



# HILLBROOK HILITES

Hillbrook Tall Oaks Civic Association (HTOCA) Newsletter

Fall 2019

## IT'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE AND OKTOBERFEST TIME!

Date: Sunday, October 27 from 4-6 p.m.

Location: Colburn Drive cul-de-sac

**The witching season has arrived!** Hillbrook-Tall Oaks will celebrate the Fall season with our annual Halloween Parade and Oktoberfest. Here is what we have in store for our neighborhood ghosts, goblins and other assorted creatures:

- **Halloween Parade** - Meet around 3:30 p.m. at the corner of Kingston & Silver to begin the 3:45 p.m. march down to Colburn Drive
- **Food:** Brats, hot dogs, sauerkraut and kartoffelsalat (German potato salad)
- **Drink:** Gut Deutsches bier! (and drinks for the kids too)
- **Entertainment** - including a magician performing his tricks for the kids. If we're lucky, Gina might bring out the accordion again this year...
- **Costume contests:** For both kids & adults. Who can top the Muppet Band family this year? What about our magnificent little Maleficent?
- **Fun 'n games:** Including guess the pumpkin weight and guess the candy corn. We'll have prizes for everyone!
- **Food:** Brats, hot dogs, and sauerkraut

As always, well-behaved pets are always welcome at our gatherings. Visit our table to sign up or volunteer for our neighborhood groups and interest areas, including the Welcome Committee, exercise, garden club, and Spring yard sale event.

**We hope you will join your neighbors who have already paid their annual \$25 dues** - we will have a table set up to accept cash, checks or credit card payments. We also accept PayPal payments, which you can do online at [www.htoca22003.org](http://www.htoca22003.org).



The **Bernescuts** transformed into the Muppet Band to take top honors last year.

*Photo courtesy of the Bernescut family*

### In This Issue...

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- Vacuum Leaf Pickups
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- Shed Break-Ins Alert

#### HTOCA

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## LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IS READY FOR READERS

Hillbrook-Tall Oaks' own little free library is officially ready for our neighborhood bibliophiles! Thanks to the efforts of HTOCA Board Member **Dave Brundage and his family**, who built and painted the library from scratch, we now have a place for adults and kids alike to share and swap their favorite stories.



Soon after a dedication ceremony at the Neighborhood Potluck by Board Member **Terry Boyd**, the library was installed in September on Silver Lane near the corner of Dodson Drive.

Dedicated to longtime resident **Penny Crumpler**, this little nook now sits in the Crumplers' front yard, awaiting eager readers to share their favorite stories with the neighborhood.

Anyone may take or bring an appropriate children's or adult book to the library. Popping up all over the country, Little Libraries have been called "mini-town squares."

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## ANNUAL VOTING REMINDER

**Yes, Virginia, it's true - we vote every year!**

These important positions impact our life, from schools to parks to potholes to taxes. This year we will elect the following positions and vote on a school bond issue:

- State Senator
- State Delegate
- Mason District Supervisor
- Commonwealth's Attorney
- County Sheriff
- County Board of Supervisors
- School Board

Vote for the candidates of your choice on **Tuesday, November 5! Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.** In-person absentee voting runs from October 17-November 2 at Mason Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike), among other locations. You can also vote absentee by mail. Find more info at [Vote.Virginia.Gov](http://Vote.Virginia.Gov) or [Fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://Fairfaxcounty.gov/elections).

# NEIGHBORHOOD WHITE OAKS IN PERIL

Will we soon be called Hillbrook-No Oaks? Numerous white oak trees in the neighborhood and the greater Mid-Atlantic region are dying or threatened. According to the **University of Maryland Extension Integrated Pest Management for Commercial Horticulture**, homeowners must act now and by early spring to save their trees.

Preventive action is much cheaper than tree removal, typically. Many trees, particularly older, larger ones, are under stress from weather extremes and under attack by potentially several insect invaders. If your oak tree leaves have turned brown and you see yellow sawdust around the base of your tree or several feet up the tree trunk, you may have a problem.

**What's affected:** Primarily white oak trees 40-80 years old or older. Younger trees appear to be faring ok and not affected



Fig. 2 Fine sawdust-like frass (arrows) from ambrosia beetles at base of white oak with brown foliage  
Photo: David Clement

**Signs to look for:** Sudden discoloration of foliage and/or death of white oak trees starting in August, often within 2-4 weeks. Most brown leaves remain attached to affected trees. Sawdust-like frass at the trunk base or on the lower trunk, which indicates an ambrosia beetle or borer invasion

**Timing:** Usually several years from initial symptoms to death of affected trees

**What you can do:**

**1) Water your oak trees now** - Use an injection tool connected to a hose and push it into the ground 10- 20 feet from the tree trunk, depending on the side. Let the water run for several hours. Then move the watering device to another location. If you cannot buy an injection tool, then lay the hose on the ground on a slow rate of flow - and keep it there for six hours.

**2) Contact a qualified, certified arborist** that preferably operates its own laboratory. Many companies will come inspect for free or a small charge. Neighborhood resident **Mark Crawford**, who has several affected trees, recommends Bartlett, which has suggested a "wait and see" approach that includes near-term watering and deep root feeding and pesticides in early Spring.

**3) Remove piles of wood** that can provide habitat for borers and other pests

**Mark** suggests looking for a heavy duty root feeder for watering and fertilization. Several models are available on Amazon as well as local retailers.

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## CURBSIDE RECYCLING: GLASS NO LONGER ACCEPTED

**Effective October 1, Fairfax County will no longer accept glass bottles and jars in curbside recycling bins** This change applies to both county collection customers and private haulers.

You now have two options for glass disposal:

1. Deliver used glass containers to **purple, glass-only recycling containers. There are now 21 purple containers available**, including Mason Governmental Center (6507 Columbia Pike). The county is evaluating more sites to offer residents
2. Place **used glass in the trash**

Why has Fairfax moved to this new arrangement, as many other local counties including Arlington, has? According to the county website, glass creates three primary problems for single-stream recycling:

- Glass in curbside bins breaks during collection and transport to recycling sorting centers, which contaminates bales of other more valuable recycled items, such as cardboard and metals. Contamination has become a major recycling challenge since China, the largest customer for recycled material, imposed strict standards on the quality of recycled material it accepts.
- Broken glass can damage recycling machinery
- Glass is also heavy, which adds cost to transporting recyclables to and from centers

Find more information here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/glass-containers-no-longer-required-in-curbside-recycling-program>

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## VACUUM LEAF COLLECTION COMING SOON

**Fairfax County provides vacuum leaf collection services in our neighborhood multiple times throughout late Fall and early Winter.**

As residents of Area 8, our first collection is scheduled for approximately November 23. Keep a lookout for the yellow government signs placed at the entrances of our neighborhood as we get closer to the date.

In the meantime, do your lawn a favor and mow your yard with a mulching blade. The leaves provide nutrients to your yard. It's free fertilizer! For more information, check out <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/leaf-collection-dates>

## “HELEN WINTER DAY” ANNOUNCED

Annandale local legend and long-time Tall Oaks resident **Helen Winter** has been honored with her very own day.

Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross announced that Tuesday, September 17 was officially “Helen Winter Day” throughout the region.

Penny made the official proclamation at this year’s annual Neighborhood Potluck and Block Party, held most years in Helen’s front yard.

Helen and her family have lived on Kingston Drive since the mid-1960s. She served on the HTOCA Board of Directors as well as the Neighborhood Welcome and Watch Committees throughout her six decades as a Tall Oaks resident.

Helen lives with her son **Dann** and a menagerie of pets, including a Doberman and several cats.



*Helen Winter (left) shakes hands with Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross (right).*

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## SHED BREAK-INS: BE ON ALERT

There have been a rash of outdoor shed burglaries, particularly up and down Kingston Drive, over the last few months.

As of last count, **at least 5 outdoor sheds on Kingston Drive** have been burglarized since early summer. With the most recent break-in reported in September, there appears to be a pattern - and a problem.

Mason District police encourage anyone who has experienced a recent break-in or who may have information regarding these crimes to call 703-691-2131.

In the meantime, please ensure you lock and store all valuables in a secure place, as burglars have cut padlocks and damaged fences, gates and other property during several of the break-ins.