

# Tollgate Fare

December, 2006

www.tollgateway.org

## Greetings from the Board

December has arrived, and along with the holiday activities the Board is winding up it's duties for 2006. It has been a very busy year here at Tollgate, with some "old" neighbors moving away and some new families arriving. We were introduced to a neighborhood wine tasting and due to unpredictable weather enjoyed an inside fall picnic. Tollgate was rained upon, particularly in June, and then warmed by sunshine, unexpectedly warm for late November. After many years, the Indenture of Covenants and By-Laws were amended to reflect our current status and to correct inconsistencies. As you were informed at the Annual Meeting and will read later in this Newsletter, committees were busy and great efforts were made to improve communications, clarify standards, and plan for the future. With the end of the year, two Board members – Chuck Connor and Bill Arthur conclude their three year terms on the Board. To fill these vacancies, Eric Kirschner and Paul Ehmer agreed to serve and were elected. Once again a great many people worked throughout the year for Tollgate, and it is difficult to recognize all their efforts. In addition to Chuck and Bill, Ed Bronikowski and Steve Lyons served on the Board. Bob Donaldson continues to be Tollgate's Treasurer as well as being our "Tree Person" and a member of both the Landscape and Architecture committees. Kathy Doherty chaired the Landscape Committee, Garry Sauner chaired the Architecture committee and Ella Lyons once again was our Social Committee. Many other neighbors help our community either by being on committees or just lending a hand when help is needed, a sincere thank you to all. I will be ending my year as President this month, but have one year remaining on the Board. I would like to thank everyone who helped me this past year and, I wish you and your loved ones a very special holiday season.  
Marie Murray

## Architecture Committee

The Architecture Committee has completed a lengthy effort to produce written guidelines to clarify and assist homeowners in following the procedures for exterior work or modifications to Tollgate homes. These guidelines reflect the requirements outlined in the Indenture of Covenants and are an attempt to assist homeowners with the procedure. They were presented to the Board, who unanimously voted to adopt them. The Guidelines are posted on the Tollgate web site and we encourage you to take a few minutes to review them.

## Annual Meeting Update

The recommended changes to the Indenture of Covenants and By-Laws were voted upon and approved by 24 of 29 homeowners. The amended documents have been signed, notarized and will soon be filed at the Fairfax County Courthouse. Once the filing has taken place, copies will be distributed to all homeowners.

## Landscape and Tree Committees

The Landscape Committee is working with Merrifield Garden Center to create a Master Plan for Tollgate. It is the committee's hope to have the plan finalized this spring, to better guide our efforts to beautify Tollgate with appropriate and hardy plants in keeping with the original Williamsburg style.

The trees of Tollgate were recently inspected by an arborist and appropriate pruning was completed. Every homeowner was given an opportunity by email to request tree inspection, and the list of trees identified for work was similarly shared with the community. The trees on Tollgate property contribute both to the beauty and value of our community and every effort is made to ensure their health. If you ever have questions concerning pruning, please direct your questions/concerns to Bob Donaldson before contacting the City. Tollgate works carefully with the City arborist and complies with all requirements.

## Holiday Party

Tollgate's Holiday Party is this Sunday, December 10, from 5 to 8 pm at Anki and Paul Ehmer's home, #109 Tollgate. Please bring your favorite appetizer or dessert, beverages will be provided. The more the merrier, it's not too late to RSVP, please call Ella at 703-536-7441 or [ealyons@verizon.net](mailto:ealyons@verizon.net).

Tollgate is beautiful in all seasons, particularly at this holiday period. . It is a tradition at Tollgate for a single candle to be placed in each window during the holidays. This past Saturday volunteers also decorated the gazebo and lampposts. The number of volunteers on Saturday made the task go quickly, thank you. Perhaps some time during the hectic days of December, you will have a few minutes to enjoy the beauty of simple candlelight and garlands.