



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

February 2024

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
Bill@drca.org

I invite you all to hear from two important speakers at our next meeting, on **Wednesday, February 21**, again at Taylor School beginning with our social half-hour at 7:00 p.m. The first will be **Deputy Police Chief David Giroux**. A 28-year veteran of ACPD, David serves as the Commander of the Criminal Investigations Division and the Wellness and Safety Section. He also is a national leader in addressing mental health issues for police officers. David graduated from Emory University, and also holds a master's degree from GW. In light of what appears to be an increasing number of serious crimes reported in Arlington, we encourage you to ask David your questions about ACPD, the size of the force, and its priorities in addressing police issues.

The second speaker at our February meeting will be newly elected **County Board Member Maureen Coffey**. Maureen is a policy analyst on the early childhood policy team at the Center for American Progress, and served on Governor Northam's Family and Children's Trust, which addressed the prevention and treatment of family violence. She has been an active member of the Clarendon-Courthouse Civic Association. Maureen graduated from Oberlin College and holds a master's degree in public policy from UVA. Please come welcome and congratulate her, hear her perspectives, and ask her your questions about County Board issues.

Congratulations to our third round of holiday decoration award winners, listed on page 5 in this

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newsletter, and many thanks to our judges for organizing and conducting the competition. I had a chance during the holidays once again this year to drive around and see all of these creative displays, which added a special touch to the neighborhood, as did the decoration of our DRCA signs by another of our members.

I also want to congratulate our board member, Susan Cunningham, for moving on to bigger things as a County Board member. Susan really knows our neighborhood and its concerns well, and deserves special thanks for her past service on our board and in representing the neighborhood during the design and construction of Hamm Middle School. During her service, we have had the benefit of her keen analytical abilities in seeking solutions to issues affecting DRCA. As her mother and daughter noted at her swearing in

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The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is at
Taylor Elementary School
Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

ceremony, Susan takes her cue in that regard from Frances Perkins, the first female U.S. cabinet secretary, appointed by FDR following his prior appointment of her as a leading expert on occupational safety during his tenure as Governor of New York. Perkins was taught to "Go where no one else will go, do what no one else will do." Susan is well equipped to do just that.

Speaking of public service, DRCA continues to need volunteers in two areas. Please let me know if either of these interests you.

First, we need to fill Susan's position as a DRCA board member, as well as other anticipated vacancies. Signing up for a two-year term on DRCA's board requires little more than attendance at periodic board meetings, and volunteering to follow as many or as few projects or issues as time permits for you, including our periodic social events. It is a great way to learn what is going on in or affecting our neighborhood, in real time.

Second, as previously noted, we are updating our 2000 Neighborhood Conservation Plan to reflect the summary our board member Amanda Weaver has prepared of the over 200 responses you provided to our survey questionnaire last year concerning issues affecting DRCA. This will enable us to document for County staff your latest views as they may affect County proposals that affect our neighborhood. We need drafters to help us with this update, which we have divided into various sections of the current plan relating to such topics as County facilities in DRCA, neighborhood traffic, nearby parks and recreation areas, and the need for changes to sidewalks, curbs/gutters, street lights, and signage. If you would like to help update one of these sections of the existing plan to reflect members' current views, please let me know.

23rd STREET SIDEWALK PROJECT MOVING FORWARD

John Seggerman

Given the larger student body and student walkers associated with the establishment of Dorothy Hamm Middle School (DHMS), several years ago residents of 23rd Street proposed a sidewalk from Lorcom Lane down the hill to Vacation Lane. This proposal was made within the Arlington Neighborhoods Program (ANP, formerly the

The Current is distributed free of charge to all households in the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) 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). 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	Amanda Weaver	202-365-3292
Secretary	Jen Mehmood	571-259-9864
Treasurer	Kathy Rehill	403-1064
Director	Alisa Cowen	407-5324
Director		
Director	John Fisher	623-1111
Director	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
Editor	Mary Cooper	407-8045

Neighborhood Conservation Program). The sidewalk project has moved up in priority over the years and progress has been made in recent months.

A neighborhood block captain has been named; this resident has begun a "clipboard survey" of households contiguous to where the sidewalk would be installed. The ANP program requires that 60 percent of these homeowners approve of the project for it to go forward. Should that happen, the timeline then calls for a site survey, conceptual design, an on-site meeting with neighbors, final petition, and finally funding. Right now, this project is expected to be funded this June though that could slip to December. Once funded, projects usually take between 1-2 years to progress to construction and most projects' construction lasts around a year. Should you have any questions about this project, contact Frank Jazzo at Jazzo.Frank@gmail.com.

UPDATE ON "MISSING MIDDLE" (AKA "EHO")

Bill Richardson

As you may recall, last year the County eliminated the single-family only provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, to permit construction of up to six multifamily homes in each residential district, including DRCA. DRCA had expressed concerns about taking this action without first (1) conducting an assessment of the proposal's benefits (e.g., whether the resulting homes would still be very expensive and whether they would include 3 BR homes of the kind that are in greater shortage) and costs (schools, traffic, stormwater management, etc.) and (2) reforming the lot coverage provisions of the ordinance, which DRCA has for many years pointed out permit too large an impervious footprint, and which will be extended now to apply to multi-family homes as well.

Last year, a group of ten Arlington homeowners filed a lawsuit in Arlington Circuit Court, challenging this new "EHO" ordinance. In November, Judge Schell denied the County's effort to throw out the case without having to go to trial. In January of this year, he further denied the County's effort to appeal (prior to trial) his ruling that the plaintiffs had standing to bring such a case based on their claims of particularized injury.

This means that as of now the case will proceed to a trial on the homeowner claims, beginning on July 8. We expect the case will focus, among other things, on the adequacy of the County's notice of the contours of its new rules and of its claims about their benefits and costs, and the deference to which it may be entitled for these claims in court.

A court challenge to Alexandria's version of this zoning change has more recently been filed in Alexandria Circuit Court. It appears from newspaper accounts to raise similar issues.

According to information compiled by Arlingtonians for our Sustainable Future (which opposed EHO), the status of EHO applications in Arlington since the ordinance has become effective is as follows:

- Although the County had predicted only 19-21 lots would be redeveloped as EHO each year, in the first six months it received 50 EHO applications. (It is unclear whether this number would have been greater in the absence of the pending litigation.)

- Of the 26 of these approved so far, 11 are 6-plexes, 2 are 4-plexes, 8 are 3-unit townhouses, and five are 2-unit structures.
- All of these 26 are in R-5 and R-6 zones. Only one of the remaining applications still pending is for redevelopment in a larger lot zone (R-10).



INCREASE IN ARLINGTON PROPERTY TAX VALUES FOR 2024

Bill Richardson

The County has recently reported that residential property values increased 3.2 percent in 2024. The average single-family property value increased from \$798,500 to \$824,700. If you have not received your 2024 assessment, you can find it at <https://propertysearch.arlingtonva.us/>.

While commercial property values increased by 1.6 percent, this increase is the result of significant investment, principally in the Crystal City area. Existing office values decreased by 11 percent due to continued pressure of office vacancy rates. In light of this trend, residential property now provides 55 percent of the County's real estate tax base. The County notes that this factor, along with cost increases, wage growth, and higher interest rates, poses challenges for the upcoming FY 2025 budget.

MORE LONG DISTANCE FLIGHTS AT REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT

Charlie Henkin

The Federal Aviation Administration receives authorization from Congress every five years. This year (beginning in FY 2024) is one such year. Typically the Senate or House will entertain advocacy for more flights to be allowed that exceed the 1250 mile "perimeter" established to constrain the amount of long distance flights into Reagan National Airport (DCA). The existing limit on such flights supports use of Dulles Airport (IAD) for such flights, which has more runways and greater support capability in storms and recently added direct Metro service. It is noteworthy that in the recent (January 15 and later) snow storm DCA experienced more flight cancellations than any major US airport.

In June, DRCA wrote to strongly oppose House Commerce Committee consideration of more exemptions from the perimeter constraint. The House committee decided against more exemptions. In January, DRCA wrote a similar letter to the Senate Commerce Committee drafting their authorization bill. Both letters are available on our website at www.drca.org. The Senate committee has not finalized their authorization bill, but public reporting indicates that Sen. Cantwell and Sen. Cruz, the committee chair and ranking member, are seeking an allowance for two more long distance slots at DCA. Both senators are from States beyond the perimeter.

Congress is hoping to pass this needed reauthorization legislation for the FAA by the March 1 date of the expiration of FAA's current authorization. You can express your views on this matter to Rep. Don Beyer and Senators Kaine and Warner, all of whom have opposed the expansion of long distance flights for DCA.

DRCA'S INPUT INTO PICKLEBALL STRIPING AT MARCEY PARK TENNIS COURTS

John Seggerman

The DRCA Executive Committee has been very involved in the Department of Parks and Recreation's (DPR) Countywide program during the past year to stripe existing tennis courts for pickleball. We have approached this issue with a

focus on the traffic and parking strains that already exist at the popular and co-located Marcey Road Park and Potomac Overlook Park. We have refrained from taking a position as to whether the courts should be striped for pickleball.

Last summer, we joined the Arlington County Tennis Association (ACTA) in an initial meeting with County Manager Mark Schwartz. We outlined our concerns that the influx of pickleball players to the park (as many as twenty players on the three courts rather than the current maximum of twelve) could exacerbate the problems of traffic on Marcey Road during busy times as well as limited parking. The Manager committed to check with Transportation staff about how pickleball would affect the traffic and parking on Marcey Road. We still await his response. As a follow-up, last fall we met with DPR Director Jane Rudolph and were joined by a neighbor residing on Marcey Road. At this meeting, the problem of noise generated by pickleball paddles was also discussed.

The County has responded to our concerns by installing noise abatement fencing around part of the Marcey Road tennis courts as a means of limiting noise pollution caused by pickleball. We will continue to press the County for a response on our traffic/parking concerns and would welcome input from DRCA residents on how to mitigate these issues.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DUES – PLEASE JOIN!

Kathy Rehill

Did you know that the Donaldson Run Civic Association is able to print this newsletter and maintain a webpage and email blasts due to voluntary annual membership dues? Paying dues also enables you to be a member and vote on civic association business. In the past few years, dues have supported our summer ice cream socials.

Check the mailing label on this newsletter to see if your dues are current. If you receive the newsletter electronically, email treasurer@drca.org for an update on your dues status.

You can renew your dues by sending a check payable to DRCA along with the form on page 7 to Kathy Rehill, DRCA Treasurer, 2701 N Wakefield St, Arlington, VA 22207. You can also pay via PayPal to @DonaldsonRunCivAssoc. Thanks for supporting this all-volunteer organization!

ANNOUNCING THE WINNERS OF THE 2023 DRCA HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST!

The Donaldson Run Civic Association held its annual Holiday Decorating Contest in December. Although the final results were delayed a day by rain rather than snow, our neighbors exhibited their holiday spirit with some creative, cheery displays. Congratulations to this year's winners and thanks to neighbors for your festive decorating!

- Best Block/ Cul de sac/ Intersection or Street: N Thomas Street cul de sac off 26th Street
- Best Doorway: 2541 N Vermont Street
- Best "Griswold" (most humorous): 2343 N. Vermont Street
- Best Inflatables: 4528 26th Street
- Best Lights: 4112 26th Road
- Best Traditional: 4252 Vacation Lane
- Best Tree: 2527 N Upland Street
- Judges' Choice: 4141 Lorcom Lane



Best "Griswold" at 2343 N. Vermont Street included candy canes, kangaroos, Star Wars, and a smoke machine.

THE MAGIC OF WINTER TREES

Cindy Speas with Plant NOVA Natives

Winter is a lovely time to get to know your trees better. Many folks spend some of the colder days of January and February planning their spring gardens, winter sowing, or putting in nursery orders for spring delivery of native plants. Dreams of warmer days are lovely, but if you have trees in your yard or a nearby park, winter might also be the time to learn how to appreciate and protect their incredible beauty.

When our trees are bare of leaves, you can visualize more clearly their beautiful shapes, identify some species characteristics and assess their health status. There are several local organizations that provide winter educational hikes or webinars to examine and learn about our forests, including Nature Forward, Virginia Native Plant Society – Potowmack Chapter, Capital Nature, Loudoun Wildlife Conservancy, Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, and others.

For those that love to undertake vigorous outdoor work in the winter, now is the time to protect our trees by starting to pull, dig, or hack and squirt the invasives in your yard or to volunteer for similar ongoing activities in your community. With the exception of a few native evergreens, almost all the large swaths of green you see in your neighborhood and along the roads are invasive, non-native plants—from Wintergreen to Vinca, to English Ivy, from Privet to non-native Holly species, to Bamboo. You can find organizations with volunteer opportunities at www.plantnovanatives.org. Invasive plants displace the tree seedlings that are essential for our future forests, and some of them directly kill the larger trees.

So, if you want to learn about trees, to more closely observe nature, to find quiet time for spiritual reflection, or to vigorously get rid of tree enemies, winter is a magical time to spend outside in the stillness and beauty of the forest.

Plant NOVA Natives is the joint outreach campaign of a grand coalition of non-profit, governmental, and private groups, plus hundreds of individuals, all working to reverse the decline of native plants and wildlife in Northern Virginia. Our strategy is to encourage residents as well as public and commercial entities to install native plants as the first step toward creating wildlife habitat and functioning ecosystems on their own properties. All are welcome to participate in this collective action movement!

PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

Email Mary@DRCA.org with recommendations or removals.

Appliance Repair

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

Computer Support Services

Pete Herbst, (703) 283-6595, recommended by Judy Cherrington, (703) 243-6034.

Cameron Jones (571) 217-3596, recommended by Rick DeVore (703) 528-3484 and several other neighbors

Gutter Installation or Cleaning and Repair

Auguste Remy, (703) 425-9595, recommended by Dan Sagalyn, (703) 795-5490

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

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

Handyman Services

Neil McDonald, 703-200-0746, recommended by Janis Clark and Diane Gronewold, 703-516-0766

Sam Axton, (703)-569-5707 or
Sam_Axton@msn.com,
recommended by Jeanne Svihart (703) 851-2695

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

Tulio Pineda, (703) 940-4126, recommended by Chuchi Arevalo, (703) 371-3155

Housecleaning

Nuria Cruz at 571-721-0810, recommended by Susan Martin (susanmartin@icloud.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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, recommended by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

Painting and/or Wallpapering

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

Roof and Exterior Cleaning

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

Window Cleaning

Old Dominion Cleaning Co. (703) 569-2000, recommended by Liz Hayes (703) 528-4119.

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



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FOR DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Please check your mailing label on page 8 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: \$20 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 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 or if you prefer to pay electronically, pay via PayPal @DonaldsonRunCivAssoc

HIRE A NEIGHBOR

Calling all neighborhood teens! Do you babysit? Mow lawns? Shovel snow? Your Donaldson Run neighbors need you. Send an email to Mary@drca.org and we'll list the service you'd like to provide.

Babysitting

Iris Aitken, 14 y.o., 571-242-7994
or iris_aitken@icloud.com

Sophia Aitken, 17 y.o. Call or text 571-218-8924

Ana Maria Corson, 16 y.o., 571-329-3011,
ana.maria.corson@gmail.com

Ella Paris, 15 y.o., 571-317-4962

Mackenzie Rau, 14 y.o., 703-655-5718,
Mackenzie.rau21@gmail.com

Cat Sitting

Ayla Mehmood, 7th grade, text 571-259-9864
Experienced in caring for cats with special needs.

Dog Walking/Sitting

Sophia Aitken, 17 y.o. Call or text 571-218-8924

Maggie Buchko, 7th grade, 484-803-3189 or
maggiesdogwalkingbusiness@gmail.com

Maia Corson, 13 y.o., 571-329-5871,
maia.corson@gmail.com

Ana Maria Corson, 16 y.o., 571-329-3011,
ana.maria.corson@gmail.com

Lawn and Garden Care

Iris Aitken 14 y.o., 571-242-7994
or iris_aitken@icloud.com

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.

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting
is on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour will begin at 7 p.m.

Agenda:

Deputy Police Chief David Giroux

County Board Member Maureen Coffey

Taylor Elementary School