



October 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 7

Kings Park West Civic

Happy Fall! October is one of the busiest months for the Civic Association. Our membership drive, road raiders clean up, the Halloween festival, landscape maintenance, signboard changes, and the annual membership meeting are either underway or are soon to be starting. Well over 100 volunteers will give of their time and talents. While I have only been president for a short six months, I have witnessed incredible efforts of service that makes a difference in strengthening and improving Kings Park West.

The annual membership meeting was a great success. Thank you to the members who attended or sent in proxy forms. I am pleased to announce that we met our quorum requirements. The membership voted to approve the board positions, the 2016 budget and the by-law amendments. Welcome to Adrienne Barna, Mary Crowder and Karen Hasselman - our new At-Large directors. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Mary Anne Boyer and Biz Macaranas, who have filled the At-Large positions for the last 4-years. Thank you for your dedicated service on the Board and reaching your term limits!

We also had a presentation on the Fairfax County Deer Management Program. Dr. Edwards, Sergeant Powell and Kristen Sinclair provided an informative overview of the archery program in the County and discussed the specific activities in Kings Park West and Crooked Creek parks.

As you may have heard, the Halloween festival experienced a setback in mid-September. Unfortunately, due to unforeseen and extenuating circumstances the co-chairs regret they were unable to continue with their volunteer commitments after a decade of volunteering to coordinate the festival. Fortunately, through the efforts of many enthusiastic people in our community, and with the help of Supervisor Cook's staff, I am pleased to announce that the Halloween festival will be held on October 25th (Rain Date November 1st) from 2-4 pm at Lakeside Park. Please plan on stopping by, as I know this festival will be great fun for kids of all ages!

In closing, while I know that the vast majority of people in the community understand and conduct themselves this way, I would ask that patience and politeness be extended to our volunteer base, as their efforts are generously intended for the good of our community. Please email me at president@KPWCA.org with any questions, comments or feedback.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

Community Calendar

Herald Delivery.....	Oct 17
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Oct 19
Halloween Festival.....	Oct 25
Daylight Savings, Fall Back.....	Nov 01
FCPS Teacher Work Day.....	Nov 02
Election Day.....	Nov 03
CAC.....	Nov 03
Veteran's Day.....	Nov 11
Braddock District Council.....	Nov 11
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Nov 17
Herald Deadline.....	Nov 18
Thanksgiving.....	Nov 26
CAC.....	Dec 01
BDC – Taste of Braddock.....	Dec 02
Hanukkah.....	Dec 07
Herald Delivery.....	Dec 12

In this Issue:

- Get ready for the **KPW Halloween Parade and Festival!** See page 4 for details.
- Got stuff? Don't want stuff? Two words for you: **Dumpster Day!** Page 10 has the info.
- Aging in Kings Park West. It's a thing – a good thing. If you need assistance or would like to provide assistance, please see page 19.

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	Vacant	
Signboards	Ken Waldrop	703-503-0725
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett:	website@kpwca.org
Membership	Sylvia Gladd	703-978-1940
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	Cathy DeLoach	703-426-4745
	Danielle Nicholson	703-323-0622
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	703-323-5997

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

Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

OFFICERS

President	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@yaho.com

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the December 12th issue must be received no later than November 18th 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.

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 November 18th, 2015
for delivery on December 12th, 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

***New* Classified Ads Coordinator:** *2 hours per month (or issue).* Coordinate all classified ads with corresponding fees, and maintain the ads and payment records. For more details, please contact Huisuk at classified@kpwca.org.

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.

Neighborhood Watch Captain, filled! A huge thanks to Pappy Palazzo!!!

***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: Mary Ann Boyer and Elizabeth Macarenas



A heartfelt thank you to these two ladies who just finished up two terms (four years each) serving as members-at-large on the Kings Park West Civic Association board. They each stepped up in November of 2011 to take on the task of volunteering for our community.

Mary Ann is a retired teacher who has lived in Kings Park West for more than forty years. In addition to her volunteer duties on the board, she has also served as Block Captain, Cub Scouts Den Mother and Vacation Bible School Director. She and her husband were overseers of Crusher Ridge Trail in the Shenandoah and have day hiked 1,834 miles of the Appalachian Trail. She loves to scrapbook, do water colors, and you can often see her birding or jogging on the trails around our lakes. During her term on the board, she worked on the Stream Renewal Project and Volunteer Dinner.

Elizabeth is a Navy wife who has lived in Kings Park West with her husband and two children for six years. She is an active Girl Scout Leader and has been involved with the organization for more than a decade. In addition to her volunteer duties on the board, she has also served on the board of the Laurel Ridge PTA, and actively volunteers in the school. Elizabeth loves to read and watch movies. During her term on the board, Elizabeth was always a voice of reason, and worked hard to schedule a location for board and membership meetings and organizing the volunteer appreciate dinner every year.

Our community is lucky to have volunteers such as this – thank you for your service, ladies!



KINGS PARK WEST

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND FESTIVAL

October 25, Sunday 2 - 4

Lakeside Park

Parade starts at 1:45 and will proceed down Bronte into the park – please assemble at 1:30 at Wilson Woods Court – where Bronte Drive enters KPW.

Games, Popcorn, Ice Cream Vendor, Separate Bouncy Houses for toddlers and School Age Children, 20' Slide, Obstacle Course and a very special appearance by Thomas the Tank Engine



Proudly sponsored by the Kings Park West Civic Association!! Thank you for your membership to the Association and your support of this community!!



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You Dream It... We Build It

KPWCA By-Laws Amendments Approved

The By-Law amendments were approved at the annual membership meeting on October 6, 2015. Between the 47 members attending and the 27 member proxies provided, we exceeded the 50 member quorum requirement. After discussion and language modifications, the membership approved the amendments to the By-Laws as follows:

ARTICLE II- BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2 – Terms

1. Directors shall be elected to two (2) year terms with the terms of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer beginning in even-numbered years and the terms of At-Large directors beginning in odd-numbered years.
2. Directors shall be authorized to continue to serve until their successors are duly elected and installed.
3. No member shall serve in the same Board of Directors position for more than three (3) consecutive terms. After serving three (3) consecutive terms, or during the process of serving up to three (3) terms, a Board member may move to another Board position if approved by membership. When determining consecutive terms served, a partial term of more than one (1) year shall be counted, a partial term of one (1) year or less shall not be counted.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 2 – Quorum

1. Twenty –five (25) members in good standing constitute a quorum necessary to consider and vote on amendments to the Articles of Incorporation or these Bylaws.
2. As to all other matters, fifteen (15) members in good standing constitute a quorum.

A huge thank you to all who participated at the meeting!

Neighbor Assist Program Needs Your Help

The deadline for this edition of *The Herald* came so quickly behind the distribution of the last edition, that we did not receive any feedback from our KPW residents. So let me briefly recap the September article.

Five (5) Neighbor Assist Programs are currently available.

Social Calling - Computer Assistance - Handyman - Snow Removal - Yard Work

We ask you for help. Help us spread the word about Neighbor Assist services. Tell your neighbors. These services are available to any resident of KPW. We also ask you to let us know what services that you or your neighbors would actually use. Contact us at NeighborAssist@kpwca.org or call 703-401-0275.

The volunteers who have come forward to provide Neighbor Assist services are dedicated to sharing their skills. We appreciate their offer of time and talent for others. However, when no one wants the services, volunteers tend to disengage and turn their attention elsewhere. Please provide them an opportunity to help.

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- 👋 Weekly Chapel
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- 👋 Multiple Intelligence Curriculum
- 👋 Evening Activities for Families
- 👋 Tuition Assistance Opportunities
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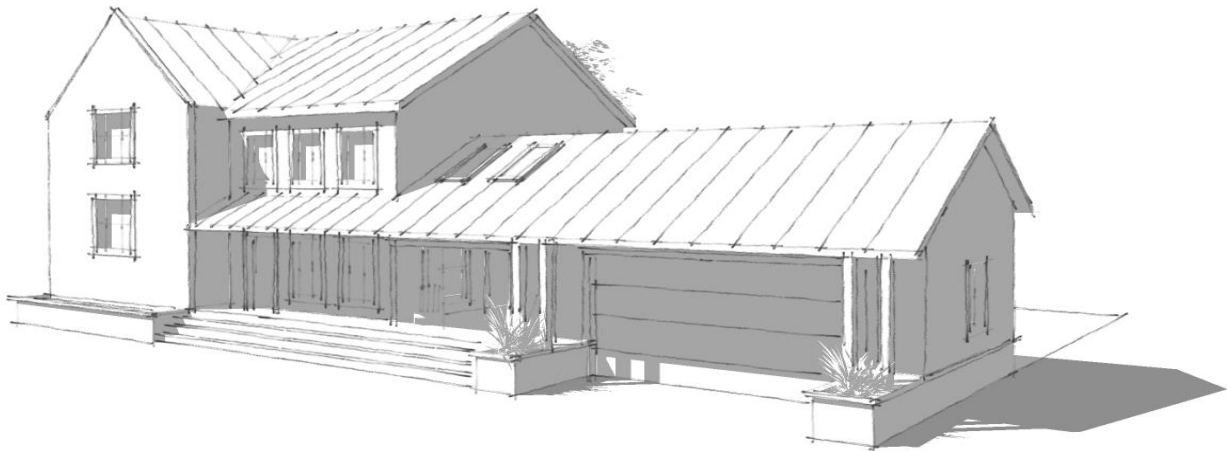
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Kevin Wyllie architect

Website: www.wkwarchitect.com

Email: kevin@wkwarchitect.com

Phone: 703 508 3229



Kings Park West resident, educator, former carpenter, stay at home dad

Keeping KPW Green and Clean!

By Sarah Lennon and Nick Wathen

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

Nearly 5 years ago, an idea was hatched to keep our community attractive – the KPW Road Raiders. Simply put, on the second Saturday of each month a band of volunteer community residents converge at a pre-determined common area early in the morning (7:30 am) and clean the area of natural debris and trash, and trim back overgrowth in order to make the sidewalks more passable in some cases. Volunteers bring their own tools – rakes, brooms, plastic bags, and even power tools! The accumulated natural and manmade debris in the streets gets washed into the storm drains that feed into Royal Lake. The broader community benefits from collective community efforts, rather than sitting back and waiting for VDOT to get around to it. Not only are many of the common areas often unsightly, but the debris and trash ultimately wash into the storm drains that feed into Royal Lake. Road Raiders get in and get out quickly – 30 minutes so it doesn't interfere with other activities planned for the day.

The KPW Road Raiders are making a difference on KPW roads cleaning up common areas where not only leaves, but also trash and road cinders have accumulated. You may have seen us hard at work as you drove through the community on a Saturday morning. But the group has been dwindling in numbers – in September we had only 4 super motivated and dedicated people. There used to be 10+ on a regular basis.

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

[See this link for a picture from the Rabbit Branch Park clean-up:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/photos/>]

Did you know the KPW Civic Association has a Parks & Lake Committee? This Committee's mission is to help the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) oversee and maintain the parks and trails in KPW, and serve as liaison with local scout groups and KPW

schools. It is the Committee's responsibility to be vigilant in monitoring and reporting issues related to the lake, trails, streams, the dam and spillway and any other environmental concerns that may arise. However, currently the "Committee" is only a party of two. It's (past) time for this become a real committee with like-minded folks coming together to identify areas that need a little TLC, work with the FCPA and ensure our parkland remains in great condition for all to enjoy.

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



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Respect Life

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HOA)—President Larry Velte

Recently, the Community Association sent letters to several homeowners concerning encroachment onto HOA common land. Encroachment typically involves placement on common land of backyard play equipment, sheds, and other “improvements” such as extending the back lawn into HOA property. In extreme cases, common land has been used as a dumpsite for large items the homeowner didn’t want to pay the trash service to haul away. The letters acknowledged that such encroachment may have occurred before the current owner purchased the house or because the owner was not sure where the actual property line lay. Only in cases of trampolines or swing sets, which would constitute a serious liability issue for the HOA in case of injury, are the homeowners required to take immediate action. Other encroachment situations must be corrected when and if the property changes hands.

There is a legal dimension to encroachment, called “adverse possession”, whereby someone claims ownership of a piece of land because he has essentially used it as his own for a number of years without objection by the lawful owner. There is Virginia case law concerning adverse possession. The encroachment letters the HOA sent out should prevent this, even though there is no indication in any of the KPW cases that adverse possession was intended. Encroachment could also have negative repercussions when the property goes on the market by misleading a potential buyer as to the size of the lot and where the property line actually lies. Finally, encroachment is not only a HOA issue. Many KPW properties border Fairfax County parkland, and the county can take a quite hardheaded view, especially about dumping of trash and yard debris, which is considered encroachment.

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the CSS Program Multi-purpose Room at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. All are welcome to attend. Members may also communicate with the Board by email at kpwhoa@yahoo.com. The Community Association’s website is at <http://kpwhoa.org>.

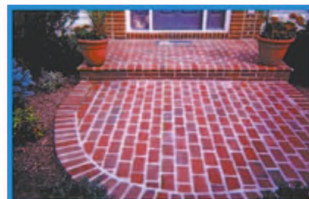
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DUMPSTER DAY!!!



Lakeview Pool Parking Lot
8:00 a.m. until the dumpster is full!

SATURDAY, November 7th, 2015

Clean out that garage! Empty that attic! Bring all that unwanted stuff to Dumpster Day!

The Mary & Cathy Team will be running the show at Dumpster Day from 8:00 a.m. until the dumpster is full!

Got stuff for Goodwill? The Mary & Cathy Team will be running items to Goodwill for you too!

GOT ELECTRONICS?

The Mary & Cathy Team has got you covered!

Bring your electronic waste to Dumpster Day and the Team will haul it to the dump for you!



ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED

- No hazardous materials
- No oil
- No gasoline
- No batteries
- No wet paint
- No tires
- No refrigerators, freezers, or appliances
- No construction materials
- No liquids (hazardous or toxic waste)
- No grass, sod, dirt, gravel, rock, brick or concrete.
- No stumps or brush
- No decks
- No automobile parts, engines or mowers
- No fluorescent bulbs
- No asbestos
- No dead animals
- No ammunition
- No propane or helium tanks
- No fire extinguishers
- No explosives
- No poisons, antifreeze, herbicides or pesticides

Got Goodwill Stuff?

Bring it to Dumpster Day, and the Mary & Cathy Team will drop it at Goodwill for you!



This event is sponsored by the Kings Park West Civic Association and is open to all MEMBERS of the Association. Thank you for your community support!!!

Get off the Couch

A Roundup of Family Friendly Weekend Events Around the Region

October 17-18

Rocknoceros in Concert

Popular family-friendly pop music group Rocknoceros will be performing two *FREE* shows at the beautiful National Theater. Shows will be at 9:30 and 11:00am. Tickets are available on a first come first serve basis beginning 1/2 hour before show time. 1321 Pennsylvania Ave NW, DC. www.thenationaldc.org/event/rocknoceros

Farm Harvest Days

Frying Pan Park Farm hosts their annual Harvest Days. Kids and adults can milk a cow or goat, shell corn, visit the animals, and do other farm activities. Admission is *FREE*. The farm will also be offering a carnival complete with midway rides. Farm activities Saturday 10am-3pm, Sunday 11am-3pm. Carnival is open Saturday, 12pm-10pm, and Sunday 12pm-7pm. 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark

October 24-25

Air and Scare

Boo! The National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center's annual Halloween festival gives kids a glimpse at the spooky side of the museum. They can make creepy crafts and take part in spooky science experiments. This year they'll also be able to pose with their favorite Star Wars characters. The event is free, but parking is \$15. Saturday only, 2pm-7pm. www.airandspace.si.edu/events/air-and-scare

Clifton Haunted Trail

It's baaaack. For the first time since '06, the town of Clifton will again be hosting its Haunted Trail. Wear sturdy shoes to follow the wooded trail across eight acres. Also sturdy shoes are better for escaping the Bunnyman. Note: they describe this event as "very scary" and "intense." So plan accordingly. Flashlights are not allowed, glow sticks are. Kids under 12, \$10, 13+ \$15. Saturday only. 7pm-10pm. www.cliftonhauntedtrail.com

Kids Day at the Washington Int'l Horse Show

This *FREE* event is designed to teach children and their families about equestrian sports. There will be educational and fun activities including pony rides, horseshoe painting, and pony brushing lessons. Saturday only, 10am-2pm rain or shine. Inside and outside the Verizon Center, 601 F Street NW, DC. www.wihs.org/kids-day

October 31-November 1

Los Día de Los Muertos: Days of the Dead

Join the National Museum of the American Indian in a family friendly celebration of Día de Los Muertos. Learn the traditions and legends behind this traditional Mexican celebration. There will be food, music, dancing, crafts, giant kites and more. *FREE* Saturday and Sunday 10am-5:30pm. On the National Mall. www.nmai.si.edu

Reston Station Movie Night

"Ghost Busters" (rated PG) will be the feature film for the final Reston Station "Watch Under Our Stars" movie series. The *FREE* film will begin at approximately 7pm. Sunday only. Costumes are encouraged at this screening. Concessions will be available from food trucks. Bring chairs or blankets. At Reston Station community located outside the Metro station at 11389 Reston Station Boulevard. www.restonstation.com

November 7-8

Manassas Veterans Day Parade

The largest Veterans Day Parade in Northern Virginia takes place in Manassas. The parade will include high school bands, pipe and drum corps, military vehicles and more. Marchers start at Quarry Rd. and Prescott Ave. It then travels south on Prescott and then west on Center St. ending at West St. Saturday only, beginning at 11am sharp. www.vetpar.org

Bring a Friend Girl Scout Day

Girl Scouts are hosting this one-day event for Scouts and their friends. There will be a specially designed scavenger hunt, and Scouts who complete their "passports" will receive a special Oatlands Fun Patch. This is not a drop-off event. Sunday, 1pm-5pm. \$5 per Girl Scout or friend, \$8 per adult. www.oatlands.org/oatlands-events

Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason this month:

Patriot Center: www.eaglebankarena.com

October 21-25: Disney on Ice: 100 Years of Magic

Center for the Arts www.cfa.gmu.edu

October 25: Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel:

Chopin and Grieg – A Musical Friendship

November 21: Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India: *The Spirit of India*

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December 12: American Festival Pops Orchestra: *Holiday Pops: Songs of the Season*

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<http://gomason.com>



The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

The Herald's List Facebook Page continues to be an active community resource for KPW residents. 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



October Special For KPW Residents

Tim W. Frazier Tree Service is offering a 15% discount to KPW residents who spend \$500 or more December through early March.

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 Silent Auction
 Raffle

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What Is The Robinson Marketplace???

The Robinson PTSA has hosted this 1 day indoor holiday market for the past 5 years and it has become our largest single fundraising event of the year. We open our main hallway to approximately 85 vendors, school groups and community organizations who showcase a large variety of goods for sale. **Home Depot joins us to provide a Free Kids Workshop.** We carefully select these vendors to provide a diverse variety of goods for you to choose from close to the holiday season. Funds are raised by charging vendors a space fee to participate. We raise additional funds through our

Marketplace Silent Auction and Raffle.

Local and National Merchants and our Marketplace Vendors generously donate items and gift certificates which, depending on their value, are designated as Silent Auction items to be bid on during our event, or Raffle Items which can be Won buy purchasing Raffle Tickets that are drawn throughout the day at our event.

What do we do with the money we raise?

The money raised from this event supports a wide variety of school and community programs. These include academic programs, health and safety events, school publications, support for faculty development and morale, school technology advancement (ie, White boards and new equipment for video streaming of Robinson events), and financial support for student clubs and groups. As State funds decrease, these PTSA contributions become even more crucial.

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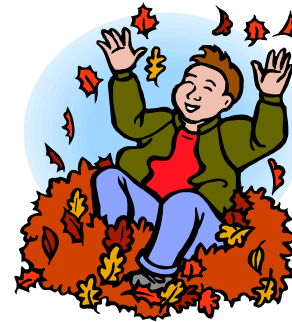
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To see a list of Vendors go to www.robinsonptsa.org

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Invasive Species Profile: Winged Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: Japan and northeastern Asia

U.S. Introduction: ~1860

Life Cycle: woody perennial

Means of Spreading: seeds

Commercially Available: yes

Control Method: hand-pull seedlings and saplings; remove bushes with a Weed Wrench; kill large specimens by constantly cutting away new growth

Good Alternative Species: winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*), northern highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), red chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), Virginia sweetspire (*Itea virginica*)

Comments:

Winged burning bush was brought to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century as an ornamental shrub, especially for the way its dense foliage turns magenta-red in the fall. Throughout the rest of the year, it looks like a non-descript deciduous shrub except for the two to four *alatus* (thin ridges made from cork that give the branches a “winged” appearance) frequently lining the branches. This species goes by many common names, including winged euonymus, cork bush, or simply “burning bush.” “Compactus” is a popular cultivar.

Given its recognizable autumnal display, low price tag, extreme hardiness, and pest resistance, burning bush became an overused choice for residential, commercial, and roadside landscaping projects. Its resilience, coupled with its fecundity, landed this species onto the noxious weed list. New Hampshire and Massachusetts already ban burning bush’s sale. In Northern Virginia, Invasive Management Area (IMA) and Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) volunteers see burning bush’s range expanding through the parks. Both birds and elemental forces, such as water flow, disperse the seeds. In fact, when folks on IMA and EDRR patrols encounter the saplings, they can often follow the seedling trail uphill to the mother bush or patch. With so many late autumn fruits sprouting near the parental shrub, dense burning bush thickets soon develop and continue widening. This heavy, weedy undergrowth, reaching over 10 feet tall, displaces native plants. Their shallow roots do little to significantly suppress erosion. Without any local animals chomping on the shrubs except for the few birds spreading seeds, burning bush is ecologically worthless.

The good news about burning bush is that it is easily controlled. The near-surface roots make most specimens trouble-free to pull either by hand or with hand tools. Those too large to excise will die after several consecutive rounds of harsh, completely defoliating trims. IMA volunteers already conducted successful workdays targeting burning bush thickets at Royal Lake Park; site leaders continue monitoring these sites and pull seedlings germinating from the soil’s seed bank.

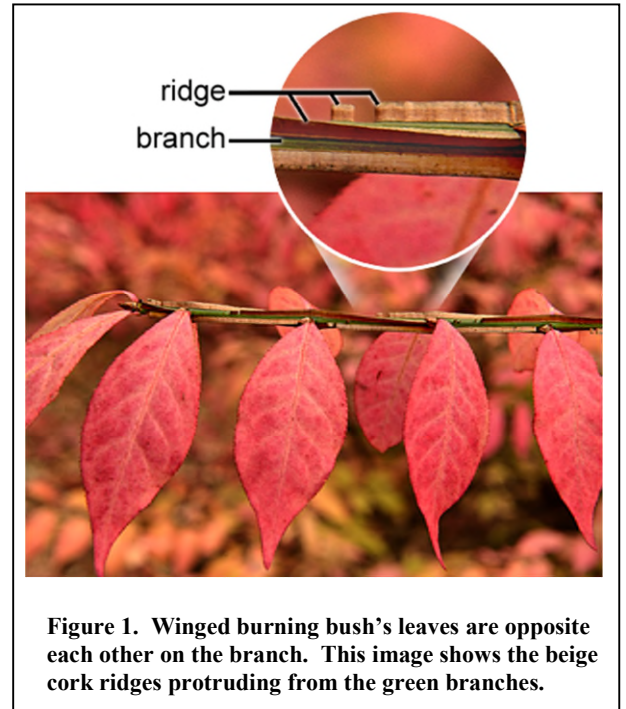


Figure 1. Winged burning bush’s leaves are opposite each other on the branch. This image shows the beige cork ridges protruding from the green branches.



Figure 2. A beneficial native alternative to burning bush, red chokeberry’s leaves blaze in the fall to match its brilliant berries. These fruits last into the winter until eaten by cedar waxwings, robins, and other birds.



Figure 3. Winged burning bush blooms with small, greenish yellow flowers (A) in the spring. The fruits ripen into scarlet berries (B) and are most conspicuous after the leaves drop. These fruits produce countless seedlings (C) that mature into dense thickets (D), easily spotted in autumn by the red foliage.

You can help stem burning bush's spread, too! Contact me about joining a future IMA workday and partake in this and other weeds' eradication. Even from home, you can help get burning bush under wraps by skipping it the next time you shop for shrubbery. If you already have burning bush, consider replacing it with a wonderful native alternative. Choose winterberry for jazzy red berries from September lasting into winter. For scarlet foliage, try chokeberries or blueberries. North America's only and sparsely-foliated *Euonymus* species, *E. americanus*, sports showy fruits leading to its common names, hearts-a-burstin' and strawberry bush. To achieve truly eye-catching fall coloration, Virginia sweetspire's calico foliage is a show-stopper!

Learn more about burning bush at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/euoala/all.html>

<http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3023>

http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural_heritage/documents/fseual.pdf

http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010293.pdf

<http://www.ecolandscaping.org/04/invasive-plants/winged-euonymus-an-exotic-invasive-plant-fact-sheet/>

For the full article, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to:
http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/62_2015-10.pdf





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Aging in Kings Park West

We don't know how many retired people currently are living in KPW. What we hear, however, is that our community is attractive to those who bought homes earlier and feel it is a great place to remain living, or have chosen to buy into our community for the same reason. This desire to age in a KPW home is a not new trend. In the U.S. there are now 26.8 million households headed by someone older than 64, increasing 10% over the last 10 years.

What does this mean for you? It means an increasing reliance on others for help. Even if you are financially set, you still need help. We all need help at multiple points in our lives. However, as we age, our need for help increases for a number of reasons. Sometimes it's critical help, such as a medical emergency, but more often it's minor issues like how to get something repaired or what should I do about other issues.

What should you do? Neighbor Assist recommends that you embrace the opportunity to become engaged with others to solve your problems. Ask family, friends, neighbors, members of KPWCA Facebook or Next Door Neighbor network. These are generally the most liable and trustworthy people for YOU! Can you really trust someone who calls you, or knocks on your door? Do you think they have your best interest in mind? We hear stories about scams against older adults, which could have been avoided by having someone help you with decisions or offer ideas on how to handle such issues.

If you desire to become engaged, but don't know exactly where to start, we recommend that you start attending some community programs and meeting other people who live in KPW or the surrounding communities. Fairfax has a wide variety of highly talented and interesting people. It's just a matter of connecting with them and meetings and events provide that opportunity. Many of these meetings are published in the county's free *Golden Gazette*.

Additionally, the Braddock District Council has been sponsoring a monthly program (3rd Wednesday at 1 PM in Braddock Supervisor's Meeting Room), which presents topics of interest to older adults. It is free to attend. Our November 18th program at 1 PM is called Kaleidoscope 50+. This program will talk about what Fairfax County offers older adults. [We are very fortunate to have a number of services for county residents, many of which are either free or have minimal fees. This is not the case in many other Virginia counties or other states. Take advantage of them or, at least, become aware of them for potential future need.]

What also should you do to stay in your KPW home longer? The answer is very simple but requires some dedication and perseverance on your part. It is simply, Remain Mobile. Stairs and doorway widths make mobility inside and outside our KPW homes very difficult for someone in a wheel chair or with mobility issues. Going out to businesses and other places is not always easy either.

So we encourage ALL, regardless of age, to have a fitness program. It does not have to be a difficult or particularly strenuous program. Walking is greater exercise. For those who want to do more, weight bearing exercises to maintain muscle tone and strength can make a huge difference to help insure that you can be mobile and enjoy living in your KPW home. Having an "exercise buddy" is very helpful in keeping you at the task. However, if you do not have a "buddy", there are many types of fairly inexpensive fitness monitors, such as Fit Bit, to help you keep track of your progress and prod you to keep at it. Beyond the benefits of maintaining mobility, walking and even mild exercise has been shown to improve your overall health in many different ways. Exercise is a big component of combating diabetes or pre-diabetes.

Your future is in your hands, because opportunities abound in our community. Please start somewhere!

State Asks For Removal Of Mute Swan At Royal Lake

Tony Vellucci

On September 11th, 2015 the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) forwarded a letter to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) requesting permission to access park land to capture and remove the mute swan at Royal Lake.

VDGIF developed a Mute Swan Management Plan dated 27 November 2012, which can be accessed at: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/waterfowl/mute-swan/management-plan/virginia-mute-swan-management-plan.pdf>.

The plan notes that the mute swan is an exotic species first introduced in Virginia around the turn of the 20th century to adorn private estates and city parks. Mute swan numbers remained relatively small and localized until the late 1980's. Progeny from these swans coupled with additional releases by private citizens over the past 20-30 years has allowed for a growing feral and semi-captive population that currently numbers around 300 birds and will continue to grow if left unmanaged. This population presents major challenges to the many stakeholders committed to protecting and restoring native natural resources in the Commonwealth.

Mute swans compete with native wildlife for limited food and habitat resources. They are large birds that consume substantial amounts of wetland and Submerged Aquatic Vegetation (SAV). Mute swans can negatively impact SAV beds and restoration plantings, especially during the summer growing season, by uprooting plants and denuding areas of vegetation. This reduces the availability and abundance of SAV for wintering waterfowl and other fish and wildlife populations dependent upon this habitat. Reductions in SAV growth also negatively affect water quality and other ecosystem functions.

Because the mute swan is classified as a non-native exotic (nuisance) species in Virginia, it is illegal to possess, sell or liberate them in the Commonwealth without a permit from VDGIF, and while VDGIF once did provide such permits, it no longer does.

The non-native exotic (nuisance) species classification allows mute swans to be removed from areas where they are causing negative impacts to their surroundings. Further, Virginia State Code provides for an open season on nuisance species. § 29.1-511. Open season on nuisance species: There shall be a continuous open season for killing nuisance species of wild birds and wild animals as defined in § 29.1-100.

In 2002, there were some 228 mute swans in Northern Virginia; by 2011, that number had dropped to 36.

Hearing of the concerns and positive reactions by the community to having the swan at Royal Lake, and weighing that against the limited impacts that the swan seems to have had at this point, the Park Authority decided to inform VDGIF that they will not allow removal at this time but will continue to monitor the situation.

The impending dredging operations to be undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) in 2016 may prompt an FCPA review of the situation.

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by Mary and Cathy

The prime interest rate set by the Federal Reserve has been between 0 and .25 since 2008, a conscious effort to jump start the economy after the Great Recession. With all statistics pointing to continued but gradual recovery, there has been considerable speculation that the Fed's will raise the prime interest rate before the end of the year. Though likely to be a small increase (1 point or less), the result will be an increase in mortgage interest rates. Those of you thinking about a home purchase in the near future would be wise to consider locking in a rate before December, 2015.

-Excerpted from the NY Times

60 KPW homes have sold so far in 2015.

Here are the statistics for the 20 homes that sold during the third quarter of 2015:

Model	#	Average Close Price	DOMP
Baron	2	\$620,750	56
Cromwell	1	\$468,228	18
Duchess	4	\$534,706	26
Duke	2	\$446,850	39
King	1	\$510,935	14
Queen	6	\$532,983	30
Regent	3	\$600,000	18
Major Modification	1	\$832,000	7

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