

SEPTEMBER 2018

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



72.5% OF HH HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORT HOD: COUNTY BOARD VOTES TO STUDY PROPOSAL

As the culmination of an 18-month drive to gain support for designating our neighborhood as a Historic Overlay District in Fairfax County (HOD), the HOD Initiative Committee spent this past spring knocking on doors, speaking with homeowners, and collecting signatures. To those of you who attended our information meetings, signed our petition, called our committee members to discuss the issues, gave us your feedback, and/or told us of your support and concerns—thank you!

In mid-June, we presented our work to Mt. Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck. It contained signatures of support from 72.5% of Hollin Hills homeowners. Of the homeowners who did not sign, 6.7% did not support the initiative, 1.7% were undecided or abstained, and 18.8% did not respond, although many attempts were made to reach them (numbers rounded to nearest .1%).

In August, Supervisor Storck presented a motion to the Board of Supervisors to begin the study of a Historic Overlay District for Hollin Hills. The motion was passed unanimously. The

Department of Planning and Zoning will be adding this to their work load for the fall and will staff a committee to work with us on our HOD. This process is expected to take approximately two years. **We will need a committee to continue to work with the zoning staff on the HOD.** If this sparks your interest, please drop me an email at christine@craftedarchitecture.com

The committee extends extra special thanks to these neighbors who volunteered to host the information sessions and knock on doors: JG Harrington and Jere Gibber, Kathy Seikel, Mary Ann Rametta and Rick Schwabacher, Judy England Joseph, Sara and Tyger Latham, Susan Kuhbach, Barbara Ward, Jodie Burns, Steve and Laura Kistler, Peter and Ginny Kinzler, Barbara Liggett and Gus Matson, Bob and Lee Ann Kinzer, Tony Morris and Gail Kropf, and John and Pam Wittmann. And a big thank you to my committee members: Barbara Bogue, Barbara Ward, Kathy Seikel, Steve Kistler, Liz Higdon-Brigden, Virginia Wallace, Patrick Kelly, and John Wittmann.

—Christine Kelly, Chair, HOD Initiative committee

STREAM RESTORATION PROJECTS MOVING AHEAD IN TWO CAHH PARKS

Good news! Fairfax County is now working in Brickelmaier Park (located west of and parallel to Stafford Road, between Popkins and Paul Spring), with Stantec, the same design team that is currently developing the plans for Goodman Park (east of and parallel to Stafford Road, between Martha's

Road and Paul Spring Road). Both of these parks have significant stream erosion and down cutting in their streams, causing trees to fall and the slough off from the erosive action to pour onto Paul Spring Road. You probably have driven over it in the recent monsoon season.

IF YOUR DEFAULT POSITION IS "NO"

A Plug for Community Service

September is upon us. In a blink or two, it will be time to select at least some new officers for the CAHH Board, and we will begin planning the various community events for the upcoming year. It is a good time to consider what kind of community we want. In my old neighborhood I learned that "decisions are made by them that show up." The two other articles on this page show that many of you are indeed "showing up," and they also offer opportunities for others to join in. Within the past year, I have been turned down by a number of people when I asked for help with very specific and limited activities. They used excuses like "I couldn't possibly," or "Sorry, we'll be out of town that day." If your default position is "no," you will find a reason not to participate.

So I am asking you to do the following: if it has been years—if ever—since you were involved in the community life of Hollin Hills, please change your heart. Change your default from "no" to "yes." Expand your personal community and, through that effort, expand our community, too. Hollin Hills needs you!

—Gus Matson, CAHH President

Status of the Goodman Park Stream Restoration Plan

The 35% stage, the conceptual design stage, is now complete. Responses to comments submitted at the 35% stage will come with the delivery of the 65% stage of drawing development, likely in January 2019. Some of our ideas will be incorporated in the plan itself, others not and a reason as to why not will be provided.

We are working this August and September with the County's Project Manager, Meghan Fellows—a restoration ecologist—to develop a plant palette for the restoration plantings for both Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. Meghan anticipates this will take two to three meetings to generate a plant materials list. Deadline for completion is October 2018, so that the design team can incorporate our *(continued on page 2)*

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President	Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President	Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer	Scott Weidenfeller	725-7894
Secretary	Friederike Ahrens	571-481-4628
Membership	Marinka Tellier	768-8709

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool	Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA	Kathy Seikel	768-2350
Social	Susmita Dastidar	660-5938
Parks	Bob Kinzer	768-4048

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST	Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian	Scott Wilson	765-4471

(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair	Frank Collins	660-6525
Members	John Burns	660-9763
	John Nolan	231-2229
	Ginny Wallace	765-7116
	Ken Wilson	768-5838
CAHH-DRC Liaison	Chris McNamara	660-9536

HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE

Chair	Barbara Bogue	571-257-9313
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PARKS COMMITTEE

Chair	Elisabeth Lardner	765-3023
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HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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Editor	Barbara Shear	660-6543
Editorial Assistance	Andrew Keegan	660-1004

Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.
Articles generally should not exceed 500 words. Send your submission in the body of an email or as an attachment to barbshear@verizon.net. If you cannot produce computerized copy, please find someone to submit it for you.
No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Distribution problems:

- If you have not received your digital Bulletin, or to correct/change mail or email address, contact Marinka Tellier, 703-768-8709 or tellim@hotmail.com.
- To replace a missing paper Bulletin, contact Ellen Rydell at 703-768-3442.

HOLLIN HILLS ARCHIVES

The Hollin Hills Archives are part of the Special Collections and Archives of George Mason University. To contact the SC&A staff with research questions, use the following:

- For general description of HH Archives contents, go to http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html.
- For questions about collections, hours, usage, duplications, or directions go to http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html.
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email speccoll@gmu.edu.

www.hollin-hills.org

Calendar of community events and information about our parks, the Design Review Committee, the National Historic Registry, and more.

Stream Restoration *from page 1*

recommendations in their 65% stage of plan development.

Meghan has completed a pre-construction vegetation monitoring survey of Goodman Park and intends to follow up with another site survey 3-4 years post-construction and then a third survey 7-10

years post construction. The County Stormwater Planning staff has undertaken this monitoring and survey project to better understand the ecological functions of the riparian corridor and thus improve restoration outcomes. Goodman Park has been selected to be a part of this County database 'due to the commitment of the community to steward the restoration'.

Successfully stewarding this landscape in the years to come is a big ask of us all, but it is the only way we can return the park to some semblance of its native landscape, minus the English ivy covering its surface, the infamous wisteria meadow, and the almost entire shrub layer (understory) composed of invasive plant species. Given the results from Meghan's pre-construction survey, we can only get better. Our Floristic Quality (FQI) is currently assessed to have an FQI of 17.4 (scale of 1 – 35) which indicates low vegetative quality. Using another metric to score Goodman Park's current status we rate as a 'degraded natural area,' which although sounding awful, ranks the park as average across the County's current dataset. If you'd like a copy of the four page survey, please send me your email address and I will send it to you.

If you are interested in being part of the plant selection and restoration discussion, please join us on August 30 at 7pm, in Room 1 at the Sherwood Hall Library. Unable to attend, but interested? Let me know and I'll add you to the list for notification should there be one or more additional meetings in September.

Status of the Brickelmaier Park Stream Restoration Plan

Design work for Brickelmaier Park is now under contract. Stantec, the design firm working on Goodman Park, and its team have begun their work – look for the colorful ribbons, stakes, and silver discs throughout. The anticipated project is similar in scale and ambition to that in Goodman.

We are recipients of a significant dollar investment from Fairfax County for the design work in both parks (construction funds have not yet been authorized although an estimate of such has been generated for each park). Money for this work is already in the County's approved budget. Funding is via our property taxes, which in fiscal year 2019 has a tax of \$0.0325 per \$100 of assessed real estate value for the Stormwater Service District tax. For more information on this see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stormwater-service-district>.

The contractors are currently performing a property boundary survey, tagging trees with silver discs and tying that information to a GIS database, identifying any wetlands, locating the current stream and noting any other atypical finds (such as the community well head in Goodman Park). Letters have gone out to adjacent property owners, notifying them of the work start.

Soon, the geotechnical team members will come through the park to drill borings, as was done in Goodman. This is the most physically invasive action that will take place prior to construction. To access the locations for necessary borings, some trees and vegetation may need to be removed.

We need a couple of volunteers to serve as Brickelmaier Park representatives, emissaries, leaders—any title that you choose. The work is engaging and educational. Responsibilities include helping to get the word out regarding the project, ongoing involvement with plan review and participating in the County's Technical Team meetings (likely four in number over several years), and relaying any issues and concerns that neighbors may have regarding this project.

—Elisabeth Lardner, CAHH Parks Chair
eblardner@aol.com

Goodman Park's current status is as a 'degraded natural area.' [This] ranks as average across the County's current dataset.

QuickTakes

Editor's note: Thanks to the folks who heeded last month's call for neighborhood news and photos. Keep them coming! Just a sentence or two is ok, but longer is fine, too. Send to barbshear@verizon.net.

NEIGHBORHOOD WEDDINGS

- Congratulations and best wishes to Tony Morris and Gail Kropf, who were married in their back yard at 7507 Elba Road on Saturday, July 14. Tony and Gail had all nine of their combined grandchildren participate in the wedding, and they all sang "Over the Rainbow" as part of the ceremony. Guests included the couple's children, grandchildren, siblings of the couple, and the two friends who introduced them a few years ago.
- In addition to belatedly welcoming Judy Braithwaite and Kester Phillips, who have been resident in "The McKenna House" at 2103 Paul Spring Road since mid-April, we send them congratulations on their July 16 marriage. —*Lee Ann Kinzer*

NEWCOMERS ON REBECCA

Finally, the little green house at a 7412 Rebecca Drive has found someone to love it. Say hello to Vicki and David Durandt, and rescue dog Leila, who come to the neighborhood from places near and far (Delaware and Australia).—*Janice Rivera*

DEPARTURES FROM RIPPON

Farewell to Jud and Hilary Ginsberg, who have left their home of twenty years on the corner of Rippon and Drury for Stephenson, Virginia. Among their many community activities, Jud served as chair of the DRC, and Hilary as CAHH membership chair. We wish them well in their new home.

A MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCE

On the passing of Ann Citron, the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Torpedo Factory Art Center expresses its sincere condolences and best wishes to her husband, Bob, and the rest of her family, for their loss. Ann was a long-time resident artist of the Art Center and a Friends Board member and had given her earnest support of and participation in the activities of both organizations. She was instrumental in assisting the Friends in re-establishing its grant funding from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. She also advocated for initiatives to better connect the Friends and the Art Center with the minority communities of the City of Alexandria and its environs. Ann will be missed by all.

—*Larry Goldberg, President, Friends of the TFAC*

Scott and Lucy Wilson returned from a three-week trip in mid-July to find a five foot long volunteer cantaloupe vine growing among the bushes outside their living room windows. They decided to leave this mystery plant alone, and now it measures in at thirty feet, with seven melons ready to pick and more on the way. Scott wonders if there are any prohibitions against opening a farm stand on Popkins Lane.



Bluefish shown receiving sportsmanship award.

2018 SEASON WRAPS UP AT THE HH POOL

The lazy days of summer are almost over at the Hollin Hills Pool. If you like doing laps, lounging in tranquil waters, or just enjoying the sun, better get to the pool soon, because it will be closing on Sunday, September 9.

It's been a good year for the Hollin Hills Bluefish. In addition to a winning year, the team won the NVSL Division XV Sportsmanship Award. In these days when incivility too often is the norm, it is wonderful to have the pool children recognized. The Bluefish also won the Patriot Division at the Mt. Vernon Individual Medley Invitational.

Food Trucks in September will include: Bangkok House (Monday, September 3, arriving at 12:30 pm) and Rocklands and Cookie Man (Saturday, September 8, at 5:30pm).

—*Barbara Bogue, HH Pool Chair*

MOUNT VERNON AT HOME – CHEERS!

Members and prospective members of Mount Vernon at Home are invited to a gathering at the home of the Krizeks, Paul and Tracey & Gene and Addy, 2201 Whiteoaks Drive, on Sunday, September 23, 4–6 pm. Please bring a beverage and also an appetizer to share (enough for 4-6 people). RSVP to Betsy Clagett, Mount Vernon At Home, 703-303-4060, by September 19.

(Mount Vernon at Home is a grassroots organization committed to helping retirement age neighbors live engaged lifestyles and that provides support as needed.)



Garden-Wise

The Monarch Watch Is On!

It's that time of the year! Nearly every day when I walk out to the garden, I see a monarch, sometimes two or more, fluttering over and about my flowers and plants. I'm hoping that's a sign that this may be a good year for monarchs in this area, even though the monarch population has fallen by 90% in the last twenty years, according to the National Wildlife Federation. In addition, declining overwintering populations have been the lowest in the last ten years. While there are many factors contributing to this decline, one factor is the lack of availability of its host plant, milkweed.



As many Hollin Hillers know, monarchs only lay eggs on plants in the milkweed family, and the

larvae only eat milkweed during their approximately two-week development. The mature yellow-and-black-striped caterpillar wanders off its host plant to find a place to attach itself and transform into a jade-green, jeweled chrysalis, the pupal or resting stage of development. About two weeks later, a fully developed orange and black butterfly will emerge, its delicate wings small and shriveled at first. An hour or so later, it will have pumped fluid into its wings and fused its two-part proboscis or "feeding straw" together. Now it will be ready to take flight and begin its own life cycle. No matter how many times I find a tiny ovoid egg on the underside of a milkweed leaf, or spot a caterpillar methodically chomping on a leaf, or witness the beauty of the chrysalis case and ponder the metamorphosis that is taking place inside, I know that providing the milkweed in my garden is worth it!

Monarch Watch (monarchwatch.org) notes that "we are losing 6,000 acres of potential monarch/pollinator habitat a day in the U.S. due to development." So what can we do? Plant milkweed, as well as other nectar-laden plants friendly to pollinators is one answer. Here are a few thoughts on plants attractive to butterflies and especially to monarchs.

My own butterfly garden has three kinds of milkweed: common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). The National Wildlife Federation describes twelve native milkweeds on their

website, with six of them native to Virginia. The other three native to Virginia are purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*), white milkweed (*Asclepias variegata*), and whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*). Swamp milkweed, white milkweed, and whorled milkweed are somewhat shade tolerant.



All three of the milkweed plants in my garden attract butterflies as well as other pollinators. This year, I have only found eggs and larvae on the common milkweed. In years past, the female monarchs seemed to prefer the swamp milkweed. And while I've had many butterflies on the colorful orange-and-yellow butterfly weed, I have not found larvae on those plants.

The common milkweed is an invasive plant, although it has attractive pink aromatic flowers that pollinators love. Once established, it spreads rapidly by underground rhizomes or roots and is difficult to contain. It is now popping up in the yard, two feet from the garden! I have found that pinching the plants back in the spring or removing several at the base, help to keep the plants lower-growing and the leaves younger and fresher. Both swamp milkweed and butterfly weed are clump forming and behave better in the garden, and both also have very attractive, sweet-smelling flowers. Butterfly weed does seed itself, but not aggressively so, and I relish having more of it in the garden. It never gets more than about two feet tall and it reblooms throughout the summer. As mentioned above, swamp milkweed can tolerate shade.

I hope you will consider planting one kind of milkweed in a sunny or partially sunny spot in your garden. I'm happy to share some common milkweed plants and seeds from the other two kinds of milkweed I have. All these plants are available from Nature by Design, a native plant nursery in Alexandria. I'd love to hear from other gardeners about their experience this summer with monarchs. So feel free to email me or come by and visit my "wild and rangy" butterfly garden any time!



—Gretchen Spencer
gretchenspencer@gmail.com

Design Review

Wednesday, July 24 Meeting

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, July 24, 2018, at 2314 Kimbro Street in Hollin Hills. Members present included John Nolan, Virginia Wallace and Ken Wilson. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during the meeting:

- **1925 Marthas Road**, Simon/Schupe residence: Architect Rebecca Bostick presented plans for a simple entry addition and an infill of an existing covered deck. Plans also detailed extending a stone patio and new stairs down to the lower level of the property in the back half of the house. The DRC discussed several of the details with the architect and approved renovations as presented.

- **1800 Drury Lane**, Brady residence: Architect Rebecca Bostick presented plans for a covered walk along the side of the house with a roof deck over the walk and storage/mud room addition, previously approved by the DRC. The committee discussed several details of the deck railing and finish details. The new additions to the previously approved plans were approved.

- **7505 Elba Road**, Henschel/Youngberg residence: The DRC reviewed plans to replace an asphalt driveway and two flagstone paths that are deteriorating. The homeowners proposed replacing all three areas with stone pavers shown in (*continued on page 5*)

Design Review *from page 4*

several images provided by the homeowners. After review and discussion, the DRC approved the project as presented.

Wednesday, August 8 Meeting

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3. Members present included Pam Koger-Jessup (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, Virginia Wallace and Ken Wilson. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during the meeting:

- **7702 Elba Road**, Gavankar residence: The homeowner presented plans for a shed, deck and front door replacement. The DRC conceptually approved the shed plans, assuming vertical T1-11 siding, windows without the grill crosspieces and solid double doors. The committee asked the homeowner to provide a detailed application with specifications discussed and plat showing location.

The DRC also gave conceptual approval for deck plans presented by the homeowner. The committee asked the homeowner to provide a detailed application with specifications discussed and plat showing location.

The DRC discussed the proposed door replacement, suggesting the homeowner consider a wood door. No final decision on the door replacement was made. The homeowner will provide the DRC with detailed specifications of a proposed door.

- **2306 Kimbro Street**, Rivera/Hall-Rivera residence: The DRC discussed and conceptually approved submitted plans for a proposed deck and associated hardscaping. The homeowners did not attend the meeting. The DRC will follow up with the homeowners about next steps for the project.

- **7304 Rebecca Drive**, Campanella residence: The committee reviewed the materials originally submitted and plans submitted for

ABOUT THE DRC

The Design Review Committee (DRC) of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH) meets monthly to offer homeowners guidance about potential exterior property renovations and whether those desired renovations are in harmony and conformity with the association's DRC Guidelines. All DRC-approved projects are subject to and must comply with Fairfax County building regulations, policies, and codes. Homeowners should complete appropriate County permit processes prior to the start of any renovations.



final approval for a second-story addition by the homeowner to confirm current construction matches the plans. The addition had been previously approved by the DRC. After discussion, the DRC confirmed that the current addition construction is in agreement with the approved plans and materials.

Other Business:

- **2204 Marthas Road**, Ryburn residence: John Nolan made a motion to enter into the record that the DRC had administratively approved the shed proposed at this address by the homeowner.

Next meeting

The next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 12, 2018, 7pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3, 2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306.

—Chris McNamara

HOLLIN HILLS AND THE WRIGHT STUFF

Having the chance to have Frank Lloyd Wright and Hollin Hills mentioned together in the same conversation was a no-brainer.

day tour called 'Mid-Century Modern and the Wright Stuff'. He proposed leading a bus load of people to explore the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian design on the course of modern architecture, including Mid-Century Modern. They would visit The Pope-Leighy House (with an incidental tour of Woodlawn Plantation), then compare and contrast that design to houses in Hollin Hills, and finish with a walking tour of Holmes Run Acres. Bill wanted to bring his curious tourists to one or two houses in Hollin Hills. To me, having the chance to have Frank Lloyd Wright and Hollin Hills mentioned together in the same conversation was a no-brainer. So, on July 21, with help from David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, as well as Scott Wilson and John Burns, we pulled it off.

David and Jaelith offered their spectacular house, and Barbara

Last winter, I received a phone call from Bill Keene, who explained that the Smithsonian Associates were putting together a one-

day tour called 'Mid-Century Modern and the Wright Stuff'. He proposed leading a bus load of people to explore the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright's Usonian design on the course of modern architecture, including Mid-Century Modern. They would visit The Pope-Leighy House (with an incidental tour of Woodlawn Plantation), then compare and contrast that design to houses in Hollin Hills, and finish with a walking tour of Holmes Run Acres. Bill wanted to bring his curious tourists to one or two houses in Hollin Hills. To me, having the chance to have Frank Lloyd Wright and Hollin Hills mentioned together in the same conversation was a no-brainer. So, on July 21, with help from David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, as well as Scott Wilson and John Burns, we pulled it off.

Liggett and I offered our house, which looked decent since we had been on the April home tour. John Burns gave a talk about Hollin Hills, and Scott Wilson rode on the bus, acting as tour guide. Also, it poured down rain the whole time. No worries. Between forty and fifty people tramped through our houses, asking a lot of questions, and admiring the many qualities of Hollin Hills homes that we tend to take for granted. I heard more than one 'Wow' as people approached our front door, because at my house, one looks right through the opposing window walls of the living room to the oval-shaped iron-railed deck in the back. I humbly suggest that to fresh eyes, it is pretty stunning. One woman said she had been to my house during the home tour and was glad to see it again. They also visited, IMHO, one of the best designed houses in Hollin Hills when they went to David and Jaelith's—I love that house. John Burns was his normal superb, and Scott Wilson was a natural. I think he should consider forming the 'Wilson Hollin Hills Tour Company.'

All this is evidence that Hollin Hills remains a strong draw to people interested in mid-century modern design. So remember to thank a DRC member for the efforts of that group to keep our architectural legacy a reality.

—Gus Matson

Notable Neighbors

REBECCA RYBURN

"I had wanderlust." This simple statement is how Rebecca Ryburn explains her life's journey. And wanderlust is what propelled her to explore the world.

"I felt the world was an exciting place and still do!" After high school she felt compelled to leave Pulaski County so in the autumn of 1975 she joined the Air Force. "That was my ticket out."

While serving as 'Site Developer,' in a Civil Engineering squadron, performing land surveys and updating base infrastructure drawings, a happy and adventuresome Rebecca met and married Tom, an Air force officer.

Because of their postings she was only able to take night classes, but in seven different colleges! None offered photography majors, her field of interest, so she decided on a business degree. "I finally graduated with honors, at 30, from the University of West Florida with a degree in marketing which was a great degree to promote myself."

During their first year of marriage she was assigned to an air base in Korea, one of only a handful of women on the base of about 5000 personnel. Tom was also in Korea, but 200 miles away. Yet they felt fortunate to be able to see each other every other weekend and take trips to Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Thailand. "The far east was exotic and eye-opening to this small-town girl."

Upon separating from the service as a Senior Airman, she travelled, as a military spouse, to Germany, Japan, Korea, and many stateside assignments. At the Elgin AFB Aero Club, in Florida, she earned her private pilot's license.

When Tom retired in 2003, after 28 years of service, and joined an international engineering firm, they were back in Germany, Qatar, the UAE, and India.

During their overseas assignments, Rebecca traveled and photographed extensively. "I pursued photography because it travels well, and is extremely rewarding!"

She has always enjoyed taking photos, but discovered she really like photographing people, because, "Living everyday life, or posing to show themselves in

their best light for a portrait, humans are fascinating."

With Germany as base they travelled throughout Europe and relished experiencing that rich tapestry of people and cultures. "Altogether we've lived over eight years in Germany, and, yes, we'd go back again!"

Rebecca said living around a base is handy because basically a "little America" is available, with stores, restaurants, clubs, and schools, but living overseas as a civilian is different.

"Social life was less structured, but much was available via a vibrant expat community." In Abu Dhabi they lived in the same building as several other families working on a futuristic city, called Masdar City, and on another project bringing nuclear power to the Emirates. "We expats had Friday card games, Canadian and American Thanksgiving celebrations, get together, and excursions to discover our corner of Arabia."

Rebecca felt secure to mingle freely, take public transportation, and walk alone in Abu Dhabi. "I dressed modestly, but didn't cover my head."

They were also stationed in rural Vijayawada, India, where Tom worked to build the infrastructure for Amaravati, a brand new capital city constructed from the ground up.

"India is an explosion of the senses. There aren't many westerners in this area, and a western woman is even more of a curiosity." There they lived in a hotel instead of an apartment and got to know the staff well and relied heavily on their chauffeur, which was crucial. "Traffic is a frantic stream of cars, buses, bikes, motorcycles, tuk tuks (auto rickshaws), trucks and pedestrians coming and going from all directions all at the same time. It's a tireless cacophony of blaring horns. It's poetic chaos best left to the pros."

"We learned Vijayawada is a pilgrimage destination for both Hindus and Buddhists. The kaleidoscopic range of beliefs found throughout India can also be found locally. "We enjoyed this culture bursting with bold colors, flavors and history."

Another of Rebecca's talents lies in making stained glass, which she finds fun and

challenging. "Creating stained glass pieces is a labor of love. And when someone really likes a piece, I enjoy giving it away."

She is also a runner, a singer, a prolific reader and most recently got involved in beekeeping and meditation.

"I started running in my early twenties. Running three miles, four or five times per week is one of my few really good habits!"

As a child she started singing in church and as an adult has enjoyed singing in "Skylark" group ensembles of military wives. During the year they performed at community centers. "My southern twang lends itself to Patsy Cline, but I love to sing blues and pop too."

Rebecca has two bee hives and this is her fifth year keeping bees. "They are amazing! Bees can make new queens, make wax, glue, and of course, their most delicious creation, honey!"

Rebecca and Tom moved to Hollin Hills in 2007 and have supervised many upgrades to their house on Marthas Road. "The house has retained its mid-century character while being transformed into a modern residence on the inside."

Rebecca and Tom recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They have one son, Matt, a Virginia Tech graduate who is a software developer in New York City.

"I feel so fortunate having had the opportunity to travel. I can't imagine ever losing my desire to experience other cultures. I find our world, with all its variety, marvelous and awesome! So many adventures, so little time!"

—Mohra Gavankar

Summer ends, and autumn comes, and he who would have it otherwise would have high tide always and a full moon every night.

—Hal Borland



in Our Parks

FALL SCHEDULE FOR PARK PROJECTS

Come meet new neighbor, renew old acquaintances, and do a very good deed or two while you're at it. This fall offers many opportunities to "party in our parks." Thanks in advance!

- **September 16, 9am, Goodman Park Trail Renovation**

Learn how to get the standing water off the trail, a useful skill in these wet and soggy times. Robert Fina will lead another trail workshop, sharing his Appalachian Trail expertise, tools, and safety gear. Meet at the southern end of Goodman Park on Martha's Road, just east of Stafford Road.

- **Multiple dates in Sutton Potter Park, Sept 30, Oct 7, 21, 28, and November 4, all 2-4pm.**

Free our trees! Spend some contemplative time in the woods (nature bathing...), and cut and remove ivy and other vines that are clinging to our forest trees. Bring clippers, loppers, and gloves. Mary Ellen Gilman leads this repeating opportunity to spend time in our park. Park is located off of Range Road.

- **October 13, 9am-noon, Paul Spring Park and our northern neighborhood entrance**

TRASH TRASH TRASH, VINES VINES VINES! Come collect trash (travels downstream from Beacon Hill) and cut vines off of our trees. Barbara Liggett, Lee Ann Kinzer, and Gretchen Spencer will lead an adventure-filled morning. Meet at Hollin Hills Pool parking lot. Late? Look for neighbors having fun along the entirety of the Paul Spring Park corridor between Fort Hunt Road and

Devonshire Road. Bring clippers, gloves, enthusiasm, and boots for creek wading/cleaning.

- **November 3, 9am-noon, McCalley Park, on the corner of Rippon and Paul Spring Roads**

Bring a strong dislike of English ivy and bamboo to support Jamie Agnew in her efforts to rid this park of invasive plant materials. Ultimately, our intent is to replant the park with species more suitable and supportive of our Hollin Hills ecology. Bring clippers, rakes, saws, shovels, and gloves. If bending and stretching are not for you, you could come anyway and provide entertainment to the workers—sing, tell jokes, share donuts—anything to keep the morale up.

- **November 11, 2-4pm, Sutton Potter Park, (aka the big sledding hill). Entrance off of Range Road**

Rid the park of its nasty shrub layer. Oodles of winged euonymus (burning bush), honeysuckle, Japanese privet, multi-flora rose all need to be cut to the ground. Bring clippers, loppers, gloves and rakes. Meet at the base of the park at its entry off Range Road. If you come late, head up the hill on the mown 'path' and join the work efforts there.

—*Elisabeth Lardner, CAHH Parks Chair*
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in Our Skies

WILL HOLLIN HILLERS EVER BE ABLE TO SLEEP WITH OPEN WINDOWS AGAIN

In 2015 the FAA implemented "NextGen", a new air traffic control system, whereby all south flow departing flights from DCA are now routed directly over Hollin Hills, causing intense and relentless noise pollution.

The Good News

In early 2017 a group of residents of Hollin Hills and Villamay, with the support of Supervisor Dan Storck and Delegate Paul Krizek, formed the South Flow Alliance (SFA) with the goal of informing and mobilizing the community and making our voices heard at the FAA. Our group now includes representatives from several neighborhoods, including Gum Springs and Wellington, and we meet regularly with a member of the MWAA DCA (Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority DC Area Community Noise

Working Group), which identifies community concerns and makes recommendations to the FAA.

In July 2017, the MWAA DCA (<http://www.flyreagan.com/dca/dca-reagan-national-community-working-group>) approved and submitted a proposal (Recommendation #8) to the FAA that, among other things, would revise the DCA runway 19 departure procedure and have departing airplanes centered over the Potomac River to approximately 10 miles south of the airport and climbing to 5,000 ft. before making a south west turn to a point south of Fort Belvoir at 7,000 ft. and then intercepting a flight path south, south west or west depending on the destination.

The FAA presented its response. Consensus was reached by MWAA WG following an FAA presentation in April 2018. The option of a true solution was on the table.

The Not-so-good News

The final OK to initiate the departure procedure implementation process has now been delayed due to a lawsuit brought by the State of Maryland against the FAA. The FAA has discontinued conversation with MWAA WG until further notice, citing pending litigation. The MWAA WG is working hard to re-engage the FAA on items relating to south flow procedures as these are not involved in the litigation. Our hope is that the FAA will return to the table soon.

When the MWAA WG proposal is approved by the FAA, they will begin an 18-month safety and environmental review with public presentations and outreach as part of the process. The earliest any potential changes could be implemented is in 2020. It's a frustratingly slow, complicated process (*continued on page 8*)



Airplane Noise *from page 7*

with many components, but it is important to be persistent. Keep submitting noise complaints and contacting our elected officials. Noise complaints filed online get no immediate response, but are being collected and tallied, and they help our cause. Keep those earplugs in for now, but don't give up!

How You Can Help

- A Reagan National aircraft noise complaint can be submitted at <https://viewpoint.bksv.com/dca3> or download the free Viewpoint App that allows you to file complaints in seconds from your phone.
- Call or write to our members of Congress asking them to support the MWAA WG recommendations:

Senator Tim Kaine
Phone: 202-224-4024
231 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington D.C 20510

Senator Mark Warner
Phone: 202-224-2023
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20510

Representative Don Beyer
Phone: 202-225-4376
1119 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington DC 20515

- Follow the SFA Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/southflowalliance/>.

—*Friederike Ahrens*

This article appeared earlier on the Hollin Hills Open Forum in a slightly different form.

CLASSIFIEDS

PET ADOPTION: Mary and Flo are two bonded sister tabbies up for adoption through Animal Allies. They are very friendly bed-and-lap-cats, and come with shots and spay. They had their fifteen minutes of fame two weeks ago, featured in the "Pet Gazette" issue of the Mt Vernon Gazette. Call Wendy Kilpatrick, 703 765-7163, and visit animalallies.com.

LOOKING FOR A ROOMMATE? We have a lovely artistic young lady looking for a room or to help with house/pet sitting. She is quiet and keeps to herself, but is friendly and willing to assist around the house. She is also a licensed massage therapist who works in the area. Needs the room by October 1. Currently residing in Hollin Hills. Rent negotiable. Please contact her at art_illustrations@yahoo.com if you can help. —*Tish Toner, 703-768-4212*