



HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

SUMMER 2019

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE,

*And all the boards did shrink;
Water, water everywhere,
Nor any a drop to drink.”
(from Coleridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner”)*

Coleridge’s Ancient Mariner was dealing with a lack of freshwater on the Pacific Ocean. In Hollin Hills this month, we have experienced a different problem—too much freshwater rushing through our parks, onto our roads, and unfortunately for some, into our homes. No one knows if the storms we experienced on July 8 and 11 are “the new normal” or are 100-year events; but we have some decisions to make. First and foremost is addressing stormwater erosion damage in Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. The CAHH has been working with experienced stormwater scientists and engineers from Fairfax County and their contractors to find long-term solutions to the severe erosion within these two parks and the significant nutrient runoff that flow through these parks into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The CAHH Board, both past and current, believes that the solution developed by the County, which would be paid by our tax dollars, is appropriate and necessary, even though it would require the removal of dozens of mature trees and the establishment of construction zones in both parks likely beginning next summer. Some members of the community have differing opinions, which I respect but with which I disagree. I encourage you to read their letters elsewhere in this Bulletin, as well as the letters supporting

the project, in order to consider the different perspectives and approaches to our stormwater and erosion challenges. I also encourage you to attend the August 27 community meeting at which County staff will present the 65% project plans for the two parks to the community for comment.

They stepped in to help

I would be remiss not to thank Elisabeth Lardner and her team of park wardens who worked long hours to assess and repair stormwater damage. Thanks to Rebecca Bostick and family in Goodman Park, Marianne and Peter Martz in Voigt, Jamie Agnew in McCalley, and Lee Ann Kinzer, Barbara Liggett, and Susan Kuhbach for their work in Paul Spring Park, which included shoveling muck off the walking trail twice during the week. Also, thanks to many other volunteers who pitched in.

Our Glorious Fourth

Fortunately, we were able to use pre-deluge Voigt Park for our annual Fourth of July Picnic, a terrific event. Many thanks to Gino Madrid, our Social Activities Chair, for arranging and organizing the necessary permits, vendors, supplies, and volunteers for the event. There are too many others to thank individually, but I want to express

my appreciation to the volunteers who helped set up and take down; to Kathy Seikel for ensuring a successful parade; to the pit crew of grillers led by Brian Lane; to Marianne and Peter Martz for hosting the games; and to everyone who brought delicious side dishes or desserts.

The importance of membership

If you are receiving this Bulletin, it means that you have joined or renewed your Civic Association membership for the year. Thanks for doing so. Volunteers perform many services for the community, but we need to hire firms to provide important services such as tree removal, mowing, and liability and property insurance. Your dues make all of this possible. Thank you for choosing to be a member of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills.

Events to add to your calendar:

- Historic Overlay District Work Group Meetings - August 20 and September 24, 6:30-8:30pm, at the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane.
- Community Meeting, Goodman and Brickelmaier Park Stormwater Planning Project - Aug. 27, 7:30pm, at Mount Vernon Government Center.

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH President

Fun and games - a highlight of the Fourth of July festivities.

J.G. Harrington



Our Parks

STREAM RESTORATION: WHAT'S NEXT?

Walk through and public meeting

The 65 per cent construction documents for the Goodman and Brickelmaier (meaning two-thirds of the way to being a complete document ready to be sent out for construction bids) will be shared with the Hollin Hills community on Tuesday, August 27.

- **Walk-Through** of both parks, led by County staff, 5pm, starting at foot of Goodman Park at Paul Spring Road.

- **Public Q&A Meeting**, 7:30pm, at Mount. Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane.

Residents are invited to come, ask questions, and better understand this big project taking place in two of our treasured parks. Learn for yourself the issues and proposed means to address them.

Stormwater Challenges Increase

A recent double whammy of damage to our parks from two devastating rainstorms—one on July 8 and then again on July 11, clearly showed that managing our 30-acres of parkland is becoming increasingly more challenging. As our weather patterns shift, we receive unprecedented quantities of rain in intense bursts. At the same time, we are collectively reducing the amount of pervious

surfaces that can absorb this increased rainfall by replacing those surfaces with paved driveways, additions, patios, and other impervious construction. These changes exacerbate stormwater management challenges in Hollin Hills, especially because our community predates any formal infrastructure means for addressing storage and treatment of stormwater runoff.

VDOT funnels the stormwater it collects on our road system directly into our parks which serve as our drainage ways. If our neighborhood were to be built anew today, it is likely that our parks would be very different, perhaps serving as stormwater storage spots, similar to the 'pond' adjacent to the Paul Spring Retirement complex along Fort Hunt Road.

Fairfax County is proposing what I see as our best and only alternative to address these very real issues in our two hillside stream valley parks. Please come on the walk and attend the public meeting on August 27 and learn for yourself the issues and proposed means to address them.

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

For details and a timeline of the Stream Restoration Projects, see page 7.

AFTER THE DELUGE, ANOTHER DELUGE!

On the 8th of July, the park volunteers' 4th of July spruce-up efforts in Voigt and McCalley Parks were washed away by a devastating storm. The other Hollin Hills parks sustained serious damage, too, except in Sutton Potter Park and the Wildlife Sanctuary, where just a few limbs fell.

Two days after the storm, unexpected but very welcome help arrived at Voigt Park in the form of a VDOT crew and their equipment (see below). They came to repair the area undermined by floodwaters at the cor-

ner of Voigt Park and to clean out debris-clogged culverts. Then, after repairing the road shoulder with new rip rap, they generously poured a whole dump truck load of gravel into the yawning holes that rushing waters had carved into the Voigt parking area. We thanked VDOT for this triage, which would provide time for the Parks Committee and the community to think about options for Voigt going forward. But then, three days later, on the 11th, the rains came with a vengeance once again, leaving even more dangerous conditions behind.

Everyone is urged, for at least the next few weeks, to tread very gently and carefully in the parks—particularly in Goodman. New holes are opening there, the chasm is deepening, and trees continue to fall as the stream scours downward in its headcutting. The rerouted path near the 'wisteria meadow' is particularly dicey adjacent to the sewer manhole. Please



THREE CHEERS FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS

It is a wonder and a testament to our neighborhood that there are so many park volunteers to thank this month.

- Great news! Jodi DePrizio, a recent arrival to Popkins Lane, has agreed to team with Mike Thomasson as co-park wardens for Brickelmaier Park or, in Jodi's words, 'Ambassadors for the Forest.'

- Thanks to all who were on hand for special cleanups at Sutton Potter Park and the Wildlife Sanctuary. Of special note were

Sam Kistler and Haskew Pearson, who hauled out a refrigerator from Sutton Potter Park—an excellent way to start their summer vacation.

Robert Fina, who cut apart trees blocking Wildlife Sanctuary trails.

- Many volunteers participated in three work parties at Voigt and McCalley Parks leading up to the July 4 picnic. They cleaned up the hated 'gumballs', pulled poison ivy, removed bamboo, and completed the many tasks needed to make our parks shipshape in time for the festivities. The volunteers included (and apologies to anyone we overlooked): Barbara Liggett, Susan Kuhbach, Andrew Keegan, Peter Martz, Marianne Martz, Bob Blandford, Bob Kinzer, George Elliott, Lissa Elliott, Cory English, Mike Damitz, John Wickham, Mike Thomasson, Joe Hineman, Virginia Wallace, Mary Ellen Gilman, Carly Matson, Nick Packauskas, Barry Pearson, Jamie Agnew, and Kevin Roberts.

- The two storms that followed in the week after the Fourth of July celebration have wreaked havoc in our parks. Many have stepped forward already to help, and many more will follow. See some of their names on page 3, in "After The Deluge." Thanks to all present and future helpers.

watch your step! Caution tape has been posted, but that area is changing rapidly.

As of this writing, trees are still down across some paths; other paths are covered with a slippery, gooey mixture left behind by the torrent. Play (continued on page 3)

Our Parks *from page 2*

equipment in Voigt may have become unstable. The Goodman Park creek moved out of its channel and started flowing along the park's eastern boundary and down Barrie Williams' driveway onto Paul Spring Road.

The huge task of repairing and restoring has begun, and will continue long after this Bulletin is sent out. Current and planned efforts, both volunteer and paid, deserve mention and thanks: Barbara Liggett and Susan Kuhbach shoveled out the 'slip and slide' paths at Paul Spring. Robert Fina has been moving stones in Voigt. Oscar Chavez will cut up massive trees in Paul Spring. The Bostick family moved rocks to pull the wandering Goodman stream back into the park. Jamie Agnew is putting slate back its proper place in McCalley and dragging debris away from shrubs, trees, and benches.

There is still a tremendous amount to do, especially debris removal, and our park wardens need help from everyone who is willing and able to pitch in. Here is a list of the park wardens to contact (check your CAHH Directory for contact information), or get in touch with Parks Chair Elisabeth Lardner.

Paul Spring: *Lee Ann Kinzer, Barbara Liggett*

Voigt: *Peter Martz*

McCalley: *Jamie Agnew*

Goodman: *Barry Pearson, Rebecca Bostick*

Bricklemaier: *Mike Thomasson, Jodi DePrizio*

Sutton Potter: *Mary Ellen Gilman, John Wickham*

Wildlife Sanctuary: *Jodie Burns, Dennis Burns*

HH Entrance: *Gretchen Spencer*



A torrent of floodwaters rushing across Rippon Road and in to Voigt Park on July 11.

A PARK WARDEN SOUNDS AN ALARM

Normally, park warden is a pretty cushy gig (insofar as something that pays zero dollars can be "cushy"). Stroll the parks on a warm afternoon, clip a multiflora rose tendril here, a grapevine there, watch the deer eat flowers with impunity (out of someone else's yard, for once). The stream, if you can see it, is generally an afterthought. But not the week that started on July 8; that week was all about water.

On Monday there was the worst flooding I've ever witnessed in Goodman, McCalley, in Voigt Parks, caused by, according to the Washington Post, the heaviest hourly rainfall ever recorded in the DC area. Things looked okay from the stairs at the top of Goodman, but further down, the stream bed lost a significant volume of sand and rocks from where the drainage pipe enters the stream. It is now dangerously deep, and sink holes have begun appearing over the pipe, close to the path. Please be very careful walking in that area as the ground is soft and may be unstable. Further down, things got even worse.

Two years ago, several other park wardens and I walked Goodman Park with County officials. Elisabeth Lardner and I were planning to move the path over a few feet because the current path was in danger of eroding. When the County officials heard our plan, they laughed and told us to move it *twenty* feet away. I thought they were crazy, but our original planned route is now gone. Every day—even when it's not storming historically—the stream continues to erode its bank, carrying more and more silt downstream. This not only threatens the stability of the land further upstream, where the streambed is deeper, but also the integrity of the trail and even the houses further downstream.

On Monday, so much silt, sand, and rock had washed down to the bottom of Goodman Park that the stream bed was level with the land around it, and the stream easily jumped its banks and washed across the trail and into a neighbor's yard, running down his driveway and out into Paul Spring Road. This was exacerbated by the

complete clogging of the culvert under Paul Spring with sand and silt. This in turn, added to the flood of McCalley and Voigt Parks.

We were excited on Tuesday when VDOT immediately (without any nagging on our part!) unclogged the culvert at the end of Goodman and repaired the riprap and parking space at Voigt. My family spent three nights digging sand and rocks in an attempt to restore the path of the stream before it rained again on Thursday. That new storm washed out our work (and VDOT's) as if it were powder. On Thursday evening, we stood in our raincoats and watched several inches of water run over Rippon and Paul Spring, totally inundating Voigt Park. Cars and trucks turning off Fort Hunt stopped and then turned around. In Goodman Park, more water ended up flowing across the trail than stayed in the stream. The entire area looked like a delta, water and silt and sand and mud flowing out every which way. Friday afternoon, the original streambed just upstream from Paul Spring was dry, while water flowed freely down the trail out along Paul Spring Road.

Twenty years ago, my boys played in the Goodman stream all the time, but I don't know if I would want to let kids down there today. The banks have gotten so steep, and, on Monday, I saw about twenty feet of hill and a tree collapse into the stream. This isn't the first time I've seen the bank collapse, but it's happening more, and is just going to continue to get worse. I'm worried about the future of Goodman Park and the damage Goodman's stream is causing to other parks (and yards, and driveways, and streets). At home, we all suffered from sore shoulders and backs after hours of digging, but the magnitude of the work needed to *really* address the problem is just too great for a few volunteers, no matter how hardy.

Hollin Hills residents have been kept informed of the County's plans to repair the stream in Goodman Park and Bricklemaier. As much as I don't want to see and hear the construction mess (and, as our house backs up to Goodman, we will for sure see and hear it), Goodman badly needs this work. The problem is real, and it's getting worse. **Goodman's problems are now creating problems at adjacent homes as well as in McCalley and Voigt Parks.** There's only so much money that will be spent continuing to repair the same problems over and over before the parks are eventually abandoned. The two rainy days this week showed that the responsibility of maintaining our parks is too large for several volunteers to solve.

—*Rebecca Bostick, Co-warden, Goodman Park*

UPDATE: I have notified Fairfax County Storm Water Management and asked for assistance in getting the stream back into its stream bed...fingers crossed.

QuickTakes

LOCAL PTA WINS AWARD

Congratulations to the PTA of Hollin Meadows, our neighborhood elementary school, on receiving a Family Engagement Award and a cash prize of \$1,000 from the Fairfax County Council of PTAs. Our PTA was one of ten in the county recognized for demonstrating “outstanding efforts in building meaningful activities, experiences, and programs to promote school and family partnerships.”

Hollin Hills families are well represented on the Hollin Meadows PTA. In the past school year, volunteers for PTA activities have included these HH parents: Allison Miles-Lee, Room Parent coordinator and Operation Snowflake coordinator; Melissa Edmiston, Holiday Toy Drive, Kindergarten Meet & Greet, Back to School classroom supplies coordinator; Amy Owens, Care & Share program, contact for DeLoitte’s corporate sponsorship; Jane Runnels, Weekend Back Pack program; Heather Young, after school pro-

gram, Spelling Club; Anna Lenhart, Earth Day event; Alyson Burgess, Math Night co-chair; Jovi Medic, Multi-Culture Club, Croatia Day; and Yoko Smith, Multi-Culture Club, Japan Day.

PURPLE BIN FOR RECYCLING

In case you missed Paul Krizek’s recent Forum message, this is a reminder that clean glass bottles and jars can now be recycled in the Purple Bin in the parking lot of Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. Although glass can still be put in our blue curbside recycling bins, it currently is not recycled, and just ends up in the landfill.

HOLLIN HILLS POOL NEWS

Hollin Hills Pool members are enjoying the lazy days of summer. The Bluefish are still swimming until the end of the month, with a 2-2 record so far, but by the time this comes out the season will be over.

Food Trucks are still a weekly activity--somewhat aspirational this year as rain



Our expert hotdog grillers prepare everyone’s favorite at the Fourth of July picnic.

seems to fall every Thursdays!

Look for these trucks in the Paul Spring lot next to the pool, 5:30-7:30pm. They are open to non-pool members, too. Trucks for the rest of the season, all on Thursday unless indicated, are:

- August 1 & 8: Red Bone Lobster
 - August 15: Boriquen Lunch Box
 - August 22: DC Empanada
 - August 29: Rocklands Barbeque
 - September 1 (Sunday): Pho Wheels
 - September 8 (Sunday): Bangkok House
- Barbara Bogue, Pool Chair

IN MEMORIAM: PETER MACFARLANE KEIR

Peter Macfarlane Keir (*June 13, 1919 - June 17, 2019*) died Monday, June 17, at his home on Martha’s Road. He was one of Hollin Hills’ early settlers who helped establish its values and worked to implement them. Just days prior to his death, at least sixty friends and family members celebrated his 100th birthday at his home, traveling from as far away as Lebanon and China.

Peter Keir was an athlete and a scholar, an intellectual and a “regular guy,” a man whose warmth, grace, compassion, and sense of humor were valued by multiple generations of family, friends and colleagues. On the occasion of his retirement from the staff of the Federal Reserve System’s Board of Governors, then Chairman Paul A. Volcker wrote in a personal letter he addressed simply to “Pete,” that “expertise, common sense, and a warm personality don’t always go together, but when it does, we all know it!” Indicative of Peter’s humble nature is the fact that this unique accolade was not framed and displayed at his home but instead tucked away safely in the bottom drawer of a file cabinet.

Born in Philadelphia, Peter grew up in New Hampshire and, in 1941, graduated from Dartmouth, where he was the head of the student governing body, played varsity hockey, graduated magna cum laude, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and was awarded the Barrett Cup for all-around achievement by a senior class member.

He was selected to speak at his Dartmouth commencement. With the world in the throes of a deepening conflict and having been taught by professors that included the generation that fought “The Great War,” he observed with sadness, “The same men who taught us that war is bad now tell us that we must go and fight one.” He did not shrink from that responsibility, however, as he had already completed officer training while at Dartmouth. Commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy, he worked in photographic intelligence, in both the European and Pacific theater. He

was among the first Americans to go to Japan following the war in order to determine through on-site investigation the accuracy of analyses based on aerial photographs.

After leaving active military service in 1946, Peter earned a master’s degree from Harvard’s Littauer School of Public Administration (now the John F. Kennedy School of Government). He taught economics at Amherst until beginning government service in 1953.

Although his marriage to Audrey Prior ended in divorce, Peter and Audrey forged what was a unique relationship for that time, with Peter taking primary custody of their children, Ellen and Bruce. They remained on friendly terms, cooperated amicably to apportion time for holidays and vacations, and lived just a few miles apart for another fifty years, until Audrey’s death in 2008.

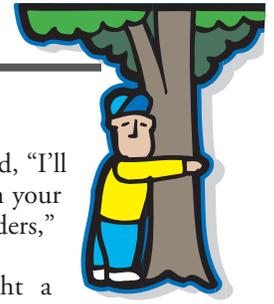
His subsequent marriage in 1959 to Joyce Sherwood, an economist with the IMF, proved to be a more compatible match. Joyce was a caring and resourceful stepmother to Ellen and Bruce, and another son, David, was born in 1962.

Peter and Joyce enjoyed entertaining in their Hollin Hills home, leisurely Sundays reading the Washington Post, sharing mystery novels, and, especially post-retirement, traveling to Europe with the Elderhostel program. They were happily married for almost 57 years, until her death in 2016.

A founding member of the Hollin Hills Tennis Club, Peter continued to play tennis until he was 93 years old, and golf for several years after that. He was also an active participant in and contributor to the creation of Mount Vernon at Home.

A memorial celebration of his life is planned for this fall. In lieu of flowers or targeted charitable contributions, Peter would urge donations of both money and time to the 2020 Democratic presidential nominee.

GardenWise



■ GARDENING KNOW-HOW

Want to expand your gardening knowledge? Looking for reliable and ecologically sound answers to your plant and garden questions? Hollin Hiller and Fairfax Master Gardener Gretchen Spencer recommends her three favorite gardening websites: plantnovanatives.org; gardenrant.com, and fairfaxgardening.org.

■ GREEN AND FRUGAL

Summer means enjoying the out-of-doors. It also means dealing with three outdoor nuisances—weeds, mosquitoes, and plant pests. These homemade solutions can all be easily made of inexpensive, common ingredients and are safe alternatives to toxic chemicals. Why not give them a try?

Non-toxic Weed Killer

1/2 gallon vinegar

1/4 cup table salt

1/2 tsp. Dawn or other liquid dish detergent

Mix together in a spray bottle. Spray weeds thoroughly, avoiding any other nearby plants. Dish detergent strips the weeds of their protective oils so the vinegar and salt can do their job. Said to work as well as Roundup without the health risk.

Homemade Mosquito Trap

1 cup water

1/4 cup brown sugar

1 gram of yeast

1 two-liter plastic bottle

1. Cut plastic bottle in half.
2. Mix brown sugar with hot water. Let cool. When cold, pour in the bottom half of the bottle.
3. Add the yeast. No need to mix. It creates carbon dioxide which attracts mosquitoes.
4. Place the top half of bottle, upside down, into the bottom half, taping them together if desired.
5. Wrap bottle with something black leaving the top uncovered. Mosquitoes are drawn to black objects.
6. Place it outside away from your normal gathering area.
7. Change solution every 2 weeks for continuous control.

Homemade Insecticidal Soap

1 quart water

1 tsp. Dawn or other liquid dish detergent

1 tbsp. isopropyl alcohol 70%

Mix and put in a spray bottle. Spray plants thoroughly, including stems and underside of leaves to get rid of many common plant pests, including scale. Can also be used on indoor houseplants, but protect floors and furniture, as it will drip.

Have a favorite homemade garden or household concoction, especially one that helps avoid using harmful chemicals? Please send it in to share with other readers.

■ WHAT IF?

The knock on my door was made by a young man who wanted to sell me a plan to rid my yard of pests. I began to explain the importance of insects. I had not yet gotten to the part about the

planet's loss of biodiversity when he said, "I'll bet you don't know there are spiders on your roof and in the rain gutters." "I like spiders," I said in too loud a voice.

The previous evening had brought a younger, milder person. He was watching the frog who was sitting patiently at the edge of his pond near my front door, and seemed ready to understand when I said, "No poisons, no chemicals of any kind." I explained how lizards, frogs, and birds who share my space depend on bugs and how I enjoy seeing fireflies, butterflies, and dragonflies, and how diverse, interesting, and beautiful are other bugs, spiders, and bees. He backed away, saying, "I'm just trying to earn money for college."

We live in this beautiful forest, open enough to grow many other things. What if we could make Hollin Hills chemical free to protect all the many creatures seen and unseen who dwell with us now and lived here many years before we came? In the early part of my tenure, there were toads and turtles and lunar moths; there were many ladybugs and praying mantids. I don't see them much any more. Last year, I thought of the lightning bugs and bees I killed as I mowed. Now I wonder what will happen if I don't mow. So far, I have mowed only a small swath around my back yard garden.

Not mowing is probably too radical for most people, but what bad thing would happen if no chemicals went onto your lawn? The clover would grow and supply nitrogen; some little wildflowers would probably come and attract bees. Is that bad? or ugly?

We don't like mosquitoes or ticks, but why kill all of the bugs? 'Off' works pretty well for me. My cat has stuff from his vet—back of the head once every third month. There are mosquito dunks for ponds that do not harm fish. What about termites? Watch the base of the house, and don't stack wood against it.

OK, too much preaching. But think about it. If you don't like bugs, feed the birds. They will eat your bugs. So will lizards and frogs. Just provide water.

—Bobbie Godwin

Recommended

- **HAIRCUTS:** Julie and Rocky Curtis call it the Deal of the Century, and Wendy Kilpatrick agrees! Haircuts are \$25. Call 703-971-0355; ask for Debby. Go out Franconia Rd. past Rose Hill Shopping Center. On the opposite side in a small strip mall is the Brush'n Comb Hair Parlour Company, 5510 Franconia Rd.
- **CARPENTRY/HOME REPAIR:** Peter and Marianne Martz highly recommend Brad Furman. Brad expertly painted a bathroom and installed a towel rack. He finds solutions for difficult problems and executes them with ease. He arrives on time, works very hard, and cleans up the workspace beautifully. Brad may be reached by email: bafurm@gmail.com or by phone: 703-201-6797.

OF SNAKES AND ANTIQUES

My wife Ginny and I have lived in Hollin Hills for 37 years. One of the reasons we love the neighborhood so much is our ability to experience nature through the window walls.

Over the years, we have enjoyed watching the wide variety of wildlife. Our one condition has always been that we each remain in our own space. We did once have a bird fly down the heat exhaust pipe and join us, briefly, inside. After that, we put a cover on the exhaust and established a strict “no birds in the house” policy. That policy has been respected by all birds for over a quarter of a century. Unfortunately, we did not establish a formal policy for other animals. As a result, over the years, we have been visited inside by the occasional lizard or mouse. As they have chosen to do so outside of official visiting hours (which are *never*), they have been welcomed with a few screams, brooms, and dust pans. I can truthfully report that they have all left the house unharmed.

These occasional wildlife visits have been a small price to pay for the pleasure of living in the woods. That was until May 28th.

That day, Ginny was pouring herself a cup of coffee when she noticed a long black object moving from the kitchen to the living room. I could say she responded calmly by finishing her breakfast and then calling animal control to remove it—but that would be a lie. Instead, she screamed for me to come quickly. As I was two rooms and several walls removed, and well past my best hearing years, I could not hear what she was saying. I yelled to her that she knew I couldn’t hear, so please come closer. Ginny yelled louder.

When I arrived in the living room, I saw a two-foot long black snake stretched out along the wall. Ginny said, “Get it out of here.” My inner pioneer said, “Of course, my beloved.” My 76-year-old suburban self said, “Are you crazy?” Nevertheless, I set out with a broom and dustpan to do my manly duty and convince the snake that it would be far happier outside. It responded by coiling up, and I abandoned my hopeless quest to remove it from the house.

Ginny, shaken but still thinking, called Fairfax County animal control and they said to watch the snake to make sure it didn’t go hiding elsewhere in the house while they dispatched someone to remove it. An hour later, a policeman came with a six foot long grabber and removed the snake. We thanked him profusely and started to breathe again.

The next day, our blood pressures moving back into the 3-digits, we set off to DC for a relaxing (comparatively speaking) outing at the dentist. As we were already in town, we then went to Samuelson’s Buyers to sell some antique silver and gold pieces we hadn’t used in years. While we got less than anticipated because of millennials’ changing tastes, we were glad to get enough to offset some of the never-ending maintenance bills that come with owning a Hollin Hills house.

After a quiet day on Thursday, albeit with the predictable snake dreams, we watched as workmen finished repairing the 70-year-old patio—until we heard a loud crash. Ginny raced into the kitchen to find broken pottery from off our kitchen shelves—and another black snake. This time, we abandoned half measures and called Home Paramount Pest Control. An hour later, two men showed up and explained to us that the snakes were probably coming down our heater exhaust pipe in search of mice. We explained to them, in voices two octaves above normal, that we didn’t have any mice in the house. They responded, “Now you know why.”

By this time, we were prepared to pay Home Paramount any sum of money to remove the snake and make sure none ever returned and agreed to do so. Alas, Home Paramount either has ESP or access to our bank account, as the sum they charged was nearly identical to what we had received from Samuelson’s.

We had learned the value of the family jewels. We just hope the snakes have also learned their lesson.

—Peter Kinzler

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(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

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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.

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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 Register of Historic Places, and more.

WORKING GROUP STATUS REPORT HISTORIC OVERLAY DISTRICT

Last year, 74% of Hollin Hills' property owners supported a petition requesting Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Stork to propose that Fairfax County create an Historic Overlay District (HOD) for the community of Hollin Hills. In response to the petition, Supervisor Storck presented the issue to the County Board of Supervisors, who subsequently approved a resolution directing the County's Department of Zoning and Planning to undertake a feasibility study and report back to the Board of Supervisors.

This past winter, in the first phase of project, personnel from the Zoning and Planning Department took pictures of each house. The purpose was to evaluate the housing stock is to determine whether the houses within Hollin Hills retain enough of the defining features of the Goodman design elements to justify a community-wide historical status.

To ensure the involvement of the Hollin Hills community, Supervisor Storck created a Working Group of Hollin Hills residents, to work with and advise County staff from the various entities that play a role in analyzing whether to establish Hollin Hills as an HOD. The homeowners Storck appointed to the

Working Group represent a variety of positions with respect to the HOD designation for Hollin Hills.

Thus far, the Working Group has met three times, and we welcome input from the entire community. The HOD Working Group meets monthly at the Administrative Offices of Supervisor Storck at 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Our next three meetings are scheduled for 6:30pm, Tuesday, July 23, Tuesday, August 20, and Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

The Working Group is not only providing county staff with information about Hollin Hills; we also want to act as a liaison between the county staff and the community. To that end, please contact Barbara Ward (barlward1@cox.net) or Lee Cutler (velmalee_13@msn.com), who are the co-chairs of the Working Group, with questions and comments. Other Working Group members include Jere Gibber, Andy Hight, Bob Kinzer, Ron McCallum, Mike McGill, Millie Stanges, and Mary Tracy.

There is still a long way to go, and there will be additional community meetings and Fairfax County public hearings before any changes are made. —Barbara Ward, Committee Co-Chair

STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT MANAGER'S TIMELINE SUMMARY

The process of stream restoration, and restoration in general, can be disruptive, and especially so for such a tight-knit community as Hollin Hills. I believe the plan we are proposing reflects a survey and evaluation of options ranging from less disruptive to more disruptive, and the option on the table is the least impactful with the highest chance of success. It is my understanding that the last three storms actually caused quite a bit of flooding and sediment deposit as Goodman overtopped Paul Spring Rd, and the neighbors on the lower end of the stream have reported some very high flood waters and flooding on private property. This is consistent with our studies suggesting that the stream is very unstable.

We expect to see a revised plan in the next few weeks which will reflect the comments the community had regarding the 35% plan, and hopefully, that reflects the general desire to not change the feel of the park. However, the stream is in very poor condition, and it does require something more than a fix that people can do in a weekend. Here's a summary of where we are in the process:

- In the early 2010s the stream at Goodman Park was nominated for stream restoration. Our design engineers worked on a less disruptive solution, however, a break in a sanitary sewer line derailed the effort to spot treat the worst of the erosion. The line was repaired, but nothing was done for the erosion and the stream continued to decline.
- The county continued to monitor the stream as part of county-wide efforts, the latest stream assessment rated both Goodman and Brickelmaier's streams as in "very poor" condition (approximately 10-15% of county streams are considered very poor, or the lowest category). The vegetation of Goodman Park was found to be of low vegetative quality (a floristic quality index score of 17.4 (which is actually an average score for Fairfax County)). Ground layer (6 feet and below) cover was estimated at 57% non-native or non-native invasive (an average score for Fairfax County is closer to 35%).

- The Civic Association invited the county to add the Goodman and Brickelmaier's streams to our project list.
- The county continued to get complaints regarding yard flooding and erosion concerns within the Hollin Hills community.
- We conducted site specific scoping of both streams to evaluate their condition vs all the other projects that were nominated.
- Goodman (2017) and Brickelmaier (2018) were added to our active projects, and a design engineer, Stantec, was contracted to design the project(s).
- Since 2017, we have hosted public meetings and stream walks to evaluate the proposed alignment (concept plan) for each stream, to evaluate the condition and management plan for the vegetation of the riparian corridor, and to discuss logistics of this large-scale construction project, including an access road (16-20 feet wide), staging areas, and timing of the project.
- We have a design team that consists of community members, engineers, ecologists, foresters, landscape architects, wastewater specialists and construction managers that have carefully reviewed the restoration plan every step of the way. We have added members of the History Commission to the team to ensure that we stay within the bounds of the Historic District. We have added members of the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to the team because of their expertise in low impact erosion fixes. We will continue to review the plan carefully, and seek additional expertise when needed (e.g., the abandoned well in the floodplain).
- The revised, 65% plan is expected to reflect many of the changes that the community and design team have requested, however, landscaping is not a required deliverable at 65%, and the comments regarding species selection, placement, etc., most likely will not be seen until the 95% plan set. A landscape architect has developed a layout that preserves *(continued on page 8)*

Stream restoration timeline *from page 7*

the unique forest communities of the Hollin Hills parks while implementing a native landscape that will support the whole ecosystem. His plan was reviewed and approved by a small team of residents (including several landscape architects).

- To the question of will the county just walk away? We have an easement on both parks to manage stormwater and flooding. This is a perpetual easement to maintain the structures that we install. We also have a commitment of returning a healthy forest to the parks, and have already begun to work on the two most

persistent and harmful non-native species in Goodman Park, Japanese knotweed and wisteria.

I thank all the letter writers for sharing their concerns and encourage everyone to join us for the ongoing discussion at the Mount Vernon Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, on August 27, at 7:30 pm. We will also meet at Goodman Park, at 5pm, on that same day, to evaluate the stream.

Contact me with any specific concerns or questions about the project or process at Meghan.Fellows@fairfaxcounty.gov.

—*Meghan Fellows, Project Manager*

LETTERS TO THE BULLETIN

Letters that oppose or question the stream restoration project begin below. They are followed by letters in support of the project, starting on page 11.

- Dear Neighbors,

There is a better way!: An appeal for community review and modification of Fairfax County's "Restoration" plans for Goodman Park and Brickelmaier Park.

I am writing to you out of deep and imminent concern for our Hollin Hills park system. As some of you might know, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Planning Division has plans that are underway to "restore" both Goodman Park and Brickelmaier Park. These parks are central to our parkland. In fact, they are the heart of the system, the only ones that stretch inside and within the community, between many homes. The rest of our park system is around the perimeter of Hollin Hills. I have reviewed the plans for both parks and can see clearly that if these proposed "restorations" are begun next year, both of those parks would be effectively hollowed out. Over 20% of the mature trees over 12" in diameter, many over 100 years old, would be cut down for all time. All trees in the very substantial work zone that are less than 12" in diameter are not even designated in the plans, and my understanding is that all of those trees smaller than 12" diameter would likely be cut down.

You might ask, why would Fairfax County do such a thing? My imperfect understanding is that the EPA has required the county to fund stream restorations in assistance of cleaning up the Chesapeake Bay, a noble goal. Nitrogen and phosphorous outflows from the multitude of tributaries that feed the Bay are all suspect. Tributaries with evidence of erosion are more suspect, as erosion may carry these pollutants. Fairfax made calculations on certain streams in furtherance of this program. The calculations are intended to ensure that the satisfaction of the EPA's goals and requirements is being addressed. With those particular calculations comes the potential for Fairfax County funding. The source of that funding is a portion of real estate taxes. That is where our two little parks come in. They were profiled and deemed to be significant enough contributors of nitrogen and phosphorous to warrant "restoration." Notably, most of the time neither creek is even a running stream of water! True, there is some erosion in Goodman Park, primarily at a poorly placed and poorly maintained storm culvert that drains a portion of Martha's circle at approximately 1909 Martha's Road. There are other areas of erosion in both parks as well, but having explored those creeks innumerable times since the 1950s, I know that they were always eroded. As would be expected, the erosion is progressive. It is not disastrous. These are historic creek beds and parks that should be maintained gently, not bulldozed.

Perhaps significantly, Goodman Park is not designated as a Chesapeake Bay Conservation Area on Fairfax County's "2005 Chesapeake Bay Map," the only one offered on the County's website. Additionally, the lower reach of Goodman Park is not shown to have marine clay in the County's most recent study. It is the presence of marine clay that we are told is a major contributor to erosion.

So, what exactly are my concerns? Overall, everything about the heavy-handed approach that the County, and its engineering firm of choice, Stantec, have planned for our narrow and fragile historic parks. Briefly, they would cut down all impeding trees and build a minimum 16 feet wide road for nearly the entire length of Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. Much wider construction entries to these parks would be located on both sides of Stafford Road, both entering on Paul Spring Road. Those much-used entry roads would be at least 32 feet wide. Each. The proposal would have the work begin in 2020 and extend for well over a year. Imagine the storm runoff from those gashes, as opposed to the much less exposed existing conditions! Wouldn't the runoff during the work far exceed the existing runoff that one would expect to accumulate over many decades, regardless of efforts to mitigate construction washouts? This seems likely. So the cure might well augment the problem, such as the Hollin Hills contribution may be. Okay, now they would have built these two new roads up through the center of the parks, hollowing them out. It will be like having 3 Stafford Roads, side by side by side! Those big trees will not be coming back. Several are so large that 2 adults could not reach around them and touch each other's fingertips! These irreplaceable trees would be removed from the very heart of Hollin Hills! Next they would clear even more areas for staging very large construction equipment and materials along the two new construction roads. There would be several of these staging area in both parks, each staging area as big as a house. The equipment would not be what you are used to seeing employed for your neighbor's addition; this would be flatbed trucks with 2 ton boulders on them, and the huge equipment necessary to clear the creek bed and move and place those boulders. Those cleared trees would be lost for all time. And that is only the prep, after which the real destruction would begin. All of the access roads and staging areas would pale against the work that it prepares for. The creeks as you recognize them now would be altered beyond memory. Both corridors would be largely re-designed and the creeks would be moved as the engineers saw fit. The result would bear no resemblance to the wonderful old ground that we are so fortunate the Goodman design team included as part of Hollin Hills.

Why would our Hollin Hills parks bear no resemblance to their native state? One need only look at two nearby parks which the

Letters *from page 8*

County's Stormwater Planning Division offers as examples of success. Both are less than one mile away from Hollin Hills' Ft. Hunt Rd. entry. One such project is Mt. Vernon District Park, when entered from the intersection of Quander Road and Dartmouth Drive. The other, McCutcheon Park, is adjacent to Villamay, just on the other side of Fort Hunt Road. The work in McCutcheon Park is accessed from the dead-end of Admiral Drive immediately after it crosses Belle Vista Drive. Both projects exhibit clear cutting of nearly all, or all, of the entire work area. They are 'hollowed out' just as our parks would be. In place of the old woods and streams, non-native gray and ugly boulders "armor" the drainage area in an unattractive and urban feeling way. Many weeds are growing in those two projects, thriving in the newfound sunlight. Please note that the granite boulders specified for our two parks would be as much as 2 tons each! That is how much a very large car weighs! We are told that these sizes are necessary so they won't wash away! This begs credulity. I have never seen rocks of any size washed across Paul Spring Road at either park's culvert. Ever. This over-engineered approach is typical of the entire project.

A May 4 Letter to the Editor in the Washington Post lamented the destruction of bird habitat wrought by this same Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division. It is titled "[A silent spring in Fairfax County.](#)" (Google search: "Washington Post Local Opinions Laura Anderko"). Fairfax County speaks glowingly of the restorative effects of this program, when in reality it appears to be an over-engineered and destructive misuse of a well-intentioned program.

Please do yourself and Hollin Hills a favor and visit Mt. Vernon District Park and McCutcheon Park. They are just a stone's throw away (Google map each one at less than 1 mile). Please go to the entrances that I mention above, then explore the results of those projects. The County says, indeed they brag, that those urbanized and weed friendly results are in a form that we should expect for Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. I expect that many of you will not be happy. Those nearby work areas are well on their way to being overrun by weeds and weed trees. The County's maintenance plans are not nearly sufficient to control those misguided attempts at restoration. Incidentally, I believe the majority, if not all, of the planned maintenance will be done with herbicides. All of our ivy will come back. Don't be fooled. Those ivy roots are persistent. Even where those roots have been scraped and trampled by heavy equipment, they will pop back up. Please understand that none of the work proposed is a solution to the vines and weeds that are now in those parks. Based on the evidence at those two nearby parks, it is a fair assumption that those newly exposed areas will harbor even more weeds and vines than ever before.

Please speak up in the next Hollin Hills Bulletin, as this is a matter of considerable urgency. The plans for both parks are on their way to the "65% stage", well on their way to being bulldozed as fact. *** Next Bulletin Submissions Deadline is August 15th. Please post!

I do think there is a place for the generous offer of funds from Fairfax County. The program's efforts should be in furtherance of constructive restoration efforts to gently address those areas of erosion that need attention. Please keep in mind that this erosion has been going on for many decades, and is not a breathless emergency. A much lighter touch, employing native rock that is indistinguishable from the existing rock, along with a substantially smaller work area, is what I believe should be considered. Tree cutting should be kept to an absolute minimum. That there has been County money spent on the current plans is unfortunate. It is better to stop those destructive plans now, save future money, and proceed to a more

natural solution that fits the scale of our neighborhood and its historic parks, rather than a one-size-fits-all over-modeled and over-engineered fiasco. The result of a gentler plan would be good for Hollin Hills and good for Fairfax County.

Sincerely,

Marc Shapiro

1931 Martha's Road, 703-768-7799, marc@verizon.net

** If you wish to contact Fairfax County's 'point person' about these proposed projects, her name is Meghan Fellows. Contact information: Meghan Fellows, CERP

Ecological Restoration Specialist

Watershed Projects Implementation Branch-Central

12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 449

Fairfax, VA 22035

Meghan.Fellows@fairfaxcounty.gov, (0)703-324-5807, (c)571-992-4913

** Please read the following related letter from Jamie Cleland, friend of Hollin Hills, my long-time friend, and a professional whose career has been involved in many such projects as this one.

• Dear Hollin Hills,

I just became aware of the proposed erosion control projects this past week. Although I'm not currently a Hollin Hills resident, I married into a long-term HH family and have enjoyed walking Goodman and Paul Spring parks over the past 50 years. I am also a retired cultural resource professional who has many years experience in helping to develop projects that avoid or reduce impacts to historic and archaeological properties. I write to you because I'm concerned that the proposed projects are on a trajectory leading to unnecessarily severe and irreversible impacts to the Hollin Hills Historic District.

In my opinion, the parks in question are contributing elements to the HH Historic District. Preservation of the natural environment was a key driver in the HH development and central to the character and livability of the neighborhood. The developers of HH went out of their way to preserve the natural environment to the extent possible. The same care in planning should be afforded the parks, which numerous residents have worked to preserve intact over the years. Yet, the projects are proposing the use of heavy construction equipment, the cutting of many mature trees, and the employment of numerous large granite-blocks. As someone experienced in similar projects, I believe a less-impacting alternative may be prudent and feasible.

It is my understanding that the proposed projects will require a Federal permit, which means that compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required. Section 106 compliance would entail giving the Virginia Historical Commission an opportunity to comment. For that agency to form a credible opinion, I believe that a qualified architectural historian or other qualified cultural resource professional (someone outside the design team) should conduct an analysis to determine if there would be an adverse affect. That person should have prior experience with the Section 106 assessment of impacts to historical landscapes.

Furthermore, NHPA requires that the permitting agency consider ways to reduce adverse impacts. I conducted a recent walk-over of the Goodman Park project area and noted that all serious erosion is restricted to the vicinity of the storm drain that collects storm water in the vicinity of 1909 Martha's Road. The side channel where that drain enters the park is heavily eroded as is a downstream portion of the creek in the center of the park. I believe the project, to the degree that it is determined to be necessary at all,

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should only propose intervention to address this storm drain and the area immediately downstream that has been eroded. None of the park upstream of that drain should be damaged. Secondly, heavy equipment should not be used in the park if at all possible. Any necessary structural interventions should be designed to absolutely minimize the need for heavy construction equipment. I am aware of many projects where hand equipment and low-impact mechanical equipment have been successfully used to minimize damage to historic landscapes. Thirdly, any necessary structural interventions should utilize materials that are in-keeping with the historical setting and fabric of the parks. Fourthly, vegetative alternatives should be considered. Finally, low-impact upstream interventions, such as bioswales, to slow down the delivery of storm water to the storm drain should be considered as part of a low impact alternative.

The National Park Service has developed guidelines for how to treat historical landscapes. These should be consulted by the design team and drawn upon to develop a feasible approach that minimizes damage to the character, fabric and setting of these parks, which are central to history and ongoing livability of Hollin Hills. Historic landscapes are significant just as historic buildings are significant and are accorded similar protection under Federal laws and regulations. *Sincerely, Jamie Cleland, PhD*

July 8 update to Marc's letter: After today's amazing 5 " of rain in one hour, I can say that I have now witnessed some rocks on Paul Spring Road. Having said that I never had, I want to correct the record! That said, there weren't many, and they were at the foot of Goodman Park. They appeared to be the direct effect of the storm culvert that drains Martha's Circle. The culvert drainage-way is the area that needs attention, as pointed out in the attached letters. Of note, Paul Spring Road below Brickelmaier Park had no mess on it at all. In fact, that park's creek had very little water running in it shortly after the storm.

(The 5" of rain was measured in our rain gauge at 1931 Martha's Rd.) (Katie and I moved the rocks off Paul Spring Road.)

—*Marc Shapiro*

• Fellow Hollin Hillers,

As a member of one of the original Hollin Hills families and current owner, I URGE you to carefully review the County Stormwater Planning Division's restoration project for Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks that lie within Hollin Hills. While well intentioned, the current plans do not sufficiently take into account the unique and historic landscape that is essential to the value of Hollin Hills as a desirable residential community.

Certainly the erosion issue in the parks can be addressed in a more careful way, maintaining as much of the natural environment as possible.

I have looked at the Mt Vernon District project at Quander and Dartmouth Roads which the County touts as an example of their work. Please take the time to investigate this yourselves. If they bring this system to our parks it will be a tragedy. A revised plan, that takes into account the original and historic concept of preserving the natural setting in Hollin Hills, would be cost effective and benefit both the County and Hollin Hills.

—*Lois Merrifield Madden*

• My home has backed up to Goodman Park since 1966. I consider it to be my "Own National Park" up to the creek. I appreciate the volunteers who I see working in the park (I wish I could still help). I am very concerned about the proposed "improvements." I also appreciate the research Marc Shapiro has done. It woke me up to

some very legitimate concerns.

I love the community spirit of Hollin Hills.

—*Christiane West Little*

• We recently visited Fairfax County's completed stream restoration projects at Mount Vernon District Park and McCutcheon Park to get a sense of how those projects might translate to a Goodman Park/Brickelmaier Park setting. Due to its ample size and the long, sloping hillside on which it is situated, the project at Mount Vernon Park is probably a better barometer of what we might expect in Hollin Hills than at McCutcheon Park.

At Mt. Vernon Park, it was our impression that a significant swath of the canopy had been sacrificed to extensive clear-cutting, and that such an approach here would result in the loss of the present "Forest Primeval" feel of Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. We did not, to be fair, feel that we were looking at a concrete scar bisecting Mt. Vernon Park. Instead, weeds and small trees have grown up so riotously in the unaccustomed sunlight that the creek bed and anti-erosion boulders lining it have pretty much disappeared.

Presumably, such an outcome in our parks could be mitigated through regular maintenance; the County has simply returned Mt. Vernon Park to the custody of Nature. There is a clearing at the rear of Voigt Park, for example, that receives its share of sunshine, but routine care has kept it in good order. (We saw that on July 4th!)

Our underlying concern, though, is the magnitude of the stream restoration projects in Hollin Hills. Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks are fragile, community-owned properties that may not require the robust remedies necessary on County-owned land. We hope that, in the coming months, we can consider ways to make the unquestionably necessary stream restoration projects in Hollin Hills more nuanced and less intrusive than the muscular approach employed at Mount Vernon Park.

—*Frank and Sally Collins, 7307 Rebecca*

• Based on the letters from Mark Shapiro and Jamie Cleland, I have serious concerns about the effect of major work in Brickelmaier and Goodman parks. If large scale reconstruction would completely change the look and feel of these parks, I'm opposed to proceeding. I walk with my dogs in these parks and appreciate the quiet calm that is there. If less major work can address the erosion problems, I am in favor of a much more conservative approach.

—*Marilyn Wanmer and Robert Fisher, Marthas Rd.*

• Friends and Neighbors,

Make an internet search for Hollin Hills Stream Restoration and you will find "Paul Spring Segment 1 at Hollin Hills" concerning Goodman Park & "Paul Spring Segment 2 at Hollin Hills Stream Restoration Community Meeting May 2019" concerning Brickelmaier Park.

These slide presentations, prepared by the Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division, illustrate the stream restoration process and the early design stage of proposed stream restoration in Brickelmaier Park.

The stated design team includes "members of the Hollin Hills community." The goals of the project include erosion control, reduction of hazards and to *improve aesthetics*. Emphasis mine. Thus, as a member of the design team, I want to ensure that we do the right thing and that we do not allow an environmental disturbance that will take decades to heal.

The County's presentations offer photographs of various examples of restored streams. You will notice that in nearly all of the pho-

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tos the areas adjacent to the stream beds have been cleared of tress. Such a right of way is proposed for our stream sides in order to accommodate large pieces of heavy equipment. This clearing allows sunlight to flood a once shaded environment, bringing summer heat and changing what plants would grow in the former woods.

To accomplish the proposed work in Brickelmaier Park, 51 trees greater than a 12" diameter are slated to be removed. How many trees of a lesser diameter are to be removed? The Segment 1 discussion does not mention how many trees are to be removed.

Visit the Quander Road "outfall" at Mt. Vernon District Park. This is accessed from the Dartmouth Drive dead end to the east of Quander Road. The first thing that greets your gaze is a riot of overgrowth. Baby locust trees overwhelm the new restoration plantings. Worse, in the upper disturbed areas are terrible alien invasive plants such as Japanese Stilt Grass and Porcelain Berry, along with Blackberry canes. If this sort of growth occurs in the Hollin Hills "restored" areas, who will maintain it?

The course of the "outfall" stream is evident by the overgrown swath clear cut in the mature woods. It is possible to clamber down to the restored stream bed. In the steeper areas are giant bluestone steps. There are also bluestone boulder "riffles" and reinforced, armored stream bed. This solution may quell erosion, but it provides a man-made water course and resembles very little a typical local stream.

I urge the Hollin Hills community to call for a re-design of the proposed "restoration". A new gentler, more limited design should use smaller construction machinery to lessen tree loss, and use native quartzite boulders and rock in the design, rather than foreign material. Plantings and maintenance issues to be clarified. Quartzite boulders can be seen among the giant stepping stones at the south end of Voigt Park.

—Roger Miller, 2200 Popkins Lane

- About a year ago the county without prior notice took out most of the trees in the right-of-way between 1949 and 1951 Marthas Rd. next to my house. They left felled trees for over six months before they were finally removed. The barren area is now overgrown with weeds.

It's come to my attention that Fairfax County Stormwater Planning Division now has a project under way scheduled to begin next year that will dramatically effect Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. The goal is to reduce erosion to prevent Nitrogen and Phosphorous outflows feeding Chesapeake Bay. But the scale and nature of the project with wholesale tree removal and construction of service roads to remake the stream beds has been undertaken without sufficient consultation with our Hollin Hills Community. The access roads, one for each park, will be 16' wide. The entrances to those two roads will be 32' wide where they open onto Paul Spring Rd. If the nearby projects in Mt. Vernon District Park and McCutcheon Park are examples of what is in store as a community we must intervene before it's too late. I grew up in this neighborhood and sent many pleasurable days exploring what are now Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. They are NOT county parks but are a historic part of Hollin Hills and should be maintained with this in mind.

—Tony Jordan, 1949 Marthas Rd.

- My family and I have been actively using and enjoying Goodman Park since we moved here over 10 years ago and my kids were still toddlers. Even in this relatively short time it has been evident how the park is washing away. The footpath through Goodman leads along what can now only be described as a ravine that gets deeper and wider with each rainstorm while the path gets narrower and more dangerous. After the recent incredible downpours it must be

clear to everyone how badly the parks need our attention if we want to save them. Time is of the essence as these kinds of storms have become the new norm. Thankfully many dedicated members of our Hollin Hills community have already recognized this and have been working with experts from Fairfax County to come up with the best plan. Every effort has been taken to minimize impact and conserve as many trees as possible while still giving us a long term solution that will preserve our parks for generations. The time where we could afford to use a smaller scale approach has passed and would now not adequately address the severe erosion our parks face. The planning has been a several-year process already and the entire community has been repeatedly invited and encouraged in every possible way to partake in it from the very beginning. These plans will certainly change the look of our parks and while I love the current shady, woody feel, not all change is bad. The stream bed will be visible. The useable area of the park will increase for everyone. Children and dogs will be able to play in the park and stream. Most importantly it will be safe and sustainable. In time trees will grow again.

Some of you have enjoyed these beautiful parks for over 50 years. I too would like that privilege.

—Friederike Ahrens, Marthas Road

- Fellow Hollin Hillers,

No one wishes to destroy our common parklands, but Nature is in the process of doing just that. Between increased rounds of high intensity rainfalls, a geology that reflects its origins with layers of disparate materials marbled with a truly nasty marine clay, our hillside parks are cracking, slumping, and washing downstream.

The park has been eroding for a while. A lighter touch, lower impact, project was developed for Goodman in 2008-2012. For whatever reason, the CAHH Board decided not to move forward with its construction. Now too much damage has occurred for that approach to work.

Raw sewage from an eroded and broken lateral sewer line drained directly into Goodman's creek in 2015. In the last month, a new hole has opened up within 10 feet of the manhole for the sewer mainline.

That brings us to today and the plans proposed and a potential funding pot identified. Until critics of the current plan provide viable alternatives, construction drawings and funding sources to accomplish such, the current proposals by Fairfax County are our best option to preserve and enhance our beloved communal park lands.

Our parks share their geology with two other bluffs that were stable until recently and have now failed—the foot of Dartmouth Road at Quander Road in Mount Vernon Park and the Mount Vernon Estate. Our climate and our rainfall patterns are changing. The Quander Road hillside slipped enough that the resulting hole could absorb three stacked Bucknell houses. The cobble and sediment spread across and along Paul Spring Road following the two intense rain events in mid-July are indications of the rapidly increasing hillside instability in our parks.

The stream restoration (and hillside stabilization) projects proposed for Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks have been heavily publicized in the Bulletin, at our Annual Meetings, at the CAHH entry and at individual park signs, and with public walks and meetings led by the County's design team. The County's History Commission is a part of the County's Technical Committee, and all are well aware of the significance our parks play in the identification of our National Historic District designation.

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The County's team is led by a restoration ecologist. Hollin Hill Community members have been actively involved in establishing a native plant and seed mix for the restoration. We have requested a mix of landscape sized trees and seedlings, and a plant palette that is responsive to the ecological niches found on the hillside.



Torrent of water rushing down Goodman Park stream overflowed onto path in recent storms.

cobble downstream that a dam was created that rerouted the Goodman stream out of the park and down a neighbor's driveway. Attend the community walk and public meeting on August 27 where County staff will review the 65% design proposals for each of the parks.

—*Elisabeth Lardner*

- This past year, we got a rain gauge at our house. On the morning of July 8, we received five inches of rain in two hours. Poor Ruth

Bennett, who lives down the hill from me, got the same five inches, as well the five inches of run-off from my house, so her property processed at least ten inches of rain. Three days later (July 11), we got an additional three and a half inches of rain before lunch.

During the interim, my wife, Barbara Liggett, and Susan Kuhbach shoveled the path along Paul Spring Road across from Goodman Park. It took great effort. There was about two inches of muck deposited on the foot path, as well as a great number of stones, large and small, deposited at the entrance to the park. The muck was odd in its texture. It was extremely slippery to walk on. When shoveled up, it stuck like crazy to the shovel. Later research showed that it was not soil' it was marine clay. The slippery quality can contribute to landslides and can cause concrete-slab-based houses to move on their foundations. Ponder that for a minute.

Two days later, during the second rain, it happened all over again—another 2 plus inches of marine clay washed down Goodman Park's hill and onto the Paul Spring Road foot path. That's four inches of erosion in three days. Also, another large tree (roughly 60 feet) fell across Paul Spring Creek due to deteriorating conditions.

So, where is the marine clay coming from? Obviously, it is coming from the ever-expanding, ten feet deep crevasses in the Parks' stream that are subject to the increasing intensity of our summer storms.

I know there are some who are unhappy about cutting down trees in the parks as part of the county's efforts to mitigate the storm water erosion. I truly appreciate the sentiment. My only suggestion is to visit the bottom of Goodman Park after our next rainstorm, and really think about what is happening.

—*Gus Matson*