



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

June 2026

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
Bill@drca.org

As the school year ends and vacations begin, we have scheduled our last membership meeting until the fall for **Wednesday, June 10**, at our usual time and location: 7:30 p.m. (with a social half-hour beginning at 7:00) at Taylor School. We have two principal items on our agenda, and hope you will be able to come to hear about these.

Jessica Kaplan, a member of the board of the Arlington Historical Society (AHS), will be describing their partnership with the Black Heritage Museum in their "Stumbling Stones" campaign, entitled "Memorializing the Enslaved in Arlington, Virginia 1669-1865." The goal of this project is to identify locations and (where possible) identities of slaves in Arlington during this period, and to mark these locations with engraved bronze plaques or "stumbling stones," resembling the markers for Holocaust victims in Germany. AHS has so far identified two locations in our neighborhood as owned by slaveholders. One was Caleb Birch, and the proposed location of the marker would be near Birchwood, at the intersection of Wakefield and 26th Streets. The other was Robert Donaldson, with a location near the native plant garden in Potomac Overlook Regional Park.

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We also will be providing you with information on some new state laws of particular interest to our neighborhood, enacted during the recent session of the Virginia General Assembly. These include a tree canopy bill sponsored by our delegate, Patrick Hope, on which we worked closely with him and others. Another of these imposes some controversial restrictions on local zoning authority, including the "Faith in

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**The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is at
Taylor Elementary School
Wednesday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m.**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

Housing" legislation designed to expedite approvals of affordable housing developments by churches and other nonprofit organizations.

Finally, at our June 10 meeting, we will be holding our biennial elections for DRCA officers and directors. Although this year we have made additional efforts to encourage a greater diversity of participants on our board, in the absence of volunteers all of our current board members have agreed to serve for an additional two-year term. The proposed slate is listed in the article in this newsletter.

Our constitution specifies a limit of eight years for service as President, unless no other candidates are available. At ten years and counting, I am past my sell date, so I have advised the board that I will be stepping down as president in 2028 if elected to another term at our upcoming meeting. Our Nominations Committee, chaired by my predecessor Anne Wilson and including Deirdre Dessingue and Stephanie Tebor, are already hard at work at exploring options for the future. Again, *we anticipate vacancies on the board in two years, so please let them know if you are interested in joining.*

I hope to see you on June 10 for our last meeting before the fall, and to hear from you on these or other issues of concern to you.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION ANNUAL DUES – PLEASE JOIN!

Kathy Rehill

Did you know that the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) 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.

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 11 to Kathy Rehill, DRCA Treasurer, 2701 N Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22207. You can also pay via PayPal to @DonaldsonRunCivAssoc. Thanks for supporting this all-volunteer organization!

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 | Dana Miller | 202-841-3696 |
| Treasurer | Kathy Rehill | 403-1064 |
| Director | Alisa Cowen | 407-5324 |
| Director | John Fisher | 623-1111 |
| Director | Charlie Henkin | 294-4002 |
| Director | Laura Yoeckel-Kelly | 362-5380 |
| Editor | Mary Cooper | 407-8045 |

DRCA WELCOMES YOUR IDEAS AND PARTICIPATION

John Seggerman

The Donaldson Run Civic Association always welcomes fresh ideas, new people, and any constructive contributions our residents are inspired to offer our community. Participation does not have to involve joining the Executive Committee (EC) or a big time commitment. We appreciate the value you bring in whatever shape and format fit you best.

Topics that may interest participants include welcoming new residents, transportation, social activities/events, schools, and natural resource protection. The possibilities go way beyond this list. Please email Anne@drca.org if you have interest in contributing to our community through participation in the DRCA.

DRCA TO HOLD OFFICER ELECTIONS AT JUNE 10 MEETING

Anne Wilson

Every two years, the terms of all nine DRCA officers expire. This year's election will take place at the civic association meeting on June 10.

In accordance with **Article V of the Donaldson Run Civic Association Constitution**, a nominating committee, this year consisting of Anne Wilson, Deirdre Dessingue, and Stephanie Tebor, was appointed to develop a slate of candidates. All current board members have expressed their willingness to run for reelection. As a result, the committee is recommending the following slate, which will be presented to the membership at the June meeting:

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| President: | Bill Richardson |
| First Vice President: | John Seggerman |
| Second Vice President: | Amanda Weaver |
| Secretary: | Dana Miller |
| Treasurer: | Kathy Rehill |
| Director: | Alisa Cowen |
| Director: | John Fisher |
| Director: | Charlie Henkin |
| Director: | Laura Yoeckel-Kelly |

Looking ahead, an important goal will be to recruit additional neighbors to help fill leadership roles. Our neighborhood has experienced significant change in recent years, and DRCA would benefit from the energy and perspectives of newer residents. If you are interested in becoming involved, send an email to: anne@drca.org.

According to the DRCA Constitution, only members whose dues were paid at least 60 days before the election are eligible to vote. For this election, the cutoff date was April 11. To remain eligible for future elections, please ensure your membership is current. To join or renew, visit <https://www.drca.org/about-us>. If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Kathy Rehill at kathy@drca.org.

UPDATE ON REQUEST FOR STUDY OF LOT COVERAGE PROVISIONS OF ZONING ORDINANCE

Bill Richardson

As discussed at a number of our meetings and in prior newsletters, DRCA is one of now 27 civic

associations from diverse neighborhoods, urging the County to study possible reforms of the generous lot coverage, height, and setback limits now permitted for single-family home redevelopments.

In 2023, following these recommendations, the County Board voted to conduct a study of existing lot coverage and setback limits. Back in 2005, County staff also recognized that the height limit also warranted further study. However, last year the Board reversed course – contrary to our recommendations -- and determined to limit its study to setbacks and a possible new or substituted limit on total “impervious area.” The Board specifically directed staff *not* to study the growing size or height of building footprints for new single-family homes. In contrast, the Fairfax County board moved quickly this spring to launch a study of abuses of the similar height calculation there, in response to protests about a single project.

In April, the staff provided a preliminary report on its work. Staff is expected soon to tee up some options for public comment and Board consideration, including multiple options for a new limit on the percentage of the lot taken up by all impervious surfaces. These proposals are expected to grandfather existing properties. It is not yet clear how they might address modifications or additions. In 2005, new lot coverage limits extended only to modifications or additions that exceeded 50% of the building's outer wall perimeter.

At its May 12 monthly meeting, the Arlington County Civic Federation (ACCF), comprised of over 90 civic associations and other civic groups, introduced a draft committee resolution again urging the County to return to its prior commitment for a more comprehensive study. In light of the years of delay and irreparable damage in failing to address the staff's recognition since 2014 of the need to address this lot coverage/building footprint problem, the proposed resolution would ask the County to complete this more comprehensive study by the end of this year, coupled with recommendations to the Board on how to address these issues.

ACCF plans a vote on this resolution at its June 9 meeting. For a copy of this draft resolution, see the link in my report to ACCF in its latest newsletter. <https://www.civfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Civic-Voice-2026-05.pdf>.

UPDATE ON STATUS OF EXPANDED HOUSING OPTIONS (EHO) AKA “MISSING MIDDLE” LITIGATION

Bill Richardson

As previously reported, in November 2024 a state trial court invalidated the County’s EHO ordinance. That ordinance permitted construction of multifamily housing (up to six-plexes) in all single-family housing districts in Arlington. The case is now mired in continued appeals, which for now center not on whether the court was correct in concluding that the EHO ordinance violated state law requirements, but whether the court incorrectly failed to add as a necessary party one of the developers seeking EHO permits.

The Virginia Court of Appeals first determined that the trial court had erred in failing to include this developer (Wilsons Ventures). The Arlington residents who had prevailed on their challenge to the ordinance then sought rehearing from the appeals court, which it then granted – but then later, in September of last year, again reversed the trial court’s judgment and sent the case back to the trial court to add Wilsons Ventures as a party.

The residents then appealed that procedural ruling to the Virginia Supreme Court, arguing that Wilsons Ventures had been too late to challenge the trial court’s decision and that in any event the developer was not a necessary party to a challenge to the County on the validity of its ordinance. The Virginia Supreme Court did not even schedule a hearing on *whether to take the case to decide this procedural issue* until April of this year. It will thus likely be months if not years before the appeals finally resolve the ultimate question of whether the trial court was correct in invalidating the EHO ordinance as inconsistent with state law. Despite all these uncertainties, the County has determined to proceed in granting more EHO permits, notwithstanding the irreparable damage to neighborhoods and their tree canopy from EHO developments that may ultimately again be determined to be unlawful.

Given this uncertain situation, some developers have determined to build single-family homes instead. Others, however, have opened a second front. In new proceedings, they have argued that (whatever happens in the main litigation) once they received a permit they had a “vested right” to build as permitted. To succeed on such a claim under Virginia law, they must show that the permit is valid, that they relied in good faith on the

permit, and that they extended substantial resources based on that good faith reliance. How these requirements may apply in this unique situation is not clear: the court has invalidated the authority to issue these permits (though that judgment has been reversed and is subject to further appeal), and relying on the permit when it was known to be still subject to court review may not qualify for protection.

So far, those who have succeeded in these “vested rights” claims have done so without litigation of these issues, because the claims were brought against the County, and the County never opposed them. However, in a more recent case involving an EHO on North Potomac Street north of Langston Boulevard, neighbors are opposing this claim of vested rights. On June 5, a state trial court is scheduled to have a hearing on their arguments.

Whatever the outcome of these EHO lawsuits, they will not affect properties where private parties’ restrictive covenants bar construction of multifamily homes. Sections 1.2 and 1.4.1 of the Zoning Ordinance specifically provide that its provisions do not “in any way impair or interfere with any . . . covenant or private agreement,” and that “existing agreements” that are “more restrictive shall control.”

LUBBER RUN AMPHI- THEATER FOUNDATION

Another amazing summer season at the Lubber Run Amphitheater, located at 200 North Columbus Street in Arlington Forest will bring a wide variety of musical performances in June, July and August.

The “jewel of Arlington” located in Lubber Run Park will feature music for every taste – Latin-Jazz, Folk-Rock, Afrobeat, Roots, Southern Soul, Orchestral, Pacific Islander, Family, Zydeco/Blues, Cuban Son/Salsa, A Capella, Brazilian Foro, just plain Rock and Roll and much, much more!

All in all, and weather permitting, it should be another fantastic summer in the park! Lubber Run Amphitheater Foundation volunteers will be at each performance welcoming and assisting attendees, supporting county staff, providing fans to cool you down on warm evenings, answering questions and providing updates on all performances on social media. If you would like more information about the Foundation or to support its work with a tax-deductible contribution, please visit lraf.betterworld.org. Hope to see you in the park this summer!

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION ENACTS HOUSING AFFORDABILITY LEGISLATION

Bill Richardson

“Affordability” has been a key theme of recent national, state, and local political debates. This year Virginia enacted a number of bills with a focus on housing affordability. Except as noted, these become effective on July 1, 2026. A number of these bills deprive local governments of much of their established zoning and land use authority.

HB 888. Off-street Parking. This law applies to all lots within a half-mile of any “building or enhanced structure” for mass transit or public transportation. (It is not clear whether an “enhanced structure” would include any bus stop.) In such areas, it bars off-street parking requirements of more than one parking space per dwelling unit for one and two-family dwellings and townhouses, and of more than 0.5 parking space per dwelling unit for multifamily or mixed-use residential development. For other areas, local governments must also establish a process for developers to seek a reduction of at least 20% in off-street parking requirements. How this could work for a single-family home (with a one-parking-space requirement) is unclear.

S 388. “Faith in Housing.” Many civic associations (including DRCA) urged that this bill include a requirement for reenactment next year, as the House version initially required, in order to address its controversial and unclear provisions. That did not happen. The law becomes effective on January 1, 2027, and sunsets four years later.

This law permits established churches and nonprofits to build affordable housing projects “by right,” even in low density residential areas. To qualify, projects must have at least 60% of their housing units designated for those with no more than 80% of area median income for rentals (or no more than 120% of area median income for sales), and must devote at least 70% of gross floor area to residential use. Nonresidential use may include any uses “ancillary” to the operation or mission of the church or nonprofit (including health clinics and coffee shops).

The law sets uniform height, density, setback, and parking requirements for such qualifying projects throughout Virginia. Height is capped at 45 feet, or as high as any other building within 500 feet that was permitted by right. Density is at least 20 units per acre, or greater if it matches that of any other building within 500 feet. However, the local

government can provide for increased density in any revitalization area, transit area, small area plan, or sector plan. Setbacks must be 10 feet, or less if allowed for any other property within 500 feet. Residential parking requirements are capped at one space per residential unit.

HB 867. Affordable Housing. This law does not become effective until July 2027. It expands the existing authority of local governments to establish ordinances promoting “affordable dwelling units” (aka affordable housing). Such localities may define affordable housing, which Arlington does by reference to housing affordable to those earning 60% or less of area median income.

The new law mandates that such new programs “help ensure” accommodation of the housing needs of older residents to live independently. It also confirms that local governments may (but are not required to) include the following factors and others in such programs: smaller lot sizes and larger floor area ratios, contributions to housing funds in lieu of construction of affordable housing (either of which Arlington now permits in exchange for permitting greater density), accessory dwellings (which Arlington also already permits), encouragement of transit-oriented development, and manufactured or modular homes. The law also permits multifamily development up to four-plexes in single-family home neighborhoods, to provide “affordable housing” and create “mixed-income homeownership options.” Before establishing these programs, the law requires creation of an advisory committee seeking input from residents as well as other stakeholders.

HB 594. Staff Level Approval of Affordable Housing Projects. This law permits local governments by ordinance to allow staff (not the County Board) to approve rezoning applications for certain affordable housing projects. To qualify, 75% of the units must be for affordable housing (as Arlington may define the term). The development must also be within or adjacent to an area that “could” support increased density and provide access to services. What level of prior analysis this standard requires is not clear. The ordinance must specify a minimum density and maximum lot size and height.

What public engagement Arlington provides for such staff reviews, and how they compare to existing site plan reviews, remain to be seen. The ordinance Arlington adopts to implement this law may also seek to combine it with and conform it to implementation of the other two affordable housing laws described above.

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2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

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HB 1212. Minimum Lot Size. This law requires larger jurisdictions like Arlington to adopt at least one zoning district that permits single-family homes on lots with no more than 3,000 square feet. Currently, the smallest single-family residential districts in Arlington are R-5 districts, requiring at least 5,000 square feet. The new smaller sized lot district(s) may not require a lot width over 30 feet. The provision also bars setback, lot coverage, or density requirements that would “preclude construction” on such smaller lots. This subjective standard may well be a subject of controversy. The new smaller lot districts may not include areas within historic districts.



RULES OF THE ROAD FOR E-BIKES/E-SCOOTERS/E-SKATEBOARDS

John Seggerman

Donaldson Run residents have no doubt become familiar with what seems to be a proliferation on our roads and sidewalks of what are called micro mobility devices (electric bicycles, electric scooters, electric skateboards). Given the safety implications of the use of these devices, particularly use by children, the DRCA Executive Committee thought it would be useful to share what the current County and Commonwealth laws are governing their operation. Moreover, in light of a handful of reports of bad behavior, we encourage everyone to be courteous and make sure their children are also aware of these rules. For example, one rule below requires bikers to yield to pedestrians on trails and crosswalks.

E-scooters/e-skateboards (they’re grouped together legally)

Minimum age: Under 14 requires adult supervision

Maximum speed: 20 mph

E-bikes

Minimum age: Class 1 or 2: None

Class 3: Under 14 requires adult supervision
Maximum speed: Class 1 or 2: 20mph/Class 3: 25 mph

They can be ridden on sidewalks, but no faster than 6 mph.

Definitions

Class 1: 20 mph top speed, pedal assist (provides motor power only while pedaling, offering a natural feel and higher efficiency)

Class 2: 20 mph top speed, throttle (provides instant power without pedaling)

Class 3: 28 mph top speed, pedal assist (VA law restricts it to 25 though)

Adult supervision is not specifically defined, according to Arlington County staff

Paid Micro Mobility Devices (Lime, Bird etc.)

Age restriction: You must be 18 in order to rent these.

Where they can be used

People can ride bikes (including e-bikes) and e-scooters on streets, sidewalks, or paved trails (but not natural trails). When riding on a sidewalk or trail, riders are required to ring the bell to let people walking know you are approaching and reduce speed to 6 mph or lower when passing. Riders are also required to yield to pedestrians on a multi-use trail or across a roadway on a crosswalk. When a protected bike lane is available on the same street in the same direction you are traveling on a bike or scooter, you must use it instead of the sidewalk.

Particular to the walking trails of Donaldson Run's Zachary Taylor Park, the trail parallel to tributary A (N Utah Street to Military Road) is a natural trail so all motorized devices are prohibited. The trail parallel to Tributary B (N Upton Street to Military Road) is considered paved so bicycles and e-bikes are permitted.

The County is currently undertaking a Natural Trails Study, which has a stated aim "to ensure the County's trail system remains sustainable and provides high-quality access to nature for all park users." This study is based on recommendations of the County's Public Spaces Master Plan (PSMP) and Forestry and Natural Resources Plan's (FNRP). A public engagement on draft recommendations is slated for this summer, and we will keep the civic association informed when any announcement is made.

Reports of street accidents, including fatalities, also demonstrate the need for care and adherence to laws when using these devices on streets and trails. The DRCA EC is exploring whether to recommend to Arlington County, if feasible, that local rules be revised to enhance the safety of these devices.

ARLINGTON COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Charlie Henkin

At DRCA's January meeting, we invited two County Board members to discuss their planned comprehensive plan update. As they explained, the County envisions a two-phase approach. Phase One includes developing a new introductory chapter for the Comprehensive Plan. The County envisions a new approach packaging elements under seven new Guiding Principles, specifically:

1. Livable and Thriving Arlington
2. Inclusive Arlington
3. Sustainable and Environmentally Just Arlington
4. Healthy and Safe Arlington
5. Economically and Socially Resilient Arlington
6. Regionally Collaborative Arlington
7. Infrastructure Ready Arlington

More details on these Principles are at the following county website:

https://www.arlingtonva.us/files/sharedassets/public/v/1/commissions/documents/lrpc/2026/may-2026/5-13-26_draft-cpu-gps-and-supporting-statements.pdf

On May 13, the Planning Commission's Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) met with County staff to discuss staff's progress on these Principles and supporting elements. LRPC members and guest speakers were mostly skeptical that simply correlating the many Principles and elements would be useful in deciding on county priorities related to density and transit and several speakers urged that meetings with Civic Associations on the Plan (not currently scheduled) should occur. The majority of speakers also supported Transit Oriented Development (TOD). Additionally, some speakers were critical about the narrow treatment of information technology and green space/tree coverage. The DRCA speaker also called for TischlerBise fiscal analysis of Plan elements prior to their review by the county board (not merely tracking after the fact) and requested another LRPC meeting to review the Introductory Chapter itself prior to its release by the County Board for general comment (currently slated for July).

At our meeting and in DRCA's October 2025 newsletter, we expressed similar concerns that the vague contours of the principles could be read to endorse replacing the current Plan's core principle to "concentrate high density development within the Metrorail [and other] Transit Corridors and preserve lower density residential areas

throughout the County." Replacing this TOD approach would facilitate densification throughout the county with fiscal consequences for services to more residents and impacts on quality of life currently enjoyed in low-density areas.

The DRCA board believes replacing the TOD approach should be considered only in light of impacts on our neighborhood and only if "congruent" fiscal analysis is performed to determine the sustainability of possible higher density elements prior to adopting any new or revised elements. Given the potential impacts on our neighborhood, it is important for residents to follow the evolution of the Comprehensive Plan project and express their views to the County Board. As of this writing, the DRCA board will track and advise members of these developments including a discussion at our June 10 membership meeting. In the meantime, comments can be made at the newly posted URL:

<https://publicinput.com/e06233#tab-78246>.

THE RICH HERITAGE OF MARCEY CREEK

John Fisher

The Marcey Creek Native American site, located on the Potomac River in Arlington, offers a window into the lives of Early Woodland Native Americans. Discovered in the early 20th century, the site features Marcey Creek Ware—distinctive pottery characterized by its crushed steatite temper and hand-modeled construction. This pottery signifies a pivotal transition from soapstone vessels to ceramics, reflecting advancements in technology and changes in social organization. The site reveals a culture engaged in hunting, gathering, and early agriculture, with extensive trade networks among groups like the Powhatan and Piscataway tribes. Marcey Creek Ware serves as a crucial chronological marker and highlights the interconnectedness of Native American communities in the Chesapeake Bay region.

The timeline of tribal existence in this area begins with the Early Woodland Period from 1200 B.C. to 750 B.C., during which the Marcey Creek site was occupied and the distinctive Marcey Creek Ware was produced. The Powhatan Confederacy, led by Chief Powhatan, emerged around 1570 and lasted until 1646, encompassing over 30 Algonquian-speaking tribes in the region, including areas around the Marcey Creek site. The Piscataway Nation has been present in the Potomac River drainage area since at least AD 1300, coalescing

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THE RICH HERITAGE OF MARCEY CREEK

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into a tribe comprising numerous settlements sometime in the fourteenth or fifteenth century.

Marcey Creek Ware has been found at various sites across the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions, indicating extensive trade networks and interactions among different Native American groups. The widespread distribution of this pottery type highlights the interconnectedness of these communities.

DELEGATE HOPE'S NEW LAW MODESTLY INCREASES LOCAL TREE CANOPY AUTHORITY

Bill Richardson

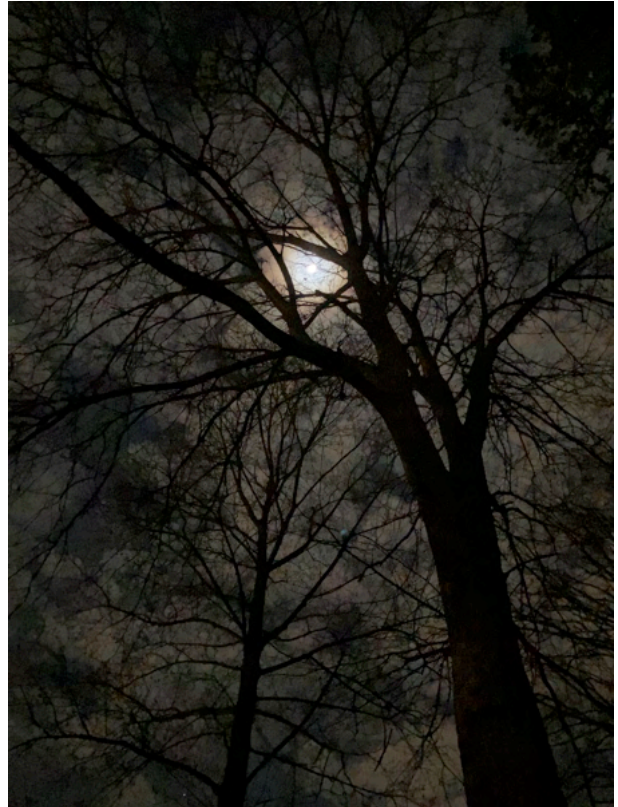
As reported in our May 2025 newsletter, last year Governor Youngkin vetoed legislation that passed the General Assembly, patroned by our Delegate Patrick Hope, that was designed to expand from 20 percent to 25 percent or 30 percent the tree canopy requirements that the County would have authority to impose for residential development on larger lots.

This year, Delegate Hope retooled his bill, following the changes in Virginia's legislative and executive branches after last year's elections. As reintroduced, its principal benefits to Arlington would have been to give local jurisdictions authority (1) to set whatever tree canopy percentages they conclude are appropriate in their areas, and (2) to require that these targets be met much sooner – after 10 rather than 20 years. Currently, only Williamsburg has this authority to impose a 10-year target.

However, the relevant House committee rejected these changes. The bill ultimately signed by Governor Spanberger does permit Arlington (if it chooses to do so) to increase tree canopy requirements from 20 percent to 25 percent, but only for larger lots in R-10 and R-20 districts. These comprise only 19 percent of all lots in Arlington with single-family homes.

The bill as signed also does extend the 10-year (rather than 20-year) time frame for tree canopy targets to some jurisdictions other than Williamsburg. But only for certain "towns," as opposed to counties (like Arlington).

There has been widespread agreement that the multiple tree canopy provisions of Virginia law applicable to different sets of jurisdictions are confusing and inconsistent. The new law requires convening of a working group to conduct a comprehensive review of these provisions and related state agency regulations and guidance. Their findings and recommendations are due by November 1. The group must include a range of stakeholders, including the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, which has been active in seeking expanded local tree canopy authority.



REWILDING ZACH TAYLOR PARK

Amy White and Jeff Elder
Zachary Taylor Park Stewards

If you walk through Zach Taylor park regularly on Saturday mornings, you've likely seen us at work. Often, we're tackling invasive plants. We've almost eradicated English ivy, garlic mustard, youngia japonica, and several others. We still have some Asian wisteria, Japanese stilt grass, and a few others to battle. The top invasives we tackle change

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REWILDING ZACH TAYLOR PARK

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seasonally, and we have a new challenge every few years that comes into the park somehow.

Why is invasive removal important? Our native bees, moths, birds, and butterflies find nonnative plants to be pretty worthless. Usually, they don't feed on the leaves or berries or lay their eggs on the leaves. Non-native plants are kind of like plastic to our native animals, entomologist Doug Tallamy once told me. They take up space in the woods or in your yard and use limited resources (rain, sun) but don't give back much to support the ecosystem. Deer don't even eat them. In contrast, native plants provide food, shelter, a place to raise young, and deep roots to control erosion and absorb water runoff.

Yesterday, in my mainly native plant front yard, I saw two bluebirds, a hummingbird, and an array of busy bumblebees and moths. We have an amazing variety of birds in our neighborhood, and we need lots of oak trees that will provide habitat for baby caterpillars that most birds feed their babies. Plant native plants, and they will come.

One other note: we've heard comments that the plantings along the path sometimes look "messy." Jeff and I try to keep the plants from encroaching on the path's wideness; however, keep in mind that our park isn't supposed to follow the 18th century aesthetic ideals many of us grew up with. It's meant to be rewilded, to the extent that we can.

Please join us in the park on the third Saturday of every month. Some months we'll plant new native plants, too. It's satisfying work!



POTOMAC OVERLOOK PARK ART IN THE PARK: PRINTMAKING

For the fifth installment of Potomac Overlook's new adult art workshop series, learn print making using a carving tool and rubber block! On June 8 from 4:30 – 6:30 we will be joined by a guest instructor, Laura Damian, who has been refining her block carving skills for over 20 years!

Participants will learn how to choose an image for making prints, tricks on how to easily transfer the image onto the block, and pro tips on how to best use the carving tool to produce a high-quality custom stamp. All materials will be provided and yours to keep including the carving tool. Light refreshments will be provided.

Program Fee: \$25 per participant for ages 18 and up. No children or pets permitted.

Registration: Registration closes the day prior to the program.

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PREREGISTER.

Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early to allow time for the walk from the parking lot to meet at the nature center.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL AT POTOMAC OVERLOOK PARK

Love the animals at the nature center like we do? You can sponsor them through our popular Adopt an Animal Campaign! It's a great way for you or a loved one to feel closer to an animal of your choosing while supporting their ongoing care.

How the campaign works:

For just \$50.00, you can symbolically "adopt" one of the animals at the nature center. In return, you will receive a plush of that animal, a personalized "Thank-You!" card from your adopted critter with a photo of them, and the name of the person the adoption was made for will be displayed at the nature center for six months as a certified sponsor!

All proceeds from your sponsorship go towards food, medicine, and enclosure upkeep for our animals. A great gift for any nature lover!

How to make an adoption:

To submit an adoption request, either speak to a staff member at the front desk of our park's nature center or email us at potomac@nvrpa.org.

PROFESSIONAL HELP AROUND the HOUSE

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

Fence Installation

Accokeek Fence & Deck, (703) 971-0660, www.accokeekfenceanddeck.com, recommended by Kathy Richardson (703) 525 5270)

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

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)

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

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

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

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

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/Yardwork/Trees

Ally Singer (917) 747-5620, recommended by Linda Kleckner, (703) 582-3365

Elliott Butler, (540) 522-1304, recommended by Liz Hayes, (202) 320-0500.

Jesus Reyes (703) 400-0829, recommended by Sharon Separ, (703) 597-6138

Painting and/or Wallpapering

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

Pet/Dog Sitting

Leila Mann, (571) 232-4655 or leila.n.mann@gmail.com, recommended by Chuchi Arevalo, (703) 371-3155

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

Plumber

Rene Aguirre, R Plumber, (703) 928-7082 or reneplumber@gmail.com, recommended by Susan Dubas, (703) 732-3351

Roof and Exterior Cleaning

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

Wash USA, Luke DeAtley, (703) 768-WASH (9274) or www.washusava.com, recommended by Susan Dubas, (703) 732-3351

Window Cleaning

Old Dominion Cleaning Co. (703) 569-2000, recommended by Liz Hayes (202) 320-0500.

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, via PayPal @DonaldsonRunCivAssoc.

HIRE A NEIGHBOR

Calling all neighborhood teens! Do you mow lawns? Walk pets? 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, 16 y.o., 571-242-7994 or iris_aitken@icloud.com
- Maia Corson, 15 y.o., 571-329-5871, maia.corson@gmail.com
- Ella Paris, 17 y.o., 571-317-4962
- Mackenzie Rau, 17 y.o., 703-655-5718, Mackenzie.rau21@gmail.com
- Zoya Ridgway, 13 y.o. text 703-864-8271

Cat Sitting

- Ayla Mehmood, High Schooler, text 571-599-8282 Experienced in caring for cats with special needs.
- Zoya Ridgway, 13 y.o. text 703-864-8271

Dog Walking/Sitting

- Iris Aitken, 16 y.o., 571-242-7994 or iris_aitken@icloud.com
- Maia Corson, 15 y.o., 571-329-5871, maia.corson@gmail.com
- Zoya Ridgway, 13 y.o. text 703-864-8271

Guinea Pig/Hamster Sitting

- Zoya Ridgway, 13 y.o. text 703-864-8271

Lawn and Garden Care

- Iris Aitken 16 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, June 10 at 7:30 p.m.
A social half hour will begin at 7 p.m.**

Agenda:

**Jessica Kaplan, Arlington Historical Society
on the “Stumbling Stones” campaign**

General Assembly Update

DRCA Elections

at Taylor Elementary School