

Tollgate Fare

October, 2003

www.tollgateway.org

Social Committee

Another rousing success for the Social Committee with the Fall Picnic. For the first time we held the picnic at someone's home instead of the parking pad. Terry Parsons once again volunteered his elegant back yard for the event and it was the best-attended picnic in at least 5 years. I think the Social Committee has hit on a formula – Spring Progressive Dinner and Fall Picnic at someone's home. Anyone who would like to help out on the Spring Progressive Dinner, contact Anki Ehmer at 703-538-7308.

Driveways and Walkways

We are still in the process of soliciting bids from potential contractors. So far we have had 3 contractors look at the project and have received 2 bids. With the weather getting colder and the leaves falling, we will probably have to delay any work until next spring. We plan to continue with a contract as soon as possible.

Development on Cherry Street?

Last month the City Planning Commission met with the homeowners and a developer for the 4 properties on Cherry Street. Kevin Smith, the potential developer, made a presentation to the commission. The commission stated that the properties are classified as 1A (single family homes) and that will not be changed. No townhouses or duplexes will be allowed. The commission will allow up to 5 or 6 single-family homes and prefers different styles and designs. The developer said that he could complete the development within 8-12 months of starting; however, the start date is unknown. Negotiations between the homeowners and the developer are far from a 'done deal'. The developer has also agreed to add a walkway between Cherry Street and Tollgate.

Notice of Annual Meeting

The 2003 Annual Meeting of the Tollgate Association will be held on November 16th at a location to be determined. It is important that everyone attend to ensure that we have a quorum and can adopt the 2004 budget. It's also a great way to meet some of the newer neighbors. Board members will be contacting everyone to come or give a proxy.

Trees

The Tree subcommittee is meeting with contractors and arborists to get bids and expert opinions for the fall pruning. One of the major issues is the health of the Silver Maple at 112 Tollgate. One of the companies we have contacted has some x-ray-like technology to test the thickness of the Silver Maple's trunk so we can determine if it is dangerous or still has some life left. There are also some dead or dying trees that will need to be removed. Notably the Norway Maples at 100 Tollgate and 105 Tollgate. We also have a long list of trees that need regular pruning. If you have any specific pruning you think needs to be done, contact Bob Donaldson.

Gutters

The Board is still soliciting bids from several gutter-cleaning companies to see if we can get a good group rate for spring and fall cleaning. There is no further progress to report other than to remind everyone that failure to properly clean your gutters can lead to serious water damage to your roof, eaves and interior walls as ice dams up in the gutter and the overflow can enter your home. Further, water pouring over the front of a clogged gutter can cause wet basements and serious mold problems.

Rats!

Some residents have reported an increase in the rat population. Please remember that rats love bird food, so either refrain from feeding the birds or be careful how you put out the bird food.



Luna Moth captured by Ella Lyons (129)