

DECEMBER 2014

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN



CAHH MEETING, ELECTION ON DECEMBER 3

The fall membership meeting of the Civic Association of Hollin Hills will be held on Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 7:30pm, in the cafeteria of the Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place.

There will be several significant matters for the membership to consider and vote upon, including election of new CAHH

Board members and officers and approval of the proposed 2015 calendar year budget.

Your attendance is strongly encouraged to ensure a good turnout. **If no member of your household can be present, please print out and submit the proxy/absentee ballot that accompanies this Bulletin.**

The proposed agenda includes:

- Guest Speaker: MPO Robert Urps, the Crime Prevention Officer for the Mount

Vernon District Station

- CAHH treasurer's report
- Vote on proposed 2015 CAHH budget (see page 5).
- Litigation update concerning 7305 Rebecca Drive
- Election of new Board members
- Thank you to outgoing Board members Judy Beelaert, Debbie Burns, Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Ron McCallum, and David Rivera and welcome to newly elected members.

GET IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT WITH COMMUNITY CAROLING

This year's edition of Hollin Hills' annual carol sing will take place on December 21, the Sunday evening before Christmas, starting at 5:30. As in years past, it will be held in McCalley Park, on the corner of Paul Spring and Rippon Roads (across from the site of the Fourth of July picnic).

Santa Claus promises to make a visit, and his elves are busy making cookies and brewing hot cider, as well. Bring the

whole family, and remember to bring a flashlight, too, so you can read the song sheets that will be provided for those of us whose memory for lyrics fails after the first "fa-la-la-la-lah."

The Totaro family has once again graciously agreed to coordinate this event, and would appreciate some help setting up on Sunday afternoon. It will probably take no more than 30-45 minutes. Or, some

cookies from your holiday baking project would be appreciated for the refreshment table. If you are willing to lend a hand, please contact Paige Totaro at paigeconnertotaro@gmail.com.



ASKING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE HOLLIN HILLS ARCHIVES

Please donate now to support the Hollin Hills Archives at George Mason University Libraries. It's good for your community and completely tax-deductible!

What are the Hollin Hills Archives?

In 2013, about 40 boxes of historical materials covering nearly 60 years of our community's life were donated to the Planned Communities Special Collections of George Mason University's Fenwick Library. They are available for both public and academic research. Materials are being processed and eventually much will be digitalized.

Also, Hollin Hills materials continue to be collected for the archives by Judy Riggan.

She will soon move this year's new items to GMU's library. Among them are: the AIA "Test of Time" award plaque given to our community in 1981, records of the HH cookbook done for our 50th anniversary, working files for the 2012 Home & Garden Tour, and three 1968 Hollin Meadows Swim and Tennis Club trophies created by well-known Hollin Hills potter Solveig Cox.

How does a donation help?

Our donations help to hire part-time library staff whose only task is to examine, curate, and catalog HH materials. It's that simple—our donations speed up processing and thus improve access to the HH collection.

How do you donate?

- **Mail a check**, made out to George Mason University Foundations, Inc., with a notation for "Hollin Hills Archives—Library Fund," to Kathleen Kehoe, Director of Development for University Libraries, 4400 University Dr., MS 2FL, Fairfax, VA, 22030. Include your name/address so the gift can be acknowledged.
- **Contribute online** at www.gmufoundation.org Write "Hollin Hills Archives—Library Fund" in the blank after "Other Established Funds."
- **To pay by credit card**, call Kathleen Kehoe, 703-993-8740.

—Judy Riggan, HH Archivist

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 -Open-	

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 Frank Collins	660-6525
Christine Kelly	768-2497
Roger Miller	768-2095
Patrick Kelly, CAHH Liaison	768-2497
HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE	
Chair Rebecca Bostick	768-2240
PARKS COMMITTEE	
Chair -Open-	

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.

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.

REPRISING THE GOODMAN TRADITION

Modern, sustainable, affordable architecture—in rural Alabama

Charles Goodman and Robert Davenport established a neighborhood of modern, sustainable, affordable homes in Hollin Hills. They minimized the required grading, retained many trees, utilized innovative construction techniques and recycled materials, and designed homes to take advantage of passive heating and cooling.

How can budding architects be trained and motivated to undertake similar projects? University schools of architecture are establishing innovative work/ study programs for their students. My alma mater, the University of Kansas, is doing this through Studio 804, which selects a project annually for graduate students to design and build. It has produced five consecutive LEED-certified buildings.

Even more ambitious is the Rural Studio of Auburn University, which Mary and I visited in November. This program places undergraduate architecture students in a residential lab in Hale County, Alabama, one of the poorest counties in the country with a 30% poverty rate and 1400 substandard buildings.

Headquartered in the tiny village of Newbern, occupying and working out of donated buildings, the Rural Studio, since its 1993 founding, has taken on 150 projects within a 25-mile radius. Its students also help maintain the headquarters facility, grow crops for their own consumption, design and build residential pods for their housing, and eat their meals together, much as Frank Lloyd Wright had his students do at Taliesin in Wisconsin and Taliesin West in Arizona.

The Rural Studio utilizes third-year students for one semester, and organizes fifth-year students into four-student teams, who spend their last year—and longer if necessary—designing, fund raising, and building a variety of projects with expert oversight and some donated labor and materials. They often do the hard physical labor themselves, including pouring slab foundations, framing, roofing, and installing building systems, fit out,

and finishes. They use recycled materials such as hay bales, steel drums, and used tires, and experiment with new construction methods.

We toured examples of their work—a town hall, a fire house, and the conversion of an abandoned building into a library, in tiny Newbern. In nearby Greensboro, they revitalized a regional park with lighted ball fields, a skateboarding area, a playground, a Boys & Girls Club building, and a Boy Scouts assembly hall. These are community projects, done for and with local residents.

They also are building housing for the rural poor in close cooperation with those who will live in these houses. Their goal is to build a house for \$20,000. This approach includes the liberal use of recycled materials and sufficient ventilation to eliminate the need for air conditioning. While they have not yet met their cost target, they have succeeded in creating scores of very affordable homes.

Not all of the work of the Rural Studio is as polished or uniformly modern as something by Charles Goodman, but some of it is—and all of it is very impressive.

—Michael S. McGill
 (To learn more about the Rural Studio go to www.ruralstudio.org.)



Town hall and firehouse in Newbern, Alabama, two Rural Studio projects. (Photos by Mary McGill)

Quick Takes

LOOKING AHEAD TO OUR 20TH WINTER POTLUCK PARTY

For nineteen years, Hollin Hills has chased away the winter doldrums with our annual Winter Potluck. This year's twentieth installment is scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 5-7 pm, at historic Hollin Hall of the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

An appetizer party replaces the lasagna dinner that was part of earlier potlucks. This more casual format allows everyone to mingle more easily. It was tried for the first time last year and met with the enthusiastic approval of those who attended.

Each household will be asked to bring an appetizer to share, and drinks will be provided by the Civic Association.

Be sure to mark your new 2015 calendars with the date for this mid-winter gathering with your friends and neighbors.

HH ARTISTS AT THE ART LEAGUE

Congratulations to Michelle Rogers and Joe Schuster, who had work exhibited in the Art League galleries at the Torpedo Factory for the month of November.

Photographer Michelle Rogers' unique

arrangements of silver gelatin prints, "Le Temps Retrouvé/ Revisiting the Past," were featured in the gallery room devoted to one-person shows.

Joe Schuster was awarded Honorable Mention for his beautifully executed watercolor, "Simple Gifts," part of the "Small Works" show in the League's larger gallery space.

Many Hollin Hills artists and art lovers attended the joint opening reception of the two shows on November 13.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

- Chris Morrison and Bob Varela have purchased the house at 7801 Davenport, formerly owned by Betty Glazer, who passed away last winter. They recently retired, and have moved from Argyle Drive, off Russell Road. They have always loved Hollin Hills, Bob having been born and raised in Belle Haven. —*Sarah Stromeyer*

- The Mitchell family, Kenneth, Alicia and teen daughter, Mackenzie, moved into 7405 Recard Lane the week before Thanksgiving. Mackenzie attends school in



Mary Tracy

At the opening of the Art League shows (l-r): Miguel Martins, Hiro, Michelle Rogers, Mae Pouget, and Alex Infingardi.

DC. The Mitchells formerly lived at Bowling Air Force Base. We welcome them & wish them a happy life in our community. —*JoAnn Hersh*

- A belated welcome to Christabel and Patrick Methot, who moved to Martha's Road several months ago. They are from southern California but lived in Korea prior to moving here with their two dachshunds, Franky and Waffles. Patrick is a civil servant and Christabel is a fundraiser. Attracted to Hollin Hills by the beauty of indoor/outdoor living and the peaceful and creative vibe of the neighborhood, they feel happy to be part of it now.



PLANNING, ZONING, TRANSPORTATION: FITTING THE PIECES TOGETHER

The Planning & Zoning and Transportation Committees of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA) met jointly on November 3. Hollin Hills residents Burt Kronstedt and Becki Brady attended and filed the following reports.

Transportation on Route 1

The two committees considered a joint resolution on the Route 1/Richmond Highway Multi-modal Analysis Study. The resolution, which urges state support for the \$4 million necessary to complete Phase 2 of the study, also seeks an earlier construction completion date of the recommended hybrid transit solution. The resolution was amended to separate these two objectives. A new draft related to the construction completion date of the study's "preferred option" of an extension of the Yellow Line metro and dedicated bus lanes and bike/pedestrian paths along the Route 1 corridor, will be considered at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Other Transportation Issues

The transportation Committee also discussed VDOT proposed changes to a Mt. Vernon Highway intersection to improve driver view of northbound traffic coming from the right. Currently, the merge from Old Mt. Vernon Rd is at an acute angle. The remedy will be to utilize a stub road with a stop sign and then a left hand turn, thereby improving visibility. The Committee also discussed the need for better design and/or traffic control at Mt. Vernon Circle as a consequence of increased traffic to/from Ft. Belvoir combined with tourist crosswalks.

Of continuing interest to the Committee are the projects to be funded from the \$100 million bond authorization passed by referendum on November 4. There are specific funds to be allocated for bike trails. Currently the Fort Hunt Road corridor is not on the list of identified needs. Interested cyclists should make known their support of adding bike paths to the master list.

—*Becki Brady, Transportation Committee*

Day Care Center Proposal

New construction is proposed by the New Morning Star Day Care on Richmond Highway (Rte. 1), near Woodlawn Shopping Center. The facility, important to Ft. Belvoir families, would operate Monday-Friday, 7am-11pm, in two shifts, with 80 children per shift. The Transportation Committee members expressed numerous concerns over the traffic pattern envisioned by the day care center developer and recommended further review.

Sale of Collingwood Property

The Collingwood Library and Museum is an historic facility off the GW Parkway on land once owned by George Washington. Due to financial difficulties, Collingwood proposes to sell some land sloping down toward the Potomac. At the base of the hill, there are also several 40-60 year old homes facing the Potomac that are not easily seen from the Collingwood Estate. Because of its topography, it would be feasible to build only one large house on the proposed site.

—*Burt Kronstedt, Planning & Zoning*

DESIGN REVIEW

The Design Review Committee met November 12 with the following members present: John Burns, Frank Collins, Christine Kelly, and Roger Miller. Ken Wilson was unable to attend.

The DRC welcomed two new members, John Burns and Ken Wilson, who were approved by the CAHH Board in October. Their addition fills the position held by the departing DRC chair, Mike McGill, and an open position on the committee. The members chose Frank Collins as the new DRC chair replacing Mike McGill.

The following actions were taken:

- **Katie Fleming, 7217 Stafford Road**, requested approval for a new carport. A decision on the project was deferred until the December meeting so that additional information could be acquired and a site visit made by committee members.
- **Friederike Ahrens, 2106 Marthas Road**, received unanimous approval to replace seven windows on the back of her home with insulated glass and to move the location of the rear door to the middle of the bank of windows.

—Patrick Kelly

MUSIC MAN

The holidays are upon us with a variety of musical events. The following suggestions are mostly free or low cost.

- **Wed., 12/3, 7pm**, St. Elmo's Coffee Pub 2300 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria: Rob Williams (folksinger/songwriter), www.robwilliamsacoustic.com
- **Sat., 12/6, 2pm**, Lisner Auditorium NW: Christmas Revels (traditional Celtic and Renaissance song and dance) \$18 - \$50, Youth (18 and under) \$12-\$32, www.revelsdc.org
- **Sun., 12/7, 3pm**, Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Ln. Alexandria: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic, Holst Christmas Day, Ralph Vaughan-Williams Five Mystical Songs w/NOVA Community Chorus, Schnittke Holiday Songs, Adults \$20, 18 and under free, www.wmpamusic.org
- **Sun., 12/7, 3pm**, Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - Bach, Telemann, Vivaldi. www.eclipseco.org
- **Tues., 12/9, 6pm**, Millennium Stage Kennedy Center, U.S. Army Blues: Ellington/Strayhorn Nutcracker Suite, other holiday favorites, www.usarmyband.com
- **Tues., 12/9, 7:30pm** Pendleton Hall Episcopal H.S. 1200 N. Quaker Ln. Alexandria: National Chamber Players, Vivaldi, Bach, Buxtehude, www.episcopalhighschool.org/arts/ncp_ehs/index.aspx
- **Thurs., 12/11, 7:30 - 9:30pm**, Metro 29

Diner, 4711 Lee Hwy., Arlington: Bob Gibson Big Band, Christmas Party with vocalist Maureen McDonnell, www.bobgibsonbigband.com

- **Sat. 12/13, 7pm**, George Washington Masonic Memorial Theater, Alexandria :Virginia Chamber Orchestra featuring Vivaldi: Gloria www.virginiachamberorchestra.org
- **Sun., 12/14, 2 & 4pm**, Lyceum Alexandria, Colonial English Handbell Ringers Recital www.colonialringers.com
- **Fri., 12/19, 6pm**, Millennium Stage Kennedy Center: U.S. Army Blues, A Stan Kenton Christmas www.usarmyband.com
- **Sun., 12/21, 3:30 - 5pm**, National Gallery of Art, 6th & Constitution Ave. NW: Alexandria Klezmer: Hanukkah Concert www.klezmer.com
- **Sat., 12/27, 8-10pm**, St Elmo's Coffee Pub: - Rick "The Wizard" Eldridge (Jazz/Blues) www.stelmoscoffeepub.com
- **Wed., 12/31, 7pm-Midnight**, Old Town Alexandria, various venues: First Night Alexandria: classical, folk, blues, jazz, ethnicmusic, dance, comedy, storytelling, food & drink. Fireworks on the river at midnight. Multi venue pass \$15 purchased before Dec. 18 12 and under free www.firstnightalexandria.org

Bundle up, get out and enjoy some live music of the season!

—Tony Jordan

BOOK REVIEW

The Hollin Hills book group met at Barbara Katz's home in October to discuss *Washington: A Life*, by Ron Chernow. Chernow drew on George Washington's hand-written records, maps, and images, as well as other letters and papers from the *Papers of George Washington*, made available by a University of Virginia research project that began in 1968.

Chernow's 800+ page book traces in great detail the life of Washington from his early years through his two terms as the first U. S. President. We found the book to be very interesting and well worth reading, if maybe thorough to a fault.

Washington hoped to become well-educated; however, he had to go to work due to his father's early death. He turned to surveying, which took him into new territory. He later chose the military for his career, before entering public life. He often led men without shoes, freezing in winter, and losing a number of battles. Washington's mother was a cranky, difficult person, very critical of her son. Despite this, he dutifully supported her until her death.

Although he acquired a very large amount of land, eventually amassing hundreds of acres in Fairfax County & Alexandria, Washington was always hard up for money. Martha Washington, a widow with children when she and George married, was a very supportive wife, leaving Mount Vernon to live with him and entertain often in cramped quarters after he was president. Martha was a help-mate, loyal wife, and well-liked hostess. She and George had no children. The Washingtons had many slaves and worked them hard. Martha was pro-slavery, but George supported the eventual freeing of his slaves. They both seemed to have no understanding of why their slaves would want to be freed.

Washington had something of an inferiority complex, partly due to his lack of formal education. He was also very vain and strove to "keep up appearances," for example, ordering "fancy" clothing from England, specifying the number and size of pleats in his jacket lapels. He had quite an "eye for the ladies," enjoyed their company, and loved dancing. He was very sensitive about his appearance, especially his lack of teeth. Washington is usually idealized and idolized, but Chernow includes his weaknesses and failures. Thus, we see him as a human being, as well as a man with many strengths and abilities. As the first U.S. president, Washington was able to establish the new country as a union, despite the presence of many factions. He was a very wise president, learning as he led and he strengthened this new country.

—Barbara Katz

Because of space limitations, the November review will appear next month.

RECOMMENDED

LEAVES / LAWN SERVICE: Looking for reliable, fair/low priced, and honest folks to pick up your leaves or any other type of lawn service? I highly recommend David Krause Lawn Care. They cut our grass and tended to our yard all summer and just picked up our 10 million leaves.

Competitive rates for raking and bagging. Call 703-347-9881. Tell them Michelle sent you! —Michelle Mattox

CLASSIFIED

FOSTER HOME NEEDED: Temporary home for 2 beautiful laid-back Himalayan cats starting in January. Cats now with HH foster who might move. Also seeking separate adoptive homes for two other lovable cats. Call Wendy Kilpatrick, 703-765-7163

PROPOSED 2015 BUDGET

	2014 Budget	2014 Actual ¹	2015 Proposed
INCOME			
Book Sales	\$300	\$1,459	\$300
Bulletin Subscriptions	\$1,250	\$1,438	\$1,250
Donations: Parks	\$2,400	\$3,088	\$2,500
Dues	\$39,000	\$41,274	\$40,625
Home Tour	\$27,000	\$28,903	\$0
July 4 Picnic	\$0	\$256	\$150
Mdse Sales	\$100	\$416	\$0
Oktoberfest	\$630	\$659	\$650
Reimbursed Insurance	\$6,400	\$5,983	\$7145
Total Income	\$77,080	\$83,476	\$52,620
EXPENSES			
Administrative	\$1,585	\$1,268	\$1,060
Dues & Subscriptions	\$90	\$0	\$90
Insurance	\$16,028	\$14,796	\$15,530
Legal & Professional Fees	\$2,000	\$3,351	\$2,000 ²
Parks Maintenance	\$22,400	\$21,493	\$22,900
Printing	\$2,747	\$2,286	\$1,180
Rent or Lease	\$1,604	\$1,427	\$1,650
Social Events			
<i>Biannual Membership Meetings</i>	\$0	\$21	\$0
<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	\$300	\$0	\$0
<i>Holiday Caroling</i>	\$200	\$0	\$75
<i>Home Tour Costs</i>	\$9,000	\$6,938	\$0
<i>July 4 Picnic</i>	\$4,500	\$3,744	\$3,775
<i>Newcomer Event</i>	\$0	\$238	\$250
<i>Oktoberfest</i>	\$4,000	\$3,842	\$3,410
<i>Winter "Potluck"</i>	\$2,250	\$666	\$675
Total Social Events	\$20,250	\$15,449	\$8,185
Taxes & Licenses	\$25	\$25	\$25
Total Expenses	\$66,729	\$60,094	\$52,620
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$10,351	\$23,382	\$0

¹ Reflects income and expenses through November 13, 2014.

² The Board notes that the costs of the ongoing litigation related to 7305 Rebecca Dr. are expected to exceed \$2000 in 2015. Lacking a reliable estimate of those costs, however, we have included in the proposed budget a \$2000 "placeholder" (the amount traditionally budgeted for legal expenses). The Board intends to pay legal expenses above and beyond \$2000 from the Civic Association's savings.

ABSENTEE BALLOT / PROXY

Civic Association of Hollin Hills ▪ General Membership Meeting ▪ Wednesday, December 3, 2014

CAHH members who cannot attend this meeting may mark this ballot (one ballot per member household), sign, and print name, address, and date. Ballots must be received by the recording secretary prior to the meeting. Send ballot to:

Jaelith Hall-Rivera, CAHH Co-Secretary
2306 Kimbro St.
Alexandria, VA 22307

Should you decide to attend, having submitted this ballot, you are obliged to retrieve it prior to voting at the meeting. This ballot counts as a presence in reckoning a meeting quorum.

Your Signature

Print Name

Print Address

Date

- President: Gus Matson
- Recording Secretary: Barbara Southworth
- Treasurer: Susan Kuhbach
- Director-at-Large, MVCCA: Michael Plotnick
- Director-at-Large, Parks: Bob Kinzer
- Director-at-Large, Pool: Laura Kistler

Approve the 2015 budget? yes no

- Check here if you wish to give your proxy to another CAHH member and indicate that member's name below.

I give my proxy to:

Proxy holder's name (print)

Proxy holder's address (print)