



MARCH 2019

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

GET READY, SPRING IS REALLY ON THE WAY!

HH FRIENDS TO SPONSOR THREE MORE COMMUNITY-CENTERED EVENTS

Three additional programs relevant to our neighborhood will be offered this spring by the Friends of Hollin Hills, following their February 24 panel that was focused on solving local drainage and erosion problems. A summary of that event will appear in the April issue of the Bulletin.

All of these Friends programs will cover topics of particular interest and usefulness to local residents. All sessions are free and open to the public and will all take place at the historic house at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. A social hour from 4-5 pm with wine, soft drinks, and snacks will begin each program, followed by a presentation.

Donations to the Friends of Hollin Hills are gratefully accepted. You can contact the Friends of Hollin Hills at friendsofhollinhills@gmail.com.

Sunday, March 10, 4-6pm.

The Natural History of Hollin Hills

Dr. Ted Shear, a professor at NC State and a restoration ecologist, will provide a unique history of the Hollin Hills landscape and streams. In his own words, "At a recent visit with the Shears on Drury Lane, they asked me to examine the plans for restoration of the stream that runs behind their house. Long before the area was urbanized in the 1950s, hundreds of years of human disturbance had drastically altered the local forests and streams. We will examine the evolution of the natural systems of the region from the boreal forests of 20,000 years ago to the beautiful (if unstable) suburban forest of today that contributes as much to the character of Hollin Hills as do its distinctive architecture and cosmopolitan residents."

Sunday, March 31, 4-6pm.

Working with the DRC

Representatives of the Hollin Hills Design Review Committee (DRC) will de-mystify the design guidelines and review process. Same place, same structure as noted above, with a meet-and-greet time followed by the discussion.

Sunday, April 28, 4-6pm

Understanding and Strengthening Our Covenants

An informational session with Scott Surovell and representatives of his law firm regarding our Hollin Hills covenants. The Friends of Hollin Hills has hired Mr. Surovell and his law firm to review these covenants. Come hear his take on them and his suggestions for how they can be strengthened.

Mr. Surovell is a resident of nearby Tauxemont, the community that preceded ours as a Davenport development project and that shares some of Hollin Hills' quirks.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

February was an eventful month in our neighborhood. Here are some of the highlights:

- The Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH) hosted the annual Winter Potluck event on February 9. Social Activities Director Gino Madrid planned a wonderful event, and it looked like everyone had a great time. I enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new neighbors.
- The 2019 edition of the CAHH Directory was published and delivered to all Civic Association members. Special thanks go to Michael Hentges for the layout and design.
- Sally Sciacca resigned from her position on the CAHH Board as its MVCCA representative. In accordance with Article IX, Section 4, of the CAHH Bylaws, the Board has appointed Tony Morris of 7507 Elba Road as Sally's successor. (*See biography of Tony on page 2.*) His nomination for the remainder of Sally's term will be put before a vote of CAHH members at the spring membership meeting on Wednesday, April 3. Additional nominations for this vacated position may also be made from the floor at the meeting.

We also have an eventful months ahead.

Please mark your calendars for the following:

- Three events sponsored by the Friends of Hollin Hills (*described at left on this page*).
- Supervisor Dan Storck has scheduled a community meeting to discuss the potential Historical Overlay District (HOD) for Hollin Hills on Monday, March 11, 7pm, at Hollin Meadows Elementary School (*more on page 2*).
- The CAHH Spring Membership meeting will also be held at Hollin Meadows School on Wednesday, April 3, at 7:30pm.

I hope that all of you have a great month!
—Patrick Kelly, CAHH President

QuickTakes

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAM AT HOLLIN MEADOWS

Two upcoming events at Hollin Meadows Elementary School that are related to its Outdoor Education Program will also be of interest to the neighboring community.



The first is the Make-Your-Own Rain Barrel Workshop that is described more fully on page 5.

The second is Hollin Meadows Earth Day, returning to HMES after a few years hiatus due to the now completed school construction project. Plans are already underway for this beloved celebration and community work-day which will be held on Saturday, April 27, 9am-4pm. There will be projects for all ages and ability levels.

Find up-to-date details at www.hollinmeadowspartnership.com/earthday.
—Ainsley Crowell

opportunities with the Fairfax County Police and included information on its Mobile Recruiting Unit. An entire application may take four months or more from a half hour online application to a four hour background interview. Applicants must be at least twenty-and-a-half, but there is no age limit. The entry level salary is \$52,078. Assignment opportunities include: detective, neighborhood patrol/bike team, motorcycle officer, helicopter flight crew, tactical team, and school resource officer.

For details about career opportunities, contact Personnel Resources Division, Recruiting and Testing Section, at 703-246-7560.

The public is invited to the next CAC meeting Tuesday, March 12, at 7pm, at the Parker's Lane police station. The topic will be "The State of the Highway."

—Laura Wirkalla

YOUR NEWSLETTER WANTS YOU!

If you have a good book, a memorable museum exhibit, a great restaurant, or something else you would like to share with your neighbors, this is your opportunity. For years, our community's book club members wrote book reviews for the Bulletin; others recom-

HOD

LEARN MORE ABOUT IT AT THIS MEETING

Please join Supervisor Storck and County staff at Hollin Meadows Elementary School on Monday, March 11, at 7pm, for an informational meeting about the proposed Hollin Hills Historic Overlay District (HOD).

The discussion will center on the general reasoning and process for establishing an HOD, as well as inviting and encouraging community members to join a work group, along with County staff, that will address HOD issues.



FEBRUARY CITIZENS ADVISORY MEETING

The February topic of the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was career

mended restaurants. We have even published a local poet or two. Unfortunately, those sources are no longer available. If you would like to fill one of those gaps (once or on a regular basis), mail your Bulletin contributions to barbshear@verizon.net.

Tony Morris, New CAHH Board Member



I grew up moving between Alexandria (Tauxemont) and two tours as the son of a foreign service officer in Germany, where we lived for five years. I returned stateside to attend Dickenson College

in Carlisle, Pa, graduating with a BS degree in political science.

After a stint in the US Coast Guard I commenced on a thirty-year career in the computer industry, working twenty years for Honeywell and ten years for Digital Equipment Corp (DEC). My career took us to many cities from Boston to Atlanta. My career culminated as the vice president/general manager of DEC's worldwide Federal Government Division in the DC area.

After retiring from the computer industry,

I worked and managed non-profits in the DC area that focused on kids at risk, centered around sailing. I also served as vice president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh and founder and president of the Friends of Westgrove Park.

I met my first wife, Diana, in 1968. Shortly afterward we were married and started a family that produced two children and ultimately five grandchildren. We were married 43 years when she succumbed to cancer in 2012 shortly after we moved into Hollin Hills.

In 2014, I met Gail Kropf, who was also widowed. She joined me here in 2016, and we were married last July in our backyard, surrounded by our extended family including nine grandchildren. As our home on Elba Road needed a face-lift, in 2016 we commenced on a two-year endeavor to redo our landscaping and update the interior. Our pride and joy is a new screen porch at the

back of the house facing onto Hollin Meadows Park. Gail and I truly love the Hollin Hills lifestyle and look forward to becoming increasingly engaged in Hollin Hills and the wider community.

Over the years, my outside activities have included 30 years of sailing, with two year-long family sabbaticals in which we sailed the east coast and Bahamas. Later, Diana and I sold our house, moved onto a motor home and spent 3-1/2 years crisscrossing the US, Canada, and Mexico. Gail and I ultimately bought a smaller motor home and recently drove the length of the Mississippi River from Lake Itasca, Minn. to New Orleans.

I look forward to serving as a CAHH director and MVCCA liaison and bring to the board a background in management and home owners association experience as board president of the River Towers Condominium Association.

—Tony Morris

Design Review

Please note:

All emails regarding any DRC activities should be sent to drc@hollin-hills.org. In the new Hollin Hills Directory, the DRC email address is incorrect.

Report of January Actions

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, February 13, 2019, at the Sherwood Regional Library, conference Room 1. Members present included Andy Hight (Chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Virginia Wallace.

The DRC addressed the following homeowner projects during the meeting:

2400 Brentwood Place,
LaMountain Residence

Project: Backyard shed to be built on an existing concrete slab.

Purpose: To create storage space for outdoor items.

Action: Unanimous approval of a sloped-roof shed design similar to shed designs previously approved by the DRC.

The committee reviewed materials and photos provided by the homeowner. The DRC will counsel the homeowner to make certain that shed construction is in compliance with Fairfax County height and set-back regulations.

2411 Brentwood Place,
Van Hall Residence

Project: 1) Window replacements, changes, 2) Door elimination and cover up, 3) adding folding window doors on the rear of the house and 4) a carport.

Purpose: To create more visibility in the house and eliminate illogical entry points, and provide protection for homeowner vehicles.

Action: Unanimous approval of all projects save for the carport.

The homeowner presented architectural drawings and photos of the various projects. The DRC asked several questions about each of the projects and proposed materials. The committee had concerns about the location of the carport and discussed several other options with the homeowner. Based on the discussion, the homeowner determined he would not

move ahead with the carport project at this time and would revisit the design and location with his architect.

7405 Recard Lane,
Mitchell Residence

Project: Installation of a black weld-wire fence in part of the backyard.

Purpose: To create an enclosed recreational area for the homeowner's dog.

Action: None. The committee determined that the information provided by the homeowner was insufficient to fully understand the scope of the project, the location of the fencing, and the materials that would be used. The DRC will request that the homeowner submit a more complete project package for consideration and counsel.

1909 Paul Spring Road,
Derfuss Residence

Project: Back exterior wall window and door design. This is a component of a project originally presented by Architect Christine Kelly at the January 2019 meeting that the DRC had determined required revision.

Purpose: To revise the window and door layout as part of project that bumps out a room and adds a cathedral ceiling.

Action: Unanimous approval of the revised design as presented. The balance of the project had received conceptual approval at the January 2019 meeting pending the presented design revision.

The committee reviewed the revised drawings presented by Architect Kelly.

2104 Martha's Road,
Cornelius Residence

Project: Landscaping and hardscaping. **Purposes:** 1) improve driveways, 2) create front and rear patio areas.

Action: None required because landscaping and hardscaping projects are outside the purview of the DRC.

The homeowners presented plans for the



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.

projects and asked for counsel on several aspects, particularly construction materials. The DRC commended the homeowners on the designs and encouraged them to make certain the plans are in compliance with Fairfax County regulations.

The committee thanked the homeowners for seeking its counsel on the landscaping and hardscaping projects to ensure they would be appropriate for Hollin Hills. This is a service open to all homeowners.

DRC Meeting Schedule

The next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library, Sherwood Meeting Room, (2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, Virginia 22306).

—Chris McNamara

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
Tony Morris (MVCCA)	571-431-9711
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

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 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.

in Our Parks



Spring 2019 Work Parties Schedule

New to the neighborhood or just looking for a good way to celebrate the arrival of spring with your neighbors? Come join our hardy, long-time volunteers at one of these work parties in our parks. No special skills or tools are required and there is no age limit to participate.

March 2, 9, 30 and April 6, 13

March 7, 14, 28 and April 4 and 11

Saturdays, 10am - 2pm, Thursdays, 10am - 2pm

Once in Love with Ivy, but no more - Sutton Potter Park ivy removal work parties. Bring gloves, clippers and a keen interest in cutting ivy necklaces off the trees in the park. Come see and admire the new look for Sutton Potter sans honeysuckle bushes.

APRIL 13, 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 Road to remove the slippery lens of good old marine clay, and renew drainage slots with a shovel 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 an old large 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 Road and Rippon Lane.

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

For new and old to the neighborhood, this is *the* event of the year: a parade, ponies, games, a live band, cold beer and soft drinks, ice cream, grilled hot dogs, and veggie burgers—and it all depends 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 Lane and Paul Spring Road.

Other Park-related Events

MARCH 10, Sunday, 2-4pm

RAIN BARREL WORKSHOP, Hollin Meadows School Cafeteria

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. For registration, go to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/rain-barrel>.

—Elisabeth Lardner, CAHH Parks Chair



when the water dried up

The recent Friends of Hollin Hills program on solving drainage and erosion problems was held too late in the month to be covered in this issue.

Instead, here is a story about how a different local water problem was solved.

It is adapted from an article by Persis Richter in the anniversary book, “Ten Years of Hollin Hills.” The book isn’t dated, but it was published in either 1959 or 1960. The plot might seem familiar to veterans of other local civic battles. Whether it’s advocating for streetlights, campaigning for safety speed bumps, fighting airplane noise pollution, or all the many causes in between—Hollin Hillers have always been a determined and tenacious group. These pioneers led the way.

Long ago, in 1951, ‘52, and ‘53, when Hollin Hills was very young, the pioneers then in residence took on a war with the local Fairfax water company. They nagged the State Corporation Commission systematically, enthusiastically (and eventually, successfully) for more than two years to put legal pressure on the water company to provide reliable service to the community.

The community association [forerunner of the CAHH] set up a utility committee that meant one thing: W-A-T-E-R. Their correspondence was all about water, and when they weren’t writing about water they were trying to get the water company to answer its phone. The company had a special emergency number. When the emergency became a chronic one, they simply took the phone off the hook.

The trouble began in 1951 with periodic shortages—annoying but not severe. In the spring of 1952, the rains were somewhere else for a month, the temperature zoomed to 95 degrees, and the water company was caught flat-footed. They had some wells, a few pumps, and an employee here and there who was supposed to turn on same when the pressure fell, but those employees weren’t always around at the critical time. Then a main broke, and a pump got stuck, and what water there was had to travel a long, looping pipeline. It was bone dry when it reached upon Martha’s Road.

In early June 1952, the pipeline stayed dry for three days. Our block organized bucket pools to bring pails of water from the gas station at Belleview. Then we called the Washington Post, which ran a picture of us standing in line for our rations. We took baths, if any, at the houses of friends who lived down the hill. All Hollin Hills was short of water, but our street was the only one completely dried up.

A petition was circulated, signed, and shipped off to Richmond asking the State Corporation Commission to take whatever steps necessary to persuade our water company to go into the water business.

An engineer appeared, looked us over, and caused a pressure gauge to be installed. The commission next directed the water company to build an interconnecting pipeline across the loop and to start buying water from Alexandria, in spite of the fact that Alexandria itself didn’t have much spare water to sell, and besides, the local company didn’t want to buy it—no profit in that.

Then came 1953 and the wettest spring in years. Came also many waterless evenings. We learned to go to sleep lightly, ears cocked for the sound of water running back into the house lines. Then mama or daddy would hop out of bed, fill the bathtub, turn on the washing machine and dishwasher, and make baby formula.

The community association continued to harry the water company and to ship off frequent reminders to Richmond of our plight, including enclosures showing the perfidy of our utility. One letter was accompanied by two items dated the same day: an advertisement by the developer of nearby Bucknell (who, by the way, also owned the water company!) offering twelve new houses for sale. The other was the latest postcard we had all received saying the company was out of water. Again. Our letter suggested very earnestly that the commission tell the water company to stop taking new subscribers for a while. A few days later, the commission did just that.

Our water company suddenly found it feasible to come to a new agreement with its Alexandria counterpart. At about the same time, the Alexandria company began building a new major pipeline from its facilities at Occoquan. They would have water for sale, and our company would be willing to buy it—what could be nicer?

Things eased off in 1954, and by around December, the State Corporation Commission lifted its stop order off the water company. They have been in the water business, more or less, ever since.

—Persis Richter