



The first house sold in Hollin Hills, 1949. Photo: Robert C. Lautman, courtesy National Building Museum

## HOLLIN HILLS TURNS 75

IT WAS MODERN THEN, AND IT'S MODERN NOW. WILL IT BE MODERN ... FOREVER?

In November 1949, when John and Kitty Nelles bought the first house in Hollin Hills, they must have been out of their minds.

The house itself – at the corner of Drury Lane and Rippon Road – was just plain *weird*. One entire wall was floor-to-ceiling glass, the living and dining rooms were just a big open space, closets were almost nonexistent, and the house was angled oddly into the woods, rather than facing the street like a normal house. It had no water or sewage system (water had to be trucked in; sewage you don't want to know about), the roads were unpaved, there was no mail delivery or phone service or even neighbors, and the landscape, as one early settler put it, was “nothing but bare dirt all around.”

“hollin hills  
was born with  
daring in its  
bones ...”

It was no place for the timid or the faint of heart – and if the Nelles's had taken one look at this obvious disaster and run away screaming, no one would have blamed them.

Yet the family survived ... and one of the most extraordinary new communities in the United States was born. Over the next two decades, hundreds of these peculiar, ultra-modern houses would spread over the wooded hillsides, drawing in idealistic young intellectuals who'd come to Washington, DC after World War II to build a better world – and found the cutting-edge architecture, populist philosophy and natural setting of this “new and unique” community to be irresistible. As architect Charles Goodman put it, Hollin Hills was going to be a “laboratory” for a new way of life – and the young pioneers flocked in as fast as they could.

Fast forward 75 years – and Hollin Hills has grown from oddball experiment into one of the most beautiful and admired modernist communities in America. Remarkably, Goodman's original architecture and the free-flowing landscape are still largely intact, and feel as fresh now as they must have in 1949. Even more remarkably, a distinctive community has taken root, and draws the same kind of idealistic and creative people that it has from the beginning.

And in spite of the fact that Hollin Hills is no longer young – it was officially dubbed an “historic district” a decade ago, and its traditions can fairly be

## JANUARY 2024

THE SPIRIT OF MODERNISM

A POEM FOR HOLLIN HILLS  
BY CLIFF BERNIER

A GUIDE TO THE 75TH  
CELEBRATIONS

REPORT ON THE CAHH FALL  
MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THE HOUSE+GARDEN TOUR  
SELLS OUT IN DAYS!

CAROLING, HOLIDAY LIGHTS AND  
MUCH MORE!



Santa Claus took time out from his busy schedule to pass out candy canes at the community sing-along in McCalley Park on December 23! (Story on page 4.)

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described as “venerable” – it still feels unmistakably and inarguably ... *modern*. Why is that? Is it just that we’re stylish once again, like everything midcentury modern these days? Or is something deeper going on?

Maybe it’s the radical *spirit* of modernism – and not just its outward style – that keeps Hollin Hills feeling so current. When Goodman and developer Robert Davenport were building the place, after all, they jettisoned the old rules, re-imagined housing from the ground up, and just charged confidently into the future.



Still blooming: the Fort Hunt Road entrance to Hollin Hills in 1950 (left); and today

Out with traditional ornament and bombast – these new houses would have light, clean lines and walls of glass. Out with cramped, isolating little rooms – open-plan spaces would bring people together. Out with houses that shouted status and wealth – these new homes would live quietly and democratically among the trees. Out with fences, out with fortresses, out with soul-crushing conformity – people would live creatively and openly in these new houses, liberated from the past and in touch with each other and with their natural surroundings.

That was the essence of modernism: boldness, innovation, and a determination to tear down the old world and build a better one in its place. Hollin Hills was a brilliant expression of that spirit – and while these houses may no longer be at the bleeding edge of architecture, they still retain modernism’s radical ethos and subversive edge. Little wonder Hollin Hills still feels so modern.

So it turns out that the pioneering Nelles’s were far from crazy when they moved into that weird new house on Drury Lane in 1949 – they were just a new generation, embracing the unknown and building a world for themselves there.

And they remind us that Hollin Hills, for all its “historic” status, is not some quaint relic from a bygone time. It may be graying at the temples a bit, but Hollin Hills was born with daring in its bones, and it still retains that sense of living at the edge of the future. That may be what made Hollin Hills modern seventy-five years ago, and keeps it modern now. And it may just keep Hollin Hills – and those adventurous minds drawn to live here – modern forever.

– Stephen Brookes, Editor

## At 75

By a bench through  
a forest by a stream  
in a park of windows  
open to settlers and  
a view of a collective  
of quince and beech  
and willow oak.

Flowing in panels of  
holly, modules of  
cypress and cedar,  
canopies of poplar  
and light. A pioneer of  
community, a structure  
of sharing, of privacy  
and participation  
cantilevered and  
grooved, floated and  
glazed, of glass walls  
and butterflies, gabled  
and flat over cover  
of crape and pine,  
rhythms of deer and  
masonry, slopes of  
mustard and mingling.

Coursing now as  
visioned by founders,  
Davenport and Goodman,  
Voigt, Kiley, and Paepcke,  
by a bench through  
a forest by a stream  
in a park in Hollin Hills.

– Clifford Bernier, *Whiteoaks Drive*





# NEWS

## FROM THE CAHH

Reaching our historic 75th anniversary year may not mean that we've finally made it to Heaven, but surely we must be close. In fact, it's a safe bet that we've at least landed in an adjoining astral Zip Code!



### Letter From the President

OK, our 75th anniversary may not be a time for such overweening hubris. But it is a time for reviewing with justifiable pride our collective achievements since 1949. And those achievements have been due to the sweat and devotion of at least three generations of residents.

One outstanding example is **Gus Matson**, who is stepping down as Treasurer of the Civic Association this month. A resident of Hollin Hills since 1996, Gus has volunteered again and again to shoulder community responsibilities, serving not only as Treasurer (which he did twice) and on many committees, but also as a two-term CAHH President, where he handled seemingly intractable and contentious issues with aplomb. His contribution to Hollin Hills can never be adequately recognized, appreciated, or re-paid. We are deeply in your debt, Gus – thank you!

As we continue to build this community we all love, we'll be standing on the shoulders of people like Gus. A melancholy metric, for me, is realizing how many original residents are no longer with us. But another, happier metric is the many young families who have made Hollin Hills their home during the last decade.

While those of my demographic may not be in the forefront over the next 25 years (my doctor is not very reassuring), I'm certain that our new neighbors will prove to be trusty stewards as we celebrate our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year – and that they'll lead us confidently into the next chapter of this unique community.

– Frank Collins, CAHH President



Gus Matson

### CAHH Holds Fall Membership Meeting on December 4

The Civic Association held its Fall Membership Meeting on Monday, December 4 at 7:00 pm, with a lively get-together at the Sherwood Library. About 50 members attended, with another 23 following the action on Zoom.

CAHH President **Frank Collins** opened the evening by presenting **Lee Ann Kinzer** with a CAHH Appreciation for her late husband **Bob**, a much-loved member of the Hollin Hills community who passed away last August (*see the Bulletin September 2023*). “After Bob died, I learned again why he loved Hollin Hills so much,” said Lee Ann, noting the huge outpouring of support she received from the neighborhood.

Joking that he was “merely the genial front man” of the Civic Association, Frank then invited CAHH Board members and committee heads to take the floor. Treasurer **Gus Matson** walked the audience through the organization's finances and the budget for 2024, noting that the CAHH is in good shape financially, but that necessary expenses (insurance, mowing in the parks, storage, and so on) continue their inexorable rise.



Membership Chairs **Nancy and David Harrity** reviewed the advantages that membership software would offer the CAHH, including putting membership dues on a subscription basis and allowing members to easily keep their own information up to date. They also reported that about 66% of households in Hollin Hills are currently members of the Civic Association.

Noting that “a lot is happening in the parks all the time,” formidable Parks Chair **Gretchen Spencer** ran through recent developments, including the upgrading of the Davenport Street entrance to Hollin Hills; new signs in the parks discouraging dumping and noting that dogs must be leashed; the removal of trash cans from Voigt Park; the “very successful” growth of the native plant demonstration garden in McCalley Park, with over 90 new plants installed; and a new \$4,537 grant from the Friends of Hollin Hills to remove invasive plants from Voigt Park. (*See page 5.*)

Social Chairs **Roxy Hoveyda and Matt Kies** gave a quick rundown of upcoming events, noting that the Winter Potluck (which will also be the kick-off event of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations) will be held on February 25.

**Holly Wetzel** of the House + Garden Tour Committee gave an enthusiastic update for the May 2024 Tour, noting that tickets were selling fast. [*Note: tickets sold out on December*]

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## Hollin Hills House + Garden Tour Tickets Sell Out in December – Please Join Us as a Volunteer!

While the **2024 Hollin Hills House + Garden Tour** didn't sell out in minutes – like a certain pop star's tour last summer – the pace of ticket sales was, shall we say, *swift*. (See what we did there?) Standard and VIP tickets for the Tour sold out in December in just 10 days! (Note: If you missed out, you can still get tickets by becoming a sponsor, or by volunteering – see details below.)

The overwhelming demand was largely due to the groundwork laid by the tour committee for the 2021 tour,



**HOUSE + GARDEN TOUR**

growing a robust email and social media following that should serve the Tour well

into future years. Neighbors also came out in force to purchase tickets – and for that we say “thank you, thank you, *thank you!*”

With the May 4 tour just four short months away, preparations are kicking into high gear. The Tour will feature a dozen homes and gardens; artists, designers and architects in residence at multiple homes; shuttle service along the tour route provided by Old Town Trolley; and more. Additional special events will be announced soon.

The renowned mid-century artist Shag is developing a poster featuring the signature elements of our Hollin Hills homes and landscape. The art is being finalized, but you can pre-order the poster (\$30) online.

Want to get involved? Limited sponsorship opportunities are still available (learn more at [hollinhillsmodern.com/sponsorship-2024](http://hollinhillsmodern.com/sponsorship-2024)), and the committee is seeking volunteers to help with the event. It takes more than 100 volunteers to successfully run the tour, including registration helpers, docents, traffic flow managers and more. You can indicate your interest via the form on the homepage at [www.hollinhillsmodern.com](http://www.hollinhillsmodern.com). Volunteers work minimum two-hour shifts and receive a discounted (\$35) standard ticket and volunteer t-shirt. For those who already have signed up to volunteer, links to purchase the discounted ticket will be sent early in the new year.

To stay up-to-date on all the latest tour news, sign up for the email list on the Tour website, and follow @hollinhillsmodern on Instagram and Facebook.

Get excited, consider volunteering and be on the lookout for more Tour details coming soon!

–Holly Wetzel, House + Garden Tour Committee

## Holiday Sing-Along Hits High Note in McCalley Park on December 23

Music was in the air on Saturday, December 23, when about eighty Hollin Hillers – including dozens of kids! – gathered in McCalley Park for the traditional Holiday Sing-Along. Fueled by cookies, candy canes and considerable courage, the carolers sang some of the season's most-loved songs, from “Jingle Bells” to “Frosty the Snowman” – with a rocking rendition of “Feliz Navidad” that had much of the crowd dancing (or at least happily bouncing) to the beat.



Roxy “the Red-Nosed Reindeer” Hoveyda at the holiday sing-along in McCalley Park

Kapellmeister **Matt Kies** did a great job of herding everyone to the right page, and while the songs sometimes got off to a cheerfully free-range start, the singers managed to reach a consensus re: pitch and tempo as the caroling went on. It was all huge fun, and as the evening turned dark, **Santa Claus** himself appeared, passing out candy canes to the kids as the carolers greeted him with an extremely jolly rendition of “Here Comes Santa Claus.”

The caroling has been a Hollin Hills tradition since 1951, when singers first gathered at the corner of Paul Spring and Stafford Road to sing around a Christmas tree donated by developer Robert Davenport. Many thanks to organizers **Matt Kies** and **Roxy Hoveyda** of the CAHH Social Committee for hosting, and to **John Totaro** for keeping this venerable tradition alive for many years.



Angel-voiced singers Gail Kropf and Alene McMahon joined the December caroling

And thanks to volunteers **Robert Blandford** and **Nila Patel** for making the park look beautiful, and to all the warblers (especially those adorned in antlers, elf hats and blinking Christmas lights) who came to sing! Biggest thanks of all go to **Santa** and his helper **Bob Hale**, who granted everyone's Christmas wishes (as long as they were for candy canes) and ensured that the magic of the season was alive and well in Hollin Hills!

– Stephen Brookes

## Hollin Hillers Take to the Streets for Thanksgiving Day ‘Turkey Trot’ Run

Thank you to everyone who came to the Fifth Annual Turkey Trot on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, and helped make it such a great event! The traditional Thanksgiving morning race was adopted this year by the **Friends of Hollin Hills (FOHH)**, which plans to continue the tradition and help build awareness of our neighborhood parks. Runners made a suggested \$10 donation, and the run raised \$490, all of which will go toward preserving the parks.

An enthusiastic crowd of neighbors – and some out-of-town friends and families – met up in Voigt Park at 9 am for the start of the kids’ “Fun Run,” followed at 9:30 by the 5K “Turkey Trot” through the neighborhood. About half of the group ran the races, while the rest enjoyed the fire pit and hot cider in the park. Donuts and woodland-creature headbands (provided by the FOHH) were a hit with the young runners, and a number of pups joined the races too. (Well behaved dogs are always welcome!)



Kids line up for the Fun Run on Thanksgiving morning

First across the finish line at the Fun Run were out-of-town visitors **Ayrton Maffei** (4th grader), followed by **Lawson Levit** (2nd grader), from Ohio. The winner of the 5K Turkey Trot was so quick that we missed getting his name as he crossed the finish line, but his time was 19:46, and he was followed a few seconds later by Drury Lane resident **Collin Davenport**. We’ll do better next time capturing the winner’s name – and if you know who it was, please share!



Special thanks to everyone who helped to make this such a successful event! Our route marshals included **Anna Barbour, Ava Burns, “C” Edmiston, Eva Medic, Jil Simon, Jovi Medic, Marta Engelke, Matt Kies, Melissa Edmiston, Michael Rich, Peyton Burns, and Roxy Hoveyda**. Our event organizers included **Alyson Burgess, Friederike Ahrens, Jane Runnels, and Jodie and Dennis Burns**.

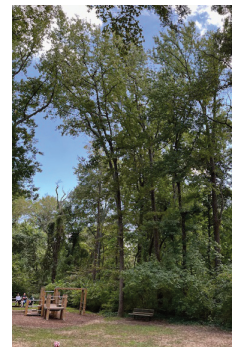
A special thanks goes to **Jane Runnels** for setting and practicing the race route. She made sure it was a true 5K course – and that it highlighted our wonderful parks, was less hilly than years before, and avoided car traffic. Several runners commented it was a great new route!

– *Alyson Burgess*

## Big Improvements in the Parks in 2023

This past year was an exciting one in our parks! Early in the year, **Friends of Hollin Hills (FOHH)** gave the Parks Committee \$5,000 to create a demonstration native shade-plant garden in McCalley Park. After extensive ivy and other invasives were removed from the park, park wardens **Alice Cisternino** and **Daniel Fragiadakis** organized two very successful planting sessions in the spring and fall, which planted over 90 trees, shrubs, and forbs – all of which are marked with identification stakes. Be sure to visit the park – it will be wonderful to see what blossoms in the spring!

In November, FOHH awarded the Parks Committee a second grant of \$4,500 to remove all the invasives in a triangular area of Voigt park bordered by Ripon Road, the asphalt path that leads down into the park across from Drury Lane, and the park itself. We already had a proposal from Invasive Plant Control, Inc. to treat and remove the invasives, and we had secured a waiver from Fairfax County to remove vegetation in a Resource Protected Area (which Voigt Park is). Friends of Hollin Hills are making the plan a reality with their generous grant!



Voigt Park

Our goal is to remove all the invasives that are threatening the native plants in that section of the park, to allow them to thrive. This heavily wooded area is shrouded in parts with porcelainberry, English ivy, multiflora rose, wintercreeper, and some invasive shrubs including autumn olive, honeysuckle, and double-file viburnum. The understory includes many mature native spicebush, ferns, Virginia jumpseed, Carolina elephant’s food, sedges, trumpet vine, Virginia creeper, greenbrier, wild grape, and white turtlehead. All these natives, and perhaps others that are dormant in the seedbed, will grow and flourish. And winding through it is a stream that feeds into Paul Spring.

Finally, the Davenport Entrance to Hollin Hills is getting a makeover! The old overgrown junipers and vines have been removed and, thanks to the generosity of **Jim Wheeler** and **Sally Watkins**, new native inkberry shrubs have been planted in front of the sign. Jim and Sally not only donated the plants, but also their labor as well. In the spring they will add two New Jersey tea shrubs and ferns to the entrance.

The Parks Committee is incredibly grateful to everyone who contributes to Friends of Hollin Hills. For it is all of you, the readers of the Bulletin, and everyone in Hollin Hills, who make these enhancements to our treasured parklands possible. Thank you!

– *Gretchen Spencer, Parks Chair*



## The Hollin Hills 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration: A Quick Look at the Year Ahead

Clear your calendars – Hollin Hills turns 75 in 2024, and we will be *celebrating!* The year-long anniversary will be anchored by two major events: the **Hollin Hills House + Garden Tour** on May 4; and an in-depth **Symposium on Hollin Hills architect Charles Goodman** on September 13-15. Both of these will draw visitors from all over the world, and help establish Hollin Hills as one of the most significant modernist communities in America.

But we're also celebrating just among ourselves, with dozens of informal, resident-only events throughout the year. From concerts to block parties to informal talks on art and landscaping, they'll give us an opportunity to get to know each other, and to showcase the wealth of artistic and intellectual talent here. We'll be planting trees in the parks, painting in art sessions, taking a communal "sound bath," going birding, talking politics and much much more. And we'll close the year in the generous Hollin Hills spirit, with a food drive and other charity events.

The schedule is still firming up and is subject to change, but here's a quick look ahead at what to expect. **Final dates, times and venues will be announced a month before each event** – so keep an eye out for CAHH emails with updates and sign-up sheets!

### january

What better way to start the year than with a celebratory poem by **Cliff Bernier**, the gifted and well-published writer on Whiteoaks Drive who penned the lovely "At 75" on page 2 of this Bulletin! Also this month, brush off your camera and start shooting for the **2024 Hollin Hills Photo Contest**. We'll be running entries every month in the Bulletin in a range of categories, starting with "Winter in Hollin Hills" – and winners will have their work featured in the 2025 Community Calendar. Professional Hollin Hills photographer Tod Connell will head the judging – send your favorite shots to the Bulletin at [stephen.b.brookes@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.b.brookes@gmail.com).

### february

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary kicks off with the **CAHH Winter Potluck (and Birthday Party)** at the Unitarian Church on Sunday, February 25! There will be speeches! Cakes! Probably lukewarm egg rolls! Will CAHH President Frank Collins lead a chorus of "Happy Birthday, Hollin Hills"? Come and find out! (Also, look for Anniversary t-shirts, posters, mugs and other priceless swag!)

### march

The party gets rolling this month with a series of informal seminars on art and design, hosted at some spectacular Hollin Hills homes. Join fellow art-lovers for a talk on **"Living with Art in a Modern Home"** at the house of potter Susie Cohen. Or, if design is more your thing, come to **"Furnishing a Mid-century Modern Home"** hosted by Jaelith Hall-Rivera and David Rivera at their award winning "Mad Men" home on Kimbro. Rather be outdoors? Art collector Rick Ward will be hosting **"Developing a Sculpture Garden and Art Collection"** in his elegant Marthas Road garden. Join Rick as he guides you through designing your own personal paradise.

And please join us in March to help build a **"Living Willow Dome"** in Voigt Park! Thanks to a grant from the Friends of Hollin Hills, we'll be planting living reeds to form a 10-foot diameter natural play structure for kids, which will leaf out over the summer and live for years, providing a long-lasting, nature-friendly addition to the park.

### april

It's **Block Party Month!** Hit the streets and meet your neighbors in a series of block parties around the 'hood! These will be staggered throughout the spring, and we're sure there will be *absolutely no competition* to see which street can throw the most amazing bash ... right? (Contact Christine Kelly at [craftedarch@gmail.com](mailto:craftedarch@gmail.com) if you'd like to host or help out.)

All earthlings are invited to McCalley Park on April 22 for Earth Day, to take part in the **Ceremonial Planting of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tree**. Kids welcome! We'll also be installing a Little Free Library there (featuring books dedicated to native plants), with a talk on the development of the Native Plant Demonstration Garden.

And as long as we're out in the fresh air, join a **Birding Expedition Through the Parks** this month with expert Hollin Hills birder Ben Jesup. Feel free to tweet about it!

And – big honor! – we've just had word that the Universe itself will be honoring our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a near-total **Eclipse of the Sun** on April 8! The talented Hollin Hills stargazer Douglas Megenity will be sharing his solar telescope (which allows for some spectacular views of the sun's corona), so watch for further announcements – and keep your fingers crossed for clear weather!

# modern 2024

## may

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Mark your calendars for Saturday May 4, when the **Hollin Hills House+Garden Tour** takes place, with an after-party/gala. It's going to be the mega-event of 2024, and it's already sold out – volunteer to help out if you can! (More info at [hollinhillsmodern.com](http://hollinhillsmodern.com).)

And to help recover from the Tour, join us for a gentle, restorative **“Sound Bath”** this month with **Jeneen Piccuiro**, a gifted Hollin Hills artist, yoga teacher and multi-modal healer. Jeneen will be holding the family-friendly event at the Unitarian Church, using an array of singing bowls, gongs, and other instruments to bring about a state of deep relaxation. Stay tuned for more details.

Also in May, join us for an **“Art in the Park”** day, with exhibits and workshops in Voigt. Special kids' painting classes will be a highlight!

## june

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Music lovers will not want to miss this month's **Concert by Tom Teasley** in June, at the newly-restored **Alcoa House** on Elba Road! It's a rare chance to hear this wildly creative Hollin Hills percussionist and composer up-close and personal, and listeners of all ages will find the jazzy, multi-instrumental music engaging and huge fun. Plus, it's being held in one of the most distinctive homes in Hollin Hills!

Want to learn how two Hollin Hillers recreated an original Dan Kiley landscape plan on their property? Steve Costoff and Shane Thrailkill will be hosting a talk on **“Landscaping for the Modern Home: Looking Back, Looking Forward”** in their spectacular Beechwood Road garden. Watch for the sign-up sheet this spring!

And if Scandinavian Modern design floats your boat, join Stephen Brookes and Alene McMahon on Marthas Road for an exhibit and discussion of the wildly colorful “rya” rugs produced in Scandinavia in the 1950's and 1960's. Author, weaver and rya expert **Melissa Purcell Byrd** will give a talk on **“The Art of the Scandinavian Rya Rug”** and demonstrate how these breathtaking textiles are made.

## july

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The big event this month is, of course, the **Fourth of July** picnic and parade in Voigt Park – a community tradition since 1955. Look for lots of anniversary-themed activities this year, especially for kids!

If that's not enough excitement for you, come meet other Hollin Hills architecture enthusiasts later in the month for a special, community-only **Private Tour of Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House**, limited to 20 people. Sign-up sheet coming in early June.

## august

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It's too hot to celebrate – go to the beach! Hollin Hills will be here when you get back.

## september

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At center stage this month is a major symposium on Charles Goodman, the pathbreaking but often overlooked architect who designed Hollin Hills. Hosted by the Friends of Hollin Hills, **“Living Modern – Building Community: The Architecture of Charles Goodman”** will take place September 13-15 across several venues, and will feature talks by notable speakers, a gathering of regional Goodman communities, and panel discussions on Goodman's impact. Learn more at [FriendsofHollinHills.org](http://FriendsofHollinHills.org).

And more music this fall! Please join Hollin Hills musicians Jerome Gordon on viola, Gino Madrid on violin, and Robert Chu on 'cello for a **Concert of Chamber Music for String Trio**. Stay tuned for date, venue and program!

## october

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Hollin Hillers have been professionally engaged in national politics since the 1950's, and this month, several veterans of the scene will discuss **“Hollin Hillers on Capitol Hill”** – a personal and in-depth look at the political scene from Hillers who have lived it, including Peter Kinzler, David Nexon, the Honorable Pat Roberts, and Collin Davenport. A great and timely discussion in this election year. Details and sign-up sheet coming this summer.

Get your lederhosen ready: Hollin Hills's favorite fall party – **Oktoberfest**, of course! – is set for October 12 at the Fort Hunt entrance. And as long as you're shopping for a Halloween pumpkin, join Ashley Lombardi this month for a fun, family-friendly demonstration titled, **“Create a Pumpkin Planter for a Modern Welcome.”**

## november

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Tuesday, November 5 is **Voting Day**. Please vote – nothing is more important! Assistance getting to the polls will be available for those who need it. And later this month, join other Hollin Hillers for the Thanksgiving Day **Turkey Trot**, a 5K run through the hills and dales of Hollin Hills, sponsored by the Friends of Hollin Hills.

## december

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And finally, we close out this busy year in traditional Hollin Hills style, with a **Community Food Drive** to help local food banks. We're fortunate to live in such a remarkable and generous-hearted place – thanks to everyone for making Hollin Hills the great place it is!

– Stephen Brookes and Tania Ryan, 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cttee





## THE GREAT 2023 HOLLIN HILLS HOLIDAY LIGHTS CONTEST!

Santa and his reindeer all aglow at Elba and Range Roads

**H**ollin Hills was bright and cheerful in December, thanks to everyone who lit up their homes so beautifully! The competition was fierce in this year's Holiday Lights Contest, and with 39 votes cast, two impressive standouts on Rippon and Whiteoaks swept the field. But there were plenty of other amazing displays throughout the neighborhood – thanks to everyone who put up lights, and to everyone who voted!

**Best Overall:** A tie between **Jeremy Kenney + Megan Smith** (7300 Rippon) and **Isabel Fernandez + Jay Vizgaitis** (2202 Whiteoaks)  
**Lights, Lights, Baby:** **Jeremy Kenney + Megan Smith** (7300 Rippon)  
**Spruce it Up:** **Isabel Fernandez + Jay Vizgaitis** (2202 Whiteoaks)  
**Blast From the Past:** **Isabel Fernandez + Jay Vizgaitis** (2202 Whiteoaks)

Congratulations – and Happy New Year to everyone!

– *Roxy Hoveyda and Matt Kies, Social Committee*



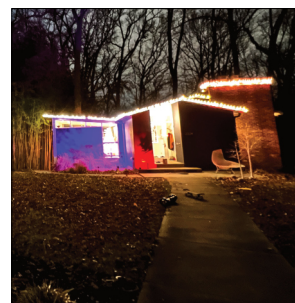
Snoopy (and Woodstock!) made it to Marthas Road for the holidays



Tied for First: A colorful display at 7300 Rippon Road



Tied for First: Festive lights at 2202 Whiteoaks Drive



Just a few of the beautifully-lit Hollin Hills homes on Rebecca Drive, Popkins Lane and Glasgow Road. (Photos by Stephen Brookes)



# HOLLIN HILLERS & OTHER ANIMALS

## Kelly Wight and Jenifer Eoff

A warm welcome to **Kelly Wight and Jenifer Eoff**, who recently moved to Marthas Road with their pets **Buddy, Flo and Lil!**



Kelly, a pilot, and Jenifer, an educator, moved here from Seattle, and say they were drawn by the sense of community in Hollin Hills, the architecture, and the natural setting. They both love to travel, and are fond of hiking and other outdoor activities. They're looking forward to playing pickleball and joining the Supper Society. Welcome Kelly and Jenifer!

— *Cathy Labas, Greeter*

## Amanda Lucidon and Alan Spearman

Please welcome **Amanda Lucidon and Alan Spearman** to Hollin Hills! The couple recently moved to Marthas Road from Memphis, with their children **Eden**, 7, and **Luke**, 2, and their 14-year-old lab, **Kai**.



Amanda was the official White House photographer from 2013 to 2017, when she documented the lives of First Lady Michelle Obama and President Barack Obama. She's the author of the 2017 book *Chasing Light*, a collection of her photographs of the First Lady. She's also the author of *Reach Higher*, for younger readers.

Alan is a filmmaker and photographer, and with Amanda is a co-founder of **Grounded**, a collective of artists creating immersive art experiences to promote hope and healing in communities. Alan's documentaries, short films, and music videos have won critical acclaim and numerous awards.

"We are a family that loves art, nature and being part of an engaged community," say Amanda and Alan, adding that they enjoy gardening, exploring and learning.

— *Cathy Labas, Greeter*

## Ronna Ruppelt

Welcome to our new neighbor on Beechwood Road, **Ronna Ruppelt!** Ronna moved here with her Morkie **Stella** from Alpharetta, Georgia. After researching the community and falling in love with the houses, Ronna began searching for a Hollin Hills home last year to be closer to her daughter's family – including a new grandson!



Ronna spent her career as an insurance company attorney, and two years ago became the Chief Executive Officer of the Claims & Litigation Management Alliance (CLM), a professional association.

Ronna enjoys the arts, and was on the board of directors of a community orchestra before she moved. She also loves to dine out and wants to find a great place to start doing pilates again! Ronna is looking forward to making friends, participating in Hollin Hills social activities, and volunteering in the community!

— *Wendy Montanari and Julie Curtis, Greeters*

## Brendan and Nonny George

Please welcome **Brendan and Nonny George** to their new home on Popkins Lane! Brendan, a corporate and commercial lawyer, and Nonny, a civil rights lawyer with the Department of Justice, moved here from New York after visiting a friend on Nemeth Court and falling in love with the homes here.



Brendan and Nonny – who are expecting a baby boy in February! – are both alumni of the University of Maryland and the NYU School of Law, and enjoy dancing, soccer, tennis, museums and travel. "We are already feeling the benefits of this special place and are excited to meet more people," they say. Look for them with **Lola**, their 3-year-old hound mix.

— *Patrick Kelly, Greeter*

# wait wait just a few more things

## HOLLIN HILLS BULLETIN

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The Bulletin welcomes your news! Please drop a note to the editor at **stephen.b.brookes@gmail.com**. Submissions may be edited for length or clarity. Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

To add/correct/change your mail or email address, or if you have not received your Bulletin, please contact: Nancy and David Harrity at [nancy.harrity@me.com](mailto:nancy.harrity@me.com).

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### << Fall Membership Meeting, continued from page 3

19. *See story on page 4 for more details.]*

**Tania Ryan** of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee gave a quick run-down of some of the events that will take place throughout 2024, including block parties, concerts and lectures, and unveiled a commemorative poster featuring the architectural drawings of **Dennis Carmichael**.

**Rebecca Bostick** of the Pool Committee noted that the pool now has 285 households as members, and will have its wiring replaced this winter. She also noted that the Hollin Hills Pickleball and Racquet Club is up to 437 members, and refurbished one of the old tennis courts this year. Timers are going onto the court lights so that they won't stay lit when not in use, and volunteers have been cleaning invasive plants from around the courts and planting bulbs to beautify the area.

The membership then voted on four open positions on the CAHH Board of Directors, unanimously re-electing **Pam Koger-Jesup** as Vice-President; **Roxy Hoveyda** and **Matthew Kies** as Co-Chairs of the Social Committee; **David and Nancy Harrity** as Co-Chairs of the Membership Committee; and **Alene McMahon** as Director-at-Large.

The membership then voted unanimously to approve the 2024 Budget, the meeting was adjourned, hugs were exchanged, hats were affixed to heads, and everyone streamed out into the cold December night.

— *Stephen Brookes*