

The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

Winter 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Anne Wilson
anne@drca.org

February 2015

A belated Happy New Year to everyone in Donaldson Run! At the end of 2014, we learned that a significant change will be coming to our neighborhood. In December, the School Board selected the Stratford site to be the location of a new, 1,000-seat middle school which many Donaldson Run children will eventually attend. The school is due to be completed by the fall of 2019. The location of the new school was the topic at our last civic association meeting, and the majority of those who voted that night wanted the new school at Stratford. Donaldson Run Civic Association's focus now will be on ensuring that the character of the neighborhood closest to the school is minimally impacted by the change. A key to this is working to ensure that a new vehicular entrance to the school is built from Old Dominion Drive. Because Old Dominion is a state road, VDOT's approval and involvement is required. Thus far, I have been told that initial indications from VDOT concerning the Old Dominion entrance are encouraging. I hope that VDOT and Arlington County will be able to work through all the details and issues of building this new entrance to Stratford.

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The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is
Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

You may know that the County is engaging the community in developing, according to Board Chair Mary Hynes, "a citizen-led process designed to build a consensus regarding facility location principles and criteria that will inform the County and School Board decision making ... in the context of Arlington and the region's projected five, 10, and 20 year economic and demographic growth." As part of this effort, a Resident Forum is being established that will work with the Facility Study Committee. DRCA Vice President Mike Green will be our representative to the Resident Forum. This new initiative could impact the timeframe for planning the possible relocation of Fire Station 8 and the county-owned land at 26th Street and Old Dominion Drive, both of which are important issues for Donaldson Run. The most recent information I have is that discussions about the Old Dominion property will begin in March or April.

I wanted to give everyone a brief update on the Lee Highway initiative, which was the topic of our October meeting. The County has approved funding for a charrette that will take place in the fall. A charrette is defined as "an intense period of design or planning activity" and in this case, it refers to the planning of the Lee Highway corridor. Everyone who wants to be involved in having a say about future development along Lee Highway is welcome to attend the charrette.

We had great attendance at our last two meetings. I hope that continues in 2015, even if we may not be discussing a hot topic. Our next meeting is on March 4. We have a number of interesting items on the agenda which are detailed in the article on page three of this newsletter.

As always, I will keep you apprised of significant issues that affect our neighborhood. If you are not on the DRCA email list, I would encourage you to join so that you do not miss any updates. You can do this by sending me an email with your name and street address. Access to the email list is open to anyone who lives within the boundaries of the Donaldson Run neighborhood. To learn more, go to www.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	Anne Wilson	525-0344
1 st VP	Mike Green	525-9414
2 nd VP	Kathy Richardson	525-5270
Secretary	Bill Richardson	525-5270
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

SIGN UP FOR DRCA'S ONLINE COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

The DRCA listserv is taking off and proving useful to many of our neighbors. If you'd like to give or receive recommendations or follow interesting neighborhood conversations, please send an email to anne@drca.org.

FULL AGENDA IS PLANNED FOR MARCH 4 DRCA MEETING

Anne Wilson

Arlington County Police Captain Patrick Donahue will be the headline speaker at the March 4 Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting. He will update us on crime in the county and address questions related to everything from drones to cyber crimes.

Other agenda items include a presentation about stream health and its impact on children and pets who play in the streams, a proposal to apply for funding to remove invasive plants along the upper part of Donaldson Run, and an initiative to convert a 19th century Arlington dairy, Reevesland, into a center that promotes growing and preparing healthy food. There will be something for everyone at this meeting, including light refreshments as part of a social half hour that begins at 7:00. This is a good time to meet neighbors and talk informally with DRCA officers. The meeting will be held at Taylor Elementary School.

INVASIVE REMOVAL PROJECT ALONG DONALDSON RUN WILL BE PROPOSED AT MARCH 4 MEETING

Anne Wilson

If you walk or bike along Donaldson Run between the mulch pile and Vermont Street as I do, you have seen the tangle of invasive plants that overruns that area. Last June, I worked with others from the neighborhood for several hours to clean up the overgrown bushes and vines near the bench at Vermont Street. Within a month, the area was again overgrown. Further up the path toward the mulch pile, there is an ever-expanding stand of bamboo that is creeping into the park. I would like to see a sustained effort to eradicate the invasive species in the park, and, if the neighborhood is in agreement, pursue Neighborhood Conservation (NC) funding to get this work done. In the recent past, the County has approved funding for two similar projects to replace invasive plants with native species in area parks.

At our DRCA meeting on March 4, I will propose a similar project along the Donaldson Run Stream. I

Winter 2015 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, March 4

Agenda:

**Arlington County Police
Captain Patrick Donahue
and
Stream Health, Invasive
Plants, and Reevesland in
Arlington County**

The dates, times, locations, and topics of DRCA meetings are subject to change. All meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School unless otherwise noted. A social half hour begins at 7:00 p.m.

am particularly concerned about the bamboo, which should be addressed sooner rather than later. Those who are familiar with the NC process know that it is not a quick one, but we need to get into the funding queue. I hope that you will come to the meeting to learn more and support this project for our neighborhood.



Donaldson Run residents Anne Wilson, Kelly Criswell, Joan Perry, Deirdre Dessingue, and Cherrydale resident Armelle Tallec clear invasive vines on Vermont Street.

KICKOFF EVENT FOR LOCAL AGE-IN-PLACE “VILLAGE”

Deirdre Dessingue

A February 1st Pre-Super Bowl Tailgate Party at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church marked the first step in forming a local village under the umbrella of the Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) for four nearby neighborhoods – Donaldson Run, Cherrydale, Old Dominion, and Waverly Hills.

ANV president Carol Paquette welcomed about 40 neighbors who gathered to sport their favorite team gear, share their culinary specialties, complete Super Bowl trivia quizzes, and obtain information about forming a local neighborhood village. Nora Super, chief of the White House Conference on Aging and a Donaldson Run resident, was a special guest. Ms. Super stressed the importance of the nationwide Village movement and explained several Conference on Aging initiatives.

Arlington Neighborhood Villages, which began operations in April 2014, is a volunteer-based non-profit organization, the mission of which is to enable Arlington residents to remain in their communities by aging in place. ANV membership is open to all Arlington residents aged 55 and older. ANV member services include transportation, daily call-in, grocery assistance, minor home repair, and information technology assistance, as well as educational programs and social activities. ANV currently has 100 members and 90 committed volunteers.

The ANV office is located at 2666 Military Road. If you would like to get more information about joining ANV as a full or associate member, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, go to www.arlnvil.org or call the ANV office at 703-509-8057.

MIDDLE SCHOOL UPDATE

John Seggerman

On December 18, 2014, the Arlington School Board approved a plan to locate a new neighborhood middle school at the current site of the H.B. Woodlawn Secondary Program on Vacation Lane (the “Stratford Site”). Many DRCA resident middle school students will attend this new school. The plan will be completed by the start of school in September 2019, and includes 1) a new 775-seat

school at the Wilson Site in Rosslyn, which will house H.B. Woodlawn and other programs currently located at the Stratford Site; 2) Renovation/addition at the Stratford Site for a new, 1,000-seat neighborhood middle school, and 3) an additional 300 seats at existing middle schools through renovations and/or a single site with an addition.

The DRCA and its members were deeply involved in Arlington Public Schools’ (APS) extensive community engagement process that led up to approval of this plan. In particular, on November 12, 2014 the DRCA held a formal meeting to debate and vote on the various plans under consideration by APS. At this meeting, School Board member Abby Raphael and Consultant Meg Tuccillo made presentations to our members. This was followed by presentations of several DRCA residents representing differing points of view. After a lively Q&A/debate, the DRCA then took a formal vote with 76.5% preferring the Stratford site, 20.6% preferring the Wilson site and 2.9% preferring none of the options listed. The DRCA also voted unanimously that vehicular access to the new school at the Stratford site should be from Old Dominion Drive. Going forward, the DRCA Executive Committee will remain in close contact with APS staff as this very significant and complex plan is executed.

ARLINGTON KIDS’ STUFF SALE

The Arlington Kids' Stuff Sale is celebrating 25 years on March 21 with another well-organized consignment sale that’s a proven reliable source of all kid-related items. Our sale features gently used items from 100 consignors including clothes, toys, books, videos, games, puzzles and more for kids from birth to teen. There’s plenty for parents as well: maternity clothes, baby gear, strollers, bottles, and safety items, too. Be sure to check out our bathing suits and outdoor toys as warmer weather is just around the corner.

The Kids' Stuff Sale is a community-minded group, sharing our profits with local charities through cash donations to Arlington Food Assistance, AHC Inc. and Art for Humanity. This is in addition to the unsold goods donated to Arts for Humanity and other causes.

The consignment sale will be held at St Andrew's Episcopal Church at 4000 Lorcom Lane, on the corner of Military Road and Lorcom Lane from 8 a.m. - noon. There is plenty of parking and free admission. Cash or checks only. For more information, go to www.kidsstuffsale.com.

REMOVING SNOW AND ICE – A REMINDER

Charlie Henkin

As noted in past articles, the County reflects public sentiment by taking a dim view of snow and ice on private walkways that is not removed by the owner. Many of us have found ourselves or seen others forced to walk or jog dangerously in the street to avoid sidewalks left untended by owners after a snowfall. A long sidewalk bordering several houses can be rendered unsafe by the one owner who has not gone out there with the removal tool of choice, or obtained help from others who can do this if needed. Certain exemptions apply, including for those physically unable to clear snow. (The County web site on this matter, which includes the material extracted below, is <http://emergency.arlingtonva.us/weather/snow-ice/snow-removal-ordinance/>)

As quoted from the Arlington County website, the provisions of the ordinance that apply to us are as follows:

Snow and ice removal - All property owners are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks adjacent to their property: must be removed from the entire width of the sidewalk up to three feet wide (to accommodate wheelchairs, strollers, and adults with children in hand); and must be removed within 24 hours after the snow stops falling when accumulations are less than six inches, and within 36 hours when six or more inches of snow accumulate (as measured at National Airport, per National Weather Service). If another snow event occurs, the clock will reset to the end of the most recent snowfall. We will post the official snow ending time on Arlington Snow & Ice Central. Noncompliance could result in a civil penalty of \$50 for sidewalks less than 200 linear feet in length, or \$100 for sidewalks longer than 200 feet. The County may remove the snow or ice on sidewalks around private property when the owner fails to comply within the designated time period, and charge the cost to the owner.

Depositing snow and ice on streets or sidewalks - Private owners may not deposit snow or ice from private property onto public property, including streets and sidewalks. Such action may result in a class 4 (criminal) misdemeanor and fine of \$250.

It is important to note that there are no exceptions when a property owner or occupant is away when the snow falls. The county will issue fines when the sidewalk is not cleared and has stated: "You'll want to make arrangements for someone to clear your sidewalks in your absence...much as you would

arrange to have your grass mowed or your mail picked up."

The purpose of the ordinance is to allow everyone, including the aged, those with disabilities, schoolchildren, etc., to be able to use the public sidewalks as soon as possible after a snow event. This not only makes it safer for us to walk or drive in our neighborhood but it also makes it possible for us to avoid the very dangerous activity of walking or jogging in the travel portion of the roadways.

So please, be a good neighbor, remove snow and ice from your sidewalks and, if you know any neighbors who would have difficulty clearing their sidewalks, help them out. It's the right thing to do.



AUDUBON AT HOME WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

Would you like to turn your garden into a welcoming space for birds, butterflies and other native wildlife and help enhance the value of our urban green spaces? The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners and homeowner associations in recreating and restoring their home and neighborhood's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable environmental management practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna.

Audubon at Home ambassadors, trained Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists will visit and consult with homeowners on suitable native plants, landscaping, water retention, or other best practices. To learn more about the program in Arlington, you can contact Elizabeth Gearin at egearin@egearin.com or call 703-980-2258. For further information about the Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary program, you can visit the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia's website www.audubonva.org/index.php/audubon-at-home.

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.

Flooring

Congressional Floors, (703) 465-1398, referred by John Millio, (202) 669-5601

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

Housecleaning

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 Zlática and Werner Hahn, (703) 528 1982.

Flora Cuentas, (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

Ruth Shaw, (703) 447-6917, referred by Joe Junod, joexjunod5182@gmail.com

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 Cruisinger, (703) 243-8495

Jim Gullickson (JTP – Jim the Painter), (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

Maximo Hernandez (Maximo Painting, Inc.), (703) 246-9556, referred by Mary and Robert Cooper, (703) 469-2242

Pet/Dog Sitting

Dog Gone Tired , (703) 625-9746, DOGGONETIRED@zoho.com. All types of dogs, but specialize in large breeds. 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

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, please email mary@drca.org.

Babysitting

Lily Bernhard, 17 y.o. 703-528-0043

Dog Walking

Lily Bernhard, 17 y.o. 703-528-0043

Ned Cooper, 14 y.o. 703-469-2242

Snow Removal/Lawn Care

Lily Bernhard, 17 y.o., 703-528-0043

Ned Cooper, 14 y.o., 703-469-2242

MALLWALKING PROGRAM AT BALLSTON COMMON MALL

A mall-walking program for fitness and fun, Commonwalk is a free program that meets two mornings a week at the Ballston Common Mall. Participants enjoy great company while exercising in a safe environment.

If you are interested in participating, stop by the Ballston Common Mall during regular walking time on Tuesday or Thursday mornings between 8:30 am and 9:30 am. The group meets on the lower level in the back of the Food Court. Each morning's walk is followed by a brief cool down and flexibility session led by Virginia Hospital Center staff. You will receive a registration form and information describing the Commonwalk program.

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 DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda:
Arlington County Police Captain Patrick Donahue
and
Stream Health, Invasive Plants, and Reevesland in Arlington County
A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.

SUPPORT OUR LOCAL FARMERS AND JOIN THE SINCLAIR FARM CSA

Sinclair Farm, in Mt. Jackson, Virginia, is located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, where we grow fresh vegetables year-round and partner with other local family farms to offer a nice variety of fresh local foods through our Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program.

• We offer seasonal produce for sale that is grown using organic methods.

- Poultry, dairy and meats are raised in a humane, pastured environment without the use of added hormones, antibiotics, and animal by-products.
- No long-term contracts required. Flexibility for the weeks when you will be away.
- We offer products other than food including all natural soaps, creams, candles & pottery.
- Support local agriculture! It's never too late to sign up (prorated weeks).

WHERE: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church upper parking lot (Lorcom Lane & Military Road)

WHEN: Thursdays, 3:00-6:30pm

DATES: January 15-March 22

For more information, feel free to call Debbie Sinclair at (540) 477-9268, or visit www.SinclairFarm.com/CSA for prices.