schools remain among the best in the nation. Our crime rate is the lowest it has been since 1960, our real estate tax is the second lowest in Northern Virginia, and our property values are stable, despite the national economic downturn. Our employment rate is the lowest in the state and we are attracting new businesses and new jobs. Much remains to be done, but 2007 has been a good year for our County."

WALTER TEJADA PICKED AS 2008 BOARD CHAIRMAN

Arlington County Vice Chairman Walter Tejada is the new chairman of the County Board. At its traditional New Year's Day organizational meeting on January 1, 2008, Tejada was voted in as Chairman and Barbara Favola as Vice-Chair.

Visit the County's website to read the full Year-End 2007 Report, as well as a fact sheet on the new Emergency Communications Center.

ONE VACANCY ON DRCA BOARD WITH ELECTION SCHEDULED IN MARCH

Anne Wilson

Every two years the terms of all nine DRCA officers expire. This year, the election for new officers will be held at the civic association meeting on March 26. A nominating committee has been established and its members are Mike Green, Anne Wilson, and Greg Gromada. Although everyone who is currently serving on the Board has agreed to continue in their present position, there is a vacancy for one director's position. If you have attended some of our meetings and thought that you might want to get involved in DRCA in an official capacity, this is an opportunity to become a member of the DRCA team. Just contact one of the members of the nominating committee to discuss your interest.

Currently, the proposed slate of officers for the elections is as follows: Ned Rhodes, President; Anne Wilson, 1st Vice President; Mike Green, 2nd Vice President; Maxine Nagel, Secretary; Arleen Rhodes, Treasurer; Larry Finch, Director; Greg Gromada, Director; and Bill Richardson, Director. Nominations for all positions will also be taken from the floor on the night of the election. Consistent with DRCA bylaws, all members who pay their dues at least 60 days prior to the election will be eligible to vote.

ARLINGTON HISTORY: RIXEY MANSION

Among the many stately and historic homes located in Arlington County, the Rixey Mansion deserves a special mention.

Set on one of four farms owned by Washington resident and Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Navy Dr. Presley M. Rixey, the Rixey Mansion was built to replace the property's old farmhouse which burned down in 1907. The mansion was constructed in 1919-1920 under the supervision of Dr. Rixey and architects Frank Upman and Percy C. Adams and was thought to be one of the most sophisticated and elaborate residences of its time, boasting an exquisite stairway, a grand drawing room, banquet room, and a first floor covered with marble, designed in a black and white geometric pattern. After Dr. Rixey's death in 1928, the farm was purchased by Mrs. Ida K. Polen and was used as a tea house. In 1937, following a fire at the Washington Golf and Country Club, the house was

temporarily used as a dining facility until a new building was completed.

In 1948, the estate was purchased by the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary and upon the establishment of Marymount College in 1950, the Rixey mansion became the central building or "Main House" of the university.

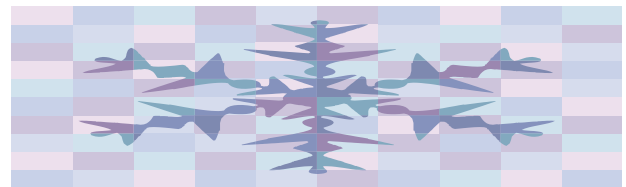
FAMILY ROLLER SKATING NIGHT

The Family Roller Skating Series began on October 20, 2007 and runs every Saturday night through April 5, 2008 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Birthday parties are available from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. Admission: \$2.00 per person
Skate Rental: \$2.00 per person
Place: Thomas Jefferson Community Center
Teen Skate Nights (middle & high school students)

This year there is a TEEN ONLY Skate Night from 9:00 pm - 11:00 pm every Saturday night during the skating season.

Admission: \$2.00 per person
Skate Rental: \$2.00 per person
Place: Thomas Jefferson Community Center

The concession stand is open from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm every skate night. For more information, please contact Edson Bravo at 703-228-7783 or ebravo@arlingtonva.us.



GET YOUR GAME ON AT ARLINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Arlington Public Library will be hosting some fun programs for tweens/teens during winter break and beyond: Monday, January 28, 1 p.m. and Friday, February 15, 3 p.m. in the Central Library auditorium.

Get Your Game On @ Arlington Central Library! We're having a party for kids and teens with: Wii Sports, Dance Dance Revolution, snacks, and other games to amuse and delight! For more information, please call 703-228-5946 or email Youth Services.

Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Arleen Rhodes, Treasurer
2749 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22207

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

Postmaster: Please deliver January 7-11

DRCA Meeting

Wednesday, January 23 at 7:30 p.m.

A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.

Agenda: Arlington County Historian Kathryn Holt Springston

**Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street**

SIGNATURE THEATRE'S "GLORY DAYS"

Four high school friends reunite one year after graduation to discover how dramatically their lives have grown apart. While they attempt to reconnect and understand each other's differences, nothing can compare to the glory days of high school when life was simpler and all appeared right with the world. A poignant coming-of-age story, *Glory Days* features music styles from pop and folk to contemporary rock.

See this world premiere directed by Eric Schaeffer with music and lyrics by Nick Blaemire from January 15 through February 17. For more information go to www.signature-theatre.org or call (703) 820-9771.

REGISTER FOR ARLINGTON ALERT

Arlington Alert is an alert system that allows the County to contact you during an emergency by sending text messages to your:

- e-mail account (work, home, other)
- cell phone
- text pager, BlackBerry

When an emergency occurs, the County will instantly notify you with updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, who to contact and other important information.

Arlington Alert is a free County service. However, your carrier may charge you a fee to receive messages on wireless device(s). This service does not replace existing public safety warning methods also used by the County.

Arlington Alert is open to all County residents, commuters, and visitors. For more information go to www.arlingtonalert.com/index.php?CCheck=1