

# Trees Foundation Hopes Its Initiatives Will Take Root

Friday, October 4, 2013 by **BRIAN TROMPETER, Staff Writer**

The McLean Trees Foundation next year will begin an initiative to provide trees for local residents to plant and nurture.

Foundation chairman Joyce Harris outlined the group's history and upcoming projects at the McLean Citizens Association's board of directors meeting Oct. 2.

The foundation next year hopes to offer 1-inch-caliper trees to homeowners, possibly at a reduced cost. "Trees have a better chance of survival if there's a homeowner to care for them," Harris said.

Foundation members are working to help Fairfax County reach its goal of a 45-percent tree canopy by 2037, Harris said. The county's current tree canopy is about 40 percent and, with few large swaths available for tree planting, the county will need to encourage such plantings on private property, she said.

The non-profit organization has a seven-member board and 20 volunteers, about half of whom are active, Harris said. The group uses proceeds from its recycling bins at Cooper Middle School to plant trees in the McLean area, she said. The foundation's history dates back to at least 1964, when its members planted 300 dogwood, maple and oak trees in commercial and residential areas around McLean, Harris said. In 1972, the group planted 113 Bradford pear trees along Dolley Madison Boulevard, she said.

Harris punctuated her presentation by placing a potted specimen of a thin, several-foot-tall bald cypress tree on one of the MCA's meeting tables. The species, a deciduous evergreen, is becoming popular as a street tree, she said.