



The HERALD

August 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 5

Kings Park West Civic Association

KPWCA President Letter August 2015

Greetings! I hope the summer months have been relaxing and enjoyable.

The Best of Braddock Awards were presented on July 8th at the Braddock District Council picnic. Congratulations to Jonathan McCarty, son of Steve and Shawn McCarty, who received the Young Person of the Year award! As part of Jonathan's Eagle Scout project (Boy Scout Troop 1115), he and his group of volunteers completed a trail improvement in Accotink Park by digging a ditch by hand to reduce standing water on the lake trail after rainstorms.

Also receiving an award for Neighborhood Enhancement or Beautification in the Braddock District were the members of the Commonwealth Swim Club for enhancements to the swim club property. We are very fortunate they have such talented people willing to give of their time to improve the community.

Our National Night Out event, scheduled for August 4th, had to be cancelled because of severe thunderstorms. This is a new civic association sponsored activity to recognize the importance of our Neighborhood Watch program. We hope to host this event again next year. In the meantime, thank you to all our volunteers!

KPWCA members of our archery club have been successful in hunting and capturing fawns in both Crooked Creek and Kings Park West parks this year, as part of the on-going effort to control the deer population in the county. Since the archery program is new to neighborhood, a presentation will be provided by Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist, and Sgt. Earit Powel, Program Manager, at the KPWCA Annual Membership Meeting to be held on **October 6th at 7 pm at Robinson Secondary School, Recital Hall**. We will also be electing the At-Large board positions, presenting the 2016 budget and reviewing the proposed by-law amendments.

Please contact me at president@KPWCA.org with any questions, suggestions, or comments. Enjoy the summer!

Best Regards, Jeanmarie Roberson

Community Calendar

Herald Delivery.....	Aug 22
CAC.....	Sep 01
Labor Day.....	Sep 07
First Day of School.....	Sep 08
Herald Deadline.....	Sep 09
Braddock District Council.....	Sep 09
Rosh Hashanah.....	Sep 14
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Sep 15
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	Sep 22
Yom Kippur.....	Sep 23
Herald Delivery.....	Sep 26

In this Issue:

- Curious to see how your annual \$20 membership fee and other generous donations are spent? The budget is in! See pages 6 and 7; proposed changes to the budget are always welcome!
- Changes are coming to the Kings Park West By-Law Amendments, and **we need your vote!** See page 8 for more information and plan on attending our October 6th membership meeting.
- Neighbor Assist tips and programs are in full swing. See pages 12 and 14, and get involved!

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	Joan Pascaleff	703-764-9571
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan: welcome@kpwca.org	
Zoning, Code, Safety	Vacant	
Communications		
Herald Newsletter	Terra Wathen	571-425-5703
Herald Advertising	Laura Emden	813-469-3060
Herald Classifieds	Huisuk Lineer	703-503-5070
Signboards	Ken Waldrop	703-503-0725
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett: website@kpwca.org	
Membership	Sylvia Gladd	703-978-1940
NW Captain	Vacant	
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	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**

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.

Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

OFFICERS

President	President@KPWCA.ORG
Treasurer	treasurer@KPWCA.ORG

COMMITTEES

Membership	Membership@KPWCA.ORG
Welcome Coordinator	Welcome@KPWCA.ORG">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 September 26th issue must be received no later than September 9th by Huisuk Lineer, 4955 Gainsborough 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 Laura Emden, 5202 Ellington Ct., Fairfax, VA 22032 or email to laura@emden.us. Contact Laura 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.

The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is September 9th, 2015

for delivery on September 26th, 2015

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

Membership Committee. Seeking several volunteers to help during the membership drive in October with data entry. Also seeking the volunteers to assist in coordination with block captains. Duties are clear and concise - any time that you can give would be very welcome!! Contact Sylvia at membership@kpwca.org.

***High Priority* Neighborhood Watch Captain, 10 hours per month.** Responsible for the operations of the KPW Neighborhood Watch program. Detailed description on page 4. Contact Steve at stephenmccarty@cox.net.

***High Priority* 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 703-425-3622.

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 sarahjlennon@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.



Volunteer Spotlight: Fairfax County Police Department

by Frank Cumberland

In the early-evening hours of June 23, 2015, thunderstorms were forecast for Fairfax County and much of the Washington metropolitan area. We had had some wicked thunderstorms over the course of the previous week, and it looked like we were in for some real boomers this Tuesday evening. The storms of June 23rd were no minor events. These were monster thunderstorms.

At approximately 7:20 pm, I made a video of the storm's sideways rain, blowing southward in violent gusts down Gainsborough Drive. A few minutes later, I made another video—from the same spot in my front doorway—and the rain was blasting to the *north* at even greater speed! My nephew Dominic, a meteorologist, watched my videos and described the phenomenon as a “gate-to-gate wind shear.” This cross-cutting wind is a tree-chopper, and

can turn oak trees into kindling wood in seconds.

Trees all around Kings Park West began to topple, snap, and lose major limbs. The power went out. At this moment, when many homes in our neighborhood lost power and trees felled power lines near KPW, the Fairfax County Police leapt into action. Near University Mall on Ox Road, I saw Fairfax County Police blocking the road and placing yellow tape around the area where a power line had been knocked down. It is a very good thing that our local police reacted so quickly to this situation.

Likewise, on Twinbrook Road next to Safeway, another fallen tree had knocked a power line to the ground. Again, an extremely dangerous situation—and again, it seems that the Fairfax County Police had responded to danger almost *immediately*, blocking the road to all traffic, surrounding the area with yellow tape, and preventing the potential death or injury of a curious resident or bystander.

Considering the size of Fairfax County and the size of this line of violent storms, I was amazed at the speed of the police response, the rapid way they cordoned-off dangerous areas, and their pure competence. It was very clear to me, based on my military experience, that our law enforcement professionals had trained extensively to respond to this kind of situation. They were *ready*.

They did an incredible job in a very dangerous situation, and they provided protection for all of us. For their great work the evening of Tuesday, June 23, 2015, we recognize the emergency response of the Fairfax County Police Department, and thank them for their outstanding work in our community.



Block Captain Spotlight



A Shout out to **ALL** of the KPWCA Block Captains!
Block Captains are special volunteers in our community.

Thank you for your commitment to our wonderful neighborhood! You pull it together – you make it work – you help to make Kings Park West feel like family.

Thank You!!

REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy

Overall, the real estate market remains strong in Northern Virginia with interest rates remaining low. However, the inventory of available homes is not as large as it was earlier this year. And compared to last year at this time, average days on market has increased slightly. Sellers should always pay close attention to real estate presentations and seek an agent with options to maximize your home's appeal to potential buyers. And don't hesitate to interview several agents before finalizing your choice!

50 KPW homes have sold so far in 2015:

Model	#	Average Close Price	DOMP
Baron	8	\$640,563	19
Cromwell	2	\$466,000	14
Duchess	4	\$530,956	19
Duke	8	\$487,375	56
King	4	\$542,643	57
Prince	6	\$491,367	49
Queen	8	\$529,738	36
Regent	7	\$577,995	18
York w/o Basement	2	\$441,944	29

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The KPWCA FY 2016 Budget

By Jonathan Reiser –Treasurer

We have submitted the proposed KPWCA budget for Fiscal Year 2016. The first column of the budget shows the estimated actual figures for FY 2015 (this year ending 30 September 2015); the second column shows the budget (as accepted by the members) for FY 2015; and the third, the proposed budget for FY 2016.

Members who wish to propose changes to this budget are urged to attend the September general membership meeting. Board members will be available to answer questions.

The Member Directory is printed every other year—FY 2015 was that year. So the amounts for the income (ad revenue) and expense (printing) categories for the Member Directory for FY2016 are both zero.

The budget amounts for certain categories—those which appear on the membership form as optional donations--will be automatically restricted at the beginning of the next fiscal year (October 1, 2015). If and when optional donations are received (and none are presumed), the amounts therefrom are added to the total for the restricted accounts.

Optional donations totaled \$14,182 this year. Thank you for your generosity.

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Kings Park West Civic Association FY2016 Notional Budget

REVENUE	FY15		FY15 BUDGET	FY16 BUDGET
	Est thru 30 Sept			
Membership Dues 1038 x 20	\$	20,760.00	\$ 20,880.00	\$ 20,760.00
Directory Ads	\$	500.00	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Newsletter Subscriptions	\$	100.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 200.00
Herald Classified Ads	\$	950.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00
Herald Display Ads	\$	10,500.00	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 11,000.00
Total INCOME	\$	32,810.00	\$ 34,030.00	\$ 32,910.00
EXPENSES				
Admin & Misc Expenses:Association dues	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Bank Charge	\$	43.00	\$ 60.00	\$ 50.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Insurance	\$	2,615.00	\$ 2,150.00	\$ 2,700.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Other Admin & Misc Expenses	\$	150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 150.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:PayPal Fees	\$	80.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 80.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:State Corporate Registration	\$	25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Tax Prep & Filing Fees	\$	545.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 550.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Utilities	\$	175.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	\$	320.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
TOTAL ADMIN & MISC EXPENSES		\$4,053.00	\$3,690.00	\$4,255.00
Common Area Maintenance:Area Contract Maintenance	\$	2,500.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
Common Area Maintenance:BAGG Expenses	\$	400.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Common Area Maintenance:Parks & Lakes Maintenance	\$	50.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL COMMON AREA EXPENSES		\$2,950.00	\$3,200.00	\$3,200.00
Communications:Herald Delivery	\$	2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
Communications:Herald Printing	\$	11,760.24	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Communications:Website	\$	133.45	\$ 120.00	\$ 135.00
TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS EXPENSES		\$14,693.69	\$13,920.00	\$14,935.00
Community Support Services: CERT and Neighborhood Watch	\$	-	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Community Support Services: General Support	\$	600.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Community Support Services:Consumer Affairs	\$	-	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Community Support Services:Neighborhood Assist	\$	50.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Community Support Services>Welcome Committee	\$	-	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT EXPENSES		\$650.00	\$650.00	\$650.00
High School Grad Party Donation: Robinson	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
High School Grad Party Donation: Thomas Jefferson	\$	100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY DONATION	\$	200.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Membership:Admin Expenses	\$	-	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Membership:Block Captain Incentives	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Membership:Directory Printing	\$	3,449.91	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES		\$3,749.91	\$3,500.00	\$500.00
Special Activities:Christmas Contest	\$	-	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00
Special Activities:Dumpster Day	\$	1,600.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Special Activities:Easter Egg Hunt	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Special Activities:Halloween Festival	\$	4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,200.00
TOTAL SPECIAL ACTIVITIES EXPENSES		\$6,100.00	\$6,520.00	\$6,820.00
Youth Achievement:Scholarship Admin Expenses	\$	-	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Youth Achievement:Scouts Fund	\$	300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Youth Achievement:Student Scholarships	\$	2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
TOTAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT EXPENSES		\$2,300.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,350.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	34,696.60	\$ 34,030.00	\$ 32,910.00
OVERALL TOTAL		(\$1,886.60)	\$0.00	\$0.00

Recommended By-Law Amendments

by Jeanmarie Roberson

Given the recent and prolonged challenge with filling the president and vice president positions, the board spent the summer months discussing ways to add flexibility and viability to filling the director positions. One significant way to do this is to relieve some of the restrictions in our current by-laws. While we do not want to discount the efforts of the past in developing the current by-laws, it seems to be the right time to update the term limitations and quorum sections of the by-laws.

TERM LIMITATIONS - Currently, Article II Board of Directors Section 2 – Terms of the by-laws limit a board term to two (2) consecutive terms (4 years total) at which point a director is ineligible for election to any board position for the following year. The board is recommending amending the by-laws so that a board term is increased to **three (3) consecutive terms (6 years total) at which point the director/member can serve in any other board position**. The suggested changes will allow for willing volunteers to serve longer and gain experience on the board to potentially move into varied directors positions over time.

QUORUM - Article VI – Meeting of Members, Section 2 – Quorum of the by-laws currently requires 50 members to vote on by-law amendments and 25 members to vote on all other matters. The board is recommending changing the by-laws to a **25 member quorum for by-law amendment and 15 member quorum for all other matters**. Last year you may recall that it took a couple of membership meetings before we met the quorum to amend the by-laws to accommodate utilizing pay pal as an acceptable form of payment of the association dues. A reduction in the quorum number requirement will ensure the operation of the association

We hope for a great turn out at our membership meeting on October 6th. We will present these recommended by-law changes for consideration by the membership. As mentioned, in order to put these amendments to a vote, we will need a quorum of 50 members. If you are unable to attend, I encourage you to consider filling out the proxy form and giving the form to a member who is planning to attend. Please email me if you have any questions at president@KPWCA.org.



St. Stephen's Preschool

9203 Braddock Road
Burke, VA 22015

703-978-9024 FAX 703-978-9023

ststephenspre@verizon.net

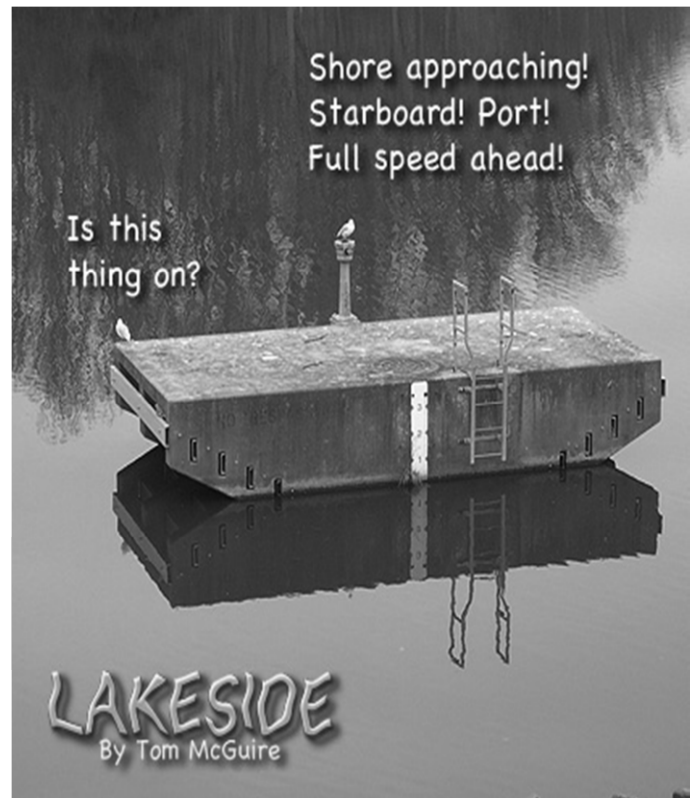
Pre-K program offered 2, 3 or 5 days

Extended day options available:
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- 3 Playground Areas, Sports
- Rainbow Creative Theme Room
- Wildlife Habitat, Trail, Garden
- Tricycle Safety Town
- Social Skills Groups
- STEM Activities
- Phonemic Awareness
- Spanish, Signing

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Scout News

The boys of Pack 1967 have been enjoying a busy summer shooting water rockets at Lakeside Park, enjoying play days with ice cream, visit to National Geographic to see Monster Fish, watching the Washington Nationals play and attending summer camp at the Goshen Boy Scout Camp. Among the highlights of the Goshen trip were a 5 mile hike to a river swimming hole and a 3 mile hike up to Viewing Rock. They will finish out the summer with a Potomac National baseball game followed by a campout on the field.



Pack 1967 meets monthly, generally on the 2nd 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 will have a representative at the Laurel Ridge back-to-school/community night or we can be reached at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.

Reading Rug

The Reading Rug is a subset of Grace Ministries, a monthly outreach program that provides food and clothing to families in need, at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. It is a smaller program that focuses on encouraging literacy in children. During Grace Ministries, volunteers read to children at the children's area in the Fellowship Hall. When it comes time for a child to leave, the child can take home one or several books. Parents are also allowed to pick out books to take home for their children. By exposing children to reading and increasing the number of books available at a child's home, the program hopes to encourage children to love reading. If you are interested in contributing to this program, there are several ways you can help. **Donate Books:** Donating books increases the number of options for children to read from. All types of books are welcome (fiction, nonfiction, children's, young adult). Books can be donated directly to Grace Ministries at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, 9203 Braddock Road, Burke VA. Please drop off donations between 3:30 and 5:30 pm the Friday before the 4th Saturday of the month. **Volunteer:** Volunteers are needed to read to children during Grace Ministries, which takes place on the morning of 4th Saturday of every month. If you are interested in contributing, or if you have any questions, please email: gmreadingrug@gmail.com.



Get off the Couch

A Roundup of Family Friendly Weekend Events Around the Region

August 22-23

Manassas Civil War Weekend

Learn how the South lost the Civil War and other facts at this annual event in Old Town Manassas. There will be a re-enactors parade, military demonstrations, and a children's scavenger hunt. All events are *FREE*. Saturday 9am-9pm, Sunday 9am-5pm. <http://www.manassascity.org/>

August 29-30

Music at the Marina

Come see "Downrange" the pop music ensemble of The United States Army Band ("Pershing's Own"). They will perform the latest pop hits, as well as patriotic music. At Breakwater Marina Store in Leesylvania State Park, Woodbridge. *FREE* Saturday only, 7pm-8:30pm. Bring lawn chairs or blankets. <http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/>

Maryland Renaissance Festival

This is the opening weekend of the annual festival that recreates a 16th century English village. Focusing on things like the Tudors, Shakespeare, and serving wenches, while skipping things like the plague and a short lifespan. Huzzah! 10am-7pm. <http://www.rennfest.com/> 1821 Crownsville Rd, Annapolis. Adults \$19 and up, children 7-15 \$8 and up.

September 5-6

National Book Festival

The Library of Congress presents the 15th annual National Book Festival. Dozens of authors will be available, including David Baldacci, Walter Mosley, Cokie Roberts, and Rachel Renee Russell, author of the teen series "Dork Diaries." *FREE* 10am-10pm Saturday only, at the Washington Convention Center. www.loc.gov/bookfest/

Virginia Scottish Games and Festival

Get in touch with the Scottish side of Virginia! See traditional Scottish strength competitions including stone toss, hammer throwing, and caber. There will also be kids activities, traditional Scottish music and whiskey tasting. Sadly, Jamie Fraser is not scheduled to appear. Saturday and Sunday, 9am-6pm. Tickets start at \$20 for adults, kids are free on Sunday. At the Great Meadow, [5089 Old Tavern Road](http://www.vascottishgames.org/) The Plains VA. Dogs are welcome! <http://www.vascottishgames.org/>

September 12-13

Rosslyn Jazz Festival

Jazz comes to Rosslyn for the 25th annual Rosslyn Jazz Festival. Musicians including the Dirty Dozen Brass Band are scheduled to perform at Rosslyn's Gateway Park. Bring blankets or lawn chairs. Food will be available from local food trucks, and beer & wine will be sold. Saturday only, 1pm-7pm. 1300 Lee Highway, Rosslyn VA. *FREE* <http://rosslynva.org/events>

National Capital Cat Show

Meow meow meow. At the Dulles Expo Center. And yes, there will be a fashion show. Saturday 9:30-5:00, Sunday 9:30-4:00pm. Ticket prices vary. <http://www.nationalcapitalshow.com/>

September 19-20

Astronaut Academy

Do you have what it takes to become an astronaut on a mission to Mars? The Udvar-Hazy Center invites kids to participate in their latest "Techquest." It's ideal for ages 10-14, but all ages are welcome. 10:30-2:30 Saturday only. <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/techquest/> Admission is free, but parking is \$15.

King Street Art Festival

The 13th annual King Street Art Festival returns to Alexandria. Artists from around the region and the world will be featured. Saturday 10am-7pm and Sunday 10am-5pm. King Street between Washington and Union. *FREE* <http://www.visitalexandriava.com>

Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason this month:

Fall for the Book September 27- October 3:

<http://fallforthebook.org/>

Center for the Arts www.cfa.gmu.edu

Sept. 20 - Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *Music of Joyous Celebration!*

Hylton Performing Arts Center

(PWC): <http://www.hyltoncenter.org/>

Sept. 20 - Hylton Family Series: Kevin Johnson, ventriloquist Men's Soccer and Women's Volleyball: <http://gomason.com>

Featured Event: 16th Annual Clifton Labor Day Car Show

September 7, 8:00am - 3:00pm. Street rods, foreign, customs, antiques, trucks, muscle cars, motorcycles and more! Taking place in historic Clifton, Virginia, come out and enjoy great cars, food, and music. <http://www.labordaycarshow.org/>

Let's send off this summer with some fun!



CUB SCOUT PACK 1968's Annual Bicycle Rodeo



WHERE: Laurel Ridge Elementary School

WHEN: Sunday August 30th from 2-4pm

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- Get a bicycle safety check
- Learn more about bicycling
- Show off your bicycle safety skills
- Meet other kids from the neighborhood



For more information contact:

Michael Stonkey our Cubmaster mstonkey@verizon.net
Dave Huber our Committee Chair Dave@HuberTree.com

Or find us on the web at

<http://pack1968.scoutlander.com/>

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Wanted: Original Owners!

Our neighborhood podcast is seeking Kings Park West original owners. Organized and run by Robinson students, WKPW brings local news, sports, and interviews.

If you are an original owner or know of one that would like to come out and have a chat, please contact us at wkpwpodcast.com or call Nick at 571-425-5703.

Helping Your Neighbors Fight Home Repair Scams

In the AARP Bulletin for July/August 2015, there is an article about a gang of home repair scammers in Fairfax County. Over a six-year period, scammers swindled \$400,000 from a lady living alone. Her insulation in the attic was replaced twelve times, windows caulked eight times, and yard resodded at least five times. After the crooks got \$100,000 from her, they passed on her name to other scammers who proceeded to charge her \$70,000, \$60,000, etc., for jobs.

The scammers usually start with a knock on the door and offer to trim trees. If they find someone who seems vulnerable, they continue to find jobs that "must" be done. I hope that other KPW residents are on the watch for neighbors that might be victims and offer to assist.

Easy solutions to these scammers are to not engage with door-to-door solicitors. The county repeatedly warns residents to ask to see a County License. They "must" have it on them and present it to you. If they can't, tell them you are not interested. Going one step further, call the non-emergency County Police [703-691-2131] and report the solicitor, providing a description and location plus the direction headed. The County Police have encouraged this reporting, but it does not seem like many actually do it. Become involved in protecting our KPW neighborhood. They will continue to try scamming IF WE LET THEM.

Another important action is to be aware of repeated visits by pickups and trucks to do work for your neighbors. If they are living alone, it would be helpful to ask them what is going on. It can be done in a friendly way. If you suspect someone is being scammed, call the non-emergency number and report it. Some day you might like a concerned neighbor to help you.

Finally, a word about wiring money. A County Investigator spoke to the Aging in Place group and told us that 100% of the time when someone contacts you to send them money via a money gram, money wire, prepaid Green Dot card, etc IT IS A SCAM. That money is gone and cannot be recovered. So a nephew stuck in Greece or Thailand and needs money to come home is not really your nephew. Don't take the callers word or sender's word. Don't wire money. Check it out with your family.

KPW Neighbor Assist Computer Security Suggestions

A recent WSJ article about security had some valuable advice about fairly simple actions to help keep your computers and other electronic devices from being hacked. I have simplified that article and added some personal ideas. **One** was "Keep up with Patches". Companies try to repair software vulnerabilities with patches. However, you must install the patches, either by allowing automatic updating or initiating the updates yourself. Search your systems for update procedures or you can often find procedures on the Internet for your devices.

Two: Store Important Data Off Line with a thumb drive or a standalone backup system that is not connected to the Internet or your computer until you use it. You can also encrypt your data, but this is a more complex procedure.

Three: Make your passwords and other individual account information more difficult. Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine writes that "123456" is the most common password. The second most common password is "password". How secure can those electronics devices be? You can easily do better, adding characters, numbers and upper case letters. Try to create something you can remember, but don't make it easy. Periodically change your passwords. Yes, this is a hassle, but much less of a hassle than having to recover after a hack.

Four: When you receive a message from a vendor with whom you have an account, don't use the imbedded internet address to access that account. Instead, access your account independently of the imbedded address in the message. Hackers have become very adept at mimicking websites and have fraudulently collected usernames and passwords. Even businesses have been duped by setting up links in messages to sites that look like ones with whom you do business.

Crooks are getting smarter every day and using more tricks. These ideas make it more difficult to hack your systems. Hackers target the "easy" marks who do not take these steps. A little diligence on your part separates you from those who do not take these steps.

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HOA)—President Larry Velte

Recently, it was necessary for the Community Association to send letters to two homeowner members concerning violations of the architectural provisions of the Association's Covenants and Restrictions, which require members to request approval for certain projects. The first letter concerned a fence that a homeowner constructed despite the explicit disapproval by the Association because its placement violated the covenants. The second concerned a major addition to the house which was constructed without requesting the Association's approval at all. In both cases, other Association members complained about the two projects from an "architectural harmony" perspective. The letters informed the members that the violations would be recorded by the Association's management company and could have future consequences if and when the properties were sold.

There are legal actions that the Association can take under the covenants to address violations, but legal action was not possible in these two cases. Perhaps more important than legal action or down-the-road real estate consequences, however, are the ill-feelings engendered with neighbors who may be taken by surprise by projects they might consider detrimental to the neighborhood. The HOA's covenants and restrictions, which are part of the contract you signed when you purchased your home, require you to request Association approval for such projects. You should check with Fairfax County to assure that the project does not violate county zoning ordinances, and to determine if you need a building permit. It is also important that you discuss your proposed project with your neighbors to ensure that unnecessary problems do not arise. All HOA members are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, which are held at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the CSS Program Multi-purpose Room at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. Members may also communicate with the Board by email at kpwhoa@yahoo.com.



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The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

Last month we announced the launch of **The Herald's List Facebook Page**, encouraging KPW residents to post recommendations and requests for reliable contractors and service providers. We are happy to report that the FB page is active and thriving. Requests and recommendations are coming in almost daily. Check it out - it offers searchability and immediate access to recommendations. Post your own requests or recommendations.

www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList

Here are some current requests and recommendations from your neighbors.

Yard Drainage Company

(Recommended by KPW Neighbor on FB)

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www.hemaxlandscaping.com

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(Recommended by KPW Neighbors on FB)

The Cleaning Authority

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Isabel Aguilar

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Janeth Hernandez

(571) 268-8235

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Make sure you check the Facebook page in October. We are working with several contractors who are planning to offer discounts to KPW residents once the busy summer season is over!

Neighbor Assist Handyman Service Begins

We are officially starting Handyman Services for KPW residents. Although we have started the program, we still need volunteers. KPW is a big community and we believe there are small jobs where calling a commercial service would not be economical and yet the issues may be still be irritants or even hazardous. Here is a list of services we are offering:

- **Electrical:** Replace light bulbs, switches, plugs, receptacles, check/replace smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm batteries.
- **Plumbing:** Repair leaking toilet tanks or faucets.
- **Furnace:** Replace filters.
- **Gutters:** Clean Gutters up to 15' above the ground
- **Hardware Installation:** Install grab bars, hand rails, lever door knobs
- **Walls:** Hang pictures, small Mirrors, repair small holes.
- **Woodworking:** Sticking doors, nail down loose stairs, nail moldings, adjust hinges on cabinet doors

These are tasks we can do. If you have some other task, check with us to see if we can handle it. If we can't provide the service, we will offer some advice about how to have it accomplished.

If you choose to take advantage of any of these free services, provided by generous volunteers in our community, please email neighborassist@kpwca.org or call **703-401-0275**. Make sure to include your contact information.

**Monticello Park Design Now Underway
Revealing Some Interesting Trivia**

By Tony Vellucci

On June 9th 2015, the Park Authority Planning & Development Project Manager for Monticello Park, Ms. Kelly Davis, identified that paperwork for the design consultant had been finalized. The consultant – then started their survey and is now developing a design for the park. That is why you may have seen some survey markers in Monticello Park recently. But why then, was the consultant driving in survey markers in the Guinea Road median?

Well, what you may not know is that Monticello Park is one of the busiest parks in the county’s park system with a daily traffic count that exceeds all of the lakefront parks and RECenters combined. How can that be you might wonder since every time you drive by it on Guinea Road, there seems to be no one in the parking lot? Well, everyone who travels in the northbound lanes on Guinea Road in the vicinity of the Burke Road/Guinea Road actually is traveling through Monticello Park as the park’s boundaries extend well into Guinea Road, the Park Authority having provided an easement to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for Guinea’s Road current alignment.

The consultant anticipates having a 50% design done by the Fall so that a community meeting can be held for public input. More information regarding the meeting will be provided as it is known. It will be advertised via the Braddock Beacon and Cook Advisories.

For dog owners, you can also send an email to Braddock Dogs braddockdogs@gmail.com and get onto their mailing list. Braddock Dogs Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA) (aka dog park) contributions have exceeded \$10,000.00 and the Fairfax County Park Foundation has forwarded a check to the Park Authority for the \$10,000.00 amount. Braddock Dogs will soon be submitting a matching Mastenbrook Grant application.


**Braddock Nights To End With Outdoor
Campfire And Nature Center Talks**

By Tony Vellucci

The Braddock Nights Summer Concert Series ends this Friday night August 28th with the **Rhodes Tavern Troubadours** - a post-pop and roots spectacular, ready to rock your world and serve up all kinds of ditties from Mark Noone's Slickee Boys tunes to Jake Flack's Thousand Dollar Car / Neptunes rockers, and everything in between.

After the show, as was the custom last year, there will be a campfire and a Nature Talk presentation by KPW’s own Mike McCaffrey, manager of the Park Authority’s Hidden Ponds Nature Center. Last year, Mike and his assistants brought a black rat snake, Oreo, and a milk snake, Vitamin D, for patrons to handle and learn about as the show wrapped up. And of course, Braddock Dogs provided smores for sale to help fund the dog park.

It’s a great time for the kids, and just one more thing that makes KPW a special place to live and raise a family.



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2015 Kings Park West Civic Association Scholarship Winners



Congratulations to scholarship recipients
Zachary Lewis and Quynh-Lan Ngo!

Each year, the Kings Park West Civic Association accepts applicants from children of Kings Park West Members in good standing. Scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000.00, plus any additional donations made during the membership drive.

We wish these two the best of luck and we thank KPWCA for their generosity to this program! If you would like to donate toward the program, please be sure to fill in the appropriate check box on your membership forms.

The membership drive starts next month!

Dear Kings Park West Civic Association,

It is truly an honor to be the recipient of the Kings Park West Scholarship. Thank you for the generous gift, which will help me to reach even greater heights during the next year.

As I attend Susquehanna University, I am very thankful for the thoughtful gift. Because of the scholarship, I have more financial security, which allows me to focus more on my studies and extracurriculars.

Thank you again for the gift, as well as the honor of being chosen as an active member of the Kings Park West community. I have lived in Kings Park West my entire life, and it means a lot to know that the community stands behind me as I start the next chapter in my life.

Sincerely,

Zachary Lewis

Dear Kings Park West Civic Association,

Thank you very much for your generous gift. It is truly an honor to be a recipient of the KPWCA scholarship.

This scholarship will help fund my education at Virginia Tech, where I plan on majoring in engineering and continuing to participate in community service. I hope that in the future I will be able to help other students just as you have helped me.

Thank you again for the scholarship. It means very much to be part of such a supportive community.

Sincerely,

Quynh-Lan Ngo

Long Live the Monarch

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

The recent, steep dive in monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) populations received quite a bit of attention. This article examines the big picture about this species' decline and how Northern Virginia residents can help the charismatic yet imperiled insect.

The monarch undergoes a complete metamorphosis: egg, larva (caterpillar), pupa (chrysalis), and adult (butterfly). Given the caterpillars' voracious appetite exclusively for milkweed (*Asclepias* sp.), the female butterfly lays a single egg (instead of an egg cluster) on the leaf before taking flight to lay again. Few herbivores tolerate the milkweed's bitter poisons, yet the monarch evolved a way around these chemical defenses. The caterpillar stores noxious milkweed chemicals into adulthood; the butterfly's vibrant orange and black wing coloration warns potential predators of a bad taste. Whereas people have seen monarchs across several continents and Pacific islands, some of these sightings were likely windswept individuals or deliberate introductions; Australia imported monarchs to control milkweed after American gold miners brought the seeds over in pillow stuffing. Most of the monarchs have multiple summertime generations living in the lower 48 states and southern Canada. The late summer brood migrates to winter destinations: the smaller western populations gather in California and the eastern monarchs congregate in Mexican forests. The migratory broods travel along land routes—the few entering Florida do not cross the Gulf of Mexico. They also survive several months longer than the ones spending their entire life at a single locality earlier in the year.

Monarchs flourished for many centuries. Their population withstood the natural tolls taken by isolated severe weather events, disease, and predation. Now, however, their numbers crashed to around 10 to 20 percent of the population's peak size two decades ago. Causes contributing to this decline include:

- **Milkweed eradication:** To expand croplands, many farmers, especially in the Midwest, cleared plots filled with common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*), the top host plant for monarch caterpillars.
- **Habitat loss:** In addition to larvae losing milkweed, migrating adults find fewer places to overwinter due to illegal logging in Mexican forests.
- **Overabundant pesticide use:** From farmers spraying crops against pests to homeowners or their contractors chemically bombing their yards against mosquitoes and other insects, these toxins inevitably poison the environment and harm non-target organisms, such as monarchs.
- **Climate change:** A rapidly shifting climate affects plant germination, growth, bloom times, and even geographic range. Botanical changes impact the organisms dependent upon that flora.
- **The wrong plants:** In creating monarch-enticing gardens, well-intentioned folks in southern states use exotic plant species which live long after the native flora dies back for the year. These plants, especially the Mexican milkweed (*A. curassavica*, aka scarlet milkweed, a tropical, tender perennial), stall monarch migration and the now residential monarchs harbor a protozoan infection. The weakened insects are not culled by migratory stress and healthy ones fail to fly to disease-free areas.

While the Midwest holds most of North America's monarchs, Northern Virginia residents can take steps to both help the resident butterflies and provide safe passage for the ones passing through this area. First, consider eliminating outdoor pesticide treatment. Nectar-sipping insects cannot survive if their floral food source is poisoned.

Second, create a garden that satisfies all stages of the monarch's lifecycle. The key ingredient: *local* milkweed species. Volunteers transformed an Invasive Management Area (IMA) site at Mason District Park from a non-native weedy patch into a milkweed-rich monarch waystation. While common milkweed tends to be a bit aggressive for residential properties less than an acre, other species perfectly fit into any sunny suburban garden; see Table 1 on the following page for suggestions.

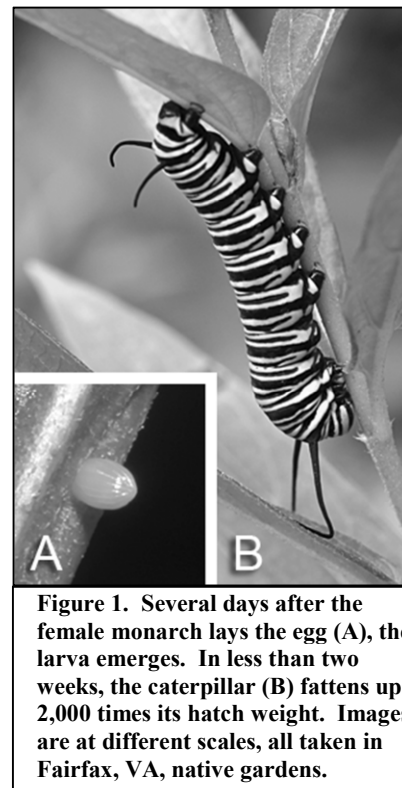


Figure 1. Several days after the female monarch lays the egg (A), the larva emerges. In less than two weeks, the caterpillar (B) fattens up 2,000 times its hatch weight. Images are at different scales, all taken in Fairfax, VA, native gardens.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Flower Color	Comments
Swamp Milkweed	<i>A. incarnate</i>	Pink, sometimes white	Prefers moist, rich soil but thrives in most garden settings.
Purple Milkweed	<i>A. purpurascens</i>	Purplish-maroon	Rare in Northern Virginia due to habitat loss, a healthy population grows in Huntley Meadows Park.
Butterfly-Weed	<i>A. tuberosa</i>	Brilliant orange	Dramatic garden addition needing well-drained soil. <u>This plant is not the non-native invasive butterfly bush (<i>Buddleja davidii</i>)!</u>
Whorled Milkweed	<i>A. verticillata</i>	White	Extremely thin leaves. Tolerates dry conditions but should be watered periodically during extended droughts.
White Milkweed	<i>A. variegata</i>	White	Semi-shade species growing on forest edges.
Red Milkweed	<i>A. rubra</i>	Deep pink	Deep pink flowers; needs constantly moist soil—not drought tolerant.

Since monarch larvae can strip a single plant bare, there should be at least 20 *Asclepias* specimens (the more, the merrier) in a cluster so the caterpillars can move to neighboring milkweeds. Count on other specialized insects, most notably the swamp milkweed beetle (*Labidomera clivicollis*), biting a large chunk out of the milkweed foliage. Try planting three or more different milkweed species. Avoid the Mexican or scarlet milkweed; in northern latitudes, it is one of the last milkweeds to die back in autumn. Not only do monarch adults sip nectar from milkweeds and other flowers, but different butterfly species will also drink from milkweed blossoms. Keep other native plants preferred by pollinators, too; here is a good plant list to get you started:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/infosheets/butterfliesandmoths.pdf>

Further information:

Monarch Quick Fact Sheet <http://www.defenders.org/monarch-butterfly/basic-facts>

Monarch Joint Venture <http://www.monarchjointventure.org/>

Monarch Watch <http://www.monarchwatch.org/biology/cycle1.htm>

FCPA-Where Have All the Monarchs Gone? <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/monarch-butterflies.htm>

Satterfield, DA et al. 2014. Loss of migratory behaviour increases infection risk for a butterfly host.

<http://news.uga.edu/documents/Satterfield-20141734full.pdf>

Monarch Health website <http://www.monarchparasites.org/>

Monarch butterflies navigate with compass but no map <http://www.nature.com/news/monarch-butterflies-navigate-with-compass-but-no-map-1.12756>

When Monarchs Take Flight <http://physiologizing.blogspot.com/2013/02/when-monarchs-take-flight.html>

Monarchs in Australia <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-11-28/eight-helpful-introduced-species-south-australia/5925080>

Battle for Butterflies <http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Animals/Archives/2015/Battle-for-Butterflies.aspx>



Figure 2. A monarch butterfly pollinates swamp milkweed flowers. In the upper left are two swamp milkweed beetles mating.

For more information, scan the QR code with your smart phone, or go to:
http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/60_2015-08.pdf



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