

Hermitage Road Historic District Association

# Hermitage Herald

March., 2019



Spring Meeting on Friday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m.,  
4019 Hermitage Road, The



The Spring meeting of the Hermitage Road Historic District Assoc. will be held on Friday evening April 12 at 7 pm at the home of Jim and Celia Sease.

It'll be a fun "meet and greet" with your neighbors after a long cold winter. There will be a short business meeting followed by shared appetizers, drinks and good conversation.

President's Letter  
Hermitage Road Historic District Association  
April 1, 2019

Dear Neighbors:



Springtime brings out the best of the Hermitage Road Historic District. I hope you are enjoying it as much as I am.

I want to bring the membership up to date on HRHD Association activities and events in the neighborhood. I hope doing so will make our business meetings more efficient and shorter.

## OLD BUSINESS

**"Bed Buddies":** We continue to need volunteers to help maintain the garden beds at the intersections along Hermitage Road. Most are in pretty good shape, but continually need attention. Email Hilda Braswell at [brashweb@comcast.net](mailto:brashweb@comcast.net) to volunteer.

**HRHD Association secretary position open:** The position of Secretary for the Association has been open for some time. The principal duties are to take notes at the business meetings and distribute minutes. The secretary also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Association. Cheryl Magazine has been filling in on a temporary basis. If anyone is willing to take on this assignment formally, please let us know. Email me at [celsease3@gmail.com](mailto:celsease3@gmail.com) or let me know at the April meeting.

**New trees:** There is a one-year warrantee on the trees planted last spring. Some of the problems we have reported have been addressed already, but there may still be time to report new problems. If you are aware of any ailing trees, please alert me so we can schedule replacements within the warrantee period.

**Scottish Rite Temple building sale:** There is no update on this sale. The property is still listed.

**Bike lanes:** At the September 2018 business meeting the membership passed a motion to the effect that HRHD Association supports no expansion to the Hermitage Road bike lanes. There has been no further activity on this issue of importance to HRHD since the attention to new bike lanes is on Brook Road.

I have made attempts to obtain input from Councilman Hilbert's office on the formal status of the bike lanes on Hermitage Road so we can have the rules perfectly clear. They have also been asked about setting up a system of gaining permission for residents to use the parking lane for cars when they are having special events. No progress on that front.

**Dues:** 2018-2019 Association dues were payable in September. Dues are \$20 for individuals, \$40 for couples. Hopefully by now you have paid your dues. If you have not, please let me know so we can make arrangements for payment. The treasury is a little low. I am eager to get fund raising ideas from the membership.

**Holiday Party:** Thanks as always to Leslie Stack and Frank Rizzo for hosting the December 16 Holiday Party of the association. It was great to see Holly Lawn restored to its past splendor.

**HRHD Website:** Phil Moeller has updated the HRHD Website <http://hermitageroad.org/> The website now includes a lot of information about the District, and about the Association, including the past newsletter. It also provides links to the District application to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. We hope you will look at the updated website and provide us with any feedback you have. We think it can be used for recruiting new members and for telling people about the Association.

#### NEW BUSINESS

**Treasurer position open:** After many years of diligent service Bart Lacks has tendered his resignation as Treasurer for the Association. Thanks Bart for all you have done for the association. We are seeking a replacement for Bart. If you would like to be placed in nomination for the office, please let me know.

**Trees in the 3800 Block:** Several healthy trees on the west side of the 3800 block of Hermitage Road have been marked for removal. They are marked with a prominent "X" on the trunk. The Department of Public Utilities wants to remove the eight trees to do sewer repair/replacement. The city arborist has said that they don't want new trees to go up once they've done the repair. Several residents of the district have been contacting responsible parties in the city administration as well as Councilman Chris Hilbert in opposition to removing these trees. The Association has not formally taken a position. I think it merits some time for discussion at the April meeting to see if there is a role HRHD should play in this.

**Street lights:** Several of the central island street lights either do not illuminate or do so only dimly. We should consider if the HRHD should try and get the problems fixed.

**Election of Officers:** Election of Officers takes place in the June meeting. At the April meeting we will be soliciting nominees for all of the officer positions, President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. We have also had someone serve in the appointed ex-officio position of Hospitality Director, to help arrange the quarterly meetings.

The next HRHD meeting will be held at my house (4019 Hermitage Road) at 6 pm on Friday April 12. Please bring an appetizer to share. I plan to mark the spring by serving mint juleps, but bring whatever else you might like to drink.

Respectfully,

*Patricia Sease*



There has been much discussion about the trees marked for removal on Hermitage Road. Amongst the trees are ones recently put in place. The request to remove the trees was made through a variance -- it asks to remove the trees to reach sewers

lines underneath for repairs. Sewer backups are threatening the nearby apartments. He said the lines should be located under the street, not under the trees. These trees are located in the 3800 block of Hermitage on the east side of the street in the greenway between the sidewalk and the curb. They are marked with a prominent "X" on the trunk. DPU wants to remove the eight trees to do sewer repair/replacement. The city arborist has said that they don't want new trees to go up once they've done the repair. In that case the sewer lines should go under the street. It's likely that the city won't spend the extra money unless public opinion forces the issue.

Richmond is one of 46 communities designated Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation. Our city cares enough about our urban forest to have five arborists on staff. With the help of the city arborist Norm Brown, Hermitage Road has an abundance of healthy and beautiful trees. But the Department of Public Utilities wants eight trees removed and wants to keep that stretch of green space bare of trees once the sewer work is completed, according to the arborists.

### Copy of email response from the Director of DPU-

March 21, 2019

The work effort involves excavation and replacement of approximately 336 feet of 8-inch concrete sewer with new PVC pipe installed. The replacement of one sewer service connection and the necessary manholes and lateral piping, cleanouts and other related work. The sewer main is located in the grass area (utility strip) between the curb and sidewalk. In order to replace this deteriorated concrete sewer main and laterals, the trees have to be removed. There are other utilities in proximity, including streetlights and a watermain. Relocation of this sewer main is not an option.

A tree variance has already been submitted to our DPW partners for review and approval. Please note that the trees are already showing their potential to damage and conflict with the adjacent sidewalk and curbing infrastructure. This will most likely produce additional maintenance and corrections if left to continue to grow to their potential size.

**Concerned residents have reached out to a number of officials and request you add your thoughts.**



Express your concerns with Public Works Director Bobby Vincent or go up the power structure to express concerns with Calvin Farr, director of Public Utilities. If that variance is approved, notices will go up on the trees and the community has another opportunity to respond. Calvin Farr is director of Dept. of Public Utilities. His phone is 804.646.5202 Bobby Vincent Jr. is director of Public Works. The website says you have to go through his executive assistant to reach him. So email or call: Jacqueline.Howie@RichmondGov.com or 804-646-3702, Bobby Vincent's direct email: bobbyvincent@richmondgov.com John Chupek's is: john.chupek@richmondgov.com C. Hilbert and Lisa Townes.Chris.Hilbert@richmondgov.com Lsa.Townes@Richmondgov.com

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

I'm writing you today to express my concern about a proposed plan to permanently remove eight public trees from the 3800 block of Hermitage Road eastern easement as part of a sewer repair/replacement project. Seven of the eight trees are in perfect health – some have been in place for years, two are so young they still wear watering bags.

These trees are part of the existing urban forest and provide considerable ecological and aesthetic benefits to the neighborhood. Richmond is one of 46 communities designated Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.

The city's commitment to the urban forest is notable; this proposed removal creates a model for dismantling the treescape as future sewer problems arise.

Please do not approve the DPU variance request; protect our urban forest and locate those sewer lines under the street.

Sincerely,

NAME  
ADDRESS  
CONTACT INFO



# USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS



## Hermitage Road Historic District Assn. Board of Directors 2018-2019

**President:** Celia Sease, -  
513-8057

celsease3@gmail.com

**Vice President:** Bob Balster  
- 262-8538

tsych@comcast.net

**Secretary:** Open

**Newsletter Editor:** Hilda  
Braswell, - 262-1093

brashweb@comcast.net

**Treasurer:** Bart Lacks, - 515  
-9686

Bart.lacks@gmail.com

**Hospitality:** Cheryl Magazine  
- 432-0492

cherylamagazine@gmail.com

## Councilman Chris A. Hilbert

646.0070

District Liaison Lisa F. Townes 646.6055

Emergency (Fire, Police) 911

Non-Emergency (Police) 646.5100

4th Precinct Police, 2219 Chamberlayne Ave, 23222 646-4105

City of Richmond, Call Center 311

Public Utilities (Emergency) 780-6350

Real Estate Assessments 646-5600

Streetlights - Outages 644-3000

Trash, leaf, & bulk pickup 646-0999

Trees - Di v. of Urban Forestry, Norm Brown 646-0681

City of Richmond, Customer Care Center 644.3000

Permits and Inspections 646-4169

Commission of Architectural Review 646-6335

## Public Utilities (Gas, Water, Sewer and Streetlight)

Dominion Virginia Power 1.888.677.3000  
*Power Outage, Connection, Planned Work*  
Miss Utility 1-866-DOM-HELP  
1.800.552.7001

· *Call Before Dig/ Richmond Dept. of Public Utilities*  
Parks and Recreation Programs, City of Richmond 646.5733

Taxes/Personal Property, Richmond Dept. of Finance 646.5690

State Road Conditions 1-800-FOR-ROAD

DMV- Drivers License, tags 497.7100

Newspaper- Times-Dispatch 649.6000

SPCA 521-1300

Richmond Animal Care & Control 646-5573

Holton Elementary, Principal: Nikea Hurt 228-5310

Library - Ginter Park 646-1 236

## Neighborhood Businesses

Dot's Back Inn 266.3167

Northside Grill 266.4403

La Casita Mexican 262-8729

Once Upon A Vine 726.WINE

Stir Crazy 864.0264

The Mill 716.1196

Zorba's Pizza 264.5370

Bellevue Dry Cleaners 264.8010

CVS Drug Store 264.7995

Nuttall's Market 264.8096

Demi's 525-4576

Enoteca Sogno 355-8466

Little House Green Grocery 262-7474