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# Taylor's Run

## ACPS Schools Top Fall Meeting Agenda

By Ryan Donmoyer

Alexandria City Public Schools have faced a new set of challenges in recent years, including overcrowding in the elementary schools, the designation of T.C. Williams as a Persistently Low Achieving School, and the restructuring of the city's middle schools.



These issues, and how city and school officials are responding, will be front and center at the Taylor Run Citizens Association (TRCA) annual Fall Neighborhood Meeting on October 13, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alexandria Masonic Temple. The meeting will begin promptly.

This is your chance to learn first-hand what's happening in the schools and ask questions of city and school officials. Invited speakers include Alexandria Superintendent of Schools Dr. Morton Sherman, Alexandria School Board Chair Yvonne Folkerts and Alexandria Councilman Rob Krupicka.

Topics may include: What are Dr. Sherman's plans for the high school? How will the new Modified Open Enrollment program affect McArthur Elementary School? How is the International Baccalaureate program at the middle schools working? How are underperforming schools affecting

property values? We invite you to participate in this rare opportunity for a back-and-forth with people in-the-know.

## Fall Party Will Be SPOOKTACULAR

By Jesi Carlson

TRCA's Annual Halloween Block Party October 31, 2010 from 3 p.m.-5 p.m. on West View Terrace (between Hilltop and South View Terrace)

Join your neighbors for fun, food (including hot barbecue & desserts), cold drinks, live music, moon bounce, carnival games, cotton candy machine and more! Bring children in costume for the Annual Children's Costume Parade. The event is free, but donations are appreciated.

Please RSVP to [jesi3@hotmail.com](mailto:jesi3@hotmail.com) or the TRCA website at [www.taylorrunalexandria.com](http://www.taylorrunalexandria.com). There is no rain date for this event, so please be on the lookout for an email announcement if rain is in the forecast. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help with the event, please e-mail Jesi.



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Alexandria, VA 22302  
[www.taylorrunalexandria.com](http://www.taylorrunalexandria.com)

# A Pocket Park for Upland Place

By Lisa Beyer Scanlon

A group of neighbors along with the Taylor Run Citizen's Association have embarked upon a neighborhood beautification and enhancement project for the empty lot located at 701 Upland Place. The goals of the project are to beautify our neighborhood, foster relationships, and potentially increase property values by eliminating an eyesore and establishing a safe, clean place for our George Washington Park toddlers to play and for neighbors to meet.

On Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, we hosted a neighborhood meeting to discuss the project. Since the property is owned by the City of Alexandria, we invited Laura urham, the city's Open Space Coordinator to participate. She was most helpful in defining what we are permitted to do with the land, as well as the funding and services the city is able to provide toward our efforts. The city has since resumed mowing the property

and has performed a spray to eliminate poison ivy.

TRCA is most mindful of the privacy and safety concerns of the neighbors adjacent to the property, and will proceed incrementally, while continuing to solicit the input of local residents.

We hope you will join us Nov. 6 at 9 a.m. for a community effort to clean up the property, remove non-native species of plants, trim trees as well as the encroaching ivy. We appreciate any and all donations to our clean-up efforts. Financial contributions are always welcome. We are especially grateful to **Wade Cutter**, a Taylor Run neighbor and proprietor of **Cutter Landscapes**, who will be donating his services and equipment for our cleanup effort on Nov. 6

Another meeting will be scheduled in the winter to discuss next steps for the lot and plans for the Spring of 2011. Invitations to the November Clean-Up Event as well as the Winter meeting will be sent out via email. Please contact Lisa Scanlon at

## This Month's Events

**10-13-2010**  
**7:30 p.m. Masonic Temple**  
**Annual Fall Meeting**

Hear from city and school officials about the state of ACPS.

**10-31-2010**  
**3 p.m. West View Avenue**  
**Annual Fall Party**

Food! Fun! Barbecue! Moon bounces! Come in costume!

[lisa@thebeyergroup.com](mailto:lisa@thebeyergroup.com) or 703-899-4121 to be added to the TRCA mailing list or to make donations toward this project.

### NATIONAL NIGHT OUT A HIT WITH NEIGHBORS



Neighborhood children explore an ambulance at National Night Out in August. The event attracted dozens of people to Angel Park and featured a

Visit from Ajax the Police Dog.

*Taylor Run Citizens*

*Association*

*Founded 1966*

*\$15 Annual Dues and*

*Donations to:*

*Ryan Donmoyer, Treasurer*

*622 Putnam Place*

*or through the TRCA Web site*

*at*

[www.taylorrunalexandria.com](http://www.taylorrunalexandria.com)

## Sidewalk Subsidies Available

Sidewalk maintenance is an important part of neighborhood safety. There are several areas throughout Taylor Run that suffer from broken sidewalks or don't have sidewalks at all. This is especially dangerous for our children, handicapped and those with strollers. The city of Alexandria provides sidewalk and gutter maintenance completely free of charge and will help cover the costs of new sidewalks.

If you would like a sidewalk installed, the City of Alexandria will perform the work and help cover the cost of construction on city streets. Alexandria will cover 50% of the costs for sidewalks in front of your house and 75% of the costs for sidewalks on the side of your property.

For sidewalk repairs and installation, all you need to do is call the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at: 703-746-4488. The city will come out to your property and repair the sidewalk, free of charge.

Please put your tax dollars to work and call today to pave a path toward a safer neighborhood.

## DID YOU KNOW?

TRCA raised annual dues in 2010 to \$15, the first increase in many years. Your donations help fund many civic, social, and educational projects undertaken annually by the association. These are just some of the few:

- This month's fall party!
- A \$2,000 scholarship for graduating T.C. Williams seniors
- A \$50 award to a MacArthur 5<sup>th</sup> Grader annually; this year's winner was Senya Dadoo.
- National Night Out in August
- Publication of this newsletter and maintenance of the TRCA Web site.

Are you current on your dues? We'll be collecting dues and additional contributions at the Fall Party. Donations also can be made through the Web site at [www.taylorryunalexandria.com](http://www.taylorryunalexandria.com). TRCA is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation may qualify for a tax deduction.

## Special Thanks to WADE CUTTER of CUTTER LANDSCAPES

Wade ([www.cutterlandscapes.com](http://www.cutterlandscapes.com)), a Taylor Run resident, will donate his time and use of his business's equipment on **Nov. 6** as Taylor Run neighbors clear brush at the site of a future pocket park on **Upland Place**. We need YOUR help too! Please join us at 9 a.m. Wear gloves and bring heavy-duty trash bags. This will be OUR new park, and while the final decision on its use is yet to be determined, the first step is taming the land!

