

# Tollgate Fare

February, 2002

www.tollgateway.org

## Real Estate Assessments

By now most of you have probably received your new real estate assessments and been shocked at the increase in assessed value. We recently spoke with Matt Kahn who is our resident real estate agent and who is also chairman of the Board of Appeals for real estate assessments. He told us that he had spoken with the Assessor and had reviewed in detail the methodology for arriving at the current rates. He said that based on the current real estate market and sales of comparable homes, there is very little to argue with in the increase in the amount of assessments. He further said that real estate prices have been rising steadily in the City of Falls Church for the past two years.

## Status of Dues Payments

The By-Laws provide that the dues are to be paid by January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. As of today, dues payments break down as follows:

- 28 of 29 homeowners have made a payment.
- 22 of 29 paid the full \$1,000 dues
- 3 of 29 paid \$500 for ½ year.
- 3 of 29 paid \$250 for ¼ year.

I would like to thank everyone for their prompt payment and ask those who made partial payment to mark their calendars for the remaining dues payments.

## Tony D'Erme - Author

**Amazon Description:** With exacting recall and precise detail, Anthony D'Erme paints exciting pictures of his childhood as a first generation American born to immigrants from Southern Italy. Told with humor and compassion, he portrays their hopes and dreams alongside their everyday struggles to learn a new language, new customs, and their frequent painful experiences with housing, jobs, and government regulations.

The story is told from the viewpoint of the D'Erme family, but it is easily an "everyman" story of typical immigrant families of the period.

For more information see Tony's website:  
<http://www.westnewrochelle.com/ny/index.htm>

## Calendar for 2002

At the February board meeting the board decided on dates for the Tollgate Social Season. In addition to the board meetings, which are on the first Saturday of each month, the following events have been scheduled.

- Spring Picnic ..... May 19, 2002
- Fall Picnic ..... September 29, 2002
- Tollgate Annual Mtg. .... November 17, 2002
- Decorating public area.....December 7, 2002
- Christmas Party .....December 15, 2002

Please mark your calendars and reserve the dates.

## Landscape Committee

Pruning of the flowering trees will be done in the spring. We are currently getting estimates for root excavation for the trees with too much mulch and also soliciting bids on the spraying contract, which in the past has been done by Guardian Tree.

We are in the midst of yet another drought period, so please be considerate of your lawn and trees and water them as often as you can. For those who may be wondering why the lawns have spotty green patches, especially evident at 118, it is the result of faulty fertilization last fall by Curb Appeal. Fortunately, we are still withholding payment from Curb Appeal and will elicit a further credit on our final bill. In the meantime we will check with our new Landscape Contractor to see if we can arrange additional fertilization this spring.