



December 2015

Vol. 45, Issue 8

Kings Park West Civic

Happy Thanksgiving! It is a time for giving thanks and that certainly applies to the many helping hands in our great community.

I am pleased to let you know that the annual Halloween Festival was a wonderful success! The early morning rain cleared up just in time for a beautiful day for the festival. Many thanks to all who volunteered, including the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Laurel Ridge and Robinson students, parents, community members, etc. for making this day a great community event. The parade, bounce houses, games, popcorn and Thomas Ride made for a special day. Special thanks to Karen Hasselman and Ruby Hansen who stepped up to co-chair this event.

The membership drive is in full swing with many volunteers diligently working on the 2016 campaign to help fund services and events to benefit our community. If you have yet to join the association or extend your membership, it is never too late. A copy of the membership form is enclosed. The Board extends our sincere appreciation to all our block captains, who administer the door to door appeal, to the membership committee, who enter and maintain the association database, to the Treasurer, who maintains our banking record deposits, and to our membership chair - she is the glue that holds membership together. This is a huge effort with countless volunteer hours being dedicated to the association. Many thanks for an awesome job!

You may have noticed the construction at the Commonwealth/Guinea/Twinbrook entrance. The traffic signal is being upgraded to a mast arm style by the Virginia Department of Transportation. The poles are in new locations, requiring the removal the landscape bed in the center median at Commonwealth Boulevard. We will assess the landscape situation after the contractor has completed the work. I want to thank Linda Reamy for doing a wonderful job with keeping the landscape beds maintained. She keeps the beds mulched and weeded throughout the year. The association is responsible for overseeing the landscape beds at this location and the plantings at the Commonwealth Blvd. and Roberts Rd. signboard. It would be great to have some additional help with this effort. So, if you are a gardener or if you simply like being outdoors, please consider volunteering to help with the Beautification and Gardening Group.

We have several items of interest happening with Royal Lake. First, the Friends of Royal Lake have been working with the Park Authority on the replacement of the exercise equipment. Great progress has been made and there is now a funding campaign underway. Please see the enclosed article on page four for details. Also, the County is preparing the construction contract for the dredging of the lake. A spring 2016 "Pardon our Dust" meeting will be planned. Stay tuned for more information. Please email me at president@KPWCA.org with any questions, comments or feedback.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

Community Calendar

Herald Delivery.....	Dec 12
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Dec 15
Halloween Festival.....	Oct 25
FCPS Winter Break Starts.....	Dec 21
Christmas.....	Dec 25
New Years Eve.....	Dec 31
CAC.....	Jan 05
Herald Deadline.....	Jan 06
Braddock District Council.....	Jan 13
Martin Luther King Day.....	Jan 18
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Jan 19
Herald Delivery.....	Jan 23

In this Issue:

- Want to know when Santa will visit your section of the neighborhood on top of Santa's Trusty fire and rescue sleigh? See the volunteer spotlight section of page three for details.
- It's not too late to send in your KPWCA membership fee! See pages 19 and 20 for details and thank you to all those who have already sent in their membership!

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@Yahoo.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.

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: The Men and Women of Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department

A special shout out to some of the most important volunteers that serve our community. The Men and Women of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department (BVFRD) carry on the proud tradition started by those first brave volunteers in 1948. Although the station, the equipment, and the fire and medical technology has changed significantly over those nearly 67 years, the pride and professionalism of the volunteer and career personnel and tireless dedication to the mission of providing the highest quality service to the citizens of the local community remain stronger than ever. To give you an idea, in 2014 units from BVFRD responded to 3,548 incidents, including 2,743 EMS, 562 Fire, and 243 Public Service events.

And as if they don't do enough, it is that special time of year again where Santa makes the rounds in our neighborhood on top of Santa's Trusty fire and rescue sleigh!! Watch live on the station's website as Santa runs his route each night so that you can be guaranteed not to miss him! The Santa Tracker will have a "bread crumb" feature this year that lets you see where he has already been. Santa Tracker will be live starting with the first run on December 1st. On weekdays Santa Runs will take place between 6:00 and 9:00 PM, and on weekends between 5:00 and 9:00 PM.

Santa will visit neighborhoods south/southeast and directly east of Laurel Ridge Elementary School off, or near to, Gainesborough Dr. and up to Wycliff Lane on December 10th. Santa will visit neighborhoods and streets between Pommeroy Dr, Commonwealth Blvd. and Guinea Rd. will take place on December 17th. The BVFRD website has dates for additional sections of the neighborhood.

If Santa is unable to visit due to weather or other circumstances, makeup days will be announced. If makeup dates are used the affected boxes and neighborhoods will be listed on the BVFRD website and social media.

See <http://bvfrd.org> or email staffing@bvfrd.org for more info.

UPDATE: Friends of Royal Lake Meet With FCPA Staff To Plan Exercise Equipment for Royal Lake
by *Friends of Royal Lake*

Substantial progress was made 22 October when Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) met with Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) staff to discuss their Adult Fitness Study. Further, questions surrounding compliance with the Chesapeake Bay Act and the Americans With Disabilities Act were addressed. FORL is now updating equipment selection, location, schedules, and cost estimates.



The original equipment, much of it now broken and removed, dates to 1979, when Wells Fargo teamed up with the President's Council on Physical Fitness and others to provide exercise equipment to communities and parks like Royal Lake.

However, the Park Authority was never funded to maintain the equipment nor does it have general obligation funds to replace the outdoor fitness stations. Consequently, funding requirements will need to be filled by voluntary contributions.

FORL has identified an 12 piece equipment layout costing \$21K - \$24K which includes chin up bars, a parallel bar, pushups bars, and sit-ups stations to name a few (includes installation). The equipment can be used by both sexes, different age groups, and supports both the county's Healthy Fairfax and Aging In Place program for seniors. As proposed, the equipment will be dispersed in four locations along the trail ranging from Lakepointe, west approaching the boat ramp, and a new location by the basketball/tennis courts. The layout purposefully includes low profile body weight exercise stations, multiple locations and equipment redundancy to accommodate user egress, and dispersal to support a circuit type exercise program. The equipment manufacturer and type is identical to Katie's Playground. The metal stations will be dark green and/or brown to blend in.

FORL has already approached several communities surrounding Royal Lake that may have an interest in supporting the effort including: Chatham Towne, Briarwood, Glen Cove Community Assn, Glen Cove Homeowners Assn, Hillsdale Townhomes, Kings Park West, LakePointe Townhomes, New Lakepointe Townhomes, Mayfield Terrace, Rolling Woods Estates, The Reserve at Martins Point, and Village Park.

Several of those communities have stepped forward to provide voluntary contributions including Chatham Towne, Kings Park West, LakePointe Townhomes, and Village Park.

Because many of the above communities have covenants restricting spending funds outside of homeowner association property, FORL now finds it necessary to appeal directly to those HOA residents for individual contributions. They include: Briarwood, Glen Cove Community Assn, Glen Cove Homeowners Assn, Hillsdale Townhomes, New Lakepointe Townhomes, Mayfield Terrace, and The Reserve at Martins Point.

FORL anticipates a contribution campaign through 31 January 2016. At that point, FORL will review funds collected and work with the Park Authority to finalize the equipment list. FORL anticipates the approval of the final list and Mastenbrook Grant application will occur sometime in mid-March, the equipment will be ordered in late March, delivered in late April and installed in May - June.

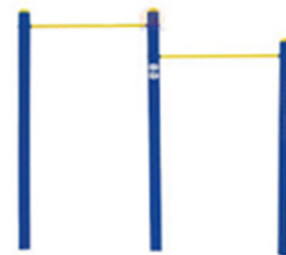
All contributions are tax deductible and will be matched 100% (up to \$20K) by FCPA's Mastenbrook grant program, so it is essential that FORL raise \$12K in order to receive the matching \$12K.

Send tax-deductible contributions to:

Fairfax County Park Foundation
12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 404
Fairfax, VA 22035

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

In an effort to help reduce project costs, FORL will be removing the existing exercise stations and needs volunteers for that effort. This project has a finite commitment, circa Summer 2016. So please help your community and volunteer for a few months to see this to fruition. If you have questions, please email friendsofroyallake@gmail.com.



Royal Lake Dredging Project Ready for Bid

Supervisor Cook is pleased to announce that the long awaited dredging of Royal Lake is now ready to move into the bidding and contract award phase. After working to secure sufficient construction funds and find a location to accept the dredge materials, the County's Stormwater Planning Division and its consultant, Michael Baker, have recently completed a final design for this project which calls for removal of a minimum of 55,000 cubic yards of sediment from Royal Lake. The county hopes to continue its use of the I-95 solid waste complex to receive dredge materials. However, contingency plans have also been prepared to use the county-owned Noman M. Cole, Jr., Pollution Control Plant in the Lorton area of Fairfax County.

The Utilities Design and Construction staff anticipates soliciting bids for this project by December and have bid openings with bid opening in January, 2016. The project will be bid with the option for either a dry or wet mechanical dredge. It is currently expected that a Notice to Proceed will be issued sometime in Spring, 2016.

The county currently expects a total project duration, including site restoration and planting, to be about 12 months. As with other lake dredging projects, there will be a need to relocate existing fish from the lake if the low bid requires lowering the lake. Upon completion the lake will be restocked over a period of 3 years. At this time, there are two construction entrances and staging areas proposed for use by the contractor: Lakeside Park off Pommeroy Drive, and Royal Lake Park off Gainsborough Drive.

This is the last and largest of the Pohick Dams to be dredged; completing a multi-year commitment by Fairfax County to meet current dam standards to protect residents in the flood zones of these lakes and to dredge them to ensure that they prevent phosphorous and nitrates from reaching local streams and the Potomac River as part of the ongoing cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay.

Once the contractor is selected, Supervisor Cook will host a Pardon our Dust meeting so that residents can better understand what to expect and the timetable.

Pohick Stream Valley Deer Harvest Program Status Report

By Tony Vellucci

Deer harvest totals from September 12, 2015 through November 5, 2015 in the Pohick Stream Valley Cluster reveal 41 deer have been harvested; 87% of the harvest has been does. The breakdown is as follows: Pohick Stream Valley: 13; Burke Station Park: 9; Shannon Station Park: 6; West Springfield Village Park: 3; Crooked Creek Park: 7; Kings Park West Park: 3.

Dr. Katherine Edwards, Wildlife Management Specialist with the Fairfax County Police Department notes that white-tailed deer are on the move as breeding season is here. Drivers may expect to see increased numbers of the deer on and near roadways. Fairfax County crash data indicates that there have been almost 400 reportable deer-vehicle collisions in the past five years. Deer movements and behaviors are unpredictable and deer-vehicle collisions are a serious public safety concern.

According to a September 2015 State Farm report, Virginia has the 10th highest rate in the nation for deer-vehicle collisions. The odds that a Virginia driver will have an insurance claim in 2015 as a result of a deer-vehicle collision is 1 out of 97.

In 2014, contractors picked up over 1,100 deer carcasses on county roadways. This year, almost 900 have been picked up, so far. Approximately one-half or more of all deer-vehicle collisions generally occur during the months of October, November, and December. Deer are especially active pre-dawn to mid-morning and dusk to early evening. These periods of activity correspond with the time when many Fairfax County residents are commuting to and from work or school. Fairfax County Police urge motorists to drive cautiously during this time and be on the lookout for deer crossing roadways. If a deer is injured or killed, immediately report the collision to the Fairfax County Police Department (non-emergency) at 703-691-2131.



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Update on Neighbor Assist in Kings Park West

We have received no suggestions about other programs that might be useful to residents in KPW, so we are continuing to work on those currently active: Social Calling, Computer Assistance, Handyman, Yard Work, and Snow Removal. If you have ideas about programs that you would actually use, please let us know. These services are for all residents of KPW. The residents who have volunteered to perform these services would really enjoy being called upon. **Call us at 703-401-0275 or email at Neighborassist@kpwca.org.**

The most recent Neighbor Assist activity is a student willing to rake leaves or clear snow. He is working to pay for a car. Sounds like many of us older residents, who are now retired. I remember my first car, a push button, powder blue Dodge with big tail fins. It was my car. I worked and paid for it myself. I take my hat off to this student who is willing to do the same.

We are still requesting names and contact information from other students or individuals in KPW willing to offer yard maintenance or snow removal services. These two areas of service are not labor free, but allow ambitious residents to help with home maintenance. Send your contact information to the address above or call the Neighbor Assist number above.

Handyman Service has continued to draw requests. So far our volunteers have completed five projects. Residents who have requested services have been pleased. These services are free to any KPW resident. All we require is reimbursement for material costs involved in completion of the project. Since labor is usually the highest cost, that is a great bargain. It is particularly valuable since the service is done by someone you can trust to do a good job. The recent jobs included repairing plumbing leaks, door hardware replacement, caulking, merchandise assembly, and installation of storage shed racks and other hardware.

We remind you to be careful when decorating the outside of your homes for the holidays. It is best if you can find someone to help you, particularly when you are required to be on a ladder. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely, Your KPWCA Neighbor Assist Volunteer Team

REAL ESTATE CORNER
by Mary and Cathy



Mortgage Interest Rates Likely To Go Up

October's hiring rebound "confirms that the weakness in August and September was just a temporary blip and, given the circumstances, a December interest-rate hike would now appear to be the most likely outcome," Capital Economics chief U.S. economist Paul Ashworth said in a note to clients. 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 Wall Street Journal

8 KPW homes are currently under contract, quite a large number for this time of year. Perhaps savvy buyers are locking their interest rates before the Fed hike predicted for December.

Model	List	Address	DOM	Bed	Bath	SF
Duchess	\$539,900	5211 Noyes Ct	140	4	2/1	1,950
Baron	\$665,000	5265 Pumphrey Dr	19	4	3/1	2,187
Baron	\$675,000	10107 Dundalk St	8	4	3/1	2,187
York with Basement (as is)	\$465,000	10438 Collingham Dr	28	4	3/0	1,359
Baron	\$675,000	10211 Pumphrey Ct	11	4	3/1	2,187
Queen	\$555,000	10012 Raeburn Ct	32	5	2/1	1,590
Essex	\$550,000	4760 Tapestry Dr	8	4	2/1	1,104
Regent	\$585,000	5346 Gainsborough Dr	45	4	3/0	1,409

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 Email: kevin@wkwarchitect.com
 Phone: 703 508 3229



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

15th Annual Bethlehem Walk Celebration of Christ’s Birth

Walk the ancient streets of Bethlehem during the time of Jesus Christ’s birth via a replica of the famous city at Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale, Va. The popular two-day event will host hundreds of visitors Dec. 12-13 for guided tours 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Now beginning its 15th year, Bethlehem Walk features period re-enactors as citizens, Roman soldiers, tax collectors, and shopkeepers peddling their wares through streets that lead to a humble inn with live nativity manger scene, including animals, where the miracle took place. Presented at no charge as its annual Christmas gift to the Northern Virginia community, the event drew more than 3,000 attendees last year. Continuous Christmas music performances, children’s craft activities and refreshments will be provided. Ample, directed parking is available. Visit www.bwalk.org or call [703-978-0160](tel:703-978-0160) for details.

**NEW WEATHER PROCEDURE
NOW IN EFFECT**

In response to customer feedback, the Fairfax County Park Authority is changing its procedure for weather-related cancelations and closures. Rather than follow the public schools inclement weather schedule, the Park Authority is now following the county government's operating schedule in cases of inclement weather.

This change recognizes that the unique challenges facing the public schools on inclement weather days are different from those facing the parks in providing recreational activities. Our goal with this change is to provide customers greater access to recreational facilities and classes whenever possible – even on snow days.

Unless the county closes all county facilities, RECenters and other park facilities will remain open for general use and for classes on inclement weather days. If Park Authority facilities are open, scheduled rentals such as swim team practices, meets, weddings and birthday parties will continue as planned unless canceled by the customer or FCPA. For programs at non-Park Authority locations, other guidelines apply.

For details about the Park Authority's new weather procedure, visit our weather page at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/weatherclosures.htm>. You can also find more information at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks or call the Inclement Weather Line at [703-324-8661](tel:703-324-8661).

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COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HOA)—President Larry Velte

If you are a member of the Community Association (HOA) and are selling your home, Virginia law requires that you provide the potential purchaser with a HOA “Disclosure Packet” prior to closing. The purpose of the disclosure packet is to fully inform the buyer of the existence of the HOA and the details of its operation. Its extensive contents include copies of the Covenants and Restrictions, the by-laws, the budget and the annual assessment (dues), the HOA’s insurance policy information, the association’s Reserve Study (funding plan for repair of HOA infrastructure), and information about any pending lawsuits against the HOA or pending special assessments. It also contains a statement of whether any violations of the covenants exist on the property, such as unapproved structures or additions. As part of this process, a member of the Community Association Board of Directors will look at the exterior of the property. Any covenant violations are subject to correction when the property changes hands. If the HOA disclosure packet is not provided to the purchaser by the time of settlement, the purchaser can cancel the contract.

There is no central HOA database for realtors to check. It is therefore your responsibility to inform your realtor that your property is part of the HOA so that the realtor can request the Disclosure Packet. If you are selling your home yourself, you are still required to provide the packet. You could perhaps come up with all the required information, after closely studying Section 55.509 of the Virginia Code. The safer and much easier course of action is to request the packet through www.homewisedocs.com, and the Community Association’s management company will assemble the documents. This requires you to establish a passworded account with Homewise. There is a \$225 charge for the packet as set by Virginia law (add \$50 for a “rush” job), and the packet is good for six months. This money does not go to the Community Association, but reimburses those who must assemble the packet.

NOTE: Disclosure packets are required only for properties in the Community Association area of KPW (sections 16-22) and not for all KPW properties. If you are unsure, ask your realtor or contact us at kpwhoa@yahoo.com

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Get off the Couch

A Roundup of Family Friendly Weekend Events Around the Region

December 12-13

Astronaut Academy

The National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center invites young aspiring astronauts to attend the Astronaut Academy. The 'Academy' is a *FREE* interactive alternative reality game designed to get people thinking about what future astronauts will need for a successful trip to mars. The game is perfect for ages 10-14, but anyone can play. Astronaut training held at regular intervals from 10:30-2:30. Saturday only. Parking is \$15.

www.airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center

Chanukah on Ice

Reston Town Center Ice Skating Rink is hosting a Chanukah themed skating party. There will be a menorah lighting, skating to Chanukah music, hot latkes and donuts, and gelt for everyone. Admission is *FREE*, skate rental is \$12. Sunday only, 4:30-6pm. www.chabadrh.org

Bethlehem Walk

See what it would have been like for Joseph and Mary as they sought shelter. This popular annual Christmastime live Nativity takes visitors back in time. After returning to the 21st century you're invited to have refreshments and crafts in the fellowship hall. Saturday and Sunday. 3-7pm. Parkwood Baptist Church, 8726 Braddock Rd. www.bwalk.org

December 19-20

Holiday Party and Puppet Show

Frying Pan Farm Park is hosting the family friendly holiday party and puppet show "Crooning with the Critters" in honor of the Park Authority's 65th anniversary. You can also check out the farm animals, and then warm up in the visitor's center where hot cocoa, cider and cookies will be provided. *FREE*, but donations to the Fairfax County Park Foundation will be accepted. 10am, Saturday only. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark

Indiana Jones and the Adventure of Archaeology

Go on an Indiana Jones inspired adventure at the National Geographic Museum. Visitors use an interactive hand-held device to guide them on a quest to find the truth behind archaeological mysteries. Exhibition is included in museum admission. Adults \$15, students \$12, children 5-12 \$10. Through January 3rd. 10am-6pm daily. 17th and M St, NW. www.events.nationalgeographic.com

December 26-27

Zoo Lights

More than half a million lights illuminate the National Zoo during this very popular annual event. Stroll around and check out nocturnal residents, take a carousel ride, or take a slide down the tubing hill. Admission to the zoo is *FREE*, but there is a charge for activities. 5-9pm. Through January 2nd. www.nationalzoo.si.edu

January 2016

January is a great time of year to visit the many outdoor ice skating rinks in the area. Here are a few options, check venue websites for more information:

Sculpture Garden Ice Rink: Perhaps the oldest and most popular ice rink in the area. Admission \$6-\$7, skate rental \$3.

Tyson's Corner Center Ice Rink: New to the scene, right outside the Tyson Corner mall. Admission \$9-\$10, skate rental \$6.

Harris Pavillion: This is a covered rink located near the Manassas VRE station. Admission \$7-\$8, skate rental \$4, all day open skate.

Georgetown's Washington Harbour: Skate along the Potomac on DC's largest outdoor rink. Admission \$9-\$10, skate rental \$5.

Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason this month:

Patriot Center: www.eaglebankarena.com

Men's and Women's Basketball: <http://gomason.com>

Center for the Arts www.cfa.gmu.edu

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

December 13: Mason Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert

December 18: Vienna Boys Choir: *Christmas in Vienna*

December 19: Savion Glover: DANCE HOLIDAY

SPeCTaCuLaR

January 23: The Band of the Royal Marines: *Featuring the Pipes, Drums, and Highland Dancers of the Scots Guards*

Spotlight Event

Get ready for Panda-monium! The National Zoo's newest baby panda will go on display to the public for the first time on January 16th. The Giant Panda House has been closed since August to give mom, Mei Xiang, and baby, Bei-Bei, a chance to bond. It will once again be open to the public from 9am-4pm each day. Admission is *FREE* www.nationalzoo.si.edu



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



Your neighbors are looking for the following service providers. Can you help? If so, please post on the Facebook page! Thanks!

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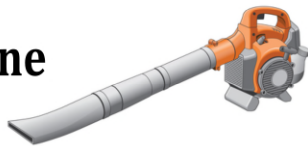
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Protecting Pups: New Rules for Dog Tethering Passed

Tethering a dog for more than one cumulative hour during any 24-hour period, unless the dog is under the direct supervision and control of its owner or custodian, is now prohibited in Fairfax County. The Board of Supervisors voted to amend the Fairfax County Code to incorporate the Code of Virginia's cruelty to animals provisions along with the tethering provision. Fines and penalties for violating the tethering provision are as follows:

First violation — Class 3 misdemeanor, punishable by fine of up to \$500.

Second violation (whether or not involving the same dog) within one year of first violation — Class 2 misdemeanor, punishable by fine of up to \$1,000 and/or penalty of up to six months in jail.

All subsequent violations within one year of first violation — Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by fine of up to \$2,500 and/or penalty of up to one year in jail.

From: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/protecting-pups-new-rules-for-dog-tethering-passed/>



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KPW Resident Recent Accomplishments

On October 25th, Vista Blackwatch U-16 Boys' team won the VYSA Presidents Cup. Their victory secures them a seat in the regionals of the national tournament in May. The following weekend of November 2, the boys won the NCSL U-16 Division 2 championship. Of the 17-member team, eight are Robinson students, five of which are alumni of Laurel Ridge. To end their season, Blackwatch won their division of the CASL Boys College Showcase tournament in NC November 20-22.



DEBORAH MILLER, born in New Mexico, USA, and a long-time resident of KPW, was crowned MS TRANSATLANTIC 2016, by a celebrity panel of Judges, at the Super Star Theater, RESORTS HOTEL AND CASINO in Atlantic City on October 22, 2015. Ms Miller was awarded the top Talent Award from the thirteen finalists from the United States and the United Kingdom. The BBC International search for that special international senior woman was realized with the selection of Deborah Miller, who has sung sixteen leading opera roles, including a world premiere, plus sacred music, barbershop, and Broadway. Deborah's other interests include teaching voice and piano, and participating in Jazzercise, softball, yoga, riding horses, playing bridge, gardening and lots of travel. Deborah's volunteer work includes supporting Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs, Feed the Homeless, TESOL, AAFSW, and many church initiatives. She served as KPWCA's Membership Chairman for 7 years, for which she was awarded a "Best of Braddock" citation. She performs regularly for Northern Virginia Senior Centers and other groups devoted to senior care. DEBORAH MILLER, Ambassador At-Large, will be in London, England December 21- 28, 2015, performing and promoting the BBC's Documentary Special about the Senior America/Senior United Kingdom Pageant throughout the United Kingdom, and spreading the word about the "Age of Elegance".



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What a Tree is Worth

by Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Within a home, folks cut utility bills in many ways, such as saving water with low-flow faucet aerators or reducing power consumption by insulating the attic or replacing old windows with energy-efficient ones. However, many people overlook an outdoor money-saving resource: trees! Over the years, trees can reward landowners with hundreds to thousands of dollars worth of perks if planted in the right spots. Tree benefits include cooling shade during summer, buffering winds in winter, stabilizing soil, improving air quality, and absorbing carbon dioxide. You can easily calculate the dollars and cents behind a tree's value through i-Tree. After following several simple steps, the output shows how much money any given tree will save or cost you over a specified time.

Begin by measuring the diameters (or circumferences) of all trees on the property. For the purposes here, a "tree" is a woody plant with at least a one inch diameter at its base and potentially grows to at least 20 feet; flowering dogwoods and redbuds are some of the smallest species. For birches and other multi-trunked trees, take all of the trunks' diameters, square them, sum the squares, calculate the square root of that sum, and use that number for that specimen's diameter. While measuring the diameters, jot down the type of tree and its overall health. If you cannot determine the species, then note generic features, like if it is an evergreen "pine" or "Tree, Unknown" for a deciduous specimen.

Next, go to the i-Tree website, <http://www.itreetools.org/design.php>. Enter the property's address and click "Go!" Once a Google Maps image of the house and yard appears, follow the website's instructions to delineate the building's area. Now, click on Step 2 to add trees. Notice how many of the property's trees are visible (at least somewhat) on this map. Before inserting trees, consider taking a screen capture of the current image because once a tree is added, a green and yellow grid appears across the ground that prevents seeing other trees' locations. Referring to the trees seen in the earlier screen capture might come in handy as each tree's relative location gets entered. In describing the tree, include the species' common name, diameter or circumference, overall health, and sunlight exposure.

After inputting all tree data, clicking the "Model Crown Growth" button shows the trees' projected growth over the next 50 years. To compute the estimated cost savings over the years, click on Step 3's "Estimate Benefits" bar, enter the number of years to cover (2-99), and click the "Calculate >>" button. A new window appears containing data tabs including the current year's benefits and the money saved over the previously selected timespan. The data can be broken down into the direct impact each individual tree has on the property and itemize the stormwater retained, electricity and heating fuel saved, air pollutants filtered, and carbon dioxide sequestered. Some items, such as stormwater benefits, remain the same regardless of where the tree is on the property. However, a tree's species and placement relative to the house plays a huge impact on energy savings. For example, Figure 1 shows a screen capture of a hypothetical property. Both trees A and B are identical white pines. However, A saves \$65 for the current year and B comes in at a -\$26 loss even though they are the same distance from the house. This difference is because pine A is north of the house and hinders winter winds; pine B affords some summer shade at a savings but that shade costs more by blocking warm sunlight during the winter. An oak or other deciduous tree is a better choice in site B. You might like to use i-Tree when planning future



Crown Growth Modeler

Figure 1. This image from i-Tree displays the trees' expected crown growth. To respect privacy, the depicted building and trees are fictional, located on Royal Lake's spillway. Trees A and B are both white pines, though A offers more cost savings than the handful of oaks, hickories, and other trees here, the total money saved this year is \$310 and projected to be \$652 in 20 years, accruing nearly \$10,000 of tax-free savings during this time.

landscaping renovations.

Although i-Tree is a fantastic tool to virtually assess a property's tree value, it does not consider every aspect. For example, no warnings flash if a closely situated sycamore's root system might damage the house's foundation or if a diseased and leaning tree should be removed. Likewise, no red flags pop up if a willow could possibly clog a nearby sewer line with intrusive roots. If the user plans to chop down trees, i-Tree's stormwater feature displays a decreased monetary savings but will not alert you if removing too many water-absorbing roots might cause erosion or basement flooding during future rains. The longevity of certain short-lived tree species can be inaccurately extended beyond its actual life expectancy. i-Tree neither considers a tree's aesthetic value nor services to wildlife—a big bonus from native trees.

Final notes: the better the tree's health, the greater paybacks it will provide. Every few years, have mature trees thinned professionally by a licensed and insured arborist and not the cheapest guy who comes knocking. Thinning branches help trees survive microbursts, derechos, ice storms, and other extreme weather events. To give woodpeckers and other wildlife food and homes, leave dead trees or a tall stump *provided* they do not pose a safety risk and are away from any structures.

For more tree tips and information:

Fairfax County i-Tree Ecosystem Analysis (August 2010):

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/ffcounty_ecoreport.pdf

Reference City Field Data Collection Protocols:

https://www.itreetools.org/streets/resources/USDA_FS_Reference_City_Field_Data_Collection_Protocols.pdf

Virginia native tree identification and other references: <http://www.dof.virginia.gov/identify/trees/index.htm>

Tree benefits: <https://www.ncsu.edu/project/treesofstrength/benefits.htm>

24 Ways to Kill a Tree (includes "How NOT to Kill a Tree"):

<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/430/430-210/430-210.html>

For the full article, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to:
http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/63_2015-12.pdf



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Capture the Spirit of the Season with Fairfax County Parks

FCPS Park Authority has a sleigh full of holly, jolly holiday activities for you this year! You can visit Santa in person, shop for unique gifts to give, and see festive lights. See below for the remaining December activities and visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm> for more!

Sunday, December 13: Christmas at the Farm

Enjoy a special holiday visit and take a wagon ride with Santa through the woods and fields at Frying Pan Farm Park. Activities for those two and older include a holiday craft, cookie decorating and puppet show. The hour-long program runs at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. each day. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Dress for the weather. For more information, please call 703-437-9101.

Sunday, December 13: Candlelight Tea: A Plum Pudding Christmas

Come to Green Spring Gardens and learn about the famous and often misunderstood Christmas pudding – also known as plum or figgy pudding – that generations of carolers have demanded. Enjoy a serving of this ancient and delicious tradition of the British Christmas table and take home a festive favor bag. The program runs from 4:30 to 6 p.m. and includes a traditional English tea served in the 1784 historic house. This program is suited to those ages 13 to adult. The cost is \$45 per person. Reservations are required. For more information, call 703-941-7987.

Sunday, December 13: Christmas in the Time of Jane Austen

See how the traditional 12 days of Christmas were celebrated at the turn of the 19th century at Sully Historic Site. Elegant dancing, rich foods and travel made the season exciting. Learn the latest dance steps, make a holiday decoration, and take home a recipe for a "great cake." See cooking in the open hearth and sample sugar cakes and cider. These tours are designed for participants age five to adult. Tours begin at 4:45 with a new tour starting every 15 minutes. The last begins at 7 p.m. Please register online. The cost is \$10 per person. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Sunday, December 13: Workshop: Pinecone Wreath

Fashion a wreath of mixed pinecones and nuts at Green Spring Gardens that will add rustic charm for the holidays and last for years. Designer Chuck Mason will lead you through the project from 2 to 4 p.m. and show you how to display the wreath indoors or on your front door. The cost of this workshop only for adults is \$38, and there is a \$25 fee for supplies. Please register for the program and supply fee. For more information, please call 703-642-5173.

Saturday, December 19: 65th Anniversary Party and Puppet Show

Our 65th anniversary wraps up with FREE a Holiday Party and Puppet Show at the Visitor Center at Frying Pan Farm Park, beginning at 10 a.m. See the "Crooning with the Critters" interactive musical puppet show at 10:45 a.m., pet live farm animals outside, meet officials and enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies inside. The event is free however donations will support Frying Pan Farm Park summer camp scholarships. For more information, call 703-324-8662.

Saturday, December 19: Victorian Candlelight Tour

Participants five and older will enjoy Victorian-era traditions as you meet Sully's Santa, hear a reading of A Visit from St. Nicholas and see the Christmas tree decorated according to an 1885 memory. Make a tree decoration based on a Victorian original, see Sully's own puppet show and enjoy cider and sugar cakes. Tours begin at 4:45 with a new tour starting every 15 minutes. The last tour begins at 7 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person. Please register online. For more information, call 703-437-1794.

Wednesday, December 30: Holiday Concert – IONA

1 p.m. and 2 p.m. Ages 5-adult. One of the top rated pan-Celtic groups in the world, IONA treats its audience to high energy entertainment featuring Scottish fiddling, percussion, vocals and dancing. House tour included. Refreshments served in the 18th century kitchen. Limited seating. Purchase tickets online at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/happy-holidays.htm>.

Support your Kings Park West Civic Association in 2016!!



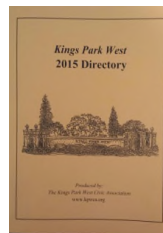
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As you can see, Membership really does have it's privileges! Your contribution combined with the activities of our volunteers make KPW a vibrant, desirable neighborhood and benefits everyone's property values.

If you haven't already – please show your support and join the KPWCA for 2016!!

Thank you!!!!

Block # _____ Date _____

2016 KPWCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Member Information

All information provided will be entered into the Membership Database. **PLEASE check the boxes on the left below for information you want published in the Directory.**


check these to publish	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	<input style="width: 560px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address	<input style="width: 560px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Telephone	<input style="width: 560px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
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Please enter amounts you would like to contribute to the following organizations or activities:

<input type="text"/>	Membership Fee (\$20 for each household)	
<input type="text"/>	1. Volunteer Fire Department	
<input type="text"/>	2. KPWCA Boy Scout Units	
<input type="text"/>	3. Robinson HS Drug/Alcohol Free Grad Party	
<input type="text"/>	4. TJHSST Drug/Alcohol Free Grad Party	
<input type="text"/>	5. Herald Newsletter	
<input type="text"/>	6. Unrestricted Community Use	
<input type="text"/>	7. Halloween Festival	
<input type="text"/>	8. Easter Egg Hunt	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash
<input type="text"/>	9. College Scholarships	<input type="checkbox"/> PayPal
<input type="text"/>	10. Parks & Lake	or
<input type="text"/>	11. Common Area Maintenance	
<input type="text"/>	Total Dollar Amount	Check # <input style="width: 80px;" type="text"/> (important)

Please make checks payable to **KPWCA** and mail to the address below, or return to your Block Captain
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I'm interested in learning more about volunteering with: *(please check each)*

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<input type="checkbox"/>	Streets & Signboards	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Neighborhood Watch	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other... _____	

The boys of Pack 1967 participated in two fun events this fall. In October, we held our Fall Campout, an overnight at Burke Lake Park campgrounds. The boys and their families spent Saturday afternoon setting up tents and playing games in the park. That evening the boys participated in a campfire program where each den performed an entertaining skit, followed by a reverent flag retirement ceremony, and concluding, of course, with a favorite campfire treat: s'mores! After a chilly overnight in sleeping bags, the morning pancake breakfast was a perfect wrap up to the campout event. Another exciting fall event in our pack is the Raingutter Regatta. Each boy built and designed a miniature catamaran for competition. Medals were awarded for the best in show and fastest boats for each age group.



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 can be reached at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.

IMA's Annual "De-Stress Before Christmas" Workday and Win a Starbucks Gift Card

Join the Invasive Management Area (IMA)'s "De-Stress Before Christmas" workday! Exercise out all of your holiday stresses with a healthy workout pulling non-native invasive weeds from a park within KPW (exact meeting location and mission is TBA).

It is scheduled for Saturday, December 19, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. but we need at least six (6) people committed to help out. Afterwards, we will raffle a Starbucks gift card to folks working the full three hours.

RSVP to greg@grsykes.com with the number in your party. See you in the field!

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JOHNSON TUTORING: Algebra I and II, Geometry, Statistics, Trigonometry, Pre-Calc, SAT Prep. Trustworthy. References available. **Chris Johnson** [B.S.EE (UVA), M.S. SysEng (GMU)] (703)966-5131. ccjohnson62@gmail.com.

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ART TEACHER with 10 years of experience. I teach acrylic and watercolor classes, workshops, and private lessons. Adults and children ages 8 and up, all skill levels. Reasonable rates. Contact Christine Jenkins at (703)537-9391 or Chris9900@hotmail.com for a free trail lesson.

SOCCER SKILLS TRAINING: Nationally licensed female coach, former college/ODP player, KPW resident. Ages 8-adult, all levels welcome. Reasonable rates. Website: www.coachjess.com. Call (703)508-8333 or email jess_coach@yahoo.com

TALENTED KPW TEENAGE DJ SJ is certified through the Beat Refinery Institute and ready to perform at your event with a wide range of music, guaranteed to liven up any party! DJ SJ will bring all the equipment needed to make your event a huge success. Call or text Sean at (571) 423-7893 for more information.

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PUZZLED BY PATCHES? Boy Scout and Girl Scout. I'll sew them on for you. I know where they go so you don't have to. \$1/patch. Call Louise (703) 978-1223

HAPPY HOUNDS DOG SERVICE: Walking Dogs Are Happy Dogs: ☺ •Daily Walks, Let Outs, Overnight Services and Holiday Care •Great References •Reliable & Trustworthy Service •Licensed & Insured •KPW Resident for over 20 years. Call Deb & Dawnell @ (571)278-7521 or email Deb.Billings@yahoo.com.

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See page 15 for Wanted and For Sale items.