

SWEET&SOURNEWS

DISTRIBUTED TO 1350
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AND BUSINESSES

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SWEET&SOURNEWS

THE BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION • July-August 2010

WELCOME ALL NEW "CHERRYDALERS"

If you are new to Cherrydale as a Homeowner, Renter or just living in your cousin's basement, Welcome. You are invited to join the Cherrydale Citizens Association.

Let us know who you are by contacting Janet Herrmann, at

WelcomeWagon@Cherrydale.net.

Current Residents may also send names and addresses of new neighbors so a Welcome Packet full of useful and interesting information can be delivered.

3565 LEE HIGHWAY CONDOMINIUM SITE APPROVED

Demolition of current building may occur this Fall. Requests have been made to Christopher Company to save as many mature azelas and crepe myrtles as possible. Occurring in the Fall, transplanting has a high rate of success.

As President of the CCA, I want to thank all of those whose significant efforts over the past 5 years or site plan reviews has led to an acceptable and welcomed compromise. Thank you especially to Tom Korns, Mike Foreman, Ann Quinn, Nancy Iacomini, Kevin O'Brien and Bill and Anna Piats. I apologize if I have omitted anyone.

On the fun side, on completion of construction (hoping for early 2012) a \$75,000 donation for art to be placed along Lee Highway will be made. At the appropriate time a committee of both Maywood and Cherrydale residents will convene to determine what will be the "Art on Lee."

(see page 2-Condos)

DEATH OF CHERRY TREES ON LEE HIGHWAY'S MEDIAN INCREASING

At least 8 Cherry Trees are meeting an untimely death from the ravages of years of construction on Lee Highway. The soil is gradually being replaced by construction materials as Lee's repairs continue. Pat Wegeng of Arlington County Parks is attempting to save as many as possible by obtaining gator bags for the ill trees and cutting down those already meeting their demise. He plans to excavate the ground and replace the contaminated dirt with new, plantophilic soil. While he is leading a determined rescue effort, his staff has become more limited by county cut-backs. It is a tedious process and requires more resources than the county can provide to save the remaining trees and plant new ones. It is time for the businesses along Lee to step up and pitch in by offering help in maintaining tree islands in front of their storefronts. Cherrydale Hardware has done an exemplary job of maintaining trees along their storefront. Management at Safeway has been requested to help. As you frequent retail services along Lee, politely remind the store managers that preserving and maintaining trees is attractive, a community obligation, and good for business.

**Next Meeting of the
CHERRYDALE
CITIZENS
ASSOCIATION
NO MEETING
IN JULY
NEXT MEETING
IN SEPTEMBER
3RD WEDNESDAY**

Agenda:

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CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Have you paid your dues for 2010? It helps cover the cost of community events and this newsletter. Cherrydale merchandise is also available! Just include payment with your membership and we'll deliver the items to your home.

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

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

Phone (evening) _____ Phone (day) _____

Please include me in the Cherrydale Phone Directory (Your information will remain private)

Please add me to the Cherrydale Listserve

I'd like to help by volunteering for: _____

I've added \$ 5, please deliver a drinking glass.

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Contact Katherine Christensen, at 703.841.0692 for details. Make checks payable to: **Cherrydale Citizens Association** and send to Katherine at 1909 N. Randolph St. Arlington VA 22207

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

(Condos from page 1)

On the downside, although funds have been set aside for "traffic calming" measures by Chirstopher Company, the County refuses to place speed humps or even a stop sign without first determining if the SPEED of traffic increases. The increase in the NUMBER of cars traveling the road is not used as a index of need. This, in spite of there being 5 main driveways entering Monroe St. in Maywood. This includes Dominion Heights Condos, Safeway, and 3 residential areas of townhomes and apartments. The increased traffic from the 66 new condo units of Dominion Heights will certainly provide an increased number of cars in an area. Also, Safeway has a high percentage of patrons arriving on foot. The increased number of cars may pose a safety risk for pedestrians the county is unwilling to address until after construction is completed. Then they will only use an increase in SPEED as the evidence for needing "traffic calming measures. Cherrydale supports Maywood in their efforts to have this issue recognized. N. Monroe by Safeway needs traffic calming. The fix is free, so make it happen! - contributed by Maureen Ross

N. KENMORE ST. NEIGHBORHOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT WINS FUNDING

Congratulations to Jim Todd, block captain for the N. Kenmore St. Neighborhood Conservation Project, and the rest of his neighbors. In June, the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee recommended to the County Board that the \$374,000 sidewalk and street light project be fully funded. The NCAC consists of volunteer representatives from 41 Arlington neighborhoods who biannually recommend funding of proposed street, sidewalk, lighting, beautification, and park projects.

Cherrydale's current number one priority project is full paving, gutters, sidewalk, and streetlights for 20th St. N. between Kenmore and Monroe. A property line issue is delaying the design process and it is not expected to be ready for a funding recommendation until December 2011.

Two funded Cherrydale NC projects, N. Randolph between 17th St. and 15th St., and 18th St. between N. Nelson and N. Quincy are in the pre-construction phase. Sewer prep has already begun for N. Randolph and 18th St should start no later than next spring.

If you have any questions about current or future NC projects feel free to email Harry Spector, Cherrydale's NC Representative at harry.spector@gmail.com.

Cherrydale Library Happenings 2190 N. Military Road; 703-228-6330

Citizens for Cherrydale Library Website: www.CherrydaleLibrary.org

Monday: 10:00am - 9:00 pm.
Tuesday: Closed.
Wednesday: 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm.
Thursday: 10:00 am - 6 pm.
Friday & Saturday: 10:00 am - 5 pm.
Sunday: Closed.

'Get Caught Reading' for Kids & Teens : Reading & Special Events!

Register & get details on-line to win prizes at <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Library> or at Cherrydale Library.

Kids All Ages "Get Caught Listening" Storytimes do not require registration. Each Thursday at 10:30 am, starting July 15 and running through August 12. These fun and interactive programs combine read-aloud stories, songs, fingerplays, and flannel boards to introduce children to the library and to the joys of reading and listening to stories. The library encourages the full participation of accompanying adults. An accompanying adult is required.

Programs for Kids Entering Kindergarten through 5th Grade

TICKETS REQUIRED: available at Cherrydale Library on the Saturday before each performance on a first-come, first-served basis until capacity is reached. Advance reservations will not be accepted. Only for children entering kindergarten through 5th grade and one accompanying adult.

Note: Cherrydale Library programs fill quickly.

Mon., July 26 at 4:30 pm: "Clowning Around": Did you miss the circus? No problem!

Bob Brown puppets and merry marionettes perform feats of skill and daring usually found only "under the big top!"

Mon., August 9 at 4:30 pm: In case you needed help learning how to act spontaneously goofy, "Now This Kids!", a totally improvised musical comedy troupe, comes to town with spoofs of every style from rap to opera.

Book Discussions for Adults

Monday, August 9 (7:30 pm): **The Known World**, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, by Edward P. Jones. Published 2003. . . Amazon reader rating: 4 stars (out of 5) . . . 388 pages of text.

"Henry Townsend, born a slave, . . . is part of a small enclave of free blacks who own slaves, thus offering another angle on the complexities of slavery and social relations in a Virginia town just before the Civil War. . . This is a profoundly beautiful and insightful look at American slavery and human nature. --*Booklist*, American Library Assoc.

"Complex, beautifully written, and breathtaking...the book will knock the wind out of you with the depth of its compassion."--*QBR: The Black Book Review*

"[T]he best new work of American fiction to cross my desk in years." --Jonathan Yardley, *Washington Post*.

Monday, September 13 (7:30 pm): **The Post-American World**, *New York Times* bestseller, by Fareed Zakaria. Published 2008 . . . Amazon reader rating: 4 stars (out of 5 stars) . . . 260 pages of text.



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Running the Wires with Verizon

Back in May as president of our association I was contacted by a Verizon Community Liaison employee to go over our issues with their wiring problems (loose, messy and sometime dangerous wiring). So, one evening I took the young man on a tour of a tour of Cherrydale. After a while since he was taking such copious notes with his photos I stopped marking the exact sites in my cell phone. With great relief I looked forward to corrections. Meanwhile the young man wanted an invite to one of our community events so he could show us what Verizon had to offer. I said, "let's wait and see." Thank heavens as you'll soon read...

I then started getting calls from other employees at Verizon, wanting to know where the problem sites were. I kept referring them to the man who took the tour. Turns out he either lost the notes or was only pretending to take notes. "Sigh," another 2 hours down the drain. A month later June 29th, I took Brian Harlow a Verizon technician on the same tour slightly abbreviated. It was an education as he knew what he was talking about. For example, the lowest wires are Verizon, usually the next up are Comcast (as are most orange wires) and the highest are power lines.

We will be posting some of the photos I took from the May 24th first tour. These are sites where wires are hanging loose, or worse, looped so they could catch a pedestrian or bicyclist. Check our website as well as the link to the utility reform letter I hope each of you will send to Governor McDonnell to initiate reforms in utility placement. The link to the letter is Cherrydale.net/index.php?page=dominion-electric.

-contributed by Maureen Ross

Koons Toyota Use Permit - Tire Shop

Progress is slow but steady. We negotiated a win-win between County, Koons and the landowners of the tire shop. Koons was allowed to take up some of the driveway and relandscape with cherry trees, replacing the hated tree-killing planters. But this Spring, our ever-vigilant liaison **Roger Merletti** noted unwatered trees wilting even dying. See pictures. We've now been assured of a watering schedule for the trees.

Meanwhile, thanks also to **Roger**, Koons Employees have a new wonderful benefit. This June Roger complained that Koons employees were again working with the bay doors opening, violating the use permit regarding noise level. **Maureen** ponied the complaint up to top management at Koons, where it was discovered that the employees have been working without air-conditioning! Can you imagine in this heat? So, thanks to Cherrydale relentlessness, the Koons Tire Repair staff will have a more comfortable summer. Thanks Roger!

-contributed by Maureen Ross

FOURTH OF JULY PARTY A HUGE SUCCESS

Despite the heat and humidity, the Cherrydale Fourth of July Party was a huge success. Citizens celebrated Independence Day with a reading of the Declaration of Independence, by giving thanks to those who put themselves in harm's way to provide freedom for all, and by eating, drinking and being merry. The folks of Cherrydale had a chance to see old friends, make new ones, watch the kids bounce and swing and, of course, watch the largest pyrotechnic display in the nation. Young and old alike tried their hand (hips?) at hula hoops, ate a variety of purchased and handmade goodies and watched the fireworks over the Washington Monument from one of the best seats in the area. Many thanks to Layla Hogan and her family and all of the members of the July 4th Party Committee for hosting such a great event. Thanks also to all of the neighbors in the area for their support and patience for this yearly event. The Clean Up Crew did an excellent job and left the streets cleaner than before the party. Thanks to everyone who helped. Your participation made for a memorable event. We have photos to prove it.



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17th St. Cul-de-Sac A Surprise Offer with a Twist

As noted in previous articles, the 10 families on this cul-de-sac were offered major street improvements by the County as part of a storm-water run-off improvement project. For decades the home owners have wanted curb and gutters to keep rainwater out of their basements. The County came in to offer not only C and G but a sidewalk as well. And there's the rub - installing a 5 ft sidewalk with curb will cause the loss of parking on one side of the street.

County insists on installing a sidewalk on one side of the street for ANY street improvement. About 6 years ago the CCA fought for and did win a few exemptions to this rule - e.g., low traffic cul de sacs. However the County is saying since this is also an access to Cherry Valley Park the street improvement must include a sidewalk. The silliness of all this lies in the fact that County did not plan to install either sidewalk, curb or gutter to the park itself, in fact ending improvements before Susan Hennessey's house!

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The neighbors were divided among the various options:

1) Original plan - Install sidewalk on north side, and curb and gutter on both sides, stopping prior to the Hennessey house (County's initial plans). The CCA negotiated to continue the curb and gutter improvements to the end of the Hennessey property if they want it. That's a win.

2) Option 2 - Sidewalk per above but widen N 17th by the end before the dogleg, just to the end of county right of way. This frees up 2-3 more parking spaces. But neighbors lose land in front of houses that they've grown used to using, though do not own. One such neighbor approves it, the other does not. It looks like this option will not go thru.

3). Not a county approved option - when faced with loss of parking due to planned sidewalk, and given that at least 3 houses are group homes, and one family runs a day care center, the majority of neighbors then asked County to just put in curb and gutter all the way to and just beyond the last house. This would take a hard campaign.

CCA did find a hidden driveway where County originally did not plan to install an apron. Now they will and that allows for another off street parking option for homeowner.

Hopefully we'll have a win-win solution by the end of the Summer. Stay tuned. It's rare to be OFFERED street improvement. But County never makes it easy, does it?

-contributed by Maureen Ross

DEBATE ON COUNTY GOVERNANCE SPONSORED BY CCA

The Cherrydale Citizens Association (CCA) bylaws state, "The purpose of the Association shall be to promote the general welfare of Cherrydale, and of Arlington, Virginia; to provide the citizens of Cherrydale with a means of participating in county governance; and to serve as a source of information." In that spirit and as a response to the "energetic" dialogue occurring on the CCA list serve, the CCA decided to sponsor a debate on the proposed referendum on the potential ballot initiative to propose changing the Arlington form of government from the current County Manager type to a County Board Type of governance. In attendance on June 16 were interested citizens of Cherrydale, Maywood, Donadson Run, Foxcraft, Waverly and Chainbridge.

Treeing Cutting and Dominion Power - We Can Do Better

Last week June 29th Maureen Ross met with Dominion Power tree arborists and a County liaison to discuss how Dominion "trimmed" the trees along N Monroe St. Dominion plans to continue through-out Cherrydale and the rest of Arlington this summer, though one of the utility reps promised to hold further trimmings until autumn. Our issue is how the trimming was performed, razor cutting straight up anything within 15 feet of their power lines, even over private property.

Specifically

- limbs were stubbed, not pruned;
- too much was removed even limbs under lines which hence posed no danger;
- trimming was conducted during summer, which is bad for trees (Spring and Fall are better);
- Even the tiniest of limbs were cut back to 15 ft from wires
- Most importantly, Dominion's trimming policy forever prevents street canopy from developing and this is bad ecology.

Dominion's response is that they trim only every 3 years, and have so much to cover they must trim year round. They also state that even a tiny limb brushing against a high voltage wire can touch off a local power failure. Now I've double checked that with other power company experts and they say small limbs touching the lines drains power from the wire but aren't likely to set off a failure. Larger limbs certainly will.

Other power companies are more tree friendly such as NV Energy who state, "We follow the trimming practices recommended by The International Society of Arboriculture and described by Dr. Alex L. Shigo in his book, "Pruning Trees Near Electric Utility Lines: A Field Pocket Guide For Qualified Line-Clearance Workers." They prune every 3 years as well but only 10 feet. I followed this trail and found TREE LINE USA, established to recognize best practices in utility arboriculture. Specifically this organization promotes "the dual goals of dependable utility service and abundant, healthy trees in America's communities." TREE LINE publicly recognizes utilities that meet the requirements of this program "for their contribution to better community."

Surprise, Dominion Power is NOT one of the hundreds of companies recognized for these best practices.

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So where do we stand? We have started a dialogue with Dominion with the short term goal of getting them to abide by Dr Shigo's (and TREE LINE USA) guidelines for pruning near eclectic utility lines. But the long term goal is better technology. How is it that over a hundred years since high voltage lines were established we still lack power that can coexist with street tree canopy? Undergrounding is staggeringly expensive, and by the way, often destroys the roots of mature trees. Alternative energy methods are still in infancy. There must be a way to coat those high voltage lines to allow healthy limbs to reach within say 5 feet of wires.

National Geographic has an article on the power grid this July. Quote, "High voltage is what's dangerous,- but it's also what allows power to be transmitted hundreds of miles without excessive loss." One infers that dense communities like Cherrydale have these dangerous wires so Dominion can feed power to every other community in Arlington. Can we not ask why not have smaller power stations in each community so that high voltage doesn't have to be used? Oldsters like me remember computers the size of a large room, and just a few decades later we carry cell phones with more power. Imagine power stations the size of a mailbox sending less dangerous voltage shorter distances to just neighborhoods? Then we can have tree canopy and more reliable service.

So we'll persist. And your calls and letters will help convince Dominion to work for better communities.

Write: Thomas F Farrell, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, and Mark F. McGettrick, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Dominion Resources Services, Inc.

Shareholder Services 6th FL
P. O. Box 26532
Richmond, VA 23261-6532
Shareholder.Services@dom.com

Also write/copy our Governor Bob McDonnell. Make this grassroots. He wants to be re-elected. Our local representative hold little sway in Richmond. We must carry this effort forward. For a copy of a letter to the governor, go to Cherrydale.net, look under Cherrydale.net/index.php?page=dominion-electric.

-contributed by Maureen Ross

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