



Vol. 31 No. 5 A Monthly Publication of The Collington Residents Association May 2019

‘Garden on the Wall’ Blooms in Landing

by Mike McCulley

Every day except Sunday, dozens of Collington residents and employees dine in The Landing. Most surely notice the large sign proclaiming the venue’s name, but fewer may be aware that the green background behind the letters is not plastic or paint, but actual green plants.



*Plants form a green background at The Landing.
Photo by Mike McCulley.*

Initially, the wall boasting the sign was intended to be all glass, providing panoramic views of the lake. But the Prince George’s County Building Department disallowed that type of construction for fire safety reasons. So, designers faced the question of what to do with a huge expanse of blank wall.

Christian Ramsey, Culinary Services Director, met with representatives of a New Jersey company, Garden on the Wall. Together, they designed – after five or six iterations – the sign

that now graces the wall of The Landing. It is made with real plants that have been treated in an alkaline solution to keep them green longer. The work is designed to remain green for five to seven years. It requires no water, and just the occasional dusting to keep it looking fresh. The construction is made

from many tiles which have the preserved plants affixed to them. If the plants on one tile deteriorate, that tile can be removed and replaced with a new one.

The sign is meant to depict a bird’s-eye view of Collington, with the moss on the bottom representing the shoreline of the lake. The top and the sides represent the woods surrounding the campus, and the white lettering the buildings.

What a creative way to make a blank wall attractive!

Expansion Continues at Woodmore

By Joe Howard

The Woodmore Town Centre, aka Wegmans Mall, is an important part of many Collington residents' lives. It has grown and has plans to grow more. Here's a summary, sourced from corporate web sites, of what's new and what's expected later this year:

New:



Tidewater Dental

2830 Campus Way North #614, Woodmore Towne Centre, Lanham, MD 20706 (301) 955-9198. Tidewaterdental.com.

General dentistry (Dr. Oluayo Ogunnike) and one doctor who specializes in dentistry for children.

Hampton Inn & Suites

2901 Campus Way N., Glenarden, MD 20706. A special negotiated rate of \$109/night was created



for Kendal Collington Corporation.

Phone 301-322-3200 to make reservations.

Coming:

Cold Stone Creamery

Cold Stone Creamery is an American ice cream parlor



chain. The company's main product is premium ice cream made with approximately 12–14 percent butterfat, made on location and customized at time of order. Cold Stone has also expanded its menu with other ice-cream-related products, including ice cream cakes, pies, cookie sandwiches, smoothies, shakes and iced or blended coffee drinks.

Cava Grill

Started in Rockville Maryland by three childhood friends: Ike Grigoropoulos, Chef Dimitri Moshovitis, and Ted Xenohristos, CAVA celebrates the flavors of their families' traditional Greek and Mediterranean cooking in a casual modern setting.

Silver Diner

In 1989, Robert Giaimo and Ype Von Hengst opened the original Silver



Diner in Rockville, Maryland. This original location has annual sales of \$6 million and remains one of the busiest restaurants of its size in the United States. Silver Diner Development, Inc. operates 15 restaurants in the mid-Atlantic

see Woodmore, p.6

The Collingtonian

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This issue and all past issues of the Collingtonian are now online at collingtonresidents.org.

The Collingtonian invites all Collington residents to submit articles, photographs and story suggestions, preferably concerning Collington and its people. We also welcome "Letters to the Editor" commenting on the Collingtonian and its content. Submissions may be e-mailed to collingtonian@gmail.com or placed in the Collingtonian mailbox. All submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and style.

Middle East Feast Accord (Cont.)

Second of Two Parts

By Jeanne Slawson

The story thus far: Jeanne, employed at the Harvard Business School in 1960, is helpful to Mohammed, an Egyptian student. He invites her to dinner with him and his wife, Soahd. They serve a copious meal, which Jeanne can barely finish, or can she?



Convinced that international relations are at stake, and relieved that I can eat what's offered, I wax ecstatic over every dish. Then I notice green sauce on my silk sleeve – *Darn, another cleaning bill.* My skirt has become very tight. I excuse myself and go to the powder room to unbutton my waistband. *Aaah...* With this small adjustment, I'm able to finish my meal. *Done, and I haven't embarrassed myself or my country!*

Mohammed offers seconds, but I decline politely, exclaiming again how good it was.

"But we eat and then we renew!" *Huh?* Mohammed continues: "We eat and then we renew; in our country, guests do not stop eating until their hosts do."

They are clearly not ready to stop, loading up their plates again. Obviously, peace between America and Egypt depends on my response. With a forced smile, I accept another chicken breast with lava, more vegetables, and another potato.

My stomach now feels like a beach ball; my thoughts careen toward disaster. *How much can I eat before I explode, a gastronomic pinata?* I finish the second round.

Excusing myself again, I unzip my skirt as far as I dare and pull my blouse over it. I waddle back to the dining room, where more food is offered. This time I am cheerfully firm in my re-

fusal. No dice.

"But we eat and then we renew! Guests eat until hosts do not!" *How can these people eat so much? Haven't they eaten all month? I'm going to die!*

At long last, they push their plates away. I have consumed two and a half green chicken breasts, at least two pounds of vegetables, and five meat-stuffed potatoes, all in the name of international peace. *Now I know what the Christmas Goose feels like. What if the zipper gives way when I stand up?*

Wait, what's this? MORE? Soahd has fetched homemade baklava and gives two to each of us. *Oh, what the—at least they taste good and I'm going to die anyway.* I shovel them in, thinking, *I'm finishing the largest individual meal in history. NO! Now she's bringing something else! Death by diplomacy.*

This stuff is at least slippery, a somewhat translucent custard containing dried fruits. *Amazing that it slides down—ought to be stuck just about where that little thing hangs down behind my tongue...*

At last the culinary avalanche is over and Soahd brings cups of Egyptian coffee, thick enough to stand up a spoon. *Ick, but at least it's liquid, maybe it'll wash something down.* I've proven myself to be an eating machine and am now estimating how fast I can get out of there, away from their benevolent torture and out of my

see Feast, p.6

We Welcome Our New Neighbors

Carolyn Cornelius: Government Service and Community Theater

By Barbara Fairchild

Carolyn Cornelius was so proud of her father's military career – he was a warrant officer in the Army – that she was determined to pursue a government career of her own, majoring in government studies at the University of Texas and eventually joining the National Security Agency.

She was born in Waco to two native Texans and went to high school in Mineral Wells, west of Fort Worth. To this day, she keeps in touch with her best childhood friend, who remains in Texas. They talk on the phone every two weeks.

After college, the NSA offered her a job as an analyst. Eventually she was promoted to the manager of a department at the secretive agency. She still won't identify the department.

She does relate, however, that she worked on the agency's magazine and edited its acrostic puzzle. She still does the New York Times crossword puzzle every day.

Carolyn lived in Cheverly and became more involved in community activities. She became a coach for T-ball and soccer. Then, a friend who was acting in a Greenbelt Arts Center production of "Heaven Can Wait" needed a stewardess hat for the play. Carolyn was in the process of furnishing her new condo on Jekyll Island, off the Georgia coast, searching in thrift shops for items she needed. Carolyn found the stewardess hat, and this led to her becoming the props person for the plays at Greenbelt Arts Center. The first



show she did was "A Canticle for Leibowitz" in 1996. Her favorite play was "A Streetcar Named Desire."

She recalls that Washington Post wrote in a play review, "The props by Carolyn Cornelius are so authentic as to almost being distracting." She was the props person for more than 20 plays, retiring after twelve years. In 2000, Carolyn was awarded the Greenbelt Arts Center Unsung Hero award.

She still owns the condo on Jekyll Island. It has become a hotel condo and her unit is frequently rented, since it has the best views.

For ten years she has been the president of the Bladensburg Branch Library and at one time was actively selling books on Amazon as a fundraiser for the Library. This helped the Library purchase new books, in the same way as the Collington Library's windowsill sales.

Carolyn was also active in the Meals on Wheels program, where she became friends with Maja Reju, who recently moved to Collington.

Carolyn owned two female Basenji. These are small dogs, an African breed weighing around 20 pounds each. For six years, Carolyn was editor of the Mid-Atlantic Basenji Club newsletter.

Last year, she suffered a stroke that forced her to move from an apartment to the Creighton Center, and she has difficulty with her right hand. This doesn't stop her from doing crossword puzzles, though.

Anne Bauer and Steve Woodbury: Shared Interest in Music and Much More

By Sheena Macpherson

In February Steve and Ann shared their love of folklore and folksongs with Collington residents through ballads from early America, a program that included singing stories and "droll songs." The "sing," encouraging participation by the audience, had been previously presented at a festival

for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.

This shared interest in folklore and folk music is one of many that Ann and Steve have found in their lives together since they met



in 1978. Both also majored in math in college, both identify as Quakers, and both are lovers of the outdoors. Ann explains that she had a list of the qualities and interests she was looking for in a partner, and the list wasn't long enough when she met Steve. Ann and Steve have three daughters from previous marriages, with Ann's daughter in Minnesota and Steve's in Massachusetts and South Carolina. They have four grandchildren, whom they visit as often as they can.



Ann and Steve researched various retirement communities for a few years before deciding on Collington. Both their fathers had lived in CCRCs, so it was natural that they should look to retirement in a CCRC. Ann says a long

list of reasons helped them make this decision. First, probably, was the musicality of the Collington community, including the Collington Singers. They agreed on seeking a non-profit accredited community, with access to trees and woods, as well as the music attributes.

In addition, Ann listed their connection with Quaker values (she and Steve met at a Quaker convention), They liked the beautiful grounds and the availability of walking trails.

Other attractions include the careful attention paid to particular food needs for those with sensitivities, such as gluten, and the cooperative staff, who helped with some of the other requirements with regard to personal needs and allergies. Proximity to friends and their own doctors also can be put on this list. Steve adds that proximity to a ma-

ior airport was yet another requirement because their children are so widely scattered around the country.

Steve, born in Colorado, grew up in Oberlin, New Haven, and then Boston. He returned to Oberlin to majored in math at Oberlin College, where he was active in folk and square dancing as well as fiddling. Working at Quaker camps in Vermont during the summers was formative for him. As a conscientious objector during Vietnam, he performed alternate service. Following college, he worked for two years in Boston with boys with emotional problems.

Influenced by the landscape architect Ian McHarg, Steve returned to the University of Pennsylvania to get a master's degree in Environmental Planning and took courses toward a Ph.D. Following this, he worked in Delaware in regional/city planning, combining quantitative and analytical aspects of his work. In 1980 he began work with the Department of Energy in Washington, where he worked at first on environmental impact statements, and was able to work at many interesting sites, including solar installations. In the mid '80s he worked at Superfund clean-up sites, looking at the impact of industrial waste, and in environmental management systems, working first on compliance and then changing focus as the department became more forward-looking. He also helped incorporate safety management concepts. During these years, Steve particularly enjoyed working as a "generalist" among a variety of different specialists.

Steve's continuing interests include paper cutting, with a number of his intricate works displayed in their villa. Since retirement he has become more involved in voice, folk music, and singalongs, which include one of his favorite

see Newcomers, p.10

skirt, now a sheath.

“Please stay a bit longer. We visit more,” pleads Mohammed as I make noises about departing. *Peace or no peace, I’m leaving!* “Oh, I’d love to but my mother’s in Hawaii and said she’d be calling at eight o’clock.” *Where did I get that?* I embellish: “And I’d better call a taxi, because I don’t want to be late.” In truth, there’s no way I could make it on foot to my apartment, half a mile away – bloat and the impending gastro disaster rule that out.

“We are so sorry, but we understand,” replies Mohammed.

I ease toward the door, staggering slightly and trying not to bolt. Soahd disappears momentarily, then returns carrying two large grocery bags with greasy streaks forming on them. *She’s giving me FOOD!* Good ambassador that I am, I take a bag in each arm, with thanks, sure that I’m depriving them for some time, but also sure that to refuse would be to insult.

Mohammed helps me negotiate the stairs, taking my elbow as I clutch the bulging bags while trying to grab the bannister. My nostrils overdose with the aromas of our gluttony.

After a descent as slow and cautious as from Everest, we’re at the ground floor. *There’s the cab, praise Allah!*

With the getaway car at hand, I again express my gratitude. I truly do appreciate their generosity. I heave myself into the cab, hauling the smelly bags onto my lap, where green appears on my skirt. The cab driver refrains from comment. We travel in odorous silence. Upon arrival, I fish some bills from my purse, now also

greasy. The driver accepts them warily.

I practically roll out of the cab, toil up the steps — *thank god we live on the ground floor* — and into the apartment. My roommates are in the living room.

“How was it?”

I lurch to the hall table, dump the bags, and begin to laugh. I stagger into the living room and collapse on the sofa. I laugh and laugh — I’m close to hysteria. My roommates, seeing me in this altered state, are concerned and press for details. I strip off my skirt — *green grease on my slip, great* — and beg off.

“Later,” I gasp. “Can’t now—but friendly relations with Egypt are in the bag.”

Woodmore from p. 2

region with locations in New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, and employs more than 1,100 people.

Bank of America

Founded October 17, 1904 (as Bank of Italy) and headquarter in Charlotte, N.C., it has 4,600 locations in the United States, with approximately 15,900 automated teller machines. It is the second largest banking institution in the United States, after JP Morgan Chase.

Children’s National Prince George’s County Medical Center

The Children’s National Prince George’s County Regional Medical Center will serve as a hub, consolidating and providing pediatric care for the community. Services will include Orthopedics, Urgent Care, Laboratory, Phlebotomy, Infusion and Sleep Center, Pharmacy, Multi-Specialty Physicians Practices, PT/OT, Diagnostic Imaging Center, Ambulatory Surgery and related administrative and support services.

Karen Cheney's 25th Year at Collington Celebrated

By Peggy Latimer



Among the guests for Karen's surprise was Judy Braun, right, retired Kendal Chief Operating Officer and a consultant to the Collington administration. Photo by Peggy Latimer.

Probably for the first time in 25 years, Karen Cheney was caught unaware: on April 25, residents pulled off a surprise party in the Courtyard for our well-deserved Chief of Administration.

Karen is not one to publicize herself, but in the September 1998 edition of the *Collingtonian*, an article announced that her son Kraig's 3rd-grade class was given an assignment to write about where they would be in 100 years. Kraig wrote: "In 100 years I will be 108. I will be living at Collington." The article went on that Karen, "obviously is teaching him to plan ahead wisely."

Seder Fêtes Freedom and Spring

By Marian Fuchs and Joan Zorza

Fifty-four people attended this year's Seder ceremony on April 19, which also was Good Friday. As in previous years, there were more non-Jews than Jews reading and speaking the words of the Haggadah, telling the story of the escape of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. As in previous years, the story was revised to make it relevant to life today, and to acknowledge its role as a spring festival, welcoming new life after winter.

The Seder was led by Mitchell Naimark, husband of Barbara Naimark, who is in charge of medical records at Collington. The first half involved an explanation of the symbolic foods in front of each diner – and to celebrating the 'fruit of the vine' with either red wine or grape juice. The main meal was delicious: matzo ball soup, followed by salmon or brisket served with potato pancakes and asparagus, and followed by gen-



Among those enjoying the Seder were Howard Piggee, Pat Piggee, Joan Zorza and Faith Torsani. Photo by Marian Fuchs.

erous scoops of raspberry sorbet.

Towards the end of the Seder, there is a role for the youngest person present. This turned out to be the grandson of Evelyn Westebbe, a resident of the Creighton Center. His job was to find some "hidden"

matzos, which he did, with the help of his mother and Mitchell Naimark.

Special thanks to Stephanie Tolson, Lydia Golding, Taimi Ando, and Chris Ramsey, who did a fabulous job cooking, serving and quietly cleaning up. Thanks also to Priscilla Lindenauer, Frances Nebesky, Donna Gould, Resa Jascourt and Joan Zorza for planning and organizing the event and putting together the new Haggadah, and to Ana Amaya for coordinating the meal and service with them.

In Bladensburg, a Symbol of WWI Losses

By Carl Koch

Each year on Memorial Day we remember the 1.3 million brave individuals who gave their lives as members of our armed forces. This year, I salute the fallen of World War I. In that war, 40 million people died, including 10 million combatants.

The United States lost 117,000 men out of two million volunteers and 2.8 million draftees. These troops reached the battlefield in 1918.

The perils of war as seen by the Americans are illustrated in the 1991 film "The Lost Battalion". The movie chronicles the fate of 554 men of the 308th Infantry who advanced farther than other units during the Meuse-Argonne offensive and were surrounded by the Germans. Only 194 men were standing when they were relieved.

Germany lost more than two million soldiers, almost three percent of its population. Our best view of this is the iconic movie, "All Quiet on the Western Front". This film tells of a class of students that joined at the same time for the glory of the fatherland and found not glory, but mud and death.

France lost over 1.3 million (more than three percent of its population). I was personally moved when I visited France to study fossils and saw that every town, large and small, had a monument to "Les Enfants de 1914", listing the names of those who died. No part of the country was spared a significant loss of young men.

Elsewhere in Europe, about five million combatants died. Russia, Serbia, Romania, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria suffered significant losses. Serbia, where the war started with the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, lost almost 10 percent of its combatants. The tragic loss of Australian and New Zealand troops in a failed in-



The Bladensburg Peace Cross. Wikimedia photo.

vasion of Turkey suggested by Winston Churchill, then Secretary of the Navy, is documented in the movie "Galipoli". The movie "Lawrence of Arabia" shows World War I action in the Middle East and Egypt.

Maryland supplied 62,000 men, including 11,000 African Americans. The death toll was 1,752. The state did benefit from the creation of the Aberdeen Proving Ground in North-

east Maryland, made necessary because munition facilities elsewhere were insufficient. Camp Meade, in northern Anne Arundel County, became Fort Meade, now the home of the National Security Agency (NSA).

Of the men from Prince George's County who served, 49 died. One of these men was noted to be a farmer from Mitchellville and another a Georgetown University professor. The Gold Star mothers whose sons' bodies were never recovered wanted some place to visit and grieve. With the help of the American Legion, the Bladensburg Peace Cross was erected in 1925, a memorial to these men. The monument is 40 feet tall, built of granite and cement and shaped like the crosses on American graves in France. The monument can be seen by driving on Landover Road (Route 202) about nine miles to where it meets Route 1.

The American Humanist Association, noting that the Bladensburg Peace Cross is on government land, believes it violates the separation of church and state. Lower courts have disagreed on the issue. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case and render a verdict by this June.

I attended the old Bladensburg High School less than one mile up the hill from the Peace Cross. In fact, our high school year book is titled "Peacecrosser". I think the Peace Cross should stand as it always has. The sacrifice of those Prince George's men should be forever honored.

One Man's Dickey Collection

By James Giese

In my time I have collected matchbook covers and cigar wrappers. My wife collected souvenir hat pins and refrigerator magnets. Her daughters collected souvenir spoons and thimbles, mostly given to them by my wife. These collections pale compared to the collections of Dennis Evans. His consist of left-handed dice, space vehicle parts, and toothpicks. Dennis claims to be the sole collector of left-handed dice and who would challenge that?

What is a left-handed die? It's the mirror image of a right-handed one. It's not just that the twos and threes slant in opposite directions; the sequence of sides around the die are also in mirror directions.

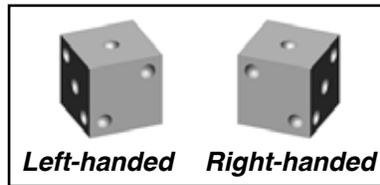
Dennis, whose career was at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, got involved with dice while working on a revised optical design for the InfraRed Array Camera. He encountered great difficulty in drawing the design until he realized the mechanical engineers had used right-handed symmetry drawing dimensions while the optical design used left-handed symmetry. Making a drawing of a right-handed Monopoly die helped him to understand and explain the differences.

Since he discovered left-handed dice, he looks for them whenever he finds dice on sale in a store. Giant supermarkets and Dollar Tree stores have been his best sources, he says.

Dennis has researched Monopoly dice and found that many drawings of dice are left-handed, although he believes no left-hand ones have been manufactured. He also examined museum photos of dice found in the ruins of Pompei. While most left-handed dice shown were due to reversing negatives, he did find photos showing both left- and right-handed dice together.

There are eight possible combinations of configurations for both left- and right-handed dice and he

has collected them all. Some were hard to come by. Then he found dice where the spots for two's were aligned vertically or horizontally instead of on a slant. That upped the possible number of variances to 32.



In studying Monopoly dice, he came to realize that the hollowed-out dots would vary the dice weight on each side. Because a dice side with

six indents is lighter than the opposing side of just one, he determined that a six will show up more often on a roll than a one. But don't rely on this to get you to land on the Boardwalk because this difference is very small, even after thousands of rolls.

Dennis's second collection is also small, fitting into a shoebox. It consists of trashed remnants from rocket launches he worked on during his career. Most of his collection has been into outer space, although Dennis has not.

The prize of his collection includes nose tips from payloads recovered by parachute from two Aerobee 150 rockets launched at White Sands, New Mexico. Those rockets reached peak altitudes of 105 miles or more.

What seems like inconsequential objects – small lead weights and a plastic wedge – are essential for successful space flight. The weights offer ballast to balance the weight of payloads as the rocket spins into space. The wedge provided a temporary hold to keep payloads in alignment while all the mating screws are torqued into place.

Taking up even less space than this collection is Dennis's toothpick collection. It's so small, its container can easily be tucked away in a drawer or a box and that is the problem. Since Dennis and Sue moved from Bowie to Collington in 2017 he has yet to find where he packed that collection. So he'll have to tell you about it another day.

genres, sea chanties.

Ann similarly moved around the country during her early years. Born in Minnesota, Ann moved with her family first to Boston and then to North Carolina, where she graduated from Duke University. Ann's connection to Minnesota continues. Her great-grandmother homesteaded there in the 1800s, and her own parents were the first generation to leave the state. And Ann's Virginia-born daughter currently lives in Minnesota with her husband and two children.

During the summer between high school and university, Ann learned about new math, which fired an interest in using logic instead of rote in mathematics. At Duke, Ann majored in math followed by 60 hours of graduate work to obtain a teaching certificate. She taught middle and high school math in New Jersey for many years, and also taught in Virginia and North Carolina. Her teaching included all grades from 7 through 12. One of her greatest pleasures was teaching an elective course for 7th and 8th graders, in which math was used in various contexts, not just as rote subject matter.

Ann's other employment includes singing in Virginia and D.C., being a switchboard operator, a mail clerk, and a graph-maker for Duke Physics Department. These were graphs needed by the Department for their data, which Ann prepared by hand in the days before computers.

After retirement from teaching due to some visual concerns, Ann had time to devote to interests that she maintains to this day. She has always been involved with singing, but she has begun to compose music, especially rounds, and has published books, including anthologies of rounds. She has really enjoyed her musical career. She recounted a story of working up an excerpt from a

Beethoven symphony, with a group, on the kazoo. This was performed on a children's show. She also sang with the Colonial Singers, performing songs that were sung in colonial time in the United States. These performances occurred for the most part during the US bicentennial.

Ann enjoys the community life at Collington and takes pleasure in just sitting around and talking with everyone, especially after dinner. She and Steve walk often and continue their participation in the Annapolis Chorale. Both Ann and Steve are currently interested in sundials and hope to do a talk on sundials for our community, and possibly even a tour of those in the area. Ann says this interest combines both aesthetics and precision, which they both enjoy.

Introducing New Health Center Staffer

By Frances Kolarek

Alysia Simpson bears the impressive title of Administrative Assistant/Staffing Coordinator of Nursing Services. And, she says, her experience makes her a "perfect fit" for the job, which she explains, is completely administrative – no pill pushing, no taking of vital signs.

She admires the work style of our Director of Nursing, Dora Gray. "She's not a micro-manager," Alysia says. Her own job involves putting together work schedules for Collington's nursing staff and the GNA's (Geriatric Nursing Assistants), vacation scheduling and payroll issues.

She came to us in October from the University of Maryland, where she worked for a number of years until a downsizing program terminated her job. Alysia is the single mother of an 11-year old son, a student at a Performing Arts school. Asked her about hobbies, she said, "Just keeping track of my son's dancing career and basketball take up all my free time." And she is happy with that.

Alice Nicolson on Gardening



The Shear Truth About Pruning

What's this business called renewal pruning, and why is Kyle recommending that you have your azalea cut down to twigs, or that beautiful hedge of forsythia chopped down to 1-2' stubs? And why are they doing it NOW?

For years, landscapers at Collington have followed the practice of shearing -- giving most of our shrubs an annual haircut using an electric hedge shearer; the shrubs get a flat top, usually, and flat sides as well, although sometimes the workers go for a rounded "lollipop" effect. The basic idea is to keep the vegetation tidy and preferably geometric. Sometimes this is done as part of the spring cleanup, in February or March.

Trimming plants just before they start their annual growing time isn't a bad idea if they are the kind of plant that makes its flowers on the new growth of the year. However, if, like azaleas, forsythias and viburnums, the plants have made their flower buds on the previous season's growth, what's going to happen when the ends of that growth are cut off by the shearer? Few or no flowers at bloom time! That's why most of our early and mid-spring blooming shrubs should be pruned just after they finish blooming; they will have the longest possible growing season to develop new branches and flower buds for next year.

Shrubs that bloom in summer or fall usually form their flower buds on the new growth, so early spring is a good time to prune them back, even quite severely; butterfly bush, beautyberry

and abelia will all do well if pruned just as they resume growth.

Shrubs that we grow primarily for their ever-green foliage, like holly and boxwood, can also best be pruned just before they begin spring growth, but they may also be clipped almost any time of the year -- just before Christmas to harvest decorative greens, for example.

But what happens when these shrubs gradually grow taller, to the point when most of the blooms are almost too high up to be appreciated, or when they overfill their space? Here's where the concept of renewal (or renovation) pruning comes in. Most shrubs can be cut practically to the ground and will make fresh growth from the remaining stubs; in a year or two they form a smaller neat shrub that will again look like the attractive plant you bought in the nursery. The process will cause loss of a season or more of blooms but you'll have a better-looking plant for quite a while.

So that's what's going on when Ruppert's crew are cutting those forsythias and viburnums down -- making a little sacrifice for a longer-term gain.



publicdomainpictures.net

Our Four-Legged Residents

Many of us count canine and feline friends as vital parts of our lives. The Camera Club recently completed a project in pet photography, displayed in the third-floor exhibit case. In observance of National Pet Month, here's a sampling. Bud Gardiner and Mike McCulley were the photographers.

**Sunny (Don and Joan Lewis) (right)
Maggie (Mike and Anne McCulley) (below, left)
Toby (Ron and Noel McPherson) (below, right)
Tanner (Alice Nicolson) (bottom, left)
Kali (Bud and Rita Gardiner) (bottom, center)
My Boy (Tucker Farley) (bottom, right)**

