



FROM THE CAHH PRESIDENT: **LOOKING TOWARD THE NEW YEAR**

The Tour is looking great

The Civic Association (CAHH) Board held a joint meeting with the House & Garden Tour Committee to approve the new Tour website and logo. Check out HollinHillsModern.com to see the Tour Committee's amazing website and to purchase tickets or to volunteer for the May 2, 2020 HHH&G Tour. You can also sign up for email updates to receive new information about the Tour as it becomes available.

Board Changes for 2020

I have been fortunate to work with an incredibly talented, thoughtful, and dedicated group of Board members this past year. Although we will miss Chris McNamara and Marinka Tellier as they have completed their terms on the Board, I am looking forward to working with these incoming Board members: Allison Miles-Lee (VP), Gail Kropf (Co-Membership Chair), and Alene McMahon (MVCCA Rep.) along with other continuing members of the Board.

Goals for the coming year

The Civic Association's goals for the coming year include: 1) beginning to plan for the 75th Anniversary Celebration of Hollin Hills in the year 2024; 2) monitoring the progress of plans for the Historic Overlay District for Hollin Hills and the Stormwater Restoration Project for Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks; and 3) finding ways to encourage more participation of residents within our community—although the current level of volunteerism is very impressive!

Where HH needs a stronger voice

Speaking of community participation, we are looking for residents to serve on several committees of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) (www.mvcca.org/). The committees meet once a month to discuss issues that affect the community associations of the Mt. Vernon Supervisory District.

We really need help with the following committees: 1) Planning and Zoning; 2) Transportation; 3) Environment and Recreation; and 4) Education. If you have an interest in these areas and can devote just one evening per month, please contact me at your earliest convenience. There are a few Mount Vernon area civic associations that have an oversized influence on some of these

committees because they consistently have committee representation. Supervisor Storck takes the recommendations and voice of the MVCCA very seriously. I would like to have better representation from the Civic Association of Hollin Hills.

Making it personal

It is the season for resolutions to be made, so here are mine: 1) to take more time to read fiction; 2) to volunteer in our community parks; and 3) to improve my cooking. I'll let you know how I do on these resolutions in next year's January Bulletin.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, comments, concerns, or questions at cahh@hollin-hills.org

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH President



THE FRIENDS WINTER LECTURE SERIES: **ALL ABOUT INVASIVES**

What: Learn all about invasive plants from a panel of experts.

When: January 12, 2020, 4-6 pm

Where: The Hollin Hall of the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church
1909 Windmill Lane

Friends of Hollin Hills invites you to the first of its Winter Lecture Series, an educational program on invasive plants. Following a social hour with wine, cheese, and snacks from 4 to 4:45pm, representatives of the National Invasive Species Council of the U.S. Department of Interior, the Northern Virginia

Conservation Trust, and the Audubon Naturalist Society will discuss what invasive plants are, how they can be ecologically harmful, and how we can manage them both as individual homeowners and as stewards of our thirty-plus acres of wooded park land.

Please also mark your calendars for February 23 and March 22, when Friends will host two more similar events on the history of Hollin Hills and Hollin Hills architecture, respectively.

—Christine Hooks, Friends Chair

Note: Read more on page 5 about one of our most persistent invasives.

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Patrick Kelly	405-1763
Vice-President Allison Miles-Lee	973-477-6582
Treasurer Scott Weidenfeller	725-7894
Secretary Mohra Gavankar	815-919-3513
Membership Tony Morris, Gail Kropf	571-431-9711, 240-418-0797

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Alan Barak	240-888-5735
Gino Madrid (Social)	202-549-6723
Alene McMahon (MVCCA)	967-5241
Sally Watkins (Parks)	837-9654

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Rigglin	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471
(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)	

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair John Nolan	231-2229
Members Piya Vlach	210-4904
Jennifer Kirby	768-0355
Cory English	765-8223
Andy Hight	869-2639
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

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH. Material in this publication does not necessarily reflect the opinions of the CAHH Board or the editor.

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

Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month.
 Articles generally should not exceed 500 words. Send your submission in the body of an email or as an attachment to barbshear@verizon.net. If you cannot produce computerized copy, please find someone to submit it for you. No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Bulletin Distribution problems:

- To add/correct/change your mail or email address, or if you have not received your digital Bulletin, contact Tony Morris, 571-431-9711 or Gail Kropf, 240-418-0797
- To replace a missing paper Bulletin, contact Ellen Rydell at 703-768-3442.

HOLLIN HILLS ARCHIVES

The Hollin Hills Archives are part of the Special Collections and Archives of George Mason University. To contact the SC&A staff with research questions, use the following:

- For general description of HH Archives contents, go to http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html.
- For questions about collections, hours, usage, duplications, or directions go to http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html.
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email speccoll@gmu.edu.

www.hollin-hills.org

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

Quick Takes



Brand new Henry

WELCOME!

Drury Lane greets the Davenport family, who moved into 1812 in late November from Old Town Alexandria. When they first arrived, they were a family of three: Collin, Blair, and Charlotte, their almost two-year-old daughter. They quickly became a four-member household, with the happy addition of son Henry, born on December 4, just a week before his sister, Charlotte, turned two.

Collin, who grew up in Northern Virginia, works on the Hill for Congressman Gerry Connolly, and Blair is an architect who hails from Charlotte, North Carolina.

UPCOMING HOLLIN HILLS POOL MEETING

The Hollin Hills Pool Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, February 29, 2020, at 1pm, in the Sherwood Regional Library large meeting room.

The main activity is election of officers. The nominees are: Chair, Laura Kistler; Vice Chair, Melissa Edmiston; Secretary, Bob Koeppen; Maintenance Director, Adam Carpenter; Facilities Director, Rebecca Bostick; Landscape Co-director, Gretchen Spenser; Social Director, Roxann Johnson; At-large, Peter Kinzler (history-legal) and Jovi Medic (social).

Continuing officers are: Membership Director, Barbara Wade; Landscape Co-director, Jake Dowling; At-large, Stefanie Hardee (guards); and Past President, Barbara Bogue.

The 2020 budget and results of the 2019 Member Survey will be presented at the meeting, which is open to all pool members.

THANKS FOR THE TURKEY TROT

A large gathering of neighbors, along with their families, friends, and even some four-legged friends attended the annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day. It was hosted on Martha's Road by Nat and Freiderike Ahrens and sons, Casper and Henrik, who assisted at a coffee bar provided by the family. A big thank you to the Ahrens for sharing their lawn and carport, allowing everyone to enjoy a wonderful Hollin Hill's tradition before heading off for their holiday feasts.

Part of the large group of runners who successfully tackled Hollin Hill's hills in the 5K Trot.





Runners came in all shapes and sizes including lots of very quick Hollin Hills kids and some speedy dogs, too.

There were 150 people who signed up. Half ran either the Fun Run or the 5K (and some ran both); the rest of the group enjoyed the fire pit, hot cider and donuts. Children had a good time playing and swinging in a tree by the start and finish line near the Ahren's front yard.

First through the finish line at the Fun Run were Johnny Pearson and Luca Hillers. Eighth grader Wilman Vlach was the fastest 5K runner, making it through the challenging, hilly course in only 24:15, followed a few seconds later by Eric Capito and then Steve Kistler.

A mystery man in a turkey suit crossed the finish line on a one-wheel skateboard, but unfortunately, he whizzed off before giving his name. Several families pushing baby strollers finished despite exceptionally windy conditions and steep hills. It was a lively fun event that was enjoyed by all.

—Alyson Burgess

SINGING THE PRAISES OF . . .

. . . Santa Claus, who once again dropped in on the annual gathering of carol singers in McCalley Park on December 22. A special thanks also to John Totaro and daughters, Calla and Magnolia, who organized the community event, and Bob Hale, who made sure that Santa arrived.

IMMIGRANTS CONTRIBUTE PLANS FUNDRAISER

Immigrants Contribute, a women's study and action group based in Hollin Hills, will hold a cocktail party to raise funds for a Just Neighbors legal clinic to help immigrants, asylum seekers, and refugees (www.justneighbors.org/). This will be Just Neighbors' first legal clinic in our part of Fairfax County. The party will be on

Saturday, January 18, 5:30-7:30pm at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church, and it is open to anyone who wants to support this effort.

Immigrants Contribute (<http://immigrantscontribute.org/>) was founded by Hollin residents Addison Ullrich and Barbara Bogue. Its mission is to identify and amplify the work of effective groups working to help our immigrant neighbors, as well as to make us all more aware of the contributions immigrants make to the United States.

Its meetings feature speakers on immigration-related topics at Saturday morning meetings throughout the year. Past topics included speakers on DACA, Temporary Protective Status, the Public Charge proposal and more. Our neighbor and Virginia Delegate Paul Krizek spoke on immigration activities and legislation in Virginia.

The February meeting will feature a speaker from ACLU People Power (<https://www.peoplepower.org/>), details to be announced. To join the mailing list for news about the party and upcoming meetings, email immigrantscontribute@gmail.com, or Barbara Bogue or Addison Ullrich.

—Barbara Bogue

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE POTLUCK

Make a note and plan to be at our next HH Winter Potluck . The date is confirmed for Sunday, February 9, 5-7pm, at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church. This popular event is open to all Civic Association members and their children. More details to follow.

—Gino Madrid, Social Chair

Design Review

What you should know 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.
- Emails regarding all DRC activities should be sent to drc@hollin-hills.org.
- 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 meeting

For time and location of the January DRC meeting, check with the committee by emailing drc@hollin-hills.org.



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD: SHERWOOD LIBRARY



Beginners ESL Course (and it's free!)

If you have an employee, friend, or family member who wants to learn English, please tell them of the great opportunity now available at Sherwood Library. The Literacy Council of Northern Virginia is offering free English classes for beginning-level adults that will include 42 hours of instruction, text books, and assessments. Classes are scheduled on Monday and Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30pm, from February 3 through April 22. Sign up at the library on January 22, 6:30-8pm, or for more information phone 703-237-0866 or go to www.lcnv.org.

Donate, Buy, Read, Repeat

Bargain-hunting book lovers can't go wrong by visiting the ongoing book sale at the bookstore run by the Friends of Sherwood Regional Library. Housed mainly on the second floor of the library, with a few racks of books to tempt you on the first, it features a huge variety of fiction and non-fiction for readers of all ages.

Books are included in nearly every category imaginable: fiction both current and vintage, history from U.S. to global, ancient to modern; biography and memoirs; business, medicine, religion, genealogy, philosophy, animals, humor, music, and many more. Especially attractive is the selection of children's and young adult books, covering readers from pre-school to high school: picture and story books, early readers and chapter books, popular series, and even dystopian novels. The bookstore also caters to electronic media fans, with hundreds of DVDs, CDs, and vinyl.

The prices, however, are in a category that doesn't vary—every book is a bargain! (And, as a double bargain, they offer discounts to teachers and a free book for every child and senior.)

The books are donated by people in the community, and all proceeds go to support the programs and services of the Sherwood Library. Each year, the Friends bookstore makes tens of thousands of dollars for library projects.

During the past year, these projects included support of the Young Readers' Summer Reading Program and the Adult Reading Program, as well as the purchase of much-needed equipment including: 15 tables and chairs and 20 armchairs for the main reading room; 22 conference room tables with 100 chairs; 1 study carrel; 7 book carts, 4 outdoor benches, and 3 outdoor tables.

In addition to the books sold on site, some books of special value and special interest are sold through the internet. The group also gives books to needy schools and various non-profit organizations.

Donations are always welcome (there's a bin near the checkout counter on the main floor), and receipts are available for tax purposes. Contact friendsofsherwood@gmail.com to receive a weekly email "notice of sale" that lists recent donations of interest.

The bookstore is open 1-3pm on Sundays, and 1-4pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays (with extended hours, 10am-4pm, on the first Saturday of each month). The next time you are at the library, even if the bookstore is not officially open, check out the second floor—you'll usually find a library Friend there, happy to take your money for the treasures you discover while browsing.

Whether you are adding to your personal library or are in the process of de-cluttering, the Friends' bookstore can help.



HOUSE + GARDEN TOUR

FINE ART: MEET THE ARTISTS

The 2020 House+Garden Tour (H+GT) will focus on distinct areas of Architecture, Landscape, Interior Design, and Fine Art. To celebrate art and sculpture in a entertaining and interactive way, several homes have been selected specifically to share works by Bill Barrett, Rob Lorenson, Tom Waldron, Chris Hill, Jonathan Adler, Val Bertoia and many others.

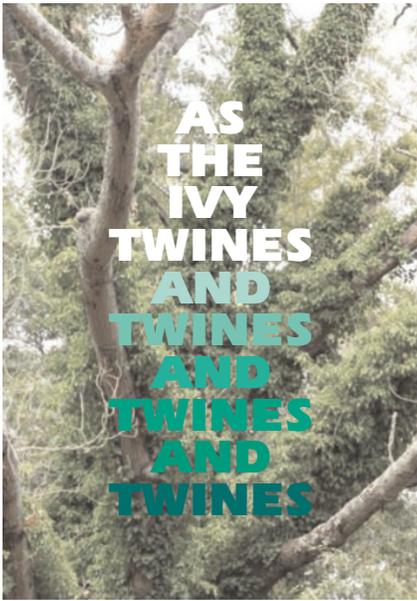
Most exciting, the H+GT is pleased to announce that two internationally recognized artists will be present during the H+GT to discuss their work. Caroline Ramersdorfer will be present to discuss the recent installation of her work, *Inner View Nexus*. John Van Alstine will greet visitors while they view his sculptures *Sisyphean Holiday*, *Broad Reach*, and

Tiller. They will be available for a few hours, and VIP ticket holders will have early access, one hour prior to the event. Go to the House + Garden Tour 2020 event page, HollinHillsModern.com, to learn more about Caroline and John.

—Jeff Borman

HOUSE + GARDEN TOUR TICKETS

Tickets and sponsorships are available now for the May 2, 2020 Tour. Visit HollinHillsModern.com for details and to purchase tickets.



How English ivy damages our landscape and how to control it

small trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, and native plants. Nothing remains of the English ivy desert which once smothered everything. So now I would like to pass on some things I have learned:

Ivy vines can grow as thick as small trees. Like boa constrictors girdling their victims, they encircle trees and squeeze out the life. As the vines cover the trees, they block the sun, preventing photosynthesis. Often the trees break in half, or ivy smothers the trees in an impenetrable shroud, rendering them unrecognizable. Once the vines reach the treetops, they flower and set fruit. The fruits are then eaten and disseminated by birds.

Both the miniature-leaved and the variegated ivy cultivars are much slower growing plants. The problem occurs later, when these cultivars with small, white or yellow leaves may revert back to the larger-leaved, fast growing English ivy.

The first step in controlling English ivy is to sever the vines several feet up the trunk, at a comfortable standing height for you. Then loosen the vines below these cuts and pull them downward from the trunk. Cut them off at the base of the tree. Removal of the vines can be done at any time of the year.

A thick mat of English ivy covering the ground shades out the original plantings. Ivy on the ground is usually easier to pull up after rains have softened the soil. If ivy pulling is done during the winter, any perennials in these beds are less apt to be damaged because they are dormant. The ivy stems are strong and not deeply-rooted, so long sections can be pulled up at a time. Be sure to wear a long-sleeved shirt and gloves, as the sap from English ivy may cause dermatitis on sensitive individuals.

A neighbor added this comment on the importance of ivy control: The ivy seeds

spread by birds settle on your property and your neighbors, as well as on nearby Fairfax County parks. We Hollin Hillers should cut back high climbing ivy on our own lots. By preventing these seeds from disbursing, we lessen the impact on neighborhood trees and reduce the work of volunteers and residents who are working to combat the English ivy.

—Mary Ellen Gillman,
Warden, Sutton Potter Park

Further Reading:

- Douglas W. Tallamy, *Bringing Nature Home*, Timber Press
- Joey Williamson, PhD, HGIC Horticulture Extension Agent, Clemson University, hgic@clemson.edu
- Peter Wohelenben, *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Greystone Books

When we moved to Hollin Hills twenty-five years ago, many large trees filled the back of our property and English ivy covered the ground. Within a few years, the ivy had climbed six to nine feet up the trees, like giant legwarmers. Within a year of my cutting walking paths through the ivy, the paths had closed up.

Later, I read *Bringing Nature Home*. That book changed my way of thinking. It states:

“Our forest patches are so small that they are nearly all edge habitats ideal for vine growth. Trees strong enough to support large vines during the summer are vulnerable during the winter when snow and ice accumulate on their vine-laden branches.

“Plants such as English ivy and dozens more species are not related to any lineage of plants in North America. It is highly unlikely that insect specialists will be able to use such plants anytime soon.”

—Douglas W. Tallamy,

Bringing Nature Home, Timber Press

If I got rid of the ivy, I wondered what would grow instead. Now, years later, with the ivy gone, I can walk winding paths under tall trees through an understory of



Top left: English ivy has climbed and is smothering a mature oak by blocking out the sunlight.

Above: Proper method of cutting and controlling English ivy growing on trees.

“Advice to the Ladies”

from a 1949 Singer Sewing Machine Manual (or)

Why Home Sewing Went Out of Fashion

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates.

Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or the beds unmade. When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your

mind is free to enjoy your sewing.

When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home when you do not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.