

The Current



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

May 2021

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
bill@drca.org

On behalf of the Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) board, I want to invite you to our spring meeting, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12. Once again, thanks to board member and former President Anne Wilson, we will be meeting virtually using Microsoft Teams. Instructions on using Teams are contained in our last two newsletters, which are available on our website at www.drca.org.

We all hope we see the light at the end of the tunnel on the pandemic, and that we will be able to resume our regular meetings at Taylor School later this year. Like many civic associations and other groups, DRCA has partnered with Arlington County to ensure you have the latest information on the state of the pandemic in the County, including availability of vaccinations and tests. We will continue to provide you with updates through this partnership with the County.

A number of you have expressed concerns about the unchecked deer population in our area and the effects of foraging by deer in our backyards. Our May meeting will feature two experts from the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists on this issue, **Steve Young** and **Bill Browning**, and another from the Virginia Department of Wildlife, District Wildlife Biologist **Jordan Green**, who will be available to answer your questions about this problem and possible solutions being explored by Arlington and other jurisdictions in the D.C. area.

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SUBSCRIBE AND "FRIEND" TO RECEIVE THE LATEST DRCA NEWS

To subscribe to the DRCA email list, go to:
drca-group+subscribe@groups.io

To join the Facebook page, search for Donaldson Run Civic Association, send a request to join the group, and invite your neighbors to join too.

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is
a virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams on
Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

We have also reserved some time at the May meeting to hear directly from you about any other issues you would like DRCA to address. As we've previously noted, we are hoping soon to update our Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan of over 20 years ago (available on our website), which identified, based on a survey, the issues of primary interest to DRCA residents back then. Some of these probably remain unchanged, but new issues emerge each year. Your feedback at our May meeting will help us update the new survey that can form the basis of an updated NC plan for our neighborhood.

While we would like to hear from you about any subject, we know about some of them:

- In light of our February meeting with County Manager Mark Schwartz, we will continue to pursue the concerns many of you have about the need for a closer look at the Zoning Ordinance provisions governing single-family home construction, such as lot coverage, height, and setback requirements. These include ensuring the County has an adequate system in place to ensure compliance with these provisions as the homes are actually built, as well as updating the provisions to provide greater protection in light of stormwater management, tree preservation, and neighbor privacy issues.
- A related issue is how best to forestall the increasing loss of tree canopy in the DRCA area, which was viewed as one of our greatest assets in our 2000 NC plan.
- While COVID may have diminished some traffic congestion in the DRCA area, speeding continues to be a problem for many, particularly along arterials such as Military Road and Lorcom Lane. Many thanks to retiring board member Liz Lord for successfully addressing the need for an all-way stop at one problematic intersection in our neighborhood, at Upshur and Vermont Streets.
- This year will see further engagement on the County's proposals for redeveloping Lee Highway, which will need to accommodate different visions and goals.
- Our board member Charlie Henkin has been carefully monitoring developments at the FAA and elsewhere about possible solutions for the noise from aircraft arriving at and departing from Reagan National Airport.

The Current is distributed free of charge to all households in the Donaldson Run Civic Association area. DRCA, like all civic associations in Arlington, is a neighborhood organization, administered by elected volunteers. The DRCA promotes information sharing and discussion on neighborhood, local, and regional issues. DRCA is not affiliated with any political or religious group or with the Donaldson Run Recreation Association that operates the swimming pool on Marcey Road. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Taylor Elementary School (2600 North Stuart Street) from September through May. Follow this newsletter for meeting dates. Only dues-paying DRCA residents are eligible to vote. DRCA boundaries are: Military Road on the east (including Marcey Road, North 26th Street, North 25th Place, and North Ridgeview Road); 26th/31st Street on the north; Lorcom Lane on the south (including North Randolph Street and 27th Streets south of Lorcom Lane); and Vernon Street on the west.

DRCA Board

President	Bill Richardson	525-5270
1st VP	John Seggerman	403-2844
2nd VP	Deirdre Dessingue	525-1351
Secretary	Charlie Henkin	294-4002
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Director	Susan Cunningham	527-7705
Director	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Director	Amanda Weaver	202-365-3292
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0322
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

- This year we will also continue to see more exchanges of views about concerns that there is a "missing middle" of available and affordable housing in the County, and how best to address such concerns while ensuring we have adequate infrastructure to accommodate the proposed solutions.
- Many Arlington residents don't know who on the County staff is responsible for tackling what. We think there can be improvements, on the County's website and otherwise, for empowering you to address your questions to the right person.

We hope to "see" you at our May 12 meeting, and to hear from you on these and other subjects.

DRCA HOSTS VIRTUAL MEETING ON MAY 12

Anne Wilson

DRCA's spring meeting will once again be a virtual one on Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. The weekend before the meeting all Donaldson Run neighbors for whom we have email addresses will be sent a link to attend the meeting via Microsoft Teams. To join the meeting, click on that link beginning at 7:15 p.m. on May 12.

We want to be sure that we send the link to as many people in the neighborhood as possible and we know that we do not have everyone's correct email address. To confirm or add your email address to the DRCA list, send an email to anne@drca.org. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, then we already have your email address. If you do not receive the link to the meeting by May 10, send an email to anne@drca.org to get your email address added to the list. Also, please pass this information along to any new neighbors.

Teams can be used on most devices including laptops (Mac or Windows), iPads and other mobile devices. When you receive the link to join the meeting, you can click on it at any time before the meeting to look at the process for using Teams. If you are new to Teams meetings, you should go ahead and click on the link to set up the interface in advance of the meeting. Depending on the device you are using, you may be given the option of downloading the app or accessing Teams through your web browser. **For a more robust experience, you will want to download the app in advance of the meeting.** There are some additional settings including selecting a background.

If you want to try out Teams before the meeting, let me know (anne@drca.org) and I will set up a brief test session.

MANAGEMENT OF DEER POPULATION IS TOPIC AT NEXT DRCA MEETING

John Seggerman

At the DRCA May 12 general membership meeting via Microsoft Teams, we will hear a presentation from two members of the Arlington Regional Master Naturalists (ARMN), Steve Young and Bill Browning. ARMN is a volunteer organization with a stated mission of

providing environmental education, outreach, stewardship, and citizen science dedicated to beneficial management of natural resources and natural areas within Virginia. These two naturalists will present their proposals for improved management of the deer population in the County. They will be joined by Jordan Green, District Wildlife Biologist (Northern Virginia) from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

Many DRCA residents have no doubt noticed in recent years that deer in our neighborhood have become both more plentiful and less fearful. Since the beginning of the 20th century, when deer were driven nearly extinct in Virginia, the population of white tail deer has exploded to well over a million today in the Commonwealth. Nearly every neighboring jurisdiction to Arlington, including Montgomery and Fairfax Counties as well as the federal government's National Park Service, has a deer management program. DRCA will benefit from hearing the views of experts in this field, and their presentation is bound to elicit numerous questions from our residents.

COUNTY BOARD APPROVES CONTRACT FOR TRIBUTARY B RESTORATION

Anne Wilson

On March 23, the Arlington County Board approved a \$1.82 million contract to restore the segment of Donaldson Run that extends from N. Upton Street to the stream's merge with Tributary A. The vote of the Board was 4-1 with Takis Karantonis dissenting.

This has been a controversial project for the neighborhood. Concerns about tree loss and the techniques being used for the project have generated concern from a number of neighbors in Donaldson Run and beyond. In awarding the contract, the County Board reaffirmed their commitment to the stream restoration which is designed to mitigate erosion and protect the infrastructure of water and sewer lines that are adjacent to the stream.

Construction is expected to begin in May or June. Further information about the impact of this project to neighbors and to those who use the park will be communicated through the DRCA email list in addition to other media outlets that the County uses.

For more information about the project, go to <https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/donaldson-run-stream-restoration-tributary-b/>.

HONORING LARRY FINCH, FORMER DRCA OFFICER AND COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

Anne Wilson

Larry Finch was a long time DRCA Board member who was a strong advocate for Arlington's natural spaces. He led efforts to get grant funding for park improvements along Donaldson Run and many of the benches and kiosks located throughout the neighborhood are the result of his efforts. Larry would annually distribute trees to neighbors and was a regular participant at the Taylor Fair where he engaged children in a game while educating them about wildlife in the parks. Larry served on the board of the Gulf Branch Nature Center. His county-wide efforts included his years of service on both Arlington's Urban Forestry Commission and the Civic Federation's Environmental Committee which he chaired for many years.

When Larry moved to California in 2014, a Swamp Oak tree was planted in his honor near the Military Road entrance to Zachary Taylor Park. At the time, DRCA pursued having a marker placed by the tree to honor Larry's contributions to the neighborhood. But County policy only allows this honor for a person who is no longer living. Larry died last September at the age of 87.

DRCA has begun the process of having a memorial plaque installed near Larry's tree. County policy states that such an honor is used "to recognize exceptional individuals who have made a significant public service contribution to Arlington County and its residents." With his participation on multiple county-wide commissions and committees, as well as his efforts in our neighborhood, Larry more than meets this criteria.

The plaque will be mounted on a rock. The cost is unknown at this time, but it will be substantial, perhaps around \$1,500. If there is consensus that this is a worthwhile effort, DRCA could make a financial contribution to this. We will have a brief discussion about this at our meeting on May 12. If you have suggestions to further this effort, please contact anne@drca.org.

DCA AIRPLANE NOISE

Charlie Henkin

As reported in previous newsletters, Arlington County has joined with Montgomery County in jointly funding a \$250k consultant contract to explore ways to mitigate the noise from departing and approaching flights to Reagan National Airport. The contract had anticipated a report to the community in the first quarter of 2021, but COVID-19 effects have caused a modest slip. Thus this latest report occurred virtually on April 5, 2021.

It included the findings from the community questionnaire issued after the first outreach meeting on August 17, 2020. Over 1600 people responded to the questionnaire, roughly equally from the four affected jurisdictions (Arlington County, Montgomery County, DC, and Fairfax County). Also included was the consultant's baseline conditions report summarizing the current flight and noise environment, and the draft notional approaches (flight arrival procedures) now being tested by FAA that the consultant prepared based on community inputs for flight priorities in new procedure design. This initial focus on approaches rather than departures appears to have been chosen due to the generally lower flight paths and considerably louder flight paths on approach (at least over the Montgomery County and DRCA areas). Last, departure flight recommendations are being formulated and will be discussed with FAA in coming months.

The major elements of the proposed approach profile changes that FAA is testing now are:

1) major reduction in overflights of Montgomery County by not placing all flights to DCA that are arriving from the north on the same path over Montgomery County to get to the Potomac River. A "share the load" approach using several paths that would overfly Montgomery County, Fairfax county/McLean and northern Arlington County essentially resolves this problem while employing altitudes sufficiently high that noise is not a major problem. There are minor tradeoffs between Rosslyn and DC neighborhoods but the jurisdictions were able to agree that the additional noise over DC is concentrated in areas of low residency and were not an obstacle.

2) using the CIA property as a flyover point rather than private residential areas, thus allowing a slight eastward shift towards the river and a raising of the altitude of approach flights over DRCA areas (including Potomac Overlook Park and the DRRA pool), offers measureable improvements in anticipated Donaldson Run neighborhood noise.

The FAA will monitor the use of these new profiles to explore any operational issues before adopting them entirely as recommended flight paths going forward.

FARMERS MARKET CHANGES

Susan Cunningham

The Marymount farmers market was suspended last spring when COVID-19 hit. Though many other farmers markets reopened with modified operations, Field to Table (FTT) (<https://field2table.org/>) did not reopen the market at Marymount and does not plan to reopen it this year. Instead, they recently filed a use permit to open a market at Dorothy Hamm Middle School. While there is generally support among Donaldson Run residents for a nearby farmers market (either keeping the Marymount location or relocating closer to Lee Highway), there are major noise, parking, traffic, and trash concerns for some of our neighborhood.

The initial proposal requested an exception from the zoning code for outdoor markets (ZOA-16-04, adopted May 14, 2016). The location at the Dorothy Hamm main entrance/bus loop would place vendors only 10 feet from the nearest home and within 100 feet of six homes. The code requires at least a 100-foot set back. With a proposed start time of 8 a.m., setup would begin at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday mornings from April to October.

Donaldson Run Civic Association leadership hosted a meeting with near neighbors and FTT to discuss the proposal, concerns, and possible mitigations. Neighbors shared support for farmers markets in Arlington, but were very concerned about the early start time, the close proximity to residents, and noise. While FTT made no changes initially, after DCRA shared concerns with County staff and County Board, FTT modified the proposed location to be on the field side of Hamm Middle school, where the 100-foot setback is possible. In addition, we hope FTT will consider alternative locations and a later start time during the use permit review. If approved, the market would open as soon as May 2021.

We invite neighbors to engage further by:

- sending a letter to the County Board, attending virtual office hours, or signing up to speak about this item at the Board's May 15 meeting. To participate virtually in the next County Board meeting, go to http://arlington.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2
- emailing Susan Cunningham at cunninghameliot@gmail.com.
- joining the market committee (so far no one from Donaldson Run is on this committee). Contact Rob Swennes (robswennesFTT@outlook.com) for more information.

- visiting Arlington's eight other farmers markets. (see <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/farmers-markets/>)

DCA AIRPLANE NOISE

(continued from page 4)

Although most DCA aircraft possess the modern GPS-based avionics (perhaps 95 percent), at most half of the carriers have trained their pilots in the use of this technology. The consultant notes that based upon discussions with the FAA, it is assumed that this revised profile will first be implemented as a Special Flight Procedure that will allow for the necessary waivers from current profiles for implementation. Initially, the procedure will be available only to a few operators and aircraft types for testing and data gathering. Once the initial flight trials have been completed, it is expected that over time the vast majority of operators will be utilizing this profile as the preferred approach to the DCA airport.

In this regard, the process could take several years to complete, although the consultant notes there are grounds for optimism that many or most major carriers will be flying the new profiles before the normal 18 to 36 month period for vetting Special Flight Procedures. An issue is the cost of training pilots in use of the GPS avionics, and individual carrier financial decisions post-pandemic could delay such training. On the other hand, with the mandatory retirement of senior pilots over 65 years of age, this could incentivize at least some carriers to hire (and train) a new cohort of pilots in the nearer term.

This is a complex subject for which congratulations at the political level and to the technical team are in order. As the report states, "The ... notional designs of the two recommended approaches seek to create a balance between the residential areas of the counties on either side of the river by utilizing compatible land whenever possible and sharing the noise equitably between the communities along the river in accordance with the Design Philosophy developed by the North of Airport Committee (NOA) and approved by the Community Working Group (CWG)."

The meeting was hosted by Montgomery County Councilmember Andrew Friedson and Arlington County Board Member Libby Garvey with attendance by Arlington County Board member Takis Karantonis, and major presentations by the Montgomery County representative on the North of Airport Committee, Ken Hartman, and consultant team members. Also observing were representatives of Rep. Jamie Raskin (MD), Rep. Don Beyer (VA), and Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (DC).

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

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

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

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

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 Svihart (703) 851-2695

Housecleaning

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

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 Cuentes, (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

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

Pet/Dog Sitting

Tommy's Little Pet Service
Website: www.tommyslittlepetservice.com, (202)-714-2819. Referred by Nan Helm, (703) 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

Window Cleaning

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

Old Dominion Cleaning Co. (ask for Teri for easy to do estimate) (703) 569-2000, referred by Liz Hayes (703) 528-4119.

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 DRCA listserv, 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 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

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

Mackenzie Rau, 13 y.o., susannewton@yahoo.com or 703-898-7307

Paula Margison, 11th grade, 703-357-8528

Sophia Cocozza, 17 y.o., 571-639-8785

Dog Walking & Pet Care

Harrison Rau, 18 y.o., 703-675-2890

TJ Hutchison 17 y.o., 703-812-9697

Quinn Cooper, 17 y.o., 703-401-0133

Lawn Care

Harrison Rau, 18 y.o., 703-675-2890

Quinn Cooper, 17 y.o., 703-401-0133

ARLINGTON COUNTY COVID-19 WEB PAGE

Keep up to date with the latest news from federal, state, and local governments regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccine situation. Find FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on reopening as virus numbers improve, the Arlington County Dashboard, Arlington Public Schools Dashboard, and how to support our local businesses including a list of outdoor dining options in Arlington.

Go to <https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/> for more information and stay well!

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.

Next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting
Wednesday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m.

via Microsoft Teams

Agenda:

Deer Population Issue

Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, **Steve Young** and **Bill Browning**,
and Virginia Department of Wildlife, District Wildlife Biologist **Jordan Green**
and

What Issues Are Important to You and Our Neighborhood?