



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

Spring 2015

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Anne Wilson
anne@drca.org

April 2015

I am sitting at my desk watching spring bloom in Donaldson Run. I feel so fortunate to live close to downtown and all that it offers, while being able to enjoy the nearby woods and trails that seem a world away from the urban activity. I know that I am not alone in this feeling and that Donaldson Run neighbors appreciate the importance of our natural surroundings which are getting harder and harder to find in this area. It bothers me when I see tall trees with English ivy or other invasive plants growing up their trunks because I know that, left unchecked, those trees will eventually die. For this reason, the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) is pursuing a Neighborhood Conservation project for the removal of invasive plants and a replanting project along the stream between the mulch pile and Vermont Street. The project was approved at our last meeting and will be submitted to the county next month. However, it will take years before it will be “our turn” for funding. In the meantime, we will need to rely on volunteer efforts and county staff to keep the invasive plants in check.

The next DRCA meeting will be on May 20. As in many years past, we have arranged for our state

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The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is
Wednesday, May 20 at Taylor Elem. at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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legislators to give us an update on the recently completed session in Richmond. This will be the first time that Delegate Sullivan has attended one of our meetings, and Senator Favola will also share her insights. The other topic for the evening will be the county's recently released draft Affordable Housing Master Plan. County staff is seeking public input about the plan that will be presented to the County Board this summer.

The May meeting will probably be our last until the fall. In the meantime, we will use the DRCA email list to convey information to our membership. If you are not on the list and want to join, send me an email at anne@drca.org and include your name and street address. Have a fun and safe summer!

ARLINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING STUDY

Help Arlington County build a solid foundation for the future of housing in our community. Ensuring a range of housing options, affordable to persons of all income levels and needs, is important to the County. Housing affordability supports our people, improves our neighborhoods, and strengthens our economy.

Due to rising property values, many households can no longer afford to buy or rent in Arlington, and the County has seen a dramatic decrease in its affordable housing stock, having lost 13,500 housing units due primarily to rent increases between 2000 and 2013. During the same period, average home sale prices increased by 140.3 percent while average rent increased by 90.9 percent. Median incomes have not kept pace with steadily rising housing costs.

County staff and an appointed 18-member community working group have drafted an Affordable Housing Master Plan and will seek Board approval in July 2015 to include this as an element of the County's Comprehensive Plan.

The next step for the study will be an extensive civic engagement effort to encourage community discussion around the proposed policies. Through a series of meetings, events and online engagement, staff will hear from commissions, advisory boards, civic associations, and residents. We invite you to be a part of the conversation. More information is at <http://housing.arlingtonva.us/affordable-housing-study>.

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 LISTSERVE

Join the DRCA listserve and give or receive recommendations and follow interesting neighborhood conversations. DRCA can also be found on Facebook under Donaldson Run Civic Association. To join the listserve, please send an email with your street address to anne@drca.org.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING MASTER PLAN AND 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION ARE TOPICS FOR MAY 20 DRCA MEETING

The DRCA meeting on May 20 will begin with a presentation on the recently released draft of the Affordable Housing Master Plan for Arlington County. County staff is seeking input about this plan before it is submitted to the County Board for a vote this summer. If adopted in July, the document will become an element of the Comprehensive Plan which serves as a decision making tool for the Board, the Planning Commission, and County departments.

Next we will hear from our state legislators, Senator Barbara Favola and Delegate Rip Sullivan, who will share their insights about the recently completed legislative session in Richmond. This is a great opportunity to speak in an informal setting with our elected officials.

The meeting will be in the multi-purpose room at Taylor Elementary School. There will be a social half hour with refreshments from 7-7:30, and the meeting will start at 7:30.

A FARMERS MARKET AT MARYMOUNT?

Anne Wilson

A farmers market may be coming to the front parking lot of Marymount University in the summer of 2016. That is the hope of a group from the Lee Highway Alliance (LHA) that is proposing the establishment of a North Arlington Farmer's Market which will bring the community together while providing fresh produce near the Donaldson Run neighborhood. The plans, which are all tentative, call for the market to take place on Saturdays from May until late October from approximately 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Parking for the market would be on the Marymount campus. At a meeting for the community that was held at Marymount in March, there was much interest and support for the market. A non-profit company, Farm to Table, is working with Marymount to ensure that insurance provisions and other details are acceptable.

Spring 2015 Meeting Schedule

Wednesday, May 20

Agenda:

**Presentation on Affordable
Housing Master Plan for Arlington
County
and
Legislative Update with Senator
Barbara Favola and Delegate Rip
Sullivan**

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.

DRCA has been asked to submit a letter in support of the market. When the DRCA leadership team discussed this, we thought that the neighborhood as a whole would probably like to have access to a convenient farmers market. However, those who live close to Marymount or live on streets leading to Marymount might be concerned about the extra traffic and possible parking issues from the market. When and if it becomes clear that the market is moving forward, DRCA will be soliciting the views of the membership about the market either at a meeting or through the DRCA email list. To ensure that you do not miss this discussion, if you are not already on the DRCA email list, send an email to anne@drca.org with your street address.



ARLINGTON COMMUNITY FACILITIES STUDY PRESENTS DEMOGRAPHIC AND SCHOOL PROJECTION DATA

Bill Richardson

On March 11, 2015, the meeting of the Arlington Community Facilities Study Committee included reports that provided a number of interesting details about demographic and housing trends in Arlington County, and their projected impact on future school populations. Here are some of those data:

- Arlington now has a population of 216,700, living in 102,100 households, with a median household income of \$106,400. This population is 64 percent White, eight percent Black/African American, ten percent Asian/Pacific Islander, three percent Other/Multi-Racial, and 15 percent Hispanic/Latino.
- Arlington's population is projected to grow by 36 percent from 2010 to 2040.
- Arlington's population aged 25-34 increased by over 30 percent from 2000 to 2012 – almost twice the rate of the increase in the population as a whole. Its median age dropped from 35.9 in 2000 to 33.4 in 2010.
- From 2000 to 2013, Arlington's average household size increased from 2.48 to 2.77 persons in single-family owned homes, and from 2.64 to 3.27 persons in single-family rented homes.
- Single-family detached housing nets an average of only 28 new units per year. Multi-family housing produces 94 percent of Arlington's annual net increase in housing units.
- After dropping to a low around 1987 of less than 15,000, Arlington's school enrollment had risen by 2013 to about the same level (slightly under 25,000) that it was in 1970.
- From 2004 to 2014, this has meant an increase of 3,580 in grades K-5, 1,065 in middle school, and 815 in high school.

- School enrollment projections are based primarily on data for resident live births, projected housing growth, and student generation factors (which predict student yield from new housing).
- These projections predict a growth of nearly 7,800 students over the next decade: 2,400 in elementary school, 1,800 in middle school, and 3,600 in high school.
- Over the past 10 years, projections have averaged 100.8 percent of actual enrollment. These have ranged from a low of 98.7 percent accuracy (underestimation) in 2011 and 2014 to a high of 102.7 percent accuracy (overestimation) in 2008.

For a complete report on the Committee's ongoing work, see commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/documents/

MARYMOUNT 5K a SUCCESS



The Marymount Physical Therapy program held its inaugural Marymount 5K on April 18 with a course that wound its way through part of the Donaldson Run neighborhood. The race raised \$11,000, which goes directly to the program's Costa Rica medical mission trip, and attracted 500 participants to the race.

Since 2010, Marymount University Physical Therapy program has been sending students to Costa Rica to provide rehabilitative services. More information about the mission trip and future race details can be found in the Physical Therapy program's newsletter online at www.marymount.edu/5K.

OUR BEAUTIFUL NEIGHBORHOOD

Kelly Criswell

The Donaldson Run neighborhood is truly gorgeous in large part because of the variety and maturity of native Virginia trees growing in most of our yards. Mature, "leafy" neighborhoods like ours do more than increase property values. The trees cool the air and homes in the summer, their roots absorb rain and carbon dioxide emissions, and they filter contaminants in the soil.

So here are just a few easy things you can do to make sure your trees stay healthy and beautiful:

1) *Don't let ivy grow on your trees.* Ivy weakens the tree by drawing out vital nutrients and will eventually kill it. An ivy-choked tree also is more likely to fall down in a storm. Just cut off the ivy at the base of the tree trunk and gently pull down the vines without pulling off the tree bark. The ivy vines will eventually die and then *they'll* fall off in a storm instead of causing your tree to fall down.

2) *Trees don't need mulch.* But, if you just can't resist (it is nice looking and it does help control weeds and invasives), don't use too much and don't allow the mulch to be piled up against the tree trunk. The tree's flare at its base should be visible.

3) *Do not mow over exposed tree roots.* That will weaken your tree.

4) *Never allow a tree service to top your tree.* Topping opens up branches to decay and rot fungi, slowly weakens the tree internally, shortens its life, and causes future branch breakage and storm damage. Topping will definitely kill your tree.

5) *If you have ongoing construction on your property, try to protect your trees.* Heavy equipment compacts the soil and damages the roots of all living things growing in the surrounding area. Most builders understand this and will accommodate you if you discuss it with them in advance. If you find yourself next door to a construction project, try speaking in person with the owner. If trees are cut down, there may be a good spot for a new native Virginia tree.

6) *Finally get out in your yard, take stock of your trees, and enjoy the spring.* If you have tree questions, contact Vincent Verweij, an Urban Forester with Arlington County Department of Parks and Natural Resources, at 703-228-1863.

OH POO!

Mike Green

Oh poo! My dog did it again. I was sure that he had already dropped a load and I don't have any more plastic bags. Oh well, I'll just leave the newest pile (next to the tree, in the gutter, under the bush, by the garbage can, wherever it is) this time. What can it hurt?

Have you ever had those thoughts? Or worse, have you ever taken your dog for a walk with no plan for cleaning up after your pet? If so, you are not alone judging by the number of times that I have observed (sometimes by the disgusting feel as my foot squishes into the partially hidden pile) dog poo on the sidewalks, grass, and trails in Donaldson Run.

Other than the fact that failing to clean up after your dog is a violation of the law, why bother cleaning up your dog's poo? Let's start with things that directly affect your family and your Donaldson Run neighbors.

Dog waste can contain numerous very common pathogens. Among them are Giardia, Salmonella, E. coli, Whipworms, Threadworms, Campylobacteriosis, Coccidia, Roundworms and Hookworms. These pathogens can infect humans as well as dogs and cats. Also, there are other diseases that dog poo can spread, including Parvovirus or Coronavirus. And you no doubt know that dog poo is a favorite place for flies to lay their eggs -- and then carry some of the poo on their legs into your kitchen. Plus -- did I mention that people step in it?

Unremoved dog poo also affects much more than just our local neighborhood. One of the major contributors to contaminated water is dog waste. Donaldson Run is in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. We get rain. Rain washes dog poo into the storm sewers. The storm sewers take the dog poo right down to the Potomac River, which promptly dumps the poo and -- most dangerously -- its large nitrogen content into the Chesapeake Bay. This nitrogen depletes the oxygen in the water and is detrimental to the health of the Bay by harming underwater grasses, wildlife, and fish.

So what's the bottom line -- as if you hadn't figured it out yet? Whenever you take your dog for a walk, please carry at least three plastic bags (most dogs produce at least two piles of poo per day, often during a single walk) and, to be sure that you know where and when your dog does make a pile of poo, be sure to obey the leash laws as well.

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

Whitstone 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

Music Teacher

Clarinet and piano teacher, Lydia Newlon, newlonl@mymail.vcu.edu

Painting and/or Wallpapering

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

Lawn Care

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

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

**POTOMAC OVERLOOK
SUMMER CONCERT
SERIES 2015**

Potomac Overlook Regional Park concerts are held on select Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Picnickers are welcome to bring an evening meal, although alcohol is not permitted. There is no admission fee but donations of \$5/person are requested.

Our 2015 summer concert schedule:

5/30: Andrew Acosta Band

Americana/Roots/Original acoustic

6/13: Barb Martin- Blues/Contemporary Folk

6/20: Stream & The Blue Dragons/Tom Teasley-Percussion

7/18: Randy Barrett- Cont. Folk

7/25: Surrender Friday- Rock

8/8: Project Natale- Jazz

8/22: The New Mountain Fever Band-Bluegrass

9/12: Second Wind Southern- Rock

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

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

Next DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda:
Affordable Housing Master Plan for Arlington County
and
Legislative Update with Senator Barbara Favola and Delegate Rip Sullivan

A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.

ARLINGTON SOLAR CO-OP--SAVE 30% ON COST OF SOLAR PANELS

Are you interested in lowering your energy bills and reducing your carbon footprint with solar energy? Have you ever wondered if your house would be a good candidate for solar panels? Arlington County, Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), and Virginia Sun are spreading the word about a solar co-op available to Arlingtonians for a limited time.

Purchasing and installing solar panels by yourself can be confusing and costly, but by joining the solar co-op, members will save 30 percent off the cost of a solar system and have the support of the co-op to answer questions throughout the process. You can have a quick and free solar assessment done on your home to see if solar panels would work on your roof. Interested Arlingtonians can learn more or sign up online: www.vasun.org/arlington-solar-co-op/