

NOVEMBER 2018

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



FOUR OF YOUR NEIGHBORS ARE CANDIDATES FOR THE CAHH BOARD



Patrick Kelly - President

The small Minnesota town where I grew up had about the same number of households as Hollin Hills and I really feel like I am back in a small town. Since moving here in 2010, I have been impressed and inspired by the amazing people in our community. It is the importance of community service that motivates me to put forth my name for CAHH

president for the coming two-year term. I served as vice president (2014-15), volunteered at several House & Garden Tours, and helped canvas the community in support of the Historic Overlay District Committee initiative. I also serve for Fairfax County as the chief election officer for Kirkside Precinct. My career path has also been one of service. I served as a naval officer for six years before transitioning into teaching. I have taught social studies at Wakefield High in Arlington for over 27 years. I enjoy meeting and listening to people, and I know that, if elected president, I can count on the support of my Hollin Hills neighbors and friends in helping the CAHH to keep our community beautiful, unique, and fun.



Mohra Gavankar - Secretary

Mohra Gavankar has lived all over the world, but when she went hunting for a place to call home in Alexandria, she knew Hollin Hills was where she would spend the next chapter of her life.

She and her late husband have two daughters: Sonya, a broadcast journalist, and Janina, an actor. Friends and family know she focuses on three things: her grandson, Peter, her three-pound dog, Guthrie, and community service. Mohra is a philanthropist with the experience of a business woman and the heart of an educator.

Her love of children stretches past her degree in child psychology and early learning. On the Board of Trustees for Lewis University for over 25 years, she regularly presents workshops at schools, community colleges, and associations.

In Illinois, Mohra was president of several philanthropic organizations, including the Hospice Guild and Easter Seals. Under her 14-year leadership as state chair, the Distinguished Young Women of Illinois Scholarship Program awarded over \$250,000 in college scholarships. She resurrected the DC chapter in 2017, and the winner went on to win the national title plus \$55,000 in scholarships.

Gino Madrid - Director, Social Chair

I grew up in Los Angeles, and, before I retired last June, was a violinist for twenty years with "The President's Own" Marine Band, providing music for the White House under four presidents. I regularly play with the National Symphony and other musical organizations throughout the DC area. Being a mid-century furniture collector for the past two decades is what ultimately brought me and my husband, Steve, to Hollin Hills.



I love Hollin Hills, not only for its stunning architecture, but also for its sense of community. The residents I've met in the

past four years that I have lived here are so kind and open-minded, and live up to the definition of "neighborly." In this community, we all have such diverse occupations and talents, yet we share the same appreciation for this truly unique place where we live. Our diversity as a community makes us stronger! I hope that I can help all of us "Hollin Hillers" to get to know more of our neighbors, both "newbies" and "veterans."

Sarah "Sally" Watkins - Director, Parks Liaison

My husband, Jim Wheeler, and I have lived in Hollin Hills since 2005. We came here from Chevy Chase, MD, after a brief stint in Old Town. We wanted to find a home that offered us privacy and quiet with a yard where we could pursue our shared passion for gardening. We got everything we were looking for when we moved to Hollin Hills, with the added plus that our home is on one-level.



I have been a real estate appraiser for thirty years. I have a keen interest in architecture and lots of experience with zoning issues and historic districts as they impact real estate values. I studied landscape design at George Washington University, which I believe has given me a singular appreciation of the trees and plantings that make Hollin Hills special. Our house was on the House & Garden Tour this year. Jim and I both enjoyed being involved in that event.

Serving on the Board will provide me with another opportunity to meet new folks and hopefully get the satisfaction of making a positive contribution to our community.

More about CAHH elections on next page →

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 | 401-9736 |

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 |
|-------|---------------|--------------|

PARKS COMMITTEE

| | | |
|-------|-------------------|----------|
| Chair | Elisabeth Lardner | 765-3023 |
|-------|-------------------|----------|

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH. Material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CAHH Board or the editor.

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|----------|
| 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.

Bulletin Distribution problems:

- To add/correct/change your mail or email address, or if you have not received your digital Bulletin, or 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.



FROM THE CAHH PRESIDENT

■ Car Break-ins, Intrusions and Suspicious Vehicles

Over the last few weeks, there have been several incidents in Hollin Hills that require alertness from our residents. On Rippon Road, in the middle of the morning, a strange man walked up a driveway and opened the door of the car parked there. He was spotted by the babysitter. He left, only to return an hour later, driving slowly by in a silver colored Subaru. The property owner was outside at the time, and yelled at the man, who sped off. In a separate incident on Glasgow Road, a man in a dark van was parked outside of a house when the owners returned from a dinner out. The resident asked the driver if he could help him, and the man said he was there to pick up someone from a house a few doors away. The man then drove off without stopping to pick up anyone. It is important that we pay attention to our surroundings, and very important that we LOCK OUR CARS! Every time. Make it a habit. People with certain bad habits and with little or no money are willing to take risks that can be bad for our residents. Please be careful.

■ New CAHH Director Nominees and a New DRC Chair

As you can see from the news on page one, we have four lovely people (Patrick Kelly, Mohra Gavankar, Gino Madrid and Sally Watkins) who are volunteering to serve on the CAHH board. I am very happy to have these folks step up. You should be happy, too. Volunteers keep Hollin Hills clicking along with a panoply of services for our residents. In the end, the entire neighborhood benefits.

More good news. In addition to these wonderful people, we have another volunteer, Andy Hight, who is being appointed as the new chairperson of the DRC. I am so pleased by his willingness to help the neighborhood. I also want to thank Pam Koger-Jesup for serving as the interim chair of the DRC. She really stepped up when she was absolutely needed, at some real personal inconvenience.

Now the bad news. We still have two director positions to fill on the CAHH board. The by-laws require that the board have nine directors, so we still have a way to go. Please consider joining the ranks.

■ Fall Membership Meeting of the CAHH

The CAHH Fall Membership Meeting will be held on December 4, at 7:30pm, in the large meeting room at Sherwood Hall Library. Please plan to attend. If you are tempted to run to be an officer or director of the CAHH board, you can come to that meeting and add your name to the ballot. Also, if you let me know earlier (gus.matson@gmail.com), I will publish your candidacy.

■ Thanks to the Friends of Hollin Hills

You probably have noticed that the Hollin Hills signs, both at the entrance onto Paul Spring Road and at the entrance onto Davenport Street, now have a nice acknowledgement that Hollin Hills is on the National Register of Historic Places. The signs look great and serve an important purpose. Thank you, Friends.

—Gus Matson, CAHH President,

Quick Takes

NEIGHBORHOOD COMINGS AND GOINGS

- A warm welcome to Jeremy Kenney, Megan Smith, and their 4-year-old daughter, Piper, who recently moved into the house on the corner of Rippon Road and Drury Lane, former home of the Ginsberg family.
- Pam Richmond, a Hollin Hiller since the early 1960s, has recently moved to Fox Hill Senior Residences, 8300 Burdette Road, Apt E608, Bethesda, Maryland, 20817. Her home phone number is 301-968-1331. Pam raised her family in Hollin Hills and is remembered carting station wagon loads of kids to activities. Along with being a girls' soccer coach, she tutored school children and taught music. She still enjoys photography. —*Rebecca Ryburn*
- Mike and Debbie Plotnik are leaving their Paul Spring Road home of 8 years and heading west to Colorado, where their two young grandchildren are the big attraction. We wish them well.
- On October 13, our first evening of real fall weather, this year's Drury Lane block party expanded to become the Drury-Rippon block(s) party. This larger group, including a swarm of kids and three friendly dogs, enjoyed a potluck feast around a very welcome bonfire. Thanks to Jovi Medic and Alyson Burgess for, once again, getting things underway.

OKTOBERFEST—WUNDERBAR!

A hungry, thirsty crowd congregated on October 6, as German music and the aroma of sizzling sausages filled the air. On one of the few non-rainy recent Saturdays, they came to eat, drink, and celebrate with old and new friends at the sixth annual Hollin Hill Oktoberfest, sponsored by the Civic Association.

The community owes a very big thank you to Social Chair Susmita Dastidar, who oversaw the event, and to David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, the Oktoberfest co-chairs. David and Jaelith would have been a welcome addition to the celebration for their authentic Bavarian outfits alone, but in addition, they made sure that the excellent German beer flowed freely, and the brats



(Above) Oktoberfest featured good food and (right) good beer, expertly chosen and served by David Rivera.



and sauerkraut were authentic and delicious. Susmita's husband, Eric Stromayer, and their daughters, Antara and Lalita, who served as part of the hard-working team, also get a special vote of thanks. Thanks, too, to Gus Matson, Bob Kinzer, Laura and Steve Kistler, Chris McNamara, and all the others who helped set up the tents and clean up afterward.

Thanks also to everyone who sent in photos of the event. Sorry that space limitations prevented using all of them.

A BIG TIME TRICK-OR-TREAT DESTINATION

If you have passed the house on the corner of Mason Hill and Range Road since mid-October, you have seen the amazing results of Lisa Gorog's love of Halloween. In fact, Lisa loves Halloween so much that her wedding reception was Halloween-themed!

Lisa moved to Hollin Hills a few months ago with three furry housemates: cats Pepito and Chupy and a dog named Zolia.

She grew up in San Diego with a sister and parents who immigrated from Hungary after the 1956 revolution. Although she often thought of becoming a veterinarian, she became an attorney instead. After working pro bono for the armed services and looking for a more fulfilling life, she joined the Air Force. Since then, she has lived in Japan, Baghdad, Guantanamo, Washington, Arkansas, and Texas.

When she returned from Japan, she moved to the farming community of Tehachapi, California, where she and her neighbors began decorating for Halloween—more elaborately each year. The kids from the surrounding rural area were thrilled and, five Halloweens later, 2,000 trick-or-treaters visited their neighborhood.

Lisa builds many of her props herself and buys others at after-Halloween clearance sales, but *(continued on page 4)*



Lighting and animation make Lisa Gorog's Halloween display super spooky.



A BACKWARD GLANCE.

These drawings of the Mount Vernon Farmers Market were made at least 20 years ago, by the late Kathy Spagnolo. Kathy's designs and illustrations frequently appeared in the Bulletin, and have decorated many Hollin Hills commemorative t-shirts, brochures, and posters. Some of them, including the familiar graphic of a tree filled with Hollin Hills houses, are still widely used. The Farmer's Market is now held on Wednesday mornings, 8am-12 noon, in the Sherwood Library parking lot, and will run through November. It's larger now, but otherwise, looks very much like the earlier days shown here.

Quick Takes *from page 3*

treats herself to one large, full price item each year. Watch for a new full-price wolf appearing soon!

—Linda Benson

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE POOL

“What’s happening at Hollin Hills Pool?” is a question we’ve heard a lot lately! And the answer? Improvements!

At season’s end, the digging outside the fence identified and allowed repair of a leak in the water line. More recently, we installed low walls designed to keep dirt off the deck and the pavilion, where they will also provide extra seating. Throughout the off season, these projects will be undertaken: water circulation system repairs to enhance the quality of the water; repair and replacement of parts of the pool deck; and improvement of the pool’s overall operations efficiency.

And that large trash pile in the pool parking lot? That was the work of a group of hardy volunteers who buttoned up the pool for

the winter.—cleaning, storing lane lines and hoses, washing down grills and weeding. The volunteers included Jeff and Patty Vandersall, Rebecca Bostick, Peter Levitt, and John Totaro.

—Barbara Bogue, HH Pool Chair

CITIZENS ADVISORY MEETING ON POLYGRAPHS

At the October Citizens Advisory Committee meeting, we learned about polygraph testing, as used by the Fairfax County police. A polygraph session begins with an hour-and-a-half interview, followed by the actual polygraph, which takes two to three hours and is always one-on-one. Polygraphs measure breathing patterns, blood pressure, sweating, and other indicators. Even the subject’s chair records movements. This data is charted on a graph for the agents’ use. The County police department has nine examiners and uses 1600 polygraphs yearly.

The next meeting, featuring updates on the future of Route One, is November 13, 7pm, in the Parker’s Lane facility.

—Laura Wirkkala



OF HOLLIN HILLS ■ COMPLETED PROJECTS, FUTURE PLANS

A Busy First Year

With your kind and generous support in the past year, Friends has preserved and enhanced the neighborhood’s public parks by installing two new benches in McCalley Park, repairing a portion of the playground equipment at Voigt Park, refurbishing all the benches and picnic tables in all the parks, and installing trash and recycling cans with twice weekly collection service at Voigt Park.

In addition, Friends recently added “Historic District” panels to our neighborhood entry signs, raising awareness of our neighborhood’s recognition on the National Register of Historic Places.

Friends also hosted a well received and well attended series of educational events on energy efficiency, modern landscapes, and the history of Hollin Hills.

Ongoing and Future Projects

An effort is already underway to review Hollin Hills architectural covenants with the aim of clarifying some of the terminology used.

Friends is also planning another series of educational events this winter. If there are any topics you would like to see addressed, please let us know!

Your Support Is Needed

In order to continue its momentum into the coming year, Friends continues to seek your support. After a busy and successful first year, Friends of Hollin Hills kicked off its fall fundraising campaign at the community’s Oktoberfest.

Cocktail Party and Silent Auction

In the meantime, following last year’s success, the board has decided to make the Cocktail Party and Silent Auction an annual event. It is scheduled for November 10, 2018 at 6 pm. Once again we will gather at a Hollin Hills home for cocktails, hors d’oeuvres, and fun with friends and neighbors. Please consider attending and supporting our still fledgling organization with a suggested \$50 per person donation. You can donate online at



John Nolan (above) designed and produced the attractive new panels above our entrance signs.

www.friendsofhollinhills.org, or send a check to Friends of Hollin Hills, 1600 Paul Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22307, and then RSVP through the website or by email to friendsofhollinhills@gmail.com. In order to stay within capacity limitations, the address will be provided after you RSVP.

—Christine Hooks, Friends Chair

in Our Parks

October Report

Mid-October brought a successful cleanup and work effort in Paul Spring Park and the northern entrance to Hollin Hills. Thank you to the workers who assisted in body and spirit on a brisk fall Saturday morning.

The flood report from Paul Spring Park was that there was no new damage and less trash than expected. This stream originates at Beacon Hill Mall. It has many opportunities to collect the flotsam and jetsam of parking lot and road debris that finds its way into our storm drainage system and quickly discharges into our Paul Spring stream.

Voigt Park did not escape so easily from the same deluge on the evening of October 11. Park Committee members are meeting this month to discuss what we can do to make this park more resilient to the seemingly more frequent and intense storm events. Until the Committee decides what to do in the long run, the invitation to move rock back up hill is again extended. By participating, you can enjoy an outdoor workout in the park.

Fall Work Party Schedule

The work parties in the park continue, with three remaining chances to join in. Check below for dates and times near you.

- **Saturday, November 3, 9am-noon, McCalley Park, corner of Rippon and Paul Spring Roads.** Bring a strong dislike of English

ivy and bamboo and 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, come anyway and provide entertainment to those working hard. Sing, read us a story, tell jokes, share donuts—keep up the morale.

- **Sunday, November 4, 2-4pm, Sutton Potter Park.** Free our trees! Spend some contemplative time in the woods while cutting and removing ivy and other vines that cling to our forest trees. Bring clippers, loppers, and gloves. Wear long pants and long sleeves. Mary Ellen Gilman leads this project. Park is located off of Range Road. Meet at the base of the park at its entry off of Range Road. If late, head up the hill on the mown 'path' and join the work efforts.

- **Sunday, November 11, 2-4pm, Sutton Potter Park** (see directions above). 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. Wear long pants and long sleeves.

- **Ongoing solo or family projects.** Pick up trash, snip ivy from trees, and report park problems (fallen limbs, etc.) to a park warden or to the parks chair.

—*Elisabeth Lardner, CAHH Parks Chair*
703-765-3023, elardner@aol.com

News of Our Schools

Hollin Meadows To Honor Veterans

Hollin Meadows Elementary School will host its annual Veterans Day ceremony on Friday, November 9, at 8:30am, and the school's neighbors are welcome to attend. It will feature the Military District of Washington's ceremonial Air Force Color Guard as well as distinguished speakers and singers from the military services. A short coffee and reception will follow for our service members. Please join us for this event.

The Garden Is Back!

The "2nd Sundays in the Garden" program, where student families and neighbors volunteer to help maintain the gardens and outdoor education space at the school, has been a popular Hollin Meadows tradition. Our work was on hold during the renovations, but the garden is back and ready to go! In fact, the lettuce for our Thanksgiving luncheon is starting to sprout. Please join us for "2nd Sunday" (Nov. 11, 2-4pm). Sign up at hollinmeadowspta.membershiptoolkit.com/Volunteer. Fill out "HMES PTA-Volunteer Opportunities" form and, under General Volunteer Opportunities, check "Garden Volunteer." Scroll down to Event Volunteers to check specific dates. You can update your availability at any point during the school year by visiting this site.

—*Jane Runnels*

News of our local area elementary, middle, and high schools is always a welcome Bulletin contribution, and if it's written by one of the students, so much the better.



The kids had a great time (above) and Math Game Night at Hollin Meadows was fun for the adults who participated, too. Alyson Burgess, (top photo, far left) co-chaired the event, and Gay Forney, (right) was one of the Hollin Hillers who volunteered as game leaders.



Design Review

DRC October Actions

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Monday, October 10, 2018, at Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 3. Members present included Pam Koger-Jesup (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Virginia Wallace. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during the meeting:

- **2405 Brentwood, Weinstein residence:** The owner is installing planting bed fence frames in the front yard. The frames will be cut down to four feet, in compliance with county code, and painted forest green to reduce their visual prominence. Project was approved as presented pending neighbor notification.
- **2309 Glasgow Road, Tepfer residence:** The committee reviewed owner's plans for a proposed shed relocation and reconstruction. The new shed will be the same design as neighbor's shed previously approved by the DRC. The project was approved as presented pending neighbor notification.

Meeting Schedule

The next meeting of the DRC will be held on Wednesday, November 14, 2018, 7:30pm., at Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Conference Room 1, 2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306.



ABOUT THE DRC

The Civic Association of Hollin Hills Design Review Committee (DRC) meets monthly to offer guidance to homeowners about potential exterior property renovations and whether those desired renovations are in harmony and conformity with the association's Design Review 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.