

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2015



FROM THE CAHH PRESIDENT

Heartburn

As I write this, it is slightly less than two weeks to the trial, scheduled to begin August 25, between the Civic Association of Hollin Hills (CAHH) and the homeowner who literally raised the roof of her house, transforming her Goodman designed home into something else. In the process, she ignored corre-

spondence from the Design Review Committee (DRC), which requested that she stop and bring the project to that committee for its review and imprimatur. She didn't stop. The house design modifications were rushed through to completion, but not before the CAHH filed suit, throwing the DRC process itself into a kind of existential crisis.

Over the summer, the homeowner was gracious enough to meet with me, at my request, to try to settle the issue. I remembered her from years ago, when she worked tirelessly cooking Texas brisket for the benefit of the community. I liked her a lot. I still do. Our meeting was honest, respectful, and had a kind of good-natured easy friendliness that comes from remembered good will.

I am sorry to say that, as of right now, we have no settlement. Offers and counter offers have been exchanged, but to no avail. I don't believe either side is being stubborn just to be stubborn. The costs involved render easy agreement very difficult, and there are the underlying issues of personal property rights versus community interests. All the while, the clock ticks, and the attorneys prepare their cases.

By the time you read this, the trial may well be over. There won't be a winner. It is possible that the review and approval authority of the DRC will have vanished or been substantially altered. It is also possible that one of our neighbors will be made seriously unhappy by the proceedings. Either way, it will be an unhappy outcome. Personally, I am hoping for a small miracle.

Block Parties

On the bright side, I have been itching to talk about the three block parties that I know happened over the summer.

The first was sponsored by my friends Jim Klein and Elisabeth Lardner. They invited everybody on Martha's Road from Popkins to about Stafford, and the people on Recard Lane (which is how Barbara and I got invited). It was really terrific. I thought I knew a lot of the people in that area, but it turns out I was wrong. I met a lot of new-to-me people and we had a great time.

The second party was Bill Stage's final Hollin Hills block party. It has turned into an annual event. Bill walked all over the neighborhood dropping flyers in doors, and, as usual, it was quite the bash. Again, I met a lot of people I had not really met before. Thank you so much, Bill. I should mention that Bill is in the process of moving from Hollin Hills, so this particular recurring gala is (I assume) drawing to a close.

The third block party was on Kimbro Street. It was a pig roast! Really—who does that? Those Kimbro folks really know how to have a good time. On behalf of the entire neighborhood, thank you Kimbro residents and party throwers. But next year, invite me.

I mention all this because it is fun, and it is fun, and it is fun. And it is the perfect way to counteract the glumness of the first topic in this article. If you are friends with your neighbors, talk to them, and consider throwing a potluck block party. I promise you, you will have fun and meet a lot of interesting people. Also, I am available to attend.

—Gus Matson,
CAHH President



Save the date

Saturday, October 3

3:00 - 6:00 pm

HH Pool parking lot

Fun for everyone

at our third annual

OKTOBERFEST!

- **Enjoy German beer, bratwurst, and German music**
- **Bring a side or dessert to share—theme-related (German potato salad, apple strudel, etc.) ideal but not required**
- **Fun activities for children**
- **Beer stein raffle**
- **Bavarian style dress optional**
- **To volunteer, contact Barbara Jacobs (pnbjacob@verizon.net)**

Sponsored by the Civic Association

CIVIC ASSOCIATION OF HOLLIN HILLS (CAHH)

CAHH OFFICERS

President Gus Matson	768-3797
Vice-President Patrick Kelly	768-2497
Treasurer Susan Kuhbach	768-8154
Secretary Barbara Southworth	721-0734
Membership Betsy Damitz	721-2002

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Pool Laura Kistler	768-4161
MVCCA Michael Plotnik	660-6272
Social Barbara Jacobs	660-6342
Parks Bob Kinzer	768-4048

CAHH COMMITTEES

ARCHIVIST Judy Riggan	765-3025
Historian Scott Wilson	765-4471
(Also see Hollin Hills Archives below)	
DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE (DRC)	
Chair Frank Collins	660-6525
Members John Burns	660-9763
Christine Kelly	768-2497
Roger Miller	768-2095
Ken Wilson	768-5838
Patrick Kelly, CAHH Liaison	768-2497
HOLLIN HILLS POOL COMMITTEE	
Chair Rebecca Bostick	768-2240
PARKS COMMITTEE	
Co-chairs Claudia Crowder & John Crowder	731-4488 732-0068

HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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Editor Barbara Shear 660-6543
Editorial Assistance Andrew Keegan 660-1004

Deadline is the 15th of the preceding month. Articles generally should not exceed 500 words. 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

WELCOME...

• Welcome to our new neighbors at 2101 Mason Hill Drive. Jill and Hailie Browne, who moved here from Puerto Rico, are both active duty in the Coast Guard. They are expecting their first child this November. Hailie can be reached at hbrowne@mac.com; Jill at carneyjjill@gmail.com.

• Stine Riis Svenningsen and Zachary Mowers moved to 2102 Marthas Road in late June from Capitol Hill. Stine is from Denmark; Zach grew up in Atlanta and New York City. Stine works for an educational advocacy nonprofit, and Zach is with Tandus Centiva, a commercial flooring company. They expect their first child in September and are busy preparing for the baby's arrival. Contacts: Stine_riis@hotmail.com and Zmowers@gmail.com

• There is a new addition at 2401 Elba Court! Congratulations to Simon and Anna Banyai on the birth of their baby, Béla James Banyai. He arrived July 11 weighing in at 8.7 pounds.

• We also welcome another young newcomer, Nina Owens, born August 19 to Amy and Leland Owens of Rippon Road.

• Maggie Austin and Robert Lusk, new on Drury Lane, have strong creative credentials: Robert designs and produces elegant, high-end signage and furniture (and has fun restoring classic cars and motorcycles). Maggie, a former dancer with the Joffrey Ballet, creates unique, unbelievably beautiful cakes for weddings all over the world (maggieaustincake.com).

Contributors: Susie Cohen, David Matthews, Jodie Burns

NEW YEAR, NEW SCHOOL HOURS

It's back to school time! Hollin Meadows Elementary students will return to school

for the 2015-16 year on Tuesday, September 8 with a new schedule. School will now start at 8:25am and dismiss at 3:10pm.

Kindergarten families and families new to the area should plan to attend "Popsicles on the Playground" on Monday, September 7, at 4pm. Sponsored by the Hollin Meadows PTA, the event is always a lot of fun and a good way to meet other new families.

The "Second Sundays in the Park" program starts September 13, 1-3pm. This program helps maintain the school garden for the outdoor classroom. No green thumb is necessary and everyone's invited—parents and neighbors alike.

BOOK CLUB RECONVENES

After a summer recess, the Hollin Hills Book Club meets again on Wednesday, September 16. The meeting will be at Louise Wiener's home where we will discuss *Thomas Jefferson, The Art of Power*, by Jon Meacham. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

WAITING FOR THE NEW RECOMMENDED LIST?

Several people have asked when the next "Recommended" list will appear in the Bulletin. These lists have been compiled every two years; last in 2013, so the time has come. Alas, the organizer of that project, and of so many other Hollin Hills activities, was our dear friend Barbara Helm, who died this spring. Although I was her willing helper. I can't take it on by myself right now. Is there someone who would be willing to work with me on it? There's no tight deadline, and it's a useful and worthwhile project. Please contact me at barbshear@verizon.net.

—Barbara Shear



Part of the flock of flamingos that appeared on Ken William's front lawn on Elba Road as a surprise celebration of his birthday.

Design Review

JULY MEETING

Members in attendance at the July 9 meeting of the Design Review Committee (DRC) were: Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, Christine Kelly, Roger Miller, and Ken Wilson.

- **Betsy and Mike Damitz**, 2307 Kimbro Street. By unanimous consent, the committee administratively approved a shed
- **Jan Derevanik and Darren Pogoda**, 2105 Marthas Road, received approval for the proposed master bedroom and office addition at their home. They agreed to submit final construction documents when completed. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Betsy and Mike Damitz**, 2307 Kimbro Street, presented a project with their architect, Christine Kelly, to add a one-foot extension of the eave line around three sides of their home to provide better protection from the elements and a four-foot extension over the west side entrance sidewalk. The committee requested additional details about the roof line (to be provided by the architect) before making a decision.
- **Geff Oliver**, 7312 Rippon Road, presented a proposed addition with his archi-

tect, Rebecca Bostick, to restore his home closer to its original design prior to a renovation in the 1960s. The addition would recreate the size and number of the original windows and would reduce the size of the deck. Proposal approved unanimously.

- **Sam Gyulnazarian**, 2109 Mason Hill, provided additional details for a proposed two-story addition to his home. The board decided to make a detailed review of the project before making a decision and contacting the homeowner.

AUGUST MEETING

Members in attendance at the August 12 meeting: Frank Collins (chair), Christine Kelly, Roger Miller, and Ken Wilson.

By unanimous consent, the committee administratively approved two projects:

- **Pipper White and Eric Wilbur**, 7523 Elba Road, received approval to replace a shed at the rear of their home and a trash can screen. Homeowner was advised to check county zoning codes to ensure compliance with size, height, and site location requirements.
- **Charlotte and Alexander Safos**, 2321 Nordok Place, received approval to replace



SEPTEMBER DATE CHANGE

The DRC will convene on the first Wednesday of September (Sep. 2) rather than on the usual second Wednesday due to scheduling conflicts on the 9th.

a shed on their property.

The committee also acted upon the following proposals:

- **Jim Cobren**, 915 Martha's Road, requested approval to replace the siding and roof of his backyard shed with T1-11 siding and approved roofing. The plan received unanimous approval.
- Architect Christine Kelly presented plans for the renovation and restoration of a severely damaged home at 2405 Brentwood Place. The renovation will include the restoration of the exterior of the home to its original design. The design also calls for the replacement of existing windows as necessary, the addition of one window at the front of the home, and the movement of a recessed front door to a location that is flush with the front wall of the house to provide more interior foyer space. The committee looked favorably upon the project. The architect will email the plans to the committee for administrative approval by all committee members.
- **Rosey Carmichael**, 7528 Elba Road, requested approval for the replacement of two side windows and the plate glass of a bay window on her home. The project was approved as an in-kind replacement of an existing exterior window unit. The homeowner agreed to provide final details of the project after selecting a contractor.
- **Anna Barbour and John Nolan**, 2227 Glasgow Road, presented plans for a 4'6" tall welded wire, black vinyl coated fence to enclose an area in the rear of their home. The fencing would be attached to 4x4 posts spaced 5 feet apart. The committee agreed to make site visits to the proposed area in the coming weeks before making a determination for or against the project.

—Patrick Kelly, CAHH/DRC Liaison

Two blocks from

ROUTE ONE FAMILY GOURMET

Hawwi Cafe, at the north end of Old Town (1125 Queen Street on the corner of Fayette), specializes in authentic Ethiopian food. It's a friendly, casual place—a real neighborhood restaurant—run by Hanane and named for her 9-year-old daughter, Hawwi. Beside a full array of Ethiopian favorites (including some delicious vegetarian dishes) there are a few options for the less adventurous in your group. If you are not familiar with Ethiopian food, Hanane or her helpers will advise you on what to choose and how to eat it (it's the ultimate finger food) and will obligingly tone down the typical 'heat' for those who prefer less spicy fare. Finish off your meal with a cup of excellent Ethiopian coffee—roasted, ground, and brewed by Hanane herself.

The service is friendly, the prices reasonable, and the parking easy compared with the rest of Old Town.

(Disclosure: Beside being a great cook, Hanane is my friend and former ESL student. Even if you don't tell her I sent you, the food will still be delicious—but say hello from me, anyway.)

—Barbara Shear

The title was borrowed from the Weidenfelder family's restaurant reviews that have appeared in the Bulletin. You, too, can share your neighborhood dining discoveries by sending us a review of your own favorite local eating place.

HERE FOR FIVE GENERATIONS

There are several third generation residents in our community, but Donna Anderson's family apparently holds a record—her son, Ian, and daughter, Audrey, are fifth generation Hollin Hillers!

Donna's maternal grandparents, Olive and Randall Kriner, built a house on Stafford Road around 1950. Her great-grandmother, Mabel Fuegner, (*first generation*) lived there with the Kriners (*second generation*) and her mother (*third generation*) lived there for a while, too. Donna (*fourth generation*) and Lee Anderson moved to Brentwood Place twenty years ago when Ian was two years old, and Audrey was born several months later (*FIFTH generation!*).

Donna's family tree includes the



Spencers, who at one time jointly owned the Mount Vernon Estate with the Washington family, so the whole area has a lot of meaning for her family.

The photos above were taken when (*l-r*) Audrey, Donna, and Ian recently visited



Stephen Obenski and Regino Madrid, present owners of the Stafford Road house. Steve and Gino moved here from Capitol Hill just over a year ago. In the picture on the right, Audrey compares a 50s snapshot of the living room with the room today.

EARLY DAYS IN HOLLIN HILLS PART TWO

Here are more excerpts from Elizabeth Coffin's book, *Life with David*. She and David Coffin and their three children were among Hollin Hills' earliest residents.

We learned that he [Robert Davenport, the builder of Hollin Hills] had moved into one of his own new houses not far from us on our hilltop, so he became a real neighbor. At Christmastime he gave each householder a unique gift from his namesake family farm [Hollin Farm in Fauquier County]—a small turkey, ready for roasting. Hollin Farm seemed very close, though it was fifty miles away.

Our other neighbors were all interesting professionals with wide interests including a genuine fascination with gardening. As time went by, and the shrubs, weeds, and children grew, we were grateful for the instructions and examples that our older neighbors provided when they noticed the need for an experienced eye and hand in our tiny hold-

At Christmastime Davenport gave each householder a unique gift from his namesake family farm—a small turkey, ready for roasting.

ing. Bob Coe, a Harvard-trained landscape architect who was responsible for the landscaping plans at the Pentagon, was a close neighbor, always ready with advice for the

novices who were gradually buying the new houses sprouting up around us. Each spring he trundled his wheelbarrow full of plantings or a small tree down Rebecca Drive to offer additions to our sparse gardens.

. . . We often met in each other's yards as we exchanged ideas on how to turn rocky soil into rich deposits of nutrients suitable for healthy growth of any plant. There was no end to our excitement at the challenges of being the first settlers.

* * * *

My own greatest compliment in the tricky business of transplanting came from an expert advisor to many families in the community. He was known simply as "Mr. Stabler," whose connections to Hollin Hillers was his ownership of huge trees for sale and our need for shade. His background and fascination with horticulture came in part from a family connection to the Old Apothecary Shop in Alexandria, a relic of the earliest chemists pursuing business in town.

To those of us starving for cool shadows in our naked lots, his specialty of delivering a mature tree to our yards with a guarantee of live success was a godsend. We had the fun of picking out the tree we wanted on a visit to his "tree farm"* and learning what to do to prepare the ground for its delivery. He charged very little because he wanted a "good home" for his pets. He seemed espe-

To those of us starving for cool shadows in our naked lots, [Mr. Stabler's] specialty of delivering a mature tree with a guarantee of live success was a godsend.

cially fond of the eager young couples buying the contemporary houses that Charles Goodman had designed. These were future gardeners who wanted nature to be a firm part of their daily experience. New, lofty trees found the right setting in a Hollin Hills bit of earth.

With my usual gusto for any outside job, I dug the hole at the entrance to our house in anticipation of the arrival of our first maple tree with a trunk that measured close to fourteen inches across. I followed his instructions carefully to dig "deep and wide" and surprised him with my efficiency. We enjoyed the bantering which always accompanied his arrival with a friendly team ready with their own shovels . . . Later we learned that dear Mr. Stabler had praised "Liz Coffin as the best digger in the community!"

(To be continued)

* *Editor's note:* I believe Mr. Stabler's tree farm was situated near the Old Grist Mill where a dog park is now located, and that it remained there for many years after the time described here. Can anyone verify this?

MUSICMAN

To end of the summer outdoor concert season, the DC Blues Festival and Rosslyn Jazz Festival cap things off with all-day events. As always, events are free unless indicated.

- Thu., 9/3, 7:30pm, Lyceum: U.S. Air Force Airmen of Note (jazz combo) www.usafband.af.mil
- Sat., 9/5, noon-7:30pm, Carter Barron Amphitheater: 27th Annual DC Blues Festival - Jackson & Oziel, The Mojo Priests, Ful Power Blues, James Armstrong, Sherrie Williams www.dcb Blues.org
- Sun., 9/6, 3pm, Lyceum: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Assoc. Chamber Music Series. Pianist Haskell Small "Journey in Silence: Reflections on the Book of Hours" with poetry readings, and J. S. Bach www.wmpamusic.org
- Wed., 9/9, noon, Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium: The Legacy of Ola Belle Reed (bluegrass & gospel) www.loc.gov/concerts
- Fri., 9/11 & Sat. 9/12, 7pm, National Harbor Waterfront Stage: Airmen of Note (big band jazz) www.usafband.af.mil
- Sat., 9/12, 1 - 7pm, Gateway Park Rosslyn: 25th Annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival - 1pm, The Funk Ark (afrobeat); 2:20, Sonny Knight & the Lakers (funk); 3:50, Debo Band (Ethiopian pop); 5:20, Dirty Dozen Brass Band (soul) www.rosslynjazz.com
- Sun., 9/13, 3pm, Lyceum: Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Assoc. Chamber

Music Series. Pianist John Sutherland Earle, music of Beethoven ("Appassionata" Sonata), Schubert and more www.wmpamusic.org

- Sun., 9/13, 7pm, Carlyle Club, 2050 Ballenger Ave. Alexandria: Uptown Vocal Jazz Quartet, \$20 reservation recommended www.uptownvocaljazzquartet.com
- Thu., 9/17, 5pm, National Portrait Gallery Kogod Courtyard: U.S. Army Blues (big band jazz) www.usarmyband.com
- Thu., 9/17, 7:30pm, Lyceum: U.S. Air Force Clarinet Quartet www.usafband.af.mil
- Fri., 9/18, 7:30-9:30, Hollin Hall Senior Center: Mt. Vernon Swing Band (dance party) \$4 www.mvbands.com
- Sat., 9/19, 8pm, George Mason Center for the Arts: Fairfax Symphony—Beethoven Symphony #5, Piano Concerto #5 (Emperor) Alan Goldstein piano \$34 - \$58 www.fairfaxsymphony.org
- Sun., 9/20 noon & 1pm, National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden: Dukes of Dixieland www.dukesofdixieland.com
- Thu., 9/24, noon, Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium: The Down Hill Strugglers, John Cohen and Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton (traditional folk) www.loc.gov/concerts
- Sat., 9/26, 7pm. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church: Mustard Retreat & Nicole Belanus (folk) \$15 advance, \$18 at door www.focusmusic.org
- Sun., 9/27, noon & 1pm, National Gallery

FIRST RATE AND FREE

As a great source of excellent, highly professional music (almost all of it free) we in the DC area are fortunate to have all the main ensembles of the US military bands and orchestras nearby: the Army Band at Ft. Myer, the Navy Band at the Navy Yard, the Air Force Band at Bolling Air Force Base, and the Marine Band at the Marine Corps barracks in southeast Washington. Each fields a variety of smaller ensembles as well, such as the Airmen of Note, the Air Force Band jazz ensemble.

These military bands have high standards. Positions are sought after by graduates of the best collegiate music programs, players from smaller symphony orchestras, accomplished jazz musicians, and big band players/arrangers. Musicians—even great ones—often struggle to make a decent living. These military bands offer a secure income to their members and a wealth of good, free music to the public. —T.J.

of Art Sculpture Garden: Washington Saxophone Quartet www.wsaxq.com

• After an absence of several years, the Jazz Heritage Series is back for 2015. It's been relocated from Lisner Auditorium to the Clarice Smith Arts Center at U of MD. It's further away, but there's plenty of free parking and a much larger auditorium. www.usafband.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-150813-020.pdf

—Tony Jordan

CLASSIFIEDS

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITY: The campaign office of Paul Krizek for Delegate, 8426 Richmond Highway, in the Aldi Shopping Center, has an internship opportunity for college students and recent high school grads for its Fall Intern Program. Scheduling is flexible and you will learn many different aspects of the political process, including campaigning, finance, media, research, and policy. If you are interested in applying for the program, please send a resume to thomas@paulkrizek.com. We accept applications on a rolling basis, so apply as soon as possible. Thanks! —Paul Krizek

RECOMMENDED: Todd Sanborn of Sanborn Plumbing exceeded our expecta-

tions in installing two new spigots for our drip irrigation system. He installed permanent check valves that eliminate the need for us to attach noisy vacuum breakers outside the house. He also installed drains in the house to make it easy to winterize the system. He is meticulous and tidy. Todd can be reached at 703-472-7381 or sanbo70@verizon.net. —John Stocker

RECOMMENDED: Neither rain nor high water kept Entropic Remodeling off the job. After tropical downpours in late June, Brad Furman responded quickly to our call to waterproof leaky cinder blocks, replace damaged drywall, and paint the reconstructed wall in our downstairs living area just in time for our daughter's return from college. The

job was expertly done and, despite weekend overtime, cost was more than reasonable. Brad has also worked on other projects for us over the years, and we are pleased to give him our highest recommendation. He can be reached at bafurm@gmail.com or 703-201-6797. —Rick Schwabacher and Mary Ann Rametta

FOR SALE: Frank Gehry Hat Trick chairs. Two captains and two side chairs. Great condition. \$4500. Contact: Em@emlyninteriors.com. —Angela Russell

NOTICE: The deadline for the October issue of the Hollin Hills Bulletin will be September 15. Please send you material in on time.



TALKING TRASH

Follow these easy steps for safe, swift, and satisfactory collection of household trash and recyclables:

- Set carts out with a minimum of 12 inches in between them in order for the new automated trucks to be able to reach out and grab the carts to empty them.
- Carts should be set at least 6 feet away from vehicles and other personal property so that vehicles and personal property do not get damaged during the collection process.
- Place carts at the curb with the handles facing the house. If carts are placed the wrong way, this forces the driver to have to get out of the truck to turn the cart around so that he can

empty it. Putting the carts out incorrectly can cause delays in collections.

- Do not overfill carts (the lid must close tightly on its own).
- Cardboard that is too big to put in the recycling cart should be flattened and placed next to the recycling cart.
- Additional recycling materials should be placed in clear plastic bags and placed next to the recycling (blue) cart.
- Additional trash should be placed in plastic bags next to the trash (grey) cart.

Please help to keep our collection routes running smoothly and to keep costs under control.

—Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program