

IT JUST WOULDN'T BE A HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

JULY- AUGUST 2015

IT JUST WOULDN'T BE A HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN
FOURTH WITHOUT...

REUNIONS WITH OLD FRIENDS

BEDAZZLED BIKES

GRILLED HOTDOGS

“Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day,” I uttered several times on the morning of the Fourth of July. Summer 2015 has been a summer of rain and July 4 was no exception. Fortunately, the rain stopped early enough so that two of our most treasured community holiday events could proceed—the Hollin Hills Fourth of July Parade and Picnic—and many believe that this year we had record attendance.

Preparations for the Fourth start months in advance. Vendors are contacted and volunteers solicited. Because Voigt Park had suffered flooding and erosion from several heavy rainstorms in late June and early July, hours of clean-up work was done so the picnic could be held as planned.

At 9am, picnic volunteers arrived at Voigt Park to set up tents, tables, and chairs; at 9:15, the rain started again. Within a few minutes, I fielded phone calls from Ponies Plus, beer vendor Leon Morse, ice cream vendor Scoops2U, and the president of the Mount Vernon Community Band. By 10:30, the rain had stopped, so volunteers resumed setting up. Unfortunately, the band had to cancel because the damp conditions would have harmed sheet music and instruments, but all the other vendors showed up.

The festivities started at 11:30 with the Fourth of July Parade down Paul Spring Road. Over one hundred residents participated in the parade, led by a Fairfax County fire truck. Bicycles, wagons, scooters, and strollers followed, with neighbors lined up along the road to cheer them on. Dozens of children rode their bikes to the Bike Decorating Contest, held later in Voigt Park.

At noon, CAHH Vice President Patrick Kelly led more than 350 CAHH members and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance to start the picnic. Over 625 hot dogs, including numerous tofu dogs, were consumed. Members brought delicious salads and desserts to share. Volunteers staffed a Scoops2U premium ice cream cart filled with frozen treats. Thirsty picnic goers lined up for craft beers carefully selected by Leon Morse. Two adorable ponies provided rides to our youngest Hollin Hillers in McCalley Park. And no Hollin Hills Fourth would be complete without the Blueberry Bake-off and our time-honored games—the wheelbarrow race, three-legged race, and egg toss.

Months of planning go into these activities. I want to give a special shout-out to members of the CAHH Board and to Kathy Siekel who organized and led the parade. Thanks also to Judy Beelaert, former social chair, for her support. Finally, thank you to all our wonderful volunteers (listed on page 6) for making the 2015 Fourth of July activities possible. Game and competition winners are on pages 3 and 6.

—Barbara Jacobs, CAHH Social Chair

GREAT GAMES

FREE DRINKS

AMAZING RACES

A PICNIC FEAST

MUSIC*



THE PARADE

Marrinka Tellier



EGG TOSS THRILLER



SWEET TREATS

PONIES



BAKE-OFF BATTLE

*OOPS, no music this year—the band was rained out

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

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(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)

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HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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Editor Barbara Shear	660-6543
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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 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 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

NEW ARRIVALS

• We have new neighbors at 2300 Rebecca Drive, at the corner of Kimbro—Mike Barry and Peter Strzyzewski, DC residents for 25 years, originally from Wisconsin and Georgia. They are giving up thoughts of retiring to either of those states, so a special welcome to them for choosing Hollin Hills as a preferred option. They enjoy fixing up houses and, with their move to the suburbs, are considering becoming dog owners. Mike works for the Department of Transportation as a GIS specialist (also in a past-life, as a meteorologist) and Peter works with the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). —*Caroline Altmann*

• Welcome to newcomers Larissa Bainbridge and Mark Priest who moved into the former Coe house at 7321 Rebecca Drive, replacing Kathy and Bob Beynette to whom we bid farewell.

They bring Hollin Hills two more convertibles: Larissa drives the red one and Mark has a 1968 Karman Ghia. Larissa is a keen bird watcher and a supporter of Dyke Marsh and Huntley Meadows. She works in Washington and makes French beaded jewelry and millinery. Mark is an independent software consultant with offices in Kingstown and is also part owner of John Strongbow's Tavern in Old Town. You can reach Larissa at misslbainbridge@gmail.com and Mark at bussyspin@yahoo.com. —*Eleanor Fina*

• The new family at 2104 Pickwick Lane, Tomiko and Roderick Moore and their daughters, Yasmine and Mica, are very happy to be here. Roderick is with Red Hat Software, Yasmine with Victoria's Secret, and Mica is a law student in Chicago. Their phone number is 703-222-9119. —*Judy Rosen*

• We also have new neighbors on Elba Court. Simon and Anna Banyai moved into #2401 from Cleveland Park, DC, after looking at homes in Hollin Hills for over a year. They are thrilled to be a part of the community. The Banyais had to unpack very quickly in order to settle in before the birth of their first child in early July. —*Jodie Burns*



PRIMARY VICTORY

Paul Krizek of Whiteoaks Drive was chosen as our area's Democratic nominee for state delegate in the June 9 primary. Congratulations, Paul!

BLOCK PARTIES

With the warm summer weather luring folks outside, neighborhood block parties have been popping up around Hollin Hills. Recently, there were two held on opposite ends of Martha's Road and another one on Kimbro Street that featured a genuine pig roast (*see page 6*). These gatherings are a great way to visit with long-time neighbors and become acquainted with brand new arrivals. Tell us when you have one on your street—and send photos, too.

OSCAR TIES THE KNOT

Congratulations and best wishes to Oscar Chavez and Esmeralda Gomez, who were married on July 4. Oscar and his brothers, Jesus and Jose, have lots of friends in Hollin Hills, where they have been taking very good care of yards and gardens for many years.

The newlyweds are in the center of the photo below, surrounded by family. Jesus is at the far left, Jose on the far right.

Peter Kinzler



Quick Takes

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Mark your calendar for National Night Out on August 4. Invite your neighbors to gather together—perhaps organizing the event as an ice cream social or picnic. Enjoy a safe, fun evening in your own neighborhood, and send out the message that you and your neighbors watch out for each other. Contact Officer Robert Urps, our crime prevention officer, at 703-360-8928 or Robert.Urps@fairfax-county.gov to schedule an event and to get more information.

—*Laura Wirkkala*

HH ARCHIVES: GOOD NEWS!

You made it happen! Thanks to generous contributions from Hollin Hillers to support the HH Archives at GMU, all the material (1950s to present) is now fully processed. Yvonne Carignan, Head of Special Collections and Archives for George Mason University Libraries, reports that the resulting online finding guide is ready, and “we hope this guide will encourage members of your community to come use the collection here.” She also told us that Hollin Hills is featured as part of a library exhibit.

The Hollin Hills Archives is now organized into 10 series by type or topic. The collection has publications, newsletters, photos, audiovisual materials, and organization records (such as minutes). It also includes records of the Design Review Committee with blueprints, plats, awards (framed and metal plaques), real estate ads, house and garden tour booklets, neighborhood phone directories, community histories in pamphlet- and hard-bound formats, and a bound set of newsletters 1951-1991 (ten volumes).

Check it out. Click on this link to the Special Collections Finding Aid to scroll through the 10 series, a list of contents of folders in all 73 boxes of archival items: http://sca.gmu.edu/finding_aids/hollin_hills.html

Donations from the HH community also have enabled GMU to digitalize all the newsletters (the entire collection they hold, from 1951 to present), which will soon be online, too. Look for an announcement when they are available.

You can make basic inquiries about the

HH Archives at 703-993-2220 or by email: speccoll@gmu.edu. If you are interested in on-site research, see how to do it at <http://sca.gmu.edu/visit.php>.

The exhibit displaying a case of several items from the Hollin Hills archives covers the history of “suburbanization” in America. Hollin Hills represents a reaction against the suburbia of rows of identical houses in bull-dozed landscapes. Open to the public through September, the exhibition (four cases in all) may be seen at Fenwick Library on the George Mason campus. It is on the second floor, up the stairs left of the lobby, in the A-wing.

—*Judy Riggan*

A BLUEBERRY BONANZA

The annual Blueberry Bake-off brought 13 festive and tasty entries. One thing is perfectly clear: We have a host of very talented bakers of all ages in Hollin Hills. Entries ranged from Marinka Tellier's Clafouti aux Myrtilles and her daughter Emmie's Blueberry Surprise to Eric Sydow's Blueberry Jelly Donuts and Brandy Goldstein's Blueberry Trifle.

The judges, Ann Schwabacher, Max Leonard, and Sofia Labas, had the difficult task of tasting their way through each of the dishes to choose the winners. Grand Champions this year are a brother and sister duo, Claire and Jack McCarthy, for their Blueberry Lemon Buckle. Chris Methof took First Place for her decadent Blueberry Cheesecake. Second prize went to Sarah Jesup for Fruit Pizza—cleverly designed in the shape and colors of the American flag, We had a tie for third place: Lena Crawley's Blueberries and Stripes and Beth Gible's Grandma's Blueberry Pie. Fourth place went to Leo and Theo Hersh's aptly titled dish “The Fourth” and fifth place went to Joe Kitrosser for Remington Double Berry Blueberry Pie. Honorable mentions were awarded to Max Burns for Almond Crème Blueberry Pie and to Celia Lane for “No More Rainy Day Blues Tart” which we also thought was the most clever name. Thank you to everyone who participated!

—*Christine Kelly*



THE PARKS OF HOLLIN HILLS

Our parks are a special place to most of us. They can be a great escape into nature or a chance to connect with neighbors while walking on the paths. Those of you who frequent the parks know that it has been a trying few weeks with all the storm damage. However, despite the pitfalls, we were able to have a great celebration on the Fourth in Voigt Park. We hope you noticed the clean up work that was done there and in McCalley Park.

We've created a public Facebook group called Hollin Hills Parks. If you'd like to know more about when we'll be cleaning up next or what's going on in the parks, we encourage you to join us on Facebook (if you can't find the link, send us your email and we can 'invite' you). Our plan is to begin regular monthly clean ups, and it's definitely more fun when more people are there. We'll also post in the Forum for those who aren't on Facebook.

—*Claudia and John Crowder, Parks Chairs*



Huge logs that piled up against the bridge at Paul Spring Park as a result of the severe storms made cleaning up very difficult.



CONTROLLING MOSQUITOS

The warmest May in history, plus four inches of rain in the first week of June, produced a bumper crop of mosquitoes in our garden. Not the big, dangerous mosquitoes that spread diseases like West Nile and malaria, but the pesky little ones that rise up in clouds from beds of ivy and periwinkle. They don't really bite, but they can be a major nuisance. Based on their size and behavior, rather than any attempt at taxonomy, my guess would be that these are *Aedes vexans*, one of the most common species of mosquito in the Northern Hemisphere—not a disease vector, just a pest.

They certainly vexed my wife, to the point where she insisted on doing something about them. Neither of us is a big fan of the promiscuous dissemination of poisons into the biosphere, so we did a little research. Turns out there are several approaches to mosquito control.

Prevention

One approach is prevention—get rid of the pools of standing water where females might lay eggs, and you eliminate the next brood of adults. That means getting rid of old tires, coffee cans, saucers under potted plants, and any other place where rainwater would collect. Recent field notes indicate that the Asian Tiger Mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) can breed in as little as a quarter inch of water, and other *Aedes* species require only damp soil to lay their eggs. (*A. albopictus*, an invasive species, is the most aggressive biter in our garden, but it's only a minor factor in transmitting diseases.) Prevention also means changing

the water in the tetsubachi and putting mosquito dunks in the koi pond or rain barrel. We had already done those things; we needed something more serious.

Suppression

Another approach is suppression—kill most of the adults, and there's nobody left to bite you. That might be appropriate if you definitely have one of the "serious" disease-bearing mosquitoes: *Culex* species (West Nile virus), *Anopheles* species (malaria) or *Aedes aegyptus* (yellow fever, dengue). However, most of the available insecticides are based on synthetic pyrethrins, which (like DDT before them) are broad-spectrum endocrine disruptors that kill every insect they touch, not just mosquitoes. The bugs that die carry the poison on to the fish, birds, bats, and dragonflies that eat their bodies. Pyrethrins aren't as persistent as DDT—in fact, they only work as long as the fog is hanging in the air—but it's still a good idea to keep children, pets and pregnant women indoors when they're being applied. That sounds like overkill for a harmless little pest.

Alternatives to Poisons

An alternative to poisons is essential oils, volatile compounds extracted from herbs and other plants. Cinnamon oil, in particular, is very effective in suffocating mosquito larvae before they take flight, and a long list of other essential oils will kill or repel adult mosquitoes: basil, catnip, cedar, citrus, clove, lavender, lemon, mints, rosemary, thyme. It's a good argument for growing these herbs in pots on the patio. Essential oils work by disrupting a neurotransmitter in

mosquitoes that is not found in humans or other vertebrates. By contrast, DEET, the active ingredient in insect repellents used by a third of all Americans, can cause skin irritation and neurological problems in humans and pets, especially at high concentrations.

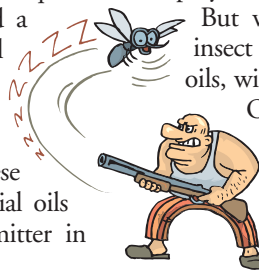
My wife went to Village Hardware and found a product called "Bonide Mosquito Beater Natural Ready to Spray" that contains essential oils of cedar, citronella, geranium and lemongrass, plus sodium lauryl sulfate (a widely used surfactant that helps the oils spread and stick to surfaces). It comes with a hose-end sprayer that's easy to use; a \$15 bottle covers 5,000 square feet, which is a lot of ivy; it repels effectively for two weeks; and it has a pleasant smell.

We've seen signs around the neighborhood for a commercial service called Mosquito Squad who will spray your property for you. I suspect that their "all natural protection" uses something similar to Mosquito Beater ("essential oils [with] a slight botanical fragrance"); their "barrier protection spray program," which last three weeks instead of two, may be based on another Bonide product called "680 Mosquito Beater" that also contains pyrethrins. We decided that we didn't need a service to spray on a schedule when we can spray for ourselves when it's needed.

But we also need to look for an insect repellent based on essential oils, with a slight botanical fragrance.

Our old standby, Avon's Skin So Soft, works fine, but may be a bit too fragrant for some people.

—Paul B. Phelps



EARLY DAYS IN HOLLIN HILLS

Elizabeth and David Coffin, who lived at 7312 Rebecca Drive with their three children, were among Hollin Hills' earliest residents. The following are excerpts from Elizabeth's book, Life with David. More excerpts will follow.

After months of searching . . . we finally found what we wanted on a hillside next to the last remaining farm in Fairfax County. We fell for Hollin Hills on first sight; its designs and setting for each new house in this "experimental" community were clearly the work of an enlightened architect and a sensitive developer. All this was within a half-hour commute to David's

office in Washington, D.C. . . . Roads meandered gently up and down easy slopes, where thickets of woods alternated with open vistas suggestive of its former farmland. Houses were sited imaginatively on land that complimented their airy construction so as to take full advantage of the scenery that became part of the interior of the beckoning house. Walls of windows and sturdy brick fireplaces, as well as sizable amounts of land to allow for gardens, play areas, and privacy were the signature appeal . . . This was no ordinary community!

Robert Davenport, the friendly devel-

Builder Davenport said we would be among the "pioneers" in an experiment in progressive communal living

oper in an office on the fringe of his property, told us that if we found what we wanted among his buildings, we would be among the "pioneers" in an experiment in progressive communal living. A professional landscape architect contributed individual garden plans with every purchase so that as the community grew, it (continued on page 5)

Early Days *from page 4*

became a model of environmental beauty and shared responsibility. There were no fences between lots to break the view from one house to another; the gardens and lawns were a natural demarcation as sketched out for us by the landscaper . . .

We stopped looking at other areas once we had seen the nirvana of Hollin Hills!

* * * *

Part of the excitement in searching for the right house comes with the unexpected starts and stops along the way. Our opportunities were limited because contracts to build new houses were already in progress with the early birds who had preceded us. We could see the evidence of lots sold and foundations being dug. When we launched ourselves into the adventure of finding our perfect corner in Hollin Hills, our first impulsive choice almost put us into the wrong-sized square house at the bottom of Rebecca Drive, the principal road on the western border of the community. The instant appeal for David was its price. Quickly, however, we began to have second thoughts about the location and reported our confusion to Mr. Davenport. Could we change our mind?

Immediately in our sight were wide open farm pastures where dairy cows and work horses shared the freedom to roam.

Luck was with us; he had just learned that a buyer had defaulted on his contract, giving us another option. Would we be interested in a half-finished house, a bit bigger than the first one we liked, but a chance to try our own hand at building, thus saving the cost of professionals? With great eagerness, we joined him on a breezy spring morning for a tour to see this extraordinary building. The two-level house was built on the side of a hill, facing south with an unobstructed view of a distant wooded horizon that David estimated to be close to fifty miles away. Immediately in our sight were the wide open farm pastures where dairy cows and work horses shared the freedom to roam. It was on the highest point of the entire development, bordered on the west opposite our house by the buildings of Popkins Farm. Mr. and Mrs. Popkins were our welcoming neighbors across a field. It was their

land that we had bought from Mr. Davenport, whose ambitions included preserving the farm land as attractively as he could without abusing the privilege of ownership.

* * * *

Once we had moved in, our daily pleasure became studying the scenery from our living room and marveling at the sunsets and storms. We admired the clean long outline of the milking barn to the west, perched on the hillside on the edge of the field separating the Popkins house from ours. A small barn and various sheds were part of the rural landscape in sharp contrast to the patch of suburbia rising up around us. Being high on Rebecca Drive gave us the sense that we lived in a tree house. We were on the edge of the modern community on one side but connected in spirit to the delicious open space over the farm fields . . . After settling in, it was interesting to learn that with the inclusion of basic domesticity tools, like a washing machine and dryer, our new house cost \$25,000. That sum seemed more than fair, for who could put a price on such peaceful surroundings?

(To be continued in the next issue)

Jon Cohen



From the top: Olivia Paek and William Heaton with their daughter, Cora; Lynn Martin and Greeter Eleanor Fina, (Eleanor prepares the welcome kits); Bob Varela, CAHH President Gus Matson, Christy and Erik Thomas, Susmita Stromayer, and Susie Cohen, the party co-host.

WELCOMING NEW NEIGHBORS

The Civic Association welcomed new residents with bagels and beverages at the home of Suzie and Jon Cohen on Sunday, June 10. The newcomers enjoyed getting acquainted with one another and finding out more about the neighborhood from Board members and greeters. The most recent arrivals were Stine Riis and Zachery Mowery, who had moved in just that morning and stopped by ten minutes before the party ended. The newcomers said they were looking forward to the 4th of July picnic, exploring our walking paths, and getting to know more of their Hollin Hills neighbors.

Our area greeters have been busy making welcoming visits to the 28 families who have moved in during the past year. The 33 greeters provide each household they visit with a welcome kit containing helpful information about the community. If you are a newcomer who has not received a welcome kit, or if you know of any newly arrived household that hasn't been welcomed, please contact Betsy Damitz, the membership chair, at bmdyard@hotmail.com (and, while you're at it, send in an arrival notice to the Bulletin, too).



A BIG THANKS TO THE JULY 4 VOLUNTEERS

First and foremost, a huge round of applause for Barbara Jacobs, our hardworking social chair. More than anyone, she is responsible for the event's success. Here is a list of the many others who helped:

Set-up: Gus Matson, Mike and Betsy Damitz, Michael Hentges, Chris Tatem, Robert Fina, David Rivera, Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Marianne and Peter Martz, Patrick Kelly, Christine Kelly, Susan Kuhbach, Bob Kinzer, John Nolan

Decorations: Debra and Celia Lane

Coffee and Donuts: Gus Matson

Loan of tents and equipment: Robert Fina and West Potomac Crew Team (tents)

Membership: Betsy Damitz, Susan Kuhbach, Peter, Marianne Martz

Parade Organizer/Leader: Kathy Seikel

Greeter: Eleanor Fina

Ice Cream Cart: Joann Hersh, Elizabeth O'Hare, the Burns Family

Games: Frank Collins and John Valceanu

Bakeoff Judges: Anna Schwabacher, Sophia Labas, Max Leonard assisted by Christine Kelly

Bike Decorating Judge: Kathy Seikel

Hot Dogs, and all the trimmings: Jere Gibber, J.G. Harrington

Master Grillers: Bryan Lane (Chief Griller and Organizer), Steve Labas, Andrew and Lynn Cheng, Steve Polo, Mike Damitz, Jeff Jenkins, Peter Jacobs

Beer Hand-Stamping: Bailey Spencer, Gretchen Spencer, David Rivera, Tania Ryan

Photographs: Markinka Telier, Ian Richards, Michele Maddox

Ian Richards



The colorful chaos of the bicycle decorating contest (above) and the competitive spirit of the three-legged race (right) are both part of the fun of our Hollin Hills Fourth of July.

Michele Maddox



Trash Removal: Peter Jacobs, Barbara Liggett

Loan of Recycling Cans: Jim Davidson, Donna Anderson

Clean-up: David Rivera, Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Barbara Liggett, Peter Jacobs, Patrick Kelly, Bob Kinzer, Gus Matson, Chris Tatem, Louis Soares, John & Debbie Burns

Apologies and sincere thanks to anyone whose name may have inadvertently omitted.

HURRAH FOR THE WINNERS

BIKE DECORATING (29 bikes registered and another 20 not registered)

Most patriotic:

First prize: (Unregistered but fabulously decorated bike)

Second prize: Maya Soares

Third prize: Andrew Walsh

Most creative:

First prize (tie): George Six and Sophia Six

Second prize: Gavin Young

Third prize: Izzy Young

BLUEBERRY BAKE-OFF see page 3

THREE-LEGGED RACE

First Heat: 1) Cam & Alex West

2) Luca & Dennis Condon

3) Celia Lane & Calla Totaro

Hon. Mention Eva Medic

Second Heat: 1) Sam & Haskew Pearson

2) Kean Harrison & Camilla Schaas

3) Max McNamara & partner

WHEELBARROW RACE

First Heat: 1) Kean Harrison & Camille Schaas

2) Anderson Mattox & Lizzy Harmon

Second Heat: 1) Bob West & Cam West

2) J.J. Zura & Jimmy Smith

3) Haskew & Sam Pearson

Third Heat (tie): 1) Sophia Six & Lynne

Munson, Dennis & Luca Condon

EGG TOSS

First Heat: 1) Mark & Jamie Bobotek

2) Bob & Bink West

3) Cat & Cam West

Second Heat: 1) Andrew Cheng & Kevin Garcia.

Third Heat: 1) Steve Polo & Kevin Garcia

2) Bucky & Liz Gwartney

THE WEATHER WAS WET BUT THE LUAU WAS WONDERFUL

Bringing in the main course are Nate Ha (left) and David Rivera as Agustin Reading and Sam Kistler watch the proceedings



The rain couldn't dampen the spirits of Kimbro Street residents on June 26 for the first ever (and now, first annual!) Kimbro Street block party. After a round of calls the night before, neighbors knew the party had simply shifted from the Damitz yard to the Rivera house due to rain (and what a daylong deluge it was!). After a tarp was set up at the Kirby-Ha residence to protect the pig-roasting oven from the rain, it was all hands on deck that morning to get the fire burning and the pig cooking. People took turns stoking the coals and a "rake man" kept the tarp free of standing water. It was all worth it after seven hours when the luau-style roast pig was paraded across the street and brought into the house to a round of cheers. Neighbors brought their best "aloha spirit" and fabulous side dishes to be enjoyed alongside the tropical cocktails. Hawaiian prints, leis, and flowers adorned the guests, and everybody enjoyed a great evening of conversation, food, and drink. Like so many things in Hollin Hills, it has already taken root as a tradition. The spring block party planning has already begun. "Mahalo" to all the neighbors who made it such a great day!

—Jaelith Hall-Rivera

DESIGN REVIEW

The Design Review Committee (DRC) met on the evening of June 10, at Sherwood Regional Library. Members in attendance were Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, Christine Kelly, and Roger Miller.

- **Jaclyn Allmon and Sean Vann, 7612 Elba Road.** By unanimous consent, the committee administratively approved a proposed patio project.

- **Lynne and Thomas Martin, 7615 Elba Road,** presented an in-kind wooden fence replacement with an extension on the south side of the yard along with a new wood infill paneled fence in their backyard to match the height of the neighbor's existing chain-link

fence. A motion made to approve this plan passed unanimously.

- **Jan Derevjanik and Darren Pogoda, 2105 Marthas Road,** returned with their architect, Michael Cook, to present design development drawings for their proposed addition. The DRC will review final construction documents when they are completed.

- **Betsy and Mike Damitz, 2307 Kimbro Street,** presented a project with their architect, Christine Kelly, to build a shed on the east side of their home at the bottom of their driveway. The committee requested additional details, which will be submitted for administrative approval.

The Damitzes also proposed adding a one-foot extension of the eave line around their home to provide better protection from the elements. The committee asked for further study and review before final consideration.

- **Normandie Lee, 7317 Stafford Road,** presented plans to replace a side-yard metal shed with a wooden shed to match the slope and style of her home. A motion made to approve the plans passed by a vote of 3-1 with John Burns dissenting.

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH/DRC Liaison



PLANNING & ZONING

Prospect of better cell phone service

The Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z) of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) met on July 6 to vote on communication facilities.

Mt. Vernon Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan could not have been more pleased that he would no longer need to consider proposals for tall communication towers usually opposed by the neighborhoods where they were to be placed. It had gone on so long that communication companies had decided it wasn't worth the effort.

Richard Lambert from Extenet Systems, an Illinois firm, said that his company want to construct 71 nodes throughout the Mount Vernon District. Verizon is the only committed carrier, but the nodes would be designed to accommodate up to three carriers. They would be mounted mainly on Dominion utility poles, almost all about forty feet high. Nine nodes would be within the Hollin Hills historic district, about half of them near its boundaries.

The electrical equipment would be installed, most of it by Verizon, beginning

about eight feet above the ground. Other carrier equipment would be higher and might be partially covered by a shroud.

Some existing communication facilities would be retained, e.g., those on the steeple on St. Luke's Episcopal Church, the tower at the Mount Vernon estate, and equipment on various commercial buildings on Richmond Highway.

The P&Z voted unanimously to support the Extenet proposal and to move it forward to a vote by the full MVCCA.

—Burt Kronstedt



BOOK REPORT

At its June meeting, the Hollin Hills Book Group discussed *The Newbyweds*, by Nell Freunberger. Amina is a modern version of a mail order bride, a Bangladeshi woman who connects with an American electrical engineer named George in Rochester, NY. They exchange messages on AsianEuro.com for over eleven months. In them she tells him about her life and her family and asks him questions about things she reads and about his life. The story is told in her voice and we learn little about George except that he does meet all her mother's requirements: never divorced, no children, between the ages of 30 and 45, has at least a bachelor's degree, and is willing to convert to Islam.

Even as a child, Amina loved everything foreign. She learned English at the Maple Leaf International School in Dhaka. When

her parents were unable to continue to pay school fees she, at thirteen, decided to study for the O level exams on her own. She and her mother read all the required books, looking up every word she did not know in the Oxford English Dictionary. She passed, and thus was able to earn money as a tutor, helping to support her parents.

George is attracted to Amina's practical side. They won't share a bedroom until they are married in the United States, but, as he has a three-bedroom house, there is no need for her to stay at a hotel until then. She doesn't want a fancy wedding dress. As soon as she gets her green card, she finds a job to help pay her tuition at the community college even though he can easily afford to pay.

We liked the book. It was fun to see our culture through the eyes of someone from a very different one. We learned a lot about Bangladeshi society and how a mid-

dle class family lives there. Families are very close to each other and generally very supportive. The father's cousins were an exception. Amina lives with her grandmother until, at age six, she joins her parents in Dhaka, where she can go to school. Amina feels responsible for her parents and expects them to come and live with her when she marries. Once in Rochester, she telephones them several times a week. The book ends as she and her parents are about to board a plane to Rochester. Their adjustment to Rochester is another story, maybe another book.

After a summer recess, our September 16 meeting will be held at Louise Wiener's home. We will discuss *Thomas Jefferson, The Art of Power*, by Jon Meacham. Visitors and new members are welcome.

—Anne Parke



MUSICMAN

As summer winds down, there are more concerts in the parks as well as some indoor events. Outdoor concerts are subject to weather conditions and, in case of inclement weather, you should call to see if they are canceled. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/ All the events listed are free although contributions are appreciated.

Fri., 7/17, 7:30pm, Grist Mill Park: Seldom Scene (bluegrass) www.seldomscene.com

Fri., 7/17, 7:30pm, Mason District Park: Tom Paxton (folksinger) www.tompaxton.com/

Sun., 7/19, 3pm, Lyceum: Sasha Beresovsky (pianist) Beethoven "Diabelli Variations," Haydn, and Schubert www.wmpamusic.org

Sun., 7/19, 7:30pm, Mason District Park: Capitol Steps (satirical review)

Fri., 7/24, 7:30pm, Lake Accotink Park: The Reunion Music Society (NOVA

Orchestra) www.reunionmusic.org

Sat., 7/25, 7pm, Workhouse Arts Center: Bob Gibson Big Band (big band jazz) www.bobgibsonbigband.com

Sun., 7/26, 3pm, Lyceum: Patagonia Winds and Atmospheric (woodwind ensemble) www.patagoniawinds.org

Wed., 7/29, 12pm, Library of Congress, Coolidge Auditorium: Credo United African American Creole Music from Louisiana www.loc.gov/concerts/folklife/creoleunited.html

Fri., 7/31, 7:30pm, Grist Mill Park: Moonlight Jazz Orchestra (big band jazz) www.swingmachineband.com

Sat., 8/1, 10am, Mason District Park: Rocknoceros (kid's rock) www.rocknoceros.com

Sun., 8/2, 3pm, Lyceum: Philip Wolf and Friends (string quartet) Ravel and Beethoven www.wmpamusic.org

Wed., 8/5, 7:30pm, Lee District Park: The Nighthawks (Blues) www.thenighthawks.com

Fri., 8/14, 7:30pm, Grist Mill Park: The Reunion Music Society (NOVA Orchestra) www.reunionmusic.org

Sun., 8/16, 3pm, Lyceum: West Shore Trio (piano) www.westshoretrio.com

Sun., 8/23, 5-8pm, New Deal Cafe, Greenbelt, MD: Big Band Tradition www.bigbandtradition.com

Wed., 8/26, 7:30, Lee District Park: U.S. Army Blues (big band jazz) www.bands.army.mil

Sun., 8/30, 7pm, Fort Hunt Park: Bob Gibson Big Band (big band jazz). This is my group, finally playing close to home, so I hope you will come out to hear us. www.bobgibsonbigband.com



—Tony Jordan

CLASSIFIEDS

RECOMMENDED: No matter how old or broken your sewing machine or vacuum is, Robert Hines of SunSewVac on Richmond Highway has the parts and know how of 38 years to fix it. He has serviced our 1964 Singer for years. Recently, my niece bought a very old Singer without a wall cord to plug it in. He could tell from an emailed photo what cord was needed, and of course had it in stock. Robert was touted as the "maestro" in the *WashPost* last October. 703-780-0400, sunsewvac.com. — Wendy M. Kilpatrick

RECOMMENDED: General Contractor. We were very pleased to find Brad Furman (703-201-6797) back full time in his work in home

repairs and remodeling. We immediately lined him up to look after a list of items to shape up our house. We have worked with Brad for over 10 years. He is a consistent, cheerful, reliable craftsman and problem solver. He brings a high level of intelligence and creativity to solving repair and rebuilding problems and is immediately responsive to completing any follow-up corrections in his work. Having grown up in Hollin Hills and living here now, he understands at a deeper level the quirks and needs of our house. It has always been easy and relaxed working with him. He has grown to be a friend over the years. We recommend him strongly to our neighbors. —Bob and Gail Weigl

IN SEARCH OF permanent, quiet home for two senior cats, aged 15, in the near future. My friend has stage four cancer, and she wants to make sure they have a home after she goes. They are very sweet, healthy, indoor couch potatoes. —Wendy Kilpatrick 703 765-7163

FOUND: The following items were left at last Saturday's Fourth of July Picnic:

- One pair of dark sunglasses;
- One white ramekin with a spoon;
- Various plastic containers; and
- One white plastic plate with red polka dots around the border.

To retrieve these items, please contact Barbara Jacobs (pnbjacobs@verizon.net).