

HILLBROOK HILITES



Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) Newsletter

May 2021

HILLBROOK-TALL OAKS (AND BROOD X) READY FOR AN ACTIVE SUMMER

Anyone else finding the cicadas oddly relatable this year? After lying dormant for the last 12+ months, we find ourselves ready to safely re-emerge, shed our skins, and start singing from the treetops!

Ok.. maybe not the singing part - but we are all ready to enjoy a bit more of life again. Here in Hillbrook-Tall Oaks, many of us have been shedding off the last year of lockdowns. While 2020 was one of our more active summers, between scavenger hunts and graduation parades and decorating contests, events and opportunities to socialize were kept to a safe and very limited distance.

The Hillbrook-Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) has decided it is time to start socializing again, and has fired up several events to continue bringing the neighborhood together - safely - for some fun and community spirit outdoors.

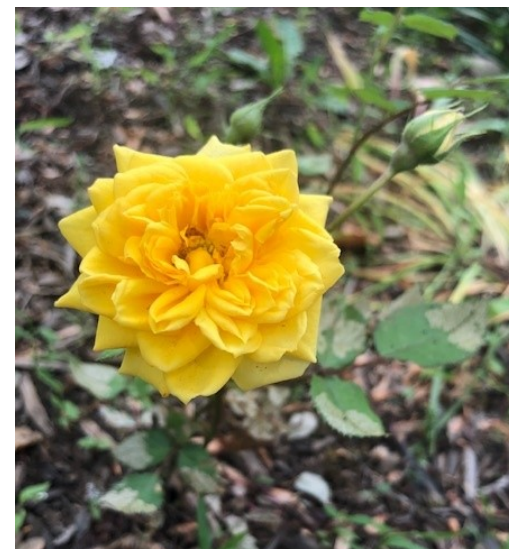
In this edition of Hillbrook Hilites, you will find recaps on two wildly successful events we have already held in 2021. We hope both might become annual (or even semi-annual) traditions:

- **Make All Residents Charitable Heroes (M.A.R.C.H.)** charity drive benefiting the Annandale High School Food Pantry, organized by **Laurelie Wallace and Katie Clary**. See page 6 for a recap.
- **Earth Day Cleanup**, organized by 7-year-old **Charlie Harris**, with a little help from his mom, **Joanna Edie**. See page 4 for *Charlie's* recap.

And here are some of the upcoming events to look forward to; please mark your calendars and be on the lookout for additional details and events via email:

- **Ice Cream Social:** Sunday, June 20 (*location TBA, more details to come on celebrating responsibly and with social distancing in mind*)
- **Monthly Food Trucks (4th Saturdays):** June 26, July 31, August 28 - *food vendor selections coming soon. Thanks for your survey responses!*

Thanks also to the residents who have volunteered time and participated to make past and future events a success as we all re-emerge! **If you have any ideas for more events, please contact us at hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com.**



In This Issue...

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- "Helen Winter Good Neighbor" Award and First-Ever Recipient
- Women's Wellness Group Update
- M.A.R.C.H. Charity Drive Recap
- zMod County Zoning Update
- E-Waste & Shredding Events
- Open Call: Volunteers, HTOCA Board Member Nominations

IN MEMORIAM: HELEN LOUISE WINTER JUNE 4, 1926 - MAY 1, 2021

On May 1, Hillbrook-Tall Oaks lost its greatest champion, Helen Winter, and the community lost a tireless advocate for Annandale. Residing on the corner of Kingston Drive and Silver Lane since 1969, Helen worked tirelessly to improve life in Annandale and in Fairfax County in countless ways.



Many long-time residents know Helen from hosting HTOCA's annual block party in her circular driveway for more than three decades. This event not only attracted residents and their children, but also the participation of Fairfax County's elected officials, congressional representatives and candidates running for election to local, state and federal office.

Anyone who met Helen quickly recognized that she was a gracious, intelligent, and generous person who always welcomed residents and newcomers to the neighborhood. Folks strolling by her house would be beckoned with a friendly hello to sit for a moment to chat. The "Queen of the Neighborhood" had chairs at the ready on her front yard patio to hold court with visitors. Neighborhood kids quickly learned that the house with the rope swing they begged their parents to take them to also included some friendly faces in Helen Winter, her son Dann, and a menagerie of friendly cats and koi goldfish. Kids of all ages loved to stop by and spend time with the Winters.

Beyond her charming, disarming and warm personality was a driven woman. Helen was determined to tackle the issues and problems she witnessed within the greater Annandale community, and could make friends and build alliances across Annandale's business establishments, in environmental circles, with an array of Fairfax County government organizations – and even with state and federal government officials.

To say that Helen Winter was a busy woman is an understatement. Her roster of public service activities included serving on the HTOCA Board for many years as an elected member and later as an emeritus member. She also served as the Fairfax County Police Department Neighborhood Watch program leader for Hillbrook-Tall Oaks, supported the Welcome Committee for new residents and engaged in many other neighborhood activities.

Helen's contributions to greater Annandale were mainly through her participation in the Annandale Chamber of Commerce, Annandale Revitalization and Planning Committee, and other organizations. On at least two occasions she was grand marshal of the Annandale Fall Parade sponsored by the Annandale Chamber of Commerce. As chair of the Annandale Beautification/Business Recognition Committee, she sought to improve the appearance of downtown Annandale, helping to bring about the planting of trees along Little River Turnpike and John Marr Drive.

She also served on the Board of Clean Fairfax Council, a county-wide litter control organization. For years she led the annual clean-up drive of Annandale, including grounds surrounding George Mason Regional Library and nearby areas along Little River Turnpike. She also could planted daffodils on the road median along Braddock Road near the 7-11 store at the Braddock Shopping Center. Remarkably and amidst all of her activities, Helen and her late husband, Bill, managed to raise four children: Dann, Darryl, Ashley and Vicki. In her spare time, Helen was a sportswoman who played tennis and golf regularly. She was an active member of the Pinecrest Golf Course Women's Group well into her eighties.

Helen Winter's service to the community at large and to the county was widely recognized. Not surprisingly, she has a street named after her in Annandale in recognition of her many contributions to the community: Helen Winter Terrace. The Annandale Korean business community also gave her an award for her support of businesses throughout Annandale.

To honor Helen for her many contributions to the betterment of our neighborhood, HTOCA has chosen to donate funds to the Clean Fairfax Council, which sponsors the Adopt-a-Highway program that Helen actively participated in. We have also established an annual award, the "**Helen Winter Good Neighbor**" award, to a resident that the Board determines has contributed to making the neighborhood a better place to live. This year's award goes to 7-year-old resident **Charlie Harris** for organizing the Earth Day Cleanup on Sunday, April 25. *Please see page 4 for more details.*

“[HER] CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COMMUNITY WERE LEGEND”: TRIBUTES ROLL IN

Here is what some local leaders had to say about Helen’s immense contributions to Annandale and Fairfax County:

“Helen was a dear friend of Mason District and its residents. Always positive, always willing to help, Helen’s contributions to her community were legend. From being named Mason District’s Lady Fairfax in 1993, to decades of work on the Annandale Clean-Up and the Clean Fairfax Council, Helen’s enthusiasm was catching. She recognized the importance of caring for our environment long before it was chic, and she spread that commitment to the generations of youngsters she recruited to assist with the cleanups.

As a tribute to her community work, a new street, Helen Winter Terrace, was named in the Ashton Commons townhouse community in 2007. New residents were enchanted to learn there really was a Helen Winter, and they invited Helen to a community event where, as usual, she charmed them all. Helen’s legacy truly was her love for her community and her respect for the environment, things we all can emulate.” - **Penny Gross, Mason District Supervisor**

“Helen was a wonderful woman whose life was intertwined with the needs of her community. She was instrumental in getting the George Mason Library renovated, getting more open space and parkland in Annandale, and in starting Annual Annandale Clean-Up Days. Always cheerful, she was a fixture at the annual [civic] association [potlucks] held in her front yard, and was a leader in revitalization efforts in Mason District. She was active in a number of land-use issues and could often defuse a controversy through the power of the respect she commanded...always putting the community first with no personal agenda. She made Hillbrook-Tall Oaks a better place, and she will be missed.” - **Tom Davis, Former Mason District Supervisor**

“Our dear friend and colleague Helen Winter served on the Chamber Board of Directors for over a decade spearheading beautification efforts in the Annandale Business District. Over the years Helen had scores of trees planted in street medians and cornerstone properties to enhance the streetscape of our community, even manning a water truck to ensure that the young plantings thrived during their first summer. Helen embraced Annandale’s diversity, celebrating the customs and traditions of our ever-growing population, and loved nothing better than to try a new cuisine.

Volunteering for every Chamber activity, Helen believed strongly in leading by example, to include taking care of litter patrol and collection in the general business community multiple times each year and at all our activities. After years of volunteer work, Helen was named Grand Marshal of the Annandale Parade (*see photo below*), where the entire community paid tribute to her outstanding efforts. All at the Chamber will miss her beautiful smile, her upbeat attitude, and her contributions to environmental causes and beautification.” - **Annandale Chamber of Commerce**



Questions?

Need to Pay Your
Annual \$25 Dues?

Want to Get Involved?

HTOCA

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Annandale, VA

22003-9112

Email:

[hillbrooktal-
loaks@gmail.com](mailto:hillbrooktal-loaks@gmail.com)

Visit us online:

www.HTOCA22003.org

[www.facebook.com/
groups/htoca](https://www.facebook.com/groups/htoca)

EARTH DAY CLEANUP RECAP: CHARLIE HARRIS, AGE 7

Tall Oaks resident Charlie Harris and his mother, Joanna Edie, helped organize a successful Earth Day Cleanup held the last Sunday of April.

Here's what Charlie had to say to the volunteers who came out to participate and help clean up the streets and surrounding areas of Hillbrook-Tall Oaks:

"Thank you for coming to the neighborhood clean-up on Sunday, April 25! We had about 35 people, of all ages, volunteer to pick up trash.

We met in the George Mason library parking lot. People came to the table and looked at a map of Hillbrook Tall Oaks with me. They chose where they would pick up trash. I think the places they chose were great.

They also got supplies like grabbers, gloves, garbage bags and vests (or they brought their own). Everybody spread out and picked up trash for a little while. My friends Nina, Lili, Penelope, Fatima, Ayah and I also found a garter snake!

When people were done, they took the litter to their household bins or brought it back to us. We recycled a few bottles and threw away the rest. We also had snacks for people like apples, oranges, bananas, water, soda and granola bars. Thank you to the HTOCA Board and all the volunteers for helping. I am so glad that we got to help the environment by collecting trash. **Thank you!!!**"



Organizer Charlie Harris and his mom.
Photo courtesy of Joanna Edie



Organizer Charlie Harris and Nina Christian.
Photo courtesy of Joanna Edie

Thanks to his amazing idea and efforts beautifying our neighborhood, we have decided to give **Charlie Harris our first-ever "Helen Winter Good Neighbor" Award!**

As a new annual tradition, HTOCA will award a neighbor who exemplifies Helen's spirit of community service and who helps make Hillbrook-Tall Oaks neighborhood an even better place to live. We can't think of a more fitting recipient for this first-ever award.

Congratulations, Charlie! Enjoy your Amazon gift card and all of our accolades for a job very well done!

**Got an idea like our "Good Neighbor" Charlie to volunteer and help out in the community? Contact HTOCA and we can help you make it happen!
Email hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com.**

WOMEN'S WELLNESS GROUP READY FOR OUTDOOR FUN & FITNESS

The **Hillbrook Tall Oaks Women's Wellness Group** is excited to enjoy activities outside! The group, which began in March 2019, offers an outlet for Hillbrook-Tall Oaks female neighbors to socialize and have fun with a focus on wellness.

The group decided to "vax and relax" at their Women's Appreciation Brunch on May 15th (*see photo below*) and will continue to offer in-person, outdoor, 45-minute cardio and yoga workouts at Poe Middle School every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. The group will also begin neighborhood walks to the Starbucks at the Bradlick Shopping Center on specific Saturdays throughout the summer. Women of all ages and skill levels are welcome to join.

Part of the fun includes hosted challenges and social events. Based on overwhelming participation in the "Love Yourself Challenge" held in February, the group will repeat this challenge in August. One lucky participant will receive a gift basket.

The group will also host a challenge to see which neighbor attends the most classes between June and August for a chance to win a gift card. All participants look forward to hosting another wine tasting, and even potentially a pool party, this summer. **To see the schedule, check out <https://sites.google.com/view/hillbrook-talloaks/home>, or contact Alisha Martinez (alishakmartinez@gmail.com or 617-290-0728).**



*Women's Wellness Group Appreciation Brunch
Photo courtesy of Alisha Martinez*

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GET SOCIAL WITH HTOCA ONLINE!

We have created a new group on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/htoca.

The group will serve as HTOCA's official Facebook channel for announcements, so please join us for the latest news and happenings. We'll welcome posts from neighbors in this brand-new group, which will replace the previous community channel.

M.A.R.C.H. CHARITY DRIVE A HUGE SUCCESS



Photo courtesy of Rai Kent

In March we pledged to “**Make All Residents Charitable Heroes**”- and our neighbors delivered on that promise.

The M.A.R.C.H. Spring Cleaning Drive was a HUGE success! From March 1-17, our neighborhood collected more than 1,000 items that we donated to the Annandale High School (AHS) Pantry.

HTOCA Board Member **Laurelie Wallace** and resident **Katie Cleary** organized a group of volunteers across Hillbrook-Tall Oaks to collect donations of cleaning supplies given the spring cleaning theme, plus non-perishable food items, toiletries, feminine hygiene products and diapers. **Laurelie, Rai & Absolon Kent**, and **Cara & Dave Cook** also hosted dropoff sites at their respective homes interspersed throughout the neighborhood.

As mentioned in our January newsletter, more than 60% of the students at AHS participate in the federally-funded free and reduced lunch program. The Pantry distributes family-centered bags twice a month to help students and their families, including during the pandemic months.

The M.A.R.C.H. Spring Cleaning Drive was so well-received that we may host another collection drive in our neighborhood with the AHS Pantry later in the year with a different theme. Stay tuned for updates. And thanks again to all of the families that donated and volunteered with this effort!

For more information about the AHS Pantry, visit <https://annandalehsptsamembershiptoolkit.com/ahspantry>.

ZMOD INITIATIVE PASSES DESPITE OPPOSITION

Despite overwhelming opposition from neighborhood civic associations, including HTOCA, across Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors approved the massive "Zoning Modernization" overhaul of Fairfax County's zoning laws on March 23.

As reported in January's newsletter and during a special March forum HTOCA hosted for all residents to attend in mid-March, HTOCA believes the revisions, known as zMod, undermine the intent of single-family zoning. HTOCA and dozens of other civic and homeowners' associations objected to the addition of expanding auxiliary living units (ALUs) and broadening of home-based business operations allowed to operate in neighborhoods, which could introduce increasing noise and additional outside traffic.

Two lawsuits have been filed related to zMod's passing. One legal protest contends that the county did not have state authority to conduct anything but essential business during the COVID pandemic and that the zMod zoning updates were not essential. Another lawsuit cites other procedural objections.

If the first lawsuit reaches the Virginia State Supreme Court, HTOCA has pledged a \$500 contribution to defray costs of this mostly pro-bono legal effort. **To monitor ongoing developments or for more information, visit the Mason District Council ([https:// sites.google.com/site/masondistrictcouncil/](https://sites.google.com/site/masondistrictcouncil/)) or the Act 4 Fairfax County websites (www.act4fairfax.net/).**

E-WASTE & SHREDDING EVENTS: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Got any old electronics and paperwork cluttering up your house?

The HTOCA Board is considering hosting a document shredding evening and/or an e-waste collection event for our neighbors to help them in their own Spring Cleaning efforts. These services would be provided free of charge by the Association.

Before we schedule anything, we would like to gauge your interest in these services:

Community shredding event: A shredding truck would be available in the neighborhood to shred documents on demand for approximately 3 hours.

Community e-Waste event: A company would bring a truck to the neighborhood to take cables, monitors, printers, laptops and computers for destruction. The truck would be available to take e-waste items for approximately 3 hours.

Please let us know by answering the following survey sometime before May 31:
<https://forms.gle/kaGZNV4422XXw78G6>

Pro Computers (6675 Little River Turnpike, 703-941-8830) may also recycle your old computers, printers, cables, flat-panel display monitors and flat-panel TVs, as well as small appliances. Owner Chafik asks that residents place items on the table underneath the tent marked "RECYCLING." Please do not leave them outside the tent or table.

Pro Computers will not accept cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs and computer monitors, which instead may be taken to the Fairfax County recycling centers in Lorton and near Fair Oaks. Contact Chafik for questions or to check if you can bring your particular items over.

VOLUNTEERS: WE NEED MORE OF YOU!

Special thanks to Ed & Nancy Mathews for hosting the Little Library in their front yard at 4825 Kingston Drive. The library moved to its current home in late April after HTOCA Board Member **Dave Brundage** helped relocate this well-visited neighborhood resource.

We love our volunteers. And we need more of you to continue providing a wonderful experience for the residents of Hillbrook-Tall Oaks. We have a spot for everyone - young, old and everyone in between!

Here are some of the volunteer opportunities we have coming up:

- 2021-22 HTOCA Board spots opening in September, including Treasurer
- Annandale High School Pantry Drive volunteers this Fall
- Potential Tag/Yard Sale coordinator(s) sometime this year
- Neighborhood Clubs or Groups you'd like to organize
- Other Ideas for Community or Volunteer Events we can help you organize

**Have an idea to get our community engaged that you don't see listed here?
Contact us at hillbrooktalloaks@gmail.com to let us know!**

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