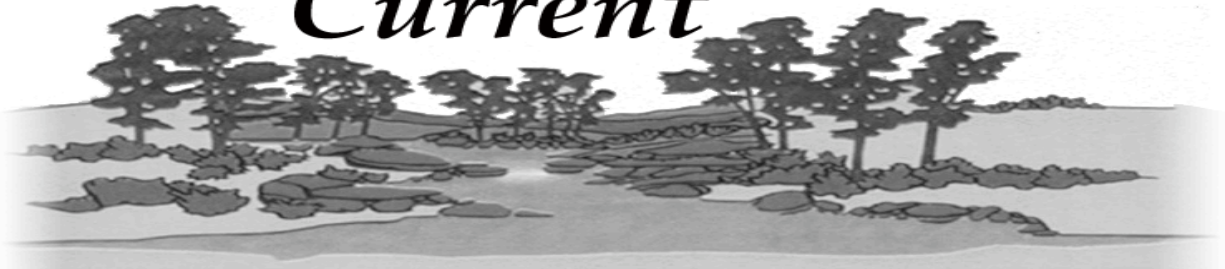


# The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

March 2009

## President's Message

*Ned W. Rhodes*  
[ned@drca.org](mailto:ned@drca.org)

As I write this, we are under a winter storm watch. It is March and we should be having spring weather. I am sorry that we had to cancel the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) January meeting on "Emergency Care" due to weather. The executive committee will look into rescheduling that meeting in the near future. Please note that if the Arlington County public schools are closed for the day, then any DRCA meetings will be canceled as well. Make sure you give us your email address so that we can update you on meetings and other items of neighborhood interest.

I am looking forward to the next meeting, which will be about our "Green Neighborhood." Please see the article later in the newsletter for more information.

The County Manager's budget was recently released and two cuts in service that directly affect our neighborhood have been included. The first is the closure and demolition of the Gulf Branch Nature Center and the second is a cut back in the hours at the Cherrydale Library. I have already received a number of emails concerning both facilities and DRCA will write the County Board concerning these matters, but what really counts is citizen involvement. This newsletter contains information about the budget proposals involving

these two facilities and makes some suggestions as to what you can do to make your opinion known to the County Board. If you feel strongly about these facilities, you need to tell the County Board.

The work to install the conduit that will be used to underground the utilities around Marymount University is proceeding and DRCA continues to participate in the monthly liaison meetings with the University. I have been posting the minutes of the meetings on our web site so you can follow along with the progress. The first part of the construction should be starting at any time and once it does, we will invite Marymount to a DRCA membership meeting to give us an update. Also note that their website has a lot of information about the project as well as a live construction camera. I will put a link from our web site to theirs, or you can go there directly at this address:  
<http://www.marymount.edu/26thstreetproject/index.html>.

If you are currently a member of DRCA, then I once again thank you for your support. If you are not a member, please consider joining us. Your membership status is located on the mailing label of this newsletter.

**The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is  
Wednesday, March 25 at 7:30 p.m.  
at Taylor Elementary School.  
A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.**

# MILITARY ROAD UPDATE

*Anne Wilson*

During the last two months, the dynamic speed sign on eastbound Military Road was finally activated and the rubber medians were filled in with asphalt. The County's focus is now on the neighborhood's request, made at the November DRCA meeting, for a crosswalk on Military Road at 26th Street. Staff has developed a concept for the crosswalk that they believe balances the interests of pedestrians who want a safe crossing with the desires of drivers who live on 26th Street. A meeting with neighbors and county staff is being held on March 14 at the intersection to review the proposal. The results of that meeting will be reported at the DRCA meeting on March 25.

Due to the publishing schedule of this newsletter, notification of the March 14 meeting went out to those who are on the DRCA email list. To get on that list and be up to date about all DRCA happenings, become a member of the association and provide your email address. A membership application is included in this newsletter. Finally if you have any comments or would like to be added to the Military Road email list, send an email to [anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org).

# 26th STREET GATEWAY PROJECT

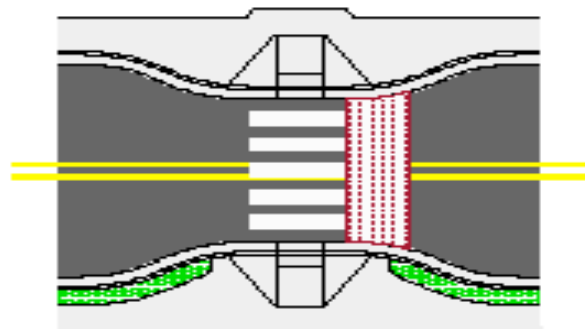
*Anne Wilson*

DRCA has worked with county staff to develop the 26th Street gateway treatment that was included in the use permit conditions for Marymount University's project at the corner of 26th St and Old Dominion. The gateway will be located in the area of the crosswalk to the bike path on 26th Street near the mulch pile. Its purpose is to make a visual distinction as drivers enter the residential section of 26th Street. The design includes a simulated brick-like treatment to the road followed by a laddered crosswalk. The street will be narrowed in this area which will provide improved visibility for pedestrians using the crosswalk and may slow some traffic in the area. Initial cost estimates indicated that the construction of the gateway would exceed the \$15,000 that was specified in the use permit. In response to a request made by DRCA, Marymount kindly agreed to contribute an additional \$7,000 toward the project. Once the final plans have been developed, DRCA will work with Marymount and the County and proceed to construction. If you have any comments or questions about this project, contact Anne Wilson ([anne@drca.org](mailto:anne@drca.org)).

**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
1st VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2nd 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		
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242



Proposed 26th Street gateway  
(Bottom is Marymount University side of street)

# CHERRYDALE LIBRARY UNDER THREAT

*Greg and Suzanne Embree*

As many of you know, the County Manager's proposed budget envisions reducing Cherrydale Library's operation from six days per week to three.

We urge those of you who value Cherrydale Library and who wish to oppose the County Manager's proposal to curtail its days of operation to sign our on-line petition, available at [http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Cherrydale\\_Library/index.html](http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Cherrydale_Library/index.html).

We are sending this note to each of our Lauderdale neighbors, to the Cherrydale and Maywood list serves, and to the presidents (for whom we have e-mail addresses) of each civic association north of Lee Highway and east of Glebe Road. Please forward this information to friends and neighbors at other addresses and on other local list serves.

We also strongly urge library supporters--in addition to signing the petition--to send a personal letter to each member of the County Board at:

2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22201.

The members of the County Board are

- \* Barbara Favola (Chairman)
- \* Jay Fisette (Vice Chairman)
- \* Mary Hynes
- \* Walter Tejada
- \* Chris Zimmerman

Phoning is a strong alternative. The number to call is 703-228-3130.

E-mailing the County Board at [countyboard@arlingtonva.us](mailto:countyboard@arlingtonva.us) is another option. Individual members of the County Board can be reached at

- \* [bfavola@arlingtonva.us](mailto:bfavola@arlingtonva.us) (Ms. Favola)
- \* [jfisette@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jfisette@arlingtonva.us) (Mr. Fisette)
- \* [mhynes@arlingtonva.us](mailto:mhynes@arlingtonva.us) (Ms. Hynes)
- \* [wtejada@arlingtonva.us](mailto:wtejada@arlingtonva.us) (Mr. Tejada)
- \* [czimmerman@arlingtonva.us](mailto:czimmerman@arlingtonva.us) (Mr. Zimmerman).

Additionally, Diane Kresh, director of the Libraries Department, will be speaking to Cherrydale Library users at the library on Wednesday, March 4, at 7 pm. A strong turnout of library supporters will help fend off the proposal to curtail the library's operations to three days a week.

The latest information on the fate of Cherrydale Library can always be found at

## Spring 2009 Meeting Schedule

**Wednesday, March 25**

Agenda: Our Green Neighborhood

**Wednesday, May 26**

Agenda: TBD

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

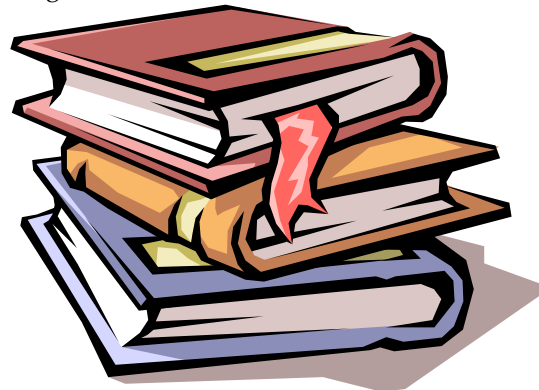
The dates, times, and topics of DRCA meetings are subject to change. Updated agendas are sent via email to our list subscribers approximately one week prior to meetings. To join our list, please add your email address to the DRCA membership application. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School unless otherwise noted.

<http://home.comcast.net/~suza1/library.htm>.

Please bookmark this Web site; it can't be found on Google.

Anyone interested in speaking in defense of Cherrydale Library at the public budget hearings scheduled to start on March 24 should contact the Citizens for Cherrydale Library before March 17 at [suza1@comcast.net](mailto:suza1@comcast.net) or 703-525-9275. It's so important to keep our neighborhood libraries open when more people are using them on a more frequent basis during this economic downturn.

Thanks in advance for everyone's help. Together we can head off this threat to one of our most important neighborhood institutions.



# LETTER TO MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

## TRASH IN DONALDSON RUN PARK

*Vicki Cornish*

Dear President Bundschuh:

As a 13-year resident of Arlington's Donaldson Run community, I must bring to your attention what appears to be a growing problem of trash on your campus and in our neighborhood.

I walk my dog daily down North 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Yorktown Boulevard, and for the last 2 years have stopped to pick up trash that is found along the roadway and adjacent to Marymount University grounds. While some of this trash may be attributed to Marymount commuter traffic that parks along these streets, I also attribute some to people who use these streets and the park next to the mulch pile. I don't understand how people can carelessly throw litter into our streets, but since I cannot bear to just walk by and leave it there, I stop and pick it up.

What prompts me to write you today is not so much this routine trash, which Marymount could certainly contribute to lessening, but the increasing amount of trash I have noted since construction has begun on 26<sup>th</sup> Street on both sides of Yorktown Boulevard. Just this morning I picked up fast food containers, Styrofoam cups, wrappers, sauce containers, plastic bags, and other trash in the gutter and on the sidewalk.

Please stress to the construction crew and your students and staff that Marymount University is part of the Donaldson Run community, and that careless discarding of trash items degrades and cheapens our beautiful community. We take pride in keeping the streets and walkways of our community clean and clear of trash and other unsightly debris, and expect Marymount University to contribute to these efforts.

It may be helpful for Marymount to place trash receptacles along these boundary areas and to implement and enforce anti-littering policies for students, staff, and workers on and around the Marymount University grounds. A combination of incentives and disincentives could help nip this problem before it becomes overwhelming.

I value the contribution Marymount University makes to Arlington, and would like to see all of us work together to keep our little slice of Arlington

clean and green. Your leadership will help to instill a sense of harmony with the community, especially as construction of your new buildings progresses.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

*Vicki Cornish is a Donaldson Run resident and Donaldson Run Civic Association member.*

## WHAT IS CLICK IT OR TICKET?

Click It or Ticket is a high visibility enforcement program designed to raise safety belt usage and save people from death and serious injury on the streets and highways.

The program will use educational radio messages recorded personally by chiefs and sheriffs, along with stepped-up enforcement, to send a strong message that safety belts save lives.

The Click It or Ticket campaign is currently used in 18 other states and the District of Columbia. In other Click It or Ticket campaigns, the occupant restraint usage rate increased by more than 10 percent, meaning that thousands of previously unbuckled drivers and passengers began using safety belts and child safety seats.

The campaign consists of strict enforcement, strong educational messages in the form of ads on most radio stations in the area, and numerous public appearances by officers on behalf of the program.

Virginia's statewide safety belt compliance rate is currently 80.6 percent. The goal of 2009 Click It or Ticket, which will run during this May, is to raise the rate to at least 82 percent.

The above information comes from [www.smartsafeandsober.org](http://www.smartsafeandsober.org). There you also will find other traffic safety information.

## TREE GIVEAWAY – PLAN NOW!

*Bill Anhut*

March begins a three-month period (through May) that is ideal for planting trees in the Mid-Atlantic US. Trees really should not be planted in our area from June to September due to the extreme heat and frequent droughts. To help jumpstart the planting effort, Arlington County is again providing, free of charge, two species of trees through its Tree

(continued on page 8)

# DONALDSON RUN CLEANUP A HUGE SUCCESS

*Vicki Cornish*

On January 19, we organized a cleanup of Donaldson Run as part of the call to service on Martion Luther King Jr.'s birthday. What started out as a plan to have my two sons and me clean up a neighborhood trail and stream turned into a massive clean up effort covering not only Donaldson Run, but six other sites. I posted the event on (then) President-elect Obama's Service Day website and had 75 volunteers signed up.

We started at the head of Donaldson Run, a small stream that meanders through North Arlington that also has a popular walking trail. More volunteers worked at Potomac Overlook Park, HB Woodlawn School, Gulf Branch Nature Center, Taylor School, Thrifton Hill Park, and Spout Run.

Volunteers ranged from pre-schoolers to senior citizens, neighbors, and people visiting from out of town. We had a group of hard-core election volunteers from Philadelphia that came for the inauguration, and others that came from all over Arlington.

Some of the cleanup sites weren't so bad, while others really had people working hard. The prize for the biggest piece of trash was for a county traffic cone, nearly 4 feet tall, pulled from Spout Run. We found tires, pipes, a lawn chair cushion, a realtor sign, a sleeping bag, a cell phone, and lots of plastic bags, plastic bottles, glass bottles, cigarette boxes, and cans.

By noon, my sons and I had stopped at each site and loaded up two full truckloads of garbage. That's not counting all of the garbage that volunteers took home to dump in their own garbage cans. Wow, imagine all of that trash making its way to the Potomac River. I looked around at each site and was so happy to be leaving it clean and free of trash.

What a great day - everybody seemed to be happy to be able to contribute their time and efforts on this day of service, and to be starting this new era of responsibility on a day honoring one of our greatest Americans.

We would like to make the cleanup a regular event, and I will post news of future events in this newsletter.

# COUNTY PROPOSES CLOSURE OF GULF BRANCH NATURE CENTER

*Larry Finch*

County Manager Ron Carlee presented his proposed FY 2010 budget to the County Board last Saturday, February 21. Reflecting projections of falling revenues, the proposed budget has \$23.3 million in reductions, including cuts of \$9.1 million in direct services and the elimination of about 100 staff positions.

One proposed program reduction that is of particular interest to many residents of the Donaldson Run neighborhood is the Manager's proposal to close Gulf Branch Nature Center. If the County Board concurs, the center will be closed at the end of the current fiscal year and the building will be demolished. The proposal is to move Gulf Branch programs to the nature center at Potomac Overlook Regional Park.

The position of Director of Gulf Branch has already been eliminated. Denise Chauvette, who occupied that position, had spoken at DRCA meetings from time to time and is known to many residents. Eliminating that position immediately was intended to reduce expenditures in the current fiscal year. That action has already been taken and apparently is not subject to further review.

The Manager's recommendation to close Gulf Branch, however, must still be considered by the County Board. Advisory commissions are currently discussing the implications of proposed budget cuts and will make recommendations to the County Board on March 19. A few days later, residents will have an opportunity to express their views to the County Board at budget hearings on March 24 and March 25. There will be tax rate hearings on March 26. Finally, the County Board is expected to adopt the FY 2010 budget on April 28.

In the meantime, residents who are concerned about the prospect of Gulf Branch Nature Center being closed can exchange views with others through a list-serve called "Friends\_of\_Gulf\_Branch". The list-serve can be reached through the following link: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Friends\\_of\\_Gulf\\_Branch/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=5](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Friends_of_Gulf_Branch/?v=1&t=search&ch=web&pub=groups&sec=group&slk=5). There is also a petition that can be signed at [www.SaveGulfBranch.com](http://www.SaveGulfBranch.com)

# PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

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

## Babysitting

Mrs. Jureerat Mannuang (703) 960-4070. Twelve years experience with American Vice Consulate in Thailand

## 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

Carla 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](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, 528-1129
- Joan Robinson, 528-1129
- Margaret Taylor, 522-2452

## Petsitting/Dogwalking

- MC Petcare, contact Cara at 812-8894 or Megan at 524-4922
- Margaret Taylor, 522-2452



**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 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

## ARLINGTON OFFERS FREE CYCLING CLASSES

Arlington will offer nine free adult bike safety classes called Confident City Cycling. They include classroom and on-road sessions. You can reduce your carbon footprint, get in shape and save money learning to ride your bike safely on Arlington streets. Dates are March 18, April 18, May 6, May 23, June 13, July 11, September 9 (with Spanish translation) and September 19. For more info and on-line registration, please visit <http://www.waba.org/events/education.php#ccc/>

## TAYLOR ELEMENTARY UPDATE

Rob Hindman, Taylor Elementary School Principal, is proud to announce that Taylor has been awarded a VIP Governors Award of Excellence. Taylor Elementary is one of 126 schools in Virginia to achieve the highest level of recognition in the program. The program recognizes schools with high levels of academic performance.



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 March 11-21

## DRCA Meeting

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

**Agenda: Our Green Neighborhood**

**Taylor Elementary School  
2600 North Stuart Street**

## SPRING YARD WASTE COLLECTION TO BEGIN

The 2009 spring yard waste collection begins Monday, March 16 and runs through Friday, April 24. Waste deposited curbside will be collected one day after your regular trash day. (For example, if your trash day is Friday, March 20, crews will collect yard waste on the following Monday, March 23.)

Spring yard waste must be small enough to fit in paper lawn bags or your own 30-gallon trash cans. For large tree trunks, limbs, or shrubs, please request curbside brush collection.

For more information, please visit the Arlington County Government website:  
<http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/swd/EnvironmentalServicesSwdSpringyw.aspx>

## TREE GIVEAWAY (continued from page 4)

Giveaway program in May. The program allows replenishment of our diminishing tree canopy and helps control the run-off of damaging chemicals into the Chesapeake Bay.

Two deciduous trees will be offered: one that grows into a large shade tree and a second that can be an ornamental tree or serves as under story to shade trees. The shade tree, the Bur Oak, is a slow growing but very substantial member of the white oak family that can live 300 to 400 years and grow as tall as 100 feet. The second tree is the American Filbert or American Hazelnut. It grows well as under story to Bur Oaks, reaches a height of 8-12 feet and is multi-trunked as in a large shrub.

Please contact Patrick Wegeng, Environmental Landscape Supervisor, by email at [pwegeng@arlingtonva.us](mailto:pwegeng@arlingtonva.us) or phone at 703-228-6521.