



Hallcrest Herald



February 2013

President's Report

Special Events

One of the things that separates Hallcrest from many other communities in the area is our series of special events for all residents. For instance, our Annual Meeting (usually held in late October) is designed for all residents (not just owners) and focuses on issues of general interest, such as local candidate forums, financing options, transportation policies, environmental "fixes", etc. This meeting also gives residents the chance to meet new neighbors and concludes with a refreshment reception.

Spring and early summer is the time when most of our special events (except for Santa Claus' visit) are scheduled. Here is the preliminary rundown of what is being planned for this year:

- **Dumpster Day - weekend of April 20.** This ever-popular occasion is when your Association has two large dumpster units placed at each side of the community (one on the Eldorado oval and one opposite 7416 Hallcrest Drive) for all residents to get rid of things like mattresses, picture frames, appliances, furniture and such stuff that fills up closets, utility rooms etc.
- **Volunteer Day - Saturday, April 27 .** We usually get up to two dozen willing workers to tackle small tasks that can't be done economically by contractors – brush pick-up, painting of common area railings, spreading of wood chips along our perimeter path, Garden Club plantings, clearing our compost bins. Teens with community service hour requirements usually help. For the last two years we even had a 92-year-old resident participate (but he moved to Chicago last Fall).
- **International Cookout – Saturday June 1.** Hallcrest is blessed with a number of residents who have family ties to other countries. Over the years we have gotten 45 country flags representing such families and these are placed alternately on the Eldorado oval or Dibner park where we feature samples of international dishes (supplied by residents of those countries), plus the usual hamburgers, hotdogs, cookies and soft drinks supplied by the Association. McLean's antique fire engine is usually present for the children to climb on or ring the bell.

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Reminders:

*Return all trash containers
to yards after pick up.*

*Blue recycling bins should not
be left on the front stoop.*

*Seek AC approval before
any changes to home's
outside appearance.*

*Leave outside lights on
(front & rear) on at night
for security.*

Pick up after your dog!

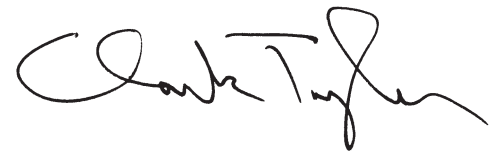
THANKS!

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- **Tour of Remodeling Projects Open House – Sunday, June 23.** Every other year, up to six or so homeowners who have undertaken interesting remodeling projects open their homes for two hours on a Sunday afternoon so other neighbors can see what is possible and interesting in terms of enhancing our 40-year-old town homes. With the recession ending it seems that a number of folks have contracted for firms to complete remodeling projects such as new patios, upgraded bathrooms & kitchens, wooden banisters or interesting decorating projects. Residents who participate usually give costs, names of contractors and other details for neighbors who join the inspecting tour brigade. If you have an interest in participating, call me or Monelle (703-448-1851).

Several residents have asked about a community yard sale, which we have done in the past. The problem with this is that very few residents have participated. Therefore it is not economically possible for the Association to rent display tables. Instead, we suggest that residents with yard sale items investigate the McLean Community Center group yard sale or the one that is sponsored by the Garfield Community Church just down Great Falls Street from Hallcrest.

The above scheduled events may change with weather or other constraints, so look for the flyers that we will send out the week or so before each event. Enjoy!



One of the most popular events in Hallcrest, is the annual visit of Santa Claus atop McLean Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire engine. In preparation for this, here is a group of our children who made and hung ornaments for our community Christmas tree strategically placed on the Eldorado oval.

UPDATE ON POSSIBLE PLAYGROUND

The Association Board has decided to postpone a possible playground, largely due to the high estimated cost of the project. Based on views expressed in the 2012 Homeowners Survey, the Board has been looking into a capital investment plan to build a Tot Lot in our community. We have explored various venues in the area, researched the liability insurance costs, and evaluated the building and safety codes that apply within Fairfax County. We solicited realtors input on the potential value to the community and explored ways of reducing the cost. We had gathered several quotes from vendors and used this input to prepare a proposal for a grant from the county. The Board forwarded the proposal for a grant from the county back in October of 2012. At the time we forwarded the proposal we knew that the quotes were well over the amount of the grant.

We were recently notified that our proposal asking for \$4,700 was included in the awards for 2013. The Board at the January 2013 Meeting reviewed the case for proceeding with the project. Given the expected cost of up to \$10,000 over and above the Grant money approved by the county, combined with the fact that many survey responders also expressed concern about such an expenditure in these difficult budget/economic times, the Board unanimously agreed to defer the Tot Lot Project for now pending increased interest and availability of future capital improvement funds.

HALLCREST GARDEN CLUB NEWS

The Hallcrest Heights Garden Club is planning some TLC for the KnockOut roses planted last year in the Hallcrest Heights common areas. In early March, we will be pruning and fertilizing the roses to encourage growth and healthy blooms for this year. You may have noticed that the rose bed at the corner of the Eldorado Street oval near the Great Falls Street entrance recently suffered some damage which should be repaired by Garden Club members, in the hopes of salvaging the bushes, by the time you read this. The rose beds will be included in the annual Spring mulching by Davey Tree.



Phase 2 of the Garden Club's plans for plantings in the common areas, to include butterfly bushes, wisteria, forsythia and hydrangea bushes, was approved by the Board in December 2012 and will be implemented in Spring 2013.

We would like to sponsor a Hallcrest Heights Gardens Tour the afternoon of Sunday, 5 May, open to residents/guests only. This inaugural tour will feature the lovely established azaleas that are so beautiful throughout our community. If you would like for your front and/or back gardens to be featured on the tour, please contact Monelle Holshey at [703 448-1851](tel:7034481851) or mmholshey@verizon.net. We are hoping to have a minimum of 5, maximum of 10 gardens on the tour.

WEB SITE UPDATE

To help the Association with a revised web site, the Association is getting the talented assistance of Michelle, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School. A computer whiz, Michelle will be doing the design and formatting of the community's revised (user-friendly) web site, which should be finished this Spring. Details on all this will be distributed to residents at that time.

FAIRFAX WATER BUYS FALLS CHURCH WATER



Thanks to a Federal mediator, Fairfax Water and the City of Falls Church have agreed to a deal that transfers the water system that serves our area. This has been a long and complex negotiation, but the bottom line is our water rates will probably be reduced when the transfer takes place in January of 2014. However, the agreement must be approved by a referendum of Falls Church voters this November.

The issue has been that the City of Falls Church had included certain city-wide capital costs in their rates which made water bills higher here than equivalent rates in Fairfax. The end result is that Fairfax County water rates will be set by Fairfax Water, whose members are appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This Association will find out who the member for our area is and then deal with Supervisor John Foust to have a meeting with that person. Hallcrest was well served by the City of Falls Church. Service problems were responded to quickly and they also put in many new meters and meter well casings. Hopefully, such good service will continue under the new arrangement.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL UPDATE

Hallcrest residents should note that Board Member Debi Kumar has now replaced Monelle Holshey as chair of the AC Committee. Debi (571-276-0303) has all the reports and progress of past walk-throughs and is the contact point for anyone seeking approval of proposed changes to the outside appearance (paint color, roofing, windows, maintenance, etc.). Monelle has transitioned into the role of Grounds in addition to being the V.P. of the Association.

This year's Spring architectural walk-through is scheduled for April 20th. Residents should note that any maintenance issues from last year must be completed or addressed by then. Also, we are looking for some new members for the AC Committee. If you would like to serve, call Debi.

Finally, please understand that this Association's approach to this subject is based on "reasonableness, communication, and cooperation" as contrasted with the Washington Post story of a townhome community in Alexandria which went broke because of a multi-year lawsuit over a campaign poster that was four inches higher than allowed! The community spent \$400,000 in legal costs!

SIDEWALK TO METRO – UPDATE

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation expects to complete its design survey next month (March). Apparently, they are still fuddling with a decision as to which side of Route 123 to build the access sidewalk on. I had one of their staff come to Hallcrest last year and walk the section abutting our property. I then sent a detailed letter giving the reasons why a sidewalk on the north side of Rt. 123 would not be viable, as well as the many reasons why a south side sidewalk would be preferable. Also, next month, Supervisor Foust's office tells me, that FCDOT should have a schedule of completion. Our Association will stay on top of this project.

NEW CONTRACTOR EXPERIENCES

From time to time, the Association is told about residents' experiences with contractors that have done a good job on various new projects. Since it has been difficult to update the past list of contractors (due to the fact that many go out of business etc.), we occasionally list ones that have performed to residents' satisfaction. The Association is not recommending these, but merely lists those who have recently completed projects here. If the community has a Home Remodeling Open House Tour this year, neighbors will have a chance to view and hear details about some of these projects.

- Adan Painting Home Improvement – drywall repairs, finish carpentry, flooring etc.
Call Adan at (cell) 703-786-2093 or email adan.apainting@hotmail.com
- Daniel's Painting & Contracting – James R. Daniel , 703-385-7573
- Jim Hoskins – Gas log installation, repair & service of gas grills, gas lines, stoves and lamps.
Call 703-560-9567
- Pressure Plus – gutter cleaning, replacement . 703-754-9118
- All Seasons Gutter Cleaning – William Guardado, 571-235-9887
- Window World – all windows, basement windows, shutters. Linton Sherrard, (cell) 571-244-7188,
or office 703-378-7999.
- Bill Tyler – patio design & installation, wood gates & fences, brick re-pointing, gutter downspout
extensions. (cell) 540-222-5831 or email ehtlandscapedesign@yahoo.com
- Chattan Associates, big and small remodeling jobs such as laundry room, family rooms etc.
Arn Flitcroft, (cell) 703-967-7374, email chattaninc@aol.com
- Tim Giroux – kitchen and bathroom remodeling , (cell) 703-298-4153, email: tjgone1@gmail.com
- Pence Quality Homes – remodeling, including electric, drywall, painting,
call Greg Pence at 703-856-7481



Board Of Directors

President	M.L. Clark Tyler	7327 Eldorado Street	703-893-3336
Vice President (Grounds)	Monelle Holshey	7351 Eldorado Court	703-448-1851
Treasurer	Carol Faulb	7309 Eldorado Street	703-893-7381
Secretary	John Aranha	7317 Eldorado Street	703-462-9791
Planning Special Projects	Daniel Soo Cheol Lee	7371 Hallcrest Drive	703-560-1955
Resident Relations	John White	7374 Eldorado Street	703-356-3913
Architectural Control	Debi Kumar	7369 Montcalm Drive	571-276-0303
Maintenance	Steve Thimmesch	7337 Eldorado Street	703-790-0772

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See our website at:
www.hallcrestheights.org

Layout by Sam Tyler

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be on Tuesday, March 19 at 7:30 PM at the home of Steve Thimmesch at 7337 Eldorado St.

Hallcrest Heights Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 621
McLean, VA 22101-0621



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