

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

MARCH 2014

POTLUCK *Appetizer* PARTY

THE CAHH AND THE DEER DILEMMA

As recorded in the minutes of the Fall Membership Meeting held December 4, 2013, I promised to reach out to the interested committees of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) concerning the burning issue of what to do about our large and growing deer population. The Public Safety Committee, of which I am a member, has an interest in the matter by virtue of the hazards deer pose to vehicles, their drivers, and to the deer themselves. In one recent incident, in another part of Northern Virginia, the risk extended to a jogger, who was struck by an airborne deer which had collided with an SUV. The Health and Human Services Committee's interest stems primarily from the human health risks posed by Lyme disease, which is associated with ticks carried by deer. The Environment and Recreation Committee's interest is derived from its work to preserve and enhance the quality of life through protection of the environment.

My efforts produced mixed results. One early disappointment was learning that the County Wildlife biologist and spokesperson, Vicky Monroe, had recently resigned her position, thus diminishing hopes to schedule an authoritative speaker for a community meeting. Next, the Public Safety Committee's chair was very receptive to the idea of scheduling a speaker who could provide relevant data and information for committee members. Unfortunately, those efforts were sidetracked due to a change in the commit-

tee's leadership. The Health and Human Services Committee's immediate priorities—budget and housing—have precluded timely consideration of the deer issue. The Environment and Recreation Committee, on the other hand—through the efforts of myself and Paul Phelps, who is our representative on the committee—took up the issue immediately, and, as noted on page 2 of this *Bulletin*, has scheduled a speaker on the topic of "Options for Land Owner Participation in Deer Management."

Finally, the grassroots efforts of individual CAHH members, or groups thereof, to inform and educate themselves, as well as advocate action by our local political leadership, seem to me to be a profitable alternative avenue to follow insofar as addressing the deer issue is concerned. It is plain that the issue is unlikely to produce a clear consensus among Hollin Hillers despite the best of intentions by the various individuals and advocacy groups. For that reason—and speaking for myself only—I believe it is unrealistic to expect the CAHH to speak with one voice to our local political leadership; that is not to say, however, that I and the other members of the Board of Directors should not facilitate an informed discussion of the topic, which we intend to do.

—Ron McCallum,
CAHH President

Additional information and opinions on this topic can be found on pages 2 and 4 in this issue of the Bulletin

JOIN THE FUN ON MARCH 2

For the past 18 years, the Civic Association has held a winter potluck lasagna dinner at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church (MVUC). This year, however, our plans must give way, as extensive renovation activities are taking place in the main part of MVUC.

As a way to pay homage to a time-honored Hollin Hills tradition, the Civic Association has decided, instead, to hold a tasty alternative celebration—a potluck appetizer party—on Sunday, March 2, 5-7pm, in MVUC's historic Hollin Hall (also known to some as The Mansion).

We are asking that each household bring an appetizer for eight to share. Beverages will be provided by the Civic Association.

Note this event won't be a sit-down dinner, and seating will be limited.

The 86th Oscars will air on the same night at 7pm, so our event will be a wonderful way to start your evening.

If you are able to assist, please contact Social Chair Barbara Jacobs at pnbjacobs@verizon.net or 703-660-6342. All help will be appreciated!

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Ron McCallum	765-9134
Vice-President Patrick Kelly	768-2497
Treasurer Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary David Rivera	944-6563
& Jaelith Hall-Rivera	944-6390
Membership Betsy Damitz	721-2002

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Judy Beelaert	973-270-6247
MVCCA Debbie Burns	768-2655
Social Barbara Jacobs	660-6342
Parks Allie Elder	965-1940

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471
(Also see "Hollin Hills Archives" below)	
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)	
Chair Mike McGill	718-2090
Members Christine Kelly	768-2497
Jennifer Kirby	768-0355
Barbara Ward	765-8677
Patrick Kelly, CAHH Liaison	768-2497
HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE	
Chair Rebecca Bostick	768-2240
PARKS COMMITTEE	
Chair open	

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.

Email or deliver your submissions to:

Barbara Shear
 1820 Drury Lane (22307)
 E-mail: barbshear@verizon.net
 Phone: 703-660-6543

Send email submissions as attachments. Small ads or articles (1 paragraph) can be sent in body of email.

If you cannot produce computerized copy, try to find someone to submit it for you. As a last resort, type or print it clearly, leave in basket to right of front door, 1820 Drury Ln., and inform editor at 703-660-6543. No material will be accepted over the telephone.

Distribution: To replace a missing paper *Bulletin*, contact Eleanor Fina, 703-768-3174. To correct/change address, contact Betsy Damitz, 703-721-2002.

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 a general description of the Hollin Hills archives contents, go to http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollinhills.html.
- For questions regarding 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.HOLLINHILLS.NET

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

Quick Takes

NEW DIRECTORY COMING

As a member of the Civic Association, you will soon receive the 2014 Hollin Hills Directory, which will be delivered to your house by local youth (to save associated handling fees and postage, and to engage our helpers in civic activity).

Although considerable effort has gone into making sure the information in the Directory is as accurate as possible, some inaccuracies are inevitable. Email addresses are particularly vulnerable to errors in transcription and those resulting from imprecise deciphering of an individual's handwriting. If you notice an error in your information, please bring it to my attention ASAP, at ron_mcc@verizon.net, so that the digital version of the directory (to follow) can be corrected.

—Ron McCallum, CAHH President

BE A TOUR WATCHER

The House & Garden Tour committee is still seeking a few more neighbors for the pleasant and easy task of watching over featured houses during the Tour. People are needed for two-hour shifts between noon and 6pm. If you volunteer, you will still have plenty of time to visit the rest of the houses on the Tour and will be contributing toward the success of one of Hollin Hills' most important events. To sign up, please contact Ginny Kinzler at ginnyk2@cox.net or 703-660-6415.

HYLAND'S TOWN MEETING

On February 1, Supervisor Gerry Hyland sponsored an annual town meeting at Mt. Vernon High School. The speakers included Sharon Bulova, the Fairfax Board of Supervisors chair; Ed Long, the county executive; and the commander of Ft. Belvoir. Mr. Hyland also introduced a number of candidates anxious to replace retiring Congressman Moran; Hyland also made it clear that he hadn't yet made any plans to retire.

Mr. Hyland and Ms. Bulova, both elected to the Board in 1987, agreed that mass transit should be extended to Fort Belvoir by extending either the Yellow or Blue Metro Line. Many of us have noticed the increased traffic to and from Fort Belvoir, which Mr. Hyland



stated employs 60,000 employees—more than the number at the Pentagon. The base commander noted that 49,000 of those employees are at the main base, 6,000 at Mark Center, and the balance elsewhere.

On County financing, there was agreement that there has been a big uptick in residential property values, but that commercial property values are flat.

—Burt Kronstedt

LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION IN DEER MANAGEMENT

Hollin Hills residents who want to do something about the local deer population are invited to attend the next meeting of the Mt. Vernon Council's Environment and Recreation Committee on Wednesday, March 5, at 7pm, in Rooms 2 and 3 of the Mt. Vernon Government Center at 2511 Parkers Lane, opposite Walt Whitman School. The speaker will be Jerry Peters, a Great Falls resident who is the founder of Green Fire, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that helps local communities organize and monitor controlled hunts by responsible bow hunters. See Green Fire's website at <http://www.greenfireweb.com/> to learn more before the meeting. And come early for seats—space is limited, and this is certain to be a well-attended meeting.

—Paul Phelps

EXPERTS SPEAK AT GARDEN CLUB MEETINGS

Bad weather caused the February meeting to be postponed from the 13th to the 24th, at which time the group heard Jim McGlone, of the Virginia Department of Forestry, speak on "Made in the Shade: Selecting Trees and Shrubs for the Hollin Hills Landscape."

The club is very fortunate to have Holly Shimizu, Executive Director of the US Botanical Garden, scheduled as its next speaker. Members will be receiving further details soon. You can join the club's email group at hhgardenclubsubscribe@yahoo.com

Design Review



JANUARY ACTIONS

There were no regular January meeting, as no proposals had been submitted. However, the following proposal was submitted and approved administratively by the DRC board in late January.

O'Sullivan Residence 2105 Martha's Road

Proposal: To replace existing earthen driveway with asphalt driveway.

Action taken: Approved unanimously.

FEBRUARY ACTIONS

The CAHH Design Review Committee met on February 12, at Sherwood Hall Library. Attending the meeting were Chair Mike McGill and members Barbara Ward, Jennifer Kirby, and Christine Kelly. The following proposals were reviewed and acted upon:

Ryburn Residence 2204 Martha's Road.

Proposal: Two-story addition in rear of home. Neighbor notification was completed. One neighbor expressed concern

about the impact on their rear site lines; however, the addition is well within county property line setback requirement and is in compliance with design review guidelines.

Action taken: Approved by 3-0 vote. (Christine Kelly, the architect for the project, recused herself from the vote.)

Kauppi Residence 2111 Popkins Lane

Proposal: Addition of flat-stone patio and pergola in rear of home.

Action taken: Approved by 3-0 vote. (Christine Kelly, the architect for the project, recused herself from the vote.)

Villa Residence 2203 Paul Spring Road.

Proposal: Replace original single-pane windows on front and side of house with double-pane windows.

Action taken: Approved by 4-0 vote.

—Patrick Kelly, DRC/Board Liaison

Book Club Report



The Book Club met on February 12 at the home of Louise Wiener to discuss *The Keep* by Jennifer Egan. Our discussion of the book itself was very short. No one liked it. Although a reviewer for the *New York Times* had praised the novel highly, we found it confusing and thought the characters unsympathetic. Some also felt that many of the characters had not been sufficiently well drawn.

There are three parts to the story. Each part is written in the third person but presented from a different character's point of view. Part I involves two cousins, one, the victim, and the other, one of the perpetrators, in a vicious act of childhood bullying. The action starts when the victim Howie, now Howard, invites the perpetrator, Danny, to help him develop an old castle he is restoring in an unidentified part of Middle Europe. Part II concerns a writing workshop in a US prison. This is related to Part I by the events a prisoner named Ray writes about, which are

related to the events in Part I. But no one in Part II has the same name as anyone in Part I, which seems to be the main part. Part III is presented from the point of view of Holly, who teaches the writing course. After escaping from the prison, Ray mailed his manuscript to her, and she travels to Europe hoping to find him by finding the castle.

There are several ambiguities or unexplained elements in this novel. Which one of the characters in Part I is Ray? What happened to the (possibly) one-hundred-year-old baroness at the castle? At the end, what happened to Holly?

If anyone wants to argue with us, we'd be delighted. The next Book Club meeting will be at Anne Parke's on Wednesday, March 12, at 2pm. The book for March is *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner. Guests and prospective new members are always welcome.

—Louise Wiener

ROUTE ONE FAMILY GOURMET

RICOS TACOS MOYA #3
8685 Richmond Highway, 22309

We stopped at Ricos Tacos Moya #3 for lunch on our way back from a morning at Ikea. Ricos is on Route 1, just north of Fort Belvoir.

The menu is extensive, and largely in Spanish. It features a wide variety of tacos, big bowls of soup (which seemed to be very popular and included menudo and goat meat options), interesting house specials, and plenty of familiar Mexican dishes.

The kids' menu had not just quesadillas, but also mini taquitos moya and mini enchiladas, as well as chicken fingers. The mini taquitos moya were fantastic—crisp (not greasy) corn tortillas wrapped around chicken, cilantro, sour cream, and onions. They do have an adult version also called taquitos moya, that I just might order next time.

This time, I had the chicken enchiladas with mole as the sauce instead of salsa. The mole was dark and smoky, and made the enchiladas something special.

My husband, Scott, ordered Chamorro de Puerco, which turned out to be a huge roasted bone-in pork shank served with chunky salsa, beans, cactus salad, and corn tortillas. Wow, that pork was awesome! And as a bonus we brought the huge pork bone home which Scott later made into in ham hock and bean soup.

We will definitely go back!

—The Weidenfeller Family

THE HOUSE AND DEER TOUR *(How does that grab you?)*

From 1957, when we moved to Hollin Hills, until about five years ago, my wife and I had never seen a deer in our community. When the first appeared, we would call each other and rush to our windows to enjoy it. Now, I rush to close the draperies because I know that we are helpless to protect our precious garden from their insatiable appetite. This morning, after the heavy snow, we counted ten depressions from deer that had spent the night on our lawn.

We have tried everything: banging pans, growling, shouting, spraying plants with deterrents, studding our half acre with battery activated invisible fencing. Useless. These deer know that we lavish our gardening energies to provide them a 24/7/12 buffet. Unrestrained, the deer population doubles annually.

And, they eat everything we have planted: tulips, daylilies, hosta, pansies, impatiens, liriopsis, and even yews! But also six foot flowering shrubs like hydrangea tardiva and hydrangea quercifolia, as well as euonymus, aucuba, azalea and even yew! And, then there are the smaller flowering hydrangeas all over our garden, against our house and in pots on our terraces. Deer fodder. They strip the bark from our small trees. The suggestion that one remake his garden with “deer resistant” plantings is unrealistic both because replanting our garden of 46 years exceeds our life expectancy and because there are precious few things that hungry deer will not eat.

Thus, I have become a reluctant advocate of deer-free gardens and a reluctant student of urban deer management. And, I have learned a lot.

This explosion of destructive animals is not unique to us. It is a national problem which is only now hurting Hollin Hills. (To get a full picture, see *Time Magazine's* cover story, Dec 9, 2013, “America’s Pest Problem.”)

At the end of last November, I asked the members of the Open Forum whether others were sufficiently harmed by the deer population that we should ask Fairfax County to take steps to reduce the number. About half the households in Hollin Hills are members of the Open Forum and they are scattered pretty much at random through the entire community. There were 44 replies and of those, 28 were favorable to County intervention.

A few days later at the membership meeting of the Civic Association, I presented a motion asking CAHH to ask the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to reduce our deer population. It failed by one vote.

On January 9, those wanting County relief met to discuss how to proceed. Our discussions quickly went to concern not only about damage to our property but to the rising incidence of Lyme disease and to auto accidents with deer. (Virginia ranked fifth in the nation for deer-vehicle collisions in 2009. The number reported in our county almost doubled from 2012 to 2013.) Lyme disease has already infected a number of our neighbors. We have heard from some afraid to work in their gardens or to have their children or grandchildren put at risk. And, our property has suffered less than others.

We unanimously agreed to a citizen petition to the Board of Supervisors to take “humane, effective and appropriate” measures

to reduce the deer population and to maintain it at a level comparable to that in 2005-2010. We presented that petition from 23 households to Supervisor Hyland and to Board Chairman Sharon Bulova. Both have been responsive and sympathetic. They have brought our concern to the attention of the Animal Control division of the Police Department which is presently responsible for deer management. It has responded and is considering how to address our situation.

Fairfax County has had a Deer Management Program since 1998. Initially, the culling was with firearms. But, in 2009, it was expanded to include volunteer archery under County management. In 2013, 1,022 deer were harvested by the County program on County owned park property. In addition, more than 2,000 deer were culled on private property, more than 90 per cent by archers. Owners of property of any size in Fairfax County may invite volunteer archers to hunt on their property. All of this is spelled out at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/animals/wildlife/management/deer-management>.

Those of us asking for County relief from this scourge await a decision about expansion of the County archery program to nearby County parks from which our deer visitors probably come. Meanwhile, we are exploring hunting on our individual private properties by qualified archers. There are about 850 enrolled in 27 archery organizations that participate in the Fairfax County Archery Program.

The hunting season ends on April 28. That is just as our gardens are reviving from their winter sleep. And, it is the tender new shoots, the buds, and the flowers that are deer hors d’oeuvres before they dive into what is left of our gardens.

Our deer are costing us not only the fruits of our years of garden labor but also transforming Hollin Hills from a gardener’s Mecca to scruffy back yards. Our famous House and Garden Tour is at risk of being transformed into the House and Deer Tour.

It’s up to us. This burgeoning scourge can be controlled and our environment preserved. We now all pay an annual “Infestation Prevention Tax” (ours was \$6 last year) to control disease carrying insects and forest pests. The Federal government, Virginia and Fairfax County have long collaborated to protect us from pests of all kinds—including Lyme disease bearing ticks. It is time that these services be expanded to provide our community and the rest of our County with relief from this new threat to our health and to our

environment. But right now, the County Archery Program and private archers are our best bet.

—Tom Fina



THESE ARE FOR THE BEES 2014 Native Seedling Sale

Native trees and shrubs, which are particularly suited to our soil and climate, do more than prevent soil erosion, clean our air, and cool the planet. They also enrich the habitat for native insects, birds, and mammals that also evolved in this region. This year's seedling packages from the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District are especially designed to benefit native bees and other pollinators.

European honeybees, a domesticated species that arrived in North America about 1622, have made a huge contribution to American agriculture and commerce. But Native Americans had already been growing corn, beans and squash for thousands of years with the aid of native bees and other pollinators such as moths and butterflies. Entomologists report that there are over 3,500 species of native bees in North America (see <http://bugguide.net/node/view/475348>), and while they evolved to pollinate native plants, they also do a fine job of pollinating European fruit trees and field crops. European honeybees are now threatened by colony collapse disorder, but native bees are also threatened by environmental stressors such as pesticides and habitat loss, and especially by a loss of plant diversity, which can contribute to dietary deficiencies.

The solution is to increase the diversity in their habitat (and ours) by including in our landscape more of the native species with which these native bees evolved—shrubs and trees like those in this year's native seedling sale. The Tree Package (six seedlings for \$11.95) contains two each of three selected tree species:

- **American plum** (*Prunus americana*) is a small tree (20-30 ft.) that is well-suited to moist, sunny locations; it will tolerate flooding but not drought or heavy shade. Masses of white flowers in spring, before the leaves come out, are followed by one-inch, red-orange fruit with yellow flesh. The flowers attract bees, and the fruit are enjoyed by many birds and mammals, including possum and raccoon as well as deer. Thorns can be a problem, so plant this one away from paths and benches.

- **Persimmon** (*Diospyros virginiana*) is a slow-growing mid-sized tree (20-40 feet) that will grow much larger (50-75 feet) in moist sites, particularly in the Southeastern states. White flowers appear in May, when leaves are half grown; female trees bear edible orange fruits that ripen in the fall. Their flavor is described as "astringent," but they sweeten considerably once they've been kissed by a frost. Beautiful "gated" bark.

- **Black gum** (*Nyssa sylvatica*) is a slow-growing, tall tree (50 feet) that also flourishes in wet sites. Also called black tupelo, this is not the swamp tupelo (*N. bicolor*) that is so famous for its honey, but it's just as popular with native bees. The small fruit (half-inch) are eaten by a long list of migratory songbirds, and the foliage turns a magnificent red in the fall. This big tree is for the rear of your property.

The Shrub and Small Tree Package (10 seedlings for \$16.95) contains two each of five species that will add color and texture to your garden while also benefiting native pollinators:

- **Winterberry** (*Ilex verticillata*) is a deciduous holly that grows 6 to 12 feet in sun or shade. The flowers are inconspicuous to humans but irresistible to bees and other nectar feeders. Bright red berries mature in fall and persist after leaves have fallen, often into January. I have a 3-foot dwarf variety in my garden, but species plants can

be topped at 4 feet to keep them a manageable size.

- **Buttonbush** (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) is a 10-foot shrub that's recommended for butterfly gardens and rain gardens. In spring and early summer it bears one-inch flower clusters that look for all the world like white sea urchins, except they attract bees and butterflies instead of sea otters. However, the one specimen in my garden has proven to be very slow-growing; perhaps the site isn't wet enough.

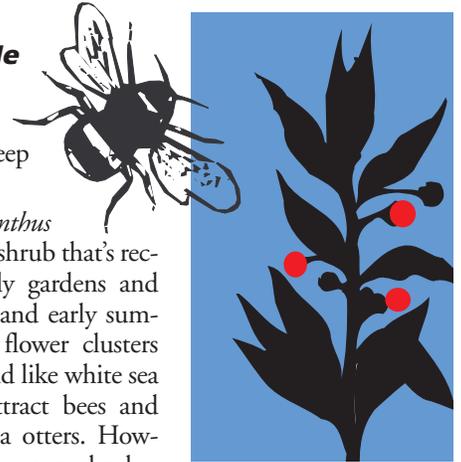
- **Serviceberry** (*Amelanchier canadensis*) is a fast-growing, multi-stemmed shrub that can reach 25-30 feet and also does well in rain gardens and boggy bottoms, although it could also be used for a shaggy hedge or screen. Sometimes called "shadblow" because it blooms in late March and April, when the shad are running in our rivers. Tiny red fruit are attractive to birds, as well as country cooks. Leaves turn yellow in the fall.

- **Indigobush** (*Amorpha fruticosa*) is a loose, airy shrub in the pea family that quickly grows to 8-15 feet. It bears 3-inch spikes of tiny purple flowers in June that attract native bees and several species of butterfly. However, it also has a reputation for forming thickets and even becoming invasive in the Northeastern states.

- **American elderberry** (*Sambucus canadensis*) is another rain garden plant that quickly grows to 6-12 feet in height. Large flat clusters of fragrant white flowers in early summer are followed by purple to black berries that are attractive to wildlife but may be toxic until ripe. Leaves, stems and roots are also toxic. Probably not a good choice if there are small children in your garden.

Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>, the NVSWCD website, to learn more, see pictures, and download an order form. Orders can be picked up May 2 and 3.

—Paul B. Phelps



MVCCA: PLANNING & ZONING

The Planning and Zoning Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) heard a presentation at its February meeting in on the restoration of the former federal penitentiary at Lorton that was constructed in the 1920s. This very durable structure is incorporated in the Laurel Hills Adaptive Reuse Plan being implemented by the Alexander Company. In addition to the detailed plan to convert the maximum security section to commercial use, a larger area is planned for residential housing.

The committee then discussed county plans to make more studio housing available to the elderly and those entering the workforce. The plan now being discussed would have less impact on the Mount Vernon area than on the Tysons Corner area.

Finally, about an hour was spent discussing how the planned expansion of the Lorton landfill might be done. This is an engineering job requiring considerable skill. The meeting ended with a discussion of solar power, windmills, and the benefits that may be derived from methane gas.

—Burt Kronstedt

NOEL HEMMENDINGER,

longtime resident of Hollin Hills, turned one hundred recently. We wonder if he's the first in our community to do so. Noel's birthday was celebrated at the Cosmos Club, where he has gone for many years to play bridge every Tuesday afternoon. At the birthday celebration, there were many fine toasts and tributes, including a birthday card from President Obama (people at one hundred are often so honored). One of the most enjoyable greetings, from a fellow bridge player, is printed below.

—Marjorie Hemmendinger

*A century ago, Noel Hemmendinger
began playing bridge as a beginner
At the Cosmos Club,
he ratchets it up
to become a steady winner.*

*Despite the fact that he
often bids recklessly,
he has prevailed,
but rarely failed,
for an entire century.*

*Though we hate to point the finger
at this durable Hemmendinger,
we bridge players agree
that in the card room, he
for many more years must linger.*

THE MUSIC MAN'S PICKS FOR MARCH

March has quite a few free or, where noted, low cost musical treats. But first, I want to mention the wonderful concert that was presented by Ars Nova at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church on February 9.

I would love to see a revival of the music I remember at the Boxwood Concerts that church sponsored back in the 60s and 70s. They were held on a stage built in the long-gone natural amphitheater beyond the carriage house and featured such outstanding artists as The Limelighters, Teddy Wilson, George Shearing, and Charlie Byrd.

- Saturday, March 1, 7pm, All Souls Memorial Episcopal Church, 2300 Conn. Ave. NW: Ars Nova. www.ancoselfconducted.org

- Sunday, March 2, 4pm, Ernst Center NVCC Annandale: Virginia Chamber Orchestra. www.virginiachamberorchestra.org

- 6:30pm Laporta's: Potomac Jazz Project (Quartet) no cover charge. www.laportas.net

- Saturday, March 8, 7pm, St. Aiden's Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria: Focus Concerts. Kate Campbell plus Jeep Rosenberg (folk) \$15 advance, \$18 at door. www.focusmusic.org

- Sunday, March 9, 3pm, Alden Theater, McLean: Stern/Andrist Duo (violin, piano) www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts

- Sunday, March 16, 3pm, Washington-Lee HS: Arlington Philharmonic. Barber, First Essay for Orchestra, Op.12; Gershwin, Rhapsody in Blue, Dvorak: New World Symphony No. 9 in E minor. www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org

- 7pm, Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria: Focus Concerts. Mustard's Retreat and Kipyn Martin (folk) \$15 advance, \$18 at the door www.focusmusic.org

- Thursday, March 20, 7:30-9pm, Culpepper Garden Senior Center, 4439 Pershing Dr., Arlington: Bob Gibson Big Band (jazz) [\[buysrv.wix.com/bob-gibson-big-band\]\(http://buysrv.wix.com/bob-gibson-big-band\)](http://www.ins-

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- Saturday, March 22, 8pm, (6:30 pre-concert chat). Fairfax HS, City of Fairfax Band: Tea with Gershwin. Rhapsody in Blue, piano, An American in Paris, Cuban Overture, Three Preludes, Porgy and Bess, song medley www.fairfaxband.org

- Tuesday, March 25, 7:30pm, Episcopal HS, National Chamber Players: Beethoven: Piano Trio in C minor, Violin Sonata No. 9 in A Major, www.episcopalhighschool.org/arts/mcp_ehs/index.aspx

- Sunday, March 30, 3pm, Lyceum Eclipse Recital Series: Alexander Osborne violin, pianist/program tba. www.eclipseco.org

- 3pm T. C. Williams HS, Metropolitan Orchestra: Rodrigo: Concerto de Aranjuez; Lawrence Ries, Sea Surface Fall of Clouds (world premier); Debussy, La Mer. Tickets \$20, 18 and under free. www.wmpamusic.org

RECOMMENDATIONS

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Steve Johnson, stjconstruct@gmail.com or 703-772-0478. Steve and his tile guy recently redid our master bath including replacing floor and shower tile and plumbing fixtures, and repairing and painting walls. The workmanship is excellent and prices are reasonable. All work was completed on schedule and within budget. Steve, formerly of Ashburn, VA, has recently moved to our area. We highly recommend him. —Diana Cull & Chris Kusseling

APPLIANCE REPAIR Once again, Phil of Mt. Vernon-Franconia Appliance Repair (703-660-9703) came through—this time after a winter resident mouse tried to chew his way out of our dishwasher. (Neither mouse nor dishwasher fared very well.) Phil responds to calls quickly and is very knowledgeable, capable, and pleasant to deal with. —Barbara Shear