

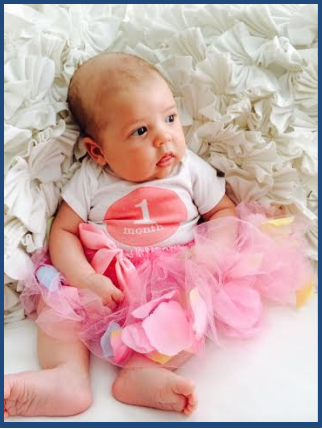
# Tollgate Fare

August 2014

[www.tollgateway.org](http://www.tollgateway.org)

## Tollgate Family Updates

Amanda, John, and Bobby Lynch welcomed a beautiful baby girl to their family this summer,



Alice Flaherty Lynch. Allie has already shown off her vibrant social skills, charming all of Tollgate during her evening strolls up and down the street.

In other news, Wes and Azi will be headed to Kindergarten at Mt. Daniel this fall and Sebastian is headed off to college at Virginia Tech. And a hearty welcome

home to the O'Hara-Siemers who were out of the country for most of the summer.

## Social – Fall Picnic – September 21!

The Fall Picnic will be on Sunday, September 21 from 4-6 PM, in the parking pad between #106/#108. The Association will supply chicken and beverages. Please come and bring an appetizer or a side dish to share.

## Annual Meeting

The Tollgate Association Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 5pm. We are looking for a venue! Anyone who would be willing to host, please contact Association President Rob Ochsendorf. Ed Hahn will be completing his term on the Board and so we will need to find his replacement. Volunteers are encouraged to contact a current Board member.

## Tollgate Landscape Tour

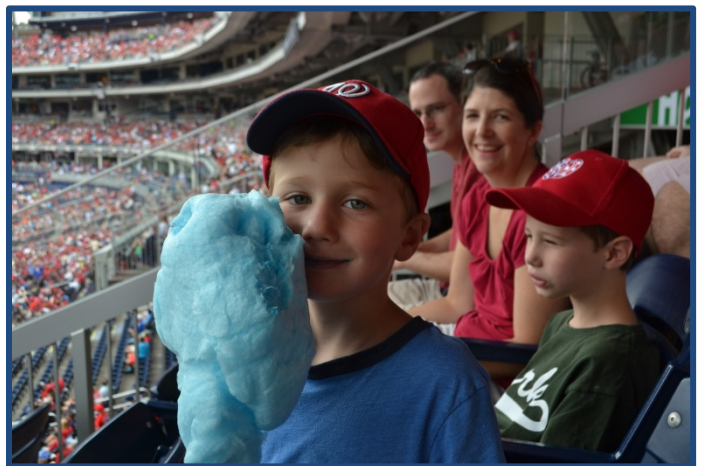
Tollgate was treated to its first ever landscape tour on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Bob Donaldson and Marie Murray provided an in depth one hour tour of the Tollgate grounds, with detailed information about the 175 trees and the countless shrubs and bushes around the neighborhood. The well attended tour had representation from 17 of the 29 Tollgate residences.

## Tollgate at Nationals Park

Tollgate was well represented at the ballpark on July 20 as the hometown Nationals eked out a 5-4 victory over the Milwaukee Brewers on bobblehead night. Jayson Werth came through with a walk-off RBI double in the bottom of the ninth inning to secure a dramatic victory. Tollgaters in attendance included the Donaldsons, Romers, Murrays, Hahns, Rob and Wes Ochsendorf, and Garry Sauner.



Tollgate residents (l to r) Garry Sauner, Bob Donaldson, and Joe Romer at Nationals Park.



The Hahn family taking in the action (and the concessions!) at Nationals Park.

## Fall Board Meetings

Board meetings are held at 9:00 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month and the remaining 2014 meeting dates are 9/6, 10/4, 11/1 and 12/6. If you plan to attend, please let a board member know.

## Events Around Town

**Sunset Cinema, Fridays** (Cherry Hill Park). Free film screenings of various family friendly movies are shown on summer evenings starting at 8pm. Moviegoers are encouraged to bring blankets and picnics and to vote online for the movie selections. The 8/29 movie will be Frozen.

**National Book Festival.** August 30 – This year's festival at the Washington Convention Center will feature authors, poets and illustrators in several pavilions well into the evening. Festival-goers can meet and hear firsthand from their favorite poets and authors, get books signed, enjoy special entertainment, and stay up late for special new graphic novel, poetry and film programs. Authors include Cokie Roberts, E.L. Doctorow, Sandra Day O'Connor, and Raul Colon.

**Taste of Falls Church at the Fall Festival.** September 13, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Falls Church Community Center. Features include live entertainment, pony rides, amusement rides, crafters, businesses and civic organizations, and cuisine from city kitchens. The children's activity tent offers face painting and craft projects.

## Local Business Spotlight

**Smashburger** (308 S. Washington Street, Falls Church)

*by Ed Hahn*

As I approach middle age, I find myself thinking more about my diet and nutrition. Not a lot, mind you, but a little, which is better than not at all. I try to exercise some restraint when making my food choices—a little less red meat during the week, more fruits and vegetables whenever possible, and maybe just a medium slice of cake instead of a very large one. Gone are the days of eating an entire bag of Oreos at one time.

Unfortunately, with the addition of Smashburger to the growing stable of Falls Church restaurant establishments, my feeble attempts at restraint go right out the window. A regular burger, fries, and milkshake, all of which I recommend highly, will give you 1,950 calories of sheer gastronomical joy. Each burger, made of fresh 100% certified Angus beef, is smashed, seasoned, and seared, placed on an artisan bun, and topped with fresh produce and sauces. The fries, hand tossed with garlic, rosemary, and olive oil, are a bit greasier than I like, but very tasty nonetheless. And the handspun Haagen-Dazs milkshakes are a delicious force to be reckoned with.

Although Falls Church has other local burger joints, such as Five Guys, Elevation Burger, and Red Robin, that are quite respectable in their own right and offer up delicious burgers at a decent price, Smashburger brings this great American favorite to a new level. Like television after color, basketball after Michael Jordan, and Tollgate after wherever we lived before, once you try Smashburger, you will never want to go back to anything else.

Smashburger fashions itself as "a place with a burger soul." While that may be a bit of a stretch, this newcomer to our Little City serves up a menu that will leave your heart crying for help and your stomach calling for more!

*About the Author: Ed Hahn writes exclusively for the Tollgate Fare. The opinions expressed here are those of the author, and do not represent the views of the Tollgate Way Homeowners Association.*