



Taylor's Run

March 2009

The Newsletter of the Taylor Run Citizens' Association

www.taylorryunalexandria.com

Spring Meeting and Annual Elections

Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 7:30 pm

George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive

Special Guest Speakers: Virginia House of Delegates member David Englin, and City Council member Rob Krupicka

TRCA Elections: Spring Cleaning or Simple Renewal?

By Chad Sarchio, TRCA President

Well, hopefully it's not quite time for a Spring cleaning at TRCA! Nevertheless, the upcoming, semi-annual general membership meeting on **April 1, 2009** (we really do have senses of humor), **at 7:30 pm at the GW Masonic Memorial**, presents each TRCA member the opportunity to come out and cast a vote for their preferred candidates.

As always, there are sixteen elected positions up for votes: four officer positions (President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary) and ten general Executive Committee (EC) member positions. As provided for in the current TRCA constitution, a Nominating Committee (NC) -- comprised this year of one EC member and two regular TRCA members -- will put together a slate of candidates for your consideration. A slate reflects the NC's and EC's combined, well-considered judgment as to who the best qualified candidates are for each of the positions.

Please bear in mind that the slate essentially reflects your current leaders' consolidated opinion and recommendation about who

ought serve in the elected positions. Of course, the NC and/or EC may not know about all members with prospective interest in serving in leadership positions, nor do they proclaim otherwise to have perfect information. If for any reason their thoughtful judgment is found lacking, nominations for "write-in" candidates may be made from the floor; a brief period would be provided any such candidates to address the members about their interest.

As you will note elsewhere in this newsletter, and as promised last year, the EC has labored diligently to craft a comprehensive constitutional amendment aimed at updating various provisions of our current charter, which has remained unchanged for over two decades. The amendment proposes minor changes to certain position descriptions and adds a Vice President for Membership, but does not alter the total number of people on the EC. Accordingly, if the constitutional amendment passes as we hope, just after the Spring meeting the sixteen members of your new EC will reconstitute themselves to conform with this structure. Members of the slate will have been briefed on this plan and will be prepared to undertake this reorganization if elected. For further amendment details, please visit TRCA's new and improved website at www.taylorryunalexandria.com.

Finally, please make a special note that after we complete our elections, we will receive a **special joint presentation** on critical Commonwealth and City fiscal issues from our **member of the Virginia House of Delegates, David Englin, and City Council member Rob Krupicka**. These distinguished gentlemen have endeavored to help position Alexandria and the state as best they can to contend with the virtually unprecedented financial pressures we confront today. Having heard some of their remarks on this subject before, I can assure you that you will appreciate sharing in their

extensive budgetary, program, and legislative insights.

As you may sense from these brief remarks and other items in this newsletter, your 2008-09 EC has been hard at work trying to improve our organization, our neighborhoods, and our reputation in the community. We hope that you will spread the word about TRCA's good works, get involved and join us in April, and continue to show one another the neighborly friendship and support that makes our slice of Alexandria the best place to live in town!

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO TRCA CONSTITUTION

By Michael H. Cook

The Executive Committee (EC) of the Taylor Run Citizens' Association will recommend that the membership adopt a revised Constitution at the Spring General Meeting on April 1.

The Process

The EC established a subcommittee comprised of four members to study the current constitution and recommend potential changes. The subcommittee reviewed the Constitutions and/or Bylaws of a number of other citizens associations in Alexandria. Based upon that review and extensive discussion, the subcommittee developed a set of draft revisions that were considered, debated, and partially modified by the full EC for presentation to the membership. If adopted at the Spring General Meeting, the Constitution will become effective April 2.

Summary of Major Proposed Changes

The revised Constitution would create the position of Vice President for Membership. Essentially this position would be responsible for marketing TRCA to maintain and increase membership, and to develop and monitor the actions of the EC to suggest activities that enhance its and TRCA's relevance in the community.

The revised Constitution would also change the number of members required to constitute a quorum at EC meetings, and would permit the President to poll members via email or telephone. These revisions would provide the EC a greater opportunity to address issues important to the community on a timely basis.

The proposed revisions would formalize the procedure for developing an annual slate of officers and members of the EC for presentation to the membership. They also change the process for amending the Constitution to reflect the larger membership and changing times, and change the number of members and process for the membership to call a General Meeting of the Association. Further, they reflect today's communications improvements by recognizing use of the TRCA website in the document.

Finally, the proposed revisions make a number of technical changes. Members are encouraged to review the entire proposed document on the website before the Spring General Meeting on April

1. At that time, the EC will ask the membership to adopt the revised Constitution, which requires a vote of approval by 2/3 of the members present.

Please feel free to contact any member of the Executive Committee if you have any questions or comments about this effort.

Taylor Run Earth Day

Mark your calendars!! Please come out on Saturday, April 25, and join us at Angel Park from 9:00 am to noon as we do our part for Alexandria's Earth Day activities.

We will be picking up litter thrown from cars or otherwise left about, and stuff that has washed down by the stream. We want the park and Taylor Run to look as naturally beautiful as possible. This is a great way to ready the area for the spring and summer seasons ahead so families and neighbors can enjoy the outdoors.

Make it a family event to come support Earth Day and your community. We really need your participation that morning, including volunteer team leaders to direct others in working different segments of Taylor Run. Everyone did a great job last year, and we hope to accomplish the same this year.

Bring gloves and tools for getting this job done. We will have waders, bags and some tools, but extras will help. We will have water, coffee and donuts to keep you going.

We look forward to seeing and working with you to support a greener, happier TRCA neighborhood.

Not Familiar with the Citizens' Association?

TRCA represents over 900 households. We are one of about 160 civic associations in the City. The City utilizes the almost 160 civic associations as an outreach mechanism.

By joining TRCA, neighbors can more effectively impact City policies. We advocate on your behalf to the City on matters that impact us, we work to stay abreast of City news, we plan neighborhood events such as the fall party and we participate in adopt-a-park programs for two parks, earning the association much of its revenue.

If you would like to become involved with TRCA and/or the local level in Alexandria, join us!

Park Cleanup Volunteers Needed

Spring is right around the corner. TRCA needs your help with its Angel Park and Chinguapin Park Clean-up programs. We really hope you can find a weekend to help.

These great programs help keep our neighborhood parks clean and is very important to TRCA as it one of our primary revenue raisers. We have contracted with the city to support our community by cleaning both Angel Park and Chinguapin Park. In return, TRCA receives revenue for our clean up efforts, which goes toward supporting our neighborhood and community via scholarships, outreach events and more.

For the 2007 Season we raised \$1710 for keeping our parks clean.

You can sign-up at our Spring meeting, or you can express your interest by contacting...

Opportunities to help start in April and run through November.

Taylor Run Citizens' Association

Founded 1966

www.taylorryunalexandria.com

Membership Dues are \$10 per household per calendar year. Please mail this form and a check payable to "TRCA" to our Treasurer at:

TRCA Dues
1026 W. Taylor Run Pkwy
Alexandria, VA 22302

For your convenience, you may also visit **www.taylorryunalexandria.com** to pay dues with a major credit card via PayPal's secure, dedicated website.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Alexandria, VA _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

CHECK AMOUNT

\$10 dues _____ *plus a donation for* (landscaping _____) (scholarships _____)
(general fund _____)

Other (*please specify*) _____

AREA OF INTEREST FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION (*check all that apply*)

Communications Committee (including website management) ____

Park Clean-up: Angel Park ____ Chinquapin ____

Deliver flyers ____

Event organizer ____

Executive Committee member ____

Other (*please specify*) _____