

# CHEROKEE HILLS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

*CHCA Newsletter Compliments of the Cherokee Hills Community Association*

## Black Bears in Cherokee Hills

### *What to Expect and How to React*

With several recent black bear sightings in Cherokee Hills, it's important to keep in mind what's known about bear behavior and appropriate ways to respond. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries web site shares, "Black bears are becoming an increasingly common sight in Virginia — bears now live in almost every county!

We are fortunate to have a healthy and sustainable population of these animals in the Commonwealth. But even as our black bear population grows and expands, at the same time, residential areas are encroaching into the forested lands and habitats used by bears and other wildlife, thus increasing the chances for bear/human interaction or conflicts." To learn more, watch the 20-minute video "Living with Black Bears in Virginia" at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/video/?video=1](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/video/?video=1). Also, a black bear fact-sheet can be downloaded at: [www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/black-bear-facts/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/bear/black-bear-facts/).

A few recommendations to keep in mind include:

- Put your trash out the morning of pick up rather than the night before,
- Keep grills (and surrounding areas) clean and free from food waste, and
- Reduce or avoid the use of bird feeders in your yard.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Black Bears Spotted in Cherokee Hills	1
Message from the President	2
Neighborhood Volunteer Honored	2
Dinner Party Time!	3
New Children's Committee Formed	3
CHCA Board Member Contact Information	3



*This photo was **NOT** taken in Cherokee Hills but shows what a black bear looks like. Black bears have been spotted in Cherokee Hills. Experts say residential areas are encroaching into the forested lands and habitats used by bears, thus increasing the chances for bear/human interaction.*

The Cherokee Hills Community Association strives to keep neighbors informed through our association newsletter and website which can be found at: <http://CHCA.yolasite.com>

## Message from the President

*By Barry Garst*

*President, Cherokee Hills Community Association*

[bgarst@vt.edu](mailto:bgarst@vt.edu)

The Cherokee Hills Community Association operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year, so as June comes to a close and July begins, we have the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year and consider goals for the upcoming year. Special thanks to everyone that contributed to the successes of the past year.

In FY 2009, we were pleased to achieve:

- Publication of the 2009 Cherokee Hills Neighborhood Directory (100% paid by sponsors)
- Park improvements (hardware upgrades for swings; mulch donated by Specialized Saw)
- Enhanced communication through the CHCA web site at <http://CHCA.yolasite.com> and expansion of the CHCA email list.

In FY 2010, our goals include:

- New programs for children and new programs for adults (see articles in this issue for more information)
- New landscaping around the main Cherokee Hills sign
- New park improvements
- New volunteer-led projects and initiatives

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## Teresa Hall Receives Outstanding Volunteer Award

Teresa Hall was the 2009 recipient of the CHCA Outstanding Volunteer Award for her work with the CHCA Newsletter. Published quarterly, the CHCA Newsletter provides information about both the Cherokee Hills neighborhood and the broader Roanoke County community. Teresa provided outstanding leadership to the content and design of the newsletter in cooperation with the CHCA Board of Directors. The Outstanding Volunteer Award is a new award given annually by the CHCA Board of Directors and announced at the CHCA Annual Meeting. Please join us in thanking Teresa for her hard work on behalf of the association.



## Cherokee Hills Progressive Dinner Party

Cindy and Chris Poulton are coordinating a series of progressive dinner parties. If you are new to progressive dining, it's really quite simple. A progressive dinner is a dinner party in which each successive course is prepared and eaten at the residence of a different host. Think of it as dinner with travel.

The purpose of these dinners is to increase our sense of community by opening homes, sharing food, and getting to know each other in one area of Cherokee Hills at a time. Specifically, dinners would be sponsored by a street (or adjacent streets). Over time, 100% of the streets in Cherokee Hills would be involved. Given the travel component to these dinner parties; having a street host an entire party will help as we move from course to course. It will also help acquaint neighbors from other areas of Cherokee Hills with each street.

Mark your calendars now! The first progressive dinner party is scheduled for **Saturday, February 20, 2010**. Chris and Cindy are challenging their Arrowhead Trail neighbors to help them by hosting the first progressive dinner party! If you live on Arrowhead Trail and would be interested in hosting one course of the progressive dinner party, then please contact Chris and Cindy as soon as possible.

To properly plan this event, Chris and Cindy need to know how many people will attend. Therefore, anyone interested in participating in this program is asked to email Chris Poulton at [chris.poulton@site-werks.com](mailto:chris.poulton@site-werks.com) and share your interest in being involved (name, address, email address, phone number, and number of guests).

## Children's Activities Coming Soon

A new committee has been established to coordinate fun activities for youth in our neighborhood. The first scheduled activity will be a Halloween party on **October 25th at 2:00 p.m.** We will meet at the park for an evening of pumpkin decorating, face painting, games, costume contest and much more.

Future activities will include:

- Christmas Caroling on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - time and place to be announced
- and an Easter party on Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup> - time and place to be announced

If you are interested in donating time or money to help with these activities, please contact Angela Hughes at 380-5093 or by email at [arhughes4@verizon.net](mailto:arhughes4@verizon.net) or Tonya Woolwine at 380-2292 or by email at [Swoolwines@verizon.net](mailto:Swoolwines@verizon.net).

## Want to get involved?

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, please contact a CHCA Board Member.

### BOARD MEMBERS:

- Barry Garst, President, 380-5191
- Scott Sprunger, Vice-Pres., 380-4029
- Stephanie Butler, Secretary, 380-3142
- Jean Thompson, Treasurer, 380-4449
- Les Meadows, Park Superintendent, 380-2256

*For newsletter submission ideas, contact Teresa Hall at 380-3339 or [thall@vt.edu](mailto:thall@vt.edu).*