BAMBI REDUX

I wrote about deer in general terms in the February 2012 issue of the Hollin Hills Bulletin. They remain an issue in Hollin Hills (and elsewhere) largely because there’s so little we can do about them. Killing them is controversial, and at current “harvest” levels public and private hunting removes less than 5 percent of the herd each year, mostly on the other side of Route One. Contraception would be expensive, even if it worked, and so far it hasn’t. Introducing predator species (wolves, cougars, bears), as suggested by a recent Post op-ed, is a Swiftian proposal that, while entertaining, would raise a number of practical difficulties.

The only remaining option, however unsatisfying, is coexistence. The deer were here long before I was, and they’ll be here long after I’m gone. I really don’t mind having the occasional deer wander through my yard, any more than I mind squirrels in my trees or birds at my feeder. But I do mind when they treat my garden like a salad bar, and I really hate it when they eat the flower buds off my lemon-yellow tetraploid daylilies just before they bloom.

Physical barriers don’t work. Deer can easily jump an 8-foot fence, and the photos I’ve seen of “deer-proof” gardens make them look like the exercise yard at a prison farm. But there are other things you can do to make your garden less inviting to deer. They don’t like strong smells, for example, so you can try scent-based deterrents. Among the many I’ve found online are human hair, dirty socks, rotten eggs, and deodorant soap (Irish Spring in particular). Garden shops sell bottled coyote urine, and I suppose that human urine would work as well (I’ll let you sort out the details). Deer don’t like strong tastes, either, so you can also try taste deterrents such as hot pepper wax (from red chilies) and piperine oil (the active ingredient in black pepper).

But there are other ways of coexisting with deer that don’t get much commercial attention, things like how you design your landscape and what plants you use in your garden. If you can’t keep the deer out of your garden, for example, at least put the most vulnerable plants closer to the house, possibly as container plants, or behind a barrier of plants they don’t like (list follows). Better yet, simply avoid the plants that deer seem to like the most. That includes my daylilies as well tulips, hosta, impatients, roses, azaleas, and burning bush, plus almost any vegetable that humans eat, including corn, beans, peas, cabbage, and lettuce.

Instead, try to use plants that deer don’t eat, or at least don’t prefer. That includes plants with strong smells and flavors, including most herbs, as well as those with thorns or prickly leaves or sticky sap (what food scientists would call “bad mouth feel”). Examples include:

• BULBS: daffodil, autumn crocus, allium, ornamental garlic, hyacinth.
• FLOWERS: peony, bleeding heart, bearded iris, cleome, Russian sage, canna, astilbe, nicotiana.
• ORNAMENTAL GRASSES: fountain grass, maiden grass, bamboo, basically all of them.
• GROUND COVERS: pachysandra, lily-turf (Liriope spicata), various ferns, lungwort, epimedium, ginger (European and native), hellebore, lily of the valley.
• SHRUBS: cotoneaster, barberry, mahonia, viburnum, boxwood, pieris, juniper, yucca, shrub dogwoods (red, yellow, gray).
• TREES: native holly, American beech, mountain laurel, magnolia, oak, redbud, sycamore, serviceberry.

Rutgers (did you know that it was a land grant university?) has a more comprehensive list of deer resistance ratings at http://njaes.rutgers.edu/deerresistance/. White Flower Farm breaks them down by their sun or shade preference at http://www.whiteflowerfarm.com/deer-resistant-plants.html#. You can also see these plants in the demonstration beds at Green Spring Garden Park in Annandale (http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/).

A word of warning, however—deer are browsers, which means they wander through the landscape taking a bite of this and a bite of that until they find something they like; then they stop and graze. But they’ll take that first bite out of almost anything, if only to find out if they do like it, and if they’re hungry enough they’ll eat everything in sight. The best strategy may be to use a wide diversity of plants in your landscape, including a few sacrificial daylilies, and don’t plant anything you’d really hate to lose.

—Paul B. Phelps

* For a copy of Paul’s February 2012 article, Were Deer, Were Here, Get Used To It, just send your email request to barbshear@verizon.net.
HELLOS AND GOODBYES
It feels as if recently there have been more moving vans than usual coming in and going out of Hollin Hills. Nevertheless, the following list is woefully incomplete. Ideally, the Bulletin should include a welcome for every newcomer and a farewell to every departing resident, but that can only happen if their neighbors—especially the Area Greeters—send in the information. There’s no need for a long essay. Just a sentence or two is fine, unless you want to write more—and that’s fine, too. Thanks in advance for sending your neighborhood news to barbshear@verizon.net.

• Ken and Irene Hartung moved to Greenspring in August from their home on Lisbon Lane. They have thoughtfully passed on their own recommendations, garnered over 46 years, which can be found on page 5. The Hartungs can be reached at their new Greenspring home at 703-644-4575.
• The new owners of 2404 Lisbon Lane are Ray Mims and Andrew Alman, who moved here from Capitol Hill along with beagles Joey and Phoebe. Ray’s contact numbers are 202-713-6745 and rmims@aoc.gov. Andrew’s are azalman@pewtrusts.org and 202-549-5170. Welcome!
• When Hana Hirschfeld moved recently from Kimbro Street to Goodwin House, it left another big gap in the community that will be difficult if not impossible to fill. Hana and Tom were mainstays of Hollin Hills in so many capacities over so many years. Hana’s “love letter” to Hollin Hills that originated appeared on the online Forum can be found on page 3. She would welcome visitors, and her new phone number is 703-820-1807.
• Jay Pascoe and Tim Day will be heading off to Ohio at the end of this month, along with their three spriger spaniels and the well wishes of their many Hollin Hills friends. In the seven years they’ve lived on Rebecca Drive, it’s hard to think of any two people who have contributed more to the community than Tim and Jay. They helped produce the Directory, opened their beautiful home to the House Tour, served on the CAHH Board (Jay as VP and then president)—even provided the Christmas tree in McCallery Park. Our loss will definitely be Ohio’s gain.

DEER CONTROL ANYONE?
If you would like to join unofficial efforts to address the burgeoning deer population in our neighborhood and the threat they pose to our gardens, the local environment, and the health of us and our families (as vectors for Lyme disease), please contact Chris Koppen at chriskoppen@gmail.com.

(Not: See page 1 for more on the Hollin Hills deer dilemma.)

IT’S NOT TOO EARLY TO GET IN THE SWIM
Looking for a pool for this summer? If you are new to Hollin Hills or have been thinking about joining the Hollin Hills Pool, now is the time to let us know. Our membership (and renewal for current members) will begin in March. If you are interested, please send an email to admin@hhpool.org and a membership form will be sent to you. Current members should expect to receive renewal forms about March 1. Join and help us celebrate our 60th anniversary this year.

—Rebecca Bostick, Pool Chair

GARDEN CLUB HEARS MASTER GARDENER
The #1 hot topic for local gardeners that Paul Phelps covers on the front page—how to garden despite our resident deer—was also the subject of the Garden Club’s January 14 meeting, when a capacity crowd gathered at Kari Larson’s home for a lively and informative talk by Eleni Silverman. Eleni has been a Master Gardener at Green...
Spring Gardens Park for more than eight years and also runs a business called the Well Tended Garden. Local garden enthusiasts will enjoy and benefit from her blog, Belle Haven Garden Maven (bellehavenmaven.com/) that she writes as president of the Belle Haven Garden Club.

The next meeting of the Hollin Hills Garden Club is scheduled for 7:30 on Thursday, February 13, at Gay Forney’s home, 1809 Drury Lane. The topic has not yet been finalized, but will be announced shortly. Gardeners, from beginners to experts, are invited to join the club’s email group at hhgardenclubsubscribe@yahoo groups.com

**Meet Our Police Officers**

Local residents are invited to attend the Mt. Vernon Citizens Advisory Committee meetings held by the Mt. Vernon District Police on the second Tuesday of each month at the station, 2511 Parkers Lane. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11, at 7pm. Come meet our local officers and learn more about them.

In addition to its regular officers, the Mt. Vernon Station has ten auxiliary officers who volunteer their time and talents. Some of their responsibilities are: manning DWI checkpoints, providing safety at events at Waynewood and Carl Sandburg Schools, and performing various duties at the Hollin Hall Center. In addition, they make themselves highly visible at area shopping centers, especially during the holiday shopping season. You will meet Auxiliary Officer Rick Lopez, who attends all these meetings

Our officers are served by a Peer Support Unit of trained professionals who aid their fellow officers through difficult situations and traumatic events that they experience in the line of duty.

Our community’s contact for information and non-emergency matters is MPO Greg Kottemann, who can be reached at gregory.kottemann@fairfaxcounty.gov.

—Laura Wirkkala

**HOUSE TOUR TOPICS**

The 2014 House & Garden Tour committee hit the ground running with its first meeting after the holidays, on Monday January 6. The press release has been finalized, and home owners have been asked to provide background information on their homes to be included in the brochure. Tickets for the April 26 event are now available for purchase on the website, www.HollinHills.net.

—Steve Costoff

**DEAR HOLLIN HILLS,**

It is with a heavy heart that I leave Hollin Hills. Our family moved to our first house on Davenport Street in December 1963, with three children, the youngest just two months old. We fell in love with the neighborhood and with the house even as the realtor who was showing us around kept saying,”But you could have so much more house for the money.” Possibly, but we could not have found a better community.

Our neighbors became our best friends. Most of us women who had small children stayed home but found such interesting, stimulating neighbors that deep friendships developed. We arranged plays groups for the littlest ones, car pools for the kindergartners; there was an active baby sitting co-op which included fathers; a group of us at that end of the community got together to finance the new pool when it became clear that the old one would not be able to accommodate the growing population “in the valley”. This issue caused a rift for a few years and the creation of another community association, the Civic Assn. of New Hollin Hills. Over the years, the rift healed as the two entities came together geographically and psychologically. There were many lively CAHH meetings and some considerable accomplishments, such as keeping Hollin Hills from becoming a throughway from Rte. 1 to Fort Hunt Road. There were the usual discussions about Design Review Committee decisions. There were cows on a farm on Sherwood Hall Lane just around the corner where Kirkside now begins. There was a tree nursery behind our house. There were horses in Popkin’s Farm that sometimes galloped through the neighborhood. We never locked our doors, day or night. There were no deer; there was no Lyme disease. Presumably there were mice.

So I say goodbye after fifty years of what has been a wonderful, happy home to our family. Keep the HH spirit going and keep a sense of humor about the contentious issues that arise in the community. (Ask an old timer about the CAHH meeting that discussed the possibility of asking the County to put up street lights.) The issues will pass but the cohesiveness should be treasured and nurtured.

Goodbye to Tom’s and my many good friends. A part of me will remain here but the great memories come with me.

—Hana Hirschfeld

**MARCH 2**

**SAVE THIS DATE FOR THE WINTER POTLUCK**

The annual Winter Potluck will be held on Sunday, March 2, from 5-7 pm.

Because of a construction project at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church main building, our usual space there will not be available. We anticipate that this year’s potluck will consist of appetizers rather than our traditional seated dinner and will probably be held in the church’s Hollin Hall.

However, whether it’s over plates of lasagna or a table full of delicious hors d’ouvers, the important thing is to chase away the winter doldrums by all getting together and enjoying an evening with our friends and neighbors.

Watch for more details that will follow soon.
ANNA McKENNA

Anna McKenna

Anna died peacefully in her sleep following two full days with her family and friends on her favorite holiday of the year and one day short of her 56th wedding anniversary to her husband, Frank.

Born Anna Mary Hullar, her 85-and-a-half years were formed by her adventurous spirit, sense of social justice, and love of nature and people. That spirit led her to work as a CIA agent in Greece, participate in civil rights protests, travel, and send her kids to Burgundy Farm—a school that was integrated and child-centered at a time when most Virginia schools were neither. Anna was also a beloved teacher and colleague at Burgundy, where she taught from 1970-1994 and continued as a sub for many years after that.

She and Frank were active members of the Hollin Hills community from 1964 to 2012. They were also members of Friends of Dyke Marsh and volunteered at Huntley Meadows Park, where Anna shared her enthusiasm for birding with visitors. She was also an active member of the Democratic Party, where her gregarious nature came in handy for registering voters.

Anna’s adventurous spirit took her and her (sometimes initially reluctant) family and friends on trips near and far. She made lifelong friends wherever she went. She loved anything that involved celebrating life and friends and, for a time, this often involved upbeet Greek music and a roasting lamb or pig on a spit (as Anna would say, Ouzo in hand: “Opal!”). She played music often and loudly, liked her colors bright, loved art and literature, was a deeply loyal friend, and an advocate for anyone she perceived in need of help.

She is the wife of Frank McKenna; mother of Barbara McKenna, Jim McKenna (d. 1999), and Ian McKenna; and grandmother of Maya Brodkey, Sam Brodkey, and Rowan McKenna.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Burgundy Farm Country Day School Scholarship Endowment Fund, (703-842-0470, michelem@burgundyfarm.org).

- We cannot speak of Anna McKenna in the “was a dear friend” sense. Neighbor, colleague, fellow traveler of thousands-of-miles over dozens of years, she is actively with us still and always will be.

- A liberal’s liberal, Anna McKenna is always for change—the journey for its own sake. Since its earliest days, Anna embodies ideas and practices of her Hills of Hollin and is our modulation’s graceful exemplar. Anna’s amiable modernity, savvy humor, progressive optimism, omnivorous curiosity and intelligence is the best of friendship and company. She’s not so interested in where one’s been, as where one is. And is going.

Like time itself, Anna proceeds from today to tomorrow. In this house Anna McKenna will not be traditionally “missed.”

For she is not “Anna was” but “Anna is” Hollin Hills.

—Julie & Rocky Curtis

- I remember Anna’s caring smiles and her innate ability to reach young children. She was always teaching—not only the children in her classes but also anyone lucky enough to cross her path.

I first met Anna when we arrived in DC and enrolled our son at Burgundy Farm School. She was his first grade teacher, but more than that, she made newcomers feel welcome in so many ways. When we started house hunting, she directed us to Hollin Hills. How could we have been so lucky?

I taught with Anna in first, second, and third grades, and witnessed first hand how she loved the study of nature and imbued this desire in her students. Birds lived in the classroom and feeders hung outside the windows as we studied and observed their behavior. Monarch butterflies got in-depth attention every fall, as we all hunted for the small monarch eggs under milkweed leaves, and watched in fascination as the stages of metamorphosis unfolded and the butterflies emerged and were released to continue their long journey to Mexico.

She led student trips to study history and nature—experiencing colonial life at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, camping in Shenandoah and Chincoteague, traveling to the Chesapeake Bay, and of course to her beloved Burgundy Wild Life Camp.

Anna advocated persistently for community needs. She enthusiastically organized celebrations for happy occasions and was there when people needed help. Her kindness, her passions, her deep friendships, and her love of learning are lessons that stay with us all. She will be sorely missed.

—Eloise Singh

- Anna, our friend of almost 47 years, was always a spirited, spunky lady. She never lost her optimism, her enthusiasm or her love of life, despite suffering severe health issues in recent years. The children she taught during her many years at Burgundy Farm School were so fortunate to have had her as their teacher.

Anna loved wildlife and, in particular, was an avid birder. She regularly birded in Chincoteague and participated in the annual Audubon Christmas bird count. She was an avid backyard birder with a keen eye, making sure that her bird feeders were always filled. Her last months in her beloved Hollin Hills, before moving to Hood River, Oregon, last spring, were made easier by the amazing help she received from her close neighbors, especially from Bob and Lee Ann Kinzer. Anna’s spirit did not fail, even as her health failed.

—Ruth Morduch

Attending the Design Revue Committee meeting on December 11, 2013, were DRC members Mike McGill, Christine Kelly, Jennifer Kirby, and Barbara Ward and CAHH Liaison Katy Weidenfeller. The following were acted on.

- Lee Cutler, 7305 Rebecca Drive. Proposal reviewed for a shed design. The DRC approved a design for a shed for Ms. Cutler in 2006. Construction was started on the shed using a modified roof design in 2013. No renewed approval was requested before construction began. (Note: DRC guidelines require approval no more than 2 years before start of construction and whenever an approved design is modified.) Ms. Cutler agreed to come before the DRC when a neighbor raised a concern about the design and the approval process. DRC feedback on the modified design was that the asymmetrical shape of the shed’s roof was not consistent with typical Hollin Hills roof designs. DRC members suggested several alternatives but did not approve the modified roof design. Ms. Cutler was invited to bring a revised plan or appeal the decision to the CAHH Board.

- David and Christie Willkerson, 2411 Brentwood Place. DRC reviewed plans for an addition, approximately 300 square feet, to the side of the house with same scale and same roof line/material as existing house. T1-11 (continued on page 5)
siding will be used on the addition. Cut sheets for new windows were reviewed. Design and location for replacement windows was discussed and will be shared via email for separate approval. Currently the house has no gutters and box gutters are proposed. Project was approved with exception of replacement windows which will be reviewed when further details provided by owners. [Note: window specifices were approved by email following the meeting.]

- **Paul O’Sullivan, 2105 Marthas Road.** Proposal for new windows, relocated doors, and new roof. Home will retain box gutters. DRC approved project as proposed.

> —Katy Weidenfeller
> Note: No DRC meeting was held in January, as there were no projects to review.

**BOOK CLUB**

The book we discussed in January was *American Dervish*, by Ayad Akhtar. The story is told by Hayat, a Pakistani boy growing up in Milwaukee. His father is a successful neurologist. From an early age on, he has to listen to his mother complaining about his father’s many affairs with white women. When he is ten, Mina, his mother’s best friend from Pakistan, joins this rather secular household and introduces the boy to the Koran. His young mind feels the joy and comfort of believing in all merciful Allah but also the torment, when he contemplates His wrath at the unbelievers. To save his parents from hell’s fires, he learns the verses of the Koran by heart, only to find out that it counts only when they are in Arabic, not English. He also makes sure his beloved Aunt Mina will not marry a Jew, a deed he will regret all his life. She later marries a Pakistani physician and suffers beatings and abuse by him. Hayat feels responsible for her misfortune.

The book shows how this boy, as he grows up, is exposed to many often entangled influences such as antisemitism, prejudice, faith, bigotry, ethnic pride, and the way Moslem men treat women. In the end Hayat finds a Jewish girl friend and proclaims, “It was in Rachel’s arms... that I finally discovered myself not only as a man, but as an American.” We all found this book interesting and easy to read.

We will discuss is *The Keep*, by Jennifer Egan at our next meeting, Wednesday, February 12, at Louise Wiener’s house. Visitors are, as always, welcome.

> —Elizabeth Egghart

**MUSIC MAN**

**On a cold winter evening of January 6, the Planning and Zoning Committee (P&Z) had possibly its largest attendance ever. It was joined by the Transportation Committee, the South County Federation, and spokesman from Enviroolutions, a locally based recycling company. Enviroolutions’ proposal was described in the November 2013 Bulletin as “a plan that centers on 250 acres in the Lorton Industrial Corridor, north of the Ocoquan River, between I-95 and Furnace Road. The site would be used for wind and solar energy facilities and a methane gas collection system. It would extend the life of the construction debris landfill until 2040. No public funding is involved.”**

The southernmost portion of Fairfax County is the site of a long closed federal penitentiary at Lorton, where efforts have been made to revitalize the area with an art center, museums, and other amenities. However, it has also long been a destination for solid waste, most of it coming from Washington and Maryland. A growing mountain of landfill is delivered by an average of 394 trucks arriving each day via only a few roads. For years, Enviroolutions has been working with Fairfax County to solve this problem.

The Enviroolutions proposal is supported by the Lorton Valley Homeowners Association, represented by Neal McBride on the P&Z, and has written support from several other neighborhoods, but it is strongly opposed by the South County Federation, representing more than 45 area associations. Conflicts also have arisen over extending the landfill from 2018 to 2040.

The meeting ended inconclusively, with Planning Commissioner Earl Flanagan stating that several legal problems must be resolved, and that Supervisor Hyland does not support the application.

> —Burt Kronstedt

**RECOMMENDATIONS, CLASSIFIEDS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We have sold our home on Lisbon Lane and moved to the Greenspring Retirement Community. During our forty-six years in Hollin Hills we compiled the following list of service people, and we highly recommend them all.
  1. Adco Air Distributing Co., Inc. Furnace/A/C Installation/Maintenance 703-368-8106 or 1-800-232-4822
  2. Ray Dodson’s Tree & Yard Work Tree Work 540-439-1505 or 1-888-873-4011
  3. Fina Construction, Inc. Home Renovation and Repair 703-718-0804
  4. Hometeam Pest Defense Pest Control 703-491-7378
  5. Jenkins Roofing Co. Roofers 703-631-1899
  8. Orlando Vargas House Cleaning 571-220-7284

> —Ken and Irene Hartung

- The orange tabby cat pictured here has been visiting regularly around Rebecca Road where it backs up on Hopa Court. The indoor cats in the area are very upset by visits from this wandering vagabond. A neighbor, worried that he might be lost, has fed him and provided a blanket on very cold nights but cannot “adopt” him. If this is your cat, or you know who he belongs to, please contact Evelyne Bubenak, at 1mamie@cox.net, or 703-765-8327.

- The deadline for the March issue of the Bulletin is February 15. Please submit your articles, ads, photos, and letters on time. Thank you.
Music Man from page 5


• Tuesday, February 4, 8pm, Library of Congress Coolidge Auditorium: The Freiburg Baroque Orchestra - J. S. Bach, Brandenburg Concerti (complete) Performance sold out; but a limited number of rush tickets will be available at no cost two hours before performance. www.loc.gov/concerts/freiburger.html


• Saturday, February 8, 7-10pm, Christ Congregational Church, 9525 Colesville Rd. Silver Spring: Big Band Tradition (another of my bands) "An Evening of Jazz" dance/concert. Free. Donations benefit church’s youth summer mission trip. www.bigbandtradition.com

• Sunday, February 9, 4pm, St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean: McLean Orchestra - Mozart, Serenata Murmure in D Major, Poulenc, Organ Concerto in G minor, Handel, Excerpts from Water Music Suite in F Major, Haydn;Symphony No. 44 in E minor. Tickets $40, seniors $30, youth under 18 $15.


• Saturday, February 15, 7:30pm, Artisphere, Rosslyn: C. J. Chenier and the Red Hot Louisiana Band (cajun). $20 www.artisphere.com

• Sunday, February 16, 3pm, T. C. Williams HS: Metropolitan Philharmonic - Ron Nelso, Savannah Holiday, Stanley Curtis, Night Passages for trumpet and orchestra, Rachmaninoff Symphony No. 1. Tickets $20, youth under 18 free www.wmpamusic.org

• Tuesday, February 18, 6pm, Lyceum: Fairfax Chamber Ensemble - Shostakovich Piano Quintet, Mozart Kliegelsatt Trio, Stravinsky: Tango. Tickets $20, children and students free. www.fairfaxchamberensemble.com


• Sunday, February 23, 3pm, Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean: Young Soloists Recital free www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/aldenconcerts

—Tony Jordan