



The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

February 2021

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
bill@drca.org

I hope all of you had a happy holiday season. Here's hoping for an expedited and successful vaccination rollout, and the light at the end of the long pandemic tunnel.

On behalf of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) board, I would like to reiterate our great appreciation to our three retiring board members for their many contributions to the life of this neighborhood through their years on the board. **Jean Fisher** served with diligence as our Secretary and on our Nominating Committee and was always a source for fresh perspectives. **Maxine Nagel** was our Treasurer and before that our Secretary, for many years. She kept our books, handled your dues, ensured prompt delivery of the newsletters she patiently proofread through countless trips to the Merrifield Post Office, and always volunteered to help out on any number of other time-consuming tasks. **Mike Green**, our First Vice President for many years, served as our informal liaison to the County on traffic and police issues as well as our institutional memory, ensured the efficient and punctual conduct of our meetings and candidate debates (the latter with the use of his memorable cowbell), and was always a source of wise counsel on each issue we discussed. We will miss all of them but count on their continuing interest in the affairs of the DRCA neighborhood.

In light of the pandemic, we have scheduled our next DRCA membership meeting as another virtual one through Microsoft Teams, which worked well for us in

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October. Many thanks to Anne Wilson, my predecessor as president of DRCA, for setting up this virtual forum again. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, February 10.**

Our featured speaker will be **County Manager Mark Schwartz**, who last spoke to us in May 2017. This time, we have asked Mark to focus solely on one set of issues: those we have raised with the County Board about enforcement and reform of the lot coverage, height, and setback provisions governing single-family

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The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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home construction, which are contained in the County's Zoning Ordinance. Our meeting is a followup to our January 2020 letter to the Board on this subject, which is posted on our website at www.drca.org. That letter reflected the concerns of many DRCA members that the current zoning regime has led to (1) deterioration in the quality of life expected from longtime residents in neighboring homes, (2) further destruction of our diminishing tree canopy, and (3) substantial increases in impervious surfaces and associated stormwater management problems during a period of increased frequency and severity of storms.

I strongly encourage those of you who continue to be concerned about these issues to join our discussion with Mark which will allow you also to hear the perspective of County staff. As with our October meeting, we will be sending you a link to attend the meeting (if we do not have your e-mail address, please send an email to anne@drca.org so we can send you the link). Instructions for how to download and use Teams to join the meeting are in the article below. Further instructions on how to use Teams are in our October 20 newsletter, which is posted on our website, www.drca.org.

While our focus will be on these Zoning Ordinance issues, we have asked Mark to reserve time at the end of our discussion to hear your suggestions and concerns about other topics as well.

FEBRUARY 10 DRCA VIRTUAL MEETING

Anne Wilson

The Donaldson Run Civic Association will be hosting its second virtual civic association meeting on Wednesday, February 10 at 7:30 p.m. The weekend before the meeting, all Donaldson Run neighbors for whom we have email addresses, will be sent a link to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting, click on that link beginning at 7:15 pm on February 10.

To confirm or add your email address to the DRCA list, send an email to kathy@drca.org. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, then we already have your email address. If you do not receive the link to the meeting by February 8, send an email to anne@drca.org to get your email address added to the list.

Teams can be used on most devices including laptops (Mac or Windows), iPads and other mobile devices. It

The Current 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	John Seggerman	403-2844
2nd VP	Deirdre Dessingue	525-1351
Secretary	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Treasurer	Kathy Rehill	403-1064
Director	Susan Cunningham	527-7705
Director	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Director	Amanda Weaver	202-365-3292
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0322
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

works best in a Windows environment, but it works well on other devices. When you receive the link to join the meeting, you can click on it at any time before the meeting to look at the process for using Teams. If you are new to Teams meetings, you should click on the link to set up the interface in advance of the meeting. Depending on the device you are using, you may be given the option of downloading the app or accessing Teams through your web browser. **For a more robust experience, you will want to download the app in advance of the meeting.** There are some additional settings you can set including selecting a background.

To test Teams before the meeting, email me at anne@drca.org and I will set up a brief test session.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS REQUIRES CHANGES TO UPTON STREET SUBDIVISION PLAN

Bill Richardson

On January 13, 2021, Arlington County's Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) agreed in part with concerns raised by DRCA and a number of affected neighbors about the construction of two large homes at 2260/2264 North Upton Street.

In 2016, the BZA approved a variance from the minimum lot width requirements for this subdivision, as sought by the prior developer. The BZA did so, however, only after the developer had satisfied neighbors' concerns by agreeing to build at a specified distance from the adjacent lot. At the 2016 BZA variance hearing, the developer told the BZA that this was a "very important" commitment, and tendered the revised plat to the BZA for its review.

A problem arose after the first developer sold the property to a second one. Because the BZA had not explicitly identified this condition in the actual language of the BZA resolution approving the variance back in 2016, the second developer claimed it was not bound by the commitment and refused to honor it.

The BZA has authority to consider (1) requests for variance and use permits, and (2) appeals from decisions of the Zoning Administrator. Earlier this year, the Zoning Administrator rejected the neighbors' argument that the second developer should be bound by this commitment to them made by the first developer. The neighbors then appealed the Zoning Administrator's rejection to the BZA.

In November, DRCA filed a letter in support of the neighbors' appeal. At the January hearing, DRCA and the affected neighbors – as well as counsel for the first developer – all pointed out that failing to honor this prior commitment would raise serious issues regarding future public confidence in the BZA's processes, which traditionally look to impacts on the neighborhood and encourage such negotiations. While the BZA rejected a number of the neighbors' arguments, a majority of the BZA ultimately agreed that the second builder should be bound by the limits depicted in the records associated with the 2016 variance application, thus requiring further setback from the adjacent lot.

TRIBUTARY B STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

Anne Wilson

Progress continues toward the long awaited restoration of Donaldson Run's Tributary B, which extends from Upton Street to the confluence with Tributary A. As brief background for those who are new to Donaldson Run, the restoration of Tributary A (Utah Street to Military Road) was completed in 2006. In 2004, DRCA had its first of several votes supporting a restoration project for Tributary B, which has eroded significantly over the years exposing the water main that runs along the stream. Throughout the process, DRCA has worked with county staff to see that concerns of neighbors were addressed. As a result, some changes have been made to improve the plans.

A group of neighbors who do not agree with the plans hired a consultant, Dr. John Field, to evaluate the restoration project. In his report of December 2020, Dr. Field recommends that a different construction method focusing on wood structures is preferable to the county's plan. The County's Watershed Program Manager, Jason Papacosma offered his perspective on Dr. Field's report. Both of these documents can be found at <http://www.drca.org> under the news section in the middle of the first page.

At its meeting on December 12, 2020, the Arlington County Board was presented with the Field report. A brief discussion followed in which Board Chair Libby Garvey noted that county staff had engaged significantly with the community and had reached a different conclusion than those who are opposed to the current plans. The County Manager stated that the project is ready for execution and it was time to move forward with the project.

In January the DRCA leadership met virtually to review the Field report after having sought and obtained reactions to the report from Jason Papacosma. The DRCA Board agreed that the Field Report would be made available to the neighborhood through the email list, Facebook page, and this newsletter. The DRCA Board believes that it is time to proceed with the project and the contract solicitation for the work was posted on January 11. Once the project is completed, it will be important to monitor how the project is holding up especially considering the increase in storm intensity. County staff anticipates that construction will begin in late spring or summer. The County's link to the project is: <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/donaldson-run-stream-restoration-tributary-b/>

HOLIDAY LIGHTS COMPETITION BRIGHTENS NEIGHBORHOOD

Amanda Weaver

In December, DRCA hosted the first ever Holiday Decorating Contest. With a number of our neighbors going all out this year, the judges enjoyed considering the submissions. The Grand Prize Award recipient won a year's membership to the Donaldson Run Civic Association while the remaining contestants battled it out in a number of categories in a lighthearted, albeit fierce, competition for bragging rights. We are pleased to announce the following winners and look forward to continuing this new tradition. So, get your lights, wreaths, and inflatables ready, as it's never too early to start planning for next year!



Grand Prize Winner
4528 26th Street, North

Best Lights:

Winner: 2306 N. Vernon Street
Runner Up: 2630 Robert Walker Place

Best Inflatables:

Winner: 2306 N. Stafford Street
Runner Up: 4259 Vacation Lane

Best Doorway:

Winner: 2635 N. Richmond Street
Runner Up: 4148 25th Street N.

Best Griswold:

Winner: 4528 26th Street N.
Runner Up: 4298 Vacation Lane

Best Traditional:

Winner: 2652 Marcey Road
Runner Up: 2370 N. Vernon Street

Best Tree:

Winner: 2617 N. Stuart Street
Runner Up: 4307 23rd Road N.
Honorable Mention: 2661 N. Upshur Street

SUFFERING FROM FOMO? JOIN DRCA'S LISTSERV AND FACEBOOK PAGE

Anne Wilson

If you are not already on DRCA'S email listserv or Facebook page, please request to join so that you will not miss neighborhood news that arises between DRCA meetings and newsletters.

To be added to the email listserv, send your name and street address to anne@drca.org. To join the Facebook group, make a request to join from Facebook. If you have neighbors who are new to Donaldson Run, please spread the word!

HAPPY DUES YEAR!

Kathy Rehill

Another year, another opportunity to become (or remain) a dues-paying member of the Donaldson Run Civic Association! Check your mailing label on the last page of this newsletter to ascertain your dues status. Or, if you're receiving this newsletter electronically and want to determine if your dues are current, email me at Kathy@drca.org and I'll check our database. DRCA membership allows you to vote in general membership meetings on issues that arise throughout the year. Your dues also underwrite the publication and distribution of this newsletter, which is sent to all 950+ households within the DRCA boundaries.

If you haven't paid your dues, make 2021 the year you become a dues-paying DRCA member. And if you're current in your dues, we thank you, as always, for your support! Dues checks (\$15 per year per household, payable to DRCA) can be sent to DRCA c/o Kathy Rehill, 2701 North Wakefield Street, Arlington 22207. Questions? Contact Kathy@drca.org.

ARLINGTON COUNTY COVID-19 VACCINE PAGE

Arlington County is pairing with Virginia Hospital Center to provide the COVID-19 vaccination to people age 75 and over as the county moves into Phase 1B of the Virginia Department of Health vaccine distribution plan. The FAQs page is now live at <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccination-faqs/>.

If you are 75 or over and use the internet, you can sign up for a vaccine appointment at <https://www.virginiahospitalcenter.com/patients-visitors/safe-care-with-us/covidvaccine/>.

People 75 and over who don't use the internet can call (703) 228-7999 to make a vaccination appointment. If you know of elderly neighbors who don't use the internet, please let them know about this phone number.

Pre-registration is available online for Arlington residents aged 65-74 (and those aged 16-64 with underlying medical conditions) at [arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/registration/](https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/vaccines/registration/).

SIGNAGE AND MARKINGS ADDED TO INTERSECTION

Liz Lord

In May of last year, our daughter was struck and our puppy killed by a hit and run driver at the intersection of N. Upshur and N. Vermont Streets. The incident highlighted for us the risks to pedestrians and cyclists in our neighborhood due to a lack of sidewalks, traffic calming, signage, and pedestrian markings.

With the support of several Donaldson Run Civic Association neighbors, I launched a petition advocating for pedestrian markings and all-way stops at six key intersections, including the N. Upshur and N. Vermont intersection. Nearly 700 people signed the petition within days.

We used the petition as the basis to engage with County officials, ranging from Libby Garvey to staff at the Transportation Engineering & Operations Bureau. The County, in turn, opened six separate cases, one for each intersection identified in the petition, to review and assess the "geometry" of the intersections. The County looked at each for "geometric challenges on all approaches to an intersection, which include horizontal

(roadway curvature) and vertical (hill) conditions as well as intersection skew (a sharp intersection angle)".

At the end of 2020 we learned from the County that the intersection of N. Upshur and N. Vermont warranted an all-way stop control due to the geometric challenges identified. The same could not be said for the other five intersections identified in the petition. Pavement markings and stop signs were installed earlier this month. You'll now notice that the lanes leading to the intersection are clearly marked in bright yellow and there is a 3-way stop.

Though our goal was not fully achieved, at least this previously dangerous intersection now has appropriate signage and markings.



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

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

Metro Gutter & Home Services, Inc. 703) 354-4333
Referred by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034

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

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 Svihart (703) 851-2695

Housecleaning

Squeaky Cleaners, LLC,
squeakycleanersnova@gmail.com, referred by Shany O'Donnell, Shanybenitah@gmail.com

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 Cuentes, (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

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

Pet/Dog Sitting

Tommy's Little Pet Service
Website: www.tommyslittlepetservice.com, (202)-714-2819. Referred by Nan Helm, (703) 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

Window Cleaning

Virginia Window Cleaners, Inc. (703) 442-3950, referred by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034

Old Dominion Cleaning Co. (ask for Teri for easy to do estimate) (703) 569-2000, referred by Liz Hayes (703) 528-4119.

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 DRCA listserv, 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 listserv? _____

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.
Mail to: Kathy Rehill, Treasurer, 2701 N. Wakefield 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

Mackenzie Rau, 13 y.o., susannewton@yahoo.com or 703-898-7307

Paula Margison, 11th grade, 703-357-8528

Sophia Coccozza, 17 y.o., 571-639-8785

Dog Walking & Pet Care

Harrison Rau, 18 y.o., 703-675-2890

TJ Hutchison 17 y.o., 703-812-9697

Quinn Cooper, 17 y.o., 703-401-0133

Snow Shoveling/Lawn Care

Harrison Rau, 18 y.o., 703-675-2890

Quinn Cooper, 17 y.o., 703-401-0133

NEIGHBORHOOD SURVEY COMING

John Seggerman

In 2000, the Donaldson Run Civic Association submitted a comprehensive neighborhood plan to the County's Neighborhood Conservation (NC) program. The NC program is Arlington's grassroots-based process to capture each civic association's residents' vision, ideas, and needs in order to recommend improvement projects. Examples of such projects include sidewalks, traffic safety measures, and park improvements. Our plan of 2000 has helped focus County staff on our civic association's priorities since then but is somewhat outdated. A key requirement of an NC plan is a neighborhood-wide survey to help determine opportunities, problems, and areas for improvement. To better understand our residents' priorities and solicit new insights, we plan to circulate a survey that could be used for an updated NC plan. Please stay tuned for such a survey.

Donaldson Run Civic Association
c/o Kathy Rehill, Treasurer
2701 N. Wakefield 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 10 at 7:30 p.m.

via Microsoft Teams

Agenda:

County Manager Mark Schwartz
with a focus on Arlington County's Zoning Ordinance