



HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

MARCH 2018

ACHIEVING EFFICIENT MODERNISM

- Are you trying to adapt your mid-century modern home to modern energy efficiency?
- Wondering what your options are for insulating a flat or cathedral ceiling?
- Should you replace your single pane windows with double or triple pane windows?
- And why are these houses so cold in the winter anyway?

Join the Friends of Hollin Hills on Sunday, March 4, 4–6pm, at the Hollin Hall of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church for a complimentary fun and informative evening of wine, cheese, and a panel of experts to answer these questions and more. There will be a social hour from 4pm to 5pm, with the panel/Q&A beginning at 5pm. **Please RSVP via email to friendsofhollinhills@gmail.com.**

Can't make it to this one? Join us for our next event on Sunday, April 8, same time, same place, where the topic will be on landscaping challenges and solutions.

For more about the Friends of Hollin Hills, see page 5.

Plans are well underway for the 2018 Hollin Hills

House & Garden Tour

that will take place on Saturday, April 28.

Be part of the fun and contribute to its success.

Volunteer at www.hollin-hills.org/house-tour

and click on the Volunteer button,

or email hfhgt2018@gmail.com with

the subject line "Volunteer."

Keep informed with email updates at

www.hollin-hills.org/house-tour and "like" our

Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HHHNGT).

HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT PROPOSED TO PRESERVE OUR UNIQUE COMMUNITY

Hollin Hills is a very special place to live, and one way to ensure that our architecture and historic nature are preserved in the coming years is through an Historic Overlay District (HOD). After the most recent lawsuit filed by the Civic Association to forestall the construction of the steep-sloped roof on Rebecca Drive that did not conform with our design review guidelines and the ensuing contrary judicial decision, our committee was formed to pursue an Historic Overlay District with Fairfax County and its Architectural Review Board (ARB) to preserve the unique architectural texture of our community.

This past year you may have heard about or attended meetings to discuss the possibility of creating an HOD for Hollin Hills. During the next six weeks, an HOD committee that I chair will be presenting our message to the community that will answer your questions and enlist your support for an HOD for Hollin Hills.

I recently met with the president of the Civic Association of Holmes Run Acres in Annandale. They have seen not only residents but also developers slowly chip away at the integrity of their mid-century modern (MCM) community. Even though their civic association provides architectural guidelines for additions and renovations, some homeowners and developers have been veering off course from the MCM style and their architectural fabric has been diminished.

Most recently, developers have been leaving notes taped to residents' doors asking to purchase their modest homes on big lots inside the Beltway with the aim to demolish the existing structures and construct large houses that will destroy the unique nature of the community. Because of these events, they, too, are now in the process of gathering community support for an HOD for Holmes Run Acres.

This is the occasion to ask Fairfax County *(continued on page 2)*

www.hollin-hills.org is the official Hollin Hills website. Have you checked it out?

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
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Parks	Bob Kinzer	768-4048

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST	Judy Rigglin	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

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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.

Historic Overlay District *from page 1*

to add their layer of support to our Design Review Committee and our Design Review Guidelines to help preserve our community's mid-century modern architecture. With an HOD in place for Hollin Hills, an application for a building permit will not be granted without first being approved by the ARB. This will not only protect the community, but will also provide assurance for homeowners that these projects can move forward unimpeded.

Now is the time to say goodbye to expensive and time consuming lawsuits. This is our moment to put HOD guidelines in place to preserve the architectural and historical integrity of Hollin Hills into perpetuity.

By the time you read this article, information on a Hollin Hills HOD should have been delivered to your door along with a letter of explanation, FAQ's, a list of dates and places where information will be available, (*see list below*) and a petition form. Please read the FAQ's as well as the information on the Fairfax County web site. Log on to our Facebook page to read about the HOD, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/HODHollinHills/>, and sign the petition or, if you are reading this article online, click on that link to sign the petition. You can also sign the hard copy in your packet, and we will pick it up.

Plan to attend one of our HOD Information Sessions to be held on March 3, 4, 11 and 18 at the homes of various Hollin Hillers. HOD initiative committee members will be at each house to provide a short presentation, initiate open discussion, and answer your questions. You are welcome to attend any session. The list at time of press is shown below, but there are more hosts being enlisted, so please refer to your packet of information for the most up-to-date info.

Please take this moment, now, to sign the petition that is included in our information packet to help preserve the mid-century modern architecture of Hollin Hills. Fairfax County is here to help us; let's take them up on that offer and trail blaze a new path to safeguard our distinctive community.

We will finish our campaign by the end of March and deliver our signatures of support to Supervisor Storck. I hope yours will be included in our submission.

Thank you,
Christine Kelly
 Chair, HOD Committee

Learn more about HOD at an Information Session at one of these homes:

- March 3, 2-4pm** JG Harrington & Jere Gibber, 7221 Beechwood Road
- March 4, 2-4pm** Kathy Seikel, 7318 Rippon Road
 Christine Kelly, 2109 Popkins Lane
 Mary Ann Rametta, 7423 Hopa Court
 Judy England-Joseph, 2208 Glasgow Road
- March 11, 2-4pm** Sara & Tyger Latham, 2214 Martha's Road
 Susan Kuhbach, 7202 Rebecca Drive
 Barbara Ward, 2207 Paul Spring Road
 Jodie Burns, 7618 Elba Road
- March 18, 2-4pm** Steve and Laura Kistler, 2305 Kimbro Street.
 Peter & Ginny Kinzler, 7310 Stafford Road
 Barbara Liggett & Gus Matson, 7410 Recard Lane
 Bob & Lee Ann Kinzer, 2100 Pickwick Lane
 Tony Morris & Gail Kropf, 7507 Elba Road
 John & Pam Wittmann, 1936 Martha's Road

Quick Takes

BIG PROGRESS ON HOLLIN MEADOWS RENOVATION

There is much excitement surrounding the current phase of the Hollin Meadows Elementary School renovation. A portion of the school is now completed and in use, including a new main entrance attached to the main office, a beautiful window-filled library, one of the music rooms, and the first and second grade classrooms. There is independent heating and cooling for each classroom, and each classroom has a sink, cubby area, and, in the lower grades, a bathroom. Most fun for students is the bottle fill at the drinking fountains. Water consumption has sky-rocketed!



Next up, February through April, is the renovation of the annex and demolition of the office, old library, and entry areas. During the summer months, the projected work will include the annex, cafeteria, kitchen, playground, parking lot resurfacing, kindergarten rooms, art rooms, and a stage in the cafeteria.

—Jane Runnels

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

The Hollin Hills Book Club, that has contributed monthly book reviews for many years, has decided to take a break from review writing; however, they will continue to meet on the third Wednesday afternoon of the month, and will still welcome visitors and new members.

A big thank you to all of the Book Club members for their efforts over the years, and an appeal to the other book lovers out there. Please share your book finds by writing a review in the Bulletin—old favorites or brand new best sellers, books you loved and even books that disappointed you. Reviews can be a few sentences or several paragraphs. Anyone who would enjoy doing this either once, occasionally, or on a regular basis, please let me know.

—Barbara Shear, barbshear@verizon.net

GETTING TO KNOW OUR NEIGHBORS

In the coming months, we will be reintroducing a feature to the Bulletin that we hope you will enjoy—a series of interviews that will highlight our recent or long-time Hollin Hills neighbors.

We would be thrilled to get suggestions of whom to interview, and would be even more excited if you would like to share your own life's journey.

Everyone has a story. What is yours? We would love to hear it.

—Mohra Gavankar, mohragavankar@gmail.com.

ALTERNATE ACCOUNTABILITY

“Alternative Accountability” was the topic at the February meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Mt. Vernon District



Above: A bright and cheerful new first grade room at Hollin Meadows
At left, clockwise: Hollin Hillers enjoying a recent HMS Bingo Night included Charlie Weidenfeller, Jovi Medic, Eva Medic, Corey Runnels, Zoe Runnels, Sayla Runnels, Piya Vlach, Finn Vlach, and William Crooks.

Police (CAC). Alternate Accountability is a way to keep kids who get in trouble from having a criminal record. The successful example that was described involved some kids who popped their neighbor's tires. The couple affected had only one car, and it was used to take the husband for kidney dialysis. Police, lawyers, and a judge all got involved. Their solution protected the teens from a criminal record which would have had negative affects on their college admission and further job possibilities. It called for the kids' parents to replace the tires and for the teenagers to drive the patient to dialysis. Surprisingly, a friendship developed during these trips, and the teenagers now mow the man's lawn for free.

Learn more about our police department at the next monthly CAC meeting on Tuesday, March 13, at 7pm.

—Laura Wirkkala

LOCAL ARTIST'S PAINTING AT ARENA STAGE

Hollin Hills artist HIRO's painting, "Equal Justice Under Law: Hirabayashi v United States," is being exhibited at Arena Stage, Washington, DC, at the Kogod Cradle Theater, February 23-April 8, 2018. This special showing is in conjunction with the play, "Hold These Truths," by Jeanne Sakata. The story is about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II by Executive Order 9066, without due-process-of-law. The painting reveals the struggle of Hirabayashi to reaffirm the rights of Americans as citizens in a constitutional democracy.

HIRO will give a post-show discussion after selected performances. For more information contact HIRO: hiroartist@gmail.com, 703-660-6161. For tickets for the performance: Box Office, 202-488-3300.



in Our Parks

It's time for park work parties again!

Come join your neighbors in stewarding our more than 30 acres of community owned and managed parkland. Meet new friends, exchange some pleasantries, and have fun outdoors. The parks are on the map included in the CAHH Directory if you are unfamiliar with them. Make a note of this schedule for the next three months.

Anytime

At your leisure, walk our parks—in particular, Paul Spring, Voigt, the Wildlife Sanctuary, and Sutton Potter. Put on your boots, bring a trash bag, and pick up trash in the parks and along and in Paul Spring Branch itself. The heavy February rains brought lots of trash treasures and debris into our parks. Let me know if community service forms need to be signed; my signature is readily available.

Clean out our culverts. The same storms lodged debris against our many park culverts and bridges, boardwalks, and paths. Please feel free to remove any and all that you can. If you end up with a big pile, let me know and I will arrange for its pick up and disposal. The culverts under the roads are maintained by VDOT; culverts and bridges on the paths are ours to keep clear.

March

- **Sun., March 18, Wildlife Sanctuary, 1-4pm:** Bring gloves and clipping tools to tackle bamboo and debris; bring binoculars to catch a peek at the local red-tailed hawk in residence. Meet at the park entrance off of Elba Rd, near the Hollin Meadows Swim Club.
- **Sun., March 25, Paul Spring Park, 2-4pm:** Bring gloves and clipping tools to continue freeing trees of ivy and other invasive plants/vines. Meet at Paul Spring Rd. and Rebecca for directions.

April

- **Sat., April 21, northern entrance to Hollin Hills at Paul Spring and Fort Hunt Roads, 10-noon:** Meet in the Hollin Hills parking lot for directions and job assignments. This is the tidy up event

because company is coming on April 28 for the House and Garden Tour. Bring clippers, gloves, rakes, and enthusiasm.

May

- **Sat., May 5, Goodman Park, 10-noon:** Meet in the upper section of Goodman Park to remove the multiple bamboo stands in the park. Bring clippers, gloves, rakes, and energy.

June

- **Sat., June 23 and 30, Voigt and McCalley Parks, 9-noon:** Meet in the parks for jobs to help tidy up in advance of the July 4 picnic. Bring clippers, gloves, rakes, brooms, and gumball sweepers.

Goodman Park Stormwater Update

Five members of the Hollin Hills community met with Fairfax County staff on February 6 to review the preliminary concept plans for stream restoration (and, as a byproduct, slope stabilization) in Goodman Park. Stantec, the County's consultant, shared two alternatives, the first illustrating a minimalist approach and the second a more complex approach. Both addressed the serious public safety issues in our park. If you are interested in reviewing the preliminary plan set, I have a full paper set. Or contact Meghan Fellows at Fairfax County and ask for digital access to the plan set.

The next review is scheduled for this May, when the 35% set of schematic construction drawings are made available for review. Meghan Fellows, the County's project manager, anticipates leading a public walk in the park, with plan in hand and trees flagged, to share the plan recommendations. The make or break review point is 35%. If you are concerned, or care, or have ideas, this is the time to make such known. Once the County moves on from the 35% stage, it is much less likely that changes will be made to the plans.

Treasure hunt: At the February 6 meeting, many said that Tree #160 must be saved. See if you can find it on your walks in Goodman Park.

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

Design Review

The Design Review Committee (DRC) of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills 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 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.

The DRC met on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present included Frank Collins (Chair), John Burns, Ginnie Wallace, and Ken Wilson. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during the meeting:

- **7500 Elba Road, Heffner and Hight residence:** The committee approved plans for a deck and window replacements as presented by the homeowners.

- **7507 Elba Road, Morris and Kropf residence:** The committee approved plans presented by homeowners for a screened porch off the rear of the home. The porch will be built on the footprint of an existing concrete patio.

- **2408 Brentwood Place, Hitch residence:** The committee approved plans presented by homeowners for a privacy patio enclosure with the proviso that the homeowners maintain the existing foliage.

- **2114 Popkins Lane, Herre residence:** The committee approved (via administrative review prior to the meeting) plans presented by homeowners for a driveway makeover. The homeowners are replacing an existing gravel driveway with a concrete surface.

The next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 14, 2018, 7pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Conference Room 1, (2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306).

—*Chris McNamara*

Garden-Wise

Edgeworthia - a notable plant, worthy of its name

One of the many joys of gardening is discovering a new plant, especially one with unusual and intriguing attributes. So it is with the paper bush, or *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, also known as *Edgeworthia papyrifera*. I first noticed it on a walk around Martha's Circle. It stood out for its lovely rounded shape, handsome blue-green leaves, and cinnamon-colored, speckled bark. I spoke to the homeowner who said that it was given to him as a gift several years before and he had no idea what it was. A plant mystery was born!

A few months later, after the leaves had dropped, it bore small, drooping velvety flower buds. I took one home to identify it. It sat on my counter for several weeks, keeping its creamy color and shape, but I was unable to solve the mystery. Finally, another curious gardener queried the community Forum, and it was identified as paper bush. Now I was able to research it.

Edgeworthia chrysantha was named for Michael Pakenham Edgeworth (1812-1881), an Irish botanist who served in the Indian Civil Service. While travelling in India, he collected many new plants. A native of China and the Himalayas, *Edgeworthia* is also known as paperbush or rice paper plant as its bark was used to make paper. *Chrysantha* refers to the shrub's yellow flowers. It is a member of the *Thymelaeaceae* family and a cousin of *Daphne adora*, also a sweet-smelling, winter-blooming shrub that prefers shade.

Edgeworthia grows in zones 7 to 9 and prefers light to moderate shade, plenty of moisture, and well-drained, humus-rich soil. The particular shrub on Martha's Circle is thriving in front of several large trees in a woody yard. The Monrovia Plant Catalogue says that *Edgeworthia* does well in "dappled shade gardens" and that it grows 6 to 10 feet tall and wide in ten years. Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs notes that it does well with evergreens and wildflowers in shady areas and that it is becoming available in nurseries. According to Dirr, the plant grows 3 to 4 (to 7) feet high and spreads by rhizomes.

Edgeworthia comes into its own in the winter. It's then that the white drooping buds on the tips of bare reddish branches stand out in the garden. In late February, the buds swell and open

to reveal many small tubular flowers with yellow centers. The flowers hang down like tiny umbrellas and perfume the air with a lovely scent, foreshadowing spring. The flowering takes place from early February to April before the new leaves emerge.

In summer, *Edgeworthia* has dark blue-green alternate leaves that are long, narrow, and silvery-green underneath. Leaves are usually about six inches long. According to Dirr, it is also a suckering shrub, and there were many suckers coming up in my neighbor's yard.

Edgeworthia's handsome leaves, compact shape, showy bark, and lovely fragrant flowers make it a desirable plant for shady garden areas. It is truly a worthy shrub to cultivate and admire throughout the seasons. If you are curious to see this shrub up close, there is one at 1905 Martha's Circle. It is just about to burst into full bloom!

Jim Klein and his wife, Elisabeth Lardner, also have three *Edgeworthias* in front of their kitchen windows at 2200 Martha's Road. Elisabeth says they discovered this shrub at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on a cold February day and were enthralled with its winter flowers, beautiful form, and architectural structure.

—Gretchen Spencer, Co-chair, Hollin Hills Garden Club

References:

- "*Edgeworthia chrysantha*," Dirr's Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs, Michael A. Dirr, 2011
- Paperbush Plant, *Edgeworthia chrysantha*, Monrovia Plant Catalogue
- Paper Bush (*Edgeworthia chrysantha*): A Shrub for Winter Color and Fragrance, Cornelius Tarver, Cobb County Cooperative Extension
- Edgeworthia chrysantha*, Missouri Botanical Garden



AN UPDATE FROM THE FRIENDS OF HOLLIN HILLS

THANK YOU! What a great way to kick off the first year of the newly formed Friends of Hollin Hills (FHH), a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit organization. FHH is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and educating the public about our unique neighborhood that was recognized by the National Register of Historic Places in 2013 as the Hollin Hills Historic District. The Friends has established four initiatives:

- Education of the Public
- Architectural Preservation
- Parks Preservation
- Neighborhood Amenities

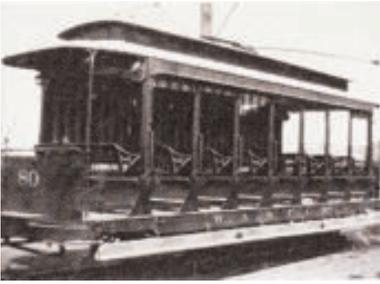
The Friends of Hollin Hills exceeded its inaugural fundraising goal of \$20,000. Thanks to all of you, it received donations totaling \$27,215! These funds will be used in support of community-

supported projects that help to preserve and enhance our Historic District. As the first expenditure, two benches have been added to McCalley Park. Come take a sit, ponder the landscape, and listen to the birds (ignore the airplane, or log it and file a report!).

Friends of Hollin Hills is sponsoring a series of educational panels designed to address practical concerns that new and longtime Hollin Hills residents may have about living in their mid-century homes. For more about "Efficient Modernism," the first of these panels, see page 1.

And, of course, we are gratefully accepting 2018 donations in support of our Hollin Hills Historic District. Find our web page at <http://friendsofhollinhills.org/> to make a donation, or email a board member to volunteer, offer financial support, or to suggest a project.

—Elisabeth Lardner, FHH Treasurer, Board Member



LOCAL HISTORY - TRANSPORTATION

AN ELECTRIC TROLLEY RAN THROUGH IT PART 2

Part one of this article ran in last month's Bulletin. It traced the founding of the age of the electric trolley in Alexandria and south to Mount Vernon. We left the trolley line poised for greater things.

The Washington, Alexandria, and Mt. Vernon Line

By 1896 the continuing popularity of the line allowed the owners' thinking to expand, to see it as a full-fledged interurban line, adding commuting and freight transfer into Washington, D.C. A new Virginia charter authorized this expansion, and the name for the trolley line became the Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon Electric Railway Company (the WAMV). Connection to the District was initiated, using both newly-built track and sections of pre-existing Southern and Pennsylvania Railroads rights-of-way to and through Rosslyn, over the 14th Street Bridge and ending at a terminal at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue SW, very convenient to the District's Central Market. This "city section" of the trolley line opened operations on June 7, 1896. Travel time from Alexandria to the D.C. terminal was 30 minutes and the cost one-way was 25 cents.

The trolley line schedule shows no fewer than 19 stops from the west end of the bridge into the District to downtown Alexandria, some names still familiar: South End Bridge, Alexander Island, Arlington Junction, Addison, Virginia Highlands, Aurora Hills, Luna Park, Four Mile Run, St. Elmo, Hume, Mt. Ida, Del Rey, Lloyd, North Braddock, Braddock, North Rosemont, Rosemont, Union Station (providing linkage to steam railroad services), and downtown Alexandria.

Once the route to the District was complete, schedules show the trip from there to Mount Vernon took roughly an hour.

The Luna Park station deserves special mention. At the turn of the 20th century an area north of Alexandria supported a race track and gambling establishments, and the new trolley line benefitted from their patrons' business. An anti-vice movement in the region



subsequently closed these amusements down. To replace the income from these passengers the owners of the trolley line bought 75 acres of land north of Four Mile Run and built the Luna Amusement Park, a large and popular attraction, with a roller coaster, carousel, skating rink, shooting gallery, nickelodeon, dance pavilion, etc.

Mount Vernon Effects

Visits to the Mount Vernon home and tomb continued to be solid components of the trolley business. The Grand Army of the Potomac, a national Civil War Union veterans organization, held its annual encampments in the District. Visits to Mount Vernon to honor the first president were a requisite, and thousands of members rode the trolley there.

In 1899, the 100th anniversary of Washington's death was observed by the nation's Masons in the thousands at the Washington tomb in a re-enactment of the original burial ceremonies, with President McKinley and his cabinet in attendance.

The Washington, Alexandria and Mount Vernon line became known colloquially as "The Historic Route" because it frequently hosted foreign delegations and visiting royalty making diplomatic visits to the Estate to lay memorial wreaths. To accommodate these dignitaries the WAMV purchased a special train car that had debuted at the St. Louis World's Fair. The "Palatine" car offered plush chairs, velour curtains, mahogany paneling, a buffet kitchenette, steward, and conductor. Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt, and Taft rode this car. *(Continued on page 7)*



From the top: The original 1892 Philadelphia-built trolley model; Vintage postcard showing the WAMV terminal in DC; Main entrance to Luna Amusement Park, once located in what is now Arlington.

The Demise of the Trolley Line

The Mount Vernon line survived many difficulties over its nearly 40-year tenure. The Panic of 1895 was a four-year national depression that dampened economic demand generally; government safety requirements and other restrictions forced expensive improvements; fire in the initial powerhouse required building a new but more powerful one; icing and heavy snowfalls impeded service. Early in the 20th century, new challenges arose. The automobile age had begun and auto ownership grew quickly, leading to demands for road improvements, which expanded freight trucking and bus services in direct competition with the trolley line.

An unprecedented difficulty arose through preparations for United States entry into World War I. In 1918 the Army forced the rail line to build an extension south of Mount Vernon to Camp Humphrey (now Fort Belvoir) to give that base access to Washington, D.C.. The quicker-than-anticipated end to the war and the signing of the Armistice meant this four-mile extension was little used. Crushing, the Army paid the WAMV only part of its promised compensation. The resulting financial pressure forced the line into receivership in 1920, where it remained for several years.

In 1926 the government tore down the D.C. terminal to build the Federal Triangle, forcing the trolley line to a new terminal site farther from Central Market, limiting the line's attractiveness to farmers and dairymen. And in 1928, the 50-year plus clamor for a memorial parkway to link to Mount Vernon finally got serious attention in Congress which then mandated its completion in time for George Washington's 200th birthday in 1932. As approved, the memorial parkway route used parts of the trolley line right-of-way, so eminent domain ousted the rail line. Parkway construction began in 1930; the last trolley run to Mount Vernon took place on February 28, 1930.

There is now little physical evidence showing the trolley line's



The "Palatine" car, shown with its staff, provided a luxurious ride to Mount Vernon for visiting dignitaries.

existence, but some of the route has visible remains. The George Washington Memorial Parkway crosses Cameron Run south of Alexandria on the old trestle bridge route. The trolley's turnaround at the Mt. Vernon Station is now the circle you drive around in front of the Estate. The wide, tree-planted medi-

an along Commonwealth Avenue north of the King Street Metro station in Alexandria was the trolley route, as was the underpass. And South Royal Street in Alexandria is much wider than other streets in the immediate area to allow the old trolley line to run down the center with two flanking roads. Reportedly, two of the old trolley cars apparently had second lives as diners along Route 1, one south of Hybla Valley and the other between Woodbridge and Quantico.

The trolley line can get much of the credit for turning Alexandria into a D.C. commuter community from its earlier more isolated existence. It was our area's first "urban mass transit system."

—Scott Wilson, *Hollin Hills Historian*

Credits

John E. Merriken's 1987 book *Old Dominion Trolley Too: A History of the Mount Vernon Line* describes in great detail the creation of the interurban trolley line, particularly its engineering aspects, and goes on to describe the later D.C. to Fairfax City line.

Much of the content here was gleaned from newspaper articles held at the Alexandria Library and the Fairfax Main Library's "Virginia Room."

Most of these photos appeared in Merriken's book, from collections of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association, Leroy O. King, Sr., the Library of Congress, the Joan Lyon Collection, and the Robert A. Truax Collection, plus one from the Lucy B. Wilson vintage postcard collection.

CLASSIFIEDS

HH HOUSE FOR RENT: Newly and completely redone house at 2103 Paul Spring Road (the "McKenna House"). Four bedrooms (one a master bedroom), two baths (new), new kitchen, large living/dining room, screened porch, and good sized family room or office adjoining the master bedroom. It also has a largish basement room for storage and a large basement room equipped for, e.g., a shop. Available April 1. —Kinzer, 703-768-0481, 703-303-8329.

RECOMMENDED:

COMPUTER REPAIRS: "Computer Cellular" near the corner of Beacon Hill Rd. and Richmond Highway, next to 7-11. My computer suddenly had an error message frozen on it, "Contact Microsoft immediately" for some kind of virus or update. I brought a photo of the screen to Computer Cellular and it was immediately

diagnosed as a scam. They got rid of it and charged me \$35, but I was so happy that I gave him \$40 (I was expecting hundreds of dollars). Computer Cellular also takes old computers. They re-condition and sell them. —Wendy Kilpatrick

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Milton Remodeling, Inc., (703-629-2299, www.Miltonremodeling.com). Milton has been in business for more than 30 years. He has a team of specialists that allows him to take on a variety of jobs. He and his team power washed and painted my house, installed insulated glass, stained my deck, installed a motion sensitive light, replaced a toilet, caulked showers, washed my windows inside and out, did brick work and carpentry work, plus a variety of other smaller jobs. I was so pleased with the work they did I kept adding on other repairs! He's also reliable, reasonably priced, and takes pride in doing a good job. —Ruth Bennett