

# SWEET&SOUR NEWS

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION • ISSUE 2 • MARCH / APRIL 2008

## NC Concerns, from page 1

presented a year and a half ago when NC got almost nothing in the '06 Bond. Capsulated, Mr. Schwartz's message seemed to be: the CM/CBs priorities come before the citizens/taxpayers. One NC rep told Mr. Schwartz flat out that the

CM/CB should either fully fund NC or shut it down and pay whatever political consequences there are to taking that step.

NC staff is compiling all of the NC Infrastructure Survey data right now which will be used by NC leadership to lobby for full funding or close to it. Judging member's reaction to Mr. Schwartz, the general position is, that, while NC's grounding the past year and a half has been productive in clearing out unfinished projects and reevaluating how new projects should be scoped out and cost estimated, everyone is ready to move on and start normal funding sessions. Given that NC has been cooperative with the CM by agreeing to forego 3 funding sessions and got the surveys he requested done if the CM/CB is not ready to fully fund there will be a lot of angry members and neighborhoods wondering why they wasted their time with the survey. I'm sure Mr. Schwartz got that message but we will have to wait to see if the CM heard us. ☹

## Spring '08 Funding Session:

RIGHT NOW THE STAFFORD ST. project (21st to Lee) is # 15 on the list with 35 points (15 for the NC update and 20 for being 1st priority). Both the position and points are fluid right now as more projects could become qualified by the March 31 cut-off date and the points system could be modified, but not before approval of the NC as a whole. There are 4 projects ahead of us with more points but "unqualified" at the moment. If the respective communities don't get their project into a "qualified" state by March 31 they would drop out. However, given the money left in NC's pot, I don't see how Stafford could get approval until the Fall '08 Funding Session.

## Accessory Dwelling Policy:

Reid Goldstein, chairman of the Housing Commission gave a presentation about the Accessory Dwelling Policy proposal circulating. If you are not familiar with it it would allow qualified single family and duplex homes to add an apartment either inside their home or in an outbuilding like a garage. He gave

out an executive summary of their findings and recommendations which can be downloaded here: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/CPHD/housing/pdf/page60105.pdf>

After he gave his presentation I found it hard to justify why this new policy is needed. Even Mr. Goldstein had a hard time explaining why this policy was vital at this time. He continually said there are a lot of "illegal" accessory dwellings in the county, but then admitted the county had no idea what the extent was or how to enforce it. A lot of NC members said they knew of "illegal" accessory dwellings in their neighborhood and had not experienced any problems because the owners keep it low key. Personally I see this as anecdotal evidence that is not an issue the county needs to address right now.

Needed or not, I think there are problems with the policy itself that could cause ill-effects on neighborhoods like Cherrydale. Such a policy is de facto loop-hole on density limitations by allowing more unrelated people to live on a lot than otherwise allowed. Of course we know the CB is all for increasing density county-wide even if neighborhoods like Cherrydale can't withstand it. It seems foreseeable to me that gradually parking would become more difficult (the AD policy considers parking, but even with the requirements a neighborhood could potentially become "under parked"), and schools more crowded. It's also seems a little ridiculous to have to apply for a permit so your older kids, elderly parents or other relative can live with

you, but separate from the main house. But this AD proposal calls for just that kind of permit requirement. (This is different from the in-law suite, which does not require a permit, and is unaffected by the AD policy. The distinction is that and in-law suite cannot have a stove and the maximum stay is 30 days).

The workability of an AD policy also seems difficult, if not impossible to enforce. I don't see why a home owner would want to go "legal" if that means 1) higher property tax assessment, a requirement to give zoning inspectors right of entry to their AD at any time, and the possibility that their entire home, not just the AD, will have to be brought up to current building code. If an AD policy were enacted is county really going to unleash code enforcement offers to knock on doors and do midnight surveillance to bust "illegal" ADs? I'm guessing not. So given that county can't enforce the current "no AD" rule, and that no one is really screaming that "illegal" ADs are a problem, this just seems like policy for power's sake rather than to solve a true problem. That is my take at least, based on Chairman Goldstein's presentation. ☹

Spring is not the best of seasons.  
Cold and flu are two good reasons;  
wind and rain and other sorrow,  
warm today and cold tomorrow.

~Author Unknown

## Cherrydale Citizens Association 2008 Membership Form

Have you paid your dues for 2008? Your dues help cover the cost of community events and this newsletter. Cherrydale merchandise is also available! Just include payment with your order and we'll deliver the items to your home.

\_\_\_ \$5 Household \_\_\_ \$10 Business \_\_\_ \$1 ( Age 60 or Over) Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to help by volunteering for: \_\_\_\_\_

I've added \$ 5, please deliver a drinking glass. Please include me in the CCA phone book.

\_\_\_ I've added \$10, please deliver a hat! Please add me to the list serve (this will remain private).

\_\_\_ I've added \$10, please deliver a 100 % cotton tee-shirt! Adult sizes: S M L XL XXL (limited edition black shirts in sizes L and XL) Children's: S M L or Infant (circle size) and 50/50 poly/cotton t-shirts in beige or blue, variety of sizes and cuts (French or Crew), \$5 each or 3 for \$10

Contact [treasurer@cherrydale.net](mailto:treasurer@cherrydale.net) for details and make checks payable to: **Cherrydale Citizens Association** and mail to: **Katherine Christensen, 1909 N. Randolph St, Arlington, Virginia 22207**

FREE MEMBERSHIP TO NEW RESIDENTS- LET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS KNOW!

## CCA and County Board Chair Meet on Lee Highway Utilities Undergrounding

Recorded by **Maureen Ross**

**Purpose:** To review the process by which County Contractors and Staff varied the original plans for placing the 2 large switches and 1 transformer boxes right by the sidewalk at Bono Films before the west on-ramp for I 66; and to ask the County to fix this unplanned change in a manner that is attractive, enhancing of property values, and good for pedestrian/bicycle views, comfort and safety. Refer to minutes of county meeting 1/15/08 for details.

**Present:** 3 Cherrydale citizens -Maureen Ross, Tom Korn, and Tim Bono of BONO films, Abe Bibizadeh County project manager and County Engineer, Robert Froh, DES, Shannon Flanagan- Watson Deputy County Manager and Walter Tejada, Chair, County Board

**Summation:** We are concerned about 2 issues:

1) At the last minute engineers changed the plans and design for the spot where the 3 large utility boxes would go and presented this as a done deal. Engineers decided they had to place a 3 ft high dirt mound on top of

the pipe and then place the 4-5 ft utility boxes on top of that, with no retaining wall. The point being the contractor failed to work with the CCA and property owner Mr. Bono before jerry-rigging this new plan (and it could be that the change was not approved by the head of DES. We would expect consultation and not a presentation as a fait-accompli.

2) This section of Lee Hwy is the east entrance to Cherrydale and should be attractive, pedestrian friendly, and enhancing of property values and commercial revitalization. The solution presented fills none of these goals. Remember, the undergrounding of utilities along Lee Hwy is part of our 1994 Revitalization Plan. There fore we should be consulted about any plans that alter the aesthetics.

This new plan is probably not good for

property values because the very very large block of utility boxes make the site less attractive and will be expensive to move.

The creation of a hill and utilities on top obstruct the view of bicyclists between highway sidewalk and the bike path.

The placement of the metal utilities at the front of the site is unattractive, and of course utility companies refuse to have bushes or trees around their boxes, so we can't obscure them or make them more attractive. Instead they will be sites for graffiti, and soil run off from the newly created mound.

Placing the utilities in the front mean we can not plant shade trees here. This is one long very hot stretch of sidewalk. With

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## OCTOBER NC MEETING SUMMARY AND SPRING '08 FUNDING SESSION

## Good News and Reason for Concern at NC

by **Harry Spector**

First the good. Steve Lent and I met with NC staff last evening to go over the Americans w/ Disabilities Act (ADA) and other engineering changes that had to be made to the 18th St. project. This project should get funding approval at the Fall funding round in December. I asked for a PDF copy of the plans which I will forward once I get.

As I noted in a NC meeting summary earlier this year, all NC projects must now be ADA compliant. For streets this mean a minimum 4 ft. wide sidewalk w/ a 5 ft. turn around every 500 ft. Fortunately the grade on 18th street allows driveway aprons to be used as the turn around so the sidewalk can maintain a 4 ft. width throughout. There will be some street narrowing at the N. Quincy St. end which will also eliminate one, maybe two, parking spots. The other "major" change is

the addition of a retaining wall at the corner of 18th and N. Oakland. Steve was unsure how the residents at these two corners would feel about the changes, but thought most neighbors would still be supportive of the project. Overall it will improve 18th street greatly, both aesthetically and from a safety perspective.

## October NC Meeting Summary

At the Oct. NC meeting Mark Schwartz from Mgmt and Finance discussed the '08 Bond outlook. My personal take is that he came to lower expectations of getting anything close to what NC would consider "full funding" (one project per neighborhood per bond cycle). However, after all the neighborhoods just scrambled to complete the NC Infrastructure

Surveys (as requested by the County Manager), no one was in the mood to hear the same old "priorities" routine that was

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Next CCA Meeting  
**March 19th,**  
**7:30 pm**

A representative from  
County will be offering  
guidance and procedures  
for creating  
eco-landscaping and  
"backyard habitat" in  
your little piece of the  
planet.

## SWEET&SOURNEWS

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## MINUTES OF THE CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

**Cherrydale Citizens Association  
Meeting January 16, 2008  
Recorded by Maureen Ross**

We had 23 Cherrydalers present at the meeting (not including 2 lovely children!)

In addition we had guests George May, the county's project manager for the fire station relocation, and Fran Lunney, the coordinator of housing planning

President Brian Bonnet presided (Several people gave him membership checks to pass on to our treasurer... hint, hint everyone!).

**7:30 to 8 - The CHILI "CONTEST"** was a 5-way tie! Each chili recipe was unique. Thanks go to Evan Lacopo for his generous "Guess where it's from" chili, Ron Kampeas for "Empty the fridge" concoction; Marc Scarcella for Beer Chili, Jack Spitler for Cheater Chili and Bill L'Hommedieu for No Name chili. I'm kind of sorry I didn't get 5 doggie bags because they were ALL delicious and now as I type I am hungry again.

This was a great idea! Thanks go to Terri Gaw for the inspiration and perspiration!

### FIRE-STATION UPDATE:

George May, presented updates on progress in the fire station relocation project. (Note: I have asked him to email me the finer details and will post separately as it's a tad complicated.) Koons and County have 2 separate agreements. One agreement is the land transfer (Koons gives County their rear parking lot and County gives Koons the 21st Rd land). The 21st Rd land becomes part of the area for the Koons parking garage and the new 21st Rd is moved to where the abandoned white house was on Lee Hwy next to Koons. The other agreement is about easements.

After everything is signed, THEN 21st Rd is moved to where the white house was. This takes 6-7 months. Then Koons' Garage is built, with Koons using the rear parking lot for staging. This takes 8-10 months. Then the fire station is actually built. So we are looking at years here.

### Accessory Dwelling Proposal

Fran Lunney from County explains the Housing Commission's proposal. Refer to the article in the January Sweet and Sour newsletter. Quick summary follows:

Why do this? So elderly can afford to stay in their homes and have help; to make ownership more affordable (with a rental unit in your home or garage you can qualify for 25% more house); to make rental units and affordable housing in general more affordable (rental units in homes tend to be lower than the surrounding rental rates); allow extra income for home owners.

How to do it? It would have to be owner occupied, with a parking impact survey done first, no more than 2 adults renting the unit, no more than 1000SF, with a foot print no larger than 650 SF, with an owner signed pre-approval for code inspection access. The use permit would pass automatically from owner to owner of the land, and the use permit could be removed. The unit would have to have it's own everything - kitchen, heat, a/c, exit etc.

Concerns and questions and comments from the community:

How effective is code enforcement if there is a problem? Answer - for current rental units it is difficult to get permission to enter when a code violation is suspected, but this use permit will have some documentation owner must sign which preauthorizes code inspector access.

Does this deed allowing a rental unit pass automatically from owner to owner? Answer: Yes. (How do we know? How does new owner know? Maureen reminded us of the incident on N Monroe where the home owner had a covenant disallowing removal of the 100 year old pine tree but shortly after the land changed hands the tree was cut down and new owner claimed he had no idea about this rule)

How strict are the rules on what the accessory dwelling looks like if it out side the house (like in a garage)? Originally County was going to disallow windows and doors on the side nearest the neighbor but it was pointed out that could mean neighbor starred at just a massive wall. So Fran considered bringing back to the housing commission the

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use of the 1608 N Quincy home with a ramp for handicapped for children with special needs. The County replied they cannot buy land with bonds for that purpose." She has tried to sell the property to someone who will preserve/improve the home, not tear it down.

Pat says the County's plans are to move her grandmothers home, the yellow bungalow 1612 N Quincy up to 17th St. "Other plans have not been revealed - the parks people "want to see how the area will look after the move and the tear down". (Cherrydale has not been sent official notice of County Plans but it sounds like it's time to have one)

She asked for and received UNANIMOUS support from the CCA against any exercise by the County for eminent domain of her property.

### Vacation Lane/N Monroe Street Reconfiguration Proposal as a Traffic Calming Measure;

Presented by Steve Taylor from Vacation Lane

Refer to the January Sweet and Sour News for details and engineer's drawing of the proposal. The next steps are rather fast - if the proponents get 60% of their neighbors to sign up on to this, it will go to the Transportation Committee, and then maybe the Planning Commission then County Board. Steve asked for our support IF it got a majority vote of approval by near neighbors. There was some discussion as to whether this should wait until the next meeting but the objection to waiting was that it's 2 months away and the decision in County will be sooner.

It was noted that the Maywood list serve had a fair amount of negative comment on this proposal. Maywood was only notified Tuesday that we were going to be talking about it, and our newsletter may not have yet reached neighbors in that area though likely they did.

Initially Vacation Lane folk were given the option of speed cushions but there were a few people with vocal opposition and so it went nowhere. There are more people on Vacation Lane than N Monroe St and the vocal opposition seems to be from Monroe. Still Steve thinks they will get at least 60% maybe 80%. He says the cost of the project is about 50K. I have asked Betty Diggs in County to let us know cost and next steps. There seemed to be a consensus that if a certain majority percentage approved the project, why not support it. We will hear back soon and keep you posted.

**Lee Hwy and Bono Films  
Undergrounding Utilities Issue**  
Maureen Ross presenter

Refer to minutes of the meeting 1/15/08 with County yesterday morning at the corner of Lee Hwy and Bono Films by the on-ramp to I 66. County discovered a storm sewer where they wanted to place the large transformer (4x4.5') and switch (6x5') for the undergrounding. So they went off plan and built up a 3 ft dirt mound over the site, so the transformer could be placed there. But this leaves a large unattractive mass about 9 x 10 feet just a few feet off the sidewalk.

The objections to this are: it's ugly right at the entrance to Cherrydale and violates the intent of the highway beautification; it was an effort jerryrigged without the proper review, despite engineers being alerted to the problem by neighbors (inc Alicia Cowen); it blocks bicyclists view coming down the bike path to sidewalk and 66 and vice versa blocks pedestrian views; and the dirt mound will probably need a retaining wall.

The site could be move 20 ft over and back. We are asking the County to obtain fair estimates of moving the transformer. We have waiting 10 years for this, we might as well do it right. After all we'll be stuck with whatever happens for at least half a century.

### The following was approved unanimously

We recommend the County take responsibility for the mistakes on this project and procur an objective evaluation of alternatives to mitigate the problem, including the option of using the VDOT land in the corner next to the Bono Parking lot, so as to make an attractive street in keeping with the goals of the Cherrydale Lee Hwy Revitalization Plan.

### Lincoln St. Sidwalk blocked by new phone pole:

Maureen presented: Once again County has allowed placement of a phone pole in the middle of a sidewalk, obstructing pedestrian traffic. This despite the huge Cherrydale Sidewalk Obstacles Tour of last Spring. Even despite that this particular site was of specific concern and discussed at length with County and the Utility companies. At the 1/15/08 meeting County offered an unusual solution. The sidewalk only goes up from Lee Hwy just to the end of the Masonic Lodge. The phone poles are all on that side of the street and so this is the side what will probably never get a sidewalk completion. However the other side

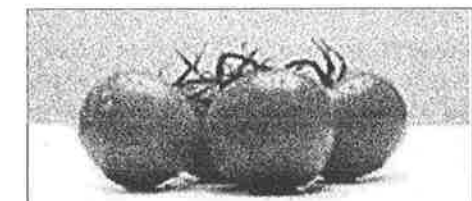
is likely to be redeveloped and therefore get sidewalks all the way up to 20th (some day no where near). So since there are NO trees down this area of the street why not tear up the sidewalk between the 2 entrances to the Masons parking lot and just fill it in with grass and trees, keeping the pole there of course.

Maureen has spoken with 4 near neighbors. 3 families say fine or don't care, and one objects. Masonic Lodge Officers will be calling us back.

One of the problems is the habit of County saying "OOPS, well it's done now" and getting away with it. Recall that County did this 3 years ago when we finally got the brick walk and landscaping around the power station at Lee and N Monroe and they placed several 10 inch cables onto the phone poles blocking the sidewalk. We had to hold a large meeting and County decided (rather than move the cables to parallel the street) to dig into the new landscaping and make a semi circle of sidewalk around the pole. County was given a tour of numerous examples of mistakes all over Cherrydale and yet did it again on Lincoln St.

We discussed this issue briefly and there seemed to be a consensus (but no vote) not to tear up the sidewalk. That leaves the option of doing nothing or moving the pole.

Submitted  
Maureen Ross, Secretary



### Free Tomato Cages

I have 20 tomato cages each 18 inches in diameter by 56 inches high. They're made of concrete reinforcement mesh and will remain sturdy and supportive in the strongest of thunder storms. Ideal for indeterminate varieties of tomatoes. The mesh has 4x6 inch openings to allow for easy picking of fruit. They can be unrolled for transport or storage. Take one or take them all. First come first served. Bill L'Hommedieu, 703.527.5491, [llhomme.com@verizon.net](mailto:llhomme.com@verizon.net)

Spring is nature's way of  
saying, "Let's party!"  
~Robin Williams

## MINUTES OF THE CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

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consideration NOT to make specific rules but decide design thru a use permit review which allowed neighbor input.

*If having the rental unit makes a mortgage more affordable, doesn't that mean the new owner will have to rent the unit, thereby assuring that we end up with many more rental units and hence more density?* Answer not known but County estimates that this proposal would add only about 28 new units a year and that currently we have 1 illegal rental for every 20 to 30 homes.

*Won't this raise property values and hence taxes and eventually the price of homes, starting the problem all over again?*

*Doesn't the County already give relief to the elderly to forego property taxes if they earn less than 80,000\$ income and own less than 300,000\$ in assets?* Answer: yes, but people still need extra cash

*Can't the elderly already rent out a room*

*or 3 for that matter to help with expenses and home care?* Yes.

*How would County make sure the owner occupied the home? And how many months of the year does occupy mean? If the owner was there only 6 months a year does that qualify?* This is not yet defined. There might be waivers for those sent overseas or waivers to allow substitution of family members. *(Is a waiver a good idea?)*

*Is this a loophole for the lot coverage limits?* NO.

*Has County considered the cost and effect on our already challenged storm water and sanitary sewer capacity?* Answer: No, not yet.

At least one Cherrydaler gave support to this measure though some others thought it was unnecessary or worse could increase density and parking problems. There was no consensus yet. This proposal must next go to the Planning Commission and then the County Board.

For more details look on line [www.arlingtonva.us/departments/cphd/housing/hpp/cphdhousinghpshsgcommission.aspx](http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/cphd/housing/hpp/cphdhousinghpshsgcommission.aspx) or call Fran Lunney 703 228 3785. Thank you Fran!

### Fraber Home and Oak Grove Park:

Pat Goodman came with her husband Bobby to present their dilemma regarding the Fraber Home (her parents) at 1608 N Quincy, which is the red brick house next to the Yellow House at Oak Grove Park on Quincy St. Pat is the executor of her parents' estate. Interesting note - she was born in 1939 atop the Cherrydale Drug Store (Dr. Walton's Hospital) at the intersection of Lee Hwy and Quincy St.

She says she has repeatedly refused to sell the land to anyone who would tear down the home. She wants to preserve it. County has now threatened condemnation thru eminent domain. "This will be the third eminent domain procedure on my parent's properties at 1608 N Quincy." They lost the 2 lots behind the home for the soccer field and lost the front and side land for Rt 66. More recently, at some point during various negotiations with the County Ms. Goodman was even threatened with having her driveway blocked as the County tried to declare it a "hazard".

"I believe the County could make good

## The Arlington County Civic Federation Accessory Dwelling Resolution

**Whereas** Arlington has a shortage of affordable housing and Accessory Dwellings (ADs) can offer an affordable housing option;

**Whereas** the Housing Commission and the Elder Readiness Plan have proposed to allow some homeowners to include certain configurations of ADs on their property;

**Whereas** ADs provide additional flexibility to homeowners for family living arrangements, child care, elder care, and other service workers;

**Whereas** AD rental income could provide homeowners more economic flexibility in continuing to afford their homes; and

**Whereas** Arlington homeowners will want assurances that ADs will not change the character of single-family neighborhoods by increasing congestion, noise, or overcrowding, or by worsening parking;

1. Therefore be it RESOLVED that the Arlington County Civic Federation supports consideration of the following if the Zoning Ordinance is amended to allow INTERIOR/SEMIDETACHED ADS:

(A) Allowing Interior/SemiDetached ADs only on single-family properties — not duplex properties; and

(B) Providing critical protections of neighborhood character, which are legally and practically enforceable, including occupancy limits, owner-occupancy requirements, ongoing inspection authority, transparency of the permitting process, and limitations as to size, form, placement, and lot size as follows.<sup>[1]</sup>

— The allowable occupancy for the entire property (main building with AD) is limited to 4 unrelated persons.

— Both the homeowner and AD occupant(s) agree to the terms of the AD, including giving Code Enforcement timely access to make

inspections when complaints are made.

— The County Attorney determines that such occupancy limits and inspections can be legally enforced and provides guidance and options concerning what types of rules are enforceable and how they could be enforced.

— Homeowner occupancy is required, with some limited exceptions for military reserve and guard called to active duty.

— The main building with AD conforms to the current building code and all setback, height, and coverage requirements in the current Zoning Ordinance.

— Properties that do not have the minot area for the Zoning District are not eligible for ADs.

— Any renovations to a main building to provide an AD be required to maintain the home's single-family exterior character — for example, no exterior stairs to a second-story AD or construction of a second front door.

— The AD provides parking per the Housing Commission's recommendation — except the use of driveway tandem parking to meet the AD parking requirement.

— The public is notified when the AD is permit is applied for and, when granted, the AD permit is recorded in the County's Real Estate database.

— The ordinance change is reviewed by the County Manager after approximately three years to determine what adjustments, if any, need to be made.

And **Whereas** Arlington homeowners and home-workers will benefit from the ability to have care-givers and other home-workers by providing on-site housing with access to the family living quarters;

2. Therefore be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the Civic Federation recommends consideration of expanding the eligibility for FAMILY SUITES to allow occupancy by workers providing family support services, such as eldercare and daycare, thus expanding this section of the Zoning Ordinance to be Family Support Suites.

And **Whereas** exterior ADs are significantly more likely than interior/semi-detached ADs to reduce the privacy that adjacent homeowners currently enjoy;

3. Therefore be it ALSO RESOLVED that the Civic Federation recommends consideration



Due to the patriotic and "explosive" demand of past 4th of July parties, 21st Street will again host this year's Independence Day Celebration and viewing of the National Fireworks. For the past several years, this has proven to be the most well-attended Cherrydale event of the year. Each year hundreds of your fellow neighbors enjoy a variety of delicious grilled foods, pot luck side dishes, drinks, and plenty of activities for kids including a moon bounce, tree swing, face painting, climbing on the Cherrydale Fire Truck and dancing to their favorite tunes from a professional DJ. All capped off by a wonderful display of the Nations Capital fireworks show over the Washington Monument..

This event is only possible with the support of fellow Cherrydalers. So, if anyone would like to help Layla and the rest of the crew; especially with set-up and clean-up on the 4th of July, your volunteer efforts are very much needed and would be greatly appreciated! For more information on how you can be a part of this fun event, please contact Layla Hogan at [hogan4mlba@msn.com](mailto:hogan4mlba@msn.com) or by phone at 703.525.0116. It's never too early to become a volunteer!

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## ARLINGTON COUNTY RED CROSS MARCH MANIA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

**Where:** Thomas Jefferson Community Center • 3501 2nd Street S. Arlington, VA 22204 • (703) 228-5920

**When:** March 8, 2008.

Event Start Time: 8AM • Finals: 5pm

**Why:** To raise money and awareness for the Arlington County Red Cross Disaster Relief Operations

**Who:** Walter Tejada, Chairmen of the Arlington County Board and honorary March Mania committee Chair will be in attendance. Past years have seen teams including Arlington County Police Department, The American Legion, The Fort Myers Military Community, The Coast Guard, the Arlington County Fire Department, and many, many community businesses.

**COST: ADMISSION IS FREE**

**The Tournament (16 Teams total):**

Double Elimination • Two Division (Competitive and Recreational) • 10 players per team

**Registration Costs: \$500 per team** (includes a free T-shirt/ Jersey, one free team photo, fruit and water between games).

**Activities:** Silent Auction • Moon Bounce • Gladiator Joust • Make your own first-aid kit • Face painting • Door Prizes • Concessions • Individual Shooting Competitions • An Appearance from the Red Cross Mascot • An exhibition game played by the NOVA United Senior Women's Basketball Association.





# CHERRIES JUBILEE!

**Christmas and Delayed CVFD Kudos.** Santa has come and gone from the CVFD and our 87th Christmas event has come to a close. In all, there were approximately 275 kids that came through the station. All went very well considering the rain and large crowd. This was the first time in recent memory that we had to hold people outside because of crowding in the hall.

Thanks goes out to the members who assisted with the event or setup, including: Carter Cromartie, John McIntire, Marvin Binns, Mark Laskin, Johnny Walker, Walter Coon, Chuck Satterfield, and Cate Drew.

In addition, we could not have done this without the help of the ACPD, who provided Santa with an escort from Fire Station 8, the crew of Engine 103 A-Shift, including Captain Snider who was detailed from Station 6, and the Springston family, who come out every year to help with set up and are a true asset to the Cherrydale VFD family.

2007 marks the 25th year which Marvin Binns, a CVFD member for 53 years, has "assisted" Santa in his deliveries. 🍒



**Gloria Hurdle (Cherrydale) and Joan Welsh (Maywood)** are members of Potomac Harmony, a group of women singers performing a variety of music, from traditional favorites to the fifties sound to modern jazz, all in four-part harmony, barbershop style. Potomac Harmony was selling valentines again this year: two songs, a box of chocolates, and a card for \$50. They make a similar offer for other times during the year (while negotiating different prices, depending on the service we provide - number of songs, length of show, etc.). See ad at [www.potomacharmony.org/valentines.htm](http://www.potomacharmony.org/valentines.htm).

You can brighten the day of a friend, shut-in, or your sweetheart! We don't have

copyright authority to sing "Happy Birthday" but if the people in the room choose to sing it, we usually join in!

Potomac Harmony's next performance is a dress rehearsal, which will be at Thomas Jefferson Middle School at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 19. This is a free performance just for friends and family. Come see the chorus do their new contest numbers and other favorites in their red velvet costumes!

The chorus is made up of a diverse group of women from the Washington metropolitan area who share a love of harmonizing and entertaining in the barbershop style. Members rehearse weekly to put on professional quality, choreographed performances, and to perfect their singing and performing skills. The chorus has been honored for its musical excellence — five times as regional champions and many times as a top-five medalist.

Potomac Harmony participates in numerous community activities including the Arlington County Fair, the Lubber Run Amphitheater Summer Program, and Ballston Common Shopping Mall Holiday Celebration. The chorus also presents an annual show for the general public and performs for local nursing facilities, hospitals, hospices, and other non-profit organizations.

The chorus finances its own expenses along with partial sponsorship by Arlington County through the Arlington Commission for the Arts and the Cultural Affairs Division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources, [www.arlingtonarts.org](http://www.arlingtonarts.org). 🍒

**Fire Station Blog Courtesy of Harry Spector.** I want to announce my new Fire Station 3 Construction Blog, "Fire (Station) in the Hole" [www.firestationinthehole.com](http://www.firestationinthehole.com). It will document all phases of the just-starting construction for the fire station with lots of before and after pics and video throughout the entire process. Whether you like where the station is going or not its going to be part of our community and Cherrydale so I thought it would be interesting to document the progress along the way and also provide a "look back" after we've forgotten what was there before. Please feel free to pass the site along. Also there is an RSS feed link in the upper right corner. Just click on the RSS icon and bookmark. You can then see when new posts are up before going to the site. My first post is the demolition of the Stowe house. More to come in the next few days, weeks, and years. -Harry 🍒

## Give Free Food to Rescued Animals



Ruby and Mojo, newly adopted from Arlington Animal Welfare League

ALL YOU ANIMAL LOVERS, please tell ten friends to tell ten today! The Animal Rescue Site is having trouble getting enough people to click on it daily to meet their quota of getting free food donated every day to abused and neglected animals.

It takes less than a minute to go to the site and click on the purple box "fund food for animals" for free. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate food to abandoned/neglected animals in exchange for advertising.

Here's the web site! Pass it along to people you know: <http://www.theanimalrescue.site.com/> 🍒

**CCA president Brian Bonnet** and his wife, Sonia Castro welcomed Christopher Alexandria Bonnet to Cherrydale on December 2, 2007. Christopher checked in at 8.25 pounds and 20.5 inches. Big brother Tony, 7, and sister Victoria, 12, are helping with the chores and are delighted to now be a trio. 🍒

## Edna Mitchell

a resident of Cherrydale for over 50 years passed away quietly at home on December 1. Her son Reg is one of our stalwart newsletter delivery people.

## CHERRYDALE SPRINGTIME 🍒

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**Undergrounding**, from page 1  
removal of the utility pole we should FINALLY have been able to plant trees there.

The solution to all the above problems would be to move the utility boxes 10 -20 feet further back and to the west on VDOT property. At the end of the meeting Mr. Tejada did ask the engineers to get estimates for this possibility but he was not hopeful.

Mr. Tejada noted County's concern about wasting money already spent if we move these utility boxes. But it was pointed out that the cable wires are not placed yet. So we are really only looking at the cost of the dirt mound and the concrete pads placed there. The money spent examining the storm water pipe was not wasted, it had to be done. The pipes placed thus far had to go there anyway and can simply be extended 10-20 feet to a better site. And County will probably have to install a retaining wall if they keep the boxes where planned and that's an expense we can forego if the boxes are moved.

It would be useful to see the expenses for this part of the project thus far.

It was agreed that in about a month's time we'll have estimates for moving the utilities. Ms. Watson is also going to look into getting permission to plant attractive landscaping on the sides (but not in front or back) of the boxes. So we should meet again around March 30th.

At the end of the meeting Abe and Maureen drove over to some sites on Stafford and Randolph Streets that had unattractive cable wire dangling at pedestrian level. He will get the utility companies to safely secure or remove the wires.☺

#### **Resolution**, from page 3

of the following for EXTERIOR ADS:

(A) Not allowing Exterior ADs at this time; and

(B) If considering Exterior ADs in the future, requiring the relevant Interior/Semi-Detached requirements listed above and the following additional limitations:

– Exterior AD permits are granted by the County Board using a public process that enables the Board to set additional use permit conditions for the Exterior AD; and

– Exterior ADs are allowed only on larger lots that have significant unbuilt space, which could be achieved by requiring:

– That the exterior AD meet the setback requirements for the main building on the property, with no exceptions for ADs in garages that are within the setback area.

– That the allowable footprint of the main building and the AD footprint (added together) be limited to the current maximum allowable main building footprint.☺

#### **A Conversation with Journalism Legend Helen Thomas**

**March 2, 2008, 2:00 PM**

**Central Library Auditorium**

OFTEN CALLED "The First Lady of the Press," veteran White House reporter, author and Hearst Newspapers columnist Helen Thomas looks back as an eyewitness to history and delves into her story when she sits for a conversation with Arlington Public Library Director Diane Kresh. This event is in recognition of National Women's History Month. A book signing will follow the remarks.☺

## **Spring Cleaning in the Garden:**

*Now's the Time to get to the Weeding, Pruning and Dead-heading!*

**J**UST ITCHING TO GET OUTSIDE and do some gardening? OK, but don't plan to plant anything yet — frost can still strike even until late April, and sometimes longer. OK to think about early Spring veggies (peas?), maybe, if you're ready to rush out and put covers over the new delicate plants.

But this is definitely the time for preparation. And it's a good time, too, to flex one's muscles gingerly — while basking in the afternoon warm sun ...which goes down almost as quickly as our desire to get dirty! Best to take time to stare at the process of making more fireplace ashes for use around the rhododendrons later.

#### **WEEDING THE WHILE AWAY ...**

Actually, this is the best time to go after nasty weeds. Their little growth is easy to pull out. The ground is soft and easier to manipulate. And in most areas, nothing has been sown yet so anything that's green and coming up is probably a weed.

We know of a delicate lady who shudders at the thought of yanking anything anywhere, so she uses undiluted vinegar sprayed on the weeds. And it doesn't leave a potential residue like some chemical weed-killers. Others have tried pouring boiling water on weeds to kill them — but the thought of running in and out of the house with pots of boiling water just doesn't make that idea seem too appealing.

Wildest story about weeding came from a neighbor — he knew of someone who had a flame gun that was used to light the charcoal briquettes in the barbeque grill. He claimed success in zapping weeds with his trusty flame gun. Sounded like a better way to work out aggressions than weeding.

#### **PRUNING BEFORE THE BUDS ARRIVE —**

Now's also the best time for some judicious pruning. Roses should be cut back before the buds come out. The profile of the branches without leaves provides an opportunity to develop the most attractive overall shape.

For the woody-stemmed shrubs like forsythia, weigela and others, wait until their bright welcoming blossoms are just about ready to drop before administering the pruning shears. Identify the elder stems that haven't produced many flowers (the youngest blossom most, an observation of profound significance!). But don't take out all of them — roughly 20% each year is fine for removing the elderly stems, down at their base of the shrub. Some like to snip and trim forsythia into manicured hedges. Not us. We love those soaring wands of yellow, like shooting stars in Spring reminiscent of the Fourth.

#### **DEAD-HENDING IS IMPORTANT —**

In the next month or so, as the wonderful Spring pastels of many bushes and flowers provide visual candy, don't hesitate to take off the old blossoms once the color has faded. Some remove the browned-out

*He claimed success in zapping weeds with his trusty flame gun. Sounded like a better way to work out aggressions than weeding.*

heads because they're fastidious and don't like the appearance of decay. (Often the blossoms go mushy brown to serve as instant fertilizer for the impending seeds!)

More often than not, a blossom becomes discolored because it's been pollinated — by bees attracted to its color — and now its seeds are going to absorb energy for growth. By removing the dead head, energy gets diverted to improving the strength and health of the shrub or plant.

It's especially true for some of the woody plants — like rhododendrons, camellias, and the like. But the same principle applies to flowering bulb plants — so leave the green leaves attached to the bulbs as long as possible, to drive energy down to the bulbs for next year.

Wish those wonderful pastel blossoms could last longer? Stop by our store to pick up one or two blossoms just to float in a saucer of water ... a wonderful way to stretch out the impending Spring lovelies!

Happy Gardening!

Marnie & John Nicholson

Company Flowers & Gifts, Too!

## **The View from My Porch**

by **Andy Murphy**



**Pasha:**  
**A memory**

NEXT MONTH MY WIFE and I will celebrate 20 years of being together, and all of it in Cherrydale. A character we cherish from those early days was the owner of the Egyptian restaurant two doors down from us, *Pasha*, now called *Portabello's*. (Not to be confused with the current Pasha, that fine restaurant next to the 7-11 and our default choice when dining out.)

No, this pasha was Rafat Ali, aka Uncle Roy, who held court in one of his booths from noon 'til dusk, as did the pashas from his village southwest of Cairo. Roy loved arguing philosophy, telling of Egypt's place in world history, adjudicating disputes among his many Sudanese workers, and dispensing advice to all who sought it. Well, not that many sought it, but that certainly didn't discourage him. I can still see him dipping into a cabbage leaf cup of exotic humus with his home-made pita.

I'm writing this column on Primary Day, 2/12, and it was the American political process that brought Roy to his fullest as an orator-pundit-sage. He loved how it brought people into the system, and he would have loved this time around. (In South Carolina's primary last month 6 times the usual number of voters came out.)

One of my fondest memories was January 20, 1993. Teri and I sat across from Roy eating savory, skewered lamb chunks with our colorful tabouli. He had tears in his eyes. "Do you realize how significant this inauguration is? Your Mr. Bush and his party are turning over the government to Mr. Clinton. Republicans are giving up power peacefully. And no one's blood will be spent! I'm so moved."

We were, too. Of course the transfer would be peaceful, we thought; it never occurred to us otherwise; it's our heritage. Not for Roy or most of the world, I guess. Thank you for that insight, that awareness, Pasha. Thanks for the memory. I'm going to vote now.

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SIX TIMES A YEAR, some of your neighbors put the shoe leather to the road to get *Sweet and Sour News* to your door. The efforts of other Cherrydalers who provide news and content, layout and printer coordination would mean very little without the effort and reliability of the people listed below. Thank them, if you're home when the next issue is delivered. -Editor

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## Cherrydale Residents Reach Out to Children of Honduras

*What follows is a letter from Cherrydale residents Reade and Lisa Bush who spent 2 months in Honduras assisting in bettering the lives of children who rely on income earned from hand-processing the recyclable materials from a local dump.*

HI EVERYONE!

We just got back to the States. We were working and living with another couple from the US who has been living in Nueva Suyapa, a very poor neighborhood in Tegucigalpa, Honduras for the past 3 years.

The couple has been working on a variety of projects including small business development in a very poor area of the city; improving the international adoptions from Honduras (currently there are only about 30 per year due to problems with the adoption

## Cherrydale Home Sales 2007

Address	ListPrice	ClosePrice	Bdrms	Baths	Lot Acres	CloseDate
1609 STAFFORD ST	\$739,900	\$730,000	4	3	0.166621	1/4/07
1527 RANDOLPH ST N	\$1,095,900	\$1,120,600	5	5	0.14	1/5/07
1736 QUEBEC ST N	\$520,000	\$490,000	2	1	0.1559	1/30/07
1801 RANDOLPH ST	\$789,900	\$789,900	5	3	0.1559	2/2/07
1907 KENMORE ST N	\$749,900	\$742,000	3	3	0.172176	2/7/07
3803 18TH ST N	\$590,000	\$640,000	2	2	0.140657	3/6/07
2044 OAKLAND ST N	\$869,000	\$860,000	3	3	0.031313	3/28/07
1911 RANDOLPH ST N	\$649,900	\$620,000	3	3	0.103306	3/28/07
1827 STAFFORD ST	\$1,450,000	\$1,365,000	6	5	0.22966	3/28/07
4034 20TH RD N	\$799,900	\$775,000	3	2	0.164991	3/30/07
4205 21ST ST N	\$1,200,000	\$1,125,000	5	4	0.15714	4/30/07
2033 STAFFORD ST N	\$1,599,000	\$1,678,443	5	5	0.177916	5/4/07
2128 STAFFORD ST N	\$675,000	\$662,000	3	2	0.11258	5/30/07
1914 QUINCY ST N	\$999,950	\$985,000	3	5	0.227135	6/4/07
1822 STAFFORD ST	\$1,349,900	\$1,349,000	5	4	0.172176	6/7/07
1617 STAFFORD ST	\$1,320,000	\$1,300,000	4	4	0.166621	6/12/07
3305 20TH ST N	\$624,999	\$625,000	3	2	0.164761	6/19/07
2056 OAKLAND ST N	\$799,999	\$790,000	3	3	0.02601	6/26/07
2086 OAKLAND ST N	\$799,000	\$790,000	3	3	0.025092	7/27/07
1709 STAFFORD ST N	\$650,000	\$650,000	4	2	0.166644	9/28/07
1900 QUEBEC ST	\$539,000	\$400,000	2	1	0.13921	9/28/07
2010 LINCOLN ST	\$1,199,000	\$1,130,000	5	4	0.172176	9/30/07
1902 MONROE ST N	\$725,000	\$675,000	4	3	0.157622	10/5/07
4040 20TH ST N	\$625,000	\$610,000	3	2	0.125275	12/21/07
2046 OAKLAND ST N	\$829,000	\$785,000	3	4	0.031313	12/27/07

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## Cherrydale Library Happenings

**Monday: 10 am-9 pm**  
**Tuesday & Wednesday: 1 pm-9 pm**  
**Thursday: 10 am-6 pm**  
**Friday & Saturday: 10 am-5 pm**  
**Sunday: Closed.**  
**703-228-6330**  
[www.home.comcast.net/~suza1/library.htm](http://www.home.comcast.net/~suza1/library.htm)

### CHILDRENS STORY HOUR SESSIONS

Call library for more information: 703-228-6330. Join us for stories, songs, finger-plays, and a craft.

**Twos on the Floor.** For 2-year-olds, with an adult. Thursdays at 10:15 am. Winter session runs through March 13. Spring session begins March 26 and runs through May 14. No registration required.

**Older Twos, Threes & Fours Together.** For older 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds, with an adult. Thursdays at 11:15 am. Winter session runs through March 13. Spring session begins March 26 and runs through May 14. No registration required.

**Read to Me: Family Stories.** All ages, with an adult. Wednesdays at 4 pm for both sessions. Winter session runs through March 12. Spring session begins March 27 and runs through May 15. No registration required.

**Baby Steps:** Up to 12 months, with an adult. Monday at 10:30 am on April 7, April 14, April 21, & April 28. PLEASE NOTE: Unlike the above programs, this one requires advance registration, which begins in April.

## Cherrydale Library Book Discussion

Monday, March 10 at 7:30 pm

Facilitated by volunteer Joan Marik. New participants are always welcome, even if you read the book some time ago. E-mail Suzanne Embree (suza1@comcast.net) to learn more. Call 703-228-6330 to sign up for a discussion or to reserve a title (usually available a month in advance).

**MONDAY, MARCH 10 (7:30): Water for Elephants: A Novel**, by Sara Gruen. #1 New York Times Bestseller.

**MONDAY, APRIL 14 (7:30 PM): Suite Francaise**, by Irene Nemirovsky. Amazon reader rating: 4-1/2 stars (out of a possible 5 stars), written during WWII, paperback published in 2007. "Celebrated in pre-WWII France for her bestselling fiction, the Jewish Russian-born Nemirovsky was shipped to Auschwitz in the summer of 1942, months after this long-lost masterwork was composed. Nemirovsky, a convert to Catholicism, began a planned five-novel cycle as Nazi forces overran northern France in 1940. This gripping 'suite,' collecting the first two unpolished but wondrously literary sections of a work cut short, has surfaced more than six decades after her death. . . . [The book] describes daily life, emotional life, and especially the comedy it provides, . . . focusing—with compassion and clarity—on individual human dramas."—*Publishers Weekly*. . . . "Everything about this transcendent novel is miraculous."—*Booklist, American Library Association*. . . . Stunning. . . . a tour de force. —*The New York Times Book Review*. . . . Extraordinary. . . . A work of Proustian scope and delicacy, by turns funny and deeply moving. —*Time*

**MONDAY, MAY 12 (7:30 PM): Brother, I'm Dying**, 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award Finalist for Autobiography, and nominee for the National Book Award, by Edwidge Danticat. *Arlington County BIG READ selection*. . . . 288 pages. . . . 5 stars (out of a possible 5 stars). . . . "A spellbinding tale, . . . [h]er memoir revolves around the lives of her father, who left Haiti for New York City in 1971, and his elder brother Joseph, who stayed behind."—*Ms. Magazine*. "Late in 2004, his life threatened by an angry mob, forced to flee his church, the frail, eighty-one-year-old Joseph makes his way to Miami, where he thinks he will be safe. Instead, he is detained by U.S. Customs, held by the Department of Homeland Security, brutally imprisoned, and dead within days. It was a story that made headlines around the world"—*Publisher*. . . . "Edwidge Danticat's [book] will break your heart but put it back together through the healing magic of her clear, compassionate, beautiful writing." —Julia Alvarez, author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost their Accent*. ☺

**A good novel tells us the truth about its hero and a bad one, the truth about its author.**  
**—G.K. Chesterton**



### SWEET AND SOUR NEWS IS LOOKING FOR A NEW EDITOR/PUBLISHER to begin with the next issue, May / June.

S&SNews is produced now on Mac in PageMaker 6.5 then PDF files are created and emailed to Quality Graphics to do the printing. Photoshop is necessary to manage photos and some of the standing graphics files, i.e. masthead, department heads, etc. I'm not familiar with Windows machines but I understand that Mac Pagemaker files can be read by the PageMaker and InDesign versions for Windows and all the Photoshop files will translate.

As an alternative possibility, I know that Microsoft has Publisher, a page layout program, although I'm unfamiliar with its capabilities.

I can provide all the fonts should my successor wish to continue the current "look" of the S&SNews. The ads exist now for the year, although new ones could come later. The layout of content runs around the ad layout.

Katherine Christensen does all the ad account work and the clients send ad files to the editor.

Content assignments are made with the leadership at a officers meeting roughly 2 weeks before deadline (3-4 weeks before the next CCA meeting) and they provide most of the "business of Cherrydale" news and interactions with County. Maureen Ross is a prime source. Other sources of news come from the residents by making appeals on the listserve. Scanning the listserve frequently adds additional material, remembering that the listserve reaches barely 25% of Cherrydale residents. Be willing to expand interesting posts by contacting the writer.

Evan Lacopo manages the distribution to the foot soldiers who usually need two weeks and 3 weekends to deliver the newsletter. Evan too provides news items and announcements mostly of Cherrydale events throughout the year, 4th of July party, home tour, etc. Check with Scott Springston for info on the Yard sale and the Cherrydale Parade. If anyone is interested contact Brian Bonnet or Bill L'Hommedieu (see page 2 for phone numbers and email addresses) ☺



process there), and working with several schools in poor areas, including the one at the trash dump, to help improve their funding and expand their reach to include more kids. This couple is quite amazing as they basically left their jobs in the US, sold almost all of their possession, and moved to Honduras 3 years ago. The husband did not even know Spanish! But he has learned it. He gave up a very lucrative career in the private sector, and now they live in a very poor section of Tegucigalpa called Nueva Suyapa. They are partnering with two groups called Orphan Outreach and Servant Partners.



Their website is [www.bigbrightidea.com](http://www.bigbrightidea.com)

Initially, our plan was for me to volunteer in a clinic and my wife to volunteer in a school. But the clinic closed before we arrived and the kids went on their summer break. We changed plans and started doing activities with some of the kids in Nueva Suyapa. They are very bored during their break as they are often left alone - most of the moms work during the day, struggling to make \$4-5 a day. Many kids do not know fathers, since it's common for fathers to have three or four families. The moms are often left to fend for themselves, and the children

are left home alone. These kids are truly incredible. As little as they have, they make the most out of their lives. They find incredible joy in making kites out of newspaper and sticks. Pretty amazing.

We did a number of activities with them ranging from arts and crafts, lessons about hand washing and stopping littering (which is a terrible problem down there), basic nutrition lessons as well as playing soccer with them. The kids would line up at our doorstep every day looking for things to do. We felt very honored to work with them.

We visited the school at the dump and the actual dump site for the city where kids and adults worked to collect valuables to make a living. Collecting a pound of paper would yield them a nickel. The school at the dump was started 7 years ago by a local pastor to help give the kids an opportunity for a future. He has since raised money from local and international donations to create an actual school building - much better than their founding days when they actually 250 taught the kids at the dump itself. Some

*continued next page*

## Cherrydale Veterinary Clinic



4038 Lee Highway  
Arlington, VA 22207  
703-528-9001  
Fax 703-243-8586  
[www.cherrydalevet.com](http://www.cherrydalevet.com)



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*To Enhance the psychological and physical well-being of people by helping extend the length and quality of their pets' lives, thereby preserving the human-animal contact.*



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## Quality Graphics & Printing, Inc.

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Arlington, VA 22207  
Tel: 703/528-6161  
Fax: 703/528-6163  
E-Mail: [qgap@aol.com](mailto:qgap@aol.com)

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Affordable, personalized assistance.  
Evenings and weekends. Your home or office.

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H/O: 703.528.1009 Cell: 571.217.9949

Arlington Chamber of Commerce



## The Community Connection

- Do you want a referral to get some work done around the house?
- Has your dog or cat wandered off for a neighborhood tour?
- Do you have something to say and share with the community?

JOIN THE CHERRYDALE LISTSERVE to get or give personal referrals, send out alerts for missing pets, voice your opinion and to stay informed about anything that may be going on in Cherrydale.

Go to [www.Cherrydale.net](http://www.Cherrydale.net) to sign up. DO IT TODAY!



kids and 800 adults work daily at the dump. It is very dangerous, and sometimes the people will contract illnesses from getting stuck by a needle, or get run over by a trash truck. The pastor has a goal to get all kids out of the dump by 2010, and the adults out by 2017 by actually creating a recycling center where they can be employed and work in a safer environment. You can see more about what the pastor is doing to help these kids and families at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWn4zkND0mc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWn4zkND0mc)

We also worked to get some of the poorest kids enrolled in school. One family we helped was a mom with three kids, aged

8, 5, and 3. The mom worked during the day; the eight year old took care of his siblings. It was very sad to see. They were living in a 10 x 8 foot shack with only a twin bed for all of them.

Our two months in Honduras was very sobering. While we were very sad to see the struggles of these people, it certainly gave us a great appreciation for them and how much we have in the U.S. We really did not want to come back! We felt hopeless at times in the light of the despair of these people, yet encouraged by some of the positive projects underway.

*Reade and Lisa Bush*



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