



Hallcrest Herald



Fall 2019

RECENT PROJECTS IMPROVE HALLCREST'S LOOK

After a most successful architectural control review, I asked some friends to come and look around with an eye towards spiffing up our appearance so we wouldn't look like a 50-year-old community. In our recent survey, residents recommended two things: improved street lighting and an easier walk to the McLean Metro station. Here's what is being done.

- We are in the process of changing our streetlights to LED fixtures which will greatly improve the quality of our lights and be cheaper in the long run.
- After several years working with Fairfax County's sidewalk folks, we got them to extend their planned sidewalk along Dolley Madison Blvd. by 45 feet so we can connect our sidewalk to it for improved access to Metro. Construction has begun and should be completed early next year.

Following the suggestion that we have too many signs, we decided we do not need both yellow curbs AND signs saying, "No Parking, Fire Lane." We contacted the County fire marshal, who said we could request a code modification which, if approved, would let us put such signs at each entrance and remove all the others. Approval was granted, so here is a picture of our sign contractor, Justin Wall, removing the last of 32 unneeded signs.

Our maintenance shed and its screening fence were both falling apart, so we purchased a nicer, slightly bigger, galvanized steel shed for our tools, Christmas tree ornaments, temporary sign stanchions, hoses, and wheelbarrows. The new shed is completed, secured to a concrete base replacing the old rotted wooden one, with new stockade fencing.

Potomac Home Services trimmed and cleared deadwood from 26 older trees, chipping the limbs and spreading the chips along our perimeter path by the sound wall. Also, new tree pests and diseases had killed three Leyland Cypress in the screen along Great Falls Street. These will be replaced by wonderful Cryptomeria. The oak tree planted at the North end of the Eldorado Oval was infected by



Fairfax sidewalk team and contractor go over the planned sidewalk to Metro at the Hallcrest end of the new sidewalk.



Our sign contractor, Justin Wall, removing the last of 32 unneeded signs.



The new maintenance shed.

continued . . .



The new curb to divert excess water flow behind 7421-7429 Hallcrest Drive.



Jorge Lucero is an all-around handyman who has been a super-fixit for many Hallcrest residents.



Robert Barry is our "brick expert." Here he is replacing loose bricks on the Tyler chimney.

a new disease for Pin Oaks, so it will be replaced by a healthy oak this Fall.

A Fall Dumpster Day takes place this weekend, September 28-29, so residents can clean out their yards, utility rooms and closets.

Because of some settling and increased water flow problems, we constructed a diversion curb to channel rainwater away from four homes on lower Hallcrest Drive that were experiencing seepage in their lower levels. Also because of the rain, bushes in front of many homes grew so much that the community was looking a bit overgrown. Davey has been instructed to be more diligent as they do their last trimming of the season.

Recently, a resident made us aware of a growing hole by a water access valve in the middle of Eldorado Street by 7424. Fairfax Water came the same day they were called and fixed it.

Finally, we are adding two more bat houses to help with the mosquito problem. If you didn't know, these wonderful creatures eat half their weight in mosquitos every day. Each house can hold about 30 bats, and now we will have four. Bats come out at dusk and put on quite an air show as they get their dinner. They are no threat to anyone but the mosquitos.

We are hopeful that our next Annual Meeting will generate even more ideas. This year's Annual Meeting on November 2 will showcase four handymen and other improvement experts to help individual homeowners attack those small, annoying fixit jobs that larger firms will not undertake. Further notices will be sent out in the next few weeks.