

Tollgate Fare

September, 2003

www.tollgateway.org

Social Committee

Since the rousing success of the Progressive Dinner this spring, many people expressed a desire to replace the Fall Picnic with another progressive dinner. After weighing the pros and cons, the Social Committee has decided to compromise and hold the Fall Picnic at the home of a volunteer homeowner. Typically, Terry Parsons was the first to step forward and offer his backyard for the picnic. The Picnic will be held on September 28th at 5pm. For questions, contact Anki Ehmer at 703-538-7308.

Driveways and Walkways

Many of you are probably wondering what happened with the planned refurbishment of the stamped concrete walkways and driveways. We contracted with a company this spring and since then there have been numerous delays and finally the Baltimore based company returned our deposit. We are now in the process of searching for another company with the capability to do the job properly. Working on this stamped concrete is a very specialized skill and we have found few companies willing to take on the task. However, through perseverance, we have discovered several other companies in the Metro area and we will be pursuing bids in the near future. Unfortunately, we may not be able to start any work until next spring. Therefore please remember, no salt on the driveways this winter.

Development on Cherry Street?

The Board recently received and distributed a letter from homeowners of 4 properties on Cherry Street that abut Tollgate Way at the end of our street. The owners are seeking our support for a redevelopment of their properties into multiple new homes. No plans are yet available. We believe they are trying to assess if there is any significant opposition prior to contracting with a developer. The Board has solicited comments from residents and pending further input, plans to send a letter to the group stating that the Tollgate Association would support their development provided that they include a right-of-way for access from Tollgate Way to Cherry Street for Tollgate residents. We may not succeed in getting this walkway, but it's worth a try.

Changes

Welcome to Lee & Kelly Marple who have moved in to the Powell's house at 107 Tollgate. Their children are: Alexandra (7), Tyler (5), and Sydney (4).

Pat Towell and his new bride KT have submitted plans to the Architecture Committee for a complete redevelopment of their rear yard. The Architecture Committee, with some caveats, approved the plans.

Trees

After a big limb fell from the large Silver Maple in front of 112 Tollgate earlier this year, we had the City Arborist take a look at the tree and she said that the tree was in decline and that we should budget for its removal in the next 3 years. In the meantime, we are watching it closely and will prune it carefully to ensure that falling limbs don't do any damage. The loss of this gigantic tree, after losing the Bradford Pears last year, will significantly alter the nature of our street. We should start getting used to the idea of losing this tree and plan a proper replacement.

The city has also approved the removal of a dead White Pine at the rear of 118 Tollgate and has agreed to our request that we not replace it because of the crowding of the White Pines. This is the second White Pine we have lost in the past 3 years because of planting them too close to other trees.

Lastly, Pat Towell has requested permission to remove a large Holly in his rear yard and replace it with several new trees. The City should approve.

Gutters

The Board will be soliciting bids from several gutter-cleaning companies to see if we can get a good group rate for spring and fall cleaning. 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. If you don't believe this, just ask the owner of 100 Tollgate! Further, water pouring over the front of a clogged gutter can cause wet basements and serious mold problems. Lastly, we understand that the City is very concerned about standing water because of West Nile and bent gutters are a prime source of standing water and breeding mosquitoes.

For details go to Tollgate website at: www.tollgateway.org