



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

www.drca.org

October 2016

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bill Richardson
bill@drca.org

October 2016

This is my first newsletter as your new President. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming meeting at Taylor Elementary School on November 9, when you can join me in extending our many thanks to Anne Wilson for her long hours and terrific work on behalf of all of us as your President for over four years, and as Vice President for many years before that. As is our tradition, we invite you to come at 7:00 p.m. for a half-hour social with refreshments before our program formally starts at 7:30.

County Board Member Christian Dorsey has agreed to speak and answer your questions at this meeting. First elected to the Board two years ago, Christian represents Arlington on the Metro and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments boards and is one of three Arlington commissioners on the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. He serves as Director of External and Government Affairs at the Economic Policy Institute, a non-profit research organization whose focus is the economic status of working America.

We will also get an update by County staff on phase two of our Neighborhood Conservation project to restore the Donaldson Run stream. The

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BARBERSHOP MUSIC

The Arlingtones, the county's representative in the Barbershop Harmony Society, will present a selection of songs in the Barbershop style on November 6 at the Lyon Park Community Center, 414 N. Fillmore Street in Arlington. Selections will include some well-known Barbershop favorites ("Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby", "Hello, Mary Lou" and "Sweet and Lovely.") No admission charge. Children welcomed.

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is Wednesday, November 9 at Taylor Elementary at 7:30 p.m. A social half hour starts at 7 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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first phase of the NC project, Tributary A, was completed in 2006. The second phase, Tributary B, will span from Upton Street to the point where the stream meets Tributary A in Zachary Taylor Park. Staff will also describe the County's efforts to update the contours of the Resource Protection Area that forms the basis for the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance.

We'd like to hear from you, either at our meeting or by e-mail, about any issues that you would like us to focus on or look into, or ideas you many have about how to make DRCA a more effective forum for your concerns and for getting to know each other better. Among the topics of interest to our members over the past several years have been the County's plans for the Lee Highway corridor, the new Stratford Middle School, Fire Station 8, and the current mulch pile/salt dome site at 26th Street and Old Dominion; the new Saturday morning farmers' market at Marymount University; the County's liaison with the FAA on airport noise; the future of Potomac Overlook Regional Park; traffic issues; and additional NC projects.

DONALDSON RUN STREAM RESTORATION AND UPDATE ON COUNTY'S RESOURCE PROTECTION MAP ARE ON AGENDA FOR NOVEMBER MEETING

Anne Wilson

County staff from the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management will provide an update on the status of the Donaldson Run Tributary B restoration project during the November 9th meeting. Planning for the restoration of Tributary B has been ongoing since 2004 and construction is anticipated to begin in the fall of 2017. This will likely be a challenging stream restoration project to construct due to the location of private property boundaries, steep slopes and an elevation change of 44' from the top to the bottom of the stream reach. The trail will be closed during construction to protect public safety in the extremely narrow construction area. The status of the Tributary B restoration project and a synopsis

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 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
1 st VP	Anne Wilson	525-0344
2 nd VP	Mike Green	525-9414
Secretary	Liz Lord	571-331-9213
Treasurer	Maxine Nagel	524-5093
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

of previous presentations are available online at <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/donaldson-run-stream-restoration-tributary-b/>.

County staff will also provide an overview of the process to update the County's Resource Protection Area map. This map depicts the location of Resource Protection Areas, or areas near streams and wetlands, in Arlington. Periodic updates must be made to the map to comply with state law and the County's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance.

COUNTY BOARD APPROVES OLD DOMINION ACCESS ROAD AT STRATFORD

Anne Wilson

Planning for Stratford Middle School continued during the summer, and the use permit for the project is expected to be submitted to the County Board this fall. Following over a year of discussion and analysis, in May the County Board approved the construction of an access drive to Old Dominion. This element of the plan is important for safety in an area that will become more active when 1,000 middle school students converge when the school opens in the fall of 2019. DRCA worked closely with neighbors, county, and school officials on this issue, and believes that the best option to manage transportation was achieved. When the middle school opens, DRCA hopes that nearby students will feel safe walking and biking to school.

FIRE STATION 8

Anne Wilson

As reported in the local press in July, the County Board approved a plan to rebuild Fire Station 8 at its current location on Lee Highway rather than move it to the parcel of land at 26th St and Old Dominion, known as Old Dominion Green. The Board followed the recommendation of the Fire Station Task Force that was established to study the many factors involved in siting the new station. Arrangements will need to be made for a temporary fire station to fill in while the new station is being constructed. County staff is in the process of evaluating possible locations for the temporary fire station, and it is expected that the options will be submitted to the County Board before the end of this year.

The future of the current salt dome and planning for the Old Dominion Green site are undetermined at this time. The use of this area is one of a number of county initiatives that will require comprehensive planning. To assist with this, the County will establish a new Joint Facilities Advisory Commission (JFAC). The draft mission of this group is to "provide input to the Boards on capital facilities needs assessment and capital improvement plans..." for both county and schools. In short, this group will match needs with siting and engage the wider community as plans and decisions are considered. The details of this

new commission are still being refined, and the County Board is expected to finalize the commission in December. To learn more, including opportunities for public input regarding this new commission, go to: [http://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?vview_id=2&clip_id=3216&meta_id=149587](http://arlington.granicus.com/MetaViewer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=3216&meta_id=149587). DRCA will continue to monitor the situation with Old Dominion Green and will keep the neighborhood apprised.

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT (DCA) NOISE AFFECTING DONALDSON RUN NEIGHBORHOOD

Charlie Henkin

Summary. A long-standing and increasingly irksome element of life in the DRCA area is the increase in noise from flights arriving at and departing from DCA. This has led to community engagement with the FAA authorities and airlines responsible for the increase. This article summarizes the conditions causing the increase, the County Board letter to the FAA expressing dismay that adequate study and communication with citizens under the flight paths was not undertaken, the steps being taken to mitigate the problem, and the sources of information available to the reader who wishes to learn more. Of note, the DRCA is not alone in experiencing increased noise, and in some cases mitigating our noise will increase the noise affecting others in Arlington and elsewhere. Balancing the conflicting interests will be a challenge, but the current FAA and airline plans point to some relief for our neighborhood within perhaps the next two years.

On September 13 an FAA "local public workshop" was held at Washington-Lee High School and provided an excellent opportunity for County Board members (Ms. Garvey, Ms. Cristol, and Mr. Vihstadt), other concerned citizens, FAA officials, airline representatives (American Airlines was represented) and real estate developers to exchange views and record concerns or conclusions. This article is based in part on information gleaned at this event. Other events have been and will be conducted, and these are/will be depicted on the Reagan National Community Noise Working Group web site at <http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/community-working-group>

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AIRPORT NOISE

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This web site also contains numerous FAA studies of particular DCA issues.

Why more noise?

The underlying factor is the demand by customers for more long distance flights into/out of DCA. The airport is a victim of its own success by reason of its upgraded terminals, proximity to DC, and Metro service. Although the number of slots allocated to airlines has not been increasing, the number of slots used by airlines for bigger airplanes with more seating capacity, which generate more noise, has increased. And the most popular times for these flights also tend to be in the morning and evening, precisely when most of us are home and seeking some quiet in our lives.

Another factor in recent years has been the low price of McDonnell Douglas MD80 class aircraft, which are by far the noisiest aircraft permitted under old rules for airport noise mitigation. A number of airlines bought or leased these aircraft by virtue of economics. They are pretty much obsolete now in several respects, including seating and customer satisfaction and fuel usage – in addition to noise. Their retirement from use at DCA would be highly beneficial for our purposes.

Finally, the introduction of the NEXTGEN air traffic control system, which utilizes the more accurate GPS satellite-based (as opposed to only radar) navigation, has allowed for more concentrated flight paths without the danger of aircraft approaching each other too closely for safe and effective control. Paradoxically, although this should ultimately allow for aircraft to fly directly over the Potomac – and further from our neighborhoods- NEXTGEN currently has resulted in a concentration of flights somewhat off this ideal path and often over Arlington. Until the airline pilots and aircraft have been fully certified for the more Potomac-centric paths, and these paths have been vetted with all the communities and other stakeholders, FAA cannot adopt them.

Adoption of the new paths may well benefit our neighborhood, although Rosslyn, for example, might experience more flights than currently. The net benefit across the County is thus not foreordained. In Ms. Garvey's September 12 letter to the FAA she notes that "The stated goal of this effort has been to "maximize flight time over the Potomac River and minimize flight time over residential areas." We have seen from experience that both the size and meandering nature of the Potomac River make it impossible for most aircraft to remain exclusively over the River itself, particularly on northern departure. We know that there is no perfect

solution and that community overflights in our region are a part of our reality moving forward. Therefore, we believe that for those individuals that find themselves under the flight path, particularly given the hours of operation that have been extended due to market conditions and the intensity and concentration, that additional steps must be taken."

What steps are underway to mitigate noise?

- **Limiting slots.** Our Congressional delegation has been resisting requests for more slots at DCA, principally coming from Congressional districts in the Western US. This *status quo* will keep the situation from getting worse unless the airlines further expand the use of peak-hours, large aircraft flights within the allowed number of slots. So far, market conditions and the nature of the current heavy peak hours use does not presage such an expansion.
- **Retiring MD80s.** American Airlines, which represents over 50 percent of the flights at DCA, has already retired its MD80s. Delta, the next largest airline at DCA, responded to public pressure and agreed not to use MD80s before 7 AM and after 3 PM. Together, these two airlines account for over 80 percent of flights at DCA. Continued pressure to eliminate all MD80s at DCA could help. A broader regional and conceivably national effort to eliminate these aircraft from airports dealing with noise issues would also help level the playing field among the major airlines as they modernize their fleets (and help other jurisdictions affected by MD80 noise). This could avoid distortion of the economics among airlines that could result from pressuring Delta to eschew MD80s at DCA while other airlines that do not frequent DCA to the same degree would experience less financial impact.
- **Accelerating the adoption of a procedure for flying directly over the Potomac that actually will reduce noise over the DRCA area.** If such paths can in fact be devised and flown, adoption would seem to be feasible well within a couple of years, given continued focus and agreement among stakeholders. Not all stakeholders

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AIRPORT NOISE

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would prefer the same flight paths, as noted above, but delaying the revised paths will continue the *status quo*, which is unsatisfactory from a DRCA area noise perspective.

What can the reader do?

First, stay informed and involved. Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority provides residents with the phone number for their Noise Office (703-417-1204) and the link to the WebTrak system

<http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/reagan-national-submit-noise-complaint> to find information on specific flights and to file a noise complaint.

Many WebTrak complaints are filed, and a substantial number of citizens have also taken the time to attend the local public workshops referred to above. This is where one can have a discussion with experts and get the best feeling for the state of play on the issues, as well as representing our concerns with other stakeholders and our County Board members. The County web page on the DCA noise issue is at:

<https://departments.arlingtonva.us/cmo/airport-noise/>

(A note - I understand that John Vihstadt is the liaison for the County Board on this issue since Libby Garvey is currently Board chair. The page when I last saw it stated otherwise.)

The County web page notes that Arlington County is represented on the Reagan National Airport Community Working Group by Mr. Stephen Geiger and Mr. Joseph Pelton (without their contact information) who were chosen by the Arlington County Board.

WRONG-WAY PARKING

Mike Green

A traffic rule that many drivers do not know is that it is a violation to park on public streets facing the "wrong way." What is facing the wrong way? When a vehicle is parked with the vehicle's left wheels next to the curb or edge of the roadway (except on one-way streets) it is parked facing the wrong way. Why does this rule exist? It is a clear indication that the driver who parked the vehicle violated another traffic rule (driving on the wrong side of the roadway) before parking – and will do so again when leaving the parking space. But more importantly, it is a matter of safety. The rule

is designed to promote safe parking at night because the rear of a vehicle is required to have red reflectors to alert approaching drivers to the presence of a parked car. Facing the wrong way, without red reflectors on the front of the vehicle, poses a hazard to approaching vehicles.

Because cars in the United States have the driver on the left, it is more difficult for the driver to see if there are cars approaching when pulling out of the parking space on the wrong side of the road. Also, visitors to the area who are not familiar with the neighborhood can have a hard time figuring out whether the street is one way or two way. Finally, for children and bicyclists it can be a real hazard. When there are drivers violating the rules of the road and pulling into the wrong side of the street to park, which is not expected, serious injuries can occur.

The code sections for our area are reprinted below for any reader who is interested:

VIRGINIA Code § 46.2-889. Location of parked vehicles.

No vehicle shall be stopped except close to and parallel to the right edge of the curb or roadway, except that a vehicle may be stopped close to and parallel to the left curb or edge of the roadway on one-way streets or may be parked at an angle where permitted by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, the Department, or local authorities with respect to highways under their jurisdiction.

MARYLAND STATUTES AND CODES - Section §21-1004 - Additional parking regulations.

(a) Manner of parking generally. Except as otherwise provided in this section, a vehicle that is stopped or parked on a two-way roadway shall be stopped or parked parallel to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway, with its right hand wheels within 12 inches of that curb or edge of the roadway.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Municipal Regulations 2400.1

No person shall stand or park a vehicle in a roadway other than parallel with the edge of the roadway headed in the direction of lawful traffic movement.

2400.2 - A person shall stand or park a vehicle on a two-way street with the right-hand wheels of the vehicle within twelve inches (12 in.) of the right curb or edge of the roadway.

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

Masonry

4 Seasons Masonry, Glen Brumfield, (703) 378-4444 Brick and other masonry work including repairs Referred by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

Painting and/or Wallpapering

Boris Gogev (Absolutely My Best), (703) 582-4029, referred by Christine Cruetsinger, (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

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

**MASTER GARDENERS
HELP DESK**

The Master Gardeners plant clinics at the Farmers' Markets and the Arlington Central Library have closed for the season, but our Help Desk operates year-round. We welcome your garden-related questions, including those related to plant and insect identification. The Help Desk operates from 9 a.m. to noon weekdays at the Virginia Cooperative Extension office, 3308 S. Stafford Street, in Arlington. Contact us at 703-228-6414 or mgarlalex@gmail.com, or drop by to speak with our Help Desk volunteers. It's best to call before you come to make sure we're available.

Also check out the resources on our website, mgnv.org. You'll find a Quick Guide for Gardeners in Northern Virginia, with our hardiness zone and frost dates; a list of problem plants and better alternatives; and an extensive list, with pictures and descriptions, of Tried and True Native Plants for the Mid-Atlantic area.

**GULF BRANCH
NATURE CENTER**

Blacksmithing Campfire
Saturday, Nov. 5, 6 - 7pm

The whole family is invited to join us at the Gulf Branch fire ring for lots of old-fashioned fun. This engaging program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores! For more information call 703-228-3403.

Families. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$5 fee per person; \$20 max per family due at registration. Program #612856-F

To register call 703-228-4747 or go on-line to <https://registration.arlingtonva.us>

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

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

Next DRCA Meeting
Wednesday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Taylor Elementary School
2600 North Stuart Street

Agenda:
DONALDSON RUN STREAM RESTORATION, UPDATE ON COUNTY'S
RESOURCE PROTECTION MAP, and CHRISTIAN DORSEY

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.

Babysitting

Toby Heidrich, 15 y.o., 703-517-5449

Dog Walking & Pet Care

Quinn Cooper, 13 y.o., 703-469-2242

Raking/Snow Shoveling

Ned Cooper, 15 y.o., 703-469-2242

Tennis Lessons for Kids/Adults (Any Level)

Tate and Chase Arevalo, 17 and 15 years old,
703-371-3155

DRCA MEMBERSHIP

Maxine Nagel

Take a moment to check the mailing label above. If your dues are current, your label will be marked accordingly. If they are not, now is the time to renew your membership!

Renew now, for the low cost of \$15 per household, and your membership will be in good standing through the end of 2017. Checks can be made payable to DRCA and directed to DRCA Treasurer Maxine Nagel at 2900 North Stafford Street, 22207. Better yet, bring your dues to our next general membership meeting on Wednesday, November 9, at Taylor Elementary School.

If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, and if your membership is not current, you recently should have received an email advising you of your status. That being said, if you have questions regarding your membership, please contact me at Maxine@drca.org.