

Tollgate Fare

Sept 2013

www.tollgateway.org

Welcome to Two New Families

Over the summer, Tollgate welcomed two new families into our community. Margo Seimer and Cory O'Hara moved into #110 along with their two children Elia, 6, and Luke, 1. Margo and Cory have lived in the DC area for many years. Their children can be found most evenings hitting plastic baseballs as they begin preparations for their future careers with the Nationals.

Jim and Newsha Dau moved into #115 in early September along with their daughter Azi, 4. The Daus moved from the Del Ray neighborhood. They enjoy hanging out with friends and family, eating and traveling. A perfect day for the Daus is



a casual playdate with appropriate activities for Azi and her tired parents. Jim would love to pick up the tennis racket again and Newsha enjoys neighborhood

walks/easy jogs. Azi looooves pets.

Social – Fall Picnic – September 22!

The Fall Picnic will be on Sunday, September 22 from 4-6:30 PM, in the parking pad between #106/#108. The Association will supply chicken, drinks and ice cream! Please come and bring an appetizer or a side dish to share.

Annual Meeting – Venue Search

The Tollgate Association Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 17, usually in the late afternoon or early evening. We are looking for a venue! No special burden for the hosts, just a chance to meet your neighbors and provide a service to the Association. Anyone who would be willing, please contact Ass. Pres. Keith Powell or Vice Pres. Margaret Melhem.

Storm Water Utility Fees

Storm Water Utility Fee – Rob Ochsendorf attended a meeting at City Hall last month on

behalf of the Association to understand the details of the storm water utility fee and its impact on the Association. The City assessed a preliminary annual fee of \$5,274 for Tollgate, which, if divided evenly, is about \$182 per household. Appendix I of the Board Minutes for September shows the map used by the City for determining our impervious surface area. There are aspects to this map that the Board will dispute, which may bring our total assessment down.

The Association has been given some discretion by the City in determining how our total assessment is divided among homeowners, and how the fee will be billed. There is Board consensus that the \$5,274 fee should be divided evenly among homeowners, and that the fee should be applied by the City to each homeowners City tax bill, rather than billing the Association as a whole. The matter will be further addressed at the November Annual Meeting.

Tollgate Committees

A great deal of the work of the Association falls to the Association permanent committees. The Social, Landscape, Trees, Architecture, and Maintenance committees keep Tollgate looking beautiful and running smoothly. The Association owes a great deal to the committee chairs and other committee members who contribute substantial amounts of time and effort on behalf of the Association. If you have any issues you wish to bring to the attention of the appropriate committee, please contact the committee chair (Social – Jim Hogle, Landscaping – Marie Murray, Trees – Bob Donaldson, Architecture and Maintenance – Garry Sauner

Gaining Architecture Approvals

Speaking of committees, homeowners are reminded to obtain Architecture Committee approval before making exterior modifications to their property. Exterior painting and staining; replacements involving roofs, gutters, shutters, porches, decks, siding, doors (front/storm and garage), light fixtures, fences/walls; re-pointing of brick steps, chimneys, walkways; and

driveway/parking pad repair are examples of items requiring approval. When planning exterior work, please review the Association guidelines on our website and then contact Garry Sauner at (703) 614-8051 before submitting an exterior work request. The Architecture Committee often is able to assist homeowners with suggestions for their projects and renders prompt decisions.

Landscape

The growing season continues well into October. Homeowners with new trees or shrubs in their yards are asked to water these plants any week that we do not have significant rainfall. If a tree near your home has a Gator bag for watering, please keep water in the bag. Some of our older trees are also in need of a good watering. The Committee is working with Merrifield Nursery for our Fall plantings. Homeowners receiving new shrubs will be contacted by the Committee.

Parking

A reminder that all homeowners are asked to avoid parking on the street. Residents are

encouraged to ask their guests to utilize visitor parking spaces when possible to reduce street parking. Homeowners are asked to leave visitor spaces open, and not use them for everyday parking. We only have 14 visitor parking spaces available for 29 houses in Tollgate, so please be conscientious of your neighbors. The complete Parking Guidelines can be found on our website.

Your Tollgate Way Website

<http://www.tollgateway.org> has information including the Tollgate asset management plan, the budget, tree inventory, Board meeting minutes, the Association Covenants. A few parts of the site are password protected, being restricted to Association members. If you need help accessing those areas (primarily Board Minutes and the budget) contact any Board Member or Eric Kirschner.

Board meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month from September through May and are open to all residents. If you plan to attend, please let a board member know so that we have enough coffee, juice and other goodies.

Local Business Spotlight

Red, White and Bleu (127 S. Washington St.) *Thirsty Thursdays and Free Wine Fridays.* This Falls Church wine shop hosts wine and beer tastings every Thursday through Sunday. The friendly staff can assist with expert selections of fine wine and craft beers. Be sure to sample from the cheese and charcuterie counter as well. See their website for more details: <http://www.redwhiteandbleu.com/>.

Events Around Town

Local Candidate Meet & Greet. September 22. You are invited to meet the candidates for the Falls Church City Council and School Board on the ballot for the city's first ever November Election. Organized by Citizens for a Better City (CBC). Location: Fall Properties 212-A North West Street. 5-7pm.

National Book Festival. September 21-22 – This massive two day event on the National Mall is not to be missed. It is packed with famous authors doing readings and book signings, children's activities, and more.

Farm Day. October 12—Farm Day is held every October in Cherry Hill Park. This event features blacksmith demonstrations, horse-drawn hayrides, pumpkin painting, scarecrow making, live music, and a petting zoo. Children can learn basic farming skills such as corn-shelling, beekeeping, and apple butter making. Tours of the historic Cherry Hill Farmhouse and Barn are also offered.

Boo at the Zoo. October 25-27 –Trick-or-treat among the animals and get snacks and candy from more than 30 treat stations set up throughout the National Zoo. There are animal encounters, festive decorations, a carousel, and the Boo Express train.