

FEBRUARY 2019

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS AT OUR WINTER POTLUCK

Please join your community of friends and neighbors for the Hollin Hills Twenty-Fourth Annual Winter Potluck Party. It's for the whole family so kids are welcome. It will be held on Saturday, February 9, 5-7pm, in Hollin Hall (Historic House) next to the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church.

This year's theme will be a warm winter log cabin, so wear your flannels and chunky sweaters for a cozy night of great fellowship, conversation, and of course, delicious food and drinks! The Potluck is always a great opportunity to catch up with old friends and neighbors, meet newcomers, and just relax and enjoy ourselves.

Each household is asked to bring an appetizer to share, which always results in an amazing array of fun party food for all to enjoy. The Civic Association will provide the wine and soft drinks, so see you at the bar!

If you can come a bit early, or stay a little after to lend a hand with set up and clean up, please let Social Chair Regino Madrid know at 202-549-6723 or ginomadrid@gmail.com.

CAHH PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A GOOD TIME TO SAY THANK YOU

I just finished reading *The Fifth Risk* by Michael Lewis, the author of *Moneyball*, *The Blind Side*, and *The Big Short*. In *The Fifth Risk*, Lewis analyzes the mission and impact of federal employees in three government departments: DOE, USDA, and Commerce (with particular focus on NOAA and the National Weather Service). The theme of the book is that unsung heroes in the service of our federal government work diligently every day to improve and save lives of people throughout the United States. Many of these unsung heroes live among us in Hollin Hills.

My thoughts have been with our Hollin Hills neighbors who have been furloughed by the partial government shutdown which – as I write this column – entered its fourth week. I want to thank them for their incredible professionalism and service in these very trying times. Please try to keep your idealism and optimism in your service to our nation. And to contract employees and small firms that have lost business due to the shutdown without reimbursement, my thoughts are with all of you, too.

I have also been thinking about the terrific service of our outgoing CAHH board members including:

Gus Matson served four years as president. He led us through difficult times but remained optimistic and forward-thinking. Gus encouraged the formation of the Friends of Hollin Hills and the Historic Overlay District Committee among other excellent achievements. Perhaps most importantly, Gus provided a sense of humor and a reminder to all of us to be friendly and neighborly in the community. Thanks for your outstanding service, Gus! I have large shoes to fill.

I've seen the notes and records kept by

Friederike Ahrens as the recording secretary over the past two years, and they're incredibly informative and complete. Thank you for a job well done, Friederike.

Bob Kinzer has served numerous roles in our community over the years. His most recent stint has been serving as the parks liaison on the CAHH board for the past four years. Our parks and public spaces have been well-maintained, and they help to make our community a more beautiful and peaceful place to live. Thank you, Bob!

Laura Kistler has served the past four years as the liaison between the Hollin Hills Pool and the CAHH. She is running to serve as the vice-chair of the Hollin Hills Pool at its membership meeting rescheduled for February 10. Laura provided excellent information and advice on many issues, whether pool-related or not.

Susmita Dastidar served for three years as the social committee chair and did a terrific job planning and coordinating winter potlucks, Fourth of July celebrations, and Oktoberfest events. Thank you for your service, Susmita, and best of luck with your family's new assignment to Togo!

Kathy Seikel served the past two years as the civic association's representative to the Mt. Vernon Council of Civic Associations (MVCCA) while also serving on the MVCCA Environment & Recreation

Committee. Kathy also worked hard for the Historic Overlay District in hosting information sessions and gathering signatures. Your efforts on behalf of the community are deeply appreciated, Kathy!

The incoming and returning directors of the CAHH would like to extend an invitation for all civic association members to the Winter Potluck on Saturday, February 9, from 5 to 7pm. Look for more information in this Bulletin and via email.

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH President

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Patrick Kelly	405-1763
Vice-President Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer Scott Weidenfeller	725-7894
Secretary Mohra Gavankar	815-919-3513
Membership Marinka Tellier	401-9736

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Alan Barak	240-888-5735
Gino Madrid (Social)	202-549-6723
Sally Sciacca (MVCCA)	768-9374
Sally Watkins (Parks)	837-9654

CAHH COMMITTEES

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

(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)

Chair Andy Hight	869-2639
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 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 Marinka Tellier, 703-768-8709 or tellim@hotmail.com.
- 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

PROGRAM ON DRAINAGE AND EROSION RESCHEDULED

On January 13, when “Wet Lands in Hollin Hills” turned into “Snow Lands,” our VDOT guest speakers were called to snow duty, and the Friends’ first educational program of 2019 had to be cancelled.

The Friends of Hollin Hills have rescheduled this timely program on solving drainage and erosion problems for Sunday, February 24. If you missed the notice in the last Bulletin, here is a recap:

With 2018 being the wettest year on record in the DC area, the issue of flooding, drainage, and erosion has come up quite a lot in our neighborhood.

- Are you dealing with a persistently soggy yard?
- Why is spillover from street flooding going directly onto your property?
- Who can you turn to for help with these issues?

Join the Friends of Hollin Hills on Sunday, February 24, 4–6pm, at the Hollin Hall of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church for a complimentary fun and informative evening of wine, cheese, and a panel of experts to answer these questions and more. There will be a social hour from 4–5pm, with the panel/Q&A beginning at 5pm. If you RSVP via email to friendsofhollinhills@gmail.com, it will help us in planning for the event.

—Jodie Burns, Friends Secretary



POOL MEETING POSTPONED UNTIL FEBRUARY 10

The Hollin Hills Pool annual meeting, originally scheduled for January 13 was cancelled because of snow. It has been rescheduled for Sunday, February 10, 2pm, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library. Election of officers, updates on this and last year’s capital improvements, and presentation of the budget are on the budget. The election slate for January 2019 to December 2020 is:

Co-Chair, Laura Kistler; Membership, Erica Petrelli; and Landscaping, Jake Dowling.

Continuing officers (term of office January 2018 to December 2019) are: Chair, Barbara Bogue; Maintenance Director, Kevin Yap; Facilities Manager, Rebecca Bostick; Treasurer, Daniel Horowitz; Social, Jovi Medic; Secretary, Melissa Edmiston; and, Members-at-Large Peter Kinzler and Stefanie Hardee.

If you can’t make the meeting, submit an absentee ballot to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HHPoolVote>. Alternately send an email with subject line “HH Pool Absentee Ballot” to HHPool.Secretary@gmail.com. In the message indicate 1) Approve the entire slate or 2) Vote for individuals and propose an alternative candidate for a position.

Questions or comments? Email BarbaraBogue@gmail.com.

—Barbara Bogue, Pool Chair

GOOD SUGGESTIONS FOR GOOD DEEDS

Wendy Montanari Kilpatrick calls our attention to some of the ways that we can help both people and animals in our area.

The United Community Ministries (UCM) Food Pantry serves the low-income community of the Richmond Highway corridor. Any non-perishable food items are always welcome, but at this time of year, *(continued on page 3)*



Quick Takes *from page 2*

UCM especially needs canned chicken and tuna and dry pasta. There is also a call for disposable diapers sizes 4, 5, and 6. When this Bulletin comes out, there will be a labeled box for your donations in front of Wendy's house at 7219 Beechwood Road. She is also willing to pick up your donations if you contact her.

The dogs and cats of our area need help, too! Wendy is collecting all types of bedding for them, including towels, blankets and even washcloths (for kittens), which she will deliver to

either the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, or the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

To fund the account for low-cost veterinary services at Hayfield Animal Hospital, Wendy also sells 8-ounce jars of homemade cherry preserves (they're delicious) for \$5 each.

For pickup of donations, to order preserves, or for additional information, contact Wendy at wendy.montanari@gmail.com or 703-765-7163.

**N**otable **N**eighbor**GINO MADRID**

It takes a very special and courageous person to volunteer to lead the social activities of a large organization. Hollin Hills is delighted to have found one in Regino (Gino) Madrid, our new Social Activities Director.

This recently elected CAHH Board member was born in the Philippines, arrived in the U.S. at the age of eight,

and grew up in Los Angeles, in a family that believed in the relevance of music to a well-rounded education. He and his siblings each learned to play a musical instrument. He started to study the violin at age five.

Gino's path to a career in music, however, was not a direct one. He attended UCLA as a physiological science major, but halfway through had to choose between music and science, as there was no time for both. So, already proficient in the violin, he auditioned for and was accepted to the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM) as a violinist. "I realized I loved music so much and couldn't picture my life without it."

Right after graduating from CIM, Gino earned a position as a violinist with "The President's Own," the prestigious Marine Chamber Orchestra.

"Musicians cannot always choose where they go for jobs. One has to audition for a position and be lucky enough to win it. Auditions for orchestras usually attract 300 applicants for one spot, and last for days with three to four rounds, much like 'American Idol.' Applicants perform behind a screen so there is no bias."

Life as a violinist has given him many amazing experiences and opportunities to travel the world and meet all kinds of people. "It has taught me the importance of discipline, hard work, and humility. Whether it's playing in a small chamber group, with a string quartet, or in a large symphony orchestra, you learn how to work with all sorts of personalities to agree on a unified performance."

He said this process of integrating oneself into an orchestra or group is extremely complicated. "Listening, contributing, compromising, problem-solving, and being open-minded to other people's ideas are the useful life skills I have taken with me from these experiences."

He added that performing on stage is also physically challenging. "To prepare, I needed to know that no matter what unexpected thing was going to happen, it wouldn't distract me. It's really a mental exercise in focus as well as controlling your breathing."

Gino views music as a universal language that directly communicates with humans. "When I say music, I am mostly referring to classi-

cal music. I love all types of music, but my career and training have been focused on classical music."

He retired this past June as the assistant concertmaster after 20 years of service, providing music for Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump. "I'd say the most interesting person I played for would be the Queen of England. I never thought I'd ever be in the same room with her."

We can now hear Gino play with the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and several other local orchestra and chamber groups.

For Gino, the most rewarding part of being a musician is bringing joy to others through music. "I love what I do. Whether it's exposing newbies to classical music and opening up a new world for them, or performing a work that someone loves and is very familiar with and having them hear it in a different way."

He regrets that music these days is not considered important in schools and is always the first thing to get cut from the budget. "It bothers me when people think that music is just a hobby and cannot be an actual career. Or that it is only good for background music or something to relax to. Music is so much more than that. People who have had no exposure to music really do not understand that music has been around for centuries and is a fundamental aspect of human nature." Gino is happy to be one who continues to pass on this important but often overlooked and underappreciated art form to others.

Gino and his husband, Steve Obenski, have lived in Hollin Hills for four years and love the architecture and the mid-century modern era. "I went to an Eames exhibit at the Library of Congress twenty years ago, and that got me started collecting MCM furniture."

He feels this style of furniture was designed with a great deal of thoughtfulness and requires knowledge of form and function. "When anything is created with care, it resonates with me, just like music. I am always inspired by the care and attention to detail and beauty that MCM furniture exudes. I love the warmth and comfort that they create in my home."

Gino says of Hollin Hills, "The longer I live here, the more I realize that the friendly neighbors and strong sense of community are what really make Hollin Hills special. This is why I wanted to be a part of the Board. I want to contribute my time and help in any way I can to strengthen our neighborly relationships. I hope to get to know more of my fellow Hollin Hillers and also to help them get to know each other. I love to entertain and enjoy seeing people have a good time."

We can't wait to see what great activities Gino has planned for our community this coming year, and we know that it will include a lot of beautiful music.

—Mohra Gavankar

Design Review

Report of January Actions

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, at the Sherwood Library. Members present included Andy Hight (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Virginia Wallace. The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects:

1948 Martha's Rd., McMurran residence

Project: Replacement of two entry doors.

Purposes: 1) Fix air leak issue due to warped doors, 2) allow more light into the house, 3) enable homeowner to see who is at front door.

Action: Unanimous approval based on discussed solutions and motion for approval.

Homeowners discussed installing two doors with six horizontal glass panels and walked committee through pictures and site plat of the installation spots and information sheets about the doors. The DRC discussed the recommended Hollin Hills doors (solid wood door or single-pane glass door) with the homeowners. Based on the discussion, the homeowners determined that one of the doors could be replaced with the traditional single-pane glass door for one location and agreed to use white trim for that location.

The DRC approved installation of the requested six-window door with the following statement:

“Although Hollin Hills doors historically are either solid, or with a single panel of glass

with or without a cross bar matching the cross bar on adjacent windows, in this instance, the location of the proposed multi-light door is not close to adjacent windows so will not sharply contrast with them. No shadow, therefore, will be prominently visible. Consequently, the DRC finds that the requested door is minimally compliant with DRC guidelines.”

The committee thanked the homeowners for bringing the project to the DRC and for their flexibility in finding a solution that meets their needs and aligns with the harmony and conformity guidelines.

1909 Paul Spring Rd., Derfuss residence:

Projects: 1) Bump out of the rooms at the back part of the house with a cathedral ceiling, 2) Master bathroom addition bump out on the north-facing side of the house, and 3) a new deck on the back of the house.

Purpose: To better accommodate daily living for the occupants.

Action: Conceptual approval.

Architect Christine Kelly presented the plans, site plat, and photos of the house for room and deck additions on behalf of the homeowner. DRC members asked several questions about the designs and offered suggestions on the window design of the bump out with the cathedral ceiling. Kelly will discuss the suggestions with the homeowner and submit new drawings for final DRC approval.

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.

Other Business

The DRC held a conference call with members of the Carderock Springs Citizens' Association (CSCA) Architectural Review Committee to discuss the Hollin Hills Design Review process, educating the community about that process, and homeowner participation. CSCA contacted the CAHH to gather facts about how the Hollin Hills DRC process and design guidelines could support its efforts to maintain design harmony and conformity in its neighborhood.

Next DRC Meeting

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 13, at 7:30pm, in the Sherwood Regional Library, Conference Room 1, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

—Chris McNamara

THE MAGIC OF SINGING TOGETHER

There are a few times in one's life when brief but spectacular moments occur. One such moment occurred for me one night in late December, at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. But first, a bit of background.

This past year, because I enjoy singing, I joined the Encore Chorus in Alexandria, a group for those of us on the right side of 55. Two other Hollin Hillers, Gretchen Spencer and Barbara Wade, are also members. There are five similar choruses around the metropolitan area, each rehearsing the same repertoire. Once a year, we sing as an assembled group. For reasons I don't quite understand, this year the organizers managed an invitation to sing in the concert hall of Kennedy Center, a beautiful hall acoustically, with a very satisfying ambience. To highlight the season, the large organ pipes in the front of the hall were resplendent with the red and green of Christmas.

Imagine bringing together over 500 over 55s in 5 groups that had never sung with each other before. I thought it was a recipe

for disaster. But somewhat surprisingly, during our brief rehearsal it began to sound as if it could, with a bit more practice, come together. However, we were under a severe time constraints

Imagine bringing together over 500 over 55s in 5 groups that had never sung with each other before. I thought it was a recipe for disaster.

because we were slated to sing between major performances. In fact, the concert started at 6pm to make sure that we were finished by 7pm before the 'real' performances began. So, at 6pm sharp, our conductor's baton was raised and we began singing the world premier of the Alleluia that was written expressly for us for this one-time event. And that is when the brief but spectacular moment occurred.

Voices began to blend beautifully into harmonious strands of sound that filled the hall with the joyfulness of the season. The full-house audience was transfixed as it must have begun to realize that, somehow, these motley groups of over 55s had raised themselves from the ordinary to the extraordinary. The conductor seemed to sense what was happening, and it brought (continued on page 5)

Singing *from page 4*

tears to her eyes (and mine). It was a near spiritual moment.

In reflecting on the moment, I suspect that the acoustics of the hall had much to do with it. On the stage, we could hear how the sounds of the sopranos and altos blended with the tenors and basses. And that blending was enhanced by the reflecting baffles that projected our voices outward to the audience.

It was such a joy to be singing in such a great and magnificent hall. Our concert ended with, of course, Handel's dramatic Hallelujah Chorus—the perfect finale. The audience was moved to stand during this great piece (as was King George of England years ago). And the afterglow of my brief but spectacular moment has led me to write this brief note.

—Gary Koopman

in Our Parks

Skiing down the Brickelmaier Park path during the January snowstorm reminded me how fortunate we are to have parks threaded throughout Hollin Hills. The CAHH manages and maintains over 30 acres of publicly open parklands, appropriating about \$25,000 annually to mow grass, trim walking trails, remove dangerous trees, and, when possible, squeeze out a special project or two. A map showing the location of each of our seven parks is in the CAHH Directory.

If you live near Sutton Potter Park (west of Range Rd. and east of the townhouses and Mt. Vernon Square neighborhood) there is good news! Several CAHH investments are taking place: the bench in the park is being relocated to a more visible spot, and the CAHH has hired a contractor to spend two full days cutting down and chipping invasive honeysuckle bushes on the hillside that is home to the advanced sledding track. The chips will be put on the existing paths. A buffer on either side of the park will be left, honeysuckle and all.

For the most part, our parks are managed by a crew of volunteer wardens (no idea of the history of that term, but it is the HH traditional term of endearment for neighbors who lead the stewardship of specific parks.) These wardens host volunteer work parties each spring and fall. New to the neighborhood? Come join the hardy long-time volunteers at a work party this spring. No special skills or tools are required and there is no age limit to participate.

Spring 2019 Work Parties - Mark Your Calendar

APRIL (date TBD), Saturday, 10am-noon, Paul Spring Park with Wardens Lee Ann Kinzer and Barbara Liggett

Remove ivy from trees, pick up trash delivered downstream from Beacon Hill Mall, shovel/sweep the asphalt path between Stafford and Paul Spring Roads to remove the slippery lens of good old marine clay, and renew drainage slots with shovels along the path's edge. Bring clippers, gloves, shovels, and brooms. Meet at the foot of Stafford Road at its intersection with Paul Spring Road.

MAY 4, Saturday, 10am-noon, McCalley Park with Warden Jamie Agnew

Remove ivy from a large old tree, plant some plugs (tiny versions) of desired plants in the park, and help the ongoing bamboo removal process in the park's southwestern corner. Bring shovels, trowels, gloves, and clippers. Meet at the park, at the corner of Paul Spring and Rippon Roads.

JUNE (date TBD), 10am-noon, Voigt Park with Warden Peter Martz - GET READY FOR THE PICNIC!

For new and old Hollin Hillers alike, this is *the* event of the year—parades, ponies, games, music, cold beer and soft drinks, hot dogs on the grill—and it is dependent on park volunteers to get the grounds in shape ahead of time. Come fill holes, rake sweet gum balls, pull poison ivy (only very special people get this task), clean playground equipment, picnic tables and benches, and help make

sure the park is ready to host hundreds of neighbors. Bring rakes, clippers, newspaper bags (poison ivy capturing), and gloves. Meet at the park on the corner of Rippon and Paul Spring Roads.



Other Park-related Events in 2019

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 35% Construction Drawing Set for Brickelmaier stream restoration project scheduled for release

This most important stage of project design is where we as neighbors can be most influential. Later stages of drawing delivery (65% and 100%) have much more design time invested, so making changes is much more challenging. After the 35% drawings are released, the County will host a walk in the park, similar to that led in Goodman Park, and a public meeting.

MARCH 10, Rain Barrel Workshop

Hollin Meadows School Cafeteria on Nordok Place

Make your own rain barrel. In partnership with the stream restoration projects at Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks, the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and Fairfax County Department of Public Works will host a make-your-own-rain-barrel workshop. The workshop fee is \$55 per barrel. If you don't want to make a rain barrel now, you can still come to learn how and check out Hollin Meadows' new courtyard gardens while there. Registration opens in early February. It will soon be on their website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>.

MAY/JUNE, 65% Construction Drawing Set for Goodman stream restoration project scheduled for release

DECEMBER, Final Construction Drawings for both Brickelmaier and Goodman Parks scheduled for release.

If support for this work remains high in our community, *and* if Supervisor Dan Storck continues to support these projects, *and* there are no County funding shortfalls, construction of the stream restoration projects in Goodman and Brickelmaier will potentially start in Summer 2020 or 2021. If you are a supporter, please let our supervisor's office know!

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

CLASSIFIEDS

DANCE YOUR JOY: A women's wellness retreat to Greece over Mothers Day 2019. Exclusively led by Hollin Hills' own artist, yogi, teacher, and dancer, Jeneen Piccuiro. *For more information, contact Jeneen at 202-288-2370 or create@studiointhewoods.co.*

HOUSE/PET SITTER: My mother, Shirley Snare, loves our Hollin Hills neighborhood, and is available for short or extended periods of house-sitting (and pet-sitting for said house) in Hollin Hills from now until mid-April. Also interested in providing such services during Dec.1, 2019-April 1, 2020 time-frame. *Contact her at 913-651-2679 or 913-240-3888. —Jim Snare*

com-mú-ni-ty

- 1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.**
- 2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.**

I think we can agree that Hollin Hills is a special place architecturally and historically. What you may not know or have not experienced is its “community.”

In early December, my wife Barbara and I were on vacation in Mexico. Three days in, she was paralyzed in all four extremities. It only took thirty-six hours from the tingling that occurred in her left pinky until she lost all feeling and strength in her limbs. After many tests and some treatment, we were taken by air ambulance to the Memorial Hermann medical center in Houston. She spent 11 days undergoing more tests and plasmapheresis treatment. Feeling slowly returned to some areas and it was time to move on to inpatient neuro physical therapy and occupational therapy at the Memorial Hermann rehab center.

How she would respond and a clear diagnosis were unknown at the time, and we began purchasing a wheelchair, a walker, a tub chair, and other durable medical equipment to facilitate easier day-to-day life. As

you can imagine, the medical, hotel, rental car, pet care, and other bills were piling up. We needed a wheelchair ramp and couldn't fathom how that would happen because of the cost and us not being there.

I took a chance on the Hollin Hills community to assist us in having a wheelchair ramp installed and posted a request on NextDoor. A neighbor responded and forwarded my request to the Hollin Hills Forum. What took place after that is nothing short of a miracle. Our HH neighbors have contributed funds, supplies, labor, meals, errand running, and more. I was overwhelmed by the gracious outpouring of support. However, I couldn't keep up with all the messages and, in the end, had purchased a ramp. That very night, I received an email from Tom Kuester, who had coordinated and joined a crew of fine gentlemen who built us a

wheelchair ramp. Tom has put everyone's name out on the Forum that he could think of who donated funds, supplies, and labor, so I won't repeat them all here.

We know who you are and we love you... along with those who sent us encouraging notes, prayed for us, and sent healing energy to my lovely wife. We stayed in great spirits and laughed a lot. We never worried about our home, our cars, or our pets.

We live in the best community. Pass it on. Give what you can when you can... it is what sets us apart and makes this such a special place.

—*JC and Barbara*

(Left) JC and Barbara; (below) the ramp builders, Michael Hentges, Tom Kuester, Tom Voskuil and Bob Kinzer.

