



NOVEMBER 2016

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

STILL TIME FOR GENERAL ELECTION EARLY VOTING

There's still time for early voting/in person absentee voting at the Government Center on Parkers Lane: Saturdays, 9am-5pm, until November 5, and weekdays, 2pm-8pm, until Friday, November 4.

Election Day, Tuesday, November 8, the polls will be open 6am-7pm. Hollin Hills residents in the Kirkside Precinct vote at Hollin Meadows School, 2310 Nordok Place. Those in the Bucknell Precinct vote at Bryant Alternative High School, 2709 Popkins Lane. If you need a ride or other assistance getting to the polls, contact Ron Ullrich, 703-765-8195, and he'll direct you to a neighbor who can help you.

NEXT UP, THE CAHH ELECTIONS

Four Board Candidates on the Slate, One To Go

In early December (tentatively scheduled for December 7, 7:30pm, at Hollin Meadows Elementary School cafeteria), we will have the CAHH Fall Membership meeting. The main purpose of the meeting will be to elect new officers (or re-elect current officers) to the Board of Directors. Our nominating committee currently has candidates for four of the five offices under consideration. One office, that of treasurer, remains without a candidate. If you want to consider it, please contact Mike Damitz, 703-721-2002, or Jane Runnels, 703-864-3669.

Gus Matson, Candidate for President

I am finishing my first two-year term as president of CAHH. I decided to run again because we have a lot of projects in the works or under way that need time to be completed or to take root. At least two different projects involve the parks: storm water erosion repair (working with the county), and getting a 501(c)(3) charity up and running to develop funding for the *(continued on page 6)*



Photos by Chris McNamara



OKTOBERFEST!

Great weather, great beer, and a large crowd of good friends. Who could ask for more? Thanks to Co-chairs David Rivera and Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Social Chair Susmita Dastidar, the CAHH Board, and all the others who pitched in to make our 4th annual Oktoberfest a terrific success.

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.
- 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.HOLLINHILLS.NET

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

Quick Takes

WELCOME TO OUR NEW NEIGHBORS . . .



• We welcome JC Dekraai, Barbara Harriss, and their two schnauzers to 7213 Beechwood Road, the former home of original Hollin Hiller Lorraine Weaver. About three years ago, JC and Barbara began following a mid-century modern realtor's blog. When the realtor had listings in Hollin Hills, they came to the open houses, saw neighbors walking together with kids and dogs, and fell in love with the community. They were originally looking for a house to gut, but then looked at Lorraine's house when it went on the market. "The time was right," JC said, "and the price was right." And the beautiful block of cherry wood below the sink in the new half-bath, originally from a cherry tree on George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, probably sealed the deal! — *Wendy Kilpatrick*

• Brett and Sheri Fullerton recently moved to 2103 Mason Hill Drive from Hawaii, courtesy of Brett's position as a Foreign Area Officer in the U.S. Navy. Sheri home schools their 10-year-old daughter, Paige, already a veteran traveller to over 28 countries. While they certainly miss the sun and surf of Honolulu, they love the mid-century modern architecture of Hollin Hills and look forward to meeting their new neighbors. — *Susie Cohen*



. . . AND TO SOME VERY NEW NEIGHBORS

• Meet Maren Grace Owens, our newest and youngest Rippon Road resident, born to Leland and Amy Owens at 4pm, on August 28, a month earlier than expected. "You could make the argument that doing 80 mph and weaving in and out of traffic on the GW Parkway may have sped up Amy's labor," Leland commented, "but I choose to believe that it got us to the hospital in the nick of time." Sydney, Fergus, and Nina are delighted with their new sister.

• It was twins for Beechwood residents Matt and Judy Hoekstra. Their sons Matthew Bradley Hoekstra Jr. and Winthrop Ward Hoekstra (call them "Hoke" and "Ward") were born on September 13. The Hoekstra family and their dog, Neo, had recently moved into 7201 Beechwood Road. — *Wendy Kilpatrick*

• Congratulations to our Range Road neighbors, Tim & Ainslie Maffei, on the new addition to their family, a daughter named Opaline. Opaline was born on August 3 and joined big brother, Ayrton. — *Ellen Rydell*

HAPPENING AT HOLLIN MEADOWS



• **The Third Annual Hornet Hustle**, a one-mile Fun Run and Pancake Breakfast, is scheduled for Saturday, November 12. The fun run, which is open to all ages and fitness levels, will start at 9am; the breakfast will start at 9:30. This fun-filled event supports a serious cause—the math and science program at Hollin Meadows School. The fee is \$10 per person or \$30 for the whole family. Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/2016-Hornet-Hustle>, or for more information go to hmptaprograms@gmail.com. — *Sharon Sydow*

• **The upcoming renovation of Hollin Meadows Elementary School** will be one of the main topics for discussion at the PTA meeting on Thursday, November 3, at 6:30pm. Attend this meeting in the school cafeteria to learn more about this exciting project.

• **The Hollin Meadows Backpack Program** needs your help! Sponsored by the PTA Care and Share Committee, this program offers food to needy students each weekend throughout the year. It is a joint effort of Hollin Meadows Elementary, the PTA, and our greater neighborhood community to ensure that students in *(continued on page 3)*

Quick Takes *continued*

need have the balanced, nutritious food they need in order to learn and grow. School counselors and staff identify children at risk of weekend hunger, and the Care and Share Committee prepares food bags for each of those children to take home. The bags include breakfast, lunch, and dinner items plus two snacks for each day. These very specific items are needed because they must be easy to open and easy to prepare, even for very young students:

Breakfast: individual oatmeal packets, individual serving cereal boxes, breakfast bars, shelf-stable milk

Lunch/Dinner: tuna or chicken salad kits with crackers, Chef Boyardee microwavable meals, mac & cheese cups, Campbell's microwavable soup cups, Hormel chili cups, individual peanut butter packages

Snacks: granola bars, raisin packs, fruit cups, applesauce cups, individual serving size cheese or peanut butter crackers, fruit roll-ups

To donate food items for the Backpack Program, please contact Jane Runnels at janerunnels@gmail.com or 703-864-3669. She will pick up and deliver them to the school. Or, you can drop off food items directly at the Hollin Meadows School office during school hours. Thank you for your help.

—Jane Runnels

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON NORTH HILL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

After many years of discussion over the fate of North Hill, the proposal that the Fairfax County staff has been working on since October 2015 has been scheduled for public hearings. The Planning & Zoning and Transportation Committees of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) met once again on October 3 to consider the rezoning of approximately 35 acres on North Hill for a mixed use community of 464 dwelling units to include 219 affordable multi-family units, 60 units for seniors, and 185 'for sale' townhouses. The Planning Commission public hearing on October 27 occurred too late to be reported in this issue, and the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on December 6 at 4pm.

—Burt Kronstedt

BUSY WEEKEND FOR TWO HOLLIN HILLERS; WEEKEND FUN FOR MANY

How do busy Hollin Hillers spend their 'leisure' time? On an early November weekend, two of them will be busy participating in events that should be of interest to their neighbors, as well. For music lovers, it's a concert by an award-winning chorus, and for dog fanciers, it's "Fall Festival—Unleashed!" at the Westgrove Dog Park.



Kathy Seikel and Pippa

KATHY SEIKEL was one of the determined group of Hollin Hillers who helped establish the Westgrove Off Leash Dog Park. She and her black Lab mix, Pippa, have been daily users of the park

HAIL, HAIL, THE GANG WAS ALL HERE!

Sunday, October 16, was a perfect early fall day, and a sizeable group

of Hollin Hills volunteers took advantage of the opportunity to remove ivy—lots of ivy!—from trees in Paul Spring Park. A big thank you to Jamie Agnew, Bob Blandford, David Cox, Cory and Kim English, Jo Ann Hersh, Mark Kauppi, Andrew Keegan, Bob Kinzer, Barbara Liggett, Marianne and Peter Martz, Kathleen Murphy, Mary Tracy, and Ron Ullrich.

Additional thanks go to the rest of you, too. The amount of trash we picked up wouldn't fill half a Safeway bag. Good job, neighbors!

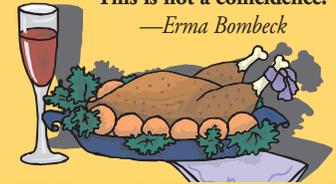
The one item we did find may still be in my possession (I am also posting it on the Forum). Have you lost a GM key? If so, give me a call at 703-768-4048.

—Lee Ann Kinzer

Thanksgiving dinners take 18 hours to prepare. They are consumed in 12 minutes. Half-times take 12 minutes.

This is not a coincidence.

—Erma Bombeck



Green Notes: Battery Disposal

Alkaline: Read the label. If it says "alkaline" you can dispose of it in your household trash. If you can't read the label, take it to a household hazardous waste site.

Hearing aid batteries can go in the trash, too.

Automotive (lead acid): Take to I-66 or I-95 Recycling and Disposal Center. Many service stations also take back a used automotive battery when you purchase a new one.

Other battery types: All other battery types, including those labeled "rechargeable," should be taken to a household hazardous waste site.

since it opened, and Kathy is now the chair of Westgrove Pack (westgrovepack.org), the community group that sponsors and maintains the park.

Dog enthusiasts (and the few people who still need convincing) can join the Pack in celebrating the dog park's success at "Fall Festival—Unleashed!" on Saturday, November 5, 1-4pm, at Westgrove Park, 6801 Fort Hunt Road, south of Belle View School. There will be food, fun, and feats of dog agility by Mike Tomai and his canine friends. In another area, the antics of the Westgrove Pack's own dogs will provide impromptu entertainment. And who could resist a dog costume competition?

Can't make it on Saturday? Kathy hopes you'll give yourself and your pooch a treat by visiting the park another day.

TOM WIENER has led The Arlingtones, an award-winning close harmony *a capella* chorus, for the past 17 years. On Sunday, November 6, he will be directing the group in (continued on page 4)

Weekend events *from page 3*

a concert billed as “high energy entertainment for all ages.” The program will begin at 4:30pm, and will be held at the Lyon Park Community Center, 414 North Fillmore Street, Arlington. Admission to the concert is free.

Before joining The Arlingtones, Tom hadn’t done any organized singing since college. Then, 39 years ago, a workplace discussion of the barbershop quartet he had just heard led him back. A colleague, Hollin Hills’ own Bob Wachter, happened to sing in that quartet. He was also the music director of The Arlingtones, which he invited Tom to join. Twenty-two years later, Tom is The Arlingtones president and music director, while Bob Wachter, a prominent barbershopper for over 60 years, continues to sing with the international champion Alexandria Harmonizers and was the founder of its Mount Vernon chapter, the Harmony Heritage Singers.

So now, how about telling us what pastimes you enjoy? Or perhaps your child or a neighbor has a notable interest or hobby? Send your stories and photos to share with other Bulletin readers.

Tom Wiener (far left) leads singers at a recent Fourth of July celebration.



THE ESSENTIAL COMPOST BIN

November is when the leaves come down. Early in the month, if it’s been hot and dry; later in the month if it’s been cool and dry; but definitely in November. Problem is, the magical vacuum truck may not show up until December. That lets the leaves do a lot of damage before you can move them off the lawn, and/or makes you leave them in tall, wet and potentially dangerous piles along the side of the road, like snow piles after a blizzard.

If you keep up with the leaves as they come down, you may take care of them all before the truck ever shows up. However, you’ll need some place to put them, and that’s why you need a compost pile. I wrote about just that in my very first column, back in November 1991, but perhaps you missed it. So here again are instructions for a simple and inexpensive compost bin for those who don’t have one, or who find themselves with more leaves than their current bins can hold.

Get a roll of wire fencing, the kind they call “rabbit fence” that’s made with 14-gauge galvanized wire welded with 2 by 4 inch openings. Chain link is too heavy and floppy, chicken wire is too thin and wimpy—you want something that will hold itself upright and survive for several years. Three feet tall is about right for most of us, but you can go to 48 inches if you don’t mind lifting. Cut off a section about 12 feet long and form it into a big cylinder, fastening the ends by folding over the cut wires. A 50-foot roll (about \$20 at Lowes or Home Depot) will make four bins, enough to share with your neighbors if you don’t need that many.

To keep tree roots out of the bottom of the pile, lay down a base of criss-crossed branches, or use a 3-by-3 shipping pallet (free from the loading dock behind Lowe’s or Home Depot). But the best cure for roots is to make sure to empty the pile every year.

This isn’t a designer contraption, so it’s best suited for a hidden corner in the rear of your lot. Then again, it tends to disappear into the landscape as you fill it up. My neighbor and I have constructed a compost-industrial complex along our border; he

can’t complain about my piles, and I can’t complain about his.

Fill the bin in alternating layers, like a yard-waste lasagna. For every 6 to 12 inches of chopped-up leaves (brown matter), add an inch or two of grass clippings or fresh manure (green matter). You can get manure free from the stables at Justice Snowden Farm, on Parker’s Lane near the hospital. Make sure to wet the pile down well before adding the next layer, and wet it down again if you notice the pile drying out. Experienced composters talk about keeping the pile “as damp as a wrung-out sponge.”

Water and leaves are the only necessary ingredients. The pile will breakdown faster if you shred the leaves first with your lawn mower; electric leaf-eaters don’t work very well, and gas-powered chipper-shredders are little excessive for backyard applications. A shovel full of garden soil on each layer will provide a starter culture of the fungi and bacteria that do the decomposing, as if you were making yogurt or sourdough, or use a

packet of baker’s yeast in a gallon of hot water to get the process off to a good start.

Turning the pile isn’t really necessary, but it will speed up the decomposition process. So will ventilation. Lay some poles across the pile as you build it, then pull them out to stir things up, or build the pile around a “smokestack” made with a length of septic pipe (perforated 4-inch PVC tubing). It’s great fun on a chilly morning to watch the plume of steam and methane rising from the smokestack.

With any luck the pile should heat up to 150°F within a week and break down completely by spring. Even if you ignore it, the pile will break down in about a year. Then you just unhook the bent-over wires and open the cylinder to take out the finished compost. Anything that isn’t finished in a year can just go back into the pile for the next year, providing a starter that will let you save you yeast for baking bread.

—Paul B. Phelps



November is when the leaves come down – lots and lots of leaves!

This simple, inexpensive compost bin will help you cope and will help your garden, too.

BOOK REPORT



Flight Behavior, by Barbara Kingsolver.

When *Flight Behavior* begins, Dellarobia Turnbow, a 28-year-old flaming redhead of Featherstone, a small Tennessee town, is climbing a path into the hills to have an affair with a telephone repairman. She is musing on her life and the interminable rain that has been saturating her rural community. When she nears the end of the path, thoroughly soaked and with blistered feet from the secondhand boots she is wearing because she thinks they are sexy, she sees that something's wrong. The trees are not their usual color, and each leaf appears to be twitching. She does not see this very well, because she had not wanted to wear her glasses to an assignation, but as Dellarobia stares at the now unfamiliar trees, the sun rises higher and further lights the scene. It seems there are burning embers in the trees, which soon are completely on fire. The whole scene is a supernatural one, almost Biblical. Suddenly the day does not seem appropriate for an affair that would only make trouble.

Flight Behavior takes an actual 2010 event in the mountain town of Anganguero, Mexico, where a long period of unseasonable rains led to flooding and mudslides. This event led to economic devastation, as the town had made a living from the tourists who came to observe the monarchs that began and ended their spring and fall migrations there. No monarchs ever migrated to or from southern Appalachia, but they provide a convenient literary device to contrast the poverty-stricken Appalachian residents with the better paid

scientists and TV reporters who converge to cover this unusual—some say miraculous—event.

Dellarobia gets a part time job working for the scientists and soon is making more money than anyone else in her family. She notices the lepidopterist, Ovid Byron, who leads the university team, is disappointed to learn he is married, and jolted to meet his wife, who, like him, is from the Caribbean islands. They are a well-matched, happy pair and represent Dellarobia's first close look at a happy marriage of intellectual equals.

Kingsolver shows how Featherstone's residents are taken advantage of at every turn. The dollar stores sell them shoddy goods at low prices because of cheap labor, whereas Dellarobia's family had made wooden and fabric goods which lasted for generations. The reporters who come to cover the "miracle" interview the town's residents with condescension and make their own interpretations of what they see and are told. The scientists try not to be emotional about the possible permanent disaster for the monarchs, but some are devastated.

The next Book Club meeting will take place at 2pm on Wednesday, November 9, at Ann Klunder's house. Prospective new members are welcome. Please call Anne Parke, 703-768-8572, for more information. We plan to discuss Edward P. Jones's short story collection, *Lost in the City*. Our December selection will be Anne Tyler's *The Accidental Tourist*.

—Louise Wiener

DESIGN REVIEW

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, October 12, 2016, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present included Frank Collins (Chair), John Burns, Ginnie Wallace and Ken Wilson. The DRC reviewed and approved the following projects at the meeting:

- **7606 Elba Road, Lighthill residence:** The homeowners presented plans for a carport, low screen wall, and various in-kind repairs. The committee approved the projects as presented.
- **2201 Whiteoaks Drive, Navrotil/Krizek residence:** The homeowners presented plans for a family room addition, screened porch, and lower-level fitness room. The committee conceptually approved the projects pending receipt of the final construction drawings.
- **2204 Martha's Road, Ryburn residence:** The homeowners presented plans for a two-story elongation of rear of the house. The committee conceptually approved the projects pending receipt of final construction drawings and a window study.
- **1816 Drury Lane, McGill residence:** The committee administratively approved a railing for the front walkway.

Other Activity

• **7415 Rebecca Road, Meghan McGovern and John Stocker:** The DRC continued discussion of homeowners proposed projects (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). Prior to final approval of the projects, the committee is seeking clarification from the architect about the extent to which a new type of siding will be used to replace the old siding.

- **7424 Rebecca Drive, Paek/Heaton residence:** The homeowners desire to replace two existing sliding glass doors with "La Cantina" sliding glass doors. The Committee will work with the homeowners to get a better sense of what the proposed replacement sliding glass doors will look like prior to final project approval.



About the DRC

The Civic Association of Hollin Hills DRC 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 next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, at 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library (2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, in Conference Room 3.

—Chris McNamara

CLASSIFIEDS

GIVEAWAY: Two original Hollin Hills 36-inch exterior doors available. 2/3rds-1/3rd glass panels; also original Hollin Hills screen door, same dimensions. Good shape, some refinishing.

Contact: *Cliff Bernier, 703-606-1707.*

Board Candidates *from page 1*

preservation of the Hollin Hills Historic District, which would include parks and architectural preservation. Other projects involve completing some organizational software infrastructure for membership, bookkeeping, DRC, etc, finishing the overhaul of the Hollin Hills website, and setting up a Facebook page for community use. Also, you people need more nagging about block parties and waving 'Hello' to people on the street. I hope you will contribute to these goals. We surely need the help.

Last month, I wrote that the office of vice president was coming vacant, which is untrue. Chris McNamara is finishing his first year as VP. Perhaps it just seems a lot longer to him.

Friederike Ahrens, Candidate for Secretary

To me, it seems like the Ahrens family just moved into their home on Martha's Road about two weeks ago. In reality, it was in 2007. Friederike has organized the Hollin Hills Community Yard Sale for the past four years. Nobody asked; she just stepped up. I like that. She and her husband, Nat, and their two sons, Caspar and Henrik, make our neighborhood a better place, and I am delighted she is running for office on the CAHH.

Kathy Seikel, Candidate for MVCCA Representative

Kathy Seikel retired about two or three years ago, and I met her one day while I was knocking on doors doing something or other. At the time, she expressed interest in getting more involved in some way in



Gus Matson



Friederike Ahrens



Kathy Seikel



Laura Kistler

the life of the community, and she morphed that interest into action. For a couple of years now, she has organized the Fourth of July Parade—a kind of organized herding of cats, but she managed to do it. She also has been heavily involved in the community vendor recommendation list, so the next time you use that list to find a hot water heater repairman, think of Kathy. She chose to run to be MVCCA representative, saying she likes people. I expect they will like her, too. She and her husband, Ian Roberts, have lived in Hollin Hills since 1985.

Laura Kistler, Candidate for Pool Liaison

Laura is staying on for a second term as the pool liaison. As pool liaison, she has successfully dealt with Barbara Bogue and those rascals that run the pool. It is tough duty, having to go to the pool, dive in occasionally, work on one's tan, and then report back that so far, so good. But in addition, like all our Board members, Laura is a thoughtful contributor on all the issues concerning the Civic Association. She provides good input and sound judgement, and she is fun. I am glad she decided to run again.

—*Gus Matson, CAHH President*