

# The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

October 2017

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

I hope all of you have had a good summer. The Board has appreciated hearing from you on a variety of important issues, such as plans for the 26<sup>th</sup> Street/Old Dominion property, County water bills, the County staff's upcoming review of Military Road intersections (including Nelly Custis), VDOT's new I-66 signage, and the second phase of DRCA's Neighborhood Conservation project involving stream restoration on Tributary B. We will be reporting back to you on each of these. Please continue to let us know what's on your mind. And be sure to give us your reactions to the second year of the Marymount Farmer's Market, which is held each Saturday through mid-November.

Our next DRCA membership meeting will be held on **October 11** at Taylor School. As usual, the meeting begins at 7:30 p.m., with a social half hour beginning at 7:00.

Our speaker will be **Noah Simon**, who has now served for over a year as **Congressman Don Beyer's District Director**. In that job, Noah has primary responsibility for constituent requests, which may involve social security, pensions, visas, immigration, or other issues. This is also an opportunity to raise any concerns you may have about federal (as opposed to state or local) issues,

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter	Pages	1, 2
Halloween at PORP		1
Meeting Announcements		1, 8
Military Road Improvements		2
Signature Theatre		2
Gardening		2
Trib B Restoration		3, 4
E-Care Event		4
Vacation Lane Intersection		4
Help Around the House		5
Airport Noise Update		6, 7
Membership Application		7
DRCA Dues Sale		7
Hire a Neighbor		8
Kids Stuff Sale		8

## HALLOWEEN at POTOMAC OVERLOOK

Join us on October 28 from 6:30 to 9 pm at Potomac Overlook Regional Park for a grand Halloween party, snacks, arts and crafts, storytelling, and guided hikes through the woods. People of all ages are welcome! Cost is \$15 per participant for the party; \$20 per participant includes the Haunted Nature Center experience. Children 3 and under are free. Advanced reservations and payment required.  
[https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity\\_Search/2061](https://apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks/Activity_Search/2061)

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is  
Wednesday, October 11 at Taylor Elementary at 7:30 p.m.  
A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

such as FAA's position on airplane noise, Metro governance and funding, and the state of the Chesapeake Bay. Noah is well known to many of us from his service as Chair of the Fire Station #8 Task Force, as a member of the Arlington School Board from 2012 to 2014, and as President of the Swanson PTA.

I look forward to seeing you on October 11.

## COUNTY SETS SEPT 27 OPEN HOUSE TO GET FEEDBACK ON PROPOSED MILITARY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS

**Bill Richardson**

County staff at the Department of Environmental Services (DES) have invited Military Road area civic association residents to an open house on **Wednesday, September 27** at Taylor School, from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to get feedback on proposed improvements at three different intersections on Military Road: Nelly Custis, Marcey Road, and Gulf Branch Nature Center. Sketches will be available for review. Our contact is Gabriela Vega, Project Management Coordinator, whose contact information is [gvega@arlingtonva.us](mailto:gvega@arlingtonva.us). She may be reached at 703-228-3938.

## SIGNATURE THEATRE

**An Act of God**

October 3-November 26

Written by 13-time Emmy Award® winner David Javerbaum (The Daily Show), this exceptionally witty comedy delivers a new meaning to the phrase divine intervention.

God is back. And he's got a lot to say. Inhabiting the body of beloved DC actor Tom Story (Round House Theatre's Angels in America, MetroStage's Fully Committed), and flanked by his ever-faithful archangels, the Supreme Being gifts his mortals with an entirely new set of Ten Commandments in a sinfully funny whirlwind of comedy heaven.

"A gut-busting-funny riff on the never-ending folly of mankind." The New York Times

**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
Secretary	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Treasurer	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0344
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

## COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROGRAM

### Putting Your Garden to Bed

October 21, 10:30 am-noon

Fall is an ideal time to plant trees, shrubs, perennials, and even vegetables. Learn easy tips for composting, providing winter habitat and food for wildlife, and end-of-season care of equipment. We'll help you identify plants that can add interest to your yard during the grey doldrums of winter. Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington. Phone Number: 703 228 6414 Register at: <http://bit.ly/VCERegisterUrbanAg>

# DONALDSON RUN'S TRIBUTARY B RESTORATION

**Jen McDonnell**  
**Stormwater Outreach Specialist**  
**Arlington County DES**  
**Office of Sustainability and Environmental  
Management**

The restoration of Tributary B is approaching. The design plans are nearing completion and County staff look forward to putting this project out to bid over the winter. Below are frequently asked questions that staff have received related to the Tributary B restoration.

1. Why is the County restoring Donaldson Run's Tributary B?

A: The upcoming restoration project will address a variety of existing problems within the Tributary B stream valley. The project will:

- Protect the 30-inch water main, sanitary sewer line, and an exposed sanitary sewer lateral. Erosion in the stream valley has uncovered the water main and the sanitary sewer line and lateral. This infrastructure was not designed to be exposed, and as a result, is currently more prone to damage and breaks. The project will support and protect these pipes.
- Help the County meet its regulatory requirements to reduce nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution. The County's MS4 Permit (<https://environment.arlingtonva.us/stormwater-watersheds/management/ms4-permit/>) requires reductions in nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution. Stream restoration projects, like Tributary B, are effective tools to address phosphorus and sediment pollution. Arlington's pollution reduction efforts are a part of the larger Chesapeake Bay cleanup effort.
- Improve the long-term health of the stream valley forest. Stream erosion has caused a substantial number of mature trees to fall into the stream in recent years. The restored stream channel will be stable, and, as a result, the remaining trees and the trees that will be planted following construction will be protected.
- Restore native vegetation to the Tributary B stream valley. The area surrounding Tributary B is overrun with invasive,

nonnative plants such as kudzu, porcelain berry, and English ivy. The area will be replanted with native plants that support local wildlife.

- Protect the bike trail. Erosion is threatening the trail in several places. This is particularly noticeable in the section that is close to the confluence with Tributary A.
2. How many people are served by the water line that will be addressed by the restoration?

A: The project will help to protect a 30-inch water main. The hillside around the main has eroded, exposing the water main and leaving it vulnerable to damage. The water main supplies an estimated 20,000 residents. Currently there isn't redundancy in the drinking water system for this line, making its protection especially critical to the surrounding neighborhoods.



3. How many replacement trees will be planted following completion of the construction?

A: Approximately 285 trees and shrubs are scheduled to be planted following construction. Eighty trees are scheduled for removal. Eighty-one trees had previously been scheduled for removal but one of those recently toppled over into Tributary B.

4. How will invasive plants be addressed as a part of the restoration?

A: Invasive plant removals and treatments have been occurring in preparation for the project since 2011. Following the completion

**(continued on page 4)**

## TRIB B RESTORATION

(continued from page 3)

of the construction, invasive plant treatments will continue as the new, native plantings are established in phases over the course of five years.

5. How long will construction take?  
A: Staff expect construction will last for six months.
6. Will the trail be open to the public during construction?  
A: The trail along Tributary B will be closed during construction. Residents should expect the closure to last six months. The trail along Tributary A will be open during construction.
7. When will construction begin?  
A: Staff anticipate that construction will begin in the early summer of 2018.
8. Where can I view past presentations related to the project?  
A: The project page for the Tributary B restoration (<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/donaldson-run-stream-restoration-tributary-b/>) provides the latest project updates and links to past presentations that have been made since 2009.

## E-CARE EVENT -- NEW LOCATION

Arlington County's E-CARE event will be held Saturday, October 14 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at our new location, Yorktown High School (5200 Yorktown Blvd). E-CARE is an event where residents can safely dispose of hazardous household materials (HHM), recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes, clothing and much more!

HHM are products found in the home that are flammable, corrosive, poisonous or potentially hazardous. They include items such as automotive fluid, car care products, fluorescent light bulbs, corrosives, household cleaners, and propane gas cylinders.

Bring your ID to verify that you are an Arlington resident or employee.

For a full list of acceptable items, go to [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search "E-CARE."

## CONSTRUCTION OF VACATION LANE INTERSECTION PROJECT MAY BEGIN THIS FALL

Anne Wilson

In September 2014, the County Board approved funding for pedestrian and safety improvements at two intersections on Vacation Lane at Utah Street and at Stuart Street. Last April, DRCA received notice that the design work had been completed for the project. A meeting was held in May for neighbors and other interested parties to review the plans which include curb extensions at the Utah Street intersection that will shorten the distance for pedestrians crossing the street. At Stuart Street, a stop sign will replace the current yield sign and the intersection will become a "T" shape intersection rather than the wide "Y" configuration that is present today. The changes are designed to promote traffic calming which will make it safer for walkers heading to Taylor and Stratford Schools.

DRCA has been advised that construction will take six to eight weeks and could begin as soon as late October or November. A preconstruction meeting will be held about a week before construction starts for those directly affected.

If you have any questions, please contact block captain John Seggerman at [john@drca.org](mailto:john@drca.org).



# 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.

## Gutter Installation

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

## Handyman Services

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

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

## Home Improvement

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

## Housecleaning

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

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

Sonia Cerna, (571) 428-8616, referred by Zlatica 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

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

## Painting and/or Wallpapering

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

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

## 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

## Sash cord repairs

Colonel Josh, specializing in sash window repairs (202)-631-3376; JoshArnson@gmail.com, referred by Peter and Winnie Raven-Hansen, (703) 841-1787

# AIRPORT NOISE UPDATE

**Charlie Henkin**

Previous newsletter articles recounted the recent history of failed attempts to moderate noise from commercial aircraft using DCA. (See March 2017 newsletter for most recent article which summarizes the technical and political factors to that date.) Since then, several factors have led the County Board to engage directly with civic associations and jointly with staff of Representative Don Beyer, culminating in a meeting on September 12 at County Board offices, chaired by John Vihstadt and attended by Libby Garvey:

- Continued citizen complaints as the FAA employs its accurate NextGen navigation system to route flights directly over civic association neighborhoods (and not directly over the Potomac River). At the same time there is a lack of consensus within the MWAA DCA working group (<http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/community-working-group>), which frustrates and further decreases motivation of the FAA to do anything.
- The letter to the FAA administrator by Maryland Governor Hogan, both Maryland US Senators, and local jurisdiction officials complaining about noise over Montgomery County neighborhoods. This letter requested that pre-NextGen flight paths (pre 2015) be used. The FAA rejected this request and Gov. Hogan has now sued the FAA.
- Phoenix, AZ filed a legal claim against the FAA for failing to collaborate with the city before implementing their NextGen flight paths. The judge ruled with the city, and the FAA paths are being adjusted. In the decision, a concurring judge noted that the FAA needs to consider avoiding historically designated neighborhoods and parks in determining flight paths (Note-Potomac Overlook Park is directly under the current flight paths in Arlington.)
- Georgetown has filed a lawsuit to force the FAA to push flight paths away from their location (which would be further towards Arlington even if Potomac River overflight paths were used).
- Palo Alto, CA has engaged in a noise abatement effort with the FAA concerning San Francisco airport

- Continued efforts by Rep. Beyer, including successfully rebutting attempts to extend the “perimeter” or distance flown (and hence speed and weight of aircraft) by flights into DCA or to increase the number of slots allowed airlines, as well as amendments to the FAA authorization bill to expand the use of airline user fees to fund affected homeowner adoption of noise suppression windows. (This authorization is currently held up by the Trump administration proposal to privatize the FAA.) Rep. Beyer continues to seek results from a 65dB noise study he has advocated which would use data from FAA monitors in place to quantify the problem.

Rep. Beyer’s staff informed the group of the limits of the possible. DCA would not ban all nighttime flights, for example. Mandating more rapid airline adoption of the level 5 quieter (and more fuel efficient) engines has been blocked by the House Transportation Committee, under pressure from airlines. At the same time, Rep. Beyer’s staff took note of several interesting ideas advocated by the civic associations:

- Increasing fines paid by airlines violating the current noise limits at DCA (see March 2017 article for details). The maximum \$5,000 fine was established 30-plus years ago. Why not increase it tenfold and index it to inflation thereafter? (The total fines paid in 2016 were an extremely modest \$140,000.)
- Requiring aircraft to fly higher altitudes on departure and arrival
- Allocate the slots at DCA to the quietest aircraft being flown first and the noisiest last, thus encouraging the early adoption of Level 5 engine technology (currently used only on the largest new commercial aircraft such as the 787).
- DCA should be adopted as a model airport for validating the most useful noise abatement concepts for potential adoption in other urbanized areas.

John Vihstadt and Libby Garvey noted we:

- Can use some of the Council of Government resources to get other local jurisdictions engaged with these ideas and possibly fund a study consultant.
- Should seek a letter comparable to the Maryland letter supported by US Senators and Gov. McAuliffe to complement Rep.

**(continued on page 7)**

**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

**DRCA DUES SALE!**

September is our favorite month here at the Donaldson Run Civic Association—it’s the month we have our annual membership dues sale! If you haven’t paid your 2017 dues, pay now and we’ll extend your DRCA membership through the end of 2018. That’s 15 months for the price of 12!

Check the membership label on this newsletter to determine whether you’re eligible for this special offer. If the label is marked “membership expired,” this sale’s for you. If you’re one of our email-only newsletter recipients and aren’t sure of your status, please contact DRCA treasurer Maxine Nagel (jkolick@aol.com or 703-524-5093).

Annual dues are still \$15 per household, and our membership runs on a calendar year. Checks—made out to DRCA—can be mailed or delivered to 2900 North Stafford Street, Arlington, VA 22207. Better yet, pay your dues at our next general membership meeting, 7:30 pm on Wednesday, October 11 at Taylor Elementary. If you’re current in your dues, we thank you for

your support. If you’re not a member, your membership has lapsed, or you’re new to the Donaldson Run neighborhood, we hope you’ll consider joining us!

**AIRPORT NOISE**  
**(continued from page 6)**

Beyer’s efforts to date. This letter might amend and clarify Ms. Garvey’s suggestion in her letter to the FAA from the summer of 2016 that more naturally dispersed flight paths be used, not by abandoning NextGen but by using NextGen to enable just such a dispersion concept.

**Next steps.**  
County staff will distribute meeting notes and suggested actions for attendee comment and arrange for the next meeting in mid-November.

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

PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage PAID  
MERRIFIELD, VA  
Permit No. 2863

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

**Next DRCA Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Taylor Elementary School**  
**2600 North Stuart Street**

**Agenda:**  
Noah Simon, Congressman Don Beyer's District Director.

**A social half hour begins at 7 p.m.**

## **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](mailto:mary@drca.org).

### **Babysitting**

Sophia Cocozza, 15 y.o., 571-639-8785.  
Toby Heidrich, 17 y.o., CPR certified, 703-517-5449  
Paula Margison, 9<sup>th</sup> grade, 703-357-8528

### **Dog Walking & Pet Care**

Quinn Cooper, 14 y.o., 703-469-2242  
TJ Hutchison 14 y.o., 703-812-9697

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

Chase Arevalo, 16 years old, 703-371-3155

## **KIDS STUFF SALE**

The Arlington Kids' Stuff sale, to be held from 8 am – noon on Saturday, October 14, will feature gently used items from 100 consignors including clothes, toys, books, DVDs, games, and more for infants to teens. There's plenty for parents as well, including baby gear, strollers, bottles, and safety items.

The Kids' Stuff Sale consignors are community-minded; profits are shared with local charities including Arlington Food Assistance, AHC Inc. and Arts for Humanity. Unsold goods will be donated to Arts for Humanity and other causes.

The Kids Stuff sale will be held at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 4000 Lorcom Lane (on the corner of Lorcom Lane and Military Road). Admission is free. Cash or checks only. For more information, go to [www.kidsstuffsale.com](http://www.kidsstuffsale.com).