

# The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

October 2018

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

A lot is going on affecting the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) neighborhood these days, including the developments outlined in the articles in this month's newsletter. One of these involves the short and long term plans for the space near the mulch pile at the corner of Old Dominion and 26<sup>th</sup> Street, across from Marymount University.

In anticipation of the County's commitment to kick off a study of possible uses of this area, DRCA invites you to a discussion at our next meeting of what you would like to see there. As usual, the meeting on **Wednesday, October 17**, begins at 7:30 p.m., with our social half hour beginning at 7:00. We are hoping by the time of the meeting to be able to include a County representative who can provide more details about the decision-making process and hear you out.

We plan to devote the remainder of our October 17 meeting to a town hall session seeking your views on issues that are affecting our neighborhood. We've been keeping you up to date on many of these, but would like to be better informed about your views on them. These include the future plans for Lee Highway, management of traffic at the Military Road/Nelly Custis intersection, maintenance of Donaldson Run Tributary A and

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plans for Tributary B of our NC stream restoration project, the impact of development on tree canopy in our neighborhood, the "pit" at 2513 N. Vernon Street, the use and regulation of the new dockless bikes and scooters, and our ongoing relationship with Potomac Overlook Regional Park as it reopens the Nature Center. You may well have other DRCA-specific concerns that you would like us to be addressing or following. We welcome your thoughts, and encourage you to attend on October 17. Knowing more about your views and priorities helps us to represent you more effectively in dealing with the County Board and their staff.

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is  
Wednesday, October 17 at Taylor Elementary at 7:30 p.m.  
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

# UPDATE ON VERNON STREET "PIT"

Bill Richardson

For many months, the construction site at 2513 N. Vernon Street has remained abandoned, leaving the neighborhood with a very large and unsightly hole in the ground looking up at huge inclines on three sides. We have been in contact with the County's Chief Building Official, County Manager staff, County Attorney's office, and the Commonwealth Attorney assigned to prosecute a criminal misdemeanor case arising out of this project. We have tried to stress the blight this site poses to the neighborhood and the potential dangers associated with it.

Some time ago, the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Program, a state office, shut down this construction site, posting a notice of alleged imminent danger reasonably expected to cause death or serious physical harm to workers. The concern related to problems of structural integrity relating to the three sides surrounding the hole. According to VOSH, they have invited the developer to demonstrate how the site can be shored up, but require him to provide evidence from a qualified structural engineer. He has yet to do so.

On August 9, 2018, the County building official also filed criminal misdemeanor charges against the developer and owner of the property. The Arlington General District Court has since found the defendants guilty on two charges of violating the Uniform Statewide Building Code, and scheduled a sentencing hearing for September 18, 2018. In addition to fines, state law requires the court to order the defendants to abate or remedy the violations if they remain uncorrected.

At the time this newsletter went to publication, we were unaware of the results of the County's prosecution. We do not know whether the defendants have a financial or other problem that prevents them from addressing the VOSH issue and resuming work on the project. But we have urged County officials, in light of the many months of neglect and potential safety hazards of the site, that unless construction can be resumed promptly the defendants should be ordered to fill in the hole and restore the property to its prior condition.

Information about these proceedings can be found on the Arlington General District Court website, by entering any of the following case numbers: GC18003244-00, GC18003245-00, GC18003246-00, and GC18003247-00. The permit holder is Ideal Development LLC.

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
1st VP	Mike Green	525-9414
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Director	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Director	John Seggerman	403-2844
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

*Thanks  
to Andy's Lawn Service  
for your care and  
maintenance  
of the DRCA Sign at  
Military Rd and N 25<sup>th</sup> Street.  
We appreciate your  
community spirit!*

# FUTURE USE OF THE COUNTY'S 26<sup>TH</sup> & OLD DOMINION SITE

Bill Richardson

For at least ten years, DRCA has regularly quizzed County staff about its plans for this site. Our consistent position has been that, while we do not have a clear view of what our members would like to see here, it is vital that the County establish a process by which we have the opportunity to provide our views on the subject. Marymount University, Old Dominion Civic Association, and others have expressed similar views. After the County demolished some old homes on the site years ago, it now includes substantial green space and tree plantings on the corner, as well as the mulch pile and salt dome facilities. During the controversial debate about possible relocation of Fire Station 8 to this location, the County provided some assurance that at least some of the site would be reserved for a park of some kind.

As we reported on [drca@yahoogroups.com](mailto:drca@yahoogroups.com) a couple of months ago, there are both short- and long-term developments now about this site.

*Short Term.* The short term crisis identified by County staff in July was that the salt dome facility had unexpectedly deteriorated, with inadequate time to replace it permanently by the time of anticipated needs this winter. The solution proposed by staff was one that we, ODCA, Marymount and others opposed before the County Board: clearing some green space adjacent to the facility to establish a temporary location for the salt, while a permanent replacement facility can be built over an estimated three to four years. Our concerns included a fear that the rezoning from residential to public service use proposed by staff to accommodate the temporary facility might ultimately foreclose consideration of long-term uses of the site preferred by the community, and that the proposed clearing and repaving would take out large trees purely for short-term use. We also noted the availability of other locations for a temporary site, such as the asphalt area behind the mulch pile or the Buck site across Quincy Street from W-L.

At its July meeting, the County Board appeared unhappy with the position in which staff had placed it, but agreed to propose for consideration at its September meeting the rezoning required for the temporary relocation of the salt dome. Staff have revised their plan to avoid rezoning the far corner lot closest to Marymount, and they have proposed to move the temporary site closer to the

current one, thereby saving some (but not all) large trees and green space from the temporary repaving. As this newsletter goes to publication, the Planning Commission and the County Board will be acting on the rezoning proposal at their September meetings. Unfortunately, staff has reported that they will begin clearing the area of trees *before*, not after, receiving any rezoning approval from either entity.

For an update, see the County's website at <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/n-side-salt-tank-interim-structure/>.

*Long Term.* This temporary salt dome relocation proposal has received widespread criticism, as reported most recently in a September 13 article in *The Washington Post*. But this controversy has led to a heightened focus on the need to accelerate long-term planning for the site. In 2016, the County Board had assigned its Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) the task of examining possible uses of a number of specific County-owned sites, including this one. Last year, we invited JFAC to one of our meetings to discuss their process and our members' ideas for the site, but they advised us that it would be premature to do so as they were still occupied with their review of other sites. However, in reviewing the temporary salt dome relocation proposal this summer, and in light of concerns expressed about the longer term implications of rezoning the site from residential to public service use, the County Board has indicated that it recognizes the need to move more quickly to engage the community on their ideas for developing a master plan for long-term use, which might include a park of some kind. We expect the County to act soon to begin the process of community consultation on that master plan, and will devote a portion of our October 17 meeting to getting a better understanding of that process and beginning to collect your ideas on uses you would like the County to make of the site.

## DRCA DUES DEAL

Check the label on page 8 of this newsletter to determine if you're a dues-paying DRCA member. If your membership has expired, consider taking advantage of our yearly dues sale: pay now and get the remainder of 2018 and all of 2019 for the same low cost of \$15.

See the membership application on page 7 for dues details. Questions? Contact Maxine Nagel at [jkolick@aol.com](mailto:jkolick@aol.com).

# UPDATE ON REAGAN AIRPORT (DCA) NOISE

Charlie Henkin

For background refer to previous articles:

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ca6605\\_0f8df39fb53e4ad9933a3b36d242e011.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ca6605_0f8df39fb53e4ad9933a3b36d242e011.pdf)

[https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ca6605\\_1dd0d2d71e5746c89a278bfd7688f9d2.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ca6605_1dd0d2d71e5746c89a278bfd7688f9d2.pdf)

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## So, what is really new?

**Legal challenges:** On June 26, 2018, the Maryland Attorney General filed against the FAA's refusal to consider changes in approach flight paths to DCA (and BWI) that the FAA had earlier proposed for implementing its new sensor and network system called NextGen. These paths were outlined to Maryland citizens in 2013 subject to a 60-day comment period, which transpired without a challenge in February 2014. Maryland's recent challenge stated that the data provided in 2013 incompletely addressed the environment and health impact on the ground for DCA and BWI approach flights. On the basis of the 60-day challenge period's expiration in 2014, FAA and the US Department of Justice ruled against Maryland's legal filing. Appeals are possible, but successful appeals appear problematic. One indicator of FAA intransigence is its subsequent withdrawal from flight path analysis in the Washington Metropolitan Area Aviation (WMAA) Working Group, which was established to work on revised procedures for BWI, DCA and Dulles Airports. The withdrawal was based on possible legal exposure to Maryland's challenges concerning approaches from the north and northbound departures. Since the WMAA WG has been feckless in dealing with northbound departures and approaches from the north, this is no loss.

Note: Other jurisdictions have successfully challenged flight paths (e.g. Phoenix in 2017 after NextGen was implemented) or created positive results based on early collaboration with FAA (e.g. Orange County Noise Abatement Procedures since 1985 which now prohibit any flights after 10 PM and before 7-8 AM). However, these airports do not operate under the complex, multi-jurisdictional, urban and security environment as does DCA, including keep out zones for the White House and Capitol.

**Independent analyses of flight profiles and solutions:** Given the failure of FAA to address the northern routes noise issue, Arlington and Montgomery County (Arl/MoCo) have pooled resources for a \$250k study contract of the DCA

noise issues and possible solutions. This effort parallels that of a 2017 Palo Alto, CA study regarding San Francisco Airport. It will also benefit from extensive analysis led by MIT regarding Logan Airport (Massport) in which FAA is a full collaborator dating from a 2016 memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Massport. The Massport study, additionally, has used some data from DCA to complement and prove out their methodology.

Citizen input on the contract scope has been substantial across all affected Northern Virginia Civic Associations with Clara Kelly and me as DRCA representatives. The last meeting of this group on August 28, 2018 included discussion of the general scope of the contract, as I summarized after the meeting (below):

It is likely the scope of the (Arl/MoCo) contract will include analysis of a broad set of flight profiles and flight times as well as some focus on the noisiest aircraft types and incentives for adoption of new, quieter technologies. However, the scope will not include recommendations for legal or financial actions (e.g. new fine structures for noisy aircraft). These are complex and require more expertise than flight analysis, which would dilute the resources available for the flight analysis and recommendation. Also, the FAA does not have authority over airport fees, and fee analysis would have to be adjudicated with the DCA Airport authority

This August meeting was attended by a number of Maryland-wide, MoCo-wide, and Bethesda reps as well as a Fairfax county rep, so the local jurisdictions are directly involved with Arlington. My full summary of the August 28 meeting is posted on the DRCA web site.

The FAA-Massport collaboration has already resulted in FAA revision of certain flight profiles, and FAA has cited Massport in correspondence with Maryland as an example of effective means for approaching resolution.

In summary, it appears FAA generally recognizes the problem and parts of the FAA are engaged in thinking about solutions for specific airports outside the courts. Sustained political pressure, however, along with consensus among affected jurisdictions will be needed to make FAA respond with altered procedures for DCA.

**Political developments:** Previous newsletter articles have described Rep. Beyer's efforts to advance the use of noise measuring systems,

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# AIRPORT (DCA) NOISE

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quieter engine technologies, funding for owners to install better windows and noise insulation, and holding the line on the number of flights and the number of longer distance flights using DCA. The longer flights typically use larger aircraft which generate more noise, all else being equal. Rep. Beyer continues to support these initiatives.

In addition, he is communicating with FAA/DOT leadership regarding release of the Neighborhood Environmental Survey, promised by the end of 2017 and nowhere to be seen.

Both Virginia US Senators are on the record supporting the need for resolution of these issues. The Governor's office has not been engaged. At some point it would seem helpful if the Virginia Senators and the Governor together supported the need for solutions as is the case with Maryland, but this needs to be coordinated to ensure that Maryland and Virginia equities are both accommodated. The new Arl/MoCo study of DCA noise should help in this regard.

# THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Anne Wilson

Have you ever been walking or driving around the County and seen a problem that you thought you should report? Arlington has a smartphone app that makes it easy to report maintenance issues such as graffiti, illegal dumping and missing traffic signs. Using the app, you can take a picture of the problem and GPS will give the staff the exact location of the issue.

The name of the app is "ArlingtonVA Service Requests," and it is available for download at the Apple App Store or Google Play. You can also access this service online at: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>.

County Staff provided the following information about the app:

1. What happens when a service request is made through ArlingtonVA Service Request App? How are issues prioritized?

The ArlingtonVA Service Requests App is used to report as many as 39,000 issues or service requests annually. Once received, service requests are immediately routed to the responsible work group for assignment. Work requests are prioritized just the same as any other service request.

2. Is this the best way to report a problem?

Because service requests are sent directly to the work group or individuals responsible for resolving the request, this is absolutely the best way to report specific problems in a timely and efficient manner. We encourage folks to create an account so they can receive updates along the way and view all of their reported issues. It also allows staff to contact residents, if necessary, for extra information to help resolve the issue.

3. What is the average time to have an issue addressed?

Work requests are prioritized the same day they are received. Many types of service requests, such as pothole repairs and missed collections of trash, should take place within a couple of days. There are some service requests that may require additional due diligence before the County can respond, and these requests can take some time to close. For instance, streetlight repairs vary depending on the severity of the problem – above ground repairs are usually much faster, while underground infrastructure malfunctions may require more extensive planning to complete the repair. In some cases, another agency (VDOT or Dominion) will handle the request because streetlights have mixed ownership in Arlington.

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# MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMING COMMITTEE

Liz Lord

The Naming Committee for the "New Middle School at the Stratford Site" will have its first meeting on September 25 to begin the process of naming the new middle school (the first in Arlington since 1994). Liz Lord, one of DRCA's board members and a parent of a prospective 7th grader at the school, will represent DRCA at that meeting and two follow-up meetings.

The Naming Committee comprises parents from the new middle school's feeder elementary schools, parents and teachers of students from the two middle schools whose students will be moving, representatives from the school's future student body, representatives from affected civic associations, and alumni from Stratford Junior High. In late November or early December, the Naming Committee will present its recommendations to the Arlington School Board.

If you have thoughts or recommendations on a name for the middle school, please contact Liz Lord at [elord123@yahoo.com](mailto:elord123@yahoo.com).

# PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

Email Mary@DRCA.org with recommendations or removals.

## **Appliance Repair**

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

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

## **Computer Support Services**

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

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

## **Gutter Installation or Cleaning and Repair**

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

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

## **Handyman Services**

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

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

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

## **Home Improvement**

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

## **Housecleaning**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **Landscaping and Yardwork**

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

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

## **Painting and/or Wallpapering**

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

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

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

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

## **Pet/Dog Sitting**

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

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

## **Roof and Exterior Cleaning**

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

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please check your mailing label to see how many residents in your home are members and the latest year for which dues have been paid. Dues cover a calendar year. Contributions are not tax deductible. Note that only members whose dues have been paid 60 days in advance are allowed to vote on civic association business.

Dues: \$15 per household per calendar year. Payment for 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 years (circle one)

Total dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

New resident: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Email only copy of newsletter Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you already on the DRCA email list? \_\_\_\_\_

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

Special Interests/Volunteer Areas/Comment

Please make check payable to Donaldson Run Civic Association.

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

## HIRE A NEIGHBOR!

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

### Babysitting

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

### Dog Walking & Pet Care

Ryan Boehk, 12 y.o., kristinaboehk@yahoo.com or 703-861-1442  
Quinn Cooper, 15 y.o., 703-401-0133  
TJ Hutchison 15 y.o., 703-812-9697

### Tennis Lessons for Kids/Adults (Any Level)

Chase Arevalo, 17 years old, 703-371-3155

## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT

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4. Are there service requests that are not included and should be directed through another means?

The ArlingtonVA Service Requests App is primarily for requesting common operational services, such as street maintenance work and trash and recycling service, and park maintenance. Water and sewer emergencies, however, should be reported directly to the Water, Sewer and Streets Control Center, at 703.228.6555, for an expedited emergency response.

For traffic emergencies and traffic signal outages, concerned individuals should call the County Police Department's non-emergency line, 703.558.2222. These contacts and other useful information is readily available to the public on our Report a Problem webpage: <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/reportproblem/>

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

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

**Next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

Taylor Elementary School  
2600 North Stuart Street

**Agenda:**

**Discussion re: Old Dominion and 26<sup>th</sup> Street site**  
**and**  
**Town Hall Meeting: What Are Your Concerns?**

A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.