

*Spring  
2016*

# **the Holmes Runner**



*Car  
Talk*

# HRACA BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

HRACA Board meetings are open to all Civic Association members. Meetings are held in the homes of board members on the first Wednesday of each month. They begin at 8:00 p.m. Members of the community are welcome to attend.

## Upcoming 2016 Meetings

May 4 – Mia Gardiner, 3313 Hemlock Drive  
May 25 –Annual Meeting – Woodburn ES – 7:30 pm  
June 1 - Location TBD  
July 6 - Location TBD

August 3 - Location TBD  
September 7 - Location TBD

## THE HOLMES RUNNER

*The Holmes Runner* is the voice of the Holmes Run Acres community. Sponsored by the Holmes Run Acres Civic Association, the *Runner* has been written, printed, and distributed regularly since 1952. *The Holmes Runner* is a benefit of membership in the HRA Civic Association and available by subscription to all others. The *Runner* staff welcomes appropriate articles, news, poetry, illustrations, and suggestions. Please address comments to:

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Subscriptions to *The Holmes Runner* are available to non-HRA residents and non-HRA Civic Association members for an annual fee of \$15.00. Please make checks payable to HRA Civic Association and mail to:

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## Front cover credit: Design by Ginny Leggett

## Upcoming Issue

Next issue: Summer 2016. The theme of the summer issue is “Travel Stories.” Have you been on a trip recently? Was it better – or worse – than you expected? Did you learn something that surprised you? Were there mishaps, or unexpected delights? We want to hear about it! Send the best of your photos, too.

## Due date for submissions is July 15, 2016.

Note: All previous issues of *The Holmes Runner*, dating back to 1952, are available to read at the Virginia Room in the Fairfax Regional Library at 10369 North Street in Fairfax and at Woodburn Elementary School Library.

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# CHEVY IMPALA

BY DEBI SMITH JAWOREK

My husband Michael had a silver '62 Chevy Impala before we got married. It was a beauty, but very worn. Push-button everything. Eventually it gave up the ghost, and he dejectedly went out to buy another car. He came back with – the same car in a different color! Mint green exterior and interior, great shape. It was a beauty! It was a '64, not all the bells and whistles as the first one, but certainly a sight to see.

I decided to commemorate it in song, with a few liberties. I became the driver, and I merged the two cars into one description. Michael co-wrote the song with me, filling in details and adding some color.

I've recorded the song on a number of my CDs, but the most fun I had with it was in Nashville, on my Red Bird Red CD. One of the musicians had an old Chevy Impala himself, and kept the session going at the end of the song, we were having so much fun. If you listen to the recording you can hear him making sort of “honking” noises. We all had a photo taken in his car after the session, which I included in the liner notes on the CD.

Oh, and yes, the song was featured on NPR's “Car Talk” a number of times!



# **CHEVY IMPALA**

by Debi Smith & Michael Jaworek

Crank down the windows, devil may care  
Man, when she drives it, people gotta stare  
The music's too loud, the car's too fast  
Not a tank big enough to hold enough gas

Got 3-inch white walls, no skid  
A steering wheel the size of a trash can lid  
Pedal to the metal, foot to the mat  
Zero to sixty in eight seconds flat

It's a Chevy Impala, mint green  
A long, cool, smokin', machine  
1964, Garden State plates  
Finest lookin' thing on the interstate

Got a push button heater and a radio  
Power seats, power brakes, and a governor to go  
Three twenty-seven four barrel inside  
And more horse than Ben Hur's chariot ride (chorus)

On Saturday night she parks it under the stars  
First a drive-in, then the Frozen Dairy Bar  
She's the woman, the legend, she's too far gone  
Who else would have plates that read, "Rave On?"

It's one heavy Chevy, it's queen of the road  
It's a car so big it's got its own zip code  
Doesn't matter where you been, matter who you are  
Newark to Knoxville, gotta love that car

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# HOP IN MY AMBULANCE, WE'LL GO FOR A RIDE!

BY JUDI BOOKER

Part of my joy in finding a home in the Acres, in 1985, was that when I attended W. T. Woodson High School, which was brand new in the early 60s, many of my friends lived in the Acres.

After I'd been here a year or two, Jim Davey told me that his house (next door to mine) was the "Mann House," originally owned by Dr. Mann. What Jim didn't know was that I had gone to both Annandale High School and Woodson with Dr. Mann's son, Jim, and that I had been to his house on my first date, in the 8th grade, when our parents shared the driving to the Annandale High School dance.



Although we didn't date after that, Jim Mann and I remained friends and I saw him recently, in May 2014, when we had our 50th reunion. Among the photos put together in a video for that reunion was the attached picture of Jim sitting on the hood of his white Pontiac ambulance, here in the Acres. With him is Nancy Strickler (left), who lived farther down Surrey Lane, along with two other classmates (non-Acreites). Needless to say, this was a popular car for seniors in high school!

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## DO YOU REMEMBER THE PLYMOUTH?

BY KEITH GARDINER

Plymouths were a wonderful car. They originated in 1928 as Chrysler's low-price entry into the market, competing with Chevys and Fords. Plymouth's long run ended in 2001. My parents bought one in 1940, just before WWII. It served us well until just after the war ended in 1946, rolling up well over 100,000 miles, carrying six people, a dog, two cats and many African Violets across the country at least six times as my Dad, a naval officer, was transferred from base to base.

A Plymouth resurfaced in my parent's life in 1961, when they settled in Seattle after my Dad retired from the Navy. They bought a home on Lake Washington, with a separate garage. When they opened the garage door the first time, there (to their surprise) was a 1938 Plymouth coupe, and it was still in running order. When we visited them, for many years, that Plymouth was our transportation around Seattle. Luckily, it was the era before seatbelts, because our three children had to stand just behind the front seat since the coupe had seating for only two. It was finally sold as an antique about 2001, just as the Plymouth brand ceased to exist.

# WHAT'S THAT THUMP?

BY NORM GOTTLIEB

A real annoying puzzler to me! I could not find the cause of an intermittent and inconsistent thumping noise in an automobile that I had purchased in a private sale. The noise would occur as the car was driven either in forward or in reverse.

I had three professional auto repair shops attempt to locate the source of this distraction, and received lots of opinions offered from all sorts of friendly auto enthusiasts. None could locate the source of the annoying noise, nor could they point me in the right direction to finding it.

Well, I learned to live with the annoying banging for the next four years UNTIL it was time to replace the tires on the automobile. Low and behold, when mounting the new tires, the installer discovered that a tire tool had been left inside one of the rear wheels on the last tire change, and this proved to be the source of the annoyance. Upon removal of the tools, finally there was peace and quiet.

LESSON: Count your tools before and after your projects, and make sure you come up with the same number!

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# MAKE MINE BLUE

BY MIA GARDINER

To me the most important thing about a car when we have to buy one is a) that it runs and b) that I like the color. I can see my husband Keith and friend Stan from across the street rolling their eyes as they read that!

I grew up in New York City, and my family did not own a car. I learned to drive the year after we got married, with my new husband as my instructor. Not a good idea! We had our first big quarrel while he was teaching me to drive. He was bewildered at how little I knew and how slowly I was learning, and I was upset with his what seemed to me to be impatience. He had been driving since he was 15 years old, and he thought it was cool. I seldom was even a passenger in a car – bus, subway, and trains were my modes of transportation. So one time when I really couldn't figure out what he was telling me to do, and he was sure I was a total idiot, I just pulled the car off into the center circle of a roundabout. Made sense to me at the time – still does 57 years later! Scared him, as it was done a bit unexpectedly, but I knew exactly what I was doing – getting off the road!

Our first car was a second-hand VW bug – green. Keith got a bargain on it, price-wise, a year before our wedding. Seemed to be adequate for his needs at the time. The day after our wedding in New York, we were happily driving to our new home in Cape Cod, where Keith was stationed at Otis Air Force base and I had my first nursing job at the Cape Cod Hospital. We got as far as the highway to Boston when the car got stuck in first gear. We limped to a VW garage where, after several hours, the clutch was replaced. We had no money in the bank. Seriously, our balance was \$0.00 – we had taken out the last \$50 so Keith could buy a new suit for the wedding. And we had no credit cards and no savings account. Fortunately, we had a few cash wedding gifts in envelopes in the back of the car, which paid for the clutch replacement.

The next year that same car also broke down in the middle of no-where in 90-degree weather when we were on our way from Cape Cod to New York, for a special event, when I was 6-months pregnant. But that's another story.

I like blue cars that don't break down.

# ANN'S LITTLE RED CONVERTIBLE

BY ANN JORDAN

My mother did not learn to drive until she was in her 30's. She was a nervous driver who avoided left hand turns whenever possible. Her main routes were to the Safeway, Kann's department store in Arlington, Washington-Lee High School for my after-school activities, maybe Clarendon but I am not sure she went that far, and to the pool to swim. That was about it.

One day, after I had gotten my driver's license, she was in a particularly happy mood, and kept running to the window and door of the kitchen, looking at the driveway. She kept beaming at me. She was in a state of excitement about something. Then up drove my father, in a used red Ford convertible! For me. My mother could now relax.

I could not believe it. I LOVED that car. I washed it every weekend, I waxed it to oblivion. I even drove it to the Bethesda Naval Hospital to visit a young midshipman from Annapolis I had been dating, who had had a mental breakdown during exams. His whole family, with the exception of one aunt, was taken in the Holocaust. Driving that far away at 16 was adventurous of me, but it was important.

Another adventure: One morning I backed the car up and drove it across our back yard to the driveway of my girlfriend next door, to pick her up for school. My mother was watching from the window. She said she would not tell my father, and suggested I not do that again.

My friend still remembers seeing me drive across the yard all these years later.

I LOVED that car!



Jen Gangi at the Ringling Museum in Sarasota FL



# THE UNEXPECTED KINDNESS OF STRANGERS

BY FERNANDO GAITAN

In 1997 Susan, our two kids, ages 6 and 3, and I drove to Easton, PA, to attend a wedding. It was a grand weekend. On our way home late on Sunday afternoon on a rural road on the outskirts of Jonestown, PA, the 1990 Volvo 240 station wagon's water pump failed. With steam billowing out from under the hood we coasted to a gas station that miraculously was right there. It was an out-of-the-way sort of place, more of a back roads type filling station of bygone days, and this one had quotes from scripture painted on its exterior walls.

The place was deserted at about 6 p.m. on a Sunday evening, but the owner was there. He quickly assessed the problem and we discussed options. A tow to the Volvo dealer, quite a distance away, would not solve anything since it was closed. His mechanic would be in early the next morning and the Volvo dealer's parts department would be open at 9 a.m., so with any luck we could be on our way by early afternoon. However, that did nothing to solve our problem of being stranded in the boonies with two young kids. Moreover, I was scheduled to depart for Hong Kong on a business trip the following day, so I was in a proverbial pickle. This was before anyone had smart phones and instant communications, so rearranging my trip would have been quite the logistical hurdle.

Grasping the totality of the situation, the gas station owner said, "I have a station wagon I use for my ministry to transport missionaries from my church throughout the countryside. Take it to get home, leave your car here for repairs, use my station wagon as long as you need it, and just bring it back when you can come for your car." Susan and I could barely believe what we were hearing. I offered to pay him for the use of the car, or leave a deposit, but he refused, saying humbly and matter-of-factly that his faith required him to be a good Samaritan.

So, as evening was falling and after thanking him profusely, we piled the kids in the borrowed station wagon and made it home late that night. I left for my trip the next day and a few days later Susan and her dad, who was in town for a visit, made the trip back to Pennsylvania to return the car and retrieve ours. She baked the station owner a cherry pie as a token of our appreciation.

I have never forgotten that stranger's gesture of kindness and open trust. Ever since, and when opportunities arise, I make it a habit to pay it forward.

# TWO CLASSICS

BY CHRIS VERHOFF



The first car I remember driving around was a 1950's AMF Fire Fighter Unit 508 Fire Truck. It was a pedal car that had ladders and a bell on it, fire-engine red and a real beauty.

I'd garage it at my grandparent's house and drive it during visits. Miles would rack up around our front yard and it would get a good wash every so often. Luckily, I never had to put a fire out during those few years. I miss the days of a simple car with a simple engine.

Much later in life, my wife and I owned a great little pickup, a 1988 Mazda B2200. "Little blue" really put in the years for us. We clocked it up past 250,000 miles and she definitely had the quirks to show for it.

When it ran, it had this clicking sound, which was constant. Every mechanic we talked to had their theory as to why it was doing it. None of them were right, as none could make it go away.

The lever to make the air blow out colder didn't work for quite some time. Those Dallas, Texas summers were miserable, though the winters were very toasty.

When it started, we looked like we belonged in a movie with Cheech and Chong: smoke/exhaust was everywhere for several minutes. This would constantly be a point of pride or a source of embarrassment. In my first corporate job I'm sure the accountants wondered whether I was being paid enough, as they left in their fancy cars and I was inhaling exhaust in the parking lot, hitting the dash to get the radio to work.

One week I had gotten a flat at work. Those accountants stared that day as I had use three tire irons to get the various sized lug nuts off to change the tire.

We also needed to keep brake fluid in the car at all times, as we had to keep refilling the reservoir every few days – otherwise the clutch would give out, saying good-bye to being able to switch gears.

"Little blue" was definitely a workhorse for us and put in the time until the day we had enough saved up to say goodbye. But we always remember her as the car that was there for us through undergrad and grad school.



# A BRONCO'S TALE OF KARMA

BY KEITH PETERSON

It was in the early days of cell phones and I didn't own one. So my client, Bob, called me at home in a panic. It was 10 pm. The fire department had inspected his industrial facility south of Richmond and found the oxygen content inside their facility too low. The building was unsafe for occupation and the plant would not open the next day. Lawyers were summoned and negotiations had run into the evening. Finally the fire inspector agreed to take another reading at 5 am, before the plant opened, if I could come explain the problem. Unfortunately my testing equipment was at another site in Maryland and I just wasn't sure if I could get there in time. I told him I'd try.

I climbed into my 1986 black Ford Bronco II with 100,000+ miles, and my wife was worried. Understandable, since her husband usually went to bed at 10 o'clock but was now getting behind the wheel at 11 pm to drive through the night all over creation. After the detour to retrieve my equipment in Maryland, I arrived at a cheap motel south of Richmond at 3 am. The Bronco performed flawlessly. I told the desk clerk I just needed a room for an hour. He asked no questions and I left after a brief nap and shower...somewhat refreshed.

At 5 am I pulled the Bronco through security at the facility. The fire inspector, plant manager, corporate lawyer, and my client Bob were all waiting for me. We entered the building and prepared our equipment. I began my equipment calibration before running the test. "Aren't you going to calibrate your machine?" I asked the inspector. "Already did it at the office," he replied.

The test is very quick. The inspector's alarm sounded immediately. My machine displayed all-clear. I asked him to recalibrate his machine and I noticed he was using an incorrect/low oxygen baseline. "Oh, I always add in a margin of error," he said.

Sleep deprivation suddenly got the better of me. (Before reading my reply, think of Tom Hanks in *League of Their Own* ("There's no crying in baseball!") I said, "You can't add a margin of error. There's no margin of error in the air!" I paused and took a breath and restated my request. "Please recalibrate your machine using the factory specified settings." Oxygen content was fine. Catastrophe averted. We were done in 15 minutes, and the plant opened on time. I smiled at Bob and said, "You owe me big." I climbed back in the Bronco, went for a huge breakfast, drank three cups of coffee, and felt very good about myself.

It was light by the time I was on Interstate 95, north of Richmond, when the Bronco's engine light flashed. I didn't make it another five miles. The Bronco had performed like Pheidippides in his famous marathon, delivering me to my client as Pheidippides delivered the news of victory to Athens. Now it was time to die. Remember...no cell phones. I sat on the rear bumper with my head down. The exhilaration of a job well done faded into misery and exhaustion. I was waiting for a state trooper or tow truck when a man and a woman in a sedan honked as they passed. Then they pulled over onto the shoulder and backed up. I walked up to the driver's side and there sat Bob and his wife, on their way to Northern Virginia to visit her mother. He smiled at me and said, "I guess we're even now." And drove me all the way home.

# SECOND CAR SYNDROME

BY STAN BRADSHAW (REPRINTED FROM APRIL 1963 HOLMES RUNNER)

The slogan of the 1920's was "A chicken in every pot and two cars in every garage." The 1960's have modified this to read: "Caviar on every cracker, and a car and a half in every carport." The "half" of course is a small car, and there are very fine degrees of social snobbery involved in just that the "small" car will be: German, French, English, Italian, Japanese or Czech. The very multiplicity of design and price, with optional equipment, has destroyed the social stratification of the 1930's, when working men drove Fords and Chevys, schoolteachers drove Pontiacs, and executives drove Buicks and DeSotos. A second car syndrome is developing in our society, and we can never be the same again.

A mathematician friend of mine, in fact, has devoted two years to the attempted formulation of an equation which would make plain the social superiority of the owner of a Pontiac "safari" station wagon and a Fiat 600 over the owner of a Ford Station Wagon and a Volkswagen deluxe. The Pontiac outranks the Ford, but the Volks outranks the Fiat. This, he says, is simple to express; the Ford has air-conditioning and the Pontiac a light dimmer, while the Fiat has special valve lifters and the Volks has none. This, too, can be resolved, he says; but he still is at a loss as to the value to give to a rear versus a front radio aerial, and breaks down completely when I mention the value of artificial squirrel tails (for the aerial) versus real ones.

Of course there are characters who will not wait for his findings and the IBMitization of automotive hagiolatry. Some there are who maintain that the second car—without which no one really has status these days—does not have to

be small. These pursuivant pragmatists insist that the important thing in the family is that it has eight wheels (bicycles, Morgan three wheelers, and Vespas excepted,) and that the way to do this efficiently is to purchase an older American car. Myself, I bought a 1950 Studebaker. It was an interesting two years before it succumbed to gum.

For early in Sam's career I discovered the truth: his ring was shot. He both smoked and leaked oil, so I took to carrying a two gallon can of "thrifty" in the trunk, and replenished Sam at first every other week, but near the end every other day.

He had advantages, Sam had. The Studebaker starter is under the clutch pedal. You kick it to start. My wife, who kicks about everything else, couldn't kick hard enough. Ipso facto, she didn't drive Sam. The same trait persevered him from some English guests, who were anxious to try out a high powered American car on one of the American super highways. Sam's theme for everybody but me was "I can't get started with You."

As he got older, he developed a knock—inconsequential in 8:30 a.m. traffic along Route 50, but pronounced on Shirley Highway at 2 a.m. So pronounced that one morning I tempted him past 60, and the knock became a clunk. It was obvious that Sam's days were numbered.

In this condition I went to work early one morning to see off a group of Latin American diplomats who were leaving for South America on a mission of some importance. We met at the Pan American Union. I had counted on leaving Sam there and riding out to Andrews AFB with one of the diplomats. Instead one of the senior ambassadors seized me. Could he, he

asked, ride out to Andrews with me. Certainly, sir, I said. "Good," he said, "then I can send my Mercedes back to take the children to school." Back went the \$12,000 Mercedes; forward went Bradshaw and the ambassador in the \$120 Studebaker, smoking and clunking.

We arrived at the main gate of Andrews. A momentary slow down and the clunk became a Klang, something like an 1870 McCormick reaper. But we struggled onward until we got to the passenger terminal.

"Mr. Ambassador," I said, "I think you'd better ambass another ride back in."

"Bradshaw," he said, "Si." He saw. So he went back in a Cadillac, chauffeur-driven. I made it back to the city in the reaper, grim.

Sam had to go. I advertised him for \$45—good tires, good battery, good body, bum motor. Even teenagers demurred at his klang clanking. I called the junk yard. If I could get the car in, they would pay maybe \$15 or \$20.

I took off his good tires (anybody need some 640 x 15—adv.?) I sold away his battery. I cleaned out his tool kit and explored for loose change under the seat. The garage where this took place shoved to get me started. We headed for the junkyard, Joan following in our Ford.

I missed a turn and had to double back, in order to find the right road. But at the crest of a hill a car ahead had to slow for a turn. I braked to slow down. Ka-boom! Smoke poured out from the hood, from the radiator, from the exhaust pipe. Sam had had it. A rod had gone through the cylinder wall.

A thin snow began to fall. Joan picked me up. Together we rode a mile onward to the junkyard. I explained that I had a mortally wounded car a mile up the road. How much, I said, waving my title.

"Studebaker. 1950. Snowing. Have to go get it. Bad time. No market. \$5," the man said.

"Gimme the five", I said.

He gimme.

The wrecker followed us to Sam. We didn't look back after we passed.

I have a 1950 Hudson now. It's beginning to klank a little too. And it's no social symbol at all, although it has parked in the White House grounds.

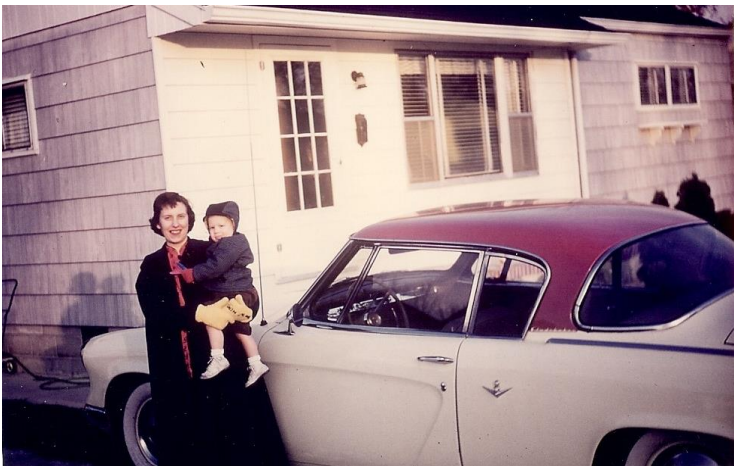
But I point out to my mathematician friend that it still has the original instruction book for owners. He can't include that in his equation, either.

# IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR, SO WE BOUGHT IT AND KEPT IT

PHOTO ESSAY BY VIVIAN SMITH

A 1959 *Time* magazine article reported a poll of 100 top designers selected Raymond Loewy's 1953 Studebaker Commander club coupe as one of the 10 "best-designed products of modern times." Also included were a 1944 Eames chair, Mies van der Rohe's 1929 chair, Kenneth Parker's 1932 Parker 51 fountain pen, and Olivetti's 1948 typewriter. From our personal Studebaker album:

1953 - Brand new for \$2700. Dave still in VX-3, NAS Atlantic City, NJ. Viv and Doug



1959 - Studebaker in carport on Cypress Drive, HRA. Doug and Debi



1971 - Surrey Lane. Disaster strikes!



1979 - Find the Studebaker.

1981 - Renovation begins. Some things are easier to repair than others.



1986 - Why hire a limo when you have a Stude? Debi, Michael, and Megan



1986 - Father of the bride



1988 - Services also offered for anniversary celebrations. Dave and Viv

1990 - Mid-century modern: why fight it? It's here to stay. Dave, Lee, Megan, Debi, Michael



2009 - Still running (sometimes), available for HRA House and Garden tours. Viv and Dave

And in 2016? Like us, the Studebaker is still here, like us, aging in place.



# CAR TALK

We asked our neighbors to tell us about their cars. Here's a sampling of some of the responses.

## What was the Make, Model and Year of the car in which you learned to drive?

- 1981 Volvo Station wagon ~ **Ginny Leggett**
- 1963 Studebaker. Now a classic but totally embarrassing to a 16-year-old. ~ **Mary David**
- 1973 green Ford Pinto, no! wait!! Maybe it was the green Pinto's evil twin, the stick shift version in rusty orange. Come to think of it, they were both pretty nasty, but got the job done. Will never forget the look of sheer terror in my dad's face in the big parking lot behind the bowling alley. Geez. Not a traffic cone in sight - but then, I did tend to blissfully ignore stop signs when turning right into traffic. I must have felt invincible in my Pinto fortress. ~ **Sherri Brusca**
- Father owned a salvage yard. Learned to drive at age 11 in a surplus US WWII Army Jeep. ~ **Norm Gottlieb**
- 1962 Impala stick shift and a '64 Ford Fairlane automatic ~ **Michael Jaworek**
- 1972 Impala convertible, Chevy blue ~ **Tara McNamara**
- Actually, I first learned to drive on my grandfather's vintage tractor, probably from the 1940's. On the tractor I learned about clutches! One had to bring the tractor to a full stop to change gears - it had 3 forward gears! I was allowed to drive all around the fields, on the wood trails and up the long front and back driveways. I then graduated to his 1938 Buick - an indestructible machine that I was allowed to drive around the lumpy bumpy hay fields to ascertain that I could actually change gears and avoid all the New England boulders! In high school in Bethesda, MD we had driving class - my first formal introduction to driving (more rules than in hay fields!). Then at 22, I started driving again - no driving overseas until the age of 25!) My Dad gave me his VW bug to drive around the big block that we lived on Morning Side Drive in Alexandria, VA. The street consisted of hills - up and down and no way to avoid. He, wisely, sent me out on my own to practice using a clutch, stopping and starting on the hills! My dad then took me out to buy my first car - a used Ford Maverick! They let me take it for a week-end test drive - I drove taking my brother and some of his friends to Bryce Mountain - it might as well have been a Corvette!!! My first tire squeals were on hairpin turns on the back roads through the mountains of Virginia! ~ **Dibby Clark**
- 1936 Ford, I believe ~ **Jack Underhill**
- 1957 Mercury Phaeton (also my first car as a teenager). ~ **Paul Shultz**
- 1950 Plymouth ~ **Frank Spielberg**
- 1969 VW Beetle (photo on the right) on the streets of San Francisco. My best friend who was trying to teach me to drive would say, "If you can drive a stick shift car in SF, you can drive anywhere." I wasn't buying it. I called it torture. As the car would roll back on one of those insane steep hills and I would be inches away from slamming into the car behind us, I would pull the parking break, get out of the car in the middle of traffic and demand that she take over. As a 17 year old, too embarrassed, she would switch seats and get us out of town. Then I would agree to take over. I'm glad she put me through that. I love driving a manual car and can drive anywhere in the world. ~ **Haleh Peterson**



- 1953 Studebaker Commander and 1964 Chevy Impala Station Wagon ~ **Debi Smith Jaworek**
- Massey Ferguson 1950's tractor ~ **Kerry McQuarrie**
- 1956 Buick Special convertible. I learned to drive a stick shift later on in a Datsun (pre Nissan) - drove from Boston to Pittsburgh and stalled at every toll plaza. ~ **Janice Covert**
- 1963 Rambler station wagon dark green. Three on the tree transmission. How 'bout that for a first date impression. ~ **Paul Fetters**
- 1968 Ford Fairlane station wagon, a real boat with dark green metallic paint and fake wood grain contact paper on the sides to (poorly) mimic the woody wagons of the '40s. ~ **Fernando Gaitan**
- It was a Dodge Polara (they don't make them anymore). I cannot remember the year, but I believe 1972 and it was the family car. ~ **Laura Martinez**
- 1974 Dodge Monaco Station Wagon. Worst parallel-parking vehicle ever made. ~ **Michael Brady**
- According to the many comments from my wife and backseat driving son, I'm still learning how to drive. ~ **Chris Verhoff**

### What was your favorite Car?

- Volkswagen "superbeetle" 1974, taxicab yellow - for safety, or so my father said ~ **Mary David**
- My beloved 1991 4-door silver grey metallic 262 Volvo with black interior. It was a California Peach. In excellent condition, inside and out. Not a speck of rust or anything on it when I moved back home to the DC area in 2003 and brought it cross country with me (moved it with my furniture - in the same moving van!) ~ **Sherri Brusca**
- 1966 Alfa Romero Duetto (the same car used in the Graduate) ~ **Norm Gottlieb**
- A highly modified collection of parts that represent my vision of a 1957 Porsche 356 Outlaw Speedster (photo on the right) ~ **Syl Mathis**
- Toss up: my '62 surf green (mint green to you) Impala and my '64 silver grey Impala. ~ **Michael Jaworek** (See photo on page 4)
- 1968 VW Beetle with roll open top ~ **Cynthia Morton**
- My current car – 2006 A4 Audi Cabriolet convertible (purchased in Sept. 2005; has only 18,000 miles on it after 10 years – that's because I worked at home and am now retired). ~ **Paul Shultz**
- My favorite car always will be my first car, a 1972 BMW 2002Tii. I bought it gently used right out of college in June of 1977 – way before BMWs were as ubiquitous as they are now – and drove it until 1996, putting over 250k miles on it. A real pocket rocket and the most fun car I have ever driven. Still have it under wraps and hope to get it back on the road; hope springs eternal. A real cult classic. ~ **Fernando Gaitan**
- The Buick was my favorite car. She was named Becky. I inherited her when my brother went to college and we fought over her use every time he came home on vacation. The summer after his freshman year Jim bought an Austin Healey convertible which he took back to Dartmouth with him. When it got cold he had to put the hood up and that left him with his face smashed in the steering wheel. Not enough headroom when you are 6'5". Made me very happy. ~ **Janice Covert**



- Lexus LS400 1990 I bought it used from a friend of a friend. The best stereo system I have ever heard in a car. I remember I brought my own CD's (which loaded in to a cassette in the trunk) for the test drive before purchasing it. I was sold. ~ **Paul Feters**
- Our 1929 Model A Ford - maxed out at 45 mph going down a steep grade! Lots of long trips - but the special ones were the 1/2 mile, down 2 hills to swim in Green River in the Berkshires. We kids were allowed to ride on the "running board" down to the river & back - no helmets in those days - one just hung on tight! Now I know it was to keep the wet bathing suits off the cloth seats of the car!

Our 1950's Gold Hudson that we took to Havana, Cuba, in 1957! When we left in 1960, my Dad gave it to his driver "Domingo" who was retiring as a US Embassy Driver. I'm sure it is still in Cuba somewhere, and probably still running - a great car - lots of memories of sitting in the back seat with my sister as my Dad did his job as US Naval Attaché - including surveying the Bay of Pigs as a possible landing site - he recommended against it and advised to land in the towns of Trinidad or Camaguey!

The only new car I have ever owned - a white 1979 Toyota Corolla - which I drove all over France, England, Spain, & Portugal. Many of the roads in Spain I took looked more like water falls than roads! I had to have my sister get out of the car once to raise the car up enough to get clearance over the rocks! It was marked as "goat trails and other tracks" on the mid-1970's map! It went to Uruguay with me.... there they still had the skills to make it a new radiator when the original failed (no imports allowed - no Japanese cars in Uruguay at the time). My brother sent me a set of 4 new shocks from the Merrifield Post Office - they got to me in a week. I sold it, still running very well with 149,000 tough miles, for the price I bought it for!

When I was a young and dumb college freshman in Munich, Germany, I traveled by myself to Rome. I was "picked up" by a relatively young man at a sidewalk cafe on the Via Veneto - I was having a cappuccino, as that is what one was supposed to do on the Via Veneto! and writing postcards to my family members who had no idea that I had taken off from college in Germany to fly to Rome! (That's another story.) He was driving a red Alfa Romeo! We spent a lovely afternoon touring the sites of Rome in the red Alfa Romeo - (that was when one could easily drive all over Rome! I was impressed. And being young and dumb, my Guardian Angel had him drop me off at my hotel - safe and sound - before I was scheduled to go out with someone for dinner!

In the early 1970's, a friend of mine, pilot from Vietnam, let me drive his Cobalt Blue Corvette one day! I was visiting him in FL and needed a car to visit my fiancé's grave in Pensacola and his parents in Ft Walton Beach. I took some really great back roads - that is when I learned that I should never allow myself drive, much less purchase, a fast, agile car! Awesome as we would say nowadays!

Had no idea I had any car memories!

Now I drive my cars, bought used, until they die! ~ **Dibby Clark**

- 1968 Ford Station Wagon (or maybe my current car) ~ **Frank Spielberg**
- A 1998 Ford Ranger that never argued. I had to replace the tires twice (once was on Ford after the Firestone fiasco) and the brakes twice. Though it did get a very, very major facelift after someone (not me) decided to see how far up into the rear of a Tahoe she could get it. ~ **Chris Verhoff**
- My 2003 Toyota Matrix. That little thing was a beast, comfortable and roomy. My youngest son is still driving it. Cannot kill those things. ~ **Laura Martinez**
- My first - a 1972 Ford Gran Torino Supersport. It was midnight blue and primer, and I paid \$450 for it. Best. Car. Ever. ~ **Michael Brady**

## **Did you name any of your cars?**

- "Fido" was the name of my 1981 Volvo Stationwagon. He was a good boy. ~ **Ginny Leggett**
- Yes, Brunhilde, 1953 VW bug with semaphore signals and lever under the dash to switch to a reserve fuel tank. Loved the stick shift. ~ **Mary David**
- Yup, they all had names. Too many to remember them all. Today's cars are "Bonnie" for my 1999 Pontiac Bonneville, "Pearl" for Marion's 1999 Acura, and "New Boo" for Joan's 2015 Subaru Forester (our previous legacy Subaru was called "Boo." ~ **Norm Gottlieb**
- Bucephalus (Alexander the Great's horse), a 1981 Jeep CJ7 ~ **Syl Mathis**
- All of them usually got names after their first major repair, so they are not fit to print. ~ **Chris Verhoff**
- Bess - the Ford van my sister and I (and Mom and Dave Viv and Dave Smith) toured in across the country that made 250,000+ miles ~ **Debi Smith Jaworek**
- My 2 door 1976 Datsun B210 was named Funmobile by my college friends because it often had 10+ people in it. ~ **Haleh Peterson**
- Becky Buick was stolen while I was working at Jordan Marsh during Xmas season. When she was finally returned, we found that someone had slashed their way into the trunk. I gained seats for 2 more people in the trunk! ~ **Janice Covert**
- I never named a car but I named the turn signals out on the front corners of my 1975 Dodge Dart. It had little orange lights out on the front fenders, I guess so elderly drivers wouldn't drive all day with their left turn signal on, looking for a place to turn right, as they so like to do. In 1979, when the great Yankee team captain and catcher died practicing landings at an airport in Ohio, I named those lights "the Thurman Munson Memorial landing lights." A great tribute to the man, I thought. ~ **Paul Feters**
- Yes, the Matrix was the Silver Bullet; its successor, a red 2010 Mini Clubman with black stripes, that many neighbors recall, was named The Little Red Devil. My current one, a 2015 silver Mini Country Man is named Esmerelda. ~ **Laura Martinez**
- A 1986 Dodge Dart, which I named Christine, after the Steven King novel. The car was totally possessed...when it would start. Worst. Car. Ever. ~ **Michael Brady**

## **Highest number of miles you got out of a car?** (Editor's Note – A lot of folks had over 200K but the winner is.....)

- 1981 Volvo Stationwagon maxed out at 285,000 miles. ~ **Ginny Leggett**
- I had a VW Jetta that had over 400,000 km before it died, but most of those were put on by a previous owner. ~ **Kerry McQuarrie**

## **Most heartbreaking loss of a car?**

- We, quite literally, put Fido (the 1981 Volvo Station wagon) out to pasture. I had him all through college and when I got my first "real job," I gave him back to my parents, who had a large property in the Northern Neck of Virginia. He sat and sat, unused. It broke my heart every time I visited. Ultimately, he became useless and my folks sold him for parts. Still brings a tear to my eye. I was 4-years-old when we got him, and nearly 24 when he left us. ~ **Ginny Leggett**
- There were a lot of damage vehicles in my father's salvage yard after my driving thru the yards but you really couldn't blame me for any of it. At age 14, I drove to my high school driving lessons and parked on the back streets. I have had a love for autos ever since. ~ **Norm Gottlieb**

- These questions brought back memories of my first car, 1972 VW Bug, which also was my heartbreaking car moment - it died on the side of I-395, just before the Washington Blvd exit - and it was far more important to get to Landmark mall to camp out to get Bruce Springsteen tickets. Jim Klein comes to rescue Sis off the side of the road (before cell phones, so I don't recall how I got in touch with him. He came and got me, left the car on the side of the road, and took me to be #3 in line for Springsteen. Dealt with getting the car off the road the next day. ~ **Renee Klein** (former resident Marion Court)
- In 1987, I was on my way to Merriweather Post Pavilion with three friends when my 1976 Datsun B210 started smoking and died a horrible death. Fortunately, another friend was following us. All four of us piled into her already packed car and left "Funmobile" on the side of Columbia Pike. We weren't about to miss the James Taylor concert. The car was towed to a MD highschool for their auto shop class. ~ **Haleh Peterson**
- Brunhilde was stolen. Only God knows why. ~ **Mary David**
- First car I bought was a 1971 Fiat 850 Spyder. Had it two weeks when it was totaled in an accident. ~ **Syl Mathis**
- Probably when the '62 got to be too high maintenance. I sold it to a guy in Herndon, who was going to give it a happy home. But I still have the plates for the '62 and the '64: Reggae 8 and Rave On. ~ **Michael Jaworek**
- About to end my 185,000 life with my first new car (Honda Civic with a cool sunroof) and get a brand new one. Haven't purchased a car since October 2000 ~ **Tara McNamara**
- Never had the experience. My son totaled the green Volvo wagon, but it was over the hill anyway. ~ **Jack Underhill**
- Not sure if this qualifies, but this loss was before we even got to drive it. My wife and I wanted to rent a Fiat 500 because it seemed like it would be fun. The agent looked at us, looked at our son in the car seat, looked at us, looked at our son, then looked back at us and said that if he was going there was no way we would fit. We asked if we could put the car seat on the roof which was met with a very stern look. We took the Focus. ~ **Chris Verhoff**
- I wouldn't say I'm sentimental about any of the cars we've lost. But I am sad my father is selling the Massey Ferguson tractor. ~ **Kerry McQuarrie**
- On Dec. 28, two years ago, a tree fell on our Camry and totaled it. And it wasn't even our tree, but one from the church's property next door! It was not raining, snowing, or particularly windy, the tree just decided to "end it all." ~ **Kathy Hartzler**
- No heartbreaking losses, but perhaps the most fortuitous loss of a car. I lived in Brooklyn and had decided it was really time to get rid of the car I had. Two weeks later, a dump truck lost his brakes and did a very, very slow roll into the passenger side door while I was sitting at a red light. The door collapsed and I held out for \$500 for the car ( it was almost worth that) from the trucking company. ~ **Paul Fetters**
- More wistful than heartbreaking was selling my 1996 Volvo 240 sedan to my niece for cheap, about 10 years ago. She had just started driving and she needed a good solid car. She named it Victor (don't ask...), plastered it with bumper stickers bearing offbeat and quirky messages, drove it for years, then handed it down to her brother, who drove it until the repairs got too costly and gave it up two years ago. While not heartbreaking, it was bittersweet to see Victor perform workmanlike service, taking the rough treatment, and safely delivering my niece and nephew through some close calls safely into adulthood. ~ **Fernando Gaitan**
- Again, the Torino. I parked on the street, someone crashed into it, and it was totaled. To this day, I won't leave my car on the street overnight. My wife thinks I'm nuts, but I can't go through that again! ~ **Michael Brady**

# NATURE IN THE ACRES



Judi Booker



Larry Morris



Mary David



Keith Peterson



April 9, 2016 snow in HRA  
Photo by Larry Morris

# FRIENDS OF LURIA PARK: NEW GROUP FORMS TO LEND NATURE A HAND ON HOLMES RUN

BY SARAH KARUSH

Ever since early residents of Holmes Run Acres contributed their labor to build a park on the developer's former dumpsite, Luria Park has been the heart of our community. In a part of Fairfax County that is almost completely developed, this is a place where neighbors can play with their kids and canine friends, gather for beloved traditions like Day in the Park and the annual Easter egg hunt, or just enjoy some quiet solitude by the stream.

The sounds and sights of the forest remind us that we're not alone here. We're not surprised to hear the tapping of a woodpecker or the hoot of a barred owl, or to see a hawk swoop down toward its prey just feet from the playground.

Despite this evidence of nature's resilience, a closer look at the stream and surrounding woods makes it clear that not all is well in this ecosystem. Runoff and dumping have polluted Holmes Run, and erosion has weakened its banks. All around, invasive plants are crowding out native ones. The result is a forest that looks lush at first glance but has lost much of its ability to support wildlife.

Fortunately, there are things we can do to help the stream valley recover. A group of neighbors from HRA and Raymondale, the smaller midcentury modern neighborhood on the other side of the park, came together this past winter to form Friends of Luria Park and figure out how best to channel our energy to make one of our favorite places even better.

Our first big accomplishment was getting Luria Park designated an Invasive Management Area (IMA) site under the leadership of Joan Gottlieb, of Elm Terrace.

Joan is a master naturalist and a longtime volunteer with Earth Sangha, a local nonprofit that has had great success restoring many wild areas in Northern Virginia. She received additional training through the Fairfax County Park Authority's IMA program and can now oversee the removal of invasive plants and the planting of native species in the park.

Although many of us are tempted to immediately pull out invasives when we spot them, the county requires anyone who wants to do such work to have permission. There are good reasons for this. Sometimes well-intentioned people unknowingly remove native plants that should be left alone, such as grape vines or poison ivy. (Yes, poison ivy is a native and is a source of food for much of our local wildlife, although you can request that the park authority remove it if it is too close to a path or a playground.)

In addition to authorizing us to do this work, the IMA program provides tools, trash bags, and other support.



Joan Gottlieb shows other volunteers examples of invasive plants targeted for removal at the April 2 work day

We decided to start our work in a highly visible area near the Holmes Run Drive entrance to the park. Fifteen neighbors showed up for our first work event on April 2. We've had a few smaller, weekday work sessions since then and have been making slow, but steady progress.

Thickets of wintergreen barberry, which harbors rodents that bring ticks, are now gone. Musclewood trees and American hollies have been freed from strangulation by Japanese honeysuckle vines.



Left - A musclewood tree choked by a honeysuckle vine

Right - The vine has been removed, but the scars remain. Fingers crossed that the tree recovers!

Although it's tempting to just yank everything up, we've learned it's better to focus on a few species at a time, so as not to disturb the ground too much. The seeds of native plants may be lying dormant there, and once the invasives are removed, those plants may have a chance.

Our plan is to work on one small section of the park at a time. Once we have removed all the invasives in an area, we will put in native plants donated by Earth Sangha, which propagates plants from seeds collected in forests in our area. We are already close to that stage in our first work area.

Controlling invasives could keep Friends of Luria Park busy for years to come, but we aren't limiting ourselves to that. Judi Booker, of Surrey Lane, recently helped bring a watershed cleanup event to the park. Part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup, the event was originally going to be held farther downstream on Holmes Run until Judi suggested organizers move it to Luria Park. (See Keith Peterson's great photos from that day on the next page.)

Other plans include additional tree plantings to fill out some of the areas near the stream where previous plantings were done, as well as educational events.

Please visit our blog at [luriapark.wordpress.com](http://luriapark.wordpress.com) to learn more about what we've been doing and what we've got planned. If you'd like to get involved, show up to one of our workdays (usually announced on the listserv) or email me at [skarush@hotmail.com](mailto:skarush@hotmail.com).



# HOLMES RUN STREAM CLEANUP A SUCCESS!

STORY AND PHOTOS BY KEITH PETERSON

On Saturday April 16, over 40 volunteers from Holmes Run Acres and surrounding neighborhoods came together on a sunny morning to help restore Luria Park to its natural beauty. Some 33 bags of garbage (approximately 495 lbs) and 12 bags of recyclables were collected (thanks to those who volunteered their recycle bins). Other interesting finds included 16 tires, a shopping cart, bicycle helmet, wire fencing, a fire extinguisher, ping-pong table, and two skulls (actually the skulls, not human, were left in place).

If you were unable to participate, don't worry, another cleanup is planned for the stream near the Providence Rec Center in September. Stay tuned!

The combined results from all the Potomac River Watershed Cleanups held on April 16th which includes the Luria Park cleanup are listed below:

- 81 Cleanups
- 1,724 volunteers contributed over 412,800 hours
- 1,463 Bags of Trash
- 1,030 Bags of Recycling
- 13,727 Pounds of Bulk Trash
- 4,847 Plastic Bags
- 193 Tires
- 3,890 Cigarette Butts
- 29 Sharps





# EASTER EGG HUNT

PHOTOS BY PAUL GILLIS



# LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

SUBMITTED BY MIA GARDINER

## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY *how this library works*

### THIS LIBRARY BELONGS TO EVERYONE!

Your neighbors, friends, people who pass by.  
Anyone may use it. This Little Free Library offers a way to share good things to read

### WE SUGGEST YOU INCLUDE:

- Books you would recommend
- Your childhood favorites
- Books that teach and intrigue
- Literacy Friendly Neighborhood Toolkit

### TAKE BOOKS.

If you see something you would like to read, take it.  
Browse through and see who read it or gave it.  
When finished, you can leave your own special note in it.

### SHARE BOOKS.

Pass them on to a friend or return them to any  
Little Free Library.

### GIVE BOOKS.

Continue to be a friend of your Library and others by  
helping any way you can. Pay it forward.



Learn more about LFL @ [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org)



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY.ORG®  
TAKE A BOOK • RETURN A BOOK



**HRA Little Free Library  
Located on Elm Terrace  
at the foot of the steps  
leading to School/Pool**

# HISTORIC DESIGNATION PLAQUES: YOU, TOO, CAN HAVE ONE!

Your HRACA Historic Preservation Committee has ordered a new batch of our historic designation plaques by popular demand! This plaque was designed for our homeowners to mount on their houses in recognition of our neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation.

A nice photo collage of some of our neighbor's plaques mounted in the neighborhood is shown below.

The cost to purchase a historic plaque is \$130. You can send your request via email to Mitch Toda at [mitchtoda@hotmail.com](mailto:mitchtoda@hotmail.com).

HRACA Historic Preservation Committee



# GIVE ME MY WHEELS

BY JACK ARTHUR UNDERHILL

When you take away my wheels  
You take away from freedom.  
Freedom to go West  
Freedom to go to the Promised Land  
Freedom to cross the border  
Freedom to find a new life.

Give a young man his wheels  
And he will go through the magical rite  
From innocent youth to manhood  
Just as American Indian youth  
Were sent alone into the wilderness for a week  
Along with the howling wolves and bear.  
They left as boys  
And returned as men  
Or died in the process.

The thrill of the chase  
The faster the better.  
Youth and wheels: a lethal combination.  
Be on your guard.  
Wheels, swagger and testosterone  
Add up to trouble

Wheels bring more than thrills.  
To the single mother  
Trapped in the web of the ghetto  
Without easy access to good jobs,  
Wheels mean a ticket to  
Upward mobility and the good life.

As we grow older and our vision fades  
We lose our mobility and choice.  
It's up to the community  
To step forward and share  
The wheels we have.

We are all in this together.

# APRIL SHOWERS

Though April showers may come your way,  
They bring the flowers that bloom in May,  
So if it's raining, have no regrets,  
Because it isn't raining rain you know,  
It's raining violets.

And where you see clouds upon the hills,  
You soon will see crowds of daffodils;  
So keep on looking for a blue bird and list'ning for his song  
Whenever April showers come along.

Lyrics

B.G. De Sylva

Music

Louis Silvers

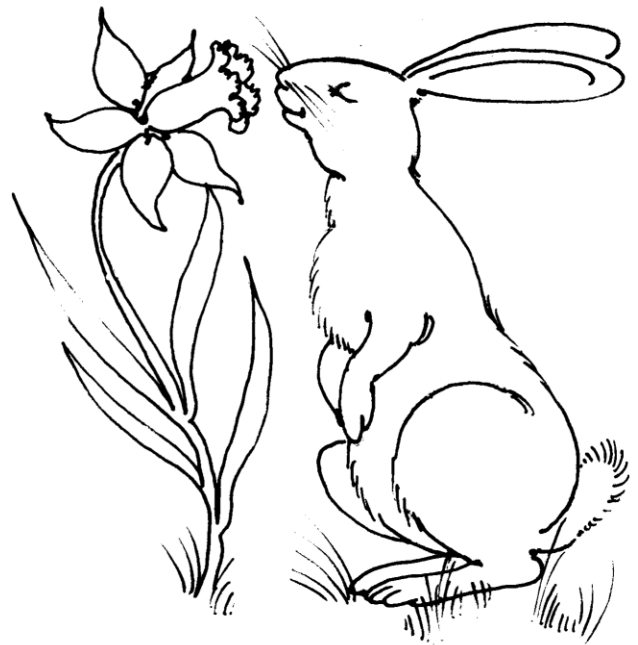


Illustration by Ann Jordan

# THE GRAINETHUMB

## About Good and Bad Weeds, Bugs, Mushrooms, and Berries

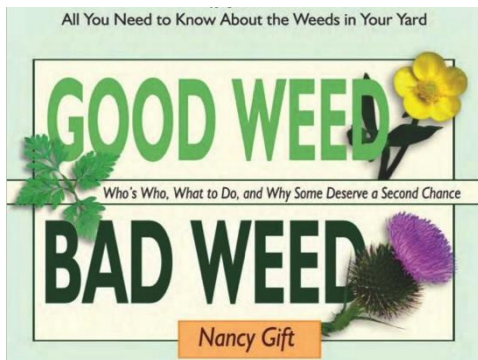
By George Graine, Fairfax County Master Gardeners

*There's nothing so good that there isn't a little bad in it and nothing so bad that there isn't a little good in it.* --- Grainethumb family quote

St. Lynn's Press published a novel series of four books that you may have needed but were heretofore not available as a reasonably complete package. All the titles indicate good/bad as applied to weeds, bugs, mushrooms and berries. Each book is user-friendly for anyone who likes to garden and wants to avoid some of the frustrations that are a part of this "hobby." The contents of each book are described below but first a few reasons for noting the utility of these books: Each is a compact size (6 x 7"), small enough for use as a field guide. All are spiral bound with matte-laminated heavy stock pages and color photos for each subject. The written descriptions are succinctly noted on every page and without a lot of horticultural jargon.

### **Good Weed-Bad Weed: Who's Who, What to Do, and Why Some Deserve a Second**

**Chance** by Nancy Gift (2011). Have you ever looked at a weed book? Was it difficult to comprehend, or did it perhaps intimidate you? Often these books are so full of information that you might say something like – "Help, I'm getting lost in the weeds!" Do not fear, because this author has written a very different kind of weed book. Forty-four weeds (8 bad, 8 not-so-bad, and 28 good) are described by using a color photo, life cycle, benefits or drawbacks, and best method of organic control (often by pulling or using a dandelion prong). Additionally, each weed is chronologically indicated by season of the year.



You may have heard the expression that a weed is a plant out of place, but is it absolutely necessary to kill every weed? An example of a "good" weed is clover. (Please don't sigh.) This weed contributes nitrogen to the soil; therefore, less fertilizer is needed. Furthermore, clover is not part of the lawn grub (bad guy) diet so that means less reliance on control. Contrast clover with the annual "bad" weed – crabgrass. Probably everyone reading this article knows something about this weed. If allowed to survive, this weed will produce a zillion seeds that could eventually out-compete turf. By applying a pre-emergence control at the "proper" time, you will often smother most of the potential crabgrass seedlings before they erupt.

The section on seasonal not-so-bad weeds is debatable depending on your tolerance for any weed plant taking up residence in your lawn. As an example, consider prostrate spurge. This plant survives in dry places such as an open patch in your lawn. Sometimes you may see it in the crack between a concrete curb and the asphalt road. To rid this weed, find the center, especially after a rain; pull gently and voila – goodbye spurge.

So...how about the next time you see a dandelion (good weed?). Will you enjoy the flower, or use the young leaves in a salad, or have your children blow the fluffy round seed head? By the way, in general if your turf is very healthy and without bare ground and mowed high (3"), it will usually discourage most weeds. Agree or disagree on the categories of bad, not-so-bad, or good weeds, you will definitely learn a lot.



## Good Bug-Bad Bug: Who's Who, What They Do, and How to Manage Them Organically



by Jessica Walliser (revised 2011). Bugs/insects – love 'em or kill 'em? Are they good or evil? This text includes 54 pages of pests and 27 pages of beneficial insects. That is a 2:1 ratio, so it is incumbent on all of us to know the good from the bad. Many people do not recognize this difference and indeed, this is truly unfortunate. Why does eradication of any bug that is creeping or flying around often come under human attack? This book is a necessary addition to your horticultural tool box. The author provides easy to follow proven and simple strategies to cope with the “evil” critters and how to recognize the good guys. Put in simpler

terms, the *Good Bug-Bad Bug* book is a go-to, hands-on guide that will help sort out who's who in the world we live in. To help understand some technical terms, a garden glossary is included in the book as well as information on organic products that are often available at full service garden centers.

The dichotomy of good-bad bugs is best illustrated by the list below for each pest (bad) and beneficial (good) bug.

### Pest Description Includes

- color photo
- spot the damage
- plants they attack
- live biological control
- preventive actions
- organic product controls
- more about

### Beneficial Description Includes

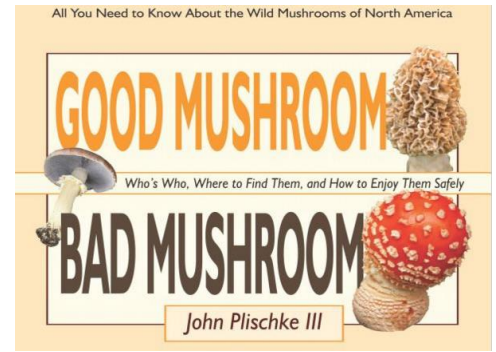
- color photo
- life cycle
- pests they control
- how to attract and keep them
- more about

While it is not easy to control pest insects, you can limit their destruction by growing healthy plants. In this regard, it helps if you follow the garden mantra of right plant-right place because a plant in a weak state is vulnerable to attack. The management strategy for control of every insect in this book notes three simple steps. These are (a) identify the pest as well as the plant host, (b) use available preventive and cultural measures, and (c) employ biological controls, i.e., beneficial insects that will consume the pest. Recognize that “c” may not always be an easy option.

This may sound like an easy fix to your insect problems, but the fact remains that insects will always be with us. Your “job” is to try to reduce the bad population by using the safest and most effective solution. In the current idiom – may the force be with you.

**Good Mushroom-Bad Mushroom: Who's Who, Where to Find Them, and How to Enjoy Them Safely** by John Plischke III (2011). Mushrooms – you have seen them in the lawn, growing on trees that have seen better days, and of course in the grocery store. Mycologists (the folks who spend time studying mushrooms) tell us to be wary of mushrooms unless you can differentiate the good (edible) from the bad (inedible or poisonous). Perhaps your fear of mushrooms was brought on by parental caution when you were a child, whereas mushrooms purchased at the grocery do not carry a negative cachet.

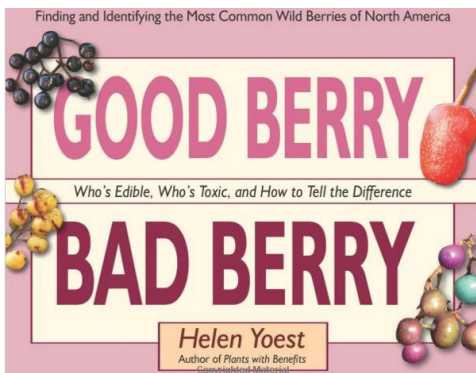
Expert mycologist John Plischke's book helps to distinguish the difference between various types of wild mushrooms in order to avoid dire consequences. He guides us to 26 edible mushrooms and their poisonous lookalikes. He also identifies 11 mushrooms you should avoid. A poisonous mushroom may not "get" you immediately; however, some poisonous mushrooms can build up in your body until you reach a point where you could end up in another place – permanently. If you are the outdoorsy type and curious about those mushrooms you find, the author has gone to great lengths to explain how to avoid potential danger. In fact you may be surprised that he recommends that you purchase other field guides to aid you, and that you go on a mushroom hunt with someone who knows what they are doing. Simply put, cross-checking everything should be a cardinal rule. If this is too scary and you do enjoy eating mushrooms, then the alternative to edible mushrooms can be found at the grocery store. These days many grocery stores carry the familiar white (mild and savory) mushroom. In preparation for this article, Grainthumb went on a mushroom "hunt" at his local grocery and found four other types as well, including Portabella (rich and meaty), Crimini (baby bella – delicate and earthy), Shitake (strong and smoky), and Oyster (tender and velvety). Had he gone to a gourmet grocery he may have found other varieties such as Morels, Chanterelles, and maybe others. The author claims that wild mushrooms are many times more delectable than those you can purchase at the grocery store although, as noted, these days you can find some wild mushroom types without going into the woods. You can be the judge of taste.



Aside from an abundance of good information about mushrooms, the author has provided eight of his own recipes for cooking with wild mushrooms. His website <http://home.comcast.net/~grifola/site/> contains more recipes.

And finally, one last caution. If you are not absolutely sure of the identification of a mushroom, then follow the admonition of "when in doubt, throw them out." It is always much better to be safe than sorry.

**Good Berry-Bad Berry: Who's Edible, Who's Toxic, and How to tell the Difference** by Helen Yoest (2016). This is a very good read for the adventurous gardener and/or



naturalist. Let's assume you and a friend or family take a walkabout in the woods and you find some berries on a shrub or tree. Should you stop to eat them? If you saw a bird eating berries would you follow suit? Do you know a good berry from one that does not taste good or worse yet could land you in the ER? Many of these questions and explanations are answered in the *Good Berry-Bad Berry* book. In addition to what is considered good or bad for human consumption, the author includes an "intermediary" section on Good Berry/Bad Idea. In essence, this means that "Just because a berry is not poisonous

doesn't mean it is edible, in the same sense that it has any nutritional value or even tastes good...no matter how much sugar you add." Another way to express this thought is, if a berry tastes bad, you should immediately spit it out, rinse your mouth with water, and seek medical advice.

Only 40 berries are discussed and given a solid explanation, because the book format was page limited. Many other berries that were not included are listed as good or bad by name

and and by where they are usually growing in regions of our country. Some of these berry plants are often available from your local garden center, and no doubt some are growing in your landscape. As an example, Crabapple is a good berry whereas Daphne is a bad berry. Note: In botany, a berry is defined as any fruit that has its seeds enclosed in a fleshy pulp. The book does not include the grocery store-available yummy berry varieties such as strawberries, blueberries, or raspberries.

All-knowing Nature wants berries to survive, and birds are a perfect foil to distribute the seed (if you think about this for a moment). Whether a berry is toxic or not, the same results will be achieved. Of the 40 berries given a lot of space, 13 are in the bad category. Most of these berries are common and probably familiar to you and all of these berries can be mildly toxic to poisonous. They include:

Oriental bittersweet	Solomon's Seal
Cotoneaster	Aucuba
Nandina domestica	Strawberry bush
Common Honeysuckle (nectar OK)	St. John's Wort
Ligustrum (Japanese privet)	Virginia Creeper
Rohdea (Nippon lily)	Winterberry Holly
Pokeweed	

Seven berries are included in the Good Berry/Bad Idea and given full explanation. The author notes that some of these berries are not all bad, but they're not exactly good, either, for various reasons such as "poor tasting" or "should not be eaten raw." Although these berries will not kill you, they are not worth eating. Because a berry is not harmful to our feathered friends and animals, you cannot be assured that they are edible for us mortals. On the other hand, what is edible for humans could be fatal to animals. Like the previous list of plants, this list is probably familiar to many of you, and you may even have some growing on your property.

Coralberry	Porcelain vine
Hawthorn	Pyracantha (Sweet firethorn)
Mayapple	Yew
Poet's laurel	

The remaining 20 berries are somewhat familiar and are a delight to your taste buds. To mention a few, these are Barberry (beware the thorns), Beautyberry (the plant with brilliant magenta berries), Blackberry brambles, Kousa Dogwood (Asian dogwood), Elderberry (blue-black berries grow in a cluster the size of a fist), Mahonia (best tasting after frost), and Goji berry (the go-to berry of the hippie generation).

If you are going to hike in the woods, you should avoid all vine fruit with the exception of wild grapes. If you are walking or biking alongside a road and spot some berries among dead foliage do not eat the berries. Chances are a road crew sprayed the foliage with herbicide and left a poisonous residue on the berries. If you by chance eat a poisonous berry, call 911 or the National Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222. If your pet ingests a poisonous plant, contact your vet or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. It is better to be safe than sorry. As Euell Gibbons said, "There are no poisonous plants that taste good. Nature does not want to kill you."

# 2016 WASHINGTON FOLK FESTIVAL

The 36th Washington Folk Festival is scheduled for June 4-5 this year. This traditional music Festival has seven performance stages, featuring bluegrass, old timey, jazz, blues, and more. Music and dance from over 25 countries is highlighted, plus participatory dances in the ballroom all day and a crafts area. Something for everyone, and all of the performers live in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. The Washington Folk Festival showcases the wealth and diversity of traditional music that we have in our own hometown!

A preview schedule will be posted on the HRA listserv the week before the festival. Satellite parking is available. Admission is free. Rain or Shine.

For more information call (703) 573-8111.

Mia Gardiner (Festival Program Chair)



**36<sup>th</sup> Annual  
WASHINGTON FOLK FESTIVAL**

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY  
June 4 & 5 2016**

**SAT. - SUN. June 4 & 5, 2016 NOON - 7PM**

**WASHINGTON FOLK  
FESTIVAL**  
GLEN ECHO PARK  
7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo, MD 20812.

Explore Washington's diverse American and international cultural heritage as over 450 musicians, storytellers and dancers perform on seven stages. Join in dance workshops, wander through the craft show, and enjoy the beauty of historic Glen Echo Park.

**[www.washingtonfolkfestival.org](http://www.washingtonfolkfestival.org)**



The Washington Folk Festival is produced by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington in cooperation with the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, the National Park Service, Montgomery County, Maryland, and the Richmond Folk Festival

**RAIN OR SHINE \* FREE \* RAIN OR SHINE \* FREE \* RAIN OR SHINE**

# MESSAGE FROM HRA'S EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GROUP (EPG)

**WATER SAFETY:** Summer is almost here – the pool opens at the end of next month, trips to the nearby beaches and lakes on the weekends resume, and, of course, most children love to play in the water. Here are some myths and cautions about water safety. Drowning isn't a slow process – it can happen in seconds.

## **Myth #1: It takes a long time for someone to drown.**

In fact, it can happen in as little as 30 seconds, the time it takes to check a message on your smart phone and look back up.

Lesson: Never take your eyes off children in the water.

## **Myth #2: It's obvious when someone is drowning.**

In fact, drowning is often silent and unnoticed even by people nearby the victim.

Lesson: The only way to ensure safety is through constant vigilance.

## **Myth #3: You don't have to watch your kids if lifeguards are on duty.**

In fact, 20% of drowning incidents happen in guarded pools. Lifeguards are too busy and too easily distracted to keep every child safe all the time.

Lesson: The best way to guarantee water safety is through your own vigilant supervision – not someone else's.

## **Myth #4: We don't have to worry about adults who know how to swim.**

In fact, adult swimmers of any age and fitness level can succumb to shallow water blackout, or heart arrhythmias – both of which can lead to drowning.

Lesson: Supervision is vital whenever anyone is in the water.

So enjoy the summer and enjoy the water, but stay vigilant and keep those children – and each other – safe.

**FAIRFAX ALERTS:** Fairfax Alerts is Fairfax County's way of sending you emergency alerts, as well as severe traffic and weather alerts. They go right to your smartphone and/or email inbox. You may choose to receive alerts on several topics or just one. For information on how to sign up and choose the device(s) to receive the alerts, as well as the topics, go to: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/>.

Mia Gardiner

Chair HRA-EPG

# TALK OF THE ACRES – SPRING 2016

**Chloe Toda**, a Woodburn Elementary third grader and daughter of **Mitch and Sharon Toda**, of Executive Drive, created a recipe for Honey Dipped Blueberries that won first place in the Snack Category, Intermediate Division, for the Virginia PTA's Power Plates Program. The program encourages students to practice healthy eating habits by creating an original recipe in one of five categories: breakfast, lunch, snack, dinner entrée/side dish, or dessert.



**Very Berry Yummy**

**Ingredients:**

- blue berries
- honey

**Items Needed:**

- knife
- plastic container
- bowl
- tooth picks

**1. Rinse blueberries.**

**2. Put some honey into the bowl.**

**3. Put blue berries in the bowl of honey.**

**4. Put tooth picks in the middle of the blueberries & lift then put in container.**

**5. Put container in freezer. (freeze for an hour or more)**

**6. After done take out the container & use knife to get blueberry pop off.**

**Ashley and James Bender**, of Executive Avenue, welcomed a baby girl, their first child, on March 23rd. Her name is **Dorothy Ann Bender**, but they've been calling her Dottie. She came 5 weeks early and was just a little one, at 5 lbs, 9 oz. The whole family is doing well. Ashley and James are hoping Dottie will love living in Holmes Run Acres as much as they and their greyhound, Kala, do!



One day old



Three Weeks Old



**Keith Gardiner**, of Hemlock Drive, told a docent friend at Udvar Hazy National Air and Space Museum that he knew somebody who had actually flown the Corsair exhibited there. **Dave Smith**, of Surrey Lane, had served as a Navy carrier pilot from 1944-1949, and was recalled to active duty from 1952-1954. Dave talked to a group of the museum docents about how pilots coped with the flight characteristics, which made the long-nosed heavy Corsair a challenge to land on a carrier. The Corsair was one of the WWII fighters which proved to be highly effective against the Japanese Zero and the Kamikaze planes.

# IN MEMORIAM



Long time HRA resident Colleen K. Brewer (58) died on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, with her wife, Kim Memeger, and a few of their closest friends by her side. Her passing came after a courageous battle with breast cancer that was initially diagnosed 17 years ago as Stage 4. She was an inspiration and guiding light to many survivors, friends, and family members.

Colleen was born in Milan, Michigan, on December 7, 1957, to Richard Brewer and Gloria (Brewer) Zimmer. She is survived by her partner of 17 years (wife of 49 days); brothers: David Brewer (Debbie); Dan Brewer; and Darren Brewer (Lori); sisters: Laurel Sanders (Larry) and Kelley Arndt (Lauren); and 11 nieces and nephews.

Colleen moved from Northville, Michigan, to Vienna, Virginia, in 1982, and began working for CACI International shortly thereafter. At her death, she had been working for CACI for 33 years and was the manager of the Accounts Receivable department. She never stopped working as she battled through years of treatment.

In 1999, Colleen and Kim moved into a rental home in HRA and immediately fell in love with the community. In 2000, they purchased a one-level house on Hemlock, and six years later they upgraded to a two-level house across the street from their little Luria. Colleen, a lover of gardening and mowing the grass, was often the first person to cut the grass in the Spring and last person to cut it in the Fall. She took pride in not having a blade of grass out of place and in a perfectly edged yard.

A celebration in Colleen's honor was held at the International Country Club in Fairfax, Virginia, on January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was attended by nearly 200 friends and family members, including a good representation of friends from HRA. After a few thoughtful tributes, the celebration quickly became a party with fun music, laughter, and lots of Yuengling.





The request for donations to Johns Hopkins University Hospital's Hackerman-Patz Patient and Family Pavilion, in order to fund an endowment to lift the economic burden for those who cannot afford to stay at the facility, yielded over \$20K. In recognition of the significant donation, a plaque with Colleen's name will be prominently displayed at the entry of the apartment where she and Kim resided in 2014 when Colleen was undergoing treatment.

Colleen was generous with her love and made a lasting impression on anyone she met. Her shock of red hair and bright smile will be greatly missed.



HRA: Marie Sinclair, Mark and Christiane DeJong, Rob LeBourdais, John and Sherri Brusca, Patty, Cathy and Mike Keefe

# HRA 65TH ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK: RECIPES WANTED

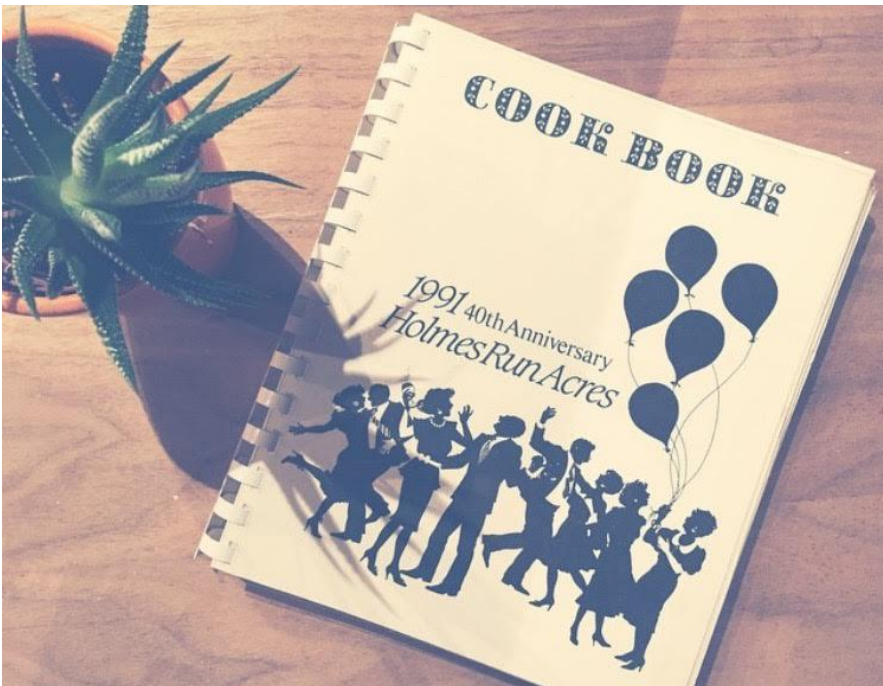
I am still collecting recipes for the HRA 65th Anniversary Cookbook! The last published copy of the neighborhood cookbook was in 1991, for the Acres' 40th anniversary. This anniversary's cookbook will be a compilation of tried and true classics, Open Holmes party favorites, ethnic cuisines, traditional holiday dishes, and more. If you made a dish for the International Dinner, this is a great time to submit that recipe for the cookbook! You can email the recipe directly to me.

Please send your recipe (or a few!) with a short description, story, or photo to go along with it. This might be a paragraph of history about the recipe, a funny memory about the dish, etc. It is my goal to help make this cookbook very personalized to this fantastic neighborhood and residents, so whip out those recipe cards, ladies and gents!

Thank you to everyone who has already submitted recipes. Keep them coming! **The deadline has been extended until May 31**, with the debut of the cookbook planned for late fall.

Carrie Darke

7703 Holmes Run Drive



# HOLMES RUN ACRES CIVIC ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

*December 2, 2015*

**Host: Chris Verhoff, 3322 Laurel Ct.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:11 p.m.

**Attending:** Francine Ronis, Karin Sweet, Mia Gardiner, Mitch Toda, Dave Smith, Lindy Tagliaferri, Chris Verhoff, Norm Atkins, Edith Forde, Janet Schreiber, and Peggy Daley

**Not Attending:** Scott Birkhead, Jay Liwanag, Carrie Schori, Wilson Rowe, Pablo Paldao, Darryl Drevna, and Amanda Paldao

**Historian:** Vivian Smith

**President's Report:** (Chris Verhoff) No report.

**Secretary:** (Peggy Daley) Francine made a motion and Dave seconded to accept the November 2015 minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer:** (Carrie Schori, absent) Via -mail to Chris. There is \$10,063.71 in the checking account. The treasurer's report will be reviewed at the January 2016 meeting.

## **Standing Committee Reports:**

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**Civic Affairs:** (Scott Birkhead, absent) Via e-mail from Scott. Kat O'Leary, the Crime Prevention Officer for the Fairfax County Police, was instrumental in replacing the Neighborhood Watch sign at Woodburn Elementary School.

**Community Facilities:** (Dave Smith) Fairfax County removed Neighborhood Watch signs in communities where the organization was no longer active even though the signs may be a deterrent to crime.

- It is now deer mating season and caution is advised when driving or walking.
- There is one more leaf pick-up. At present the street area is narrower due to piles of leaves.
- Winter is coming up. Think about bad weather and possible power outages. Be prepared and stock up on necessities. Some individuals in HRA have placed their power lines and cable underground. The estimated cost is around \$1,000.

**Historic Preservation:** (Janet Schreiber) Janet is checking the current cost of historic plaques.

**Membership and Hospitality:** (Mitch Toda/Carrie Schori, absent) Two hundred sixty one homes (63%) in HRA have signed up for membership. This is 2% higher than last year. Paid Membership fees are \$6,708.03, donations to this point are \$718. Some membership fees have not been received.

- Haleh is working on the Directory and will have it together in a couple of weeks.
- Some areas need block leaders.

**Programs and Social:** (Darryl Drevna, absent / Carrie Schori, absent) Darryl and Carrie are working on the date and location of the International Dinner.

**Youth Activities:** (Francine Ronis/ Amanda Paldao, absent) The Santa visits are on December 13. There are still time slots available for visits. Contact Amanda Paldao to schedule a visit. The committee is considering other activities in addition to Santa visits.

## **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

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**Emergency Preparedness Group:** (Mia Gardiner) Mia will remind HRA residents that winter is coming and emergency supplies should be on hand. She will place a link to the FEMA website on the listserv. The site gives instructions on what to do in an emergency.

**Neighborhood Enhancement:** (Carrie Schori, absent) report via e-mail. Sticks and Stones will do the landscaping upkeep for the HRA entrance signs in exchange for an ad in the Directory.

## **Other Reports:**

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**Directory:** (Norm Atkins/Catherine Fort, absent) The ads have brought in \$3,300 as of this date. Some fees for ads have not been received. All the ads for the Directory have been completed. The Directory is coming along ahead of time from last year.

**Federation of Citizens Associations:** (Peggy Daley) Col. Edwin Roessler, Jr., Chief, Fairfax County Police Department discussed 71 recommendations from the “Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission” and the way ahead. The focus of the recommendations:

- Use of Force
- Communication
- Mental Health and Crisis Intervention Training
- Independent Oversight
- Diversity Recruitment

This will require a good deal of change in policing practices. CIT (Crisis Intervention Training) will be a major focus of the Police Academy curriculum before training in weapons. There will be a need to re-engineer priority decision making based on the sanctity of life and the use of force.

**Historian:** (Vivian Smith) Vivian passed around articles re: HRA beginning with House Beautiful in 1951. Other articles included an article in a 1955 Family Circle and in a 1966 Saturday Evening Post. The Washington Post devoted a full section to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. There have been several articles since 2000. One on renovating from afar when the Gehrons were living in Tanzania and had their house redone. In 2012 there was an article in the section Where We Live. Several authors lived in HRA. She also had covers of Christmas Runners that were done by hand using stencils. The covers became more professional as technology progressed.

**Providence District Council:** (Lindy Tagliaferri) A representative from the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association presented an overview of their organization and handed out brochures from the Federation.

**Holmes Runner:** (Mary Beth Gardiner, absent/Haleh Peterson, absent) The deadline for the Runner is January 17, 2016. The theme is gifts—given or received.

**Website:** (Mitch Toda) Mitch will post a link to FEMA, to The Washington Post about an article in the Real Estate section where Edith was interviewed about HRA’s mid-century modern homes, and the Santa visits.

**Old Business:** Mia brought up the issue of becoming a member of littlefreelibrary.org. The issue was tabled until the January 2016 meeting.

There have not been a lot of contributions to the HRA 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook. The board considered ways more cooks can be encouraged to share their recipes. There was a discussion about funding for the cookbook.

**New Business:** Lindy spoke of how he and his wife Lisa helped a neighbor who was ill, but when first responders came to the house they were unsure of what to do when asked about drugs, medical history, advance directives etc. Lisa called the Annandale Fire Department to ask how they could be more helpful. Lindy handed out a File of Life document that is placed in a holder with a refrigerator magnet. The document contains information that provides the necessary information for first responders to a 911 emergency call. The File of Life can be obtained at local Fire Departments.

Francine brought up the issue of the Fairfax County Public Schools budget. The next fiscal year they will be \$60 million under budget. Francine is concerned about cutting services to schools at a time when more services are needed. She suggested that a letter to the Board of Supervisors might be helpful.

Norm made a motion to adjourn and Lindy seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:54 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Daley, Secretary.

Next board meeting: 8 p.m. January 6,, 2016—Host: Catherine Fort, 3429 Surrey Lane

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**January 6, 2016**

**Host: Catherine Fort, 3429 Surrey Lane**

The meeting was called to order at 8:09 p.m.

**Attending:** Francine Ronis, Karin Sweet, Mia Gardiner, Mitch Toda, Dave Smith, Lindy Tagliaferri, Chris Verhoff, Norm Atkins, Edith Forde, Janet Schreiber, Scott Birkhead, Jay Liwanag, Carrie Schori, Darryl Drevna, Pablo Paldao, and Peggy Daley

**Not Attending:** Wilson Rowe, and Amanda Paldao

**Historian:** Vivian Smith

**Host:** Catherine Fort

**President's Report:** (Chris Verhoff) The board would like to thank Catherine for opening her home to host the board holiday party. And to thank Lindy for doing a superb job as Santa.

**Secretary:** (Peggy Daley) No report. December minutes to be reviewed at the February 2016 meeting.

**Treasurer:** (Carrie Schori) Deposits from the membership drive and Directory ads total \$13,819.26. Mitch made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Pablo seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the report.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

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**Civic Affairs:** (Scott Birkhead) The Gallows Rd construction by the new INOVA site has been completed. The work was funded by INOVA. The project was developed according to the Fairfax County Master plan that Gallows Rd be six lanes wide east of I-495.

- The Neighborhood Night Watch night shift is full thanks to new volunteers.
- Norm Gottlieb organized the Walk and Watch program in conjunction with the police. In order to enhance the safety of individuals walking after dusk he purchased 100 reflective vests. Those vests have been claimed. Drivers continue to be caught unawares at night by pedestrians who are not wearing vests. The board is considering ordering more reflective vests in adult and children's sizes.

**Community Facilities:** (Dave Smith) Some residents of HRA reported low water pressure. Dave called Fairfax County Water Authority. The county suggested construction work at Brightview Assisted Living may have been a factor in the temporary loss of pressure.

- Scott and Mia are concerned about the safety of Brightview Assisted Living staff crossing Gallows Rd. at shift change. Scott contacted the police re: the use of a traffic director at those times. The police said they would be glad to accommodate the request for a fee.
- There was, again, discussion about placing a traffic light on Gallows Rd. The cost would be \$284,000. Perhaps Brightview and the HRARA could look into this matter.
- Woodburn Estates on Gallows Rd. should have their building permits approved by February.

**Historic Preservation:** (Janet Schreiber) No report.

**Membership and Hospitality:** (Mitch Toda/Carrie Schori) The membership drive wrapped up with 72% of homes joining HRACA. Haleh used the membership form to compile a list of those who agreed to volunteer and of those who wanted to be on the e-mail list for communication from HRACA.

**Programs and Social:** (Darryl Drevna/ Carrie Schori) The International Dinner will be held Saturday March 5, 2016 at Friendship United Methodist Church on Gallows Rd.

**Youth Activities:** (Francine Ronis/ Amanda Paldao, absent) The Santa visits were a great success with Lindy and his elves visiting 8-12 houses. At some houses there was more than one family present. The board worked on ways to get more families involved.

- The next event will be game night at Woodburn Elementary School.

### **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

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**Emergency Preparedness Group:** (Mia Gardiner) Lindy has agreed to co-chair the committee with Mia. Mia has been exploring ways to provide CPR training in or near HRA. Lindy's daughter is an EMT at Washington Hospital Center. She is certified to teach CPR. He will speak with her about offering CPR training in the neighborhood.

**Neighborhood Enhancement:** (Carrie Schori) Sticks and Stones will do maintenance for the HRA entrance signs in exchange for a free ad in the Directory.

### **Other Reports:**

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**Directory:** (Norm Atkins/Catherine Fort) The ads for the Directory brought in \$5,365. This is \$280 more than last year.

**Federation of Citizens Associations:** (Peggy Daley) The Federation will resume meetings in February.

**Historian:** (Vivian Smith) Vivian had interesting tidbits from Runners beginning with the 1952 issue. Some of the early Runners ran 68 pages though the average was 25-50 pages. HRA sponsored a Girl Scout troop. A big Christmas tree in Luria Park had its lights shot out. Only 36 women were working full time in 1957. During the Cold War, Civil Defense designated Rte. 50 as an evacuation route. In 1958, 90% of homes belonged to the civic association. There were land use issues re: the Circumferential Highway, later known as the Beltway or I-495, and the construction of INOVA Fairfax hospital. In 1959, there was massive resistance from VA legislators to school integration. They were planning to close all public schools and convert them to private schools. HRA protested. The law failed to pass. In one runner there was a reminder not to bring dogs to school, or let them sneak in, because they caused a distraction.

**Providence District Council:** (Lindy Tagliaferri) The council held a Christmas Party.

**Holmes Runner:** (Mary Beth Gardiner, absent/Haleh Peterson, absent) The deadline for articles is January 19, 2016. The theme is gifts—given or received.

**Website:** (Mitch Toda) News on the listserv will have a link to the HRA website to encourage traffic to the site. When the HRACA board sends out information it will be delivered by a link to the website.

**Old Business:** A resident of HRA brought up the issue of “policing” the little lending library. The national organization—[littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org)-- is opposed to censoring the libraries. In accord with the national organization, the official stance of the board is that there will be no censorship of the HRA lending library. The little lending library on Elm Terrace is for adults. A lending library for children will be available at Woodburn Elementary School. Lindy made a motion and Jay seconded to join [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). The fee is \$52.45 and includes a wood sign noting the HRA little library is a member of the national organization. The vote was unanimous to approve the motion.

The response to the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook has been sparse. The original deadline was December 2015. That deadline will be moved up to allow residents to submit more recipes. The International Dinner

will have a table for receiving recipes with a request for the story behind the recipe. Mia will put an article in the Runner encouraging residents to submit their favorite recipes.

Mia will post a notice on the listserv re: a Fairfax County Public Schools budget meeting at Luther Jackson on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Garza, superintendent of the schools, will be speaking. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will meet to review the budget on Saturday January 9<sup>th</sup>,

Norm made a motion to adjourn and Darryl seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:21 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Daley, Secretary.

Next board meeting: 8 p.m. February 3, 2016—Host Mia Gardiner, 3313 Hemlock Dr.

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## **February 3, 2016**

**Host: Mia Gardiner, 3313 Hemlock Dr.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

**Attending:** Mia Gardiner, Mitch Toda, Dave Smith, Lindy Tagliaferri, Chris Verhoff, Norm Atkins, Janet Schreiber, Carrie Schori, Darryl Drevna, Wilson Rowe, and Peggy Daley

**Not Attending:** Pablo Paldao, Scott Birkhead, Jay Liwanag, Karin Sweet, Francine Ronis, Edith Forde, and Amanda Paldao

**Historian:** Vivian Smith

**Guest:** Mary Beth Gardiner, co-editor of the Holmes Runner

**President's Report:** (Chris Verhoff) No report.

**Secretary:** (Peggy Daley) Darryl made a motion and Wilson seconded to accept the December 2015 and January 2016 minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer:** (Carrie Schori) There is \$13,614.50 in the treasury. Peggy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Lindy seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the report.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

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**Civic Affairs:** (Scott Birkhead, absent) No report.

**Community Facilities:** (Dave Smith) The blizzard was the big news in January. FCPS were closed for a week. The storm was very hard on wildlife looking for food.

- Thanks to the many volunteers who helped their neighbors with snow removal. Recipients of the kind assistance were very grateful. Volunteers also dug out curb drains and fire hydrants.

**Historic Preservation:** (Janet Schreiber) Janet called the company that manufactures the historic plaques, but has not received a response.

**Membership and Hospitality:** (Mitch Toda/Carrie Schori, member Mary Beth Gardiner) There have been new residents of HRA. They received their welcome package. The membership app is still on the website so they can sign up there too.

- Pet Registry: Was formerly a part of the membership form. A notice will be placed in the Runner to let neighbors know the registry form will be included in the new neighbor packet and on the website. Marian Gray Kraft manages the pet registry.
- Mary Beth will take over block leader from Lindsay Liwanag.

**Programs and Social:** (Darryl Drevna/ Carrie Schori) There will be an ad for the International Dinner in the next Runner. The International Dinner will be held Saturday March 5, 2016 at Friendship United Methodist Church on Gallows Rd. from 6-9 pm. Mia is looking into entertainment for the event. The

committee is requesting recipes for the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary cook book. There will be a table to collect the recipes. It is also suggested that attendees bring recipes for their contribution to the dinner.

**Youth Activities:** (Francine Ronis, absent/ Amanda Paldao, absent) There will be a game night this Friday, February 6, at Woodburn Elementary School.

### **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

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**Emergency Preparedness Group:** (Mia Gardiner, Lindy Tagliaferri) There will be an article in the Runner about emergency preparedness and the safe way to shovel snow. Linda Smyth's office provided a 5 page write up about emergency preparedness to the Providence District Council.

**Neighborhood Enhancement:** (Carrie Schori) There will be an evaluation of snow damage to the signs and the HRA neighborhood.

### **Other Reports:**

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**Directory:** (Norm Atkins/Haleh Peterson, absent) The latest edition of the HRA Directory has a fabulous cover by Acreite Melissa Johnston. Vendors were pleased to see their ads and commented on the cover. Haleh Peterson has taken over as editor of the Directory replacing Catherine Fort. Many thanks to Catherine for her good work in past years.

**Federation of Citizens Associations:** (Peggy Daley) Karen Garza, superintendent of the FCPS commented on the 2017 proposed school budget. She briefly discussed the week long school closure during the blizzard. Schools are not a priority snow clearance and children cannot get to school. A required program for all 8<sup>th</sup> graders called Finance Park teaches students about handling money. There will be another large deficit in the new budget. The biggest problem is teacher compensation and loss of teachers to other markets. At present, FCPS teachers' salaries are below most other areas except Prince Georges county. Certain specialties are difficult to fill like special needs, math, and languages. FCPS have been burdened with an increase in students that require more attention, 25% of students live in poverty and 15% use ESL services. Some ESL students are illiterate in their language.

**Historian:** (Vivian Smith) Vivian spoke of school integration beginning with 1954 Brown vs the Board of Education. Before 1954 the African American students were bused to the country. Woodburn Elementary School passed a resolution and sent it to the governor saying they were going to follow the law and integrate as soon as possible. Elsewhere there was discussion of white students going to private school leaving African Americans in public schools. In 1954 Luther Jackson High School became the 1<sup>st</sup> high school for African American children. The principal was African American and some residents of HRA were not happy with the possibility of an African American moving into HRA. In 1959 Stratford School in Arlington became the first integrated school in N.Va. In 1965, white children from HRA integrated Luther Jackson. Further protections for African Americans came with the Civil Rights Act in 1964 and the Voting Rights act of 1965, and in 1967 miscegenation was outlawed.

**Providence District Council:** (Lindy Tagliaferri) There was no meeting due to the blizzard.

**Holmes Runner:** (Mary Beth Gardiner/Haleh Peterson, absent) The winter issue of the Runner is at the press. The theme of the next issue is Car Talk, about any car-related story.

**Website:** (Mitch Toda) The website has received 250 visits a week. Mitch is unable to tell if the visitors are inside or outside HRA. He has added FEMA information: Are You Prepared? (for an emergency). He will include an article from the Washington Post real estate section where Edith Forde is interviewed re: mid-century modern homes.

**Old Business:** Mia reported that HRACA will join the national organization littlefreelibrary.org.

- Mia is looking into funding for the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cook book.

### **New Business:**

- Dave said gas leaks were reported on Joan Ct. This time of year expansion and contraction of the ground can cause breaks in gas pipes. Keep your sniffer toned and if you think you smell gas, please contact the Washington Gas.



- Brightview: HRA residents were concerned about privacy when they received door-to-door fliers, USPS mail, and emails with information and updates about construction of Woodburn Brightview Assisted Living. The concern was that Brightview had used the Directory to obtain names, street addresses, and email addresses. When notified of the privacy issue Mark Frazier, Community Sales Director for Brightview, apologized for using the Directory. On page 3 of the Directory there is an explicit privacy notice in bold at the bottom of the page. A response to the HRA community is being drafted to address this issue. Vendors will be reminded of this policy too.

Norm made a motion to adjourn and Darryl seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Daley, Secretary.

Next board meeting: 8 p.m. March 2, 2016—Host Lindy Tagliaferri (3411 Hartwell Ct.)

## ***March 2, 2016***

**Host: Lindy Tagliaferri, 3411 Hartwell Ct.**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m.

**Attending:** Mia Gardiner, Mitch Toda, Lindy Tagliaferri, Chris Verhoff, Norm Atkins, Pablo Paldao, Scott Birkhead, Janet Schreiber, Carrie Schori, Darryl Drevna, Wilson Rowe, and Peggy Daley

**Not Attending:** Dave Smith, Jay Liwanag, Karin Sweet, Francine Ronis, Edith Forde, and Amanda Paldao

**Historian:** Vivian Smith

**President's Report:** (Chris Verhoff) The HRACA Annual Meeting is in May. Speakers are being lined up.

**Secretary:** (Peggy Daley) Carrie made a motion and Mitch seconded to accept the February 3, 2016 minutes. The vote was unanimous to accept the minutes.

**Treasurer:** (Carrie Schori) There is \$11,308.29 in the treasury. Peggy made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Norm seconded. The vote was unanimous to accept the report. Expenses and revenue information has been sent to the CPA to file for taxes on March 15 and request an extension.

### **Standing Committee Reports:**

**Civic Affairs:** (Scott Birkhead) The Board of Supervisors has been looking at County budgets and assessments and is considering raising the tax rate to \$.04 to help make up for budget shortfalls.

**Community Facilities:** (Dave Smith, absent) Dave reports through Chris that potholes have begun to erupt. The Luria Park bridge survived the rain caused by the heavy thunderstorm.

**Historic Preservation:** (Carrie Schori) Carrie ordered 15 historic plaques at \$130 each. Five residents are interested in buying a plaque. No more plaques will be ordered until the remaining 10 are purchased.

**Membership and Hospitality:** (Mitch Toda/Carrie Schori, member Mary Beth Gardiner) The Winter Runners have been distributed.

**Programs and Social:** (Darryl Drevna/ Carrie Schori) A bluegrass band, Only Lonesome, is booked for the International Dinner. The dinner is Saturday March 5, 2016, at Friendship United Methodist Church.

**Youth Activities:** (Francine Ronis, absent/ Amanda Paldao, absent) The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at Luria Park on Saturday March 26 beginning at 10 a.m. Volunteers are needed to stuff and hide eggs.

## **Ad Hoc Committee Reports:**

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**Emergency Preparedness Group:** (Mia Gardiner, Lindy Tagliaferri) There will be a Community and Neighborhood Leadership Conference Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>. Mia and Scott went last year and were impressed with the quality of the workshops and instructors.

**Neighborhood Enhancement:** (Carrie Schori) Landscaping of the entrance signs will begin in spring.

## **Other Reports:**

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**Directory:** (Norm Atkins/Haleh Peterson, absent) Norm continues to pass out Directories to vendors. German Gourmet was very pleased with the edition and their ad.

**Federation of Citizens Associations:** (Peggy Daley) There was a presentation of Fairfax County and School budgets for FY2017-FY 2019. There will be a continued shortfall in state funding for education and public services and programs. There has been only modest economic and revenue growth.

**Historian:** (Vivian Smith, absent) No report.

**Providence District Council:** (Lindy Tagliaferri) The Northern Virginia District Social and Water Conservation representative gave a very informative presentation on low impact means to deal with runoff from storms. Rain barrels reserve water for use and reduce excess run off from eaves and gutters. Rain gardens provide drainage through the use of gravel with flowers planted on top. It is useful to remove invasive plants. NVDSWC offers scholarships for rain barrel workshops.

**Holmes Runner:** (Mary Beth Gardiner, absent/Haleh Peterson, absent) The theme of the spring issue of the Runner is "Car Talk."

**Website:** (Mitch Toda) Brightview contacted Mitch for images of HRA houses. Brightview wishes to blow up the photos and hang them in the corridors.

**Old Business:** Mia reported that HRACA joined the national organization [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org). We will receive a sign to put on our little library. We will also receive a newsletter.

**New Business:** Chris will contact the principal at Woodburn Elementary school to reserve the cafeteria for the annual meeting Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>. Preparations are being made for election to the HRACA board of directors. Board members will ask residents to consider running for the board. Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

- Norm reports that 780 individuals voted in the primary held at Woodburn Elementary School.

Norm made a motion to adjourn and Mitch seconded. The vote was unanimous to adjourn at 9:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Daley, Secretary.

Next board meeting: 8 p.m. April 6, 2016—Host Dave and Vivian Smith (3415 Surrey Lane)



## Upcoming Events

HOLMES RUN ACRES

**COMMUNITY YARD SALE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2016**

**8 am to 1 pm**

*RAIN DATE - Saturday, May 21, 2016*

**SPRING CLEAN, DE-CLUTTER, RECYCLE**  
**MAKE SOME CASH**

PRESENTED BY THE HOLMES RUN ACRES CIVIC ASSOCIATION



### **Holmes Run Acres Civic Association Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.**  
Woodburn Elementary School

The annual meeting is an event you don't want to miss. Do you want to know what is happening in the area surrounding our Community and get up to date health and safety information?

It's a great way to meet your board members (old and those newly elected).

This year's meeting features speakers from Brightview Assisted Living, Fairfax County Health, and the Fire Department.