

# Tollgate Fare

May, 2006

www.tollgateway.org

## Greetings from the Board

With the arrival of spring, we here at Tollgate are surrounded by a great deal of nature's beauty. I hope that each one of you has, for even just a few short minutes, had an opportunity to admire some of the multicolored blossoms or fresh, new green leaves that surround us. Spring is, in my opinion, Tollgate's prettiest season. In addition to welcoming the newest members of the Tollgate community, this newsletter contains some important information for both new and "old" residents alike. The most challenging task that I have as Association President, is responding to your concerns and complaints. In a community such as ours, we are particularly dependent on every individual following the guidelines and rules for the benefit of all. I ask that each one of you take the time to read this newsletter and, where applicable, make modifications or concessions to address the issues raised in the paragraphs below. I am thanking you in advance for your cooperation. As always, please feel free to contact me or any other Board member with any concerns or questions.

Marie Murray, Association President

## Welcome new neighbors

Please welcome our new neighbors at 115, Anne Hurley and Tom Hammer! Anne has moved from Annapolis and Tom from Falls Church. They bring their two beautiful dogs, Leo and Tiger Lily.

Also, please welcome Margaret and Melhem Melhem who will be moving into 102 on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Melhem's purchased 102 from Edna Frady and rented it to the Gevedens until they were ready to move in.

## Wine and Cheese Party

Mark your calendars for the Wine and Cheese Party on June 4<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm. Thanks to Bill and Kathy who have opened their beautiful home at 125 for this unique event. They will offer a variety of wines to sample and teach everyone about the art of wine tasting.

## Landscape Committee

The landscape committee has been very busy this spring researching and purchasing new trees and bushes for selected sites within Tollgate. After a careful walking inspection and a meeting with a specialist from Merrifield Garden Center, the committee was able to arrange for the installation of new trees and shrubs. To replace the trees removed earlier this year, four new trees were planted on Friday, April 28, along with new shrubs in several critical need areas. The committee asks that all homeowners regularly water both the new and existing plants surrounding your home. If, for some reason, you are unable to water these areas yourself, please contact a member of the committee and ask for assistance in this effort and have an outside hose available for the watering. Committee members are: Kathy Doherty, chairperson, Marie Murray, Terry Zawacki, Tom Smolinski, Mark Kaye and Bob Donaldson.

It has been brought to the committee's attention that there is some confusion regarding the process to be followed for landscape improvement, and who has the ultimate say in how the property in front of your home should look. Please note that any landscaping on Tollgate property outside the confines of the enclosed back courtyards is subject to the policies and procedures of the Landscape Committee. Please refer to the Landscape section of Tollgate's website for specific information and to find the "Request for Landscape Improvement" form. Individual requests will be reviewed on a case by case basis and, depending on the budget and priorities set by the committee, a decision made. Individuals are reminded to gain committee approval before removing or adding any shrubs or trees outside the walls of your courtyard. The goal of the committee is to have a consistent and appropriate look throughout Tollgate, while adhering to a set budget. We have a uniquely beautiful setting here at Tollgate, and are fortunate to have such a dedicated Landscape Committee working on our behalf.

# Tollgate Fare - Continued

## Parking

The issue of parking and use of community spaces has once again been raised. Please take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with the parking guidelines listed below. As college age residents return for the summer, and new families arrive at Tollgate, the need for the "extra" parking spaces within Tollgate will increase. Homeowners, old and new, are asked to please review and follow the guidelines which were established for the benefit of all. Each household has it's own designated parking spaces, and the "extra" or "overflow" spaces should be used for visitors or vehicles that are only temporarily being parked at Tollgate. Visitors or house sitters whose vehicles are not being moved on a daily basis should park in your personal pad/driveway spaces whenever possible. Unfortunately, there are only 14 common spaces for 29 homes. It is not fair to the community for a few homeowners to monopolize the common spaces. Common parking spaces are not to be used for the long term storage of vehicles, for extended-stay guests when there is room on your pad/driveway, or for the avoidance of having to move cars from a driveway to access the garage.

The parking policy adopted on May 5, 2001 follows:

1. Community parking should be utilized only for visitors and the small number of Tollgate residents who have more than two vehicles. If a household has more than two vehicles, the residents in that household should utilize community parking as little as possible. Vehicles with the lowest level of utilization should be parked in the residents' garage, driveway, or parking pad, while the vehicles that are used most frequently should be parked in the community parking. This will allow others to use community parking while the vehicle is being driven elsewhere.
2. Residents should maximize utilization of their own garage, driveway and parking pad before using community parking. If the household has two cars and a garage/driveway or parking pad, the residents of

that household should use the garage/driveway or parking pad for both cars.

3. Community parking is not to be used for storage; that is, for parking vehicles that are not being used regularly. Residents are expected to park these vehicles in their own garage, driveway or parking pad or to store them off site.
4. Given the fact that Tollgate Way is such a narrow street, residents and their guests should fully utilize parking pads and driveways before parking on the street.

## Pets

Many homeowners at Tollgate have one or more pets. Pet owners are reminded that front yards are not to be used as walking areas for dogs, and dogs may not be let out loose under the cover of darkness. Pet's urinating on yards and shrubs can ruin the landscaping that we are all paying to maintain. The Landscape Committee has recently received several calls about this problem. Please confine the walking of dogs to the areas behind courtyard fences, preferably your own, and always scoop after your pet. There is no area on the Tollgate property specifically designated for dogs, so please be considerate of your neighbors, especially if they do not have pets. If you do not allow your pet to use your yard, why would anyone else want your pet using theirs? Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

## New Cable Service Available

The Falls Church city council approved a new cable company which began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Verizon FIOS TV is now available. FIOS stands for Fiber Optic Service. Verizon has been upgrading the Falls Church area with fiber for the past two years and has installed an underground fiber system throughout Tollgate. They are now offering total fiber connectivity which includes telephone, internet and cable TV service. Tollgate now has the option of 3 cable companies, Cox, RCN and FIOS TV. For more information on FIOS, go to:

[www.verizon.com/fiostv](http://www.verizon.com/fiostv)