



April 2016

Vol. 46, Issue 3

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hello Neighbors,

Greetings! The signs of spring are everywhere - warm weather, flowers and trees are blooming, and the grass is greener and growing. It is also a time for the start of many outdoor activities for Kings Park West.

After two weather-related postponements, the annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on April 3rd. Thankfully, the weather cooperated and it seemed that the third time was the charm! Many thanks to Dawn Cassidy and Cub Scout Pack 1967 for planning and hosting such a fun event for the community. This event is very popular and each year the attendance has grown. This year 3600 eggs (a new record) were hidden and all were found.

Thanks to Sarah Lennon and Nick Wathen for organizing the parks and stream cleanup for our community, in coordination with the Braddock District Accotink & Pohick Watershed clean up. The spring cleanup was held April 2nd at Royal Lake Park, Rabbit Branch Park and Crooked Creek Park. Removing trash from our stream

valleys helps protect our natural resources and make Kings Park West a better place to live. We appreciate the efforts of all who volunteered.

April is the start of a busy month for Gayle Ostrom and the scholarship committee. The committee is working diligently to process the scholarship applications. They are in the process of reading applications and setting up interview times with the candidates.

Just a reminder that the Royal Lake Dredging project will be underway soon. The project was bid for construction on March 15th by Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Supervisor Cook's office will be contacting us soon regarding a "Pardon Our Dust" meeting to be held prior to the start of construction. The Friends of Royal Lake are looking for assistance in helping to relocate as much aquatic wildlife as possible as the water level in the lake is lowered. Also, the Park Authority is considering remaining the parks that feed into Royal Lake. Please see Tony Vellucci's article within the Herald for details.

Looking ahead to May, I am excited to announce that the KPWCA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be held on May 3rd. The Board is anxious to see all our wonderful volunteers. So, please mark your calendars, as it is a

Community Calendar

Herald Delivery.....	Apr 23
CAC.....	May 03
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.....	May 04
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	May 04
KPWCA Community Yard Sale.....	May 07
Mothers Day.....	May 08
Braddock District Council.....	May 11
Spring Dumpster Day.....	May 14
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	May 17
Memorial Day.....	May 30
Herald Deadline.....	Jun 01
CAC.....	Jun 07
Braddock District Council.....	Jun 08
Flag Day.....	Jun 14
Herald Delivery.....	Jun 18

Continued on page 3

In this Issue:

- Pick your pool! Pages 11 and 12 has all the info for our three neighborhood pools.
- Calling all volunteers! The KPWCA wants to thank you...and feed you! Details on page 4.
- You are invited – check out various events in our community. Page 11.
- Did you know? There is an initiative to rename the parks in KPW. Want to weigh in? See page 17.

KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

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	Vacant	
Community Support Services		
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan: welcome@kpwca.org	
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471
Communications		
Herald Newsletter	Terra Wathen	571-425-5703
Herald Advertising	Laura Emden	813-469-3060
Herald Classifieds	Ejona Lika: classified@kpwca.org	
Signboards	Ken Waldrop	703-503-0725
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett: website@kpwca.org	
Membership	Patti Dickerson: membership@kpwca.org	
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
Special Activities		
Easter Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	
Halloween Festival	Vacant	
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	President@KPWCA.ORG
Treasurer	treasurer@KPWCA.ORG

COMMITTEES

Membership	Membership@KPWCA.ORG
Welcome Coordinator	Welcome@KPWCA.ORG
Consumer Affairs	Consumer@KPWCA.ORG
Zoning	Zoning@KPWCA.ORG
B.A.G.G.	BAGG@KPWCA.ORG
Parks & Lakes	Parks@KPWCA.ORG
Signs, St.s, Sidwalks	St.s@KPWCA.ORG
Neighborhood Watch	Watch@KPWCA.ORG
Scholarships	Scholarships@KPWCA.ORG
Neighbor Assistance	NeighborAssist@KPWCA.ORG

HERALD STAFF

Editor	Editor@KPWCA.ORG
Classifieds	Classified@KPWCA.ORG
Advertising	See Below
General Information	Info@KPWCA.ORG
Community Association	KPWHO@Yahoo.com

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the June 18th issue must be received no later than June 1st by Ejona Lika, 9810 Bronte Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or email 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. 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. 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 June 1st, 2016
for delivery on June 18th, 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:
KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION,
P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.

Volunteer Opportunities

*****NEW*** Halloween Festival Coordinator:** Looking for a person or team of people to head our annual Halloween Festival. Please contact Jeanmarie at president@kpwca.org for details.

Membership Chair: Filled! Thank you to Patti Dickerson for taking on such an important role in our community!

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 at parks@kpwca.org and/or sarahgjlennon@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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 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.

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 and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

President's letter continued

I hope you will plan on attending this event for pizza, salad and deserts. So, please mark your calendars, as it is a time to celebrate!

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
Tuesday, May 3 at 6 pm
Laurel Ridge Cafeteria

In closing, spring means more outdoor activities, with children out playing, people jogging and riding bikes, and neighbors crossing streets to chat with friends. Please make a mental note to keep your car speed to 25 MPH or less in the neighborhood and remember to come to a full stop at stop signs. I have heard from several residents about vehicles failing to stop or rolling through the stop, particularly when taking a right turn. Aggressive driving is dangerous.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Volunteer Dinner in May!

Please contact me at president@KPWCA.org with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

**Lord of Life
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A Fun Family Event**



Sat, April 30
1-3pm \$10 per family
5114 Twinbrook Rd.
703 323-5581
Rain or Shine

Local Student Represents Robinson and KPW at Carnegie Hall

In the footsteps of the renowned *High School Honors Performance Series*, the *Middle School Series* showcases the most talented middle school performers from around the world. Through an individual nomination and selection process, accomplished middle school students are brought together in New York City with peers to comprise the *Honors Junior Choir* and *Honors Junior Instrumental Ensemble*. Several days of rehearsal under the direction of our renowned music conductors culminate in a life-changing performance at Carnegie Hall. Carnegie Hall represents excellence in musical performance, making it the perfect venue for the *Honors Performance Series* to showcase its elite student performers.

One of our own KPW residents, a middle school student of Robinson Secondary has been accepted into this highly prestigious honors program. Liam Glenn is proof that FCPS seeks to eliminate 4th grade strings, we as a community should fight to keep it. Liam started the violin in 4th grade and may have not had this opportunity if he hadn't started strings when he did.

The Glenn family has lived in KPW since 2005. They celebrate Liam's musical ability and the fact he has worked very hard through some challenges which include the loss of his sister to complications of Alagille Syndrome in 2012 (who LOVED hearing him play and would dance...he was just starting to learn violin when she passed). Hard work, GREAT music teachers, AYPO and his angel Avery helped get him to Carnegie Hall! Great work, Liam – keep it up!



KPWCA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

When: May 3, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Laurel Ridge Elementary cafeteria

Why: To Thank Our Many Volunteers

Calling all Committee leads, Block Captains and membership, Neighborhood Watch, BAGG, Consumer Affairs, Neighbor Assist, Welcoming, Zoning, Herald staff, Signboards and Signs, Streets, and Sidewalks, Web Admin, Parks & Lakes & Invasive Species & Road Raiders, Scholarship, Halloween Festival, and Easter Egg Hunt volunteers. Come have some pizza, a salad, and dessert. Meet and greet your fellow volunteers from across Kings Park West. You are appreciated for every act, no matter the size, that contributes toward making Kings Park West such a warm and remarkable community to live in. Come, take a break, hear and see the latest and enjoy a dinner with your fellow, volunteer neighbors.



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50+ Community Ambassador Program

Fairfax County has recently begun this program to educate community members of services in Fairfax County available for older adults and their caregivers. Volunteer Ambassadors will help bridge the gap between the community and county resources.

As the current Neighbor Assist coordinator I have decided that this program would further enhance our KPW residents' awareness of resources that could allow them to live in our community longer. So what can I do for you and why may the Ambassador Program help? The simple answer is that I can answer questions about what is available or, if I don't know, I can help you find resources that are available.

Can you find out the same answers that I can? The answer is "Yes". However, the County has found that to search the County's website is not easy and it certainly is not quick. To find resources yourself, I recommend that you call **Fairfax County Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Line (703-324-7948)**. Experienced personnel who answer the phone will assist you. Sometimes they will ask questions and offer help in ways that you did not expect. I recommend this as the most direct and beneficial way to get answers and assistance. I will be here to help, if you need me to assist or just want to talk. My contact is the same as **Neighbor Assist Number (703-401-0275)** or **NeighborAssist@KPWCA.ORG**.

If you still want to search yourself, the best place to start is the County website: **www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults**. However, if your need is immediate, I recommend calling.

The Braddock District Council's Aging in Place Program continues to sponsor a presentation every third Wednesday of the month at 1 P.M. in Braddock Supervisor's office. On April 20th at 1 P.M. the presentation will be "Food Safety" by Fairfax County Inspector. All are welcome.

Green Tubes Finally Gone From Commonwealth Blvd Parks

Well it took a number of weekends to get them all but the last of the green tubes that were an eyesore along Commonwealth Blvd in both Crooked Creek and Kings Park West Parks are now gone. Many thanks to the McCook, DiPietro, and the Gunning families who contributed their time on successive Sundays in March to rid both Crooked Creek (north of Commonwealth), and Kings Park West (south of Commonwealth Blvd) parks of the plastic tubes that had definitely outstayed their welcome. Other volunteers included Lisa Hays, Paul Shannon, Greg Sykes, and Tony Vellucci.

Volunteers received permission from Area 4 Maintenance Manager Mr. Ed Richardson for removal of the tubes who agreed that the tubes had either done their job and given plants a reprieve from deer browse such that they were now self sustainable, or that the plantings were not successful such that in either case, the tubes were no longer necessary and could be removed. Volunteers inspected each tube and where there were sustainable plants or trees, took the time to cut away the tube to protect the plant-life. They found that there were many more plantings that survived in KPW Park than in Crooked Creek Park. They also took the opportunity to remove ground fabric coverings, and to pick up trash that was within easy reach.

The plantings at Lakeside Park were much more successful than either Crooked Creek or KPW parks, and the April 2nd clean up was a great start on removing the green tubes there. Their removal will continue until they are completely gone. Neither the Park Authority, nor the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services use the tubes anymore, relying on traditional wooden stakes.



Successful Park Cleanup

Many thanks to the hardy bunch of neighborhood volunteers who met on April 2 in the rain at Royal Lake, Rabbit Branch Park, and Crooked Creek Park to participate in our semi-annual cleanup of the Parks. Despite the poor weather, there were more than 30 people all told assisting Friends of Royal Lake, including Girl Scout Troop 2321, and Friends of Rabbit Branch Stream Valley. More than 20 enormous bags of trash were pulled from the trails, the stream bed, the stream and lake. A number of tires were removed, as well as a great deal of rusted chunks of metal and wires, in addition to the usual cans, bottles, cardboard and plastic. It boggles the mind that some people think that an acceptable means of disposal is into the woods, gutter, or side of the road. It all runs through the Pohick watershed, eventually to the Potomac River and the Atlantic Ocean. Do a quick Google search for the Atlantic garbage path or Atlantic gyre and see where our community's trash can end up!

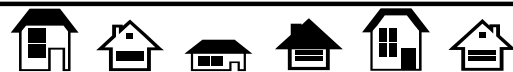


The clean-up was sponsored and organized by the King Park West Civic Association (KPWCA)'s Parks & Lake Committee; our community clean-up was part of the larger parks and streams cleanup in the Braddock District. Thanks to Clean Fairfax for providing gloves and bags. A new feature for this Spring Clean-Up was a raffle at each site with prizes donated by the community. A VERY special thanks to Target, Sun & Moon Yoga, eSteam LLC, University Mall Theatres and the Dixon family for donating gift certificates, gift cards & gift baskets, as well as food and drink!

If you were unable to join in the April clean-up, have no fear! There are quick monthly clean-ups, thanks the KPWCA Road Raiders. On the second Saturday of every month, from 7:30-8:00 am, some section of our community benefits from a targeted "raid" by a band of dedicated residents who trim branches, clean up street debris or trash, clear sidewalks for the benefit of all. Contact Sarah Lennon at sarahjlennon@gmail.com for more information.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



Very Few Homes For Sale ! With only 5 active listings in Kings Park West, buyers don't have a lot to choose from. This doesn't mean that you should overlook home presentation - a well-prepared home will always garner a higher sale price. It's a great time to sell in KPW!

KPW Stats

Ten KPW homes have already sold thus far in 2016, and 8 more are under contract.

Buyers are out, so it's a great time to sell!

Average List Price
\$529,928

Average Sold Price
\$521,154

Model	Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price
Cromwell	Sold	5209 Pumphrey Dr	\$559,000	\$538,800
Cromwell	Under Contract	5207 Pimlico Ct	\$525,000	
Duchess	Sold	4905 Wheatstone	\$605,000	\$600,000
Duchess (addition)	Under Contract	10204 Bessmer Ln	\$610,000	
Duke	Under Contract	5201 Ellington Ct	\$529,000	
Essex	Under Contract	4809 Allenby Rd	\$539,000	
King	Sold	5124 Swift Ct	\$549,900	\$549,900
King	Under Contract	9702 Commonwealth Blvd	\$494,900	
Prince	Sold	10198 Bessmer Ln	\$535,000	\$518,600
Prince	Sold	5352 Guinea Rd	\$499,000	\$441,835
Prince	Sold	4916 Wycliff Ln	\$515,000	\$508,000
Queen	Sold	5080 Coleridge Dr	\$550,000	\$535,000
Queen	Sold	10012 Raeburn Ct	\$555,000	\$543,000
Queen	Under Contract	10194 Wavell Rd	\$465,000	
Regent	Sold	5350 Gainsborough Dr	\$548,000	\$525,400
Regent	Under Contract	5391 Gainsborough Dr	\$524,900	
York basement	Under Contract	10423 Collingham Dr	\$485,000	
York no bsmt	Sold	10435 Collingham Dr	\$450,000	\$451,000

DPWES Provides Brief On Royal Lake Health and Mussel Rescue Party Needs, By Friends of Royal Lake

On April 6th 2016, Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) representative Christopher Ruck provided an ecological overview of Royal Lake, the impacts of dredging operations to surrounding wildlife, and the need for volunteers from the community to save as much aquatic wildlife as possible - specifically fresh water mussels. Members of the Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC) and Friends of Woodglen Lake (FOWL), as well as residents from the communities of Kings Park West, Lakepointe and Bonnie Brae attended the two-hour meeting which was held at Oak View Elementary School.



The presentation provided data on lake oxygenation levels revealing that the greatest amount of aquatic life is about 1.5 meters below the surface, which should also be the location of where the greatest density of Royal Lake fresh water mussels will be found. Freshwater mussels are an essential component of our rivers and streams and by their siphoning action, are one of the few animals that improve water quality.

Mr. Ruck provided an overview of the two fresh water mussel species expected to be found noting lessons learned from the dredging of Huntsman and Woodglen Lakes. The two species expected to be seen and relocated are the Eastern Floater (*Pyganodon cataracta*) and the Paper Pondshell (*Utterbackia imbecillis*). These 'can' be found in streams, but are more successful in slow-water environments.

Having received conditional support from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries state malacologist to relocate the mussels to other bodies of water in the Pohick Watershed, he is now working on obtaining the necessary state permits authorizing the relocation. DPWES may also investigate if Royal Lake mussels can be transported to the Accotink Watershed - specifically Lake Accotink Park.

DPWES anticipates an additional electro-fishing event on Thursday April 28th 2016 between 10:00 AM and 2:00PM for the relocation of as many fish as possible to area lakes prior to the drawdown of the lake; the rain date is May 2nd. Electro-fishing puts an electrical current into the water that briefly stuns the fish allowing them to float to the surface where they are captured by nets. DPWES invites the community to come out to see and learn more about the operation. DPWES conducted electro-fishing at Royal Lake in October 2015.

A Pardon Our Dust meeting will be held at Laurel Ridge Elementary School on May 9th at 7:00 PM.

Lake drawdown activities will begin as soon as the electro-fishing is complete. Thus, drawdown can start as early as April 29th, or May 3rd, if the May 2nd rain date is exercised. Given the draw down of the lake at about six inches per day, the location of the mussels, and the fact that any rain storm will add water to the lake, there is no way to know now when to schedule the mussel rescue party.

While it would be convenient to schedule the rescue party for a Saturday morning, the reality is that it will most likely occur sometime during the week necessitating an effort after normal working hours. Consequently, DPWES ecologists will monitor the many variables and then put out a call through as many outreach channels as possible for maximum exposure to the greatest number of volunteers.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email to Friends of Royal Lake so that you can be put on an email list and notified: friendsofroyallake@gmail.com. Once DPWES identifies a window for the Mussel Rescue Party, they will communicate that to Friends of Royal Lake and other friends groups who will then alert their members seeking as many volunteers as possible.

Volunteers need to bring gloves and five gallon buckets in which to place the mussels for transport. A DPWES rep will be at Royal Lake directing operations and also at the destination lake - whether Woodglen Lake or Lake Barton to direct volunteer activities. Of key importance is to ensure that only native species are relocated, and that all invasive species, such as Asiatic clams, are left behind so that they are destroyed through the dredging process. Handouts will be available for mussel recognition.

Also, DPWES will use this opportunity to attempt a pilot program of re-introducing mussels from Royal Lake to Pohick Watershed streams where DPWES has already completed stream restoration projects. One such location will be the Rabbit Branch tributary behind DeQuincey Drive.

For more information on fresh water mussels, their importance to the environment, and the rich diversity of fresh water mussels found in the United States as compared to other parts of the world, see <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/freshwater-mussels.asp>

The Herald's List

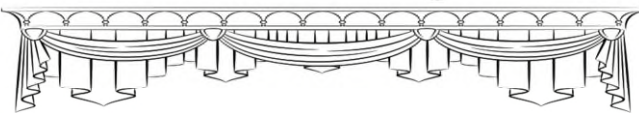
by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

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

Recommendations From Your KPW Neighbors



Window Treatments

Next Day Blinds
www.nextdayblinds.com

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www.snydersshades.com

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(703) 239-9000
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www.cci-screenprinting.com

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(800) 293-4232
www.customink.com

Sundog Productions
(703) 978.0041
www.sunpup.com



The Shepard's Center Programs

LUNCH N' LIFE: Are You 50 or Better? Please join us for the next *Lunch N' Life* sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, May 19, 2016 (12:00-2:00 p.m.) at *Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax*. The guest speaker will be Don Hakenson, historian and author, speaking on the *Civil War in Fairfax County*. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry at [703-620-0161](tel:703-620-0161), by May 13th. The cost is \$10.00; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office [\(703\) 323-4788](tel:703-323-4788). See www.scfbva.org for more information. If you paid for January's LNL, which was cancelled due to snow, please call to confirm your reservation for March.

ADVENTURES IN LEARNING - Spring 2016 Every Monday for 6 weeks, *April 4, 2016 – May 9, 2016* (8:30 AM – 2:45 PM) start with gentle exercise, followed by speakers on topics such as health, history, community, personal development, finance, and more. Afternoon breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. *Bring a brown bag lunch.*

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax, VA 22032 providing space and hosting this series of classes. The cost is \$30 for 6 weeks (Mondays). To register, please call the office at [703-426-2824](tel:703-426-2824), or go to our website and print the registration form and class schedule: www.scfbva.org.

DEMENTIA CARE GIVERS SUPPORT GROUP sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke will be on April 12th (*2nd Tuesday*) at Noon - 1:30 pm at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The group is for those caring for someone with dementia or interested in learning more about providing care giving to a person with a disorder that affects memory and cognition and may impact behavior and physical abilities. *Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson* at [703-451-8626](tel:703-451-8626) or Eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

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Date: Sometime early May

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Location: Royal Lake

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Pardon Our Dust Meeting

Royal Lake Dredging

Monday May 9th 7:00 PM

Laurel Ridge Elementary School

KPWCA Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

When: May 3, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Where: Laurel Ridge Elementary cafeteria

Why: To Thank Our Many Volunteers

The Church of the Good Shepherd Concert

Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 6 p.m.

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So What's Wrong With Encroachment?

Well, it's Springtime; flowers are blooming and folks are out and about sprucing up their yards. It's also that time of year where Park Authority personnel start to see something more menacing going on – encroachment activities on the part of what would otherwise be normal law abiding citizens.

Now what would you think if your neighbor came onto your property without your permission to put up his new shed in your backyard, or if he started taking down trees on your property so he could get a better view of the lake, or if he decided to dump his grass clippings on your side of the fence rather than put them out for yard waste removal? What if he wanted to plant his garden on your property without your permission? Or maybe he moved his fence onto your property so he could have more space for himself. Would you allow him to do that? Or would you most likely take the initiative to curb his actions by calling the police and in some cases, even seek damages. Would you consider that neighbor to be a good neighbor given his/her lack of lack of courtesy and respect for your property?

Well, each day, not only in Kings Park West, but in many communities across the county, multiple instances of this occur as homeowners adjacent to parkland think nothing at all of doing all of the above – and more. And while many would never think of dumping their grass clipping over the fence in their neighbor's backyard, cutting down one of their neighbor's trees, or putting up a fence or a shed on their neighbor's property, they don't give a second thought to doing just that on parkland.

The Fairfax County Park Authority is the single largest landowner in the county and strives to be a responsible property owner and steward of public land. But it needs the help of all its citizens to succeed in that endeavor. Most county residents who adjoin public lands abide by established property boundaries, being good stewards of both their private property and public land, but some do not.

Report encroachment on parkland by contacting the Park Authority at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. When made aware of encroachment activities, the Park Authority seeks voluntary compliance from violators, encouraging adjoining property owners to respect legal property boundaries.

Get off the Couch

A Roundup of Family Friendly Weekend Events Around the Region

April 23 - 24

Virginia Touch-a-Truck

Big rigs, fire engines, cement mixers and more! Kids of all ages will have a chance to climb on and in big trucks and service vehicles. Saturday only, 10am-3pm. The first hour is a "horn free". Ages 13 months and older \$5. First 300 kids receive a free die-cast vehicle. At Dominion High School 21326 Augusta Drive, Sterling, VA. www.virginiatouchatruck.com

Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival

Dozens of events take place during the festival running through May 1st. It kicks off with the Bloomin' Wine Fest, and includes a carnival with midway and other events. Prices vary. Carnival is open noon-11pm Saturday, noon-10pm Sunday. In Winchester, VA. www.thebloom.com/

April 30 – May 1

Ballet: Day on the Ranch & Les Jeunes Filles

The Classical Ballet Theatre presents its Children's Series performances of two *Day on the Ranch & Les Jeunes Filles*. A great way to introduce youngsters to ballet with short (one hour total) performances. Saturday 2pm and 4pm, Sunday 12pm, 2pm and 4pm. Tickets \$10. At the Ernst Theatre on the NOVA campus. www.cbtnva.org/childrenseries

Cinco de Mayo Festival

The National Cinco de Mayo Festival, hosted by the Maru Montero Dance Company, is a music filled event celebrating Mexican and Latin American culture. There will be dancing, children's crafts, food and fun. Noon-5pm, Sunday only. At the base of the Washington Monument. *FREE* www.marumontero.com

May 7-8

Shortcut to Europe Embassy Tour

The member nations of the European Union open their doors during Passport DC. Enjoy dance, food, film, and art of 28 European countries, including Portugal, The United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Poland, and Greece. Even little Luxembourg gets its day in the sun. Saturday only 10am-4pm. *FREE* Throughout NW Washington. (It's recommended that you bring a government issued ID). culturaltourismdc.org

Spring Farm Day

Visit Frying Pan Farm Park for a day out on the farm. Milk a cow! Milk a goat! Meet baby animals! There will also be crafts, games, and fair-type food. Saturday only 10am-3pm, \$7 in advance, \$8 at the gate. Kids under two free. fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/

Taste of Arlington

The Ballston neighborhood of Arlington hosts the annual Taste of Arlington food festival. There will be food vendors, kids' zone, beer and wine garden, and new this year, a Bark Park with a pop-up off leash dog park for your little buddy. Admission the festival is *FREE* but there is a charge for vendors and some attractions. Saturday only, noon-5pm. On Wilson Blvd in Arlington, VA. ballstonbid.com/taste/

May 21-22

Fiesta Asia

Held in honor of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, this street fair encourages visitors to explore and enjoy different cultural experiences. Asian-Pacific culture. Held in DC along Pennsylvania Ave vendors, performers, martial artists and more will be on hand. Saturday only 10am-7pm. *FREE* fiestaasia.org.

Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason this month:

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

June 4: Selena Gomez revival tour

May & June: It's Graduation time!

Center for the Arts: www.cfa.gmu.edu

May 8: Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Musical Pictures*

Johnson Center:

<https://www2.gmu.edu/today-mason#/?i=6>

Friday, June 17 6-9 PM: Final Four 10th Anniversary Celebration with Mason's Final Four team

Summer Camps: <http://summercamps.gmu.edu/>

Featured Activity: Your Neighborhood Pools!

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<http://www.csc-cudas.com/>; <http://www.lakeviewmarlins.com/>; or <http://krswim.org/>



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Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer Drivers are needed for trips (Monday - Friday) to medical appointments and Companion Shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Office Workers are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday - Friday) of individuals requesting rides and match an available driver for each request. If you can volunteer your time, please contact the SCFB office at [703-323-4788](tel:703-323-4788)



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The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke (SCFB) is a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enriching the lives of older adults in the Fairfax-Burke community. Below are the suggested text for publicizing the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke activities.

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**Park Authority Considers
Renaming of Royal Lake Parks**

What do Lakeside Park, Royal Lake Park, Pohick Stream Valley Park and Kings Park West Park all have in common? They are names for parks that either touch, or contain streams that feed into Royal Lake.

Having so many names for what is collectively known as Royal Lake Park is not only confusing for area residents, but also for Park Authority personnel as well. Consequently, the Park Authority is considering renaming the entire area as Royal Lake Park and wants to gauge community support.

Royal Lake Park would extend from Commonwealth Blvd south to Guinea Road, and from Roberts Road east to Pommeroy Drive. The designations of Pohick Stream Valley Park and Kings Park West Park would no longer be used. There are currently no Park Authority signs in the community that identify these parks. Lakeside Park, because it is established and is signed as such would remain as is, comprising the parking lot, playground area, open play area and baseball/soccer fields.

The Park Authority is asking that residents let them know their thoughts on this proposal. Send an email to Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

A description of the park lands that would be designated as Royal Lake Park are contained below. The county website icare.fairfaxcounty.gov can be used to visualize and obtain additional information on each parcel.

Map Number	Land Acreage
0693 05 C	52.499

This parcel comprises parkland that extends from Commonwealth Blvd to roughly the intersections of Pommeroy and Richardson Drives. It contains Rabbit Branch Stream Valley, includes both Kings Park West Park and Lakeside Park, and the northern part of Royal Lake.

0781 03 Q	46.2092
------------------	----------------

This parcel is contiguous to 0693 05 C and comprises parkland that extends from Commonwealth Blvd to roughly the intersections of Pommeroy and Richardson Drives. It includes Royal Lake Park and the central and western parts of Royal Lake.

0772 04 A / 0772 03 C / 0781 01 0002B / 0781 01 0002C / 0781 01 0003A

These five parcels are of various sizes (1.0336 , 2.6766, 2.2, 4.2727, 6.5589, respectively) and are just south of Map # 0781 03Q; and are a part of Pohick Stream Valley Park. Parcels 0002C and 0003A extend to Guinea Road.

0684 08 B	22.150
------------------	---------------

This parcel extends to the west to Roberts Road, contains Shane’s Creek and includes Pohick Stream Valley Park.

**Park Authority To Replace Wooden Bridge In
Pohick Stream Valley Park**

The heavy rains experienced by the region on February 23rd caused significant flooding and washed away a wooden bridge in Pohick Stream Valley Park near the intersection of Gainsborough Drive and Claridge Court. The park entrance is not marked but is used extensively by the community to access a path that leads to Royal Lake.

At first, Park Authority personnel anticipated removing the bridge and culvert pipe entirely and cutting a path behind the property at 5302 Gainsborough Drive to access another bridge further down the trail, however that approach failed to recognize the significant amount of Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteer time and effort that had been spent on that area. Mr. Greg Sykes, one of two IMA Coordinators for Royal Lake Park noted that a new trail would be counterproductive to all of the work that volunteers and FCPA IMA supervisors had invested in stabilizing the land.

“This newly proposed trail area is very sensitive between the before mentioned erosion and a natural seep, now called the Fern Gully. My volunteers and I have held two major IMA workdays in this area. Due to the site’s fragility, each IMA work session involved a weed pull followed immediately by a native planting within the same weekend. The plant species selected here were specifically chosen to prevent erosion and preserve the land. Realizing that the water is undercutting large tree roots, some of the restoration plant species are ones that form mats and/or send roots from branches contacting the soil. These complex root structures will blanket the banks instead of falling in and washing away.”

Park Authority representatives from Park Operations and the Resource Management Division examined the site on March 30th. They agreed with Mr. Sykes and abandoned the idea of cutting a new trail. Mr. Ed Richardson, Area Manager for Pohick Stream Valley Park, noted: “I feel it would work against the best interests of the Park Authority to further disturb the IMA site. We need to respect the contributions made by volunteers here.”

Mr. Richardson proposes to use the corrugated metal culvert as the stream crossing. To hold stone and gravel in place atop of the culvert, everything will be cemented together. The Park Authority hopes to have this accomplished within the next six to eight weeks.


In the meantime, there is evidence of at least two places along the seep/Fern Gully where sensitive plants are getting crushed by park patrons walking around the closed bridge and not hopping across the washed out culvert. Use of an alternate park entrance located around the corner on Dundalk Drive will protect the Fern Gully from any further disruption, and recognize the work efforts of KPW IMA volunteers.

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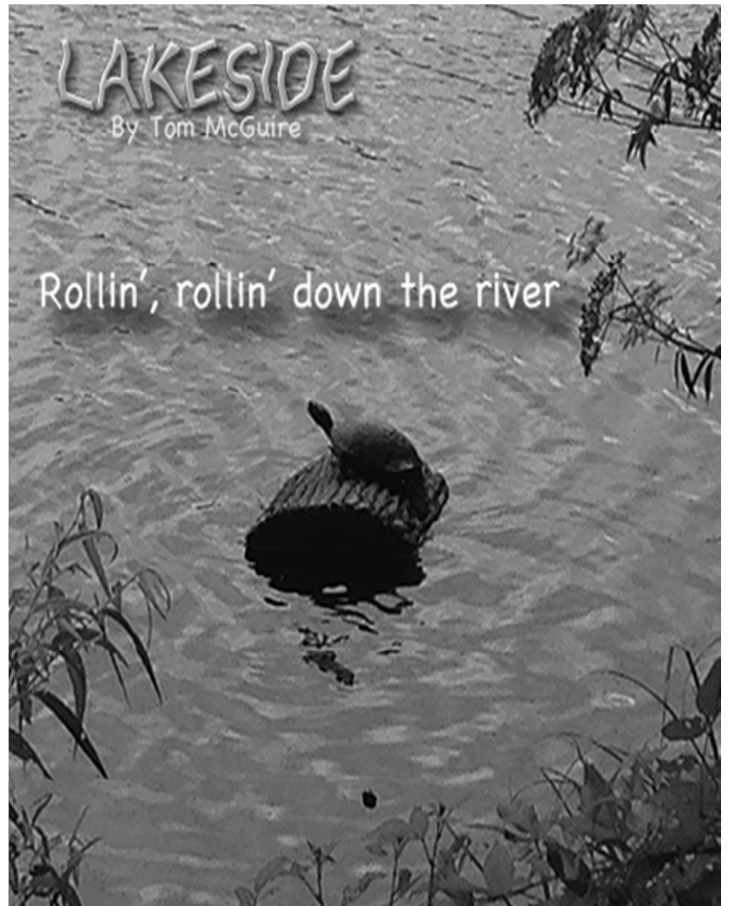


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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

by President Larry Velte

The Kings Park West Community Association is a homeowners association (HOA) organized under the Virginia Property Owners Association Act, and includes homes in the western part of KPW, specifically sections 16 to 22. Unlike the KPW Civic Association, HOA membership is not voluntary, but is a condition of property ownership in those five sections. The Community Association’s 2016 annual membership meeting will be held at 7:30 pm on Wednesday, May 18th in the CSS Program Multi-Purpose Room at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. HOA members should have recently received 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. The meeting notification letter included a proxy form. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please be sure to fill out the proxy form and send it back in the envelope provided. The proxy can be revoked if you subsequently decide to attend in person.

Agenda items will include an update on our activities over the past year, and presentation and discussion of the 2016-2017 budget. The agenda is not a closed one, and members are free to bring up other issues as desired. One very important piece of business will be the election of three members of the Association’s seven-person Board of Directors. Candidates must be members of the Community Association and willing to serve three year terms. It benefits us all if the Board periodically gets “new blood”, so this election is particularly important. Board members attend the monthly Board of Directors meeting, fill officer positions, determine Association policies, interact with homeowner/members, and carry out HOA responsibilities such as architectural review and inspection of the common areas. Serving on the Board is not a major time commitment. 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.

Invasive Species Profile: Periwinkle (*Vinca minor*)

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: Japan, northern China

U.S. Introduction: undocumented

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; cover with black tarp for several months until completely dead

Good Alternative Species: Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*)

Comments:

Hot on the heels of last month’s article about [periwinkle](#), this Eco-Article installment examines another common, non-native invasive groundcover: Japanese pachysandra. Imported from eastern Asia, pachysandra found favorable growth conditions in America. The garden trade successfully marketed this plant as an easy-to-grow groundcover and from there its popularity soared. These days, people seem to plop pachysandra down anywhere they want a prosaic gardening solution. It forms a thick, leafy mat that smothers other herbaceous plants and seedlings so the end result is a monoculture pachysandra bed.

Some advertising ploys claim that pachysandra is great because it “naturalizes.” That is their nice way of saying it is invasive and grows outside of where it is planted. People often confuse “naturalize” with “native,” the latter referring to a species that occurs within a naturally extended range. The severity of pachysandra’s invasive inclinations, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region, is gaining recognition. It primarily enters woodlands by:

- 1) being pulled from gardens and illegally dumped into natural areas; parts of it survive, take root, and multiply.
- 2) expanding across private property lines and into parkland.
- 3) pieces of it breaking off, getting carried by water, and rooting after landing on suitable ground.

Volutella pachysandrae, a fungal leaf blight infecting pachysandra, inadequately controls this weed’s expansion. To manage pachysandra in parklands, the Fairfax County Park Authority’s (FCPA) Invasive Management Area (IMA) program recruits volunteers. The best way to get rid of this weed is by hand-pulling it with a garden knife or similar tool. Although the roots remain close to the surface, some tenacious ones are inevitably left behind. To remove any new sprouts, volunteers monitor IMA sites for years after the initial completion. Covering the entire patch with black tarp and solar-baking the plot for several months is another method folks can try, but it also requires subsequent monitoring. Private landowners considering herbicides for their pachysandra beds usually find the previous discussed physical control methods are both more effective against waxy-leafed plants and environmentally healthier.



Figure 1. Japanese pachysandra keeps its leaves throughout the year. The creamy blossoms seen here emerge in March.

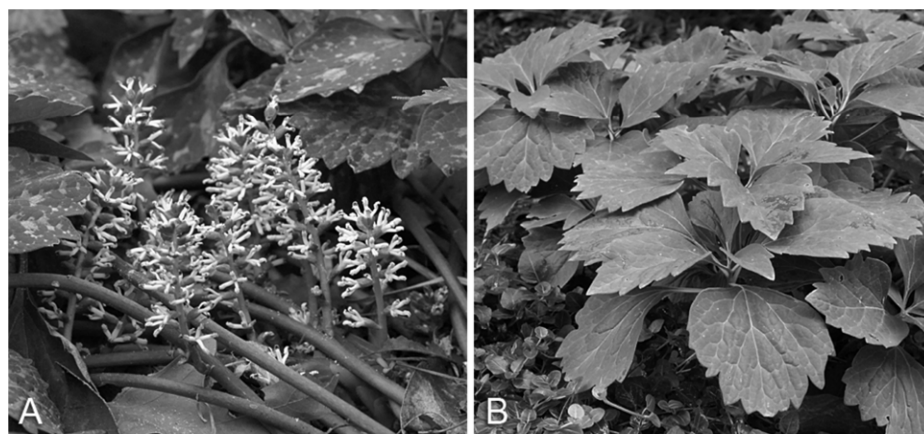


Figure 2. Allegheny spurge’s unusually shaped flowers (A) open along stalks that originate from the base of the stems. During its early spring blossoming season, new leaves develop. The broad foliage (B) remains vibrant much of the year.

While pachysandra is sometimes used as a hackneyed and inefficient erosion controller, alternative native plants do a far better job at securing the soil. Some native species good at gripping the ground and providing verdant cover include green and golds (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), Robin’s plantain (*Erigeron pulchellus*), and low phloxes. Consider incorporating rhizomatous ferns, such as New York fern (*Thelypteris noveboracensis*), which unfurls its fronds later after the previously listed plants finish their springtime blooms.

continued on page 21

For an ever better aesthetic appeal and root complexity, include some hardy clumping plants, like golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) and Jacob's ladder (*Polemonium reptans*). Folks fond of pachysandra's foliage but not its invasive tendencies could try Allegheny spurge (*Pachysandra procumbens*). Unlike the rapidly spreading Asian import, this pachysandra forms controllable clumps. Allegheny spurge is native mostly to southeastern and some Mid-Atlantic states but not Virginia.

Would you like to help eradicate Japanese pachysandra and other non-native invasive species from local parks? Please contact me about future workdays. See you in the field!

Learn more about pachysandra:

<http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3058>

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/japanese-pachysandra.pdf

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010261.pdf

<http://wildones.org/download/invasivehorizon/invhorizonmarapr09.pdf>

<http://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/groundcover/pachysandra/pachysandra-weed-control.htm>

* * * * *

For the full article, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to:
www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/66_2016-04.pdf.



UPDATE: Friends of Royal Lake Exercise Equipment Project — By Friends of Royal Lake

The Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) met in late March with several Park Authority staff at Royal Lake to discuss outdoor fitness equipment selection, cost, and location. The contractor's cost estimate exceeded FORL's budget by \$10K, which prompted serious discussion on why the cost estimate was so high, and what could be done to meet the cost and still provide the originally envisioned equipment set.

Why was the gap so large when FORL complied with FCPA's cost estimating guidance (50% for installation, etc.)? One issue was the signs required for each item. Although not essential for the use of the equipment, the Park Authority accepts the recommended installation of the signs to protect Fairfax County taxpayers from improper equipment use that could then expose the county to civil suit. As this is FCPA's requirement, they agreed to pay for it.

The second issue was the required ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials, International) standards for lumber and ground covering for each item. Park Authority personnel based their initial planning factors on playground equipment, however planning factors for outdoor fitness equipment differ and since this will be one of the first outdoor fitness equipment installations in the county, the playground planning factor had been used.

FORL and FCPA are now looking to reduce costs by combining some exercise stations which would reduce material costs and labor. Other issues still being addressed are removal of existing equipment by the Boy Scouts (June) and specific equipment locations where no equipment currently exists, but which is outside of the RPA constrained areas.

In sum, significant progress was made last week and the Community should expect to see progress in late Spring, beginning with the removal of the remaining equipment. Some of the equipment items will be replaced, while other locations will not be used.

But as noted above, more is needed to make this a reality. While the Park Authority has committed to specific funding levels, additional funding by the community will enable the originally envisioned equipment set to be procured and installed. Make an investment in your community. In your neighborhood, in your health, and that of the next generation. Consider donating to the Fairfax County Park Foundation to support this needed improvement. This is an investment in our future.

If you have questions, please email 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. All contributions are tax deductible and will be matched 100% by FCPA's Mastenbrook grant program.

Mail to: Fairfax County Park Foundation
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THE GARDEN CORNER

Early settlers in Northern Virginia looked forward to spring after a long, cold winter. Most of the settlers were “planters,” but many were just gardeners, much like you and I. Thomas Jefferson loved to grow a garden and chronicled his gardening exploits, which can now be found in his “Garden Book.” He planned and worked with his family in his garden and left us a book of interesting insights into his gardening techniques. I encourage you to involve the entire family as Thomas Jefferson did. Keep your garden journal indicating when, where, what and how much you plant and harvest.

As I mentioned in the last “The Garden Corner” article, in Thomas Jefferson’s day people got the seeds and plants for their garden each year from friends and neighbors in a seed and plant swap. For those of you that would like to participate in a seed and plant swap, send an email to the garden corner at TheFairfaxGardenCorner@gmail.com, indicating the seeds and/or plants you would like to receive 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. A very conservative list of plants that should not be shared is posted here http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/22_2010-05.pdf. On the other hand, excellent specimens along with resources for even more viable options are in the recently published article from January 2016 http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/64_2016-01.pdf.

So spring has sprung and it is time to plant your family garden. If you are new to the gardening experience, you probably have many questions. Answers to any questions are available on line. It is always best to get more than one opinion, since the answers found online are of varying degrees of accuracy.

Your first question should probably be: “Is my soil adequate for a garden?” Generally, the soil in Northern Virginia is high in clay and needs to be improved in order to be ready for a garden. To improve clay soil you will need to add compost, possibly some lime to break down the clay, and a good organic fertilizer.

Your next question might be: “What should I plant?” My suggestions are to plant those plants that: 1) you enjoy watching grow; 2) your family enjoys eating; or 3) are suited for growing in Northern Virginia (Zone 7a).

Your third question might be: “When should I plant?” Most vegetable crops are planted in accordance with the prevailing temperatures in the area. Most often the most important consideration is the average “last frost” date. In Fairfax County the last frost date generally occurs around April 15. Root crops are the first plants you should plant in your vegetable garden in the spring. So if you are going to plant root crops, such as carrots, beets, potatoes, turnips, onions, or radishes, you may sow them directly in your garden as early as March 30 and, in order to have fresh vegetables ready for your table for a longer period of time, sow additional crops as late as May 20.

If you want to plant leaf vegetables that grow best in cool temperatures, such as Swiss chards, spinach, mustard greens, or turnip greens, you can use the same procedures and timing used for root crops.

Many other popular garden vegetables, such as tomatoes, eggplant, zucchini, peppers, beans and cucumbers require warmer temperatures and are planted as early as May or as late as June for a spring and summer garden. Some plants such as tomatoes and peppers often suffer from a magnesium deficiency, if the soil has not been appropriately improved and can benefit from adding a little Epsom salts to soil at planting time.

So have you started your garden yet? For those of you that would like to participate in the plant and seed swap, I have some rooted goji berry bushes and maybe some Apache thornless blackberry bush cuttings that I can trade for something interesting for my garden. Send your emails to TheFairfaxGardenCorner@gmail.com.

In the next Garden Corner I hope to provide some interesting and fun ways to improve your garden. Would you like to encourage worms to improve your garden soil? Want to create your own compost from kitchen scraps in an urban setting? Read the next issue of the Herald.

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