



# The Current

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DONALDSON RUN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

Fall 2021

## PRESIDENT’S LETTER

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

Now that non-virtual school is back in session this year, I would like to invite you join us in returning to Taylor Elementary School for our next Donaldson Run Civic Association (DRCA) membership meeting, which is scheduled for **Wednesday, October 6**, at Taylor Elementary. We will continue our tradition of beginning with a 7:00 p.m. social half hour, followed by our meeting at 7:30. Note that masks are required by Arlington County for visitors in school buildings.  
<https://www.arlingtonva.us/covid-19/face-coverings/>.

We have decided to devote our October 6 meeting to the state of plans by the County to govern **future development along Lee Highway** (to be renamed Langston Boulevard next year). In particular, we would like to inform the County about your views concerning the preliminary plans to govern redevelopment of the specific areas that include the Lee Heights Shops, the area to the west of those shops leading to Glebe Road, and the area to the east through Cherrydale and the Lyon Village Shopping Center.

In these areas, County staff’s preliminary designs indicate a preference for an “urban neighborhood” with a “mix of low-, middle- and high-rise buildings” as high as seven to ten stories, with taller buildings closer to the street, wider sidewalks, outside eating areas, added street trees, and reduced “large surface parking lots.” While **(continued on page 2)**

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## ECOACTION ARLINGTON EVENTS

**Watch Party – Making a Living and a Life Thursday, September 30, 7 - 8:30 p.m. via Zoom**  
Join a watch party of the student-produced video, **Making a Living and a Life; Empowering Young People with an ALL Careers Approach.** Martin Ogle of Entrepreneurial Earth (and former Chief Naturalist at Potomac Overlook Regional Park) will provide opening remarks. A discussion will follow on how to build a green economy and the importance of empowering all young people about the connections between living and human systems. Register here:  
<https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/2021-9-30-all-careers-watch-party-registration/>  
**(continued on page 5)**

The next Donaldson Run Civic Association meeting is in person at Taylor Elementary School Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

(continued from page 1)

not contemplating rezoning of single-family zoning districts, the preliminary sketches refer to "lot consolidation" and the combination of parcels to encourage mixed-use development, including multi-family residences designed to address the County's lack of affordable housing options in north Arlington. We urge you to review County staff's initial take on future development in this part of the Lee Highway corridor, designated as "Area 3" and "Area 4," which can be found at this site:

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/plans-studies/land-use/lee-highway/>.

Sometime this fall, County staff plan to proceed to the next phase of this process, which will be a "Preferred Concept Plan." In July, DRCA invited County staff to join us at our October 6 meeting in order to learn more about their thinking and provide more input from our membership about the concerns we raised in a July 2 letter about these preliminary proposals. Staff responded to our letter by "want[ing] to hear from the community," and "to open the door to meaningful discussions with the community." However, in response to our invitation to the October 6 meeting, staff advised us that they were "unable to confirm if we can attend," because they have "not determined yet what the engagement strategies will be" this fall. Because of our concerns that staff will not have adequate input from you on this "Preferred Concept Plan," we have followed up with the County Board for help in providing staff for our meeting. We are currently exploring with staff whether or not they'll be able to join us virtually. In any event, we also plan to invite others who have devoted careful study to this project in order to give you the most up to date information on it.

This past summer, we sent you our July 2 letter by e-mail, which is also posted on our website at [www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org). This letter expressed concern that staff's preliminary designs had not reflected accurately the expressed viewpoints of DRCA in opposing the "canyonization" of the Lee Highway corridor, and the Lee Heights Shops in particular. We also identified further issues: (1) the adequacy of parking in light of the increased density reflected in these proposals, (2) the impact of increased development on schools, parks, and other facilities, (3) the stormwater management challenges associated with greater density of development, (4) the views of older DRCA residents more likely to be planning for aging in place, and (5) the inadequacy of "street trees" as a replacement for the potential loss of mature trees

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) 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
Treasurer	Kathy Rehill	403-1064
Director	Susan Cunningham	527-7705
Director		
Director	Amanda Weaver	202-365-3292
Director	Anne Wilson	525-0322
Editor	Mary Heston Cooper	407-8045

associated with "lot consolidation" and "infill development" contemplated in these scenarios -- particularly in the DRCA area, which the staff report recognizes has "a higher tree density than others."

We would like to ensure that the County is fully apprised of these (or other) views you may have on the redevelopment of Lee Highway in the Lee Heights Shops and surrounding areas, which have formed an important part of our neighborhood life. Please join us on October 6 at Taylor School for a discussion of these issues.

# WELCOME TAYLOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S NEW PRINCIPAL, ILIANA GONZALES

Donaldson Run's public elementary school children will have a new principal. At its June 24 meeting, the Arlington County School Board named Iliana Gonzales Principal of Taylor Elementary School. Gonzales most recently served as Assistant Principal at Claremont Elementary School. She began her position at Taylor on July 1.

Gonzales is a native Spanish speaker and attended a Spanish Immersion elementary school and studied one year in El Salvador. She received a bachelor's degree in Communication from George Mason University and a master's degree in Administration and Supervision in Education from Johns Hopkins University.

Gonzales brings over a decade of experience as a bilingual instructional leader with experience as an assistant principal at Claremont Immersion Elementary and Wakefield High School. She began her career as an elementary school teacher in Baltimore and continued as a high school Spanish teacher in Fairfax County. She served as an assistant principal at Wakefield High School where she led the Freshmen Foundations, World Languages, and Spanish Immersion programs.

The Taylor community is continuing to navigate the pandemic with new masking, quarantining, and other such protocols. Donaldson Run's parents are no doubt ready to work with Taylor's new administration to ensure the delivery of a quality education to their children.

## PROGRESS ON MEMORIAL PLAQUE HONORING LARRY FINCH

*Anne Wilson*

Larry Finch was a long time Donaldson Run Civic Association Board member who was a strong advocate for Arlington's natural spaces. As noted in the last newsletter, DRCA is pursuing the installation of a memorial plaque in his memory at the Military Road entrance to Taylor Park. The group, Friends of Arlington's Parks (FOAP), is

joining DRCA in making this request. The Finch family has also been closely involved in the details of the plaque. The plaque will include an etched photo of Larry with the text:

1933-2020

In Memory of Larry Finch  
Good Friend and Neighbor

With appreciation for his advocacy of Arlington's  
parks and greenspaces.

His sustained commitment improved these areas  
for all to enjoy.

DRCA and FOAP have presented the request to the County's Parks and Recreation Commission and the Historic Affairs and Landmark Review Board (HLARB). Both groups have supported the plaque. There are two more meetings to review the request and then the matter will go before the County Board in December. If the plaque is approved, it is anticipated that it will be dedicated in the spring of 2022.

## 2020 CENSUS DATA REFLECT CHANGES IN ARLINGTON

*Bill Richardson*

Many thanks to all of you who helped ensure Arlington's unusually high rate of return of 2020 Census questionnaires. Here are some of the interesting results of the Census reported by ArlNow, reflecting these changes from 2010 to 2020:

- The County population increased by 14.9 percent, to 238,643 – almost double the increase for Virginia and the U.S. as a whole.
- Arlington's highest density is in one census tract in Ballston. At 96,758 people per square mile, this is the highest density in the D.C. area, and comparable to the Upper West Side in Manhattan. This is about ten times the overall population density in Arlington.
- The White population dropped from 71.7 percent to 61 percent.
- The Hispanic population grew slightly, from 15.1 percent to 15.7 percent.
- The Asian population grew from 9.6 percent to 11.5 percent.
- The Black population held roughly steady, from 8.5 percent to 8.7 percent.
- The population identifying as multiracial more than doubled, to 10.8 percent.
- 13,000 housing units came online.

# OCTOBER EVENTS WITH ARLINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD VILLAGE

## "Coffee and Conversation" speaker series.

Everyone is invited to join the conversation via Zoom. Bring your own coffee, learn interesting things about our community and hear from the speakers listed below.

Wednesdays, October 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th at 10:00-11:00am. Zoom Link below.

**October 6, 2021: The Historic House Museum Consortium,** Gretchen Bulova (President). Learn about the Consortium's diverse collection of over 40 sites open to the public as museums and historic attractions in the Washington DC area. Ranging from the homes of presidents and the site of an infamous assassination, to homes lived in by abolitionists, civil rights leaders, suffragettes, diplomats, patriots, founding fathers and mothers, and more.

**October 13, 2021: Playing for Fun, Glory, and Profit - American Sports.** Craig Esherick, professor of Sport Management at George Mason University, will cover sports topics such as the Summer and Winter Olympics and trends in amateur and professional sports. Professor Esherick has extensive experience in coaching, business, and sports diplomacy and will field our questions.

**October 20, 2021: Getting the Best Values for Your Dollar.** Representatives from Washington Consumers™ CHECKBOOK, our local non-profit consumer guide, will share tools and tips on how to make good choices for everything from health care to home repair.

**October 27, 2021: Your Home Holds Possibilities for Safe, Efficient, and Up to Date Living.** We will learn what Universal Design is and how our homes can be enjoyed for years to come from Craig Durosko, Founder and Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist of Sun Design, an architectural design-build firm in Northern Virginia.

Zoom link for Coffee and Conversation:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88948577106?pwd=eW0rN1RTTU5lTmJ5NnF2QXZlNmduUQT09>

You also have the option to dial in by phone at 929-205-6099. The meeting ID is 889 4857 7106 and the Passcode: 872327

To learn more about Arlington Neighborhood Village, visit our website at [www.arlnvil.org](http://www.arlnvil.org). Volunteers aged 18 and older help us provide services and support to older adults who want to age in their own homes and community. For more information or to learn more about the benefits of becoming a member of Arlington Neighborhood Village, call the ANV office at (703) 509-8057 or visit [www.arlnvil.org](http://www.arlnvil.org).

## DONALDSON RUN'S TRIBUTARY B CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

**Aileen Winquist**  
**Stormwater Communications Manager**

Construction on the Tributary B project started in late June and has been proceeding well despite recent storms. The project is on schedule. *As a reminder, the Zachary Taylor hike-bike trail along Donaldson Run Tributary B is closed during construction. For safety, please stay outside of the orange construction fence even when the contractor is not actively working.*

### Work completed to date:

- Site mobilization and installation of perimeter controls
- Installation of erosion and sediment controls
- Proposed tree impacts reviewed with County Urban Forester
- Installed tree protection and removed designated trees above the pedestrian bridge.
- Installed the pedestrian construction detour, including temporary sidewalk at the corner of N. Upton Street and N. Vermont Streets
- Completed improvements to the 48-inch storm sewer and 18-inch storm sewer draining N. Upton Street.
- A conflict with the proposed water main has been identified during construction, so a plan revision is in process.
- Completed stormwater improvements under the pedestrian trail
- Installed temporary stream crossing
- Working on storm sewer upgrades on both sides of the stream

Additional information about the project is available at:

<https://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/donaldson-run-stream-restoration-tributary-b/>

# DONALDSON RUN NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION SURVEY TO GUIDE UPDATE OF PLAN

*Amanda Weaver*

The Donaldson Run Civic Association is considering updates to our Neighborhood Conservation (NC) Plan. The NC Plan was last reviewed over 20 years ago (available on our website [www.drca.org](http://www.drca.org)). While many priorities may remain unchanged, several emerging issues make reevaluation appropriate. The first step in assessing the Plan is to conduct a survey of neighborhood residents to identify and prioritize those items of importance to our membership. Additionally, the survey can be used to advocate for funding and benefits with Arlington County. Results of the 1999 survey proved useful and persuasive, resulting in neighborhood conservation funding for pedestrian safety, streetlights, and other enhancements.

The survey was recently finalized and will be distributed to residents in the coming months. In addition to hard copies, the Board hopes to disseminate the survey electronically. In advance of this effort, members are encouraged to subscribe to the Donaldson Run listserv. It is the best way to stay up to date about what is going on in the neighborhood. If you would like to be added to the list, please send an email with your name and street address to:  
[drca-group+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:drca-group+subscribe@groups.io)

Whether responding online or by hard copy, your assistance in updating the results of this survey to reflect current priorities and concerns is greatly appreciated.

## CHERRYDALE FARMER'S MARKET

*John Seggerman*

Donaldson Run's residents have benefited from the new Cherrydale Farmer's Market, which opened in July at Dorothy Hamm Middle School. The market is run by Field to Table, Inc., an Arlington-based, non-profit organization dedicated to building communities throughout Northern Virginia through the encouragement of healthy eating. The organization is part of the nationwide "locavore" movement, which encourages people to reestablish

their relationship with the land and purchase from local farmers and food preparers.

At least 15 vendors can be found at the Cherrydale Market, selling products ranging from meats and fresh produce to nuts, cheese, bread and even Turkish pastries. The market is seeking additional vendors going forward. The typical time for adding new vendors is early spring, and Field to Table hopes to make additions early next year as it prepares for the 2022 summer season.



## ECOACTION ARLINGTON EVENTS (continued from page 1)

**Getting to Carbon Neutrality: Reimagining Arlington**

**Thursday, September 23, 7 - 8 p.m.**

**Virtual via Zoom**

Join community experts who will discuss how Arlington can address the climate crisis and become a resilient, equitable, and prosperous community. This is the first in a series of programs exploring Arlington's transformation to a carbon neutral community and how community members can individually and collectively help achieve that goal. Register here:

<https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/getting-to-carbon-neutrality/>

**Native Seed Collection for Reforestation Projects**  
**Saturday, October 2, 1 - 3 p.m.**

**Lubber Run Park, 200 N Columbus St, Arlington**

Help us collect acorns and other tree seeds in coordination with the Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native Program. Seeds are sent to Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP) nurseries to be grown into tree seedlings which are then used in native forest restoration projects. This is a terrific project for families, children, and anyone interested in trees and replenishing our forests.

# 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**

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

## **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, (571) 225-2640, referred by Molly Ross, (703) 528-2731

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

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

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

## **Interior Decorating/Home Design:**

Stefani McNair at McNair Designs, (703) 868-3489.  
Recommended by Alexa & James Fleming, (703) 577-3812.

## **Landscaping and Yardwork**

Lawn and Tree Services, Tu Nguyen, (703) 622-7988, referred by Barbara and Dan Taft (703) 276-1987

Andrew Preziosi, (703) 525-6170, referred by Leslie Curley, (703) 243-9459

## **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 Peggy and Bob Pruskowski, (703) 524-5399, Carol and Joe Macmanus, (703)-243-6736, and Susan Dubas, (703) 732-3351

## **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, (703) 203-2894

## **Roof and Exterior Cleaning**

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

## **Window Cleaning**

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

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

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

**Babysitting**

Sophia Coccozza, 17 y.o., 571-639-8785  
Paula Margison, 18 y.o., 703-357-8528  
Mackenzie Rau, 13 y.o., [susannewton@yahoo.com](mailto:susannewton@yahoo.com) or 703-898-7307

**Dog Walking & Pet Care**

Quinn Cooper, 18 y.o., 703-401-0133  
TJ Hutchison 18 y.o., 703-812-9697

**Lawn Care**

Quinn Cooper, 18 y.o., 703-401-0133

**ANNUAL DUES SALE-  
JOIN NOW!**

*Kathy Rehill*

September is when the Donaldson Run Civic Association runs an annual membership dues sale. Being a member enables you to vote on civic association business and supports the printing of this newsletter and the hosting of our email and web page.

Pay your dues this month and you'll be in good standing for the remainder of 2021 and all of 2022. Check the mailing label on this newsletter to determine if your dues are current. If you receive the newsletter electronically, ask [Kathy@drca.org](mailto:Kathy@drca.org) about your dues status. If your membership has expired and you want to renew, please send a check payable to DRCA along with the form above to Kathy Rehill, DRCA Treasurer, 2701 N. Wakefield Street, Arlington VA 22207.

**Donaldson Run Civic Association**  
c/o Kathy Rehill, Treasurer  
2701 N. Wakefield Street  
Arlington, VA 22207

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**Permit No. 2863**

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

**Next Donaldson Run Civic Association Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 6 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Agenda:**

**DRCA Members' Views**  
**on the County's Preliminary Plans**  
**for Future Development Along Lee Highway**

**at Taylor Elementary School**