

DECEMBER 2018

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



JOIN SANTA AND YOUR NEIGHBORS AT OUR ANNUAL CAROL SING

This year, the annual Hollin Hills Carol Sing will be held on Christmas Eve, Sunday, December 24, 5:30pm, in McCalley Park, at the corner of Paul Spring and Rippon Roads.

Santa has promised to make a visit, and there will be hot cider and cookies, too.

Bundle up, bring the whole family and a flashlight, too, so you can read the song sheets.

A big thanks to the Totaro family who once again volunteered to organize this event. If you can help set up on Sunday afternoon (probably for no more than 30-45 minutes) contact Paige at paigeconnertotaro@gmail.com. Some extra cookies from your holiday baking for the refreshment table will also be welcome.

MAKE A NOTE AND PLAN TO ATTEND:

CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEETING DECEMBER 4

On Tuesday, December 4, 2018, at the Sherwood Hall Library, we will hold the Fall Membership Meeting of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH). The doors will open at 7:00pm; the meeting will start at 7:30pm.

At this meeting, we will elect several new officers and directors, and review and hopefully approve a budget for 2019. A copy of the proposed 2019 budget can be found on page 4 of this newsletter.

You are strongly encouraged to attend, but if you are unable to do so, there is an Absentee Ballot/Proxy form on page 3 that you can fill out and send in. This absentee ballot counts as a presence in reckoning a meeting quorum.

A MESSAGE FROM GUS

WON'T YOU BE MY NEIGHBOR?

A few days ago, Barbara and I decided to reduce the heart-pounding excitement of our social lives by staying home to watch a movie. Selecting a movie is not easy. We have rules. No characters that mechanically transform; no gangs of superheroes, including Ant-Man; no movies with 'Furious' in the title. War movies are iffy. If the movie starts at 8:00pm, it can't be longer than an hour and a half. Anyway, you get the idea. We landed on "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" a documentary about syrupy yet sincere Fred Rogers.

When my kids were small, I watched Fred change his sweater and shoes hundreds of times. My kids, at a certain age, loved Mister Rogers. I really didn't understand why. In the movie, the close-ups of a few kids' faces reminded me of my own kids watching Mister Rogers. They just loved the guy. He talked directly to them. He reassured them they were fine as they were. He told them they were his friends. Over and over, he told them. Every day. Eventually, they believed him. They felt safe. They felt loved. It was magic. A part of me still longs for that feeling. I want it for me. I want it for our community.

Enjoy the holidays. Do little unexpected acts of kindness. Over and over. The feeling you get will be amazing.

—Gus Matson, CAHH President

QuickTakes

HOLIDAY MUSIC BY AWARD-WINNING GROUP

The Alexandria Harmonizers holiday concert, “The Secret of Christmas,” will be presented at 7:30pm, on Saturday, December 8, at T. C. Williams High School, 3330 King St, Alexandria. General admission tickets are \$25.

The 80-man Harmonizer Chorus has long been celebrated as one of the best men’s barbershop ensembles on the East Coast and recently won the 2018 Greater D.C. Area Choral Excellence “Ovation” award for Best A Cappella Ensemble. This evening of music and laughter will feature their own 12-man contemporary a cappella ensemble and “Better Together” (a mixed quartet of two married couples). Rumor has it that toys and elves will also make an appearance.

Hollin Hills’ own Bob Wachter and Dean Rust are members of the Harmonizers. Tickets are available at Harmonizers.org, but if you prefer the personal touch, Dean is willing to facilitate ticket delivery to your door or ensure they are available at will-call (drust1@cox.net or 703-229-3790). —Dean Rust

HOLIDAY GIFT DRIVE AT HOLLIN MEADOWS

The Care and Share Committee at Hollin Meadows Elementary School (HMES) organizes an annual holiday toy drive to ensure that kids and their families within the HMES community have holiday gifts. Your donations of new, unwrapped toys, books, puzzles, dolls, board games, or gift cards will be greatly appreciated. Drop off your donations at the school office, or contact Jane Runnels (703-864-3669) or Melissa Edmiston (melissa.s.edmiston@gmail.com) for toy pick-up from your house. You may also donate toys through the school’s Amazon wishlist: <https://amzn.to/2CXUbyvp>.



An enthusiastic response by HMES students at the school’s Veterans Day ceremony.

SCHOOL CEREMONY HONORS VETERANS

This Veterans Day, Hollin Meadows Elementary School (HMES) honored veterans in our community through a moving ceremony featuring military personnel, student leaders, and an audience of patriotic students. You can view ceremony here: <https://youtu.be/hL6xRppeFso>.

—Jane Runnels

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Please join us in welcoming Becky McCarthy, who moved into 2003 Bedford Lane on October 12. An association professional at the American Psychiatric Association, Becky is a long-time resident of the Washington, DC area. She is looking forward to long walks with her chocolate labrador, Kona, and getting to know the neighborhood. Welcome to Hollin Hills, Becky and Kona!

—Marianne and Peter Martz

COMMUNITY COMMENTS INVITED ON BRICKELMAIER PRELIMINARY PLAN

The first set of documents regarding the Brickelmaier Park Stream Restoration Project is now available at <https://fairfax-county-ent.sharefile.com/d-s49264eee4e24746>. This “preliminary” plan set describes existing conditions and begins the discussion about the many possibilities for restoration.

A Technical Team meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, December 18, at 10am, at the Fairfax County Government Center, to discuss the future direction of the project. As with the Goodman Park planning process, the community is invited to send representatives to the meeting, either on behalf on the CAHH or as individuals. Different from the public meetings and walks, the meeting on the 18th will be among county and state professionals—perhaps up to forty or more—with specialized and fascinating takes and insights on the project. If you would like to attend, please contact Meghan Fellows directly (Meghan.Fellows@fairfaxcounty.gov, (o)703-324-5807, (c)571-992-4913, or Elisabeth Lardner (elbardner@aol.com) or Gus Matson (gus.matson@gmail.com).

Peter Martz, a Brickelmaier neighbor, has volunteered to be

the neighborhood point person for the stream restoration project in Brickelmaier Park. He would, of course, be most appreciative of help if you are interested in joining him.

Whether you attend the Technical Team meeting or not, Meghan Fellows, Project Manager for our two stream restoration projects (in Brickelmaier and Goodman Parks) is eager to have opinions and comments from the community. If you can’t attend, please send your comments to Meghan by December 14 so they can be included in the December 18 meeting. In Meghan’s own words, “Comments can be general (*‘You really must do something about all the English ivy!’*) or specific (*‘On sheet 18, tree 3099 is not an American elm. It is a Chinese chestnut!’*).

It is very important that our ideas and opinions be known now, as there will not be another community meeting until the “concept” plan is ready. When the Brickelmaier Concept Plan is released, the County will hold a park walk and a public meeting, as they did for Goodman Park’s Concept Plan.

—Elisabeth Lardner, HH Parks Chair

THE FRIENDS FUNDRAISING PARTY—BIG CROWD, BIG SUCCESS



On November 11, the Friends of Hollin Hills (FHH), our neighborhood 501(c)(3) organization, hosted its biggest fundraiser of the year, a cocktail party and silent auction held at the beautiful home of Christine and Brian Hooks. The evening was a smashing success.

First of all, it was a great party!

Nearly one hundred guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening of delicious food and drink. There was much community-building, with new neighbors connecting with long-time Hollin Hillers, former Hollin Hillers, and non-neighbor friends.

It was a great fundraiser, too

The party was an incredibly successful fundraiser, and virtually expense-free, thanks to the generosity of silent auction donors and all those who covered the cost of food and drinks. Special thanks go to Christine and Brian Hooks for not only hosting the event, but for providing a spectacular spread of canapés, charcuterie, and cocktails.

Guests enjoyed bidding on a wide array of silent auction items, including prints, ceramics, and jewelry by current and past Hollin Hills artists Sarah Jesup, Kathleen Spagnolo, Solveig Cox, and Flo Garafola. Several craft beer baskets were donated by Sue and Greg Rhoades and David and Jaelith Rivera. Two of the biggest draws were a weekend getaway at Lee and Peter Braun's home on Maryland's Eastern Shore, and an 8'x10' FLOR rug of the winner's choice (check out their new "Hollin Hills" pattern).



All proceeds will benefit the HH Historic District

All proceeds will directly fund future projects in support of the Hollin Hills Historic District. As a reminder, FHH is dedicated to preserving, enhancing, and educating the public about our unique neighborhood, and is separate from and independent of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH).

A productive first year

With your generous support, FHH had a productive first year in 2018. FHH added panels to the neighborhood entry signs to recognize our status as a Historic District; installed new benches in McCalley Park, and cans for trash and recycling (with collection service) in Voigt Park; and funded refinishing of all community-owned benches and tables and repair of the playground balance beam. It also hosted three educational panel events on these Hollin Hills-relevant topics: energy efficiency in a mid-century modern home, modern landscapes in a wooded environment, and the architectural history of Hollin Hills. Currently, FHH is also funding a legal review of the community's 22 architectural covenants.



What's coming up next?

Friends will again host a Winter Lecture Series, starting in January 2019. Potential topics include a discussion of the ecological history of the neighborhood, how to work with the Design Review Committee, and a discussion of the results of the covenants legal review.

If you have ideas for additional lecture topics, or other ways Friends can help preserve, enhance, or promote our historic neighborhood, please let us know at friendsofhollinhills@gmail.com.

—Jodie Burns, FHH Secretary

ABSENTEE BALLOT / PROXY

CAHH General Membership Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

CAHH members who cannot attend this meeting may mark this ballot (one ballot per member household), sign, and print name, address, and date. Ballots must be received prior to the meeting. Send or deliver to Gus Matson, 7410 Recard Ln.

If you decide to attend, having submitted this ballot, you are obliged to retrieve it prior to voting at the meeting. This ballot counts as a presence in reckoning a meeting quorum.

Your Signature

Print Name

Print Address

Date

- President: Patrick Kelly
- Secretary: Mohra Gavankar
- Director-at-Large, Social Activities: Gino Madrid
- Director-at-Large, Pool Liaison: Sally Watkins
- Director-at-Large: Alan Barak
- Director-at-Large: MVCCA Rep, no nominee

Approve the 2019 budget? yes no

Check here if you wish to give your proxy to another CAHH member and indicate that member's name below.

I give my proxy to:

Proxy holder's name (print)

Proxy holder's address (print)

PROPOSED 2019 CAHH BUDGET

	Actual 2018	Budget 2018	Budget 2019
INCOME			
Book Sales	\$ 910.97	\$ 375.00	\$ 375.00
Bulletin Subscriptions	1093.90	1,275.00	1,300.00
Donations:			
<i>Parks</i>	3,546.39	0.00	3,000.00
Total Donations	3,546.39	0.00	3,000.00
Dues	34,500.00	40,750.00	38,400.00
Paypal variance	34.51	0.00	35.00
HHHGT			
<i>Sponsors</i>	18,331.74	0.00	0.00
<i>Tickets</i>	37,093.98	23,400.00	0.00
HHHGT Total	55,425.72	23,400.00	0.00
July 4 Picnic	323.00	300.00	300.00
Oktoberfest	219.00	500.00	300.00
Reimbursed Insurance	0.00	7,600.00	7,600.00
Total Operating Income	\$98,886.15	\$74,200.00	\$54,310.00
EXPENSES			
Administrative	458.98	1,200.00	500.00
Dues	90.00	90.00	90.00
HHHGT	9,815.94	9,000.00	0.00
Insurance	15,267.18	15,300.00	15,300.00
Legal & Professional Fees	0.00	5,000.00	3,000.00
Parks Maintenance	14,785.00	25,000.00	25,000.00
Printing	1,484.89	2,000.00	2,000.00
Rent or Lease	1,019.19	2,125.00	1,500.00
Social Events			
<i>Greeters</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>Holiday Caroling</i>	0.00	100.00	100.00
<i>July 4 Picnic</i>	2,814.77	3,775.00	3,000.00
<i>Newcomer Event</i>	0.00	250.00	250.00
<i>Oktoberfest</i>	3,213.41	4,500.00	3,500.00
<i>Winter Potluck</i>	364.13	500.00	500.00
Total Social Events	6,392.31	9,225.00	7,450.00
Taxes & Licenses	0.00	25.00	25.00
Total Expenses	49,313.49	68,965.00	54,865.00
Net Operating Income	49,572.66	5,235.00	(555.00)
Interest Income	19.35	60.00	125.00
NET INCOME	49,592.01	5,295.00	(430.00)

Notable Neighbor

AVIVA KLEIN

“As a child I was definitely influenced by watching people being discriminated against. Since then, I’ve always felt that I need to take care of the underdog,” said Aviva Klein. She lives her core values of compassion, loyalty, courage, and open-mindedness and uses the same approach today in her yoga classes. “I talk about gratitude and loving kindness often. When you believe it yourself, you can send that message of gratitude to your immediate circle, which eventually becomes a bigger circle. Fear, based on the unknown, melts away.”

Aviva was born in England, to a South African father and a Greek mother who was born in India. They moved to South Africa when she was two but immigrated to the U.S. when she was twelve. She attended high school and college in North Carolina and also studied abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Landing in North Carolina in the late 70s, as a ‘foreigner’ with a different accent and of a different faith than the majority, was a bit of a shock—not for Aviva, but for the other students there. She tried to defuse the situation by using nurturing kindness, one of her strongest traits. “I tried to show them I really wasn’t a threat to anyone just by being kind.”

Although she is petite, there is nothing petite about Aviva’s generosity of spirit and sense of purpose. She describes herself as slightly shy yet an extrovert who gains her energy from the people she meets. “I am very interested in finding out what makes people tick. I want people to know that I’m a genuine person and am sincerely interested in getting to know them.”

Aviva surrounds herself with like-minded friends who have a broad outlook on the world and life, with a deep commitment to social issues that affect humanity.

Aviva became interested in yoga around the age of nine when she would accompany her mother to classes during school holidays. In her teens, she watched her mom teach yoga in their basement, where her mother spent a lot of time dispelling myths about yoga.

“I became serious about yoga in the late ’80s after a back injury, and began studying the Iyengar style. Over time I became interested in Vinyasa yoga because I sat all day, working as a travel consultant/account manager, and it felt great to move.”

She said Vinyasa yoga utilizes posture and breathing techniques, but the best part of practicing yoga is connecting body, mind, and

spirit. “It helps you be in the moment and present, relieve stress and anxiety, become stronger physically and mentally, and build community.”

In the ’90s, after some major health challenges, “I dove seriously into my training realizing I wanted to share how yoga could help one deal with life’s challenges.”

She is currently working toward her 500 hour certification and writing a thesis, ‘Yoga and Grief.’ She plans to use her own grief at losing her father when she was 25 and her recent loss of Alan, her husband of 17 years. She will also address how yoga can help one cope with grief caused in divorce, loss of good friends, and even in long distance moves.

More importantly, Aviva wants to build community in her yoga classes. “I feel, in our world today, people seem so alone, with few belonging to religious communities. I would like our yoga classes to become a place of community and support.”

“I teach in a nurturing, authentic, and safe way, always coming from a place of truth. I’m not going to change my practice with every new trend in yoga that comes along. I like to emphasize less fear, more abundance.”

Aviva says it is the little things in life that make her happy, “like finding a parking space—and flowers, butterflies, and sunsets.”

Aviva has brought her passions for travel, Greece, and yoga together by taking her clients and friends on annual yoga retreats to Sifnos, Greece. Sifnos, one of the Cyclades group of islands, is well known by connoisseurs of good food, and is a place to find famous artists and poets and over two hundred churches.

“Sifnos has a special energy that resonates with me. The small boutique hotel, where we stay, is on top of the mountain, overlooking the sea, with lots of hiking paths. It’s magical . . . I’ve been going back to Greece since I was six months old. I love the people, the life, the sea, food, the wine. It’s my happy place.”

As for sunsets, Aviva remembers the beautiful colored sunsets in ‘big sky’ South Africa, in Greece, and on Florida’s Anna Maria Island. But just recently, she noticed one of the prettiest sunset over the Potomac River, right here in Alexandria, on her drive back home to Hollin Hills.



—*Mohra Gavankar*

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President	Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President	Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer	Scott Weidenfeller	725-7894
Secretary	Friederike Ahrens	571-481-4628
Membership	Marinka Tellier	401-9736

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

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

CAHH COMMITTEES

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

(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair	Frank Collins	660-6525
Members	John Burns	660-9763
	John Nolan	231-2229
	Ginny Wallace	765-7116
	Ken Wilson	768-5838

CAHH-DRC Liaison Chris McNamara 660-9536

HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE

Chair	Barbara Bogue	571-257-9313
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PARKS COMMITTEE

Chair	Elisabeth Lardner	765-3023
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HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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

Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.

Articles generally should not exceed 500 words.

Send your submission in the body of an email or as an attachment to barbshear@verizon.net.

If you cannot produce computerized copy, please find someone to submit it for you.

No material is accepted over the telephone.

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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.

THANKSGIVING LUNCH AT HOLLIN MEADOWS



Hollin Hills family members enjoying this holiday tradition are l-r): Juliana Pagoda, Jan Derevjanik, Axel, Heidi, and Malen Hess; Izzy and Heather Young; and Jane, Corey, and Zoe Runnels.

Design Review

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met November 14, 2018, at the Sherwood Library. Members present were Pam Koger-Jesup (Chair), Andy Hight (New Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Virginia Wallace. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during:

- **2114 White Oaks, Barak Residence**

Project: Backyard concrete retaining wall with French drains

Purpose: Downhill water diversion

Action: Conceptual Approval

Architect Christine Kelly presented and discussed plans for concrete retaining wall on back of house. Project is the first component of a multi-renovation program that will eventually include a shed and second-story deck. Those additional projects will be presented to the DRC at a later time.

The committee discussed the likely need for railings on top of the retaining wall. Kelly will check this during the county permitting process. The DRC gave conceptual approval of the project provided 1) the concrete block portion of the retaining wall is painted the color of the house, 2) the interior and exterior walls are faced with brick, as indicated by Kelly, and 3) Kelly provides an update on county permitting and the need for railings.

- **2205 Glasgow Road, Coker/Chauvette Residence:**

Project: Installation of a solar panel roof system

Purpose: Electrical production for home and car use

Action: Exploratory Consultation Only

Homeowners met with DRC to discuss possibility/feasibility of installing a

solar panel roof system on HH house. They presented examples of a TESLA roof system, including battery packs that would store electricity.

The committee discussed additional solar panel options, including panels that fit within the seams of a standing-seam roof. The discussion also included the need to position panels south facing and away from tree canopy, and strategies for running wiring to various system components.

The DRC thanked the homeowners for working with them for fact-gathering prior to moving ahead on their project—a recommended service available to all HH residents when they are considering a home renovation.

About the DRC

The Civic Association of Hollin Hills Design Review Committee (DRC) meets monthly to offer homeowners guidance about potential exterior property renovations and to determine 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.**

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Conference Room 1, (2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria).

—Chris McNamara