



The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

February 2019

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
bill@drca.org

I hope all of you had a happy holiday season. All the best for 2019.

At our last meeting in October, we invited **Noah Simon** to speak, and to solicit your preliminary ideas, about what should be done with the County space next to the salt dome and mulch pile on 26th Street across from Marymount University. Noah serves as the chair of the **26th St-Old Dominion Master Planning Task Force** for this site, which is scheduled to finalize its recommendations on this question to the County Board by the end of March 2019.

Your preliminary ideas included the following: kids splash park, multi-generational park, underground changing station for salt dome workers with park above, use of Missionhurst property for fields, soccer field, and community center with park on top. There are also competing proposals for some of the space, including from County staff and Marymount. Other civic associations are also finalizing their ideas for the site. In light of the upcoming deadline for the Task Force's recommendations, we have invited Noah back to our next DRCA meeting, on **Wednesday, February 13**, to discuss the various alternatives now under consideration by the Task Force. Our goal is to get a clearer sense from you about your

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DRCA SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL SECRETARY VACANCY

As noted in our June 2018 newsletter, which proposed the slate of officers and directors later elected at our June meeting, we still have a vacancy for the office of Secretary. Jean Fisher has kindly volunteered to fill that position. Jean has lived on Marcey Road since 2007 with her husband John and their son, age 9.

The board plans to nominate Jean to fill this vacancy at our February 13 meeting. Pursuant to the DRCA Constitution, nominations shall be made from the floor, and eligible voters will include adult members of households whose dues have been fully paid 60 days prior to the vote. The term for Secretary will extend until the next general election at the 2020 annual meeting.

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is
Wednesday, February 13 at Taylor Elementary at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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reactions to those alternatives. As usual, the meeting will be held at Taylor School at 7:30 p.m., with our social half hour beginning at 7:00.

Much has been happening this past year at **Potomac Overlook Regional Park**, including a substantial renovation of the Nature Center. To learn more about the latest, including upcoming spring events, we have also invited **Park Manager Doranne Pittz** to speak and answer questions at our February 13 meeting.

With the warmer season just around the corner, we are exploring the idea of a purely social get-together for DRCA residents, ideally outdoors, so as to provide opportunities to get to know more of our neighbors. We'd like to get your thoughts on that. Stay tuned, and let's hope we finally have some drier weather!

ARE YOU A DUES PAYING MEMBER OF YOUR CIVIC ASSOCIATION?

Maxine Nagel

An active, vibrant civic association pays many dividends to the neighborhood it serves. First and foremost, a neighborhood association fosters fellowship among its residents and works to build a better community. To that end, DRCA volunteers work with neighbors and surrounding civic associations on issues of mutual concern. Equally important, DRCA volunteers interface with County and State officials on issues that impact our area, providing them with valuable neighborhood perspective and seeking mutually beneficial paths forward.

Your dues are crucial to the continuation and success of DRCA's mission. We use dues for minor expenses throughout the year (e.g., web hosting for the DRCA website, supplies, Arlington Civic Federation dues), but our major outlay—hovering around 90 percent of DRCA's annual expenses—is production and mailing of the DRCA newsletter, *The Current*. *The Current* is provided to each of the approximately 950 households within the DRCA boundaries and is our principal vehicle for keeping all neighbors informed on issues impacting the neighborhood. While most of our residents receive *The Current* via snail mail, an increasing number are electing to receive it via

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	Bill Richardson	525-5270
1st VP	Mike Green	525-9414
2nd VP	Deirdre Dessingue	525-1351
Secretary		
Treasurer	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0344
Director	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Director	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Director	John Seggerman	403-2844
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

email (which saves us postage and printing costs). We generally produce three newsletters annually, and each newsletter costs approximately \$850 to print and mail.

The cost of DRCA membership remains a bargain--\$15 per household annually—and remember: only dues-paying members are eligible to vote in biennial DRCA elections and on issues that may arise at our general membership meetings.

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26th STREET-OLD DOMINION DRIVE DISCUSSION WILL HEADLINE FEBRUARY 13 DRCA MEETING

Anne Wilson

Before getting into the details of the 26th Street-Old Dominion Drive Task Force, I invite you all to join the Chair of the Task Force, Noah Simon and me at the February 13 DRCA meeting at Taylor School. Noah, a trained mediator and a former member of the Arlington School Board, will update us on the latest work of the task force. A discussion will follow to get reactions and to better understand what DRCA members like and do not like about possible future uses of the land, which is located at one of the entrances to our neighborhood. The 7:30 pm meeting will be held at Taylor School. Read on to learn what is being considered for this 7.6 acre parcel of land.

The Task Force is comprised of 14 members who represent four neighborhoods, seven county commissions, and two nearby institutions, and one at-large member, Alisa Cowen, who lives in Donaldson Run. I represent DRCA. We began meeting in November and will continue to meet twice a month through March when we will be working on the draft report. Our final report will be submitted to the County Board in early April. It is important to note that the recommendations of the Task Force will not be implemented in the short term. The Task Force report will serve as a guide for future decisions regarding this parcel of land. Each element will require funding through the County's capital improvement plan and that is a separate county process that occurs every two years. When the temporary salt facility was constructed last fall, the neighborhoods were advised that "temporary" meant three to five years.

The job of the Task Force is defined in the charge established by the Arlington County Board, which calls for a master plan of the site that includes, at a minimum:

- a winter storm response center that contains storage capacity for 6,000 tons of salt and support facilities that include a dispatch area, break room, rest room, and staff parking.
- Mulch distribution and leaf storage
- Open space and/or a park
- The Donaldson Run area at the north-east portion of the park

Further, the task force is to evaluate:

- other possible public facility uses on the site that would be compatible with the uses above
- locations for screening and buffer treatments to mitigate impact of on-site activities relative to the neighborhood
- other potential uses

As of mid January, the Task Force has had five meetings and a community forum. The information presented at these meetings, the meeting notes, and meeting schedule can be found on the Task Force web site: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/26th-street-north-old-dominion-drive-site-master-planning-task-force/>. I will try to summarize some of the highlights of our work.

Not surprisingly, many needs have surfaced both from the County and other institutions. The County has an area of 26.2 miles, and 2.2 of this is county and school land. The Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) surveyed the County's needs, and these include storage needs for vehicles and materials, space for new schools, and athletic field space. The 26th Street site is not an appropriate location geographically for a new school, so that option is off the table. County staff detailed its needs for a winter storm response center that, in addition to 6,000 tons of salt, would include four brine tanks, covered storage for 25 V-box salt spreaders, and a repair/chain shop area. Currently, the County's snow plow drivers report to their shifts at the Trades Center in South Arlington where they pick up their trucks and drive to their routes. The County would like to improve efficiency by having a shift change facility in North Arlington. This would require parking for 100 vehicles, a 4500 square foot structure to house a locker room, restrooms, a staff meeting room, and a dispatch office. The breakdown for parking includes 30 trucks, 60 staff to drive the trucks (two people/truck), and office staff. No one, including county staff, wants all this parking to be on the 26th Street site, and efforts are being made to locate other nearby parking lots that might be available for use during a snow emergency. The County expects the leaf mulch operation to remain essentially the same as it is currently.

Other suggested uses for the site include Marymount University's interest in constructing an NCAA soccer field. DRCA submitted a letter including a list of suggestions that was compiled at

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26th STREET-OLD DOMINION DRIVE TASK FORCE

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our November meeting. This list included a splash park, underground salt staging station with a park above it, and a community center with a roof park.

At the time I am writing this, the Task Force is about to enter a new phase in which two subcommittees, one focusing on operational uses and the other on park/open space, will critically examine the various options that have surfaced to determine what seems to be appropriate for this site while meeting county needs. The Task Force is not obligated to recommend any new uses that are not included in the charge.

I hope to see many of you at the February 13 DRCA meeting. If you are unable to attend, feel free to express your interests/concerns to me (anne@drca.org.) Or better yet, come to a Task Force meeting, listen to the discussion and express your views to the entire group.



COUNTY BOARD ESTABLISHES "PLAN LEE HIGHWAY COMMUNITY FORUM"

Bill Richardson

As DRCA members may recall, for a number of years our civic association and others have been involved in preliminary discussions about what

the future of the Lee Highway corridor should look like. The County Board has now determined to develop a comprehensive vision and policy framework for examining that question.

Last fall, it outlined the scope and charge of this review. The Board's goal includes "creating a renewed sense of place, improving walkability, promoting and strengthening retail and other businesses, recognizing historically significant community resources, celebrating cultural resources, and creating opportunities for diverse housing options for all ages and incomes." The challenge will be to consider "how future development can transform the character" of Lee Highway "in a positive rather than a reactive manner."

There will be many different ideas about how to meet that challenge and many different perspectives. As a first step in the process, the Board approved the formation of a "Plan Lee Highway Community Forum." Its chair will be Paul Holland, and its vice chair will be Sandi Chesrown. Sandi is one of the founders of the Lee Highway Alliance. The Forum also includes 51 additional members: one representative from DRCA and the other 13 affected civic associations, two from the Lee Highway Alliance, seven Lee Highway business and property owners, four from renters and condominium associations, nine at large members, and 16 members from various specified County advisory boards and commissions. A "Working Group" subcommittee of the Forum will serve as a sounding board for staff and help prepare for Forum and focus group meetings.

The review is expected to get underway early this year. Among the topics to be addressed are the following: land use, expanded housing options, transportation redesign (including ways to "right-size" parking, improve transit access, and promote alternative modes of travel), public spaces, design of buildings and their form and height, historical preservation and cultural resources, economic vitality, environmental sustainability (e.g., decreased impervious surfaces and more "green" features such as trees, stormwater management, and gathering spaces), and public facilities needs.

Information about this ongoing process is available on the County's website at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/lee-highway/>. The website includes an option for adding your name to those who would like to receive periodic updates.

NEW DEVICES NEAR TRAFFIC SIGNALS

Mike Green

Arlington County has been upgrading traffic signals at many intersections. Along with the traffic signals themselves, several other devices have been added. Andrea Wilkinson of the Arlington County Department of Environmental Services responded to a question about these devices with the following information. The photo shows the three devices and the traffic signals at one intersection.

The first device to the left – the little black box – is an Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) detector. It "talks" to devices within emergency vehicles such as fire trucks or ambulances and then communicates with the traffic signals in order to turn the signal green and clear out vehicles for approaching emergency vehicles.

The middle device – the tall one – is a detection camera. This camera notes whether vehicles are at the approaching lanes and then communicates with the signal to know whether a green light is needed and for how long. If the detector "tells" the signal that there are no more cars on the approach, the green light can then be given to another approach that has waiting vehicles. In this way, the signal timing can be optimized for the real-time demand at an intersection. Another type of detector that we use in Arlington (inductive loops) is embedded in the roadway and can be noted by the rectangular box lines in the pavement leading up to the stop bar at an intersection. These loops work by sensing whether a car is present on top of the loop. Not all intersections have detectors, so you may not see either type at an intersection.

The device on the right – the dome shaped one – is a traffic camera. These stream real-time images to computers and the Traffic Management Center so that an eye is always on the roadways, especially in the event of emergency or special events that affect traffic operations. These images are not saved or kept in any way, so past images cannot be retrieved. The live camera streams can also be accessed by the public at <https://transportation.arlingtonva.us/live-traffic-cameras/>. More information and FAQs on the cameras are located on this site. The County recommends using Internet Explorer to open the camera feeds, as other browsers tend to block the images and give an error saying "the image is temporarily unavailable."

At some intersections, the police have also installed red light cameras to identify drivers who

run red lights under their PhotoRED program. Intersections for these installations have been chosen for the frequency of red light running collisions, constraints affecting live enforcement opportunities, and other factors that are reviewed by the state before approval of a location is received. More information and a list and map of current locations that have red light cameras installed can be found at

<https://police.arlingtonva.us/photored/>.

Each location where a red light camera is present also has a sign on the approach to inform drivers that red light cameras are in use at that intersection.



UPDATE ON OUR NEW NEIGHBORHOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

The school being built at the former site of HB Woodlawn has a new name: Dorothy Hamm Middle School. The number of rain delays through the end of December grew to approximately 48 days. The extraordinary rain this fall continues to slow the work, but foundations are starting to take shape.

Here is the link to the website for the project. <https://www.apsva.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/181231-Stratford-Community-Update.pdf>

PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

Email Mary@DRCA.org with recommendations or removals.

Appliance Repair

Paul Mills, Master Appliance Service, (703) 938-6910, referred by Maxine Nagel, (703) 524-5093

Alan Gaitley, Old Dominion Appliance Repair, (703) 754-8500, referred by Frank and Sally Light

Computer Support Services

Pete Herbst, 703/283-6595, referred by Judy Cherrington, 703/243-6034.

Cameron Jones (571) 217-3596, referred by Rose Bannigan, (703) 524-6722

Gutter Installation or Cleaning and Repair

Northern Virginia Gutter Cleaning (571) 352-7292, www.NOVAGutters.com, referred by Maxine Nagel, 703-524-5093

Auguste Remy, The Gutterworks Company (703) 425-9595, referred by Dan Sagalyn, (703) 795-5490

Handyman Services

Ernesto Guzman (tile work. electrical problems, plumbing, painting), 703-582-5179 or egzmn66@yahoo.com, referred by Rose Bannigan, 703-524-6722

Chris Lamar with Arlington Home Service, (703) 362-0930 or ahservice@verizon.net, referred by Martha Shmokler, mess14@juno.com

Sam Axton, 703-569-5707 or Sam_Axton@msn.com, referred by Jeanne Svikhart (703) 851-2695

Home Improvement

Whitestone Home Improvement (703) 426-8000, referred by Sonja Elmer, (703) 527-8340

Housecleaning

Maria Vallejo, (571) 217-9494, referred by Mike and Dot Green, (703) 525-9414

Jupiter's Cleaning & Services, Barhas at (703) 981-8700 or e-mail Jupiters.2011@gmail.com, referred by Karen Hanneman, (703) 527-4604

Professional Housecleaning Services, managed by Alba Isabel, (703) 928-9089 referred by Rob Jones, (703) 276-0545

Sandra Hueco, home: (571) 277-7579 cell: (703) 338-6160, referred by Glenn Ward, (703) 527-7315

Flora Cuentas, (571) 225-2640, referred by Molly Ross, (703) 528-2731

Sonia Cerna, (571) 428-8616, referred by Zlatica and Werner Hahn, (703) 528 1982.

Cynthia Baldo, (703) 843-8272, referred by Sharon Frey, (703) 405-5674

Rocio Allyon, (703) 628-6708, referred by Nancy and Tom Rodeheaver, (703) 525-7980

Interior Decorating/Home Design:

Stefani McNair at McNair Designs, (703) 868-3489. Recommended by Alexa & James Fleming, (703) 577-3812.

Landscaping and Yardwork

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

Lawn and Tree Services, Tu Nguyen, (703) 622-7988, referred by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

Painting and/or Wallpapering

Al with QV1 Painting, LLC, (703) 229-2327 or almonroe3@gmail.com, referred by Broc Perkuchin, (202) 510-4892

Ed Wilkerson of C. W. Wilkerson & Sons, 703 524-1019, referred by Liz Hayes, 202 320-0500

Jim Gullickson, (202) 549-7528, referred by Mary and Mark Connelly, (703) 527-6382, Dan Sagalyn, (703) 795-5430 and Peggy and Bob Pruszkowski, (703) 524-5399, Carol and Joe Macmanus, 703-243-6736

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

Pet/Dog Sitting

Tommy's Little Pet Service
Website: www.tommyslittlepetservice.com, 202-714-2819. Referred by Nan Helm, 203-2894

Dog Gone Tired, (703) 625-9746, DOGGONETIRED@zoho.com. Referred by Cathie Roberts, (703) 527-8353

Roof and Exterior Cleaning

Smart Wash, (703) 595-4000, referred by Dug and Judy Gillies, (703) 528-3437

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: _____

Are you already on the DRCA email list? _____

If you are not on the list, we strongly recommend that you sign up for it so that you will be notified of issues in a timely way. Would you like to be added to this list? _____

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

Mail to: Maxine Nagel, Treasurer DRCA, 2900 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22207

HIRE A NEIGHBOR!

Many thanks to our neighborhood teens who are available for the jobs listed below. If you, or someone you know, are interested in providing a neighborhood service, email mary@drca.org.

Babysitting

Ryan Boehk, Red Cross certified, 12 y.o., kristinaboehk@yahoo.com or 703-861-1442
Sophia Cocozza, 16 y.o., 571-639-8785.
Paula Margison, 10th grade, 703-357-8528

Dog Walking & Pet Care

Ryan Boehk, 12 y.o., kristinaboehk@yahoo.com or 703-861-1442
Quinn Cooper, 15 y.o., 703-407-8045
TJ Hutchison 15 y.o., 703-812-9697

Snow Removal

Ned Cooper, 18 y.o., 571-431-9225

Tennis Lessons for Kids/Adults (Any Level)

Chase Arevalo, 17 y.o., 703-371-3155

ARE YOU A CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBER?

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If you are currently a dues-paying member of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (check your mailing label for membership status), we thank you for supporting our efforts to keep DRCA operating and relevant. If you would like to become a member or if your membership has expired, dues can be paid at our upcoming membership meeting or by sending a \$15 check (made out to the Donaldson Run Civic Association) to DRCA Treasurer Maxine Nagel, 2900 North Stafford Street, Arlington 22207. If you receive your newsletter by email and want to check your dues status, please contact mknagel@gmail.com or call 703-524-5093.

Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Maxine Nagel, Treasurer
2900 N. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA
22207

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

Next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 p.m.

Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda:

26th Street-Old Dominion Drive Task Force

Potomac Overlook Regional Park Update
with Park Manager, Doranne Pittz

A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.