

# SWEET&SOUR NEWS

THE CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION • QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • Winter 2020

Next Meeting of the  
**CHERRYDALE  
CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATION (CCA)**

**Wednesday, January 29, 7:30pm**  
**Saint Agnes Parish Hall**  
**1910 N. Randolph Street**

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## Children's House Montessori Files for Use Permit: Application for Second Campus at 3436 Lee Highway

Children's House Montessori School (CHMS), a private local Montessori toddler and preschool, has submitted an application to the County for a use permit to open a second campus for its Montessori toddler and preschool students at 3436 Lee Highway (on the corner of Lincoln Street). CHMS has operated a Montessori school for two- to five-year-old children in the nearby Old Dominion neighborhood since 2000. Cherrydaler **Denise Torma** served as the head of school for 19 years. Her son, Jad, is currently a Montessori Director at CHMS.

This will also be the second pre-school to open on the corner of Lee Highway and Lincoln Street. This past fall the County granted a use permit to VINCI Early Learning School, a private child care and education center, to open its third location at 3508 Lee Highway.

CHMS will not be able to rehabilitate the existing buildings on the site. It has engaged Bowie Gridley Architects to design a new two- to three-story building. The firm has wide experience in Arlington County, designing the new Wakefield High School building and Long Branch Elementary School. CHMS has also engaged Gorove/Slade to perform a traffic analysis of drop-off and pick-up impacts. The CCA plans to request that the County make some additional changes to impacted streets to address potential traffic impacts. CHMS's use permit application, building designs, and traffic study are available on the CCA website, [www.cherrydale.net](http://www.cherrydale.net).

Denise and Jad look forward to meeting with you at our next CCA meeting on **Wednesday, January 29, 7:30pm, Saint Agnes Parish Hall, 1910 N. Randolph Street.**

## Arlington County Looking for Census Partners

Arlington County is looking for Census Partners for the 2020 Census. The Census is used to plan and provide services and support for the Arlington Community. Assistant County Manager Bryna Helfer will explain what Cherrydale can do at our next CCA meeting on **Wed, Jan. 29, 7:30pm, St Agnes Parish Hall, 1910 N. Randolph Street.**

## Bistro 29/Billy's Cheesesteaks Closes

Long-time Cherrydale restaurant Bistro 29 and its take-out companion Billy's Cheesesteaks closed on December 31. The restaurant was a local favorite for many Cherrydalers, and H.B. Woodlwan students used to frequent Billy's. We don't have word yet what might replace the restaurant, but we will let you know as soon as we learn more.



## Successful Restoration at Cherry Valley Nature Area

by Jim Todd

Cherrydalers and members of the **Restoration Anglican Church** joined together on November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with a mission to make **Cherry Valley Nature Area** more accessible for everyone. It was a success!

We now have two new trails, including one with a new stair case, and a newly-cleared connection to the **Custis Trail**. We removed invasives, re-opened older trails, and re-opened narrow passages in the park.

Thank you to everyone who took part and offered your time to make Cherrydale a better place for all.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future community improvements, please contact **Jim Todd** at [president@cherrydale.net](mailto:president@cherrydale.net).



*Cherrydale residents and church-goers volunteer at the Cherry Valley Nature Area, November 2.*

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## Cherrydale Garden Club News

by Mary Byrne

All are invited to the 2020 meetings of the newly formed **Cherrydale Garden Club**. Join us in February as we plan a spring community improvement project and help our fellow gardeners prepare for the next planting season. The club will meet at **Cherrydale Library** on February 8 and March 14 at 3:00 p.m. To learn more, contact **Joan McIntyre** at [jfmcintyre57@gmail.com](mailto:jfmcintyre57@gmail.com).

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## Nature Photography Exhibit

by Glenn Mai

Between February 11 and April 28, visit the **Cherrydale Library** to see photographs of local wildlife taken by members of the **Nature Photography Meetup of DC/MD/VA**. The photography exhibit will feature approximately twenty pictures of local eagles, owls, osprey, frogs and more. There will also be information about locations near the Cherrydale neighborhood where these eagles, owls, and osprey can be easily found.

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## Car World Lot For Sale

by Jim Todd

We have learned that the underlying property of Cherrydale used-car business Car World, located at 3501 Lee Highway (on the corner of Lincoln Street), is for sale. The 16,000 sq. ft. lot is zoned C-2. It is part of our Cherrydale Revitalization District.

We have asked some local land-use experts who report that, by right, the lot could be redeveloped to provide about 30 residential units or to include ground-floor retail with about 13 residential units above. Under a Site Plan process, it might be able to provide ground-floor retail and up to 24 residential units above. We will let you know as soon as we hear more.





# Cherrydale's Springston Family

by Mary Byrne



*The Springston "Christmas House," yard decorations add Christmas cheer to the neighborhood.*

Every Cherrydaler knows about the **"Christmas House"** on North Quebec Street. Many of us make a pilgrimage to see it each year. Holiday decorations, ornaments, and lights cover the house and fill the yard with a glow that can be seen a block away. Newcomers want to know more about the family that makes this fabulous display happen every year.

Meet the **Springston family**, one of Cherrydale's oldest residents and longest-serving families.

**Scott and Kathy Springston** live at 1713 N. Quebec Street, where they raised their son Dakota in a house that Kathy's parents bought in 1946. They are devoted residents and historians of Cherrydale who have shown their love for the community by contributing in every imaginable way to its betterment.

Scott was president of the **Cherrydale Citizen's Association** for more than five years. He has been a science fair judge at **W-L High School**, a Smithsonian volunteer, a historical presenter, a photography club leader, an Arlington task force advisor, a Parks committee member, and a Ball-Sellers House Museum guide.



*Scott Springston leads the Cherrydale Parade, circa 1998.*

Kathy's community work matches Scott's. She has been involved in every Cherrydale application of Arlington's Neighborhood Conservation Program, beginning with the creation of **Oak Grove Park** in the late 1970s. She worked as an education specialist for the Smithsonian Institutions and for the National Park Service, was a founding member and chair of the **Arlington County Fair**, edited several community newsletters, has given countless historical presentations, and served as a curator, director, and board member of the **Arlington Historical Society**.

That's not all. For many years, both Scott and Kathy served the **Cherrydale Fire Department**. And they continue to organize both the annual **Cherrydale Parade** and **Cherrydale Yard Sale**.



## Cherrydale's Springston Family (continued)

The family's commitment to the community stems from deep roots in Cherrydale and Virginia.

Kathy's parents moved in 1940 from Minnesota to D.C., where Kathy's father held a war-time job as a civilian engineer for the Naval Department. For the newlyweds, D.C. was a bit too urban. They looked for a place with more of a "country" feel, close-by grocery stores, and proximity to public transportation and schools.

Then one day a "House Available" sign, posted on the bulletin board at Kathy's father's workplace, offered what they were looking for—a modest house, big lot, old trees, and public transport into the city across the river. Cherrydale.

Kathy's parents immediately fell in love with the small, 1890-built house on what was then Edgewood Street. They purchased it for \$10,000—less than today's yearly tax bill for the property. Named the "Tin Can" house (its cement walls are filled with bottles, cans, and other refuse donated as filler by neighbors during construction), it has been Kathy's home ever since. As a teenager Kathy cared for her semi-paralyzed mother in the house after her father's early death from cancer. It was still her home years later in 1981 when she met Scott, who was helping with carpentry work at the Arlington Historical Society Museum.

Scott is a Virginian in a way that most of us transplants could never be. His 12<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather Thomas Graves came to the **Jamestown colony** in 1608 on the ship **Mary and Margaret** and served in the first **House of Burgess**. Other of Scott's ancestors include **Mayflower** arrivals, founders, and pioneers of most of the other twelve colonies. Scott was born in Alexandria, raised in Falls Church, and grew up to become a photojournalist, a media specialist in the Fairfax County school system, and in his spare time is an amateur historian and collector.

Scott and Kathy's son **Dakota Springston** was born in 1991. Dakota attended Glebe Elementary at a time when there were



*Dakota (son) and Scott (father) Springston, circa 2004.*

only two kindergarten classrooms, and Arlington Public Schools was worried about what to do with the under-populated school. Today, more than 550 children are enrolled at Glebe Elementary.

Now 28 years old, Dakota is a graduate of both Mary Washington University and Marymount University. He teaches history at Gunston Middle School and, like his mother, leads historical tours for the Smithsonian Institution. Dakota loves Cherrydale and plans to continue the family's contributions. "I love the history of the community," he says. "I'm going to stay to be a part of it."

*(Continued next page.)*



## Cherrydale's Springston Family (end)

The Christmas display that has become a holiday essential for generations of Arlingtonians has its roots in Kathy's family's Nordic traditions. "My father built on those customs as long as he was able," said Kathy. Scott took up the charge when he moved in.

The couple's love of the holiday and for the tradition of Kathy's family grew into the current display, a

holiday collection—eclectic and whimsical—with a Thomas the Tank Engine (made by Scott out of fiberglass, wood, and an old metal barrel), more than fifty Santa and Mrs. Santa statues, and light-up dinosaurs to satisfy Dakota's childhood love for everything Cretaceous.



*Santa Claus has come to town, say the Springstons.*

There's also a mailbox for letters to Santa. Santa keeps them all.

This year, the Springstons were worried that the display would not be as extravagant as usual because Kathy has been recovering from a broken foot. But with the help of neighbors and friends, Scott and Dakota pulled off a show that didn't disappoint.

For many longtime residents, thinking about the Springston family and thinking about Cherrydale are one and the same. From their leadership of the Cherrydale Parade to their advocacy for Cherrydale parks, the Springston's love for and service to the community has inspired new neighbors to be of service as well.

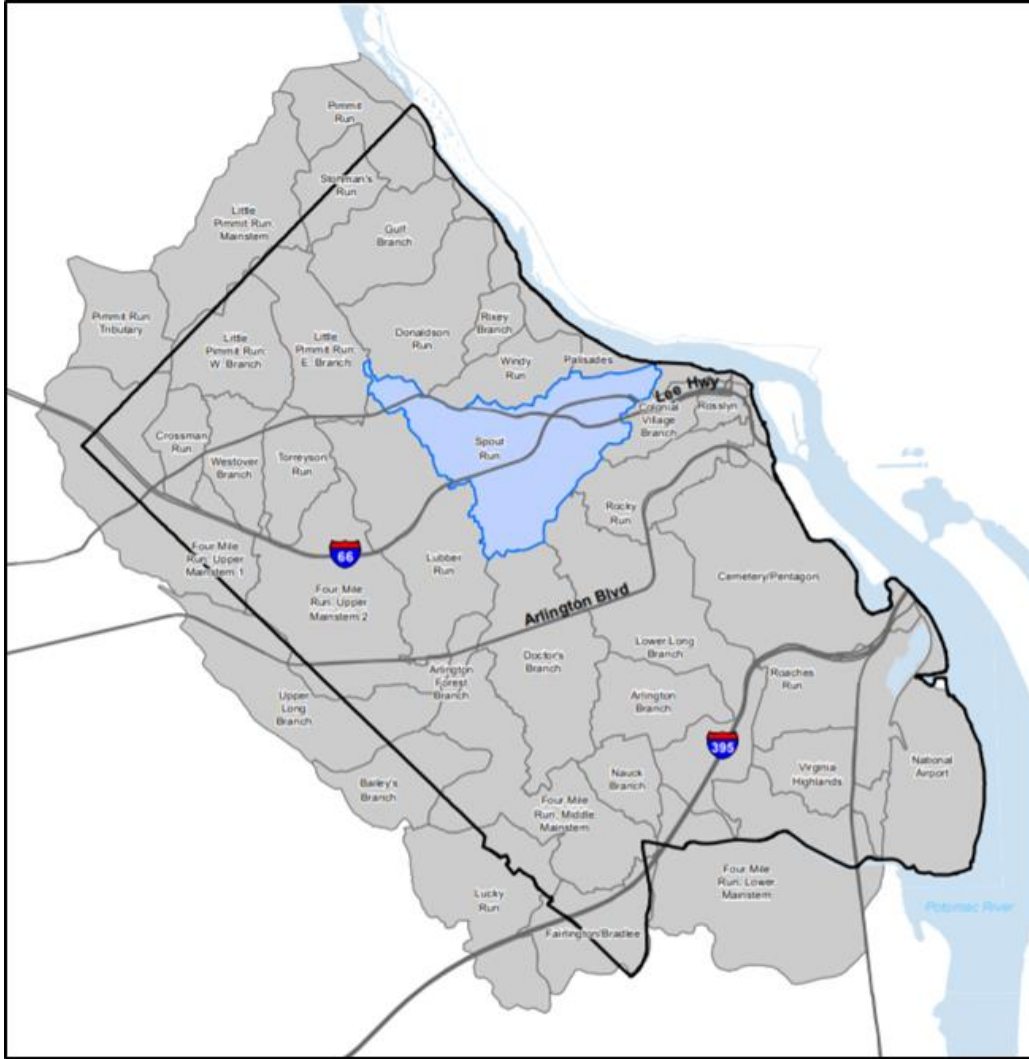
The Springstons hope that new Cherrydale residents and young families will see the value of volunteering for the community—to preserve what Scott calls "a small hometown with a small hometown feel." Cherrydale, they say, should remain a community that "knows about its past and cares about its connection to the future."

# Stormwater Management Issues:

## County Leaders Brief Cherrydale and Waverly Hills Citizens

by Mary Byrne

The **Cherrydale Citizens Association** and the **Waverly Hills Civic Association** held a joint meeting in November to discuss stormwater issues with a representative from Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services (DES).



*Spout Run watershed (blue region), Arlington County Map. (Courtesy of CH2M HILL.)*

**Demetra McBride**, bureau chief of DES' Office of Sustainability and Environmental Management, summarized a recently completed DES study of stormwater issues around the **Spout Run watershed**, a major source of the stormwater that flooded parts of Cherrydale and Waverly Hills during the July 8 super storm.

To the surprise of many at the meeting, McBride said that recent construction of large houses in our neighborhoods has only an incremental impact on the stormwater issues. The problems, she said, are older and stem from the County's failure to implement a management plan before serious development began years ago. Although 75 percent of Arlington was developed by 1960, the County did not adopt a stormwater management plan until 1978.

"The system," she said, "isn't handling it." The intensity of the July storm, McBride said, was like the difference between "turning on a garden hose and turning on a firehose."

McBride and her team are working on a three-part plan to address the problem. The challenge is complicated, she said, and "is not just a matter of growing pipes."

The DES proposal includes **dropping "vaults"** in strategic flood-prone areas to temporarily hold stormwater during high-intensity storms. The County would have to use existing park space and acquire property in flood-prone areas to hold the vaults. "Trees," McBride said, "would need to be removed."

McBride says her group has considered plans that range in cost from \$12 million to \$80 million. The former would only be sufficient for five years and could not address a July 8-intensity storm. DES' plan is expected to be released to the public in February 2020. The County is expected to adopt a budget that would include the plan in June 2020. If approved, construction could begin by the end of 2021.





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## CHERRYDALE LIBRARY HAPPENINGS

2190 Military Rd., (703) 228-6330, [www.CherrydaleLibrary.org](http://www.CherrydaleLibrary.org)  
Mon. & Thurs.: 10:00am–9:00pm Fri. & Sat.: 10:00am–5:00pm  
Tues. & Wed.: 1:00pm–9:00pm Sun.: Closed  
January & February Free Programs. For more info, see our website.

### Preschool Storytimes **\*\*No registration required\*\***

- Mondays, 10:30-11:00am, (except Feb. 17), "Under Twos Storytime"
- Mondays, 4:15-4:45pm, (except Feb 17), "Stop in for Stories" (ages 0-5)
- Thursdays, 10:30-11:00am, "Stop in for Stories" (ages 0-5)

### Ages 6 & Under **\*\*No registration required\*\***

- Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Tues., Feb. 11, 7:00-8:00pm. Bring a favorite stuffed animal for a sleepover-themed storytime. Stuffed animals are invited to spend the night and can be picked up the next day. Come in wearing your PJs! Call the library for more info.

### K-5 Kids' Programs

- Children's Storytelling Workshop: Tuesdays in January, 5:30-6:30pm. Three weeks of rehearsals with a performance on Jan. 28. Call library for info. **\*\*Online registration required\*\***
- Kids' STEAM Club: first Thursday of each month, 4:00-4:45pm, Sept.-May. BUILD! PLAY! DESIGN! Elementary school children are invited for a different hands-on tinkering, design, and build challenge each month. See details at website above. **\*\*No registration required\*\***
- "Paws to Read": first Saturday of each month, 15-min sessions, by appointment, 3:00-4:00pm. Patient, nonjudgmental attention from qualified dogs for emerging readers! **\*\*Online registration required\*\***

### Teen Special Programs **\*\*No registration required\*\***

- Third Wednesday of each month, 2:45-3:30pm

### All Ages

- Cherrydale Knitting Club: Wednesdays, 7:30pm. All skill levels are welcome. Attendees should bring their own supplies, but needles and yarn are on-hand for beginners to practice. **\*\*No registration required\*\***

### Programs for Ages 18+ Only

- Cherrydale Garden Club: second Saturday each month, 3:00-4:30 pm. Attendance is on a first come-first served basis.
- Nature Photography Exhibit: February 11 through April 28.
- Get Crafty: second Wed. each month, 1:30pm, & on following Mondays, 7:00pm: Feb. 3. **\*\*Online registration required\*\***
- Monday Evening Book Discussions: once a month, 7:30pm. **\*\*No registration required\*\***
- Chasing Pages Book Club: usually fourth Wed. each month, 2:00pm. **\*\*No registration required\*\***
- Tabletop Gaming Night: fourth Monday each month, 7:00-9:00pm. **\*\*No registration required\*\***



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