



March 2016

Vol. 46, Issue 2

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hello Neighbors,

Happy spring! We have been fortunate this winter that most of our snowfall has come in just one record breaking event, appropriately named “snowzilla”. Thank you to everyone who shoveled sidewalks and cleared the street corners and storm inlets.

By the publication of this Herald, we will have held the General Membership meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. The main theme of the meeting was Volunteerism 2016. According to dictionary.com, the definition of volunteerism is the policy or practice of volunteering one's time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one's community.

Our association has a rich history of members coming forward to give of their time and talents, which clearly makes the community strong and vital. This past year, many of our members graciously stepped up and volunteered. A challenge of 2016, will be to maintain this robust volunteer spirit to keep the association programs active. Here is a list of some key vacancies that we are in need of help with:

- Board of Directors - Treasurer
- Membership – Committee Chair
- Beautification and Gardening Group (BAGG) - Coordinator
- Halloween Festival – Committee Chair(s)
- Herald Staff - Advertising

I hope you will consider volunteering. I can assure you from personal experience that there is a strong support network in place, which includes the Board of Directors along with current and past volunteers, who will help you transition into a volunteer position.

Continued on page 3

Community Calendar	
Herald Delivery.....	Mar 19
First Day of Spring.....	Mar 20
Easter.....	Mar 27
CAC.....	Apr 05
Herald Deadline.....	Apr 06
Royal Lake Spring Clean-Up.....	Apr 09
Braddock District Council.....	Apr 13
Scholarship Deadline.....	Apr 15
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Apr 19
Herald Delivery.....	Apr 23

***In this Issue:***

- A vital community role needs filling! Please see page 12 for details on how you can help.
- Try a little outdoor spring cleaning this year. Page 4 and 15 has all the info you need on our Royal Lake Spring Clean-Up.
- This is the final weekend for high school seniors to submit their KPW Scholarship Application – see the last page for the entry form.

## KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114

[www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org)

### OFFICERS

President	Jeanmarie Roberson	703-425-1286
Vice-President	Steve McCarty	703-978-0222
Secretary	Frank Cumberland	703-426-2868
Treasurer	Jonathan Reiser	571-423-8030
Members-At-Large	Mary Anne Boyer	703-323-6249
	Karen Hasselman	703-272-3658
	Elizabeth Macaranas	571-340-3310

### COMMITTEES

B.A.G.G	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Community Support Services</b>		
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
GMU Student Liaison	<b>Vacant</b>	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan: <a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>	
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471
<b>Communications</b>		
Herald Newsletter	Terra Wathen	571-425-5703
Herald Advertising	Laura Emden	813-469-3060
Herald Classifieds	Ejona Lika: <a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a>	
Signboards	Ken Waldrop	703-503-0725
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett: <a href="mailto:website@kpwca.org">website@kpwca.org</a>	
Membership	<b>Vacant</b>	
NW Captain	Pappy Palazzo	202-369-1061
Parks & Lakes	Sarah Lennon	703-978-5608
	Nick Wathen	571-214-3849
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes	703-426-8246
Signs, St.s, Sidwalks	Jeff Root	703-323-4438
<b>Special Activities</b>		
Easter Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	
Halloween Festival	Cathy DeLoach	703-426-4745
	Danielle Nicholson	703-323-0622
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	703-323-5997

**PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING  
FOR THE VACANT POSITIONS;  
CONTACT JEANMARIE AT 703-425-1286**

### Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

#### OFFICERS

President	<a href="mailto:President@KPWCA.ORG">President@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treasurer@KPWCA.ORG">treasurer@KPWCA.ORG</a>

#### COMMITTEES

Membership	<a href="mailto:Membership@KPWCA.ORG">Membership@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Welcome Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Welcome@KPWCA.ORG">Welcome@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Consumer Affairs	<a href="mailto:Consumer@KPWCA.ORG">Consumer@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Zoning	<a href="mailto:Zoning@KPWCA.ORG">Zoning@KPWCA.ORG</a>
B.A.G.G.	<a href="mailto:BAGG@KPWCA.ORG">BAGG@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Parks & Lakes	<a href="mailto:Parks@KPWCA.ORG">Parks@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Signs, St.s, Sidwalks	<a href="mailto:St.s@KPWCA.ORG">St.s@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Neighborhood Watch	<a href="mailto:Watch@KPWCA.ORG">Watch@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Scholarships	<a href="mailto:Scholarships@KPWCA.ORG">Scholarships@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Neighbor Assistance	<a href="mailto:NeighborAssist@KPWCA.ORG">NeighborAssist@KPWCA.ORG</a>

#### HERALD STAFF

Editor	<a href="mailto:Editor@KPWCA.ORG">Editor@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Classifieds	<a href="mailto:Classified@KPWCA.ORG">Classified@KPWCA.ORG</a>
Advertising	See Below
<b>General Information</b>	<a href="mailto:Info@KPWCA.ORG">Info@KPWCA.ORG</a>
<b>Community Association</b>	<a href="mailto:KPWHOAA@yahoo.com">KPWHOAA@yahoo.com</a>

### How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the April 23rd issue must be received no later than April 6th by Ejona Lika, 9810 Bronte Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or email [classified@kpwca.org](mailto:classified@kpwca.org). Please print clearly, and include payment to KPWCA. Furnish your name, address, and phone number. Rates: KPWCA members, \$2 for each 15 words; nonmembers, \$5 first 25 words, plus \$3 for each additional 15 words. Found items listed free.

ADVERTISEMENTS: KPWCA Newsletter Advertisements are received by Terra Wathen, 5204 Pommeroy Drive., Fairfax, VA 22032 or email to [editor@kpwca.org](mailto:editor@kpwca.org). Contact Terra for rates.

### How Do I Get My News in The Herald?

The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to e-mail the editor at [editor@kpwca.org](mailto:editor@kpwca.org). We invite items on neighborhood schools, churches, organizations, and other noteworthy neighborhood news. News items and letters will be published if deemed suitable and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted to The Herald.

### How Do I Join the Kings Park West Civic Association?

Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$20.00, to KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114. Members receive the Community Directory and support from community programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Scholarship Awards, community social activities, Parks & Lake Clean-up, and a free subscription to The Herald.

### The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.  
NEXT DEADLINE is April 6th, 2016  
for delivery on April 23rd, 2016

Note: Acceptance of advertising does not constitute endorsement by KPWCA, nor liability for products or services advertised in its publications.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: If you are moving out of the neighborhood and want to keep in touch with what's happening, gets a subscription. Send \$20 per year to:  
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P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.

### Volunteer Opportunities

**\*\*NEW\*\* Membership Committee:** Membership Chair and block captains - please see page 12 for complete details.

**Parks & Lakes Committee:** We are looking for 3-5 motivated members to help plan and organize twice-a-year park/lake clean-ups. *A few hours per month in the months leading up to the April and October clean-ups.* Ideas to make the clean-ups fun and inviting are welcomed! Please contact Sarah Lennon and Nick Wathen at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahgjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgjlennon@gmail.com).

**Classified Ads Coordinator, filled! A huge thanks to Ejona Lika!!!**

**B.A.G.G. Coordinator, 1-2 hours per month.** Coordinates annual contract for common area maintenance, coordinates purchase/delivery of mulch for common areas, coordinates common area clean ups with volunteers, monitors the KPW subdivision signs and signboards for maintenance and arranges for repairs. Please contact Jeanmarie at [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org).

**Yard of the Month Volunteers.** Seeking volunteers to send in nominations, serve as judges, and/or help with creating the Herald article. We are especially looking for those with a good knowledge of flowers, grasses, and plants, and for those knowledgeable about native species and sustainable gardening practices. Contact Caroline at [ccgene@me.com](mailto:ccgene@me.com).

**Neighbor Assist Volunteers, as needed.** Looking for friendly callers (a great way to volunteer without having to leave your home), computer experts to provide IT assistance, and handyman volunteers. Contact Bruce Wallachy at [wallbdc@gmail.com](mailto:wallbdc@gmail.com) or call 703-401-0275.

**Road Raiders, 1/2 hour each month.** Performs common areas clean up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact Sarah Lennon at [sarahgjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgjlennon@gmail.com).

**Invasive Management Area, ~3 hours a few times per year.** Details found at <http://www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=32>. Send an e-mail to [greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com) and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

*President's letter continued*

I recently read an article that identified the following key items for successful volunteer recruitment:

1. **Make it fun** – A KPWCA volunteer has the opportunity to meet neighbors and make new friends. I think you will have a fun time!
4. **Meaningful Roles** – KPWCA has many varied positions, I'm certain we can find a position that suites your personality! Are you a numbers person? – consider the Treasurer. Do you like to gardening and the outdoors? Consider BAGG. Or maybe you are a people person – consider Membership.
5. **Recognition** –Every spring, the KPWCA Board hosts a volunteer appreciation dinner, which includes pizza, dessert and the camaraderie of fellow volunteers!

We have a busy calendar this spring. Enjoy the warm weather. If you have questions, concerns or comments, please email me at [president@KPWCA](mailto:president@KPWCA).

Sincerely, Jeanmarie

Roberson




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*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth*

*--Muhammad Ali*

## WANTED!!!

**The Parks & Lakes Committee is looking for a few good men and women:**

**Motivated community members to help plan and organize twice-a-year park/lake clean-ups.**

**We need *YOUR* ideas to make the clean-ups successful, fun and inviting!**

**Please mark your calendars now for the Spring Clean-up on Saturday April 2, 8 am-12 noon. This is an important opportunity to help protect our natural resources, meet some new neighbors, have fun and make the world a better place! (*Not bad for a spring morning!*)**

There will be clean-up teams starting at Royal Lake Park, Rabbit Branch Park and (hopefully) other sites -- depending on how many volunteers we get!

A "Park & Lakes Spring Clean Up" Sign-Up Genius has been created for this event:

[www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094CA8A92DA57-spring](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C094CA8A92DA57-spring)



For more information and to volunteer with Parks & Lake and/or help plan the clean-up, please contact Sarah Lennon and Nick Wathen at

[parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahglennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon@gmail.com).

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

*-- Gandhi*

## Mike McCaffrey of Hidden Pond Nature Center Recognized with 2015 Cooperator of the Year Award

By Dave Ochs, FCPA

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) recently recognized Hidden Pond Nature Center Manager Mike McCaffrey as its Diane Hoffman 2015 Cooperator of the Year. In announcing the award, the NVSWCD told McCaffrey, “You have been a stalwart partner for NVSWCD's programs, resources and expertise supporting a myriad of ways for people of all ages to engage in local watershed programs.”

The award was presented by the NVSWCD board to McCaffrey on February 23, 2016. It is presented annually to individuals or groups who work in partnership with the District to protect and conserve natural resources in Fairfax County.

“Receiving this award is an honor,” McCaffrey said. “I have always enjoyed working with the staff at NVSWCD. People like Diane Hoffman, Andi Cisler, Dan Schwartz, Asad Rouhi, Willie Woode, Lily Whitesell, and former Hidden Pond teen volunteer and current director Laura Grape have made it a fantastic experience”

The NVSWCD cited McCaffrey’s work with the Virginia Envirothon program, an international high school competition on environmental knowledge. Hidden Pond Nature Center has hosted a team since the competition began in 1995, and the award announcement notes that HPNC has been “a fearsome opponent in local, state, and international competitions.” Hidden Pond won Virginia state Envirothon titles and advanced to the international final competition in two of the past three years.

“The confidence the team has when they enter a room and is maintained when presenting and answering questions is unlike many of their peers,” said Ms. Grape, executive director of the NVSWCD. “The team exudes this presence because they are disciplined in their preparation and especially because they have fun. It is plain to see that that their coach encourages this serious and yet playful tone.”

Grape was a volunteer at Hidden Pond when McCaffrey started working at the park, and she noted that he has introduced thousands of Fairfax County residents to their local environment and inspired their interests in caring for it. She added, “I am one example of this and thank you sincerely for helping to set my course.”

“Working with NVSWCD and with the Envirothon team has been a fun, learning experience,” said McCaffrey. “I want to thank their staff and the FCPA for allowing me the opportunity to be able to have done this.”

The NVSWCD told McCaffrey, “You are a true ambassador for natural resources in Fairfax County and we thank you for your long-term cooperation and partnership.”

“The environment is in good hands as long as people like Mike McCaffrey create and help build the foundation for our future environmentalists,” added Todd Brown, the Operations Branch manager of the Park Authority’s Resource Management Division.

The NVSWCD award is named in honor of Diane Hoffman, an associate director with NVSWCD and retired NVSWCD district administrator for the legacy of cooperative spirit that she instilled throughout all District programs.





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<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>  
 click "Browse events,"  
 then "Calendar view."

## UPDATE: Friends of Royal Lake Fund Raising Efforts A Success — By Friends of Royal Lake

In the Fall edition of The Herald, Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) introduced its effort to raise funds for replacement exercise equipment. FORL is pleased that substantial progress has been made through February.



Luckily, several business and some Braddock District funding provided the depth, as the anticipated breadth of community participation was modest. However, if community members want to have a lasting impact on their park, it isn't too late to contribute (see below for address). As noted, several generous business donors earned the "Platinum" designation on the bronze recognition plaque, an exemplar pictured below. There also were several individual and business contributions at the "Bronze" level (\$250). The other key funding component, the Mastenbrook Grant application for matching funds, has been submitted and should be approved. It is important that any remaining contributions be sent immediately so the grant application can be updated if needed. All donors will be recognized in future editions of The Herald.

With much of the funding now held by the Park Foundation, FORL is working with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) staff to finalize location, procurement, installation, and schedule issues.

The original equipment, much of it now broken and removed, dates to 1979, when Wells Fargo teamed up with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and others to provide exercise equipment to communities and parks like Royal Lake. In conjunction with installation of the new equipment this summer (2016), an Eagle Scout will remove the remaining items. Removal has to be closely synchronized with installation in order to comply with the Resource Protection Act which controls modifications within designated areas.



FORL researched and identified a 14 piece equipment layout costing approximately \$30K which includes chin up bars, a parallel bar, pushups bars, and sit-ups stations to name a few, and installation. The equipment can be used by both sexes, different age groups, and supports both the county's Healthy Fairfax and Aging In Place program for seniors. As proposed, the equipment will be dispersed in 5 locations along the trail ranging from Lakepointe, west approaching the boat ramp, and a new location by the basketball/tennis courts. The layout purposefully includes low profile body weight exercise stations, multiple locations and equipment redundancy to accommodate user egress, and dispersal to

support a circuit type exercise program. The equipment manufacturer and type is identical to Katie's Playground. The metal stations will be dark green and/or brown to blend in.

All contributions are tax deductible and will be matched 100% (up to \$20K) by FCPA's Mastenbrook grant program. If you have questions, please email [friendsofroyallake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroyallake@gmail.com). Also, upon completion of this effort, FORL will undertake other projects, so there will plenty of opportunities to improve your community park.

Send tax-deductible contributions to:  
Fairfax County Park Foundation  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404  
Fairfax, VA 22035

\*\* Memo line must include "Royal Lake Exercise Equipment"



# The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

**The Kings Park West Herald's List Facebook Page** is an interactive community resource for KPW residents. Requests and recommendations come in daily, and offers searchability and immediate access to recommendations. Post your own requests or recommendations.



[www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList)

**Have You Entered the March Contest? You Could Win a Free Power-Washing of Your House!**  
Submit a photo and haiku of your dirty home on the Kings Park West Herald's List Facebook page. Best combo entry will win a free power washing. Do not enter a neighbor's home without permission!

**Deadline to enter is March 31, 2016.**

**Examples**



**What hath nature wrought?  
Diminishing stature, grace  
Can man restore it?**



**My glory dim  
Sienna dotted chartreuse  
Seeking ablution**



## Cub Scout Pack 1968

The snow may have impacted the area this winter, but that didn't stop the Empire from visiting the Pack for our Star Wars themed Blue & Gold Banquet. Lord Vader accompanied by a Snow Trooper and a Star Destroyer Captain from the 501<sup>st</sup> Legion stopped by and tested the boys Cub Scout



knowledge and spirit to ensure they weren't rebels. Later, Dietrich's Karate gave the boys a lesson in the force with their Jedi training.

The snow did delay the Pack's Pinewood Derby races, but that didn't dampen the spirit of the boys or stop them from creating some fantastic looking and very fast cars for the races.

Pack 1968 would like to congratulate the winners of the Pack Pinewood Derby.

- Tigers: Charlie McDade – First in Show and Speed
- Wolves: Armaan Kahn – First in Show and Speed
- Bears: Jimmy Wyllie – First in Speed; Mark Huber – First in Show
- Webelos: James Muller – First in Speed; Nathaniel Hook – First in Show
- AOL: Gauge Leonard – First in Speed and Show



Cub Scouts is a great way for boys to make new friends while learning new skills. Pack 1968 is always looks for new boys in Grades 1-5 interested in being a Cub Scout.

If your son is interested in becoming a Cub Scout, please contact our Cub Master, Michael Stonkey ([mstonkey@verizon.net](mailto:mstonkey@verizon.net)), for more information.

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## Cub Scout Pack 1967

The boys of Pack 1967 had a great time competing in this year's Pinewood Derby. Each boy designed and built his own car to race in his den's trial. Awards for speed were given to the fastest car, as well as for show to the car voted best crafted. The following first place winners in each category advance to this year's Patriot District competition held on March 5<sup>th</sup>:

Tiger – Show: Jacob Percy; Speed: Chris Jones

Wolf – Show: QB Le; Speed: Daniel Slesar

Bear – Show: Jacob Komnenous, Speed: John Laun

Webelo – Show: Ian Glosemeyer; Speed: Henry Steene

AoL – Show: Patrick Hession, Speed: Jacob Shine

Pack 1967 also has 5 boys who bridged out to Boy Scouts: Patrick Hession, Phillip Menard, Jacob Shine, and Jackson Smith to Troop 1865; Luke Nessmiller to Troop 1346. We are celebrating their achievement at our annual Blue and Gold Dinner, also held on March 5<sup>th</sup>.



Pack 1967 meets monthly, generally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month in the Laurel Ridge cafeteria. Individual dens (boys of the same age) meet about twice a month on a selected day to work on achievements, participate in projects or have fun together. If you have any questions, we can be reached at [CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).

## Membership Committee Volunteer Opportunities

**Membership Chair:** After three years - it is time for new ideas and fresh energy! This is how we evolve and improve and grow! A new volunteer is needed to serve as Membership Chair effective April 1, 2016.

- Team is in place for data entry and maintenance of data.
- All records/files are organized and ready to go for October Drive.
- Signs, folders, files - everything you need - ready to go.
- Team is familiar with printing of directory and they make it a snap. Seriously - you can't ask for a better support team!

Everything is all set for an easy transition!

### **The following blocks are in need of Block Captains :**

**Block 1:** 9600 – 9616 Commonwealth Drive, 5102 – 5106 Thackery Court, 5200 and 5202 Twinbrooke Road. This KPWCA Block includes 20 homes of which 3 are active members.

**Block 10:** 5237 – 5312 Richardson Drive. This KPWCA Block includes 21 homes of which 12 are active members.

**Block 15:** All of Noyes Court, 9802 – 9819 Bronte Drive, 5212 and 5216 Richardson Drive. This KPWCA Block includes 19 homes of which 12 are active members.

**Block 23:** 9813 – 9909 Commonwealth Drive. This KPWCA Block includes 16 homes of which 3 are active members.

**Block 47:** 5000 – 5020 Gainsborough Drive. This KPWCA Block includes 17 homes of which 6 are active members.

**Block 61:** 4824 – 4830, 4832, 4834 – 4848, 4900 – 4904 and 4908 Gainsborough Drive. This KPWCA Block includes 17 homes of which 5 are active members.

**Block 100:** 9801 and 9807 – 9011 Vertain Court. This KPWCA Block includes 10 homes of which 3 are active members.

***Thank you to all of the block captains that have served over the years and to the ones that continue to serve our community. You are the glue that holds it all together!!***

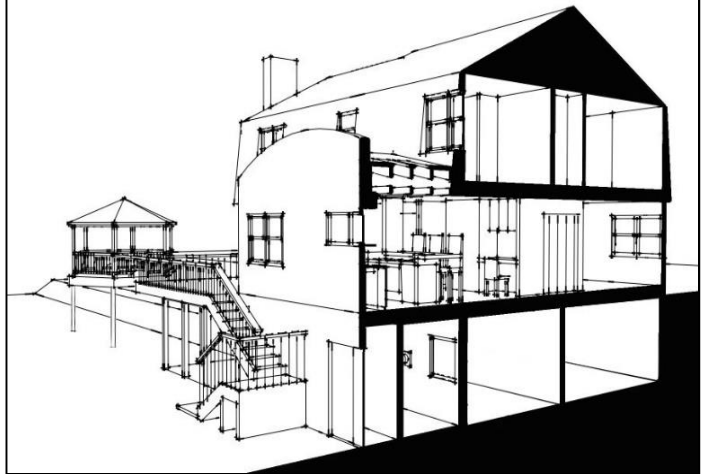
**Please contact [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org) to volunteer!!!**

**COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HOA)  
President Larry Velte**

The Community Association's 2016 annual membership meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday evening, May 18<sup>th</sup>, in the CSS Program Multi-Purpose Room at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. HOA members will soon receive the official meeting notification letter and agenda information by U.S. Mail. Please plan to attend, as this is the opportunity for your voice to be heard. One important agenda item will be the election of three members of the HOA Board of Directors. Candidates must be members of the Community Association. If you would like to nominate a candidate or be a candidate yourself, please contact nominating committee chair Jillian Mueller at (703) 268-5840 or email the Association at [kpwhoa@yahoo.com](mailto:kpwhoa@yahoo.com). No anonymous nominations, please.

Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Laurel Ridge CSS Multi-Purpose Room. The Community Association website, [www.kpwhoa.org](http://www.kpwhoa.org), contains all key HOA documents and all meeting minutes.

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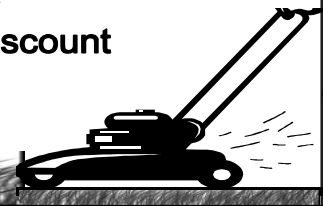
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## Get off the Couch

### A Roundup of Family Friendly Weekend Events Around the Region

#### **March 19-20**

##### **Saturday Morning at the National**

The National Theatre presents: Upcycled Cinderella. This imaginative re-telling of the Cinderella story is \*FREE\* but tickets are required. The performers use household items and recyclables to create an unusual version of the classic fairytale. Two shows, 9:30am and 11am, Saturday only. 1321 Pennsylvania Ave NW, DC. <http://thenationaldc.org/events/>

##### **The Dancing Princesses**

A musical adaptation of the Brothers Grimm story. Beautiful princesses are locked up every night, but each morning their shoes are worn as if they've been out all night dancing. A young knight sets out to discover their secret. A Learning Theatre production of the Creative Cauldron. General admission \$16, kids, military and seniors \$14. Saturday and Sunday 2pm, Saturday 7:30pm. 410 S Maple Avenue Falls Church, VA. <http://www.creativecauldron.org/>

#### **March 26 - 27**

##### **The Magic Treehouse: Space Mission**

Visit Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium for a screening of the film based on the popular children's book series. Seating is first come, first served and it is recommended that you arrive at least 15 minutes before show time. Cost is \$5 for ages 13-59, \$3 for everyone else, cash only. Sunday, 3pm. 1426 N Quincy St, Arlington <http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org/event/>

#### **April 2-3**

##### **The Wizard of Oz**

The original 1939 classic film is remastered and presented by Angelika Film Center as part of their Flashback Family Films series. Saturday only, 10am. Tickets \$7. 2911 District Ave, in the Mosaic District. [www.angelikafilmcenter.com/mosaic](http://www.angelikafilmcenter.com/mosaic)

#### **April 9-10**

##### **Explore the Universe Family Day**

The Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum invites you to explore how people from around the world and through time study the cosmos. \*FREE\* Saturday only. 10am-3pm. <http://si.edu/Museums/air-and-space-museum>

#### **Camp Fair**

Come check out the variety of camps and programs the Fairfax County Parks Authority will offer this summer. There will be games and giveaways as well as information about the camps that are offered at parks, rec centers, golf courses, nature centers and more. 12pm-4pm, Saturday only. At Audrey Moore Rec Center. 8100 Braddock Road. (703) 321-7081.

#### **April 16-17**

##### **National Park Service Week**

It's the centennial year of the National Park Service. National Park Service Week is a great time to visit because there will be free admission to all National Parks. There are more than 400 National Parks in the United States. Celebrate wildlife in their habitat, amazing vistas, and rich history at a National Park. [www.nationalparkweek.org](http://www.nationalparkweek.org)

##### **USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo**

A great chance for the whole family to explore science and engineering. There will be over 3,000 hands-on exhibits at the two-day festival. Singers They Might Be Giants, actor Wil Wheaton, and Dr. Kaboom are scheduled to appear. At the Washington Convention Center, 7th and H St. NW, Washington. Saturday 10am-6pm, Sunday 10am-4pm. \*FREE\* <http://www.usasciencefestival.org/>

#### **Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason this month:**

April 10, 9am-2pm: International Week Bazaar, Johnson Center:

Patriot Center: <http://www.eaglebankarena.com/>

March 30, 6:30 pm: College Fair

April 6-10 & 14-17: RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM AND BAILEY CIRCUS XTREME

Center for the Arts [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu)

April 16: Moscow Festival Ballet: Giselle

April 17: Moscow Festival Ballet: Swan Lake

Tennis, Softball, Volleyball, Lacrosse, Rowing: <http://gomason.com>

#### **National Cherry Blossom Festival Family Day**

The region's signature event kicks off on Saturday with Family Day. Taking place at the National Building Museum, kids will have a chance to practice origami, meet a drawing robot, try on traditional Japanese clothing and participate in other activities. \*Free\* 9am-5pm, Saturday only. 401 F Street NW Washington. <http://www.nbm.org/>



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## Keeping KPW Green and Clean! *By Sarah Lennon and Nick Wathen*

**Do you enjoy walking the trails and paths in the neighborhood, reveling in the natural beauty of our surroundings? If so, maybe you might also enjoy helping other dedicated KPW residents who volunteer to keep it that way!**

Did you know the KPW Civic Association has a Parks & Lake Committee? This Committee's mission is to help the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) oversee and maintain the parks and trails in KPW, and serve as liaison with local scout groups and KPW schools. It is the Committee's responsibility to be vigilant in monitoring and reporting issues related to the lake, trails, streams, the dam and spillway and any other environmental concerns that may arise. However, currently the "Committee" is only a party of two. It's (past) time for this become a real committee with like-minded folks coming together to identify areas that need a little TLC, work with the FCPA and ensure our parkland remains in great condition for all to enjoy.

The Park Clean-up that took place in September 2015 attracted only 20 people at Royal Lake and Rabbit Branch Park combined. Dozens of bags of trash and odd debris (a gas grill, tires, hubcaps) were removed from the stream bed and around the lake, but just imagine how much **MORE could have been removed had a greater percentage of the KPW residents come out to help.**

Our goal is for a more robust turnout for the Spring Park Clean-up on Saturday April 2, 8am -- but this requires advertisements, notices to spread the word, identifying new and creative ways to make it more fun -- and that cannot be done by one or two people adequately, and it cannot be planned in a month. Surely there are folks in KPW who have ideas for how to improve things, and we'd like to hear your constructive advice and ideas, AND have you step up and volunteer! These are also great service hour opportunities for students. If you're interested in joining Parks & Lakes, please contact us at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) or [sarahgilennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgilennon@gmail.com). Additionally, if you have not yet paid your \$20 Membership dues, please consider making an additional optional donation to Parks & Lakes and checking the box to volunteer!

## Did You Know?

Friends of Royal Lake has their very own newsletter. Join us and email [friendsofroyallake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroyallake@gmail.com), and request to be added to the distribution list.

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### Explore Parks on Instagram Hashtag Photos with #FairfaxParks

Just in time for spring, the Fairfax County Park Authority has joined the Instagram community. The Park Authority looks forward to engaging with Instagram's active online community and sharing beautiful photos of local parks and recreational facilities. The Instagram feed can be found at [www.instagram.com/fairfaxparks](http://www.instagram.com/fairfaxparks).

With 427 parks, nearly 326 miles of trail, nine RECenters, and myriad other facilities, the Park Authority offers countless opportunities to share the beauty of the park system through photography. We hope that Instagrammers will find inspiration from park photos and, from the convenience of their phone, be able to explore the recreational opportunities in their local community.

Instagram users can also share their own park photos with the community. In fact, this spring, visitors to Fairfax parks can celebrate the warmer weather and the brightening days by Instagramming photos from local parks with the hashtag #fairfaxparks. The best photos will be reposted from our account with the user's permission. Also, the same hashtag can be used on Facebook and Twitter.





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### Neighbor Assist in Kings Park West

Neighbor Assist has received a few more requests for help and those who have been helped have indicated that they appreciated the service. We offer this service to our KPW community as a great opportunity to save some money. It will save you some money because labor costs are a major, if not the major, expense for handyman services in our area.

Our handymen have skills that could be generating income, but they have chosen to give their services freely to KPW residents. However, they will not come unless you ask us to come. As some say, "The ball is in your court."

Prior to this year's blizzard only one student signed up to offer snow removal service. However, immediately after the blizzard, some of last year's students agreed to offer their service and their names were sent to those residents who had requested the names as well as many older residents who might want to employ their service. As spring begins the gardening season, some residents might be looking for help in their gardens. So we ask those who wish to offer services to email us at [NeighborAssist@kpwca.org](mailto:NeighborAssist@kpwca.org) or call 703-401-0275. For those wishing to receive help, please use the same contacts.

During and after the blizzard and the later snow, it was heartening to see neighbors helping other KPW neighbors. That type of assistance is what makes KPW such a desirable place to live.  
**Neighbor Assist Contact: 703-401-0275 or email at [Neighborassist@kpwca.org](mailto:Neighborassist@kpwca.org).**

**Invasive Species Profile: Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)**

By Greg Sykes ([greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com))

**Native Range:** Europe

**U.S. Introduction:** 1700s

**Life Cycle:** evergreen perennial

**Means of Spreading:** rapid vine growth

**Commercially Available:** yes

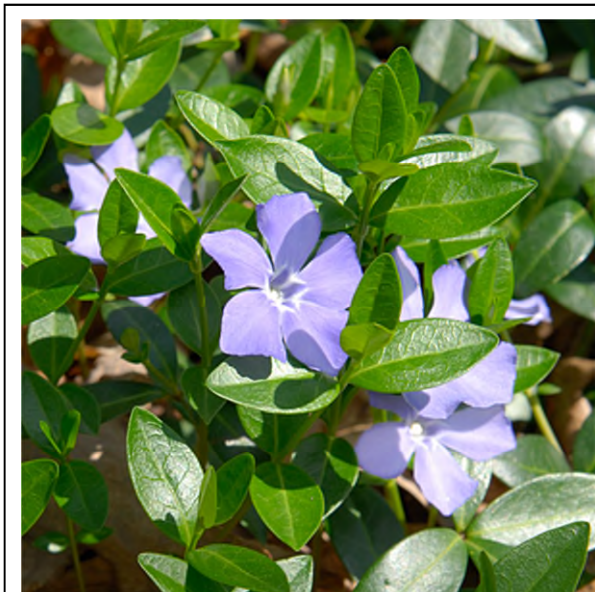
**Control Method:** hand-pull, may use garden knife to loosen soil near roots; repeatedly mow large plots

**Good Alternative Species:** wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*), woodland phlox (*Phlox divaricata*), prairie phlox (*P. pilosa*), moss phlox (*P. subulata*)

**Comments:**

Fond of the purple spring flowers and dark, evergreen leaves, people imported periwinkle to America during the eighteenth century. Periwinkle proved so hardy and easily grown under many conditions that folks used it on low-maintenance areas, such as grave-yards. Some archeologists even seek living *Vinca* plots when hunting for lost burial ground and homestead sites!

These days, people usually apply periwinkle mono-cultures as unoriginal groundcovers. Without natural predators, parasites, or diseases to manage periwinkle, this vine can get out of control. In a garden setting, periwinkle earned its invasive reputation by spreading quickly and overtaking other low-lying plants. Likewise, *Vinca* effortlessly escapes cultivation when the vines creep out of gardens and cross into natural areas. Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers found periwinkle mats that neighbors unfortunately threw upside down onto parkland. Instead of dying and rotting, new periwinkle shoots grew from and flourished throughout this pile! While the volunteers sent that mess to an incinerator, please remember never to dump yard waste into the parks or other public land for any reason. Elsewhere in Royal Lake Park, IMA volunteers already eradicated periwinkle infestations from three long-established plots. Pulling and bagging the weeds is the most effective disposal method. Former periwinkle sites



**Figure 1. Lesser or dwarf periwinkle blooms in early spring.**



**Figure 2. Periwinkle continues smothering woodlands through fallen leaves and melting snow in this mid-winter photograph of a Royal Lake Park IMA site before volunteers cleared this plight.**



**Figure 3.** One of the many excellent native alternatives is woodland phlox. Pictured here, blooming wild type clusters stand on 10-inch-tall stems.

need monitoring to remove sprouts from root remnants. Periwinkle should never be composted unless it is completely dried and killed first.

Folks wanting an ornamental substitute to this cemetery weed have many options. For shade, consider wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*, unrelated to the ginger spice). Come spring, look carefully at ground level for its burgundy, ant-pollinated flowers. Wild ginger produces a richly foliated groundcover during the growing season. Many *Phlox* species grace the forest floor with purple or pinkish spring-time flowers. Woodland phlox (*P. divaricata*) is best suited in shaded or partly sunny locations while hardy moss phlox (*P. subulata*) prefers sunny areas and loves rocky soil. Prairie phlox (*P. pilosa*) likes sun to partial shade; its pink blossoms open in mid-spring. While the above mentioned plants are all Fairfax County natives, creeping phlox (*P. stolonifera*) is a tough, evergreen vine found in Virginia's mountains. Throughout the year, all of these species get along with other plants to both protect against erosion and provide a beautiful, ecologically healthy landscape. Check [this list](#) for some native nurseries stocking these alternatives [http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/native\\_vendors1.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/native_vendors1.pdf).

Learn more about periwinkle:

Invasive weed information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/vinspp/all.html>  
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/vimi.htm>  
<http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3081>  
[http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr\\_010310.pdf](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010310.pdf)  
<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/groundcover/periwinkle/periwinkle-control-methods.htm>

Periwinkle as a graveyard plant:

- Henry County Historical Society (VA). 1982. *Follow the Periwinkle: Cemetery Records of Henry County, Virginia*: <http://www.worldcat.org/title/follow-the-periwinkle-cemetery-records-of-henry-county-virginia/oclc/8549891>
- Hobbs, Holly. November 20, 2012. Preservation group discovers Fairfax County's past as it cleans up graves: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/preservation-group-discovers-fairfax-countys-past-as-it-cleans-up-graves/2012/11/20/74e6f268-314d-11e2-9f50-0308e1e75445\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/preservation-group-discovers-fairfax-countys-past-as-it-cleans-up-graves/2012/11/20/74e6f268-314d-11e2-9f50-0308e1e75445_story.html)
- Plants as Site Indicators (especially cemetery sites): [https://www.deldot.gov/archaeology/beech\\_ridge/pdf/phase1\\_2/beech1\\_2\\_plants.pdf](https://www.deldot.gov/archaeology/beech_ridge/pdf/phase1_2/beech1_2_plants.pdf)

\* \* \* \* \*

For the full article, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to:  
[http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/64\\_2016-01.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/64_2016-01.pdf).



## THE GARDEN CORNER

Virginia was settled primarily by a segment of the population called “planters.” Planters were people who grew things, farmers and, if you lived in a settlement, gardeners. Even Thomas Jefferson loved to grow a garden. He was one of the first American settlers to grow artichokes in Virginia. In those days people got the seeds for their garden each year from friends and neighbors in a seed and plant swap. Trading plants and seeds can be a lot of fun and watching them germinate and then grow is even more fun and rewarding. The kids can get involved by choosing some seeds to germinate, placing the seeds in a folded damp paper towel and place the entire thing in a sealed plastic baggie. Check the seeds every week to see if they have germinated and are ready to be transplanted into their first grow pot.

In Kings Park West we are limited to the constraints of urban gardening, but in reality urban gardening is not that limiting. An urban gardener can landscape his front and backyard, planting flowers and shrubs to beautify the home. But you can also practice the art of “Edible Landscaping,” choosing edible plants for your landscaping or planting edibles among your other landscaping plants. Instead of planting a yard full of beautiful azalea bushes, you could plant a bush cherry, a blueberry or other fruit producing bush. Among those bushes you could make space for a few tomatoes, a pepper plant, or an eggplant. Edible landscaping is suited for the front or back yard. Here is an example of an edible landscape in which tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, artichokes, blackberries, and bush cherries are planted among the azaleas and roses.

Urban gardeners may also choose to build a raised garden or a container garden to house the newest plant members of their family. The walls of a raised garden can be made of anything, such as wood; but landscaping stone are particularly attractive. For the upcoming growing season, this raised garden will contain goji-berry bushes in each end, a couple of artichoke plants if they survive the winter and a row of beets, a row of broccoli raab, and a row of bright-light chards.

There are so many options for an urban gardener; you can plant a garden in containers; you can plant a square foot garden or you can plant a fruit tree like this fuyu persimmon tree.

Whatever you decide to plant, you will enjoy sowing the seeds, planting the little plants, watching your plants grow, enjoying their beauty and eating your own produce. Get the kids involved! Start planning your garden today; and trade seeds and plants with your Kings Park West neighbors. Want to swap seeds or plants? Send an email to the garden corner indicating the seeds and/or plants you want and the ones you have for trade, along with your email address. This information will be included in the next edition of the Garden Corner.

R

### REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy

**Low Inventory and Many Buyers!**  
Buyers abound and inventory in Kings Park West is low. Some homes are receiving multiple offers, with buyers having to write more than one contract in many cases. It’s not the type of market where all homes are flying off the market but those that are presented well are moving quickly.

**KPW Stats**  
Six KPW homes have already sold thus far in 2016, and three more are under contract. With just 7 active listings right now, buyers will have to write competitive contracts. Listings should increase as the weather warms up.

Average close price: \$525,233. Average list price: \$526,416.

Model	Address	List Price	Close Price	Status	Model	Address	List Price	Close Price	Status
Duchess Exp	4905 Wheatstone Dr	\$605,000		Contract	Prince	10198 Bessmer Ln	\$535,000		Contract
Cromwell	5209 Pumphrey Dr	\$559,000		Contract	Regent	5391 Gainsborough Dr	\$524,900		Active
Queen	10012 Raeburn Ct	\$555,000	\$553,000	Sold	Prince	4916 Wycliff Ln	\$515,000	\$515,000	Sold
Queen	5080 Coleridge Dr	\$550,000	\$550,000	Sold	Prince	9815 Commonwealth Blvd	\$508,000		Active
King	5124 Swift Ct	\$549,900	\$549,900	Sold	King	9702 Commonwealth Blvd	\$499,950		Active
Essex	10314 Commonwealth Blvd	\$549,900		Active	ork w/ bsr	10423 Collingham Dr	\$485,000		Active
Regent	5350 Gainsborough Dr	\$548,000	\$528,000	Sold	ork w/o bs	10435 Collingham Dr	\$450,000		Active
Duchess	4809 Allenby Rd	\$539,000		Active	Prince	5352 Guinea Rd	\$449,000	\$455,500	Sold



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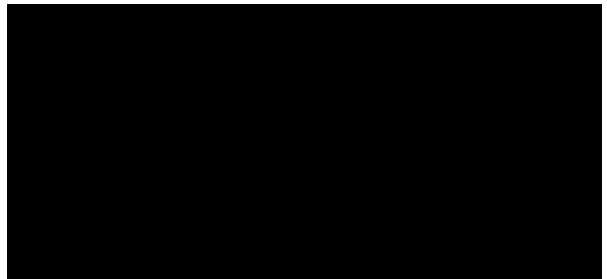
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PINE BARK MINI NUGGETS (2 Cubic Feet of Mulch per Bag)	\$5.90		\$
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TORO Lawnmower 6.75 H.P. 22” wide front wheel drive, grass catcher bag included. Used only 8-10 times, 180.00 E-mail: [patriciarobb@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciarobb@hotmail.com)

DP Airgometer Exercise Bicycle. Computer to track time, speed, distance etc. 100 E-mail: [patriciarobb@hotmail.com](mailto:patriciarobb@hotmail.com)

**WANTED**

**LOOKING for DOGSITTER** for our lovely Yorkshire terrier mostly at some early evenings. Call Klaus at (703)969-5441 or send a mail to [kbaltr@aol.com](mailto:kbaltr@aol.com)

**KPWCA Scholarship Application**

Mail completed form & required information to:  
 KPWCA Scholarship Committee  
 PO Box 7114  
 Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114

**Deadline/postmarked by: March 18, 2016**

The Kings Park West Civic Association will award up to three \$1,000 scholarships to 2016 graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the Association as of the date of the application. Each scholarship will be awarded on the basis of community service, civic activities and extracurricular service involvement (40%), academic achievement (20%), a written essay (20%), and a personal interview (20%).

**Please type or write legibly in ink, for all pieces – particularly emails.**

- A. 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

- B. On a separate sheet of paper, list your community service, employment or volunteer work, extracurricular service activities, church service or any non-academic honors you have received. List only those activities and awards in high school. Describe these activities and indicate your level and # of years of involvement, including leadership responsibilities.
- C. Following this list, write an essay, not to exceed 350 words, about your involvement in one or more of these service activities. The Kings Park West Civic Association is looking for individuals who are providing or have provided exemplary service to the community, our country or to the world. Tell us why you chose to do the work you did, what you have learned from the experience and how you believe you have contributed to others.
- D. Attach an official transcript in sealed school stationery, authenticated by the school transcript official. Transcript will include your grades covering the first seven semesters of high school.
- E. Attach a copy of your SAT or ACT test scores.
- F. If you choose, attach information about financial hardships of which you wish the committee to be aware.

**Semi finalists will be asked to come for a personal interview during the week of April 4-8, 2016.**

**Finalists will be recognized during the Robinson Senior Awards Ceremony on June 14, 2016 at 4pm.**

**This application must be signed by the applicant and his/her parent or guardian. Applicants will be disqualified if application instructions are not followed or the application is incomplete.**

**Parent Initials: \_\_\_\_\_ If my child is awarded a scholarship, I will serve on the scholarship committee the following year.**

**The student’s information may be used as a possible nomination by KPWCA for a Best of Braddock Awards. These awards are given annually by the Braddock District Council and Supervisor Cook in recognition of those who contribute to the betterment of life and services in the Braddock District.**

**We understand that in applying for the scholarship we agree to abide by the terms stipulated.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of parent or guardian