



# The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

March 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

**Bill Richardson**  
**[bill@drcra.org](mailto:bill@drcra.org)**

Our next meeting will be held on March 15 at Taylor School. As usual, our meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with a social half hour beginning at 7:00.

Our first guest will be County Board Member Christian Dorsey. Christian began his tenure on the Board a little over a year ago, and is currently Arlington's representative on the Metro board. He has previously served on the Planning Commission (2007 – 2011), the Arlington Public Schools Facilities Advisory Committee (2013 – 2015), and the Tenant-Landlord Commission (2000 – 2007).

Our second guest will be Doranne Pittz, Manager of Potomac Overlook Regional Park. One of the unique features of our neighborhood is its adjacency to Potomac Overlook, which for over 40 years has provided our members and others with easy access to a nature preserve only minutes from downtown DC. As you probably know, Potomac Overlook is not owned by Arlington County. It is one of over 30 parks owned and managed by NoVa Parks, formerly known as the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, a regional authority created under state law whose board is comprised of representatives from six area jurisdictions: Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax City, Fairfax County, and Loudoun County. Please join us in welcoming Doranne, who can answer your questions about the latest developments concerning Potomac Overlook's trails, wildlife,

(continued on page 2)

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter	Pages	1, 2
Meeting Announcements		1, 8
Improve our Neighborhood/NCAC		1
Airport Noise		3, 4
Marymount 5K		4
Transportation Laws		4, 5
Clarendon Circle Redesign		5, 7
Larry's Tree		5
Help Around the House		6
Membership Application		7
Hire a Neighbor		8
DRCA Membership Dues		8

## NCAC

**John Seggerman**

The Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) is one of Arlington's approximately 50 advisory committees. This committee, represented by each civic association in the County, leads the development of neighborhood plans and recommends neighborhood-initiated capital improvements for funding by the County Board. Improvements range from sidewalks to parks. NCAC's 2016 budget was \$6.5 million. Donaldson Run currently has two projects in the pipeline, including the Vacation Lane traffic calming project, which is nearly 90 percent designed and may be completed by the end of 2017.

Do you have ideas to further improve Donaldson Run through a project like this? If so, please contact Bill Richardson at [Bill@DRCA.org](mailto:Bill@DRCA.org).

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is  
Wednesday, March 15 at Taylor Elementary at 7:30 p.m.  
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

nature center, camps, summer concerts, and other features.

I wanted to highlight three other recent developments of particular interest to DRCA.

1. Some of you have asked about the County's future plans for its property at the corner of 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive. The County had once targeted this site for a relocated Fire Station 8, but it has now determined instead to rebuild that station in expanded form at its current location across from McDonald's on Lee Highway. The County has established a Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC) to host a future meeting and public comment process to inform individual siting decisions for County properties, including this one. The County Manager's office has recently again assured us that staff will be in touch with us to provide notice to our members as soon as that process is established, which will probably be only after completing similar processes for other properties such as Buck and Carlin Springs.

There are lots of potential uses for this site, including but not limited to parkland, a garden, an athletic field, playground, picnic area, performance space, emergency paramedic station, or County offices. As you know, there are many competing uses for scarce open space in the County, and this will be your chance to have input as to what you would like to see in this corner of our neighborhood. I'd like to take this opportunity to poll our members on preferred uses so we can forward these views to the County staff. Just send me an e-mail at [bill@drca.org](mailto:bill@drca.org).

2. For a number of years, DRCA has participated as a member of the Lee Highway Alliance in the ongoing County planning process designed to develop a new land use plan to guide future rezoning and development along the Lee Highway corridor. That process, which led to last year's Lee Highway Visioning Study, will move to the next stage this year, with continuing participation by DRCA and other affected civic associations along the corridor. We welcome your ideas about what the future of this corridor should look like.

3. As discussed at our November meeting, the County plans to begin construction at the end of this year on phase II of our neighborhood conservation project involving **stream restoration of Donaldson Run**. This will involve Tributary B, which runs from Upton Street to where the stream

**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	Bill Richardson	525-5270
1 <sup>st</sup> VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2 <sup>nd</sup> VP	Mike Green	525-9414
Secretary	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Treasurer	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Director	Kelly Criswell	528-0473
Director	Deirdre Dessingue	525-1351
Director	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Director	John Seggerman	403-2844
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	469-2242

meets up with Tributary A in Zachary Taylor Park. Tributary A represents the portion of Donaldson Run for which stream restoration was completed several years ago. Doug Stephens, the County's Project Manager for Tributary B, has advised that he will let us know before construction actually begins, which should then take about six months.

I'm looking forward to spring and the reopening of our **farmers' market at Marymount**, and hoping to see you on March 15.

# **FAA WITHDRAWS PLAN TO REDUCE REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA) NOISE AFFECTING DONALDSON RUN NEIGHBORHOOD**

*Charlie Henkin*

**Summary.** In the previous DRCA newsletter, I reviewed the state of play among the numerous stakeholders addressing this issue last fall. The focus of the discussion then was FAA's plan to adopt the so-called Lazir B plan for departing aircraft from DCA to replace a baseline plan in effect. This plan would have channeled northbound departures – using the precise NEXTGEN GPS-based navigation system- over the Potomac after they left the general Rosslyn area. It would have decreased noise over our neighborhoods, while increasing noise over parts of Rosslyn.

The baseline plan (in effect since mid-2015) – also using NEXTGEN- was channeling departures in a narrower zone than historically and just to the West of the Potomac. So the baseline plan had increased noise over our area and had become unpopular locally as a result. The baseline plan will now remain in effect.

This article reviews the current state of play and describes the near and longer term factors that may mitigate the situation.

**Official positions taken.** On September 12, the County Board registered its concern about Lazir B and indeed the whole process by which the FAA had both implemented the baseline plan and was to have rolled out the proposed Lazir B plan, without adequate community involvement. FAA brought experts to a meeting with the local public on September 16 at Washington-Lee High School at which citizens expressed anger with the baseline plan and aligned on different sides regarding the Lazir B plan. The evidence suggests the FAA had been blindsided by the public outcry to the introduction of the baseline plan. The baseline plan had reduced the flights over a larger area by using the precision of NEXTGEN technology – and perhaps not realized the effect on a smaller area (including Donaldson Run) from the concentrated flight paths. The County Board reflected this concern.

On October 13, Rep. Don Beyer objected to Lazir B, including on the grounds that inadequate in-field testing had been performed to validate the FAA claim that there would be no significant noise impact under Lazir B. This FAA claim was based on certain computer models and seems counter-intuitive if one merely looks at a map, so Mr. Beyer's call for in-field testing in the future seems warranted.

On January 5, the FAA let it be known they were terminating Lazir B. This communication appears to have been to government officials only. The County Board and Rep. Beyer both applauded this decision. There is no public release from the FAA as of this writing, nor any indication of steps they intend to take to address the situation now.

## **What can be done in the near and longer term?**

The current FAA constraints on aircraft noise at DCA apply only to nighttime flights (10 PM to 7 AM) and are not based on local ground measurements – but rather on tests done by FAA remotely by aircraft type and by the weight of the aircraft on the flight in question. The compliant test levels are described below; non-compliance can incur fines up to \$5,000:

The Airports Authority enforces the DCA Nighttime Noise Rule based on the approach and takeoff noise certification data published in FAA Advisory Circular 36-3H for aircraft type, model, weight and engine. Compliant aircraft must generate noise certification levels that are equal or less than:

- Approach: 85 dBA
- Takeoff: 72 dBA

Using a ground-based local measurement system would require a change in FAA procedures, as would a lowering of the permitted levels. Federal rules prohibit real-time measured noise levels to be used to audit, investigate or enforce the DCA Nighttime Noise Rule.

**Rep. Beyer's office describes his current efforts in this area:** He strongly opposes any effort to change the flight rules that govern how many flights fly in and out of National Airport and how far they are allowed to travel. He supports the FAA's efforts to conduct a multiyear study of the relationship between aircraft noise exposure and its effects on communities near airports. He is working with government officials and aircraft manufacturers to develop quieter and more efficient planes. Last year, he cosponsored the FAA Community Accountability Act, which would give voice to

**(continued on page 4)**

# AIRPORT (DCA) NOISE

(continued from page 3)

local communities in the FAA's flight path decision-making process. He is a member of the Quiet Skies Caucus within the Congress. Rep. Beyer will continue to explore departure and approach procedural changes that could provide relief to constituents from airport noise to include possibly moving waypoints (departure and approach) and advocating for increased departure procedure altitudes as high as safety permits.

**Over the longer term**, advances in jet engine technology to decrease both noise and fuel consumption are being introduced into the fleet. In January 2016, the FAA paved the way for new Stage 5 noise requirements that would align U.S. and international standards. It released a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that would require companies submitting an application after December 31, 2017, for a new aircraft weighing at least 121,254 pounds mtow to meet Stage 5 requirements. Applicants for new aircraft weighing less than 121,254 pounds mtow must meet the Stage 5 standard after December 31, 2020. Draft Stage 5 noise reductions compared to current Stage 4 levels in 2016 would reduce noise by 7 dB (strictly speaking, 7 EPNdB), a substantial improvement.

But the FAA stressed that the NPRM is intended only for new aircraft and "should not be interpreted as signaling the start of an action aimed at phasing out the existing noise standards that apply to the production or operation of current models. There are no operational restrictions nor production cut-offs on the use of Stage 3 or Stage 4 airplanes in the U.S." On the other hand, some new aircraft (e.g. Boeing 787 and the larger Airbus aircraft) already meet Stage 5 requirements.

**In sum**, the degree and timing of relief from DCA noise is unclear and, in any case, would be realized over many years. In the meantime, holding the line on the number of slots available at DCA and the distance of flights – which correlates to weight and thus noise of aircraft- is crucial to prevent worsening of current conditions and laying the groundwork for improvement.

## MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY 5K

The Marymount University Physical Therapy Department is excited to announce the 3rd annual running of the Marymount 5k on Saturday, April

22 at 9:00 AM. Last year, over 500 runners and walkers hit the streets and conquered the hills while raising money for the Physical Therapy mission trip to Costa Rica. We celebrated their efforts with a great post-race party on campus. It was a wildly successful day, and we raised \$21,000 for medical equipment and supplies for long-term care facilities in Costa Rica.

Please consider joining us for this year's race either to run, walk or cheer from your front yard. Information (including a map) can be found on <http://www.marymount.edu/5kwww.marymount.edu/5k>. We will continue to update this website leading up to race day.

We are grateful to our neighbors in DRCA for allowing us to showcase your community by using your streets. Road closures are minimal, and we will update you through our website and the DRCA listserv, in addition to posting flyers at homes and intersections along the racecourse.

We hope that you mark your calendars and consider joining us for this great event. If you have any questions or concerns, please email our race coordinators at [mu5k@marymount.edu](mailto:mu5k@marymount.edu) or call 703-284-5978.

## CAN BICYCLES, CARS & PEDESTRIANS MIX?

**Mike Green**

One of the nice things about living in our Donaldson Run neighborhood is that there are many scenic places for walking, biking, and driving. This comes with the responsibility of all of us to share the roads.

Virginia laws are fairly strict regarding pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers sharing the roads. Recently, the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) began targeting unsafe practices of some drivers regarding pedestrians crossing roadways. As a press release from the ACPD states: "The goals of the campaign are to change motorist and pedestrian behavior and reduce pedestrian and bicyclist injuries through education and enforcement. Officers will ticket motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians who violate traffic laws..."

So what are these laws? Here are some of the important parts:  
§ 46.2-924. Drivers to stop for pedestrians...."The driver of any vehicle on a highway shall yield the right-of-way to any pedestrian crossing such

(continued on page 5)

# CAN BICYCLES, CARS & PEDESTRIANS MIX?

(continued from page 4)

highway: 1. At any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block; 2. At any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block; 3. At any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed 35 miles per hour (this includes every intersection in Donaldson Run whether there is a marked crosswalk or not). No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic. The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or stop, if necessary, to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously. Pedestrians crossing highways at intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways being crossed by the pedestrians...."

In addition, pedestrians have legal responsibilities: § 46.2-926. Pedestrians stepping into a highway where they cannot be seen. "No pedestrian shall step into a highway open to moving vehicular traffic at any point between intersections where his presence would be obscured from the vision of drivers of approaching vehicles by a vehicle or other obstruction at the curb or side...."

While getting into an accident would be the harshest penalty for not using the roadways properly and safely, the statutes include fines of between \$100 and \$500 plus court costs (\$62) for violations. Remember, we need to work together to make our neighborhood safe for all of us.

## CLARENDON CIRCLE REDESIGN

The redesign of Clarendon Circle – to make it more accessible and safe for pedestrians, cyclists and motorists traveling through the intersection of Wilson and Clarendon boulevards and Washington Boulevard – is taking important steps forward.

Clarendon Circle's width and skewed alignment of its roadways make it hard to safely traverse.

(continued on page 7)



The "Larry Tree," so named for Larry Finch, DRCA board member for many years and longtime environmental activist in Arlington until he moved to California, can be found at the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park. It is located next to the stream that Larry was instrumental in restoring. A swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), it is now a healthy 15-20 feet tall, having been planted for us by the County as our tribute to Larry in 2013. It can reach a height of 60-80 feet and live, like most oaks, for 300 years. It's a great tree to consider planting in order to restore Arlington's canopy. We asked for a plaque, but found that County rules prohibit one unless the honoree is deceased. And, happily, Larry is alive and well and enjoying retirement!

# **PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE**

Email Mary@DRCA.org with recommendations or removals.

## **Appliance Repair**

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

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

## **Computer Support Services**

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

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

## **Gutter Installation**

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

## **Handyman Services**

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

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

## **Home Improvement**

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

## **Hausecleaning**

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

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

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

Flora Cuentes, (703) 671-4053, referred by Molly Ross, (703) 528-2731

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

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

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

Maria Vallejo, (703) 448-2092, referred by Mike and Dot Green, (703) 525-9414

## **Interior Decorating/Home Design:**

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

## **Landscaping and Yardwork**

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

Brookstone Landscape, headed by Adon Pineda (571) 213-0970, referred by Pat Hines, (703) 875-9242

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

## **Masonry**

4 Seasons Masonry, Glen Brumfield, (703) 378-4444 Brick and other masonry work including repairs  
Referred by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

## **Painting and/or Wallpapering**

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

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

## **Pet/Dog Sitting**

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

## **Tommy's Little Pet Service**

Website: www.tommyslittlepetservice.com, 202-714-2819. Referred by Nan Helm, 203-2894

## **Roof and Exterior Cleaning**

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

## **Sash cord repairs**

Colonel Josh, specializing in sash window repairs (202)-631-3376; JoshArnson@gmail.com, referred by Peter and Winnie Raven-Hansen, (703) 841-1787

### **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

## **CLARENDON CIRCLE REDESIGN**

(continued from page 5)

The intersection is further complicated by North Irving Street entering the area in two offset locations. To make the necessary improvements, the County needed to acquire permanent and temporary easements in the area.

Last month, the Arlington County Board approved acquisition of temporary and permanent easements on a piece of the Catholic Diocese of Arlington's property along Washington Boulevard to be used for public sidewalk, curb, gutter, utilities and drainage improvements, at a cost of \$25,000. More easements, from four other properties, are expected to be finalized over the next few months. Design analysis for the intersection has already been completed.

Redesign of the circle is recommended and supported in the Master Transportation Plan (MTP) and in the Clarendon Sector Plan.

County staff shared design plans via an online survey and received many comments from the Clarendon Alliance, the Transportation Commission, area civic associations and community members.

Project work will include:

Reducing intersection size, shortening pedestrian crossing distances and widening sidewalks, better aligning Washington and Wilson Boulevards, upgrading traffic signals, improving area lighting and installing new 'Carlyle' streetlights, widening center medians at all crossings, adding on-street bike lanes and improving bike routes, and planting street trees.

The engineering design phase will wrap up in the next few months; we expect to begin construction in summer 2018. It will take about a year to complete. For more information and for future updates, please visit the project page at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/clarendon-circle/>

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

PRSR STD  
U.S. Postage PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
Permit No. 2863

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

**Next DRCA Meeting  
Wednesday, March 15 at 7:30 p.m.  
Taylor Elementary School  
2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda:  
CHRISTIAN DORSEY, County Board Member  
DORANNE PITTS, Manager of Potomac Overlook Regional Park.**

**A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.**

## **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](mailto:mary@drca.org).

**Babysitting**  
Toby Heidrich, 15 y.o., 703-517-5449

**Dog Walking & Pet Care**  
Quinn Cooper, 13 y.o., 703-469-2242

**Tennis Lessons for Kids/Adults (Any Level)**  
Tate and Chase Arevalo, 17 and 15 years old,  
703-371-3155

## **DRCA MEMBERSHIP**

***Maxine Nagel***

Wondering if you're a dues-paying member of the Donaldson Run Civic Association? It's easy to find out—just check the mailing label on this newsletter.

If you're paid up, we thank you for your support. If you'd like to become a DRCA member, check out the application on page 7 of this newsletter for details.

Dues checks can be sent or delivered to DRCA treasurer Maxine Nagel at 2900 North Stafford Street or brought to any of our membership meetings