

CIVIC
ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP
DRIVE

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

JUNE 2016

IF YOU'RE NOT A CAHH MEMBER, WHY DID WE SEND YOU THIS BULLETIN?

All Hollin Hills households receive the June *Bulletin* during the Civic Association (CAHH) membership drive (currently underway), even if they are not CAHH members. Our goal: remind forgetful members to renew and convince every non-member to join.

Go to www.hollinhills.net to download the membership form or to join online. If you cannot download it, contact Membership Chair Linda Benson at 312-907-1797 for a copy.

Whether you are renewing your membership or joining CAHH for the first time, you can be assured that your membership dues are a good investment. Benefits of membership include:

- a yearly digital subscription to the Bulletin, our community newsletter,
- a current hard copy of the useful HH Directory plus regular electronic updates,
- participation in the July 4th Picnic and Parade, the Oktoberfest, the annual Winter Potluck, and other neighborhood social events.

CAHH dues also help maintain the beauty and cohesive character of our unique, historic community by providing funds for:

- supporting the enforcement of our architectural covenants,
- caring for and maintaining the thirty-three acres of Hollin Hills parks and common areas,
- paying for insurance as well as for the other operating expenses of the Civic Association.

Count them, one, two, three little owlets peering out from a tree in the Bostick's yard on Drury Lane. Earlier, the Bosticks watched one of the parents deliver a delicacy—a succulent, small snake—to its babysitting mate. Animal Planet has nothing on Hollin Hills!



Blair Bostick

GET READY FOR FUN; THE 4TH OF JULY IS COMING!

11am: Fourth of July Parade

Our festive annual parade will set off from the corner of Rebecca and Paul Spring Roads to Voigt Park, our picnic site. Decorate your bikes, wagons, and scooters in red, white and blue, or get out your sneakers and join us! If you don't plan to be a part of the parade, come out along the route and cheer the participants. They'll love you for it! Watch your email during June for instructions on signing up for the parade.

Please note: Paul Spring Road will be closed to cars from 11am until the parade reaches Voigt Park.

12 noon-2pm: Our Annual Picnic

This beloved and long-standing tradition will be back at Voigt Park (corner of Paul Spring Road and Rippon Road, right by the Hollin Hills Pool). Come and meet your neighbors, catch up with old friends, and make new ones at the egg-toss! The Civic Association provides hot dogs, beer, and soda. Each household is asked to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share—enough for eight people.

The Mount Vernon Community Band will entertain us with patriotic music. Pony rides, a bike decorating contest, and our long-standing blueberry bake-off, egg-toss, and three-legged race will provide plenty of fun and excitement.

This is our biggest community event, bringing together new, current, and former members. If you have not yet joined the Civic Association or need to renew your membership, just look for the membership table at the picnic.

Please note: The section of Rippon Road between Drury Lane and Paul Spring Road bordering Voigt Park will be closed from 10am to 3pm, for the picnic.

Lots of help needed before, during, and after

Many hands are needed for a myriad of jobs—set-up, clean-up, judging, and running competitions—so if you are able to help, please look out for the sign-up email in June, or contact Susmita Dastidar at dustbin114@gmail.com or call 703-660-5938. Hope to see you all there!

—Susmita Dastidar, CAHH Social Chair

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 Rigglin	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
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PARKS COMMITTEE

Chair Elisabeth Lardner	765-3023
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HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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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.

Distribution problems:

- If you have not received your digital Bulletin, or to correct/change mail or email address, contact Linda Benson at 312-907-1797 or linda.benson@me.com.
- To replace a missing paper Bulletin, contact Eleanor Fina at 703-768-3174 or etfina@gmail.com.

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 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.HOLLINHILLS.NET

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

Quick Takes

AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

Let's hear it for the Runnels family, Jane, Corey, Zoe, and Sayla, who tirelessly trekked the streets of Hollin Hills to identify the ten distinctive street number signs featured in our May treasure hunt. Although the signs turned out to be fairly close to each other, all in "old" Hollin Hills, the Runnels team still had to walk about two miles to spot all of them. As promised, their prize is fifteen minutes of well-deserved fame in this June Bulletin. The correct answers (and we know you kept your May issue for reference) are: (1) Popkins, (2-5) Martha's, (6) Popkins, (7-8) Stafford, and (9) Martha's. And thanks again to Scott Wilson for taking and submitting the photos.



Rebecca Ryburn

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

• Congratulations and best wishes to Elizabeth Ferrara and Eric Grove, 2204 Popkins, who were married on April 30, in a ceremony on the West Lawn of the Jefferson Memorial. Elizabeth and Eric have been Hollin Hills residents since 2012. —*Lee Ann Kinzer*

• Born to Ed McDermott and Zivar Hallaji of 7219 Stafford Road, a brand new baby boy, Soren Kian McDermott on May 10, at 2:35 in the afternoon, at Inova Fair Oaks. He weighed in at 7lbs 11oz, 21 inches long, with hair! Mom and Dad are doing great, setting things right in the nursery, and planning for his first stroll in the Hills. —*Peter Martz*

• A hearty welcome to John and Tami Perriello at 7405 Rebecca Drive. John is a Fairfax City Public Schools history teacher and Tami works at the Small Business Administration. Children and grandchildren nearby. Contact them at jperriello@msn.com. —*Eleanor Fina*



SOMETHING'S COOKING ON THURSDAYS, BUT IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOU

Watch for the food truck flag on Thursday nights this summer at the Hollin Hills Pool. Thanks to the excellent leadership of Board Members Judy Beelaert and Marielle Reading, a variety of food trucks will park on the Paul Spring side of the pool, 5:30-7:30pm on every Thursday except Opening Day, Saturday, May 28. The schedule through June is: El Fuego (28 May), Rocklands and Captain Cookie (June 2), Red Hook Lobster and Captain Cookie (June 9), Pho Wheels (June 16), California Sliders Co (June 23) and Guapos (June 30). All residents of Hollin Hills are invited to stop by the trucks to enjoy this new HH Pool tradition. —*Barbara Bogue, HH Pool Chair*

PLEASE, NO YARD DEBRIS IN PARKS, PICKUP IS AVAILABLE

In the more than nine years that I've lived in Hollin Hills, there have been numerous pleas in the Bulletin asking homeowners and their hired garden services not to use the parks as their own personal dump sites. Sadly, I've become aware that this is still happening, this time in the Wildlife Sanctuary.

People (or their yard services) continue to ignore this simple request and still dump leaves, limbs, dead bushes, dirt, etc. into the *(continued on page 3)*

Quick Takes *continued*

parks. Although it may seem this should be ok because eventually this material will decay and return to the earth, piles of garden rubbish on our community property are unsightly, and our Hollin Hills parks should not be polluted in that way.

In case you are a newcomer and unaware of this, homeowners get five free yard waste pickups annually (year round) as part of their county services. The only rules are that the piles must be curbside and no more than 12 cubic yards (5 feet x 6 feet x 10 feet). You only need to make a quick phone call or order the pickup online and, just like magic, the piles disappear. This service is in addition to the normal weekly recycling of yard waste.

Why not let your tax dollars go to good use and handle your disposal this way rather than making work for volunteers who may have to clean up after you? Here's the contact information: <https://specialpickup.fairfaxcounty.gov/> or call 703-802-3322. Another helpful link about trash collection is at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/trash-large.htm>

If you use garden/yard services, please tell the workers not to dispose of *anything* in the parks. Offenders will be asked to remove anything they have dumped. Thanks for supporting the parks and helping maintain their natural beauty.

—Pam Williams, a former parks chair

PAUL SPRING PATH ALL SPRUCED UP FOR COMPANY

Many thanks to these folks who brought shovels, rakes, and brooms and worked the weekend before the house tour to clear the footpath along Paul Spring Road of mud and debris: Andrew Crooks and son William, Jo Ann Hersh, Pam and Ken Williams, Bob and Lee Ann Kinzer, Barbara Liggett, and Jamie Agnew. Additional thanks to the three who showed up again on their own at the last minute to be sure the work was complete: David Matthews, and Jo Ann and Jamie, who both came for a second go-round. Your efforts helped Hollin Hills look its very best on its big day.

CALLING ALL FROGS: WHERE ARE YOU?

Lee Ann is monitoring frogs in Paul Spring Park for FrogWatch USA. It's lonely in the woods at night, listening for frogs and not hearing them. I remain optimistic, hoping the evenings are just too chilly. Or, our parks may have frog and toad inhabitants, just not the earlier species.

I'll be out there in the park, listening in June and reporting again. In the meantime, I highly recommend checking out

JG Harrington



One of many stunning interiors on view at the House Tour. See more on page 4.



A MESSAGE FROM GUS

This month, we begin a series of articles (*pg. 7*) about Mid-Century Modern design (MCM) and why Hollin Hills is the way it is. Our neighbor and MCM buff, Michel McGill, leads off with the first of three terrific articles (one per month for three months), about the history and development of this type of architecture and its use in Hollin Hills, and helps explain why we have been designated a National Historic District as a fine example of this design.

Following these, there will be articles about various individual design elements of Hollin Hills houses such as windows, doors, gutters, roof lines, siding, and fences, which we hope will be educational and useful, especially for residents who are thinking of making changes to their properties.

Finally, we hope to have helpful articles about the best and most practical ways of dealing with the sticky issues that grow out of these types of houses. We have some great resources to draw on, and that's what we are going to do.

All of this information will be stored as a library in PDF form on the HollinHills.net website under the Design menu. So go to the website, and watch our library grow. Enjoy!

—Gus Matson, CAHH President

<http://virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/>, the Virginia Herpetological Society website for wonderful photographs and sound files. Don't miss the snakes. Who knew we had such a variety! (I'm not looking for snakes, just finding their portraits interesting.) One closing fact for you: Only the male frogs call. Those smart females are totally silent. Go figure what that means.

—Lee Ann Kinzer

BULLETIN BUSINESS: SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS – COULD THIS BE YOUR LAST BULLETIN?

As usual, there will be no July 1 Bulletin. The next Bulletin will be a combined summer issue that will come out in late July, with a July 10 submissions deadline. Starting with that summer issue, only paid up CAHH members will be eligible to receive the Bulletin. If you haven't sent in your membership dues, this is only one of the many reasons to do so now.

Our regular schedule will resume in September, with an August 15 deadline. Have a good summer!

Katy Fleming



Two of the huge number of volunteers who helped make the event such a success, Liz O'Hare and Susmita Dastidar prepare to register some of the 1300 tour visitors.

THANKS, EVERYONE. TOGETHER, WE DID IT!

After almost a year of planning and an uncountable number of volunteer hours, the 2016 Hollin Hills House & Garden Tour took place Saturday, April 30. The weather gods smiled and it did not rain, allowing more than 1300 people to

On tour day, more than eighty community members acted as docents and manned the registration and sales tables. There could be no tour without these volunteers; for every tour, people step up and donate their time. They become the face of Hollin Hills, and we could not have been better represented.

Finally, we must thank everyone who bought a ticket, or convinced someone else to buy a ticket. To all of our supporters, you gave us the financial ability and flexibility to plan and execute the tour. The community looked great, gardens and lawns were trimmed, and garden clippings and other debris magically disappeared from curbs and driveways.

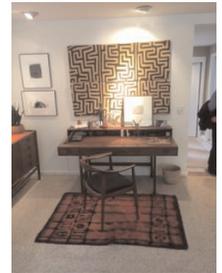
In sum, thank you all for supporting the tour and showcasing the spirit that makes this community so special.

*Tyger Latham and Barbara Ward
Co-chairs,
2016 Tour*

enjoy our community, its homes and its gardens. And, while the weather gods helped, we must really thank the many community members who contributed their time, hard work, talent, and money to make the tour a success.

The tour simply would not have been possible without the tour committee's unstinting efforts. They left no task undone, raising money to pay for expenses, creating an outstanding brochure, organizing the ticket sales and tour day registration, identifying docents, keeping track of expenses and income, and creating and maintaining a webpage, facebook page, and social media. They gave unstintingly of themselves and the seamless conduct of the tour reflected their efforts.

A dozen homeowners opened their homes and gardens, providing the public with stunning examples of what draws us all to Hollin Hills. As the day ended, we began asking tour goers about their favorites. There was no favorite—every home or garden had its proponents who gushed with appreciation. We cannot thank these homeowners enough for taking the leap and believing that, in the end, they would have a good time on tour day.



JG Harrington



A few of the countless visual delights that greeted our visitors.

...AND A HUGE THANK YOU IN RETURN

Barbara Ward and Tyger Latham did a truly superb job as co-chairs of this year's House & Garden Tour, and for every gracious thank you they expressed above,



Barbara Bogue insists this is a picture of our co-chairs at the end of the tour. It doesn't show their faces, so we can't be sure, but it looks accurate.

we owe them a huge return vote of thanks. For months, they worked tirelessly behind the scene on every phase of the preparations, supporting and advising an army of helpers. They used their considerable organizational skills to make sure that all those volunteers could do their jobs well and would actually enjoy themselves doing it. The tour was a success because of an impressive group effort, but that group effort would not have been possible without the tremendous job done by Tyger and Barbara. Thank you from a grateful community.

OUR PARKS: MAKING A MANAGEMENT PLAN

A group of interested 'parkers' met with Jim McGlone from the Virginia Department of Forestry on May 9 to begin discussions on generating a plan for our 33 plus acres of woodlands and stream valleys.

You can walk our parks with an expert

The next step toward writing our management plan is to walk our woods with Jim, our state forester. We will walk three to four parks on Saturday, June, 4, starting at 9am and continuing until about 1pm. Anyone interested in the future of our parks is invited to participate. The group will meet at my house, 2200 Martha's Road,

and we will start our walk in Goodman Park. Please let me know if you plan to come, so that I can contact you in case of any changes.

Planning for achievable goals

Jim McGlone's guidance will form the backbone of a plan to move forward in caring and stewarding our common lands. We plan to supplement his plan with information from Fairfax County's stormwater division along with other resources. Our intent is to create a parks management plan, with specified (and achievable—the list is daunting!) actions for each of our seven parks. Recommended actions will be tied to *(Continued on page 5)*



Our Parks *from page 4*

costs, and a budget and plan for implementation will be developed. The goal of the Parks Committee is to have this document in hand this fall.

Volunteers play a vital and varied role

Thanks again to the sturdy volunteers who shoveled, swept and blew the paved path clean along Paul Spring Road. We all are beneficiaries of their time and effort. The Parks Committee is always looking for such wonderful volunteers, for small projects, for warden duties, for trail maintenance.

COUNTY REAL ESTATE TAXES AND OUR ENVIRONMENT

I got a bill the other day from Fairfax County, saying that I owed an extra \$97.75 for last year's real estate taxes, without explanation. A second letter arrived soon after, explaining that the new charge was for a "supplemental leaf collection tax," and that it shouldn't have been levied for last year, but that it definitely would be levied for this year. I was mystified by the leaf-collection part of this, but I did learn a lot about what's included in our real estate taxes.

Calculating the assessment

Most of the total was the usual per valorem charge, at the rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value of our property. Hard to object to this, since that's the county's primary source of tax revenue, and we need some method to pay for our schools and police and firemen. The Board of Supervisors has been notoriously shy about any proposal that can be characterized as "new taxes," and they've only recently gotten past the \$1-per-\$100 threshold, for which I suppose they should be congratulated. On the other hand, this tax system makes the county's revenues dependent on the number and value of residential housing units, which provides an incentive to approve new construction projects in areas that might better be left green. It also puts our elected officials in league with our unelected developers, who are always ready to build a 4,000-square-foot center-hall colonial on any quarter-acre of "empty" land, in any neighborhood, without regard to broader impacts. This in addition to the fact that developers make generous campaign contributions.

Stormwater Tax

Two other items on the real estate tax bill are also based on the value of our property. The first, described as a "stormwater tax," is charged at the rate of 2.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value. That used to be a penny per hundred, dedicated solely to building new stormwater infrastructure. Hard to object to that, either; in fact, it should be higher—or better spent. In recent years, the county has started paying for other public works projects and overhead with this money. Even with 2.5 times the revenue, there never seems to be enough to pay for the promised stream restoration work in Goodman and Brickelmaier Parks. (More on that next month.)

The other per valorem levy is an "infestation prevention tax," charged at the rate of one-tenth of one cent per \$100 of assessed value. This thin revenue stream pays for two valuable pest management programs—one against forest pests (gypsy moth, cankerworm, etc.) and the other against disease-carrying insects (mosquitoes and ticks that spread West Nile virus, Lyme disease, and now Zika virus). Again, hard to object to that.

Outstanding issues: stormwater runoff, erosion

The broken lateral sewer line in Goodman Park is no longer broken. Through the concerted effort of CAHH President Gus Matson and the affected homeowner, it was fixed and is being stabilized. This is an example of one of the outstanding issues that must be addressed prior to getting back in the County's queue to restart discussions of what can be done to solve Goodman Park's stormwater runoff and subsequent erosion. We're getting there.

Thank you,
Elisabeth Lardner, Parks Chair
 703-765-3023, elbardner@aol.com

Refuse Fee

Surprisingly, however, the second-largest item on the real estate tax bill is a \$690 "refuse fee," which is imposed on a per-household basis. That's probably fair—an affluent household may consume more "stuff" than a more modest household, but it doesn't necessarily generate more refuse (except packaging, and most of that recycles). And we certainly get our money's worth for this fee. The county collects all of our refuse and takes it away to an incinerator. The county also collects our recyclables, taking them to a receiving station where they are sorted and sent off to be turned into new paper, plastic, glass, and metal products. The county even sends a separate truck each week to pick up our yard waste, which gets recycled into potting soil. And if you call ahead, you can arrange for a special pickup for bulk items (sofas, refrigerators) or extra-large brush piles.

Supplemental leaf collection

With all of this picking up and taking away already going on, why did the county think I needed "supplemental leaf collection"? I don't even give the county my grass clippings, and my leaves all go into the compost pile. I encourage my neighbors and my readers to do the same thing—all that organic matter is just too valuable a resource to merely throw it away. So what happened?

It turns out that leaf collection, like refuse collection, is subject to a petition process. Long, long ago, when we first asked the county to collect our trash, it required 55 percent of at least 50 contiguous residents to create a new Solid Waste Collection District. Once that district is created, however, you can add vacuum leaf collection with only 50 percent of 50 contiguous property owners. I do remember someone coming around with a petition, a year or two ago, but I also remember saying no, and assuming that my neighbors would also say no, and giving it no further thought. Surprise!

The map that appeared on the Hollin Hills Forum shows 160 houses in the new district. That means I now find myself in a local area where at least 81 of my neighbors think it's a good idea to pay \$97.75—that's over seven weeks' worth of refuse fees—to have a vacuum truck come around a couple of times to suck up leaves that have been pushed to the curb, instead of put into the compost bin. I clearly have work to do. As a result, my neighbors and my readers can expect to hear more in coming months about grass-cycling and leaf-shredding, including the quadrennial reprint of "An Easy Compost Bin." But next month, stream restoration in the parks.

—Paul B. Phelps



DESIGN REVIEW

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on Wednesday, May 11, 2016, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members present included Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, John Nolan and Ken Wilson. They reviewed and approved the following projects at the meeting:

- **7424 Rebecca Drive, Olivia Paek & William Heaton:** Replace exterior patio sliding doors with bi-fold, clear glass doors. The committee indicated to the homeowners that structural modifications to the existing house will be required to support their desired large folding door. It also noted that the modifications could have a negative impact on the exterior of the house if not completed properly.
- **2306 Kimbro Street, Jaelith & David Rivera:** Build two wooden patios and a fire pit at front of the home.
- **7213 Beechwood Road, Teresa Bosch:** Modifications to rear exterior of home – moving an existing door and floor-to-ceiling window to left side of back of the house.

The committee also discussed plans to install new siding on the front of the home at 1933 Martha's Road. The DRC is currently

working with the homeowners, Patty Komara and Kerry Himes, and their neighbors to achieve an outcome that meets the needs of all parties.

Between the April and the May meetings, the DRC completed administrative review and approved the following projects:

- **2406 Nordok Place, 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.
- **2404 Nordok Place, Chris Gentile:** Replace portion of front gravel walkway with pavers.
- **1927 Martha's Road, Robert Jordan:** Install decking over existing front door concrete slab and a wooden screen to mask utility meters on side of home.

The next DRC meeting will be on Wednesday, June 8, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Regional Library (2501 Sherwood Hall Ln, Alexandria, VA 22306) in Conference Room #3.

MUSIC MAN

Most musical events have moved out of doors. Check with venues in case of inclement weather. Free unless otherwise indicated, although contributions are accepted and sometimes expected. I've listed some events from the Fairfax County Summer Entertainment Series. For more complete listing, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/

- Wed, 6/1, 6:30pm, Vienna Town Green 144 Maple Ave., Vienna: Navy Commodores (big band bazz) www.navyband.navy.mil
- Sun., 6/5, 11am-1pm, Durant Arts Center 1605 Cameron St., Alexandria: Provazek Quartet (string quartet) Bagels and Bach (light brunch served) \$10 residents, \$15 non-residents, under 5 free. <http://m.provazek-quartet.com/>
- Sun. 6/5, 3pm, Convergence 1801 N. Quaker Ln. Alexandria: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic - "A Taste of Italy" Polina Nazaykinskaya: Winter Bells, Vivaldi: "Summer" from Four Seasons, Berlioz: Harold in Italy op. 16. \$20, 18 and under free www.wmpamusic.org/
- Sun. 6/5, 7-8:30pm, Fort Hunt Park: The Mandoleers (mandolin ensemble) www.mandoleers.org
- Mon. 6/6, 7pm, Bistrot Lepic, 1736 Wisc. Ave, DC: Hot Club of DC (gypsy jazz) www.hcofdc.com
- Fri. 6/10, 7:30pm, Grist Mill Park: Rick Franklin & His Delta Blues Boys (piedmont blues) www.hokumb blues.com
- Fri. 6/10, 7:30, Air Force Memorial Arlington: Airmen of Note (big band jazz) www.usafbnd.af.mil
- Sun. 6/12, 4pm, Bay Marina Pavilion Woodbridge: U S Army Blues (big band jazz) www.usarmyband.com
- Wed. 6/15, 7:30pm, Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike Annandale: The Grandsons (root rock/rockabilly) www.grandsons.com
- Fri. 6/17, 5:30-8:30pm, National Gallery Sculpture Garden on the Mall: Chaise Lounge (jazz) www.chaiseloungenation.com/
- Fri. 6/17, 7:30-9:30pm, Hollin Hall Senior Center: Mt. Vernon

Swing Band Dance Party \$4, www.mvbands.com

- Sat. 6/18, 8pm, Lubber Run Amphitheater: Elikeh (Afro-pop) www.elikeh.net
- Sun. 6/19, 3pm, Lyceum: Karl Hovey's Brass Quintet, Dukas, Rimsky-Korsakov, Mozart, Bach, Bernstein, and others
- Wed. 6/22, 7:30pm, Lee District Park: The Pietasters (ska/reggae) www.thepietasters.com
- Sat. 6/25, 7pm, Workhouse Arts Center: US Army Blues (big band bazz) www.usarmyband.com
- Sun. 6/26, 6-7pm, Lubber Run Amphitheater: Arlington Philharmonic - Pops for Pets www.arlingtonphilharmonic.org
- Sun. 6/26, 7pm, GW Masonic Memorial: Bill Staines plus Lynn Hollyfield (folk music) \$15 advance, \$18 at door <http://www.acousticmusic.com/staines/>, www.lynnhollyfield.com
- Fri. 7/1, 8pm, Lubber Run Amphitheater: By & By (bluegrass) www.byandbybluegrass.com
- Sun. 7/3, 3pm, Lyceum: Christopher Schmitt (piano), Mozart, Beethoven, Scriabin and Prokofiev www.christopherschmitt.org
- Fri. 7/8, 7:30pm, Grist Mill Park: Craver, Hicks, Watson, Newberry (old time strings) www.craverhickswatsonnewberry.com
- Sat. 7/9, 6-10pm, Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Alexandria: Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, concludes with fireworks USA/Alexandria Birthday Celebration www.alexsym.org
- Wed. 7/13, 7:30pm, Mason District Park: Alexandria Kleztet (jazz/klezmer) www.kleztet.com/
- Fri. 7/15, 7:30-9:30pm, Hollin Hall Senior Center: Mt. Vernon Swing Band Dance Party \$4, www.mvbands.com
- Fri. 7/15, 7:30 Lake Accotink Park, Springfield: Billy Coulter (roots rock) www.billycoulter.com
- Sun. 7/17, 7:30pm, Mason District Park - The Capitol Steps (political satirical review) www.capitolsteps.com



—Tony Jordan

WHAT IS mid-century modern? PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

How did Charles Goodman come to design the homes in Hollin Hills in the 'Mid-Century Modern' style? The following articles attempt to answer that question in three parts. First, what is Modern Architecture? Second, how did World War Two create the technological and financial conditions that facilitated meeting the enormous demand for housing generated over the previous 15 years, including units designed in the Mid-Century Modern style? And third, what architectural influences shaped Charles Goodman's work?

THE BIRTH OF THE MODERN MOVEMENT

The Modern movement in architecture stems from dramatic changes that occurred in politics, science, technology, and culture in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In Europe, the 'Revolution(s) of 1848' represented a challenge to nations being led by monarchs, while in America the Civil War is often considered to be the 'second American Revolution'. The seeds sown by the first American Revolution were growing, both here and abroad, promoting the concept of a broadly defined electorate choosing its own form of government and leaders.

In science and technology, the Industrial Age was in full swing, funding and encouraging a wide variety of inventions and discoveries. Electricity, the telephone and telegraph, extending railroads to link entire continents, elevators, street cars, the automobile, and great advances in medicine and science all combined to speed up the pace of life and make it more challenging and interesting.

These developments induced cultural change. Picasso in painting, Stravinsky in music, and T.S. Eliot and James Joyce in literature all came to prominence early in the 20th century.

A general attitude was gradually emerging that advances in science and technology could make mankind perfectible in a new age, and that the habits, traditions, and styles of the past were no longer relevant. The horror and savagery of World War I intensified this attitude, adding urgency to finding ways to truly make this conflict 'the war to end all wars'.

In architecture, the Victorian style was coming to an end, with architects rejecting its imitation of past styles such as neo-Gothic, its practice of designing the highly decorative exterior of a building first and adjusting the interior to fit, and its cramped interior spaces filled with bric a brac. Noted leaders in the field of design offered pithy quotes to advocate their cause: "Have nothing in your home that you do not know to be useful or believe to be beautiful." *William Morris, England*; "Form follows function." *Louis Sullivan, America*; "Ornament is crime." *Adolf Loos, Austria*; "A house is a machine for living." *Le Corbusier, France*; and "Less is more." *Mies van der Rohe, Germany*.

Two distinct movements emerged from this dramatic break with the past, Arts & Crafts, and the International Style. They began from entirely different philosophies but gradually over time they began to blend together. They both rejected the architecture of the past.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Arts & Crafts originated in Great Britain, with philosopher John Ruskin as its major theorist. William Morris in England and Gustave Stickley in the United States carried it forward into architecture and interior furnishings in a style Stickley referred to as Craftsman.

Rebelling against the Machine Age, Arts & Crafts focused on the value of individually crafted items, the use of natural materials, and simple decorative themes that mimicked nature. The finest example of a Craftsman home in America is the Gamble House in Pasadena, CA, designed by the Greene brothers. (*continue on page 8*)

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Gamble House,
Pasadena, CA
(Greene &
Greene, 1908)



WHAT IS
mid-century
modern? *continued*

Sears, Roebuck Kit Bungalow



While this was a large, luxurious home designed as the winter retreat for one of the founders of Proctor & Gamble, the style also resulted in the widespread development of small, affordable bungalows, with wood exteriors, low pitched roofs, large porches and gables on the outside, and large public rooms combining living and dining rooms, libraries and music rooms on the inside. Sears, Roebuck even offered a Craftsman kit house in its mail order catalogue.

One of the foremost practitioners of this style, at least early in his career, was Frank Lloyd Wright, whose Prairie Houses in the Midwest demonstrated his own brilliant adaptations of the Arts & Crafts movement.

International Style

The International Style represented a much more revolutionary break with the past. It embraced the Machine Age, promoting the use of innovations in manufacturing to create austere rectangular boxes made of metal and stucco, with large walls of windows, the absence of any decoration whatsoever, and flat roofs.

Many of the foremost practitioners of this style in the United States were Europeans who were initially inspired by the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright, but gravitated to the more bold departures from the past designed by Le Corbusier in France and the Bauhaus in Germany. These architects came to America in some cases to work with Wright, but also to escape the economic hardships following World War I and the depredations of Nazi Germany leading up to World War II.

Among the foremost pioneers of the International Style in the United States, Richard Neutra excelled in residential design, while Mies van der Rohe and Marcel Breuer were among the leaders in a wide variety of building types.

As will be seen in future articles, these two distinct styles of architecture blended together and combined with the dramatic changes that occurred as a result of World War II to usher in Mid Century Modernism. Architect Charles Goodman drew upon each of these styles to design the distinctive homes in Hollin Hills.

—*Michael S. McGill*

Next: The impact of World War II on housing in America



Villa Savoye, Poissy, France (Le Corbusier, 1931)