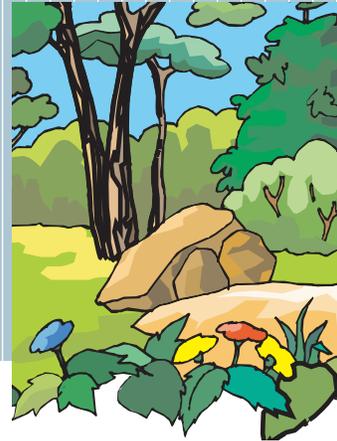


MAY 2016

# HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



## CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### LOTS OF RENEWALS! IS YOURS ONE OF THEM?

A steady stream of renewals and new memberships has been coming in ever since late March, when the 2016 CAHH membership forms were sent to all HH households, but there are still members who have forgotten to renew and non-members who have not yet joined this important neighborhood organization. Our community relies on a strong civic association. Please ensure that your household's dues are paid for the 2016-17 membership year that begins on May 1.

#### Benefits of membership

- Many Hollin Hills social events are made possible through membership dues, including the Winter Potluck, the Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, and the Oktoberfest.
- CAHH member households receive a free digital subscription to the monthly Bulletin and a printed copy and periodic digital updates of the Hollin Hills Directory.

• CAHH membership dues maintain and enhance our unique and beautiful community by:

- supporting the enforcement of our architectural covenants,
- providing funds for the care and maintenance of the Hollin Hills parks and common areas,
- paying for insurance and the other CAHH operating expenses.

#### How to join or renew

- Fill out the form you received in late March, enclose your check made payable to CAHH, and mail it to: CAHH Membership, 1600 Paul Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22307.
- Can't find your form? You can download and print it at [www.hollinhills.net](http://www.hollinhills.net) where you can also pay online (a \$5 convenience fee will be added).
- Can't download it, didn't receive it, have questions? Contact Membership Chair Linda Benson at [linda.benson@me.com](mailto:linda.benson@me.com) or 312-907-1797.

### CAHH SPRING MEETING: GOOD ATTENDANCE AND A FULL AGENDA

Mike Rioux, president of Mason Hill's community association, spoke on the recent spike in airplane-related noise in our area. Rioux, an aviation professional with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Noise Advisory Group, explained ways in which this noise might be abated.

His committee has recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) redirect flight patterns south of National Airport and prohibit departing airplanes from veering off the Potomac River five miles out of Reagan National Airport, which places them directly over our area. He also advocates increasing departure climb altitude from 5,000 to 11,000 feet, which could reduce noise levels by as much as 50 percent. He suggested sending letters to our elected officials, including County Supervisor Dan Storck. He recommended that we join Villamay's noise-abatement campaign. A petition, based on Villamay's, was passed around at the meeting.

Treasurer Susan Kuhbach reported on CAHH financials, thanking Ellen Riedel for reviewing the books, which were found in order. Our annual revenue projections came in pretty much on target except for legal fees, which we anticipated would be higher than budgeted.

Gus Matson, CAHH president, briefed us on the status of

litigation, stating that one more brief will be filed, followed by a hearing, when, hopefully, the judge will rule on the standing of CAHH to sue. Gus hopes for resolution around June.

Barbara Ward spoke about the 2016 House Tour, noting a \$5 discount on tickets purchased before the event, which will take place on April 30. She urged more people to volunteer as docents for a two-hour slot in one of the twelve tour houses.

To much applause, Gus introduced Elisabeth Lardner, who spoke enthusiastically of her first week as parks chair and of her proposals for tackling serious parks problems. A Hollin Hills resident since '93 and a landscape architect/planner with good contacts in Fairfax County, she is extremely well qualified to lead us in dealing with these issues. Her article on page 4 describes and expands on her remarks of that evening.

Gus stated that our dues cannot pay for solving Goodman Park's deep erosion problems. At an earlier meeting, John Stocker had suggested a non-profit as a means to get funding, and we are researching the formation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, for the purpose of preserving the Hollin Hills Historic District.

Attendees discussed Dominion Electric's request for an easement of 15 feet from every house on Rippon Road and Drury Lane so that the electric wires can be *(Continued on page 2)*

## CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

### CAHH OFFICERS

President Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President Chris McNamara	660-9536
Treasurer Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary Barbara Southworth	721-0734
Membership Linda Benson	312-907-1797

### DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA Michael Plotnik	660-6272
Social Susmita Dastidar	660-5938
Parks Bob Kinzer	768-4048

### CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471
(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)	
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)	
Chair Frank Collins	660-6525
Members John Burns	660-9763
Christine Kelly	768-2497
Roger Miller	768-2095
Ken Wilson	768-5838
CAHH-DRC Liaison Chris McNamara	660-9536
HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE	
Chair Barbara Bogue	571-257-9313
PARKS COMMITTEE	
Chair Elisabeth Lardner	765-3023

## HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

Published monthly since 1951 by the CAHH. The 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. As a last resort, type or print it clearly, leave in basket to right of front door, 1820 Drury Lane, 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 Linda Benson at 312-907-1797

## 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](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](http://sca.gmu.edu/using_sc&a.html).
- Other contacts: phone 703-993-2220, fax inquiries 703-993-8911, email [speccoll@gmu.edu](mailto: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.

## Spring Meeting *from page 1*

moved underground. Elba Road residents have already gone through the easement phase. Dominion could use eminent domain. Verizon and Cox will not go underground. at this time. A meeting or method of correspondence between Drury, Rippon, and Elba residents will be organized.

—Barbara Southworth, CAHH Secretary



## IN THE PARK WITH 10-YEAR-OLD GUS

Dumb Ole Elisabeth Lardner

That dumb ole Elisabeth Lardner. She starts that job as the new parks chair and right away there are girl cooties everywhere. She's out there inspecting stuff in the parks, and looking at things way too close, and peeking under rocks. Even worse, she wants to do stuff to fix them up, stuff that will probably cost a gazillion dollars, because, she says, "It's important." I say to myself, "What is so important about a stupid ole bunch of land that has nothing on it?" But that Elisabeth is pretty stubborn. She says her mother said that boys are too dumb to know what needs fixing. So I end up having to traipse around the parks, jumping over stuff like creek beds, and going up steep hillsides full of mysterious green stuff like ivy, and pretty soon I am pooped.

After a while, I find myself walking along in Paul Spring Park, just looking at the water, and all of a sudden, there's a whole bunch of small fish. So I sit a while watching them. Then I see a box turtle, but he won't come near me. I am afraid of box turtles. When I was just little kid I picked one up, and it peed all over me. Then I mosey on further, and there is a fox just up the way. I don't know who was more surprised, me or that gimpy ole fox. By the time I go to the far end of the park, I realize I am having fun. I get to a part of the creek where there are fairly deep pools of water, and I remember the swimming hole from when I was just a little kid. But this swimming hole has a green-headed duck in it, paddling around like he owns the place. He doesn't care I'm there, so long as I don't get all fussy. So, I just sit on the ground and watch. I realize I am smiling – at a duck! I say, "Hello, Duck," and we both just stay a while. It is really good. I would never tell her, but maybe dumb ole Elisabeth is right. This is the stuff that's important.

So I suggest you just take yourself down there and walk a while, and sit a while. If you don't pick up the box turtle, I am pretty sure you will like it, too.

—Gus (Gipper) Matson, Future President, CAHH

## SANDY KABAT

Long-time Hollin Hills' resident Sandy Kabat died on April 1. She moved to the community in July of 1956 into a house on Stafford Road, with her husband Bob and two young daughters. In 1968, they moved into what was then known as "new" Hollin Hills. Over the years, Sandy was the community's treasurer and served for many years on the Parks Committee. Later, she was made an emeritus member of that committee along with Bev Byrne, her partner on many park projects. She worked for Bob Davenport during the last years of Hollin Hills' completion and organized the community's farewell party for him after the last house was completed. An avid gardener, she was one of the founders of the Hollin Hills Garden Club, and her home was featured on the House & Garden Tour.

Sandy's many friends and neighbors remember her fondly for her wonderful, wry wit, ("sometimes cynical and bemused but never unkind"), her commitment to our community, ("She was such fun to work with and always so reliable"), and her kindness and generosity, ("If you admired Sandy's garden, she got out her trowel, and you went away with samples").

Bob Kabat died in 2010, and Sandy died at home with a view of her garden. She is survived by her three daughters, Ellen, Gale, and Jennifer Kabat, her grandson, Zachary Kabat-Post, as well as by her son-in-law David Rainbird and close family friends Roger Miller and Ken Post. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, May 7, at 2pm, at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

# Quick Takes

## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

- Congratulations to Allison Miles-Lee and Neil Lee of Stafford Road on the birth of their son, Jonathan. He arrived on February 8 to join his sister, Annabelle, and brother, Alexander. —*Ginny Kinzler*
- Welcome to our new neighbors at 2203 Paul Spring Road, Michael and Klara Jordan. Michael is a lawyer with the Office of the General Counsel at the Department of Defense. Their telephone numbers are 703-474-3082 or 703-474-3089. —*Judy Rosen*
- Welcome to brand-new residents, the Brugan family of 7212 Beechwood Road. Paul, April, and three-year-old Keith originally came from Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania. Paul and April decided on the Virginia area after April graduated from college in Pennsylvania. They did a search and fell in love with Hollin Hills. Paul says that the selling point for them was the uniqueness of the houses and the neighbors. Also moving here with them is Holly the cat, and two kittens, Yoda and Hermione. Paul and April like to read and cook. —*Wendy Kilpatrick and Julie Curtis*

## TEN FREE HMSTC GUEST PASSES

Don't delay. This offer is for all *new* members who sign up by May 31 at the Hollin Meadows Swim and Tennis Club (HMSTC). It's hard to believe that, in just a short time, we will hear the laughter of children splashing in the pool, see new and old friends at family and social events, and hear tennis balls whizzing around the court. Already a member? Share the love, and enjoy our new referral benefit of five free 2016 guest passes. One of the best things about finding something you love is sharing it with friends!

New to the neighborhood and not sure where we are? You'll find HMSTC tucked away in a wooded setting at 2500 Woodlawn Trail, just off Elba Road. You may also hear cheers of our NVSL Division 8 competitive and non-competitive swim team practicing for their next meet.

Our 25 meter pool has a shiny new white coat and our new awnings will provide even more shade. We have a 12-ft. diving well, lap lanes, an enclosed wading pool for toddlers, an outdoor children's play area, and picnic areas with gas grills. Private swimming instruction is offered all season, and group lessons will begin at the end of June. Have your little ones outgrown the baby pool? You will love our 2-ft. shallow end of the big pool. It's great for them to be in the big pool with you and still be able to touch!

In addition to swimming, we include year round tennis with your membership. We have five tennis courts and Mount Vernon Community Tennis youth and women's tennis teams. We also offer tennis instruction and clinics.

Stop by for a tour, or find more information at [www.hollinmeadows.org](http://www.hollinmeadows.org) or at [membership@hollinmeadows.org](mailto:membership@hollinmeadows.org)

—*Heather Young, Membership Chair*

## EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS AHEAD FOR HMES

Major renovation plans continue to progress for Hollin Meadows Elementary School. In a recent message, Principal Jon Gates gave these updates on the \$14.6 million project:

- The design phase of the project is now complete.
- The design is being reviewed and the final building permits



*Moving mulch at Hollin Meadows on Earth Day*

Susan McCarthy

are expected in May.

- Construction is scheduled to begin this coming winter (2016-17) and will be completed in phases.
- Completion will take approximately two years. Students will attend Hollin Meadows during the construction phase.

At the completion of the project, our community will have a beautiful, fully up-to-date facility that will meet the needs of students for many decades to come. As the project progresses, updates will be published in the Bulletin.

At the "Adopt-a-Plant" event during the school's Earth Day celebration, people were invited to take plants home from the sections of the Hollin Meadows native species gardens which otherwise will have to be destroyed to accommodate the renovations. Jennifer Finnegan, the school's garden program director, hopes that offsprings of these plants will be brought back home to root when construction is finished and it's time to replant the garden. A special shout-out to volunteer Ken Wilson of Elba Road, who worked tirelessly digging up and loading the plants.

## THE GARDEN CLUB SUGGESTS:

On May 11, at 7:30pm, there will be a talk by Alan Ford and Laura Beaty of the Virginia Native Plant Society at the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Boulevard. They will explore native wildflowers, their value, and the complex relationships between native plant communities and animals, including insects, spiders, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

The meeting is sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the American Horticultural Society, the Fairfax County Master Gardeners, Friends of Theodore Roosevelt Island, Friends of Mason Neck State Park, Earth Sangha, and the Monarch Teacher Network. It is free and open to the public.

## HH POTTERY SALE

The annual Hollin Hills Pottery Sale will be on Saturday, May 17, 10 am-12 noon, on the sidewalk at 7616 Elba Road, at the corner with Woodlawn Trail. This year, there are six participating potters who, as always, have great special deals. Be early—the sale starts at 10am sharp, and the best deals will be gone quickly!

—*Mia van Zelst*

## HELP! THE CUPBOARD IS BARE

The United Community Ministries (UCM) food pantry serves 80-100 families each weekday. Some Hollin Hillers have learned that the pantry shelves are empty. When this Bulletin comes out, there will be a storage tub at the end of the Kilpatrick's driveway at 7219 Beechwood Road to collect non-perishable food items such as cereal, pasta, sauce, and *(Continued on page 4)*

## Quick Takes *continued*

canned fruits and vegetables. UCM especially appreciates donations of heart-healthy food items, such as low-salt canned vegetables, low-sugar cereal, and whole grain pastas.

— Wendy Montanari Kilpatrick

### POLICE YEAR END REVIEW

At the April meeting of the Mt. Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee, Commander Shawn Martin presented the 2015 Year End Review of the Mt. Vernon District Police. In addition to his assistant, Bryan Holland, and administrative assistant, Eileen Stevens, the staff is comprised of six sets of patrol squads, seven neighborhood patrols, one gang coordinator, two traffic enforcement officers, one crime analyst, and one crime prevention officer. Support staff includes seven auxiliary/VIP, one station logistic responsible for vehicle maintenance, five school resource officers, seven school crossing guards, and two victim witness officers.

During 2015, there were 89,116 calls for service; most were traffic related. Arrest activity was down 14% from 2014, DUI enforcement was reduced by 34%, and traffic citations were up 9%.

The station's community outreach projects include: Police and Pastors Breakfast, Walk and Talk (officers out of their cars to talk with citizens), March for Justice, Explorers (40 students learn about policing), Sandberg Middle School after school activities, National Night Out, Toys for the Needy, and the Police and Fire Tribute.

The Citizens Advisory Committee meets on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7pm, at the Mt Vernon Station on Parker Lane. Everyone is welcome to attend. Robert Urps, our crime prevention officer, may be reached at 703-360-8400.

—Laura Wirkkala



Some of our area greeters at their planning meeting in April.

### GREETERS MEET FOR AN IDEA SESSION

Twenty long-time and new area greeters met at the home of Linda Benson, CAHH membership chair, on Sunday evening, April 10, to share ideas on how best to welcome new neighbors to Hollin Hills. All agreed we must welcome newcomers in person and present them with one of the very informative welcome kits that are assembled by Eleanor Fina. Taking a gift of baked goods or a bottle of wine was suggested. Greeters were reminded to send brief writeups to the Bulletin about newcomers, as well other neighborhood news—departures, births, deaths, marriages, special achievements, etc. Gus Matson updated the group on our lawsuit, website, and parks. He will host the Meet and Greet for Newcomers in June.

—Linda Benson

### SO HOW WAS THE TOUR?

Rain or shine, we're sure it was a huge, fabulous, memorable success. However, because this month's Bulletin was already on its way on the day the House & Garden Tour was held, our coverage of that newsworthy event will have to wait until the June issue.



## OUR PARKS: A BIG ASSET AND A BIG RESPONSIBILITY

Hollin Hillers have just celebrated the distinctive architecture and landscapes of our community this April with a successful and smashing House & Garden Tour. In addition to our architecture, we are known for our 'houses in the woods,' located in an area easily identified from the window of an airplane by the neighborhood's heavy tree coverage. Much of these woodlands are our communal, CAHH-owned or -managed parklands. An incredible asset, these parklands also present us with a big responsibility.

### Seven parks, all different, each one special

Our seven parks, each stewarded by a volunteer neighborhood warden, provide us with a range of outdoor experiences and activities. Our stream valley parks (Goodman, Brickelmaier and Paul Spring) have heavily used, shaded walking trails. McCalley Park at the corner of Paul Spring Road and Rippon is being reclaimed as an educational garden for native woodland species that thrive in the shade. Voigt Park hosts our communal Fourth of July celebration and contains a small formal play area and picnic area in addition to the large informal, natural play area provided by the stream and its banks. The Wildlife Sanctuary is exactly that, with reports of a pair of nesting red tailed hawks this spring. Sutton Potter Park buffers our community and its neighbor to the west, and to older teens is a beloved winter sledding hill.

### Trouble in paradise

BUT, as Dave Matthews pointed out in last month's Bulletin, our parks need our care and attention, and they need it *now!* The stream valley parks are taking a hit from our changing rain patterns (greater and more concentrated rainfalls), increased impervious areas (paved driveways, new house additions), and age (predating County stormwater management requirements). All of our parks are fighting the spread of undesired plants such as English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and garlic mustard. Heavy browsing by deer has decimated the understory in some areas.

### Setting priorities

We need to step back and understand all the issues we are grappling with in the management of our parks including the natural and financial problems, and the shortage of volunteers. Restarting Fairfax County's stormwater work proposed for Goodman Park is my highest priority. The urgency to implement this effort was made clear by my discovery of a broken lateral sanitary sewer line in the park directly above the stream, caused by erosion. One proposed remedy for the stormwater erosion in Goodman Park is a series of dam-like weirs placed in the stream in the upper section of the park to slow the flow and control erosion. For those curious to see a weir, there is one, installed by the Parks Committee with Robert Fina's assistance, in the drainage channel at the foot of Rebecca (Continued on page 5)

**Our Parks** *from page 4*

Drive in Paul Spring Park. This problem is serious, but it is one of many. Our work must also look to the future, planning for our parks' everyday maintenance needs and nurturing if they are to remain the community asset that we have enjoyed for over sixty years.

**Toward a management plan**

As the new parks chair, I have invited Jim McGlone from the Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) to talk to us about writing a management plan for our parklands. There is no charge for his assistance, other than our tax support for the DOF. Jim will meet with us on site several times, first for an informal discussion and then later to walk all of the parklands. All are welcome to join us for our first discussion with Jim McGlone from DOF on

Monday, May 9, 7:30pm, at my house, 2200 Martha's Road. If you plan to attend, please send me an email or give me a call so I can have enough chairs at the ready. Together, as is the tradition in our community, we can successfully tackle these challenging issues.

**Opportunities for all**

The Parks Committee is always looking for additional volunteers. Do you have an interest in trail management, in weed warring, in litter clean up? We have a spot for you. Interested in being an understudy to a current Park Warden? A spot exists for you. Live near Sutton Potter Park? The warden slot is open and ready. Please email or call me with your interest, concerns, and ideas for our 33+ acres of communal parklands. Thank you.

—*Elisabeth Lardner, New Parks Chair (gulp)*  
703-765-3023, eblardner@aol.com



**"RIBBIT RIBBIT"**

"Ribbit. Ribbit." The voice of a frog, right? Well, not really. For example, the American bullfrog sounds (to me, anyway) more like a bass fiddle with the strings way too loose. As a part of FrogWatch USA, I'll be monitoring frogs at a site in Paul Spring Park through spring and summer and into fall. And the focus on vocalizing is because frogs (and toads) are monitored by sound, not visually.

I had hoped to have some amphibian action to report in this Bulletin, but as I write this in mid-April, night temperatures are near freezing and no self-respecting frogs are out there calling to one another. So right now, I'm listening to frog recordings, marveling at the variation in sounds, and waiting for warmer weather.

In the meantime, why frogs? or, why frogs and toads?

FrogWatch monitors both. This citizen scientist effort, run by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums since 2009, was begun in the previous century because these creatures are considered an important indicator of environmental health, and many species have experienced dramatic declines both in the United States and internationally.

Want to learn a little more? The state publishes a 44-page book with great photos of the frogs and toads of Virginia, including a CD of their calls. It's available at Huntley Meadows Visitors Center for just \$8.

Look for a FrogWatch report in the June issue (or earlier on the Forum if something really exciting turns up). In the meantime, remember: toads don't give you warts, and some of what you've been thinking are night insects are probably frogs.

—*Lee Ann Kinzer*



**MAY TIPS FOR GARDENERS, CIRCA 1958**

*A lot has changed since this first appeared in the Bulletin, but it's still good gardening advice.*

You have undoubtedly noticed that everything has been growing like blazes since mid-April. In fact, if you take the time to read this you are probably neglecting something you should be doing.

- When the spring-blooming shrubs have finished blooming, you can do any necessary pruning.
- Go ahead and fertilize those azaleas now. If you want to move azaleas, it would be a good idea to either move them as soon as they finish blooming while you still remember the color, or to mark them so you will know what you're doing when you move them later.
- Iris can be cut back and divided as soon as they finish blooming.
- Crabgrass control (or attempts at same) should be well under way by now. I don't really know anything about this except what I read in the papers, since I am primarily a chickweed man. On chickweed, you might as well give up by this time. Hot weather will put the chickweed in its place and you can go into training for the fall season.
- By May 10, all the tender annuals such as petunias, zinnias, marigolds, and impatiens can be planted outdoors.

- Roses in this clime are subject to myriad diseases and insects. If you do grow them, they will need regular spraying with both insecticides and fungicides.

- Anything you plan to grow in the vegetable garden can be planted now. You might enjoy a tomato plant or two even if you don't have room for anything else.

- As the chrysanthemum shoots get about six inches long, perhaps you can get the kids to stop pinching one another long enough to pinch back the chrysanthemums. This encourages bushy growth and more flowers (on plants, not children).

- The time is about ripe to spray holly for leaf miners. A good share of holly around these parts is infected, and spraying will pay dividends in both appearance and vigor. Among the least toxic sprays are horticultural oils, insecticidal soap, and neem oil. The oils should be applied in early morning or at night, before bees become active in the garden.

- If you have time, a walk around these Sacred Hills might give you some ideas about what your neighbors are doing (in the garden, that is) that you could probably do better.

—*C. Kyle Randall*  
*Hills Bulletin, May 1958*

## DESIGN REVIEW

### New member welcomed, five projects presented

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, April 13, 2016, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present included Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, John Nolan, and Ken Wilson.

The committee welcomed new member, John Nolan, who was elected to the committee to replace outgoing member Roger Miller.

The DRC provided guidance on building two backyard sheds (one for woodworking, the other for gardening and storage) to the homeowner at 7600 Elba Road, Mr. Dustin Young. The committee asked the homeowner to provide detailed drawings of the shed evaluations and shed locations on the lot plat.

The DRC also discussed two projects with the homeowner at 1927 Martha's Road, Mr. Robert Jordan: 1) a modular wooden deck to cover an existing concrete slab and 2) a natural wood screen to cover the utility area to the right of the front door. The committee offered several

detail recommendations for both projects. The homeowner is to provide revised drawings to include the details and perform neighbor notification prior to receiving approval to start work on the projects.

Finally, the committee discussed two projects submitted by the homeowner at 2406 Nordok, Ms. Annie Westover: 1) an extension of the existing asphalt driveway to the back corner of the house; 2) a low wall to hide the trash cans; 3) "Trex" decking to cover the existing concrete sidewalk. The DRC performed a site visit and had a discussion with the homeowner prior to the meeting. Based on the visit and discussion, the committee developed several detail recommendations, which will be shared with the homeowner as conditions for approval.

The next DRC meeting will be Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Regional Library (2501 Sherwood Hall Lane) in Conference Room #3.

—Chris McNamara, CAHH/DRC Liaison

## PLANNING & ZONING

### Changes along Richmond Highway

On April's agenda of the Planning & Zoning Committee (P&Z) of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations were:

- Formal recognition of Starbucks as the new occupant of the building formerly occupied by Checkers on Richmond Highway, two blocks south of the Mt. Vernon Square apartments.
- Moving a martial arts studio to two vacant lots on Richmond Highway across from Gold's Gym. Applicant was represented by a land development consultant, but no building plan was presented.

- Debate continued from several previous meetings on the proposal to build a self-storage facility on Richmond Highway near Huntington Avenue. Established county policy opposes such facilities, but the developer proposes to make it look like a regular office building set far back from the highway and would limit access to the rear of the building only. Hours would be strictly limited. Although there was a fairly long discussion, the Committee voted 17-0 to take no action on a resolution.

—Burt Kronstedt

## BOOK CLUB

### A 'catch up' bonus – two months of reviews

IN MARCH, the book group discussed *The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker prize-winning novel. This was soon after the finale of *Downton Abbey*, so we began with a discussion of that series. As one member observed, "After all, *Remains of the Day* is about a butler!"

An English butler named Stevens narrates the story. In 1956, he decides to take a six-day road trip to England's West Country from Darlington Hall, where he has lived and has worked as a butler for thirty-four years. The house, previously owned by the now-deceased Lord Darlington, belongs to an American, Mr. Farraday. Although Stevens likes Mr. Farraday, he doesn't interact well with him. The butler is a circumspect, serious person, uncomfortable with Farraday's joking ways, which he refers to as "bantering." He wants to improve his bantering skill so he can better please his employer.

Stevens's trip is to visit Miss Kenton, former housekeeper of Darlington Hall, who left twenty years earlier to be married. He has received a letter from her, which he believes hints that her marriage is failing and that she might like to return to her housekeeping post.

Much of the story consists of Stevens's memories of his work as a butler during and just after World War II. He describes large, elaborate dinner parties and elegant, prominent personages who came to dine and stay at Darlington Hall. It is gradually revealed, largely through other characters' interactions with Stevens rather than his own admissions, that Lord Darlington, due to his mistaken impression of the German agenda prior to World War II, had sympathized with the Nazis, even arranging and hosting dinner parties for the German and British heads of state to help them come to a peaceful understanding. Stevens always maintains that Lord Darlington was a perfect gentleman, and that his reputation has been soiled simply because he misunderstood the Nazis' true aims.

During the trip, Stevens tells about butlers in other houses who are his friends, but his most important relationship is with Miss Kenton, for whom he seems to have repressed romantic feelings. They often disagreed over household matters when they worked together, but these "quibbles" mainly showed that the two cared for each other. At the end of the novel, Miss Kenton admits to Stevens that her life may have turned out better if she had married him. Stevens is very upset, but does not tell her how he feels. He returns to Darlington Hall, even more determined to perfect the "art of bantering" to please his employer.

Author Salman Rushdie commented that *The Remains of the Day* is "a story both beautiful and cruel," primarily about regret. Throughout his life, Stevens puts his absolute trust and devotion in a man who makes drastic mistakes and he fails to pursue the one woman with whom he could have had a loving relationship. His prim mask of formality cuts him off from intimacy, companionship, and understanding. Stevens is so upright and eager to do what he believed his employers and the people he admires (mostly other butlers) would want and expect of him, that he never stops to think about what might make him or those few people he is close to happy.

Most of the group liked the book and some look forward to seeing the film, which stars Anthony Quinn as Stevens.

—Barbara Knight

IN APRIL, we discussed *Silent House*, by Nobel Prize author Orhan Pamuk. One of his early books, it wasn't translated into English until 29 years after its publication in Turkey. It is set in a turbulent political time, beginning with the end of the Ottoman Empire and ending in 1980. This is the summer when the grandchildren come to visit Fatma, their 90-year- (Continued on page 7)

**Book Club** *from page 6*

old grandmother in the seaside village where she has spend most of her married life.

Fatma was married to a prosperous doctor when she was fifteen. Salahattin was a politically active liberal who wanted to westernize his country. The ruling pasha gave him an ultimatum: leave Istanbul and stay out of politics or go to prison. He and his wife settle in a small fishing village. He builds a spacious house with a laboratory and office for his practice. Fatma continues to live there when the book begins. Salahattin treats the local villagers, but after a few years, the villagers stop coming. He belittled their folk medicine and their belief in God. When there are no more patients, he begins writing his 38-volume encyclopedia of all the natural sciences.

After four years of marriage and the move to Cennethisar, a son, Dogan, is born. He is given the best education, including French boarding schools. Dogan, the father of the three grandchildren, dies at age 52, a great disappointment to his mother.

After Dogan is born, Fatma stops sleeping with her husband. He hires a local woman with the "beauty of our people" to come and cook for them. Soon he is spending nights with her,

eventually fathering two more children. One of them, Recep, a dwarf, is Fatma's housekeeper and caregiver at the time of grandchildren's visit.

The book has an interesting structure. Each of the many characters is introduced in a separate chapter and carries on an interior monologue ruminating on the past and reflecting on the present. Fatma never stops arguing with her deceased husband; in fact, everything we know about him is from her monologues.

This was not one of our favorite books, but we were not sorry we read it. The book describes a Middle Eastern culture as it changes into a modern one, a picture of Turkey undergoing cultural change. It lead a few of us to research modern Turkish history and to gain some insight into present day Turkey. The mind of the modern teenager is described clearly with the reckless and self centered activities of the grandchildren and their friends.

The next book we will be reading is *Barren Ground*, by Ellen Glasgow. We will meet at the home of Ann Klunder, on May 18, at 2pm. Visitors and new members are most welcome.

—Anne Parke

**MUSICMAN**

*May is bursting out with flowers, ragweed, and live music; much of free. Fairfax parks schedule should now be listed at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/). Other performances coming up are:*

- Sun. 5/1, 1pm & 3pm, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church - May Day Celtic Spring Fling: Lilt (Tina Eck on flute and whistle and Keith Carr on Bouzouki, banjo and mandolin) and Andrew Dodd (Celtic and Scottish fiddler) [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org)
- Sun. 5/1, 3pm, Lyceum: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - Flute and Harp Delights [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org) Donations accepted
- Sun. 5/1, 3:30, National Gallery of Art West Garden Court: Post Classical Ensemble (contemporary classical/jazz ensemble) premier performance, Daniel Schnyder's Concerto for Pipa (Min Xiao-fen) and Orchestra [www.postclassical.com](http://www.postclassical.com)
- Sun. 5/1, 7pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 4444 Arlington Blvd.: Jack Williams (folk singer/songwriter) [www.jackwilliamsmusic.com](http://www.jackwilliamsmusic.com)
- Tue. 5/3, 8pm, Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium: Yefim Bronfman (piano) Prokofiev: War Sonatas [www.yefimbronfman.com](http://www.yefimbronfman.com)
- Thu. 5/5, 7:30, Lyceum: USAF Band Spring Chamber Series, Clarinet Quartet, An Evening of Music for Clarinet [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)
- Fri., 5/6, 8pm, Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium: Musicians from Marlboro [www.marlbormusic.org](http://www.marlbormusic.org)
- Sat. 5/7, 3pm, Kirkwood Presbyterian Church 8336 Carleigh Pkwy. Springfield, Washington Saxophone Quartet [www.wsaxq.com](http://www.wsaxq.com)
- Sun. 5/8, 3pm, Washington-Lee HS, Arlington: Arlington Philharmonic [www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org](http://www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org)
- Mon. 5/9, 7pm, Bistrot Lepic, 1736 Wisc. Ave. NW, Hot Club of DC (gypsy jazz) [www.hcofdc.com](http://www.hcofdc.com)
- Tue. 5/10, 7pm, Forest Hills Retirement Community, 4901 Conn. Ave. NW: The Mandoleers ensemble [www.mandoleers.org](http://www.mandoleers.org)
- Wed. 5/11, Sehkraft Brewing Co., 925 N. Garfield St. Arlington, Ragtime Annie (bluegrass) [www.sehkraftbrewing.com](http://www.sehkraftbrewing.com) [www.facebook.com/ragtimeannieband/](http://www.facebook.com/ragtimeannieband/)
- Thu. 5/12, 7:30, Lyceum: USAF Band - Evening of Music for Saxophone and Marimba [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)
- Sat. 5/14, 8pm, Schlesinger Hall: American Balalaika Symphony, \$20 advance, \$25 at door, \$15 seniors/students [www.absorchestra.org](http://www.absorchestra.org)



- Sun. 5/15, 3pm, G. W. Masonic National Memorial: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - Music of Dvorak and Suk [www.eclipseco.org](http://www.eclipseco.org)
- Sun. 5/15, 3:30, Falls Church Episcopal, 115 E. Fairfax St: Washington Metropolitan Youth Orchestra and Chamber Orch. [www.wmpmusic.org/young-musicians-wmyo-wmco.html](http://www.wmpmusic.org/young-musicians-wmyo-wmco.html)
- Sun. 5/15, 7:30 Unitarian Universalist Church, Arlington: Martyn Joseph w Ian Foster (folk singers/songwriters) \$15 [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org)
- Wed. 5/18, 7pm, Bistrot Lepic: see Mon. 5/9
- Thu. 5/19, Lyceum: USAF Band - Music for Chamber Winds [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil)
- Thu. 5/26, 8:30, Sehkraft Brewing Co.: King Street Bluegrass [www.kingstreetbluegrass.com](http://www.kingstreetbluegrass.com)
- Fri. 5/27, 5:30, National Gallery Sculpture Garden 7th St. and Constitution Ave. NW; 19th Street Band (old school country/folk) [www.the19thstreetband.com](http://www.the19thstreetband.com)
- Sun. 5/29, 7:30, Bikenetic, 201 W. Jefferson St. Falls Church: The BelleRegards, suggested donation \$20 [www.bellerregards.com](http://www.bellerregards.com)

—Tony Jordan

**ADS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**HOUSE FOR SALE:** Long-time Hollin Hills resident and original owner is looking to sell her two-level home at 7414 Rebecca Drive. If interested, call Mary Ellen Kitchell, at 703-768-2055 or email [mekitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:mekitchell@yahoo.com).

**FREE:** Fellowes brand paper shredder. Still works very well, although a bit noisy and cranky—like the owner. The price is just right—FREE. Contact Paul Bubernak, 703-765-8327

**MEMBERSHIPS, RENEWALS, AND DUES** are due. New membership year begins May 1. (Details on pg. 1)

**HOW ABOUT A TREASURE HUNT ?**



Strolling through Hollin Hill observing our neighbors' gardens, outdoor decorations, and remodeling projects is one of the many pleasures of living here. During his meanderings, Scott Wilson noticed the many ways that street numbers are displayed. His photographs of some of these distinctive markers provide good clues for a local treasure hunt and a strong incentive for taking a walk around the neighborhood (if anyone actually needs an incentive during this beautiful spring weather). Identify the streets where these markers (numbered clockwise from top left) are located and, if you find all nine, send your answers in to [barbshear@verizon.net](mailto:barbshear@verizon.net). Your dog will be grateful for the outing, your kids might even leave their computer games to join the search, and you will enjoy fifteen minutes of well-deserved fame in the June Bulletin.

