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**CHERRYDALE CITIZENS ASSOCIATION  
2011 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.

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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!**

**Next Meeting:**

**CHERRYDALE  
CITIZENS  
ASSOCIATION  
JANUARY 19, 2011  
7:30PM**

**AGENDA:**

7:30 Announcements,  
Snow Clearance Policy,  
Snowblower loan

7:40 Update on Lee Hwy  
and Bromptons Under-  
grounding Delay

7:50 NC Small Projects  
Opportunity! Bring your  
ideas, pick up form.

8:00 Cherrydale and the  
Civil War. Presentation  
by Kathy Holt

9:00 Proposed Building  
for N. Nelson by Devel-  
opers

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**Cherrydale  
and the  
Civil War!**

contributed by Maureen Ross

Our own **Kathy Holt** will be presenting a history of Cherrydale during the Civil War at the January CCA meeting. Don't miss it! Kathy is a professional historian who has lead popular Smithsonian tours of our home town. She was recently on a panel for the NPR show *Kojo Namibi*. And of course Kathy has written the definitive book on the history of Cherrydale.

Ms. Holt is a recognized expert and consulting historian for the National Park Service (and others) on Sears' Kit Homes, a retired Educational Specialist for Northern Virginia History, Study Tour Leader for the Smithsonian Associate Program Tours Office, Consulting Historian for Arlington County, Cultural Affairs Office, Consulting Historian for WETA, (example the December 2004 *Arlington History, Heroes and Hamburgers* television program). Kathy and her husband **Scott Springston** organize the annual Cherrydale Parade as well as the yard sale.

**Meeting with County Manager Regarding  
Lee Highway Undergrounding Delays**

contributed by Maureen Ross

CCA president **Maureen Ross** will be meeting with County Manager Barbara Donnellan January 12th to discuss (and strongly object) to delays in not only the undergrounding along Lee Highway but to all county related projects in Cherrydale. Maureen believes delays are due to a disorganized mismanagement of projects. Perhaps this comes from County Board members changing priorities back and forth among numerous County-wide projects, and starting projects they can't finish, on top of Department of Engineering lack of focus and discipline, along with Virginia Dept. of Transportation bureaucracy issues. Either way, Arlington has a new and welcome County Manager in Ms. Donellen, and the opportunity presents for significant improvement in project management.

At this point, we don't care what the reasons are. We do know long delays are a habit in Arlington County outside of the Metro corridor. Seven blocks of Lee Highway have been a construction project on and off again for 11 years (and it was planned in 1994)! The endless starts and stops, construction mess and interactions with near neighbors have adversely affected businesses, and caused our main thoroughfare to look run-down. (see page 2)

**County Snow Blower Loan....  
We Need a Few More Volunteers**

Contributed by Maureen Ross

The County established a community snowblower loan several years ago but never had enough. This year Maureen Ross applied for a loan for Cherrydale. Jim Todd has volunteered to store the blower and to use it for our purposes. We do need more volunteers though and volunteers must be trained. The more volunteers the more we can accomplish. Note, this is NOT an excuse not to clear your own sidewalks. But we will try to help the elderly and areas that have not been cleared in past. In order to qualify for a County snowblower loan, Cherrydale had to come up with a policy/set of priorities which are the following:

(see page 2)

(Meeting with County Manager,(from page 1)

According to Wikipedia, "The **broken windows theory** is a criminological theory of the normsetting and signalling effects. The theory states that **monitoring and maintaining** urban environments in a well-ordered condition may prevent further vandalism as well as an escalation into more serious crime."

In Maureen's experience, there seems to have been more documented crime and especially vandalism here in Cherrydale in the past 5 years than experienced in the previous 10 years. If the police argue that point she is happy to take out her list and compare it to the police reports.

The CCA maintains that allowing tall weeds, construction debris, broken signs and yes, broken windows, to remain for months and years along Lee Hwy sends a signal that the area is not monitored or cared for and actually encourages further careless behavior. It even affects the attitude of county engineers. When the CCA objected to a phone pole being placed in the middle of the Lincoln St sidewalk blocking stroller and wheelchair access, one engineer responded by saying, "It's a sidewalk going nowhere for God's sake", as if the whole block was a wasteland. Well, it was a sidewalk that had a broken window at old Cherrydale Motors, weeds growing up the pole site 3 feet, and a hundred pound cable left leaning on another pole. Years of construction mess left the engineers to feel free to disregard the land and hence us, the people who live here.

Since 2004 the CCA has met on-site with County Board Members Paul Ferguson, Jay Fissette, Walter Tejada and Barbara Favola to show them our objections to the delays, the mess, the lack of cooperation from engineers, and lack of communication. We've had the board members visit Bono Films site, Lincoln St, and N Pollard St where a phone pole narrows the entrance from Lee Hwy. None of these meetings has brought about change.

County has promised completion of the undergrounding repeatedly since 2002. In November 2004 County Engineer Robert Froh informed us, "the undergrounding of overhead utilities on the south side of Lee Hwy from Oakland to I-66 is in progress" and estimated completion in 6 months! In March of 2006 engineers refused to move the site for utility boxes at Bono films stating the undergrounding would be finished shortly. On January 15, 2008 we met again to discuss the undergrounding delays and objections over Bono Films mess and N Lincoln St. In May of same year we took county engineers on a tour of Lee Hwy undergrounding related eye-sores. The next year, August 10 2010, County Engineer Luis Aroya wrote, "...DES is currently working on finalizing the design plans for undergrounding the utilities along Lee Highway. Dominion Virginia Power and Verizon are actively working with the County to resolve the final design issues that should enable the project to move forward sometime in the spring of 2010." He then wrote, "You also wanted to know if the apron on Lee Highway and North Pollard Street could be pushed back to alleviate the present narrow street intersection. Unfortunately, the only way to widen the intersection as you suggest would require the removal of the two utility poles that cannot be removed until the overhead lines are relocated underground as mentioned above.

Also, the area directly behind the recently-repaired corner will be used for construction vehicle access by the Ed Peete Company throughout the period needed to make the building repairs." So the County clearly knows about all these problems and yet we learn in September 2010 that they still haven't figured out how to finalize the undergrounding. (see page 5, column 1)

### County Snow Blower Loan

(from page 1)

Lee Hwy bus stops and route to Safeway to be cleared in 24 hours

Route to Schools via N Monroe St and N Randolph St to be cleared in 24 hours including I 66 over pass

- 1) Lee Hwy clearance between I 66 ON ramp all the way up to Quincy St will be our first priority. We have sent letters to every business on that street on the CHERRYDALE side and asked them to step up and keep their sidewalks clear. We would have one of our volunteers clear the parts that are not cleared by businesses. Certain sections are never shoveled - the corner on Lee and N Monroe (Dominion Powers corner up to just before AHC) for example, and sections with absentee landowners though RED TOP cab has PROMISED to clear their sections. Most parts near car and gas stations are never shoveled but we raised a little hell and expect some improvement this year.
- 2) Walks to schools would be next priority, N Monroe St to Science Focus including overpass, and Randolph St from Old Lee Hwy to St Agnes and then hopefully down to overpass.

If we get that much done we will have cleared main access for most commuters to buses, metro, and kids going to 2 elementary schools and the high school. Understand, individual property owners are still obliged to clear their sections of sidewalk!

These 2 goals encompass such a large area that ideally we should have 2 snowblowers, one for the west side from Quincy west to Utah, and other for east side. I understand at last County Board meeting that 2 communities took 2-4 snowblowers each so there were none left over. We don't want to be selfish. But we'd gladly take 2 snowblowers if available but have been offered just one thus far.

**Jim Todd** has volunteered stating he'd be able to store the snowblower and use it for above purposes. **Maureen Ross** will also take the training. We need and will ask for more volunteers in case one or both of us are away, sick or tired. Training will be held Wednesday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January at 6:00 pm, Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of January 8am and Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> of January 9am. Training will be held at 2700 South Taylor St. Arlington Va. 22206. Please respond to which training works best for your schedule. Please contact County at 703-228- 6522 and copy Maureen at President@Cherrydale.net. This plan can not work without volunteers.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### A NEW FEATURE in SWEET AND SOUR NEWS

Beginning with the next edition of Sweet and Sour News this page will be dedicated to Letters, Comments, Suggestions, Compliments, Criticisms or Complaints. Or any other issues of local, regional, state or national interest. Priority will be given to those letters relating to current issues being dealt with by the Cherrydale Citizens' Association and issues affecting its residents.

Letters must be accompanied by the writer's name and may be edited for brevity, clarity and appropriateness. Please send letters to:

letters.ssn.editor@gmail.com

The Sweet and Sour News is published every other month the week prior to the Cherrydale Citizens' Association Meeting. (held bimonthly on 3rd Wednesdays.)

To begin, a 1000 word "essay" appears below.



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**Cherrydale Branch Library Happenings**

**2190 N. Military Road; 703-228-6330**

Citizens for Cherrydale Library Website: [www.CherrydaleLibrary.org](http://www.CherrydaleLibrary.org)

**Hours:**

- 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.

**Fifty Years of the "New" Cherrydale Library.**

Save the date! Join your neighbors on **Saturday, July 9** for the anniversary celebration of Cherrydale Library—Arlington's first purpose-built branch library—at its current location. Details to follow.

**Photo Exhibits.**

**"Images of China and Tibet":** Photographs by Cherrydale photographer Greg Embree. Through March 31.

**"Africa Through an Eight-Year-Old's Eyes":** Photographs of the wildlife of South Africa and Botswana by the unusually talented Vikram Srinivasan. Starts April 6.

**Fall Kids' Storytimes. No Registration Required.**

**"Stop in for Stories":** Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, through May 25. For children of all ages and an accompanying adult. This fun and interactive program combines activities such as read-aloud stories, songs, rhymes, fingerplays, and flannel boards and introduces children to listening skills, picture books, the library, and the joy of reading. The Library encourages full and active participation of the accompanying adults. (No storytime on 2/16 & 3/23.)

**"2 & Under":** Thursdays at 10:30 am, through May 26. For children ages two and under and an accompanying adult. Singing, dancing, clapping to nursery rhymes and simple stories will introduce young children to the joys of language and literature. The Library encourages full and active participation of the accompanying adults. (No storytime on 2/17 & 3/24.)

**Please Note:** There is a large collection of children's books at Cherrydale Library.

**Book Discussions for Adults**

Usually held on the second Monday of the month except in unusual circumstances, such as this February. Books available a month in advance. Please call the library to sign up for a discussion or to reserve a copy.

Monday (first Monday of month because of Valentine's Day), February 7 (7:30 pm): **The State of Jones: The Small Southern County that Seceded from the Confederacy.** Nonfiction by Sally Jenkins and John Stauffer. Published 2009. . . . Amazon reader rating: 4 stars (out of 5) . . . 316 pages of text.

"Moving and powerful. . . . An important story that personalizes what remains abstract and counterintuitive in much of our received history of the Civil War, even as we approach its 150th anniversary." --*The Washington Post*

Monday, March 14 (7:30 pm): **The Good Earth, Pearl S. Buck's Classic novel of Pre-revolutionary China & Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.** . . . . Amazon reader rating: 4-1/2 stars (out of 5), published 1931. . . . 386 pp of text.

"A comment upon the meaning and tragedy of life as it is lived in any age in any quarter of the globe." --*New York Times*

One of the most important and revealing novels of our time." --*Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

**Neighborhood Conservation Micro Project Ideas to be Funded**

contributed by Harry Spector

Cherrydale is ready for your Neighborhood Conservation Micro Project Ideas. Each NC affiliated neighborhood may choose one NC type project every two years. Unlike conventional NC projects, however, no "points" are needed to obtain funding. The only requirement is that the civic association votes and approves the project. That will make this classification of project much quicker to scope and build than a traditional NC project.

There is a catch — the project must cost under \$10,000, including all labor and materials. The point of this new program is to fund projects that are too big for something like Missing Links, which only covers sidewalk to up to three homes, and doesn't allow for easements, telephone pole relocation, or tree removal, and also too small for an NC project which typically costs \$400K-\$750K.

Micro projects are not limited to sidewalk though. Your ideas are only limited by your imagination as long as they fit into what is a traditional NC type capital project. That could be anything from a park renovation to a neighborhood gateway to a sidewalk extension. The only NC type project that definitely would not qualify is street lights as installation costs over \$10K. (see next column)

(from previous column) CCA will be voting at the March 2011 meeting on a micro project to submit to NC. If you would like to nominate a project please download a submission form at <http://goo.gl/fdH1D>, complete and submit it by February 14, 2011. The download password is "cherrydale". All qualified proposals will be presented to neighbors at the March meeting and the project with the most votes forwarded to NC.

If you have any questions please email Cherrydale NC rep Harry Spector at [harry.spector@gmail.com](mailto:harry.spector@gmail.com). Now let gets some ideas on the table!

**Cherrydale Citizens Association Annual Financial Report**

Submitted by Katherine Christensen, Treasurer

In 2010, we had 95 dues paying members. Let's increase that number for 2011! We have 532 listserve members as of August 2010.

Income was \$3457.40, with about 80% from ads for Sweet and Sour News. Other sources of income were memberships, donations, and sales of logo merchandise such as Tee shirts. Collections for ads for the 2011 newsletter are not included.

Spending was \$4516.86. The largest expense was \$3346.36 for printing, followed by 462.75 for logo merchandise, and \$450 for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July party. The remaining \$257.78 was for supplies, the parade, the yard sale, a park cleanup project, and Civic Federation dues.

Balance on January 1, 2011, was \$11,739

CCA President **Maureen Ross** notes that active involvement with the CCA is much higher than represented by dues revenues (eg. see listserve membership). We only remind people to pay dues just prior to the annual officer elections and probably need to go back to routinely collecting at our events including meetings. Most people just forget if they've paid or not. It's just 5\$ for a family to join, a rate that has not changed in over 10 years.

Thanks goes to all volunteers for their hard work, and to Laurel Gowan, Business Liason.

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## Cherrydale Artists!

contributed by Maureen Ross

**Lynn Westergren**, a Cherrydale resident for almost 20 years, enjoys encouraging creativity in others and creating art herself. She participates with the Open Studio for Ceramics at Lee Center (come take a look). Lynn coordinates Exemplary Projects at Glebe School creating study units for each grade that integrates math and or science with modern art. She is also Arts Ministry co-coordinator with friend Liz Jarvis at Emmanuel Presbyterian, which meets in GMU Law School by Virginia Square. Lynn alerted us to the Saturday, January 8th, unique gallery tour and workshop led by Elizabeth Schendel. Elizabeth is currently working on a Masters of Book Arts at the Corcoran School of Art in DC. As part of her studies, she is interning at the National Museum of Women in the Arts. For the museum, Elizabeth created a workshop based on the current exhibit of artist books by Italian artist Elisabetta Gut, *Books Without Words: The Visual Poetry of Elisabetta Gut*. Hence we had 5 Cherrydale neighbors attend this fun event - **Ann and Isabella Quinn, Lynn Westergren** and her daughter, and **Maureen Ross**.

We met Elizabeth at the National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington DC, to tour the Gut exhibit. From there, we headed to the Emmanuel church office in Clarendon where each workshop participant created their own book object, based on concepts that are central to Ms. Gut's work. For more information check out <http://www.nmwa.org/about/getting.asp>. During the workshop we reminisced about the 2 previous Celebrate Cherrydale Artists parties the CCA hosted (2005 and 2006). These events presented music, food, poetry and all sorts of art created by people who live or work in Cherrydale. Someday we might host another celebration - there's a lot of talent in this little town. It just takes worker bees to get it started again...if interested in WORKING to organize another event contact Maureen at [President@Cherrydale.net](mailto:President@Cherrydale.net) or call her.



L to R: Ann Quinn, young Ms. Westergren, Elizabeth Schendel  
Lynn Westergren, Isabella Quinn

## New Cherrydale Citizens' Association Officers for 2011

Officers for the 2011 CCA were selected at the November CCA meeting. The following Officers will preside for the current year:

President: Maureen Ross  
Vice President: Knell Bumbalo  
Secretary: Cynthia Hilton  
Treasurer: Katherine Christensen

Thanks to all who have served in the past year.

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce



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(Meeting with County Manager (from page 2))

In November 2009 Luis Araya was invited to a CCA meeting to discuss the litigation over undergrounding. He declined. The lawyer for County (MacIssac) was invited but also declined. He does say that County has Peete's \$250,000 for the undergrounding. So there will be no problems or delays getting the undergrounding. Finally in the July of 2010, Maureen Ross called engineer Mike Collins for update on undergrounding. He responded that engineers are having to search for the files. In August Maureen called Mike Collins again, and was told it will take another 2 years.

Apparently there has been ZERO action taken on this project in over 4 years other than to fight CCA about the utility box at I-66 on-ramp by Bono Films, and the new phone pole placed in blocking sidewalk on N Lincoln St. The width of N Pollard St., as part of the Bromptons site plan, was connected to 20<sup>th</sup>, and widened. Complaints at CCA meetings were voiced about the difficulties with travel on N. Pollard and Lee.

In July of 2008 there was a flurry of emails to county engineers about the sudden appearance of the wheelchair ramp on N Pollard St. This newly "improved" street was supposed to be 28 ft wide and was in fact now only 19 ft wide due to the new ramp and old phone pole. Emails show that County engineers couldn't figure out who put the ramp in.

Maureen Ross then tracked down VDOT Jose Penata about the new ramp and he replied that a "VDOT contractor put it in and that County simply needs to inform him they don't want it and it will be removed." Maureen informed the county including the assistant county manager about this fact, but County took no further action taken. At the September 2010 CCA meeting Barbara Avila promised (with engineers Mike Collins, Robert Froth, Luis Aroma and Abe Abolished present) that the engineers would immediately apply for the permit to remove at least the handicap ramp (or move it back). Engineers stated clearly that the ramp could be removed in just 2 months. Ms Favola and engineers promised to come up with a reasonable proposal for time-line for the final undergrounding, knowing that we were rejecting the estimated 2 years. They also agreed that VDOT, Dominion Power and the engineers would meet with CCA officers in October.

Instead, County engineers disinvited the VDOT people, the very persons who County was blaming for part of the long delays. CCA officers met with just County and Dominion Powers, turned down the now 2 to 3 year estimated delay and insisted on more reasonable timelines. We did promise to vet the option that would help move this process along, and provide a sidewalk for Quebec St from 21<sup>st</sup> to Old Lee Hwy. This option was reviewed in the November newsletter and presented to members at the CCA meeting, which then approved the measure. County will take the underground utilities south down Quincy, then turn right on 21st, and right again on Quebec for final undergrounding. Reasons for choosing this option was to preserve parking for the church on the corner, which has little parking space.

(see next column)

(from previous column)

County insisted on widening the sidewalk which would mean loss of all on-street parking on one side. We rejected that option. Another option was to get an exception to widening the sidewalk rule, but they still needed room for a straight row of phone poles, which for engineering/structural purposes need to be somewhat in the street.

This could be dealt with by inserting phone pole "curbs" which allows a few spaces for parking. This is a little used street except on Sundays for services, but if there is reduced parking, the churchgoers will have to use the residential blocks. The CCA voted for this option, which preserves most of the parking, and gains the residents a new improved sidewalk. While the CCA showed great flexibility and adaption to a new option, the County did not. Despite promises to remove the ramp in 2 months, the County had only just begun the application process for removing the VDOT installed wheelchair ramp in mid November. So already they are more than 2 months behind because they haven't even completed the paperwork.

So this is the way it goes and is why we are meeting with the new county manager. There are many ways to improve this system. But the first thing is to do what they say they will do, and keep a strong line of communication open to the neighborhood associations. Cherrydale has shown the will, the interest, motivation and WORK ETHIC to finish projects. And we do it all as volunteers after our full time jobs and other obligations. We expect the same from County.

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