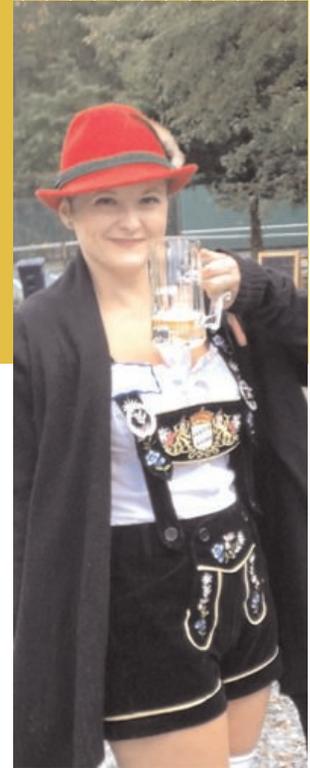


# HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

OCTOBER 2016



*Co-chair Jaelith Hall-Rivera, in full Bavarian regalia, raises a celebratory glass at last year's Oktoberfest.*

## A TOAST TO THE OKTOBERFEST, "ZUM WOHL!" (CHEERS!)

The plans are well underway for our 4th annual Oktoberfest which this year will be held from 3-6pm, on Saturday, October 15. It will take place at the Hollin Hills Pool parking lot, located at the corner of Paul Spring and Fort Hunt Roads. You are invited to bring the whole family to this popular event which will, once again, be sponsored by the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH).

The CAHH will provide the German beer and bratwurst, and each family is asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share with their neighbors. Theme-related dishes (German potato salad, apple strudel, etc.) would be ideal, but aren't required. Bavarian dress is also encouraged but optional. Besides the great food and drink, there will be German music, a beer stein raffle, and activities for the kids.

David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, the co-chairs for this event, will welcome your help. You can volunteer to lend a hand by emailing them at [dahway@gmail.com](mailto:dahway@gmail.com), by phoning 703-944-6390 (David's cell) or 703-944-6563 (Jaelith's), or by contacting Susmita Dastidar, CAHH social chair, at 703-660-5938.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CAHH PRESIDENT

### A Surefire Block Party Recipe

So, did your block have a party this past summer? If so, did you attend? If there was no party, how come? Think about it.

I do have a recipe for an easy, sure-fire, successful open party that takes next to no work and anybody can do. Have somebody host (maybe you) who provides a space and some plastic cups for drinks, maybe paper plates, and a table for food. Have a friend prepare a flyer and distribute it to everybody on the block stating when and where the party is, and for how long. If you make it for two to two and a half hours, nobody gets sloppy, the cleanup is minimum, and anybody who wants to continue partying can take it down the block to their house. Here is the trick that makes it work. Everybody brings their own drinks and an appetizer or some food that will feed a few people. Presto! The world's easiest party. Have it outside and it's even easier.

The payback is incredible. You meet all of your neighbors, hopefully remembering their names. You catch up about your neighbor Fred's hip replacement, or how another neighbor's daughter is doing on the color-guard dance team. You learn the old lady four houses down used to work for the CIA. Really? That sweet old lady? In Hollin Hills, you can't help but run into really interesting people. So, once more I urge you to jump in; have a block party!

### CAHH Elections Coming Up

The CAHH board has some director openings coming up as we approach the new year. These include President, Vice-President,

Treasurer, Recording Secretary and MVCCA Representative. (At a secret closed-door session, we will explain what the MVCCA Representative is, but don't say I mentioned that.) The term for these positions is two years, and the most needed qualification is interest. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please let me know, and I will put you in touch with the nominating committee. The election will be held at the Fall Membership Meeting in early December.

### Funding the Hollin Hills Historic District (Parks and Architectural Heritage)

I started out to write this column as a learned treatise on 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organizations and how we are working toward one here in Hollin Hills to be able to raise funds to preserve the parks and to maintain and preserve the Hollin Hills Historic District. That designation was awarded to this community in 2013 after years of effort (thanks once more, Jeri Gibber, et al) and at great expense. However, my pea-sized brain gets mildly lost in the weeds on this topic. I will say that we are moving in that direction, and there are some good reasons why it makes sense. Thankfully, there are some actually smart people steering this effort, so I am confident it will come out correctly and will be beneficial to our community. If you have thoughts about this (and Hollin Hills folks always have thoughts about almost everything) please let me know.

—Gus Matson, CAHH President

# News of Our Parks

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

### CAHH OFFICERS

President Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary Barbara Southworth	721-0734
Membership Linda Benson	312-907-1797

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA Michael Plotnik	660-6272
Social Susmita Dastidar	660-5938
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

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.

### Distribution problems:

- If you have not received your digital Bulletin, or to correct/change mail or email address, contact Linda Benson at 312-907-1797 or linda.benson@me.com.
- To replace a missing paper Bulletin, contact Eleanor Fina at 703-768-3174 or etfina@gmail.com.

## 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](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](http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html).
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email [speccoll@gmu.edu](mailto:speccoll@gmu.edu).

## WWW.HOLLINHILLS.NET

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

### The Goodman Park trail is rerouted.

Thanks to the good scouting work from Goodman Park Warden Barry Pearson and his able assistant, Rebecca Bostick, Jose Chavez and crew rerouted the Goodman Park trail away from our potentially collapsing hillside. The path is wide, but given it is framed by wisteria, its contours will soon soften.

### Our community's entrances have a new caregiver.

Gretchen Spencer has graciously agreed to serve as Hollin Hills Community Entries Warden, overseeing the plantings along Paul Spring and Davenport. Even the crape myrtles along Paul Spring are blooming their thanks to her for taking on this role.

### Park workdays are coming up—join us!

Join us in Paul Spring Park at 9am on October 16 for a colorful (fall leaves!) and shared community work session. Rain will push the date back a week. Paul Spring Park Warden Lee Ann Kinzer is the organizer, and urges you to bring clippers, gloves, and enthusiasm. We are tentatively planning to work in Sutton Potter Park in November, date to be determined based on mulch delivery for path enhancement.

### In search of . . .

- A warden for Sutton Potter Park—any Range Road folks who are interested?
- Painting assistant to refresh our park entry signs.
- Information on park memorials. We have two puzzles to solve: (1) Does anyone know if the bench at McCalley Park is a memorial, and if so, for whom? (2) And who can enlighten us on the story behind the plaque at Sutton Potter Park in memory of Albert J. Oetiker? The plaque is undated and dedicated by “Your Friends and Neighbors and Especially the Children from Hollin Hills.” The plaque sits between a bench (*see photo at right*) and a remnant of a special planting area. We assume all three components constitute the memorial.



Goodman Park Warden Barry Pearson relaxes in Sutton Potter Park, on the bench in question.

- Volunteer writers and graphic designers to assist Lee Ann Kinzer in developing a short brochure highlighting the best of Virginia Department of Forestry's Jim McGlone's excellent report on our parklands. We want to make an eye catching, reader friendly summary document to share with all of you on how you, too, can help our parks and community in your own back (and front) yard.
- Strategic thinkers and budget fiends to assist in fleshing out a five-year work plan and budget for our parks.
- Marketers and politicians to continue to remind our Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck and his staff of our park needs related to stormwater and erosion and stream valley rehabilitation. Check out Goodman Park to understand our needs.

Volunteer,, answer our puzzlers, or share your ideas—please send all to your Parks Chair, Elisabeth Lardner, 703-765-3023, or [eblardner@gmail.com](mailto:eblardner@gmail.com).

# Quick Takes

## A WARM WELCOME TO . . .

• A hearty welcome to Mark Hoffman and Kathleen Luedtke-Hoffman, now living at 7412 Rebecca Drive and not only residents, but new members of CAHH, too. They came here from Texas for Kathy's employment as Director of Foreign Student Credentialing for Physical Therapists. Mark owns a printing facility in Texas, so he has become a commuter. They have two Welsh corgies with them here. Two grown children and seven grandchildren live far away. Their email address is kluedtkept@gmail.com. —*Eleanor Fina*

## TALK ON ISSUES FACING NATIVE AMERICANS

Mount Vernon At Home will present a talk by Paul Krizek on the continuing and unspeakable hardships America's first citizens are still facing. The talk will be held at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church on Sunday, October 16, 3-5pm. The public is invited to attend; please make your reservation by calling the Mt. Vernon at Home office, 703-303-4060, by October 10.

State Delegate Krizek, a Hollin Hills resident, has long been concerned about Native American issues at the national level. He was the first executive director of Running Strong for American Indian Youth, a charitable organization that addresses the needs of Native American youth. His bill to recognize the day before Thanksgiving every year as Indigenous People's Day has been enacted into law.

—*Mary-Carroll Potter*

## BIKE AND DOG PATROLS FEATURED AT CITIZENS ADVISORY MEETING

At the September Citizens Advisory Council meeting, it was announced that police on bicycles will be going into local neighborhoods to remind residents to *always* walk facing traffic. This is especially true for those walking with children or pushing children in strollers.

Dog Patrol Officer Joe Furman brought his dog, Danno, to our meeting. Danno was hired in March 2013 and completed his initial K9 training four months later. He is now trained to track people, apprehend criminals, and detect illegal narcotics. He is sociable and loves to run, according to Officer Furman.

Since each officer in the Dog Patrol must know the whereabouts of his dog at all times, Danno lives in half of Officer Furman's heated and air conditioned garage.

The Fairfax County Police get their dogs from the Czech Republic. They are a mix of German Shepherd and Belgian Malinois—large and very smart. Each officer trains his dog in the

language of his choice; Officer Furman and Danno speak English.

Everyone is welcome to attend these Citizens Advisory Council meetings, held at 7pm, on the second Tuesday of the month, at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Our Crime Prevention Officer is Robert Urps

—*Laura Wirkkala*

## OFF TO A GOOD START AT HOLLIN MEADOWS

The 2016-17 school year is off to a great start at Hollin Meadows Elementary School. There are many ways we can all support our neighborhood school, especially by volunteering and by attending PTA-sponsored events. Learn more at the upcoming PTA meeting on Thursday, September 29, at 7pm, in the school cafeteria.

The award-winning garden at Hollin Meadows needs your help! "Sundays in the Garden" are great opportunities for volunteers to pitch in and keep the gardens looking great all year. From mulching to weeding, to planting new crops, there are jobs for everyone—no gardening experience necessary. Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to join us 1-3pm, on October 16, November 20, and /or December 1 (weather permitting).

Construction is scheduled to begin in the coming months on the big renovation project at Hollin Meadows. More information will be provided in the next newsletter about this important undertaking.

Have any questions? Have some school news or photos you'd like to share with the Hollin Hills community? Don't hesitate to contact me at sharon.sydow@gmail.com.

—*Sharon Sydow*



(Top) Finn Vlach looks doubtful, but gets encouragement from his mom, Piya Vlach, as he starts kindergarten. (Below) Some second grade buddies greeted newcomers to Hollin Meadows at the school's "Popsicles on the Playground" welcome event.

## BOOK REPORT



The Book Club met on September 14 at Louise Wiener's house to discuss *Our Souls at Night*, a novel by the late Kent Haruf, author of *Benediction*, *Evensong*, and *Plainsong*. Haruf has won many writing awards and was a finalist for the National Book Award. *Our Souls at Night* is lighter than his other novels, but he has packed quite a bit of meaning into this short work.

The story begins in fictional Holt, Colorado, when 70-year old Addie Moore drops in on her neighbor, Louis Waters, who is also in his seventies. As she gets up her nerve to tell him why she came, their dialogue, short but honest statements and questions, is amusing in a dry way. Addie wants to know if Louis would be willing to come over some nights and sleep with her. She explains that she really is not interested in sex anymore, but both have been widowed for about fifteen years, and it would be nice to have someone to talk to during the long, lonely nights. Both are a little shy, but they agree. Some of the club members felt this was not very believable, but as

the story progresses, it becomes apparent that Addie is a brave woman, and Louis is usually not afraid to speak up, either.

Eventually, Addie's grandson, who needs a warm father figure and some fun in his life, gets involved, as does his standoffish and bad-tempered father. And nearly everyone in Holt, which is a small town, has an opinion about the goings on. The story becomes sadder, but the couple cleverly enjoys small victories. Most of the members enjoyed it, and only one said she didn't like it, although several were critical of some small points

The next Book Club meeting will take place at 2pm, Wednesday, October 12, at Abby Brown's house. Prospective new members are welcome. Please call Anne Parke, 703-768-8572, for more information. We plan to discuss *Flight Behavior*, by Barbara Kingsolver. It concerns a lonely, young Appalachian housewife and involves climate change, Monarch butterflies, and a sexy scientist.

—Louise Wiener

## PLANNING & ZONING

At the September meeting of the Planning & Zoning Committee (P&Z) of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations the topics discussed included (1) changing height restrictions in the Lennar Building at Huntington, (2) zoning modifications for the Penn Daw Community Center, and (3) Moving forward with building plans for residential property west of the Huntington Metro.

Most of the meeting focused on the proposed development of North Hill. In 1981, using federal funds, the county acquired 48 acres of undeveloped land to build low rent housing east of Richmond Highway. In 1991, the lower part was used for 115 mobile homes, in what is now known as Woodley Hills Estate. The remaining 33 acres north of Dart Drive remain forested. There has long been agreement that a fair portion of that land is unbuildable because of marine clay.

Supervisor Dan Storck supports the views of his predecessor, Gerry Hyland, that this vacant land should be used for low rent housing. The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors

plan to complete action before the end of October.

This writer has informed Mr. Storck and CAHH board members that, in his opinion, 500 housing units on the buildable part of the remaining 33 acres is difficult to imagine. (Compare: Hollin Hills has 458 houses on 225 acres.) In addition:

Such high density makes emergency vehicle access difficult.

North Hill students are slated to be bused to Bucknell School, now undergoing expansion that is meant to provide for the existing community. Hollin Meadows, already crowded, would be the next available choice east of the highway.

Existing fences around North Hill would force residents to cross Richmond Highway for shopping, business, and other activities, thus increasing the risk of vehicle and pedestrian accidents.

Setbacks from Richmond Highway reduce the amount of land available for development. The long established setback for the Cherry Arms Apartments may set the standard for North Hill.

—Burt Kronstedt



## DESIGN REVIEW

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present included Frank Collins (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, Ginnie Wallace, and Ken Wilson.

### The DRC reviewed and approved these projects at the meeting:

- **7408 Recard Lane**, Cory & Kim English: The homeowners' architect (Crafted Architecture) presented plans for an addition to an existing master bedroom suite. The committee discussed how the new addition would fit in with existing retaining structures and steps, as well as the downward sloping backyard. The DRC approved the project pending receipt of final construction drawings. Neighbor notification has been completed.
- **2200 Glasgow Road**, Min Woo Park & Hyejin Jang: The homeowners' architect (Cook Architecture) presented revised plans for a 400 square-foot master bedroom suite to northern side of home. The committee reviewed the plans and determined that its previous

concerns with roof pitch and an angled room corner had been addressed. The DRC approved the project pending receipt of construction drawings that detail final window placement, trim pieces, and how required plumbing will be hidden from view. Neighbor notification has been completed.

- **7213 Beechwood**, Barbara Harriss & JC DeKraal: The homeowners presented plans to relocate/extend and finish a hardscape driveway, redirect storm water runoff to a county drain, replace existing deck walkway with pavers, and contain/remediate a bamboo grove. The committee discussed several concerns about enlarging a gravel parking area in front of the house, the size of driveway expansion, and property setbacks in relation to proposed changes.

The DRC asked the homeowners to check with Fairfax County on setback regulations, percentage of property that can be hardscape, and diverting storm water into county (*Continued on page 5*)



## Design Review *from page 4*

drains. The committee gave conceptual approval to the proposed plans. The homeowners are to provide final plans based on county information and after discussing drainage and landscaping with contiguous neighbors. Neighbor notification completed.

**Other Activity** 7415 Rebecca Road, Meghan McGovern and John Stocker: The DRC postponed discussion of the revised drawings for this project (replacement of roof/siding/trim; replacement of a deck; adding a deck and screening at rear of home; adding a small deck at front of house) owing to time. The homeowners' architect (Cook Architecture) briefly discussed how the plan changes detailed at the August 21016 DRC meeting were addressed. The committee agreed that it would review the revised drawings and determine if the project could be approved administratively or would require presentation at a future DRC meeting.

**The DRC meets monthly** to offer Hollin Hills homeowners guidance about potential exterior property renovations and if those desired renovations are in harmony and conformity with the Civic 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 next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library (2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306) in the Sherwood Meeting Room.

—Chris McNamara

## CLASSIFIEDS

**GIVEAWAY:** Original Hollin Hills 36" exterior door available. 2/3rds-1/3rd glass panels. Good shape, needs refinishing. *Contact: Cliff Bernier, 703-606-1707.*

**RECOMMENDED:** Personal assistant for people who need help shopping, bookkeeping, filing, organizing, doctor's appointments. Colleen Payne is high spirited, optimistic, very well organized, experienced. Available Mon-Fri, 8am-4pm, and/or some weekends. Flexible hours, PT/FT, temporary/permanent. You can reach her on her cell, 703-786-2247. Call for more information, 703-599-0346.—Margaret Edelman

**RECOMMENDED:** Fina Construction. After seeing so many of their yard signs and trucks in the neighborhood for years, and wondering how they got so much work here, we finally figured it out. To paraphrase the old EF Hutton commercials, "They did it the old fashioned way. They earned it." We recently had rotted soffits replaced, and Robert clearly demonstrated his knowledge by accurately diagnosing the root of the issues. His survey of our home, pointing out our potential issues, scheduling of work, reminders of when they would be here, and a great crew who were friendly, professional, and expertly did more than we expected all point to a great experience. Our house looks so much better and the work is superb. Honestly, we might have paid less, the same or even more for the work, but I seriously doubt we would be as pleased with the results. We are very satisfied customers. —Jon and Jennifer Keyserling

**RECOMMENDED:** Mike Groene, 703-981-1153, for power wash, stain, fall cleanup. Houses, decks, driveways. Also does small landscape projects. —The Edelmans

**RECOMMENDED:** Virginia Chau, available Mon.-Fri, 8am-5pm FT-PT for housekeeping including child care. Drives own car. Experienced, hard working, pleasant. Contact me for more information. —Barbara Shear, barbshear@verizon.net..



## Tony's Music Website Picks

Alden Theater - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/mcleancenter.org/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts/mcleancenter.org/)  
 Alexandria Events Calendar - [www.visitalexandriava.com/calendar-of-events/](http://www.visitalexandriava.com/calendar-of-events/)  
 An die Musik LIVE - <http://andiemusiklive.com/>  
 Arlington Concerts - <https://www.stayarlington.com/restaurants-nightlife/view-all/>  
 Atheanaeum - <http://www.nvfaa.org/>  
 Barns of Wolf Trap - <http://www.wolftrap.org/about/venues/barns.aspx>  
 Bayou DC - <http://www.bayouonpenn.com/>  
 Bethesda Blues & Jazz | Supper Club - <http://bethesda bluesjazz.com/>  
 The Birchmere - <http://www.birchmere.com/>  
 BlackRock Center for the Arts - <http://www.blackrockcenter.org/>  
 Blues Alley - <http://bluesalley.com/>  
 The Carlyle Club - <http://www.thecarlyleclub.com/>  
 Carter Barron Amphitheater - [www.nps.gov/roctr/planyourvisit/cbarronschedule.htm](http://www.nps.gov/roctr/planyourvisit/cbarronschedule.htm)  
 Chevy Chase Ballroom - <http://www.chevychaseballroom.com/>  
 Clarendon Ballroom - <http://www.clarendonballroom.com/#welcome>  
 Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center - <http://theclarice.umd.edu/>  
 Columbia Station - <http://www.columbiastationdc.com/artist.html>  
 DC Bluegrass Union - <http://www.dcbu.org/calendar.htm#FEB16>  
 DC Blues Society - <http://dcb blues.org/>  
 DC Jazz - <http://www.dcjazz.com/>  
 The Del Ray Music Festival - <http://www.delraymusicfestival.com/>  
 Fairfax Cnty Summer Entertainment - [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/)  
 Focus Concerts - <http://www.focusmusic.org/>  
 Ft. Hunt Concerts [www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forhuntconcerts.htm](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forhuntconcerts.htm)  
 Friday Morning Music Club - <http://www.fmmc.org/>  
 GMU Event Calendar - <http://cfa.gmu.edu/calendar/>  
 GW Lisner Aud.Events - <https://events-venues.gwu.edu/about-lisner-auditorium>  
 The Howard Theater - <http://thehowardtheatre.com/>  
 The Hylton Performing Arts Center - <http://hyltoncenter.org/>  
 Jammin Java - <http://jamminjava.com/>  
 Jazz and Cultural Society - <http://jazzandculturalsociety.com/>  
 Jazz Near You - <https://dc.jazznearyou.com/calendar.php>  
 JV's - <http://www.jvsrestaurant.com/index.php>  
 Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts - <http://www.kennedy-center.org/>  
 Library of Congress Concerts - <http://www.loc.gov/loc/events/index.php#eventlist5>  
 Lorton Workhouse Arts Center - <http://www.workhousearts.org/>  
 Lubber Run Amphitheater - [www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-run-amphitheater.aspx](http://www.arlingtonarts.org/venues/lubber-run-amphitheater.aspx)  
 Lyceum - [www.alexandriava.gov/historic/lyceum/default.aspx?id=44792](http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/lyceum/default.aspx?id=44792)  
 Meade Jazz Concerts [www.meadechurch.org/Ministries/JAZZ\\_AT\\_MEADE/](http://www.meadechurch.org/Ministries/JAZZ_AT_MEADE/)  
 Millennium Stage - <http://www.kennedy-center.org/video/upcoming>  
 National Archives Calendar of Events - <http://www.archives.gov/calendar/>  
 Natl. Gallery of Art Jazz - <http://www.pavilioncafe.com/jazz-schedule.html>  
 NightClub 9:30 - <http://www.930.com/>  
 Potomac River Jazz Club - <http://prjc.org/>  
 Rams Head Group - <http://www.ramsheadgroup.com/>  
 Rock N Roll Hotel - <http://www.rockandrollhoteldc.com/>  
 St. Elmo's Coffee Pub - <http://www.stelmoscoffeepub.com/>  
 Sala Thai - <http://www.salathaidc.com/>  
 Schlesinger Concert Hall - <https://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/calendar.html>  
 Sleepy Hollow Folk Club - <http://sleepyhollowfolk.com/>  
 Smithsonian Concerts - [smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/Events/?Performances](http://smithsonianassociates.org/ticketing/Events/?Performances)  
 The State Theater - <http://www.thestatetheatre.com/index.xml>  
 Stone Room Concerts - <http://www.stoneroomconcerts.com/p/>  
 Strathmore - <http://www.stoneroomconcerts.com/p/upcoming-concerts.html>  
 Strathmore AMP - <https://www.ampbystathmore.com/>  
 Tinner Hill Blues Festival - <http://tinnerhill.org/blues-festival>  
 Twins Jazz - <http://www.twinsjazz.com/>  
 Vienna Town Green Concerts - [www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640](http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640)  
 Washington DC Area Folk Music Events - [www.wfma.net/dcevents.htm](http://www.wfma.net/dcevents.htm)  
 Westminster Church Jazz Night - [www.westminsterdc.org/jazz-and-blues.html](http://www.westminsterdc.org/jazz-and-blues.html)  
 Wolf Trap - [www.wolftrap.org/about/venues/tilene-center.aspx](http://www.wolftrap.org/about/venues/tilene-center.aspx)

—Tony Jordan

## CONTINUOUS LEAF CLEANUP CONTINUOUS LEAF CLEANUP CONTINUOUS LEAF CLEANUP CONTINUOUS LEAF CLEANUP

If you renovated your lawn after Labor Day, your grass is looking green, lush and ready to mow. Even if you didn't renovate, your lawn probably looks better than it did in August, and you'll need to mow a few times between now and Thanksgiving. But either way, the trees are starting to drop their leaves. You need to protect your lawn.

Trees don't care about lawns – left to their own devices, trees grow in forests surrounded by their daughters and granddaughters, developing a thick carpet of fallen leaves under their skirts. That leaf mold is a food reserve that will feed the forest next year and the year after that, and the forest couldn't survive without it. But woe to any grasses that try to grow under those trees—smothered by leaves, deprived of sunlight, damp and compacted and subject to molds, lawns under trees are destined to weaken and fail, unless we intervene to deal with the leaves.

One way to deal with leaves is denial. Just ignore the leaves and perhaps the wind will deal with them. The prevailing wind is from the northwest; some or all of your leaves will end up on the property of your neighbors to the southeast. The problem with this approach is that you also have neighbors to the northwest, and their leaves will blow onto your property to replace the ones that blow away.

Another technique is procrastination. It's no fun to spend a nice autumn day pulling on a rake, even if you're young and vigorous. Much easier to wait until next weekend, or next month, or even until all the leaves have fallen. Then you can clear them all in one fell swoop, piling them up at the curb for someone else to deal with. Surely no additional leaves will fall after the vacuum truck trundles past, right? But even a thin layer of leaves will damage the lawn, and raking all of the leaves from all of the lawn at once is a daunting task.

A better approach is continuous leaf cleanup – use your mower to deal with the leaves as they fall, so they don't have a chance to smother your lawn. As cool-season turf grasses recover in the fall, you'll find

yourself mowing every week or ten days; remember to raise the cutting height back to three or four inches. Initially, when there are only a few leaves to deal with, use the machine as a mulching mower. The mower will chop up the leaves so finely that they'll disappear into the lawn like grass clippings. This works best when the leaves are dry.

This technique will work pretty well even as the accumulation of leaves increases. However, when the mulching mower starts to leave behind a heavy layer of chopped leaves on top of the turf, it's time to put on the bagging attachment. The mower will still do a good job of chopping up leaves and mixing them with grass clippings. The resulting mass can be used immediately as mulch

around trees and shrubs; chopped leaves don't blow in the wind, and the mulch will mat down nicely when wet.

As leaf-fall accelerates and you find yourself with more and more bags of clippings, you may run out of places to use them as mulch. At this point it's good to have a compost bin waiting, but

since that's still in the future, I'll wait until next month to re-run that column.

Inevitably, there will come a time when the leaves get ahead of you. Maybe the rain prevented you from keeping up, or maybe the leaves all started falling at once, or maybe they're piling up in drifts on certain parts of the lawn. At this point you need to use a two-step approach. First run over the lawn (or at least the deepest piles) using mower as a mulching mower, then run over it again (perhaps at right angles) with the bagging attachment. Double-shredding the leaves will reduce their volume by up to 90 percent, meaning fewer trips to empty the bag in the compost bin.

Continue mowing until the last leaves have fallen and the grass stops growing. Next spring you'll have a healthier lawn and a bin full of free, homemade compost.

—Paul B. Phelps

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**One way to deal with leaves is denial; another is procrastination. Continuous leaf cleanup is a better approach.**

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