2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE—RENEW NOW!

Calling all Hollin Hills residents! The Civic Association (CAHH) membership year is May 1-April 30, and our 2015 membership drive is now underway. It’s time to join or renew your membership. Membership forms were sent out in late March. Complete the form and mail it in, or you can complete your membership form and pay your dues online at www.hollinhillsnets. (A $5 convenience fee applies for processing an online payment.)

Benefits of membership include receiving the Bulletin and the Hollin Hills Directory. Your membership dues also allow residents to enjoy community social events, including the Winter Potluck, the 4th of July Parade and Picnic, and the Oktoberfest celebration.

Membership dues also support enforcement of our architectural covenants and pays for insurance and other business expenses of the CAHH, as well as providing funds for the maintenance of Hollin Hills parks and common areas.

If for some reason you did not receive the form or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 703-721-2002 or bmduyard@hotmail.com.

—Betsy Dumitri, Membership Chair

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

The Big Night

Imagine...7:30 on Monday evening, April 13, Hollin Meadows School...dancing elephants, acrobats, baton twirlers, Elvis Presley, jugglers, the Great Houdini...and that’s just the first hour!!

Now that’s a Spring Meeting! The CAHH Spring Meeting could be just that good if we get lucky, so don’t miss it. I know for sure that we will be reviewing the financial results from this past year, and I believe Susan Kuhbach is bringing her skimmer and cane. We will also discuss the status of various current events of interest to the community. So be there, and bring your imagination.

Maintaining Real Estate Values

On March 13, Alan Warshawer published the results of his analysis of the Hollin Hills real estate sales during the preceding year and the county’s real estate tax assessment increase. Congratulations to Alan. It was very interesting, especially to this numerically challenged commenter. From his data review, Alan suggested that the value of Hollin Hills houses increased at a greater rate than the rest of Fairfax County. I believe this is true, and it demonstrates the desirability of our community and the advantages of maintaining the architectural integrity of the neighborhood. To this end, the CAHH, through the DRC, plays an important role. In the coming weeks, when you are asked to join CAHH or renew your membership, please do so. It is important.

A Dance of Eagles

After the last snow fall, my wife, Barbara Liggett, and I were outside shoveling, as was our neighbor, Cory English. Cory told us that he had seen a pair of bald eagles in the act of mating in the air above Edelman’s house (my neighbor on the other side). He (Continued on page 2)

Big Bird makes a visit

Andrew Keegan snapped these photos in early March, when Drury Lane was visited by a wild turkey, the first one he has seen in these environs. It got us wondering—is this a first for Hollin Hills, or have they visited here before? Apparently, they are making a big comeback in many places, but why? If wild turkeys decide they like our neighborhood, how will they fare with (or perhaps be fare for) our resident foxes? Please tell us of your turkey sightings, send answers to our questions, or even ask more questions. With help from our community bird experts, we’ll talk turkey in the next Bulletin.
News of our Schools

Great Beginnings Program for Rising Kindergartners

Hollin Meadows will hold its annual rising kindergarten orientation on Tuesday, April 14, 9:30-11am. The program is intended for children who will be enrolling in kindergarten this coming fall (those who will be five years old by September 30, 2015 are eligible to attend kindergarten). To RSVP for this program or to learn more about kindergarten registration, please call 703-718-8300 and speak with Melissa Breen.

Opportunity for Your Feedback on School Issues

The CIP (Capital Improvement Program) is the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) annual facilities proposal. FCPS staff are hosting four community engagement meetings to present information on the CIP including student enrollment projections, school boundary issues, building renovation needs, programming, and possible solutions to facility needs in our Region 3 school pyramid (which includes West Potomac High School).

Two meetings took place in late March (too late to report here) but you can sign up to attend one of the April meetings: Wednesday, April 8, at Hayfield Secondary School or Wednesday, April 15, at Whitman Middle School, both 7:9:30pm.

For more information, visit the FCPS website (http://www.fcps.edu/regions/38/facilitiesmeetings.shtml), which also contains the relevant documents that will be discussed at the meeting. These meetings are open to parents, FCPS employees, and community members, and all Hollin Hills residents are encouraged to attend.

Coming: HM Partnership Gala

On Saturday, May 16, the Hollin Meadows Partnership for Science + Math Education will hold its fifth annual Seeds of Today Neighborhood Gala to benefit and sustain the Hollin Meadows Science/ Math Focus Program. More information to come, but please save the evening of May 16 on your calendar. Visit http://www.hollinmeadowspartnership.org for more information.

Earth Day at Hollin Meadows

Join us Saturday April 25, 10am-2pm, for our 10th Annual Earth Day Celebration. There will be food demonstrations, music, crafts, painting, food, mulching, and more! Bring your work gloves to the HM garden Sunday, April 12, to help us prepare the grounds for Earth Day.

Weekend Food Pantry

Hollin Meadows Parent Center, in partnership with the HM Student Council Association (SCA) and PTA, is hosting a Weekend Food Pantry for our neediest families. It is designed to be a sustainable project that provides leadership development opportunities for SCA members. The SCA will lead food drives, inventory, packaging, and communications. Volunteers are needed on Fridays at dismissal (2:55pm) for 30 minutes to distribute pantry bags. To learn more, please email sharon.sydow@gmail.com.

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said the birds were locked together by their beaks, with a fair amount of flapping, and making considerable screeching noises. Barbara, skeptical, asked Cory how he knew they were mating. Cory said he wasn’t sure until, after they had finished, they flew over Jo Ann Hersh’s house and had a smoke.

Yesterday morning, one of the eagles was back, perched high in a tree between my house and the Edelman’s. He was waiting. Romance was in the air.

A Small Disappointment

You may remember that last month I asked folks to consider submitting poems, essays, or very short fiction for publication in the Bulletin. In response, I received a lot Domino’s Pizza ads. Please consider it. Just like the little story above, there is a lot happening in our neighborhood, and a lot to share.

See you at the meeting.

Gus Matson, CAHH President
WELCOME TO HOLLIN HILLS

There’s a new family at 7424 Rebecca Drive, the former home of Lee and Charles King. We welcome William Heaton, who works for the State Department, Olivia Peak, a graphic designer, and Cora, their 7-month-old daughter. Having moved from a one-bedroom condo in DC, they are happy to be in their new home and, now that winter weather is behind us, are looking forward to meeting their neighbors.

—Betsy Damitz

DON’T MISS THE HH YARD SALE

Join your neighbors for our third annual Hollin Hills Community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 18, 9am-12 noon. The rain date is April 25.

As always, the sale will take place on the Hollin Hills Pool parking lot. Unfortunately, there was some recent water damage to the lot from a knocked over water hydrant, but we are keeping our fingers crossed that everything will be repaired in time for the yard sale.

All participants are asked to bring their own tables and anything else they need to set up, as well as to make one LARGE sign to advertise the event and to post it in the neighborhood (and remove it later).

If you would like to take part or if you have any questions, please email Friederike Ahrens (friederikemh@hotmail.com).

—Friederike Ahrens

GET IN THE SWIM, IT’S MEMBERSHIP TIME AT THE POOL

Although there is still snow on the ground as this is being written, the Hollin Hills Pool is starting to gear up for the summer. Have you seen the larger parking lot, the longer walkway, the new playground, and the enlarged eating areas? We can’t wait to show it off on opening day, Saturday, May 23.

In addition, we are going paperless this year. Last year’s pool members should have received the membership renewal link via email around the second week of March. If we didn’t have an email address for you, the form was mailed to you. Any new Hollin Hills residents who would like to join the pool this summer or any member who didn’t get the membership link, please send us an email at admin@hhpool.org, and we will get membership information out to you. The pool membership deadline is May 1.

—Rebecca Bostick, Pool Chair

TRANSPORTATION MEETING FOCUSES ON CONGESTION, SAFETY

The Transportation Committee of the MVCCA met in February and March to focus on continuing concerns of traffic congestion and road safety. Of particular interest to the Hollin Hills community were discussions on the impact of the increased traffic to and from Fort Belvoir and its impact on access to Fort Hunt Road during rush hours. There have been numerous accidents between Sherwood Hall Lane and Belle Haven Boulevard, but there is insufficient accident data available to prove the need for additional traffic lights. There are also plans to expand Mt. Vernon Hospital facilities, which will add to the traffic congestion along this corridor. The Committee is seeking data on traffic counts and vehicle accidents.

Additional discussion focused on the Fort Hunt “jug handle” where confusing lane markings result in a dangerous intersection with motorists attempting to turn northbound on Richmond Highway from the right-hand lane coming off the access road in front of the Great American Steak House. A resolution was passed calling on Supervisor Hyland to request action by VDOT.

The next committee meeting is April 6 at Walt Whitman Middle School.

—Becki Brady

north hill fact sheet


The North Hill property is a 33 acre unimproved area along the east side of Richmond Highway between Popkins Lane and Dart Drive (behind the Bryant Alternative High School and St. Louis Catholic Church and School).

—Mike Plotnick, CAHH / MVCCA Liaison

HATS OFF to two enterprising Hollin Hills teens who took advantage of this winter’s snowfalls to start a successful snow shoveling business. Peyton Burns (left), of Elba Road, and Lukas Brokamp (right), who lives on Rebecca, are eighth graders at Carl Sandburg Middle School. They dropped off flyers on Hollin Hills doorsteps offering to clear driveways for $40-50, and sidewalks for $10 more. Their many happy customers probably hope that Peyton and Lukas will soon be sharpening up their lawn mowers.

Diana Cross, 1927-2015

Diana Cross died on February 12, at Greenspring, where she and her husband, Eason, had moved in 2012. The Cross family came to Hollin Hills in 1955, raised their four children, Ben, Rebecca, Amy, and Susan, here and were active and well known members of our community.

Diana was an outstanding teacher, who worked successfully for many years with disadvantaged and underachieving children using a gentle approach—encouraging rather than judging. After retirement, she continued teaching in the innovative National External Diploma Program, helping people earn their high school diplomas. She was a Court-Appointed Special Advocate for neglected children and volunteered with the Each One, Teach One literacy program and Peace Links. She also taught conflict resolution skills to elementary students.

A celebration of Diana Cross’s life will be held on Saturday, May 2, 2pm, at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.
PLANTING MILKWEED FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

The Monarch butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is at once the most familiar and one of the most endangered North American butterflies. This is what most people visualize when you say “butterfly,” four inches across with distinctive orange and black wings trimmed with white dots. Monarchs are found throughout the world, including North Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands, and they are not endangered as a species. However, the sub-population we know best—the one that migrates from winter “roosts” in Mexico across the eastern United States to southern Canada—is threatened by habitat loss.

The 5,000-mile migration of the eastern Monarch takes five generations, the first leaving Mexico in March or April and their great-grandchildren returning home from southern Canada in September or October. Each generation requires nectaring plants to feed the adults and larval plants for laying eggs and feeding caterpillars. The larval plants are particularly important, especially the many members of the milkweed family (Asclepiadaceae) that used to be found in fields, pastures, swamps, and roadsides. Unfortunately, common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) is a tenacious weed that farmers and road crews go after with Roundup and other herbicides. Combine this with the conversion of fields and pastures to subdivisions and shopping centers, and you have a significant threat to survival. By some estimates, the population of Monarch butterflies making this eastern migration has declined by as much as 90 percent in the past twenty years.

A number of conservation groups are already lobbying for changes in agricultural practice and road maintenance that will save Monarch habitat. Others have launched programs to create “waystations” where migrating butterflies can find the nectaring and larval plants on which they depend. The National Wildlife Federation has an entire website devoted to butterfly gardens, with gorgeous close-up photos that will make you want all twelve different native milkweeds (http://blog.nwf.org/2015/02/). MonarchWatch provides a map for choosing the right native milkweeds for your region, and an order form for seeds and plugs (http://monarchwatch.org/milkweed/market/).

Closeups to the contrary, however, not all milkweeds are created equal. Alan Armitage, my authority for all things perennial, says flatly that “A. tuberosa, butterfly weed, is the only species worthy of inclusion in a formal garden,” with “orange flowers . . . so vibrant they seem to jump out at you.” The flowers persist for at least six weeks. At two feet tall and two feet wide, it’s suitable for massing but controlled in habit—swamp milkweed is too tall, common milkweed too weedy, and others milkweeds unsuited to our climate and soils. Armitage also warns that mature plants don’t transplant well, and seed germination is highly variable, sometimes only 5 percent and seldom better than 50 percent. Perhaps plugs are the way to go, but $66 for a flat of 32 plugs seems steep unless I can share them with a neighbor. Maybe I’ll be able to find small plants at Holly, Woods & Vines or Nature by Design. Once they’re planted, of course, I won’t need to replace them every spring.

My plan is to create a triangular cluster of 10 or 15 plants on a staggered two-foot grid. I’ll need to move one daylily out of the way and get rid of some wild garlic that’s gotten a little too wild. Since I haven’t worked that soil for ten years, I should take the opportunity to dig a good six inches of compost into the top 18 or 24 inches of soil before planting. With any luck, the new milkweed plants will be big enough to play host to northbound migrants in May or June, providing both nectar to eat and a place to lay eggs. When their descendants return in October, I’ll have other nectaring plants to feed them on their way back to Mexico: aster, sedum, and coneflowers. I’m sure they’ll also appreciate a bowl of water and a rock on which to bask in the sun. It seems like the very least I can do for these beautiful travelers.

—Paul B. Phelps

ABSENTEE BALLOT/PROXY

CAHH General Membership Meeting
Monday, April 13, 7:30pm
Hollin Meadows Elementary School

CAHH members who cannot attend this meeting, please mark this ballot (one ballot per household), sign your name, and print name and address.

Ballots/proxies MUST be received by the recording secretaries prior to the meeting. Send to:
Barbara Southworth, CAHH Secretary
1813 Paul Spring Rd
Alexandria, VA 22307

Should you decide to attend, having previously submitted this ballot, you are obligated 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

Check here if you want to give your proxy to another CAHH member.

I give my proxy to:

Print proxy holder’s name

Print proxy holder’s address
The DRC met on March 11 at Sherwood Hall Library with the following members in attendance: Frank Collins (chair), John Burns, Christine Kelly, and Roger Miller.

- **Virginia Wallace**, 2204 Glasgow Road, presented plans for a screen to hide garbage cans at the top of her driveway. Plans approved unanimously.
- **Samuel Gyulnazarian**, 2109 Mason Hill Drive, presented preliminary plans for a master bedroom, two-story addition. Many ideas were shared between the members of the committee and Mr. Gyulnazarian, who will return before the DRC as his plans develop.
- **Jodie and Dennis Burns**, 7618 Elba, presented preliminary plans for a family room/kitchen addition on the side of their home. There was general support for the project. The DRC looks forward to seeing the more detailed design.
- **Mike McManus**, 7102 Rebecca Drive. The DRC discussed the proposal by Mr. McManus to construct a fence in his backyard, which was discussed at the February DRC meeting. After the February meeting, two DRC members, Roger Miller and Frank Collins, met with him to propose a scaled-down enclosure in his yard. Mr. McManus is considering the idea that was presented. The DRC looks forward to seeing his plans prior to construction.
- **The next meeting** of the DRC will be held on April 8, 7:30pm, at the Sherwood Hall Library.

—Patrick Kelly

For its March meeting, the club read *The Submission*, a novel by Amy Waldman published in 2011. We learned of the book from the Fairfax County Public Library "All Fairfax Reads." Amy Waldman was co-chair of the South Asia bureau of the New York Times and national correspondent for the Atlantic magazine. The book was greeted with enthusiastic praise by reviewers from the New York Times, the London Guardian, and the Washington Post.

The story begins two years after the 9/11 tragedy with a jury of fourteen public figures, artists, and a representative of the families who died. There has been a competition for a design for a 9/11 memorial with over five thousand entrants. The jury has narrowed the entrants to two and were debating their merits. Two individuals stand out—Paul, the jury chairman and Claire, the widow of a victim. After a spirited discussion, the decision is made in favor of a beautiful garden, which Claire strongly favored. The entrants were anonymous, and when the winning entrant’s envelope is opened the name is revealed to be Mohammed Khan.

This brings immediate consternation and squabbling among the jury members. Somehow, the news leaks out before the jury’s announcement is made public. Headlines shout, all sorts of reporters and citizens get involved, no matter that Mr Khan was born and raised in Alexandria, Virginia and was an associate of an esteemed architectural firm and had been in a mosque perhaps once in his life.

The author makes clear the disturbances that ensue, with cynical politicians, special interest groups, media exploitation, and intellectual insincerity. It seems there is only one person whose behavior goes beyond what one might expect, a reporter named Alyssa.

The author is very skillful in her understanding of her many main characters as they change and develop. The architect, Mo, as he is usually called, is an especially complex person. Claire, the widow, has many periods of confusion about the right way to proceed, as does Paul, the jury chairman. Action and reaction continue until a climax, and then, some twenty years later a period of calm and some feeling of optimism emerges.

*The Submission* provided a vigorous group discussion of bias and prejudice in this country, and what, if any, kinds of dislike and prejudice might lurk in our own minds and hearts.

The next meeting of the Book Club will be April 8, at 2pm, at Sandy Kabat’s house. We will discuss *The Story Teller*, by Jodi Picoult. We welcome visitors and new members.

—Sandy Kabat

**MUSIC MAN**

*Spring has sprung and April is Jazz Appreciation Month with lots of great jazz concerts, but as always, I'm listing music of many genres. Free unless otherwise noted. (Donations always appreciated.)*

- **Wed., 4/1, noon**, Blackburn Center, Howard campus: Howard Jazz Faculty Concert, www.coas.howard.edu/music/
- **Fri., 4/3, 6pm**, Westminster Presbyterian Church 400 I St. SW: Howard U. Jazz Ensemble $5, food available, www.westminsterdc.org/jazz/
- **Thu., 4/9, 12:40pm**, Childers Recital Hall Howard campus: Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, www.coas.howard.edu/music/
- **Sat., 4/11, 7pm**, St. Aiden’s Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Rd., Alexandria: Focus Concerts: David Mallet (singer/songwriter, plus Friction Farm $20 advance, $25 at door, www.davidmallet.com
- **Sat., 4/11, 7:30**, Baird Auditorium, 10th and Constitution, NW: Smithsonian Jazz

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- Sun., 4/12, 3pm, Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW: Metropolitan Philharmonic-Barber,Cello Concerto, Paul Leavitt Requiem with NOVA Community Chorus, $20, 18 and under free, www.wmpamusic.org/
- Sun., 4/19, 3pm, G. W. Masonic Memorial Auditorium: Eclipse Chamber Orchestra - Brahms Piano Quartet, Serenade #1, www.eclipseco.org
- Tue., 4/21, Sat., 4/25, noon-6 pm, Pershing Park, 1400 Penn. Ave. NW: Big Band Jam High School, College, other jazz ensembles, www.bigbandjam.org
- Sat., 4/25, 3pm, Lyceum, Ars Nova, $15, $20 at door, www.ancoselfconducted.org
- Sun., 4/26, 2pm, Schlesinger Concert Hall: Marine Chamber Orch., Young People`s Concert, www.marineband.mil/
- Fri., 5/1, 6pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I St. SW: Miles Davis `Kind of Blue` Jeff Antoniuk Update $5 food available, www.westminsterdc.org/jazz/

—Tony Jordan

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: Lovely, new condition, sofa double-bed for sale by owner. Folding double-bed size, blond wood frame with comfortable mattress. Stored in Hollin Hills bedroom. —HIRO, 703-660-6161

HOUSE SITTER: Former Hollin Hill looking to house-sit this summer. My sister, Liz Weaver Casaza, and her family (4) would like to house-sit in Hollin Hills in late July and/or early August. Liz grew up in Hollin Hills, loves this community, and would be a good steward of anyone's home. Contact me at collweave@msn.com or 703-660-6525. —Sally Collins

REMINDERS

- CAHH MEMBERSHIP DUES for 2015 are due now. Use the form mailed to you in late March, or go to www.hollinhills.net.
- ATTEND the CAHH Spring Meeting on Monday, April 13, 7:30pm, at Hollin Meadows School.