

August 2016

Vol. 46, Issue 5

Kings Park West Civic

Hello Neighbors,

Greetings! I hope the summer months have been relaxing and enjoyable, and that you are staying cool as the heat and humidity are upon us. The Best of Braddock Awards were presented at the Braddock District Council picnic on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Best of Braddock Awards is a program to recognize citizens, organizations and businesses of the Braddock District whose excellent performance or contributions adds to the welfare, beauty, and strength of the Braddock District. This year, special recognition was awarded to the staff, volunteers, and Friends of Kings Park Library. Congratulations to our KPW neighbor Bruce Wallachy, President of Friends of Kings Park Library. We thank Bruce for his continued diligent work throughout the community.

The budget for next year has been prepared by the board and is published within this edition of the Herald. The 2017 budget assumes a voluntary membership participation of 1,044 at \$20 per membership, which is based on an approximate 65% community participation. We are very thankful for all neighbors who willingly join the civic association. Please take a moment to look over the budget. The board will be presenting the budget at the KPWCA Annual Fall Membership Meeting, currently scheduled for September 27 at 7:30 pm at Robinson Secondary School. We will also be electing the Board of Directors (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) positions.

Lastly, with the start of summer, we see an increase of people moving out (and in) of the neighborhood. We have seen some maintenance issues with some renter-occupied homes, which primarily includes tall grass violations. A reminder to homeowners that rent properties: please provide continued maintenance of your property in accordance with County code, to include regular mowing, while the property is not occupied. Also, the County Park dumpsters at Lake Royal were filled with mattresses and furniture. These dumpsters are available for park activities and should not be utilized for this type of dumping – it represents poor citizenship, which is bad for the community. Please contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org) with any questions. Enjoy the summer!

Best Regards, Jeanmarie Roberson

***In this Issue:***

- A note from the new Membership chairperson. Please see Page 6 for her introduction.
- The budget is in! See Pages 7 and 8; proposed changes to the budget are always welcome!
- The Royal Lake exercise equipment project is nearing completion. Please see Pages 16 and 17 for pictures and more.

Community Calendar	
Herald Delivery.....	Aug 20
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Aug 23
Labor Day.....	Sept 5
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Sept 6
Herald Deadline.....	Sept 7
Braddock District Council.....	Sept 14
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Sept 20
Autumn Begins.....	Sept 22
Herald Delivery.....	Sept 24
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	Sept 27
KPWCA Membership Drive.....	Oct 1

# KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

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

## OFFICERS

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

## COMMITTEES

B.A.G.G	<b>Vacant</b>	
<b>Community Support Services</b>		
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland	703-946-1775
GMU Student Liaison	<b>Vacant</b>	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan:	<a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471

## Communications

Herald Newsletter:

Display Editor	Leah Larson-Taylor	703-283-0208
Communications Editor	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Advertising	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Classifieds	Ejona Lika:	<a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a>
Signboards	Ken Waldrop	703-503-0725
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett:	<a href="mailto:website@kpwca.org">website@kpwca.org</a>
Membership	Patti Dickerson:	<a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a>
NW Captain	Pappy Palazzo	202-369-1061
Parks & Lakes	Sarah Lennon	703-978-5608
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes	703-426-8246
Signs, St.s, Sidewalks	Jeff Root	703-323-4438

## Special Activities

Easter Egg Hunt	Pack 1967
Halloween Festival	<b>Vacant</b>
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom 703-323-5997

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

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

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

## Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

### OFFICERS

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

### COMMITTEES

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

### HERALD STAFF

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

## How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

**CLASSIFIEDS:** KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the September 24th issue must be received no later than September 7th by Ejona Lika, 9810 Bronte Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or email [classified@kpwca.org](mailto:classified@kpwca.org). Please print clearly, and include payment to KPWCA. Furnish your name, address, and phone number. Rates: KPWCA members, \$2 for each 15 words; nonmembers, \$5 first 25 words, plus \$3 for each additional 15 words. Found items listed free.

**ADVERTISEMENTS:** KPWCA Newsletter Advertisements are received by Samantha Juni; please email [editor@kpwca.org](mailto:editor@kpwca.org). Contact Samantha for rates.

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

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

## The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is September 7, 2016

for delivery on September 24, 2016

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

**SUBSCRIPTIONS:** If you are moving out of the neighborhood and want to keep in touch with what's happening, gets a subscription. Send \$20 per year to:

KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION,  
P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.

## Volunteer Opportunities

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

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

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

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

**Road Raiders,** *1/2 hour each month.* Performs common area clean-up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact Sarah Lennon at [sarahjlennon@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:greg@grsykes.com) and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

## Community Association

*By Nancy Grant*

The Kings Park West Community Association held its 2016 annual membership meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, the Association's activities over the past year were reviewed; these included removing hazardous trees, handling violations of the architectural control portion of the covenants, and taking lien actions for non-payment of the annual assessment (this involves about one percent of the membership, a remarkably low number). The proposed 2016-2017 budget was reviewed, and elections to the Board of Directors were held: Nancy Grant, Mark Heppner and Larry Velte were elected for three-year terms. The Annual Meeting minutes are posted on the Association's website at [www.kpwhoa.org](http://www.kpwhoa.org).

At the June 8<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting, the 2016-2017 budget was formally adopted and officers were elected. Nancy Grant is President, Larry Velte is Vice President, Mark Heppner is Secretary, and Maureen Pettis is Treasurer. Jim Bovino and Jillian Mueller are at-large members. A vacancy was created by the earlier resignation of Linda Bufano, whose term was to expire in May 2017. The Board will appoint a replacement to complete her term; anyone interested in serving is encouraged to contact the Association. All members are welcome to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings, which are held at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Laurel Ridge Elementary School's CSS Program Multi-Purpose Room. Members may also communicate with the Board by email at [kpwhoa@yahoo.com](mailto:kpwhoa@yahoo.com).

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# REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



**This appears to be the year of the Regent!** This model is outselling the rest so far in 2016. Many Regent owners have opened up the kitchen and dining room by removing the shared wall and adding either a peninsula or island. Buyers are responding very well to this improvement. The Queen model, the first three-level colonial Richmarr offered, is also selling well. And finally, the rambler models are hot this year owing to their spacious eat-in kitchens and nice curb appeal.

**KPW Stats**  
31 KPW homes have already sold so far in 2016, and 6 more are under contract.

There are 12 active listings.

**Average List Price**

**\$547,900**

*(Includes sold, active and under contract listings).*

**Average Sold Price YTD**

**\$548,354**


**13 Properties Have Sold Since June 5, 2016**

Model	Address	List Price	Sold Price
Baron	4754 Farndon Ct	\$619,000	\$617,500
Cromwell	10156 Tapestry Ct	\$550,000	\$550,000
Custom	10353 Commonwealth Blvd	\$699,000	\$689,000
Duke	5213 Noyes Ct	\$537,500	\$537,500
Prince	9815 Commonwealth Blvd	\$490,000	\$475,000
Queen	10026 Whitefield St	\$579,900	\$580,000
Queen	5021 Wheatstone Dr	\$575,000	\$555,000
Queen	9901 Commonwealth Blvd	\$550,000	\$550,000
Regent	5011 Swinton Dr	\$605,000	\$595,000
Regent	5114 Pumphrey Dr	\$590,000	\$585,000
Regent	10419 Ashcroft Way	\$580,000	\$585,000
York w/ bsmt	10408 Ashcroft Way	\$489,900	\$489,900
York w/ bsmt	5305 Kaywood Ct	\$530,000	\$530,000

Hello Neighbors and Block Captains in KPWCA,

I have recently volunteered to assume the duties of the Membership chairperson for our Civic Association, replacing superstar Sylvia Gladd. Although we made the official switch of duties on April 1, 2016, the real excitement will get going this coming fall when the Membership Drive begins on October 1, 2016. I had the pleasure of meeting a few Block Captains at the Volunteer Appreciation dinner in May, and I look forward to greeting the rest of the volunteer crew when the drive kicks into high gear. There is a small team of supporters (including Sylvia) who have been getting me up to speed on various tasks so that I will be well-versed in Membership duties. Kings Park West has been our family's home since 1995, and I have been a long-time Block Captain. I believe in the role the Block Captains play; offering personal contact to neighbors and welcoming new folks to the neighborhood. Often times, a Block Captain is the first point of contact a neighbor has to learning about the neighborhood Civic Association, along with all its many community offerings. I appreciate all the volunteers that contribute time and effort to keep our community friendly and appealing. I hope to serve the KPW community to the best of my abilities. If you need to reach me, please email [membership@KPWCA.org](mailto:membership@KPWCA.org).

Sincerely,  
Patti Dickerson  
Membership



**The KPWCA FY 2017 Budget**  
*By Jonathan Reiser –Treasurer*

We have submitted the proposed KPWCA budget for Fiscal Year 2017. The first column of the budget shows the estimated actual figures for FY 2016 (this year ending 30 September 2016); the second column shows the budget (as accepted by the members) for FY 2016; and the third, the proposed budget for FY 2017. The 2017 budget assumes a voluntary membership participation of 1,044 at \$20 per membership, which is an approximate community participation of 65%. The budget does not assume any income from optional donations.

The budget amounts for optional donations are automatically restricted in next year’s beginning Balance Sheet. That means that the balances (in bookkeeping language, *Temporary Restricted Net Assets*) for those categories will automatically be increased (in bookkeeping language, *Credited with Journal Entries*) on October 1, 2016, by the amount that you approve. Thereafter, the optional donations you check off on your membership form will be added to those balances. As money is spent on the category, the corresponding Asset is *Debited* through a *Journal Entry*.

We *never* “zero out” restricted assets at the end of the year—budgeted and optional donations to a category are *always* spent on that category in the course of time *because* they are restricted. If not this year, next, or the year after. The optional donations are vital to fund events and programs particularly when membership is lower than expected. Currently, we have a healthy balance of approximately \$17,000 this year, which was added as a credit to the appropriate Temporary Restricted Net Asset throughout the year.


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

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**Additions, Remodeling, Renovation & Repairs**

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 <p><b>Top to bottom remodeling.</b></p> <p>Making your house a more functional home for your family.</p> <p>Modify existing floor plans—create open concept.</p>	One, two or three story additions In-law/parent suites Sun rooms Screened porches Decks Sheds Garages Patios Retaining walls	Kitchen Bathrooms Basement Carports to Garage Garage to Living Space Flooring—tile, hardwood, carpet Recessed lighting Doors and windows	Electrical Plumbing Painting—Interior & Exterior Damp or wet basements Replace damaged trim Yard drainage Handyman repairs Trim and Carpentry

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 Email contact: [silverfleetconstruction@verizon.net](mailto:silverfleetconstruction@verizon.net)

## Kings Park West Civic Association FY2017 Notional Budget

REVENUE	FY16		
	Est thru 30 Sept	FY16 BUDGET	FY17 BUDGET
Membership Dues	\$ 19,280.00	\$ 20,760.00	\$ 20,880.00
Directory Ads	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Newsletter Subscriptions	\$ 140.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 140.00
Herald Classified Ads	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 950.00
Herald Display Ads	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 11,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 28,870.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,910.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,970.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Admin & Misc Expenses:Association dues	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Bank Charge	\$ 133.50	\$ 50.00	\$ 60.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Insurance	\$ 2,527.00	\$ 2,700.00	\$ 2,850.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Other Admin & Misc Expenses	\$ 132.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:PayPal Fees	\$ 105.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 110.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:State Corporate Registration	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Tax Prep & Filing Fees	\$ 99.00	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Utilities	\$ 175.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Admin & Misc Expenses:Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	\$ 306.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 400.00
<b>TOTAL ADMIN &amp; MISC EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3,502.50</b>	<b>\$4,255.00</b>	<b>\$4,445.00</b>
Common Area Maintenance:Area Contract Maintenance	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00
Common Area Maintenance:BAGG Expenses	\$ 200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00
Common Area Maintenance:Parks & Lakes Maintenance	\$ 2,041.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL COMMON AREA EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$4,341.00</b>	<b>\$3,200.00</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>
Communications:Herald Delivery	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 2,800.00
Communications:Herald Printing	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00
Communications:Website	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00	\$ 135.00
<b>TOTAL COMMUNICATIONS EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$14,935.00</b>	<b>\$14,935.00</b>	<b>\$14,935.00</b>
Community Support Services: CERT and Neighborhood Watch	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00
Community Support Services: General Support	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ -
Community Support Services:Consumer Affairs	\$ -	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00
Community Support Services:Neighborhood Assist	\$ 100.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00
Community Support Services>Welcome Committee	\$ -	\$ 100.00	\$ -
<b>TOTAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>	<b>\$650.00</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>
High School Grad Party Donation: Robinson	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
High School Grad Party Donation: Thomas Jefferson	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION PARTY DONATION</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
Membership:Admin Expenses	\$ -	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Membership:Block Captain Incentives	\$ 321.80	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00
Membership:Directory Printing	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$321.80</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$3,500.00</b>
Special Activities:Christmas Contest	\$ -	\$ 20.00	\$ 15.00
Special Activities:Dumpster Day	\$ 1,470.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Special Activities:Easter Egg Hunt	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Special Activities:Halloween Festival	\$ 4,005.58	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL ACTIVITIES EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$6,075.58</b>	<b>\$6,820.00</b>	<b>\$6,115.00</b>
Youth Achievement:Scholarship Admin Expenses	\$ -	\$ 50.00	\$ 50.00
Youth Achievement:Scouts Fund	\$ 900.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 600.00
Youth Achievement:Student Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
<b>TOTAL YOUTH ACHIEVEMENT EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>	<b>\$2,350.00</b>	<b>\$2,650.00</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 32,475.88</b>	<b>\$ 32,910.00</b>	<b>\$ 34,970.00</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>(\$3,605.88)</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>



## Get off the Couch

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

#### August 20-21

##### **Starlight Cinema Drive-in**

Fairfax County Park Authority presents **\*\*FREE\*\*** movies Saturday nights in August. This week's offering is Disney-Pixar's "The Good Dinosaur." Tune into the movie on your car sound system, or bring chairs/blankets and watch under the stars. In addition, there will be free children's games and rides, as well as food available for purchase. Gates open at 6pm, movies start at dusk. At Trinity Center Park, 5860 Trinity Pkwy, Centreville. <https://www.facebook.com/StarlightCinemaDriveIn/>

##### **Prince William County Fair**

Prince William County will hold their annual fair, billed as the largest county fair in the state. In addition to funnel cake, there's a stingray encounter, chainsaw art exhibit, and butterfly encounter. And of course carnival rides. Saturday at 12pm-10pm. Adults \$10, \$22 for admission and unlimited ride bracelet. Children 4 and under and active duty military are admitted for free. At the PW Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Rd, Manassas. [pwcfair.com/fair/](http://pwcfair.com/fair/)

##### **Arlington County Fair**

Arlington County is also hosting their annual fair. Traditional fair favorites such as carnival rides, performances, demonstrations, and of course funnel cake will be on offer. Admission to the fair is **\*\*FREE\*\*** but rides require tickets. The fair is celebrating its 40th anniversary, so it should be groovy! Saturday 10am-11pm, Sunday 11am-10pm. At the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 Second Street South. [arlingtoncountyfair.us](http://arlingtoncountyfair.us)

#### August 27-28

##### **Salute the Sunset Concert Series**

Head down to National Harbor to hear the U.S. Air Force's Airmen of Note in concert. The Airmen of Note is the USAF's premier jazz ensemble. This **\*\*FREE\*\*** event will be held on the Plaza Stage. 7pm-8pm, Saturday only.

##### **Starlight Cinema Drive-in**

This Saturday's offering is Dreamworks "Home." See last week for details.

##### **Shakespeare Theatre Company**

The company kicks off its season with their traditional Free for All performances. This year's offering is William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Tickets go fast, so get there early. An online lottery for tickets will also be held. **\*\*FREE\*\*** Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St., NW, Washington DC. Check their website for curtain times. [Shakespearetheatre.org](http://Shakespearetheatre.org)

#### September 3-4

##### **Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival**

Celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival. This **\*\*FREE\*\*** family friendly event will feature regional and national acts. While listening to the music, enjoy tasting chocolates and Virginia wines. Saturday only, 1pm-9pm. Lake Anne Plaza, Reston VA. [lakeanneplaza.com/](http://lakeanneplaza.com/)

##### **Virginia Scottish Games**

Calling all Scots and sassenachs. Watch games of strength, eat traditional Scottish grub, taste whisky and listen to the pipes. 9am-6pm Saturday and Sunday. Adults \$20, children 5-12 \$5, under 5 free. Sunday, all kids are free. Discounts for senior and active military. 5089 Old Tavern Road, The Plain. [www.vascottishgames.org/](http://www.vascottishgames.org/)

#### September 10-11

##### **Chalk Art Fest**

Amateurs, kids, and families are invited to create masterpieces alongside professionals at this fun public art event. There will be prizes in multiple categories, including audience choice. Free to view, \$15 per family to create and you must pre-register to participate. At Reston Town Center, Saturday only. Creations can start at 8am, but should be completed by 4pm. [www.publicartreston.org/](http://www.publicartreston.org/)

##### **Workhouse Fine Arts Festival**

For only its second year, the Workhouse Arts Center is presenting a fine arts festival featuring works from resident artists as well as artists from around the country. It's your chance to view and purchase paintings, photographic art, ceramics, woodwork, jewelry and more. **\*\*FREE\*\*** 11am-7:30pm Saturday, 11am-5pm Sunday. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/)

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

Fall for the Book September 24 - 30:

<http://fallforthebook.org/>

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

Sept. 18 - Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: *Fiesta!*

Men's Soccer and Women's Volleyball:

<http://gomason.com>

Not happening at Mason, but one of our favorite September outings: The Labor Day Car Show: now in the Historic City of Fairfax! September 5, 8am-3pm. <http://www.labordaycarshow.org/>

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### 50+ Community Ambassador Program

In the March edition of *The Herald*, our article explained the creation of this program. Volunteer Ambassadors will help bridge the gap between the 50+ community residents and county resources. Our County and State offers a surprising list of services available to older adults. However, they will not know your needs unless you ask. Hopefully, you will ask what is available for help before you need urgent service, as that is the most stressful time for you and for those trying to help you.

How can the Ambassador Program assist you? The simple answer is that we can answer questions about what is available or, if we do not know, we can help you find resources that are available. Can you find out the same answers that we can? The answer is "Yes"; however, it has been determined that the County's website is not the most user-friendly, and it certainly is not quick. Here is a link for you to use: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices>. Use the link and see what services are available so that you can be aware.

For a more urgent need, we would recommend that you call **Fairfax County Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Line: (703-324-7948)**. Experienced personnel who answer the phone will assist you. Sometimes they will ask questions and offer help in ways that you would not have expected. We recommend this as the most direct and beneficial way to get answers and assistance. And as always, we will be here to help, whether you need assistance or just want to talk.

**Neighbor Assist Contact: (703-401-0275) or [NeighborAssist@kpwca.org](mailto:NeighborAssist@kpwca.org)**



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### IMA Q/As from Social Media

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

Earlier this year, a couple of neighbors posted some excellent questions and comments on a community Facebook site. With Royal Lake getting dredged and erosion fresh on folks’ minds, now is a great time to review this thread. The referenced images are included in Figure 1.

Q: What is an IMA site?

A: It stands for Invasive Management Area, a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) program aimed at eradicating non-native invasive weeds from parkland and establishing a healthy native ecosystem. To learn more about how this program pertains specifically to parks in the Royal Lake watershed, please check out <http://www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=3>.

Comment: While I think the IMA efforts are well-intentioned, I can’t understand why there is no concern for the excessive erosion that is resulting from this. A simple tour around Lake Royal should make this evident to even the most casual observer.

A: Thank you so much for bringing up water quality! IMA is one of the many steps the County uses to improve water and reduce erosion. Non-native invasive species monocultures do far less to curb erosion than a complex plant community with varying roots. Furthermore, IMA’s efforts to remove tree-killing weeds, such as oriental bittersweet and wisteria, help keep trees healthy and their soil-retaining roots strong. Since I work in a Resource Protection Area (RPA), I am granted an additional permit enabling work near waterways. As such, we strategically remove weeds to reduce erosion, sometimes leaving less offensive species in place until native plants begin to fill in. Erosion is a complicated problem; parks can help buffer stormwater runoff, but all of the impervious surfaces (roads, roofs) and poor absorbing land (lawns) greatly contribute to erosion. Several of my [articles](#) address how residents can help reduce erosion—in fact, my Water Conservation page, loaded with additional links and reading material, can be found here: <http://grsykes.com/main.php?page=41>.

Q: So you are immediately replacing the groundcover you remove with something you consider native?

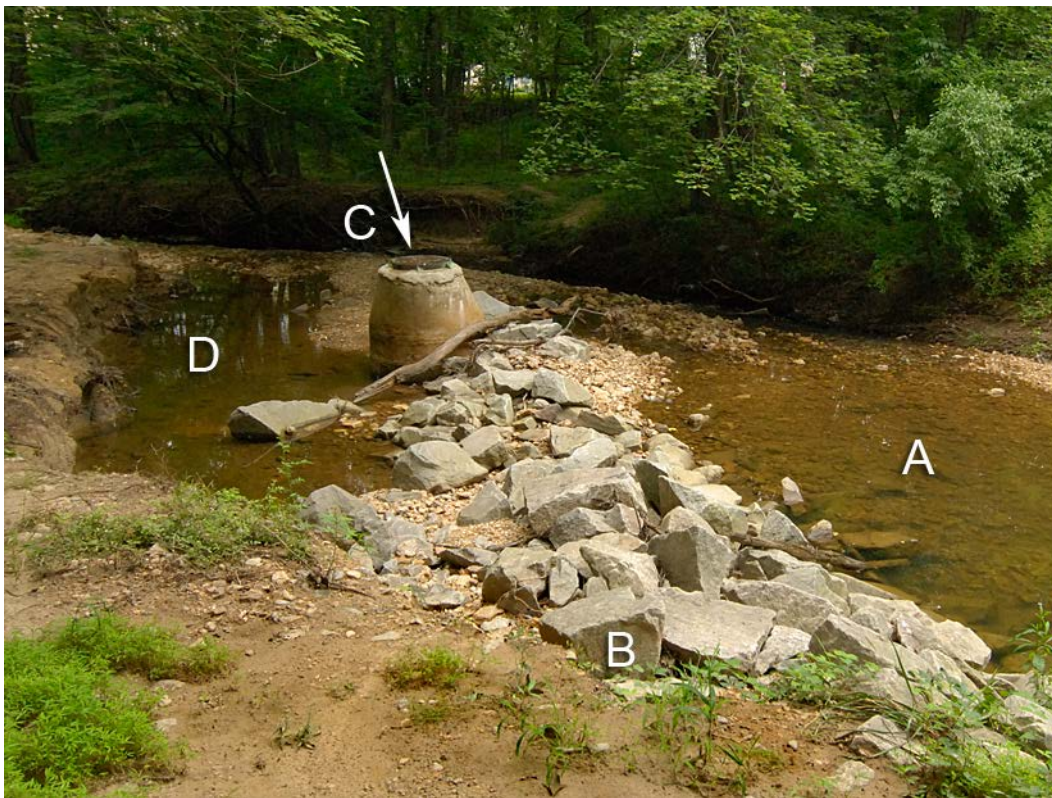


**Figure 1. The links provided in the third answer lead to these previously published images. One IMA habitat restoration pull-and-plant site with a seep is seen here in “before” (A) and “2.5-years-after” (B) photographs. Image C shows a workday where foreground volunteers are planting natives while people in the back load a flat with newly removed weeds.**

A: We handle each site differently. In some cases, yes, it was a "pull then plant" session (see the before and after pictures on my IMA page, <http://grsykes.com/main.php?page=3>, which was a Saturday pull and Sunday plant; and the image on <http://grsykes.com/main.php?page=32>, where you see people removing weeds and planting natives). In other sites, especially ones requiring multiple workdays, we will not plant until most of the pulling is done. In areas where there is plenty of native vegetation, we let the land heal naturally. In all cases, we monitor the progress over the years. The natives FCPA plants are species naturally occurring in Fairfax County and, in most cases, are grown from plant stock originating from within Fairfax.

**Bonus material for this article:** Figure 2's scene underscores the severe erosion problems along some local streams. This image of Rabbit Branch was photographed near Crooked Creek Park's northernmost border. No IMA workdays were ever hosted here or upstream of this location. In this case, major contributors to this massive deterioration are impervious surfaces that rushed stormwater down storm drains and into the streams without the earth having a chance to absorb the water. These surfaces include acres of low absorptive lawns and impermeable roadways, parking lots, driveways, and rooftops from George Mason University and sub-developments like Kingsberry, George Mason Forest, Roberts Square, and Kings Park West.

Thank you for your questions and comments! Keep them coming!



**Figure 2.** Rabbit Branch (A) flows by a buried sewer line. A riprap cover (B) was supposed to protect the manhole cone (C, with arrow) and immediate shoreline. However, powerful stormwater gushed into the creek and cut past the reinforced bank, exposed the cone, washed the soil downstream, and shifted the stream's course (D).

\* \* \* \* \*

For further reading and links to additional resources see the full article by scanning the QR code with your smart phone or go to:

[http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/68a\\_2016-08.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/68a_2016-08.pdf)



**Thank You Notes from the 2016 KPWCA Scholarship Recipients**

Dear Kings Park West Civic Association,

Thank you to the members of the Kings Park West Civic Association for awarding me a scholarship for my undergraduate studies at the University of Virginia. I plan to major in physics and complete pre-med requirements, and then apply to medical school.

The money I received will help to pay for some of the weighty textbooks I am required to buy, and it is much appreciated.

Sincerely,

Alison Verster

Dear Neighbors,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Kings Park West community for your generosity in continuing to fund the annual Civic Association Scholarship. It is a great privilege to live in such a charitable community, and I am honored to be one of the recipients of this year's award.

I will be attending the University of Virginia this fall, where I plan to study chemistry and be a Midshipman in the University's Naval ROTC unit. Although I have received a full NROTC scholarship that covers tuition and fees, the Kings Park West scholarship will be used to help pay my room and board.

Kings Park West has provided the backbone for my development as a person. I have been shaped through participation in activities that are supported by this incredible community, including KPW soccer, the Lakeview swim team, and Scouting. Growing up here has shown me that being a part of a community means helping, supporting, and giving back. I will take what you have taught me to UVA, where I hope to use it to become an active member of the Charlottesville community.

Thank you, once again, for the scholarship, and also for your kindness and support over the last seventeen years.

Respectfully,

Taylor Kinsley



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### Scout News

This summer has been *packed* with lots of great activities for the boys of Pack 1967. We kicked it off in mid-June with a Water Rocket Launch at Lakeside Park. The boys learned to create rockets out of soda bottles. Later in June, the boys met for Sundaes on Sunday at Burke Lake Park. They enjoyed a fun afternoon playing at the park together and cooling down with big bowls of ice cream sundaes!

In July, we gathered for a Star Gazing event hosted by our generous KPW neighbor Brad Knowlton. He and his son Chris shared their passion for astronomy by teaching us all about observing the night sky. The boys were especially excited to be able to view planets through the telescopes and see a satellite in orbit.

Two more fun events are scheduled for this summer. There will be a Hike at Van Dyck Park on August 13 at 3:30 pm and an Ice Cream Social at Woody's on August 31 at 3:30 pm. If your family would like to attend one of these summer events, or would like more information about joining our pack, please email us at [CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).



**Royal Lake Exercise Equipment Project Near Completion**

Since spring, the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL), working with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), have made considerable progress toward finalizing the exercise equipment project. Perhaps most important was the community's generosity in contributing funds, raising slightly more than \$13,000. Four community associations, five local businesses, and numerous individuals contributed. With that concluded, the FCPA Board approved a matching Mastenbrook Grant application submitted by FORL, and also agreed to make up any funding shortfall.

With funding identified, FORL members and FCPA staff made final equipment location and color decisions, clearing the last hurdles to ordering. With one exception, all equipment will be dark green and brown, identical to that in Katie's Playground adjacent to the tennis court.

If you walked the lake trail over the summer, you would have seen indicators of progress. Boy Scouts, FORL, community members, and FCPA staff removed 6-8 pieces of the original exercise equipment on June 11. With these last items gone, FCPA staked and leveled the sites. As you read this, the contractor should have completed all equipment installation.

As we near project completion, the community can take pride in this accomplishment, and express gratitude to the donors who made this possible. As the prior exercise equipment lasted about 25 years, this is a great example of the community "paying it forward" for the next generation. Those who "paid", meaning our donors, deserve special recognition, and include:

**Civic Associations:**

- Village Park HOA
- Kings Park West Civic Association
- Lakepointe HOA
- Chatham Towne HOA

**Local Businesses:**

- Crossfit Burke
- The Mary and Cathy Team
- Debbie Doğrul Associates
- Potomac River Running
- University Mall Theaters (Loretta and Mark O'Meara)

**Individuals:**

Paul Hardy | Kristen Markovich | The Togashi Family | Dianna Shannon | Ron Parody  
Paul Gross | Katherine Augustine | Linda Vellucci | Evelyn Sander  
Edwin Murawski | Thomas Solak





There are many others who contributed to this community effort, serving on FORL: Tony Vellucci, Ted Togashi, Paul Gross, Dan Sharkey, Terry McGowan, and Paul Hardy. Further, Boy Scout Ben McDonald and members of his Troop (Troop 1113, sponsored by St. Leo The Great Catholic Church), removed nine pieces of equipment in May 2015, and rehabilitated the disturbed areas with native plants, for his Eagle Scout project. In June 2016, Boy Scout Daniel Rice and members of his Troop (Troop 1508, sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints) removed the remaining half for his Eagle Scout project, also soliciting Walmart and Domino's Pizza to donate.

Lastly, none of this would have been possible without the support from FCPA, particularly Area 4 Maintenance Manager Ed Richardson and Deputy Director Sara Baldwin, and Tony Vellucci as the Braddock District Representative to the Park Authority Board. Mr. Richardson deserves special recognition from the community for his sustained efforts in supporting this and many other projects around Royal Lake.

So mark your calendars! A ribbon cutting ceremony and viewing of the bronze plaque, sponsored by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and the Park Authority, is scheduled for Saturday, September 10, 2016 at 11:00 am to recognize donors and volunteers. The community is invited to celebrate "paying it forward". A BBQ will follow the ceremony in the vicinity of the tennis courts. Wear your gym clothes!

**The Herald's List**  
by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

**My Windows Are So Dirty Contest**

Last month, The Mary & Cathy Team sponsored the Dirty Window Contest, awarding free window washing to the best (most popular) completion of the following sentence:



"My windows are so dirty, I looked out the window and thought I saw my neighbor..."

**And the winner is....Linda Silver Bufano!** She provided this high scoring sentence completion:

*"...but I actually couldn't see anything because my windows are soooo dirty!"*

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**HVAC Recommendation  
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*~Crystal Naomi Crosby*

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**Email:** [bluestarairhelp@gmail.com](mailto:bluestarairhelp@gmail.com)

**Web:** [www.bluestarhelp.com](http://www.bluestarhelp.com)



**The Kings Park West Herald's List Facebook Page**

is an interactive community resource for KPW residents. Requests and recommendations come in daily, and offers searchability and immediate access to recommendations. Post your own requests or recommendations.

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



**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ESL CLASSES**

Register: September 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm  
Registration Fee: \$15      Text Book: \$25  
3 Levels: Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced

Class Schedule

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Beginning September 15, 2016  
Ending November 22, 2016

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Fairfax, VA 22032

Clifton/Centerville Campus

13421 Twin Lakes Dr.  
Clifton, VA 20124

**AGING IN PLACE PRESENTATIONS**

These presentations are provided every 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Braddock Supervisor's office (9002 Burke Lake Road), starting at 1 pm and lasting about 1 hour. Each presentation provides information about some aspect of living in your current home or our community. Some of the more well-attended presentations have been on Decluttering and Hearing. The intent of the presentations is to offer information about what is available to you, what things others have done and to share information with each other. Asking someone else their advice can save many headaches, particularly when you are bombarded daily by requests for your attention.

On September 21st at 1 pm, the presentation will be on transportation options utilizing smart phones and computers. In other words, how to use IT devices to plan and use interconnected modes (bus, rail, ridesharing, taxi, Uber/Lyft, etc.) to get from one place to another.

All are welcome!

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## **KPW COMMUNITY RESILIENCY GROUP**

*By Karen Johnson*

You've heard it a million times. *Be prepared!* If the store lines when major storms are predicted are any indication, most people do seem to take heed and stock up when something is clearly coming. But what about the unpredictable events, like the derecho that hit Fairfax County with such force in June 2012? Were you ready for that one, and do you feel that you are adequately prepared for another such emergency? Even if you and your family have a basic readiness plan in place, wouldn't it be helpful to have a network within our community that focuses on preparedness and ways to keep connected with each other and the emergency responders when the next emergency comes along?

There is already a tremendous network of emergency responders out there, both professional and voluntary. After 9/11, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) created the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program, which provides extensive training and education for individuals about disaster preparedness and response. These team members learn critical skills that are essential following a disaster when professional responders may not be immediately available to handle all situations. Both Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax have active CERTs in place that are ready to spring into action if the need arises.

But if power is out or major lines of communication are down, it can be very difficult for professional and CERT responders to know where the critical needs are. As such, the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and Volunteer Fairfax are hard at work on an undertaking called the Community Resiliency Group (CRG). You can go to the following websites for detailed information (<http://www.volunteerfairfax.org/individuals/Community-Resiliency-Groups.php> and <http://www.slideshare.net/janetdavison180/fairfax-county-community-resiliency-group-crg-overview>), but the mission is as follows:

### Community Resiliency Group Mission

Our mission is to create a local network to support each other and strengthen the whole community by coordinating our capabilities and resources to better prepare, respond, and recover from emergencies.

With various related initiatives already under way within the KPWCA, such as Block Captains and Neighbor Assist, we are already on a path toward realizing our own CRG. What we need is to build on these efforts and identify the steps that would be necessary to become a full-fledged CRG.

As this is a worthwhile undertaking, I am willing to take the next step toward organizing a KPWCA CRG. To that end, I am coordinating a community meeting on Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, where we will determine the level of interest and the necessary steps to make this a reality. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to [ucanbready@gmail.com](mailto:ucanbready@gmail.com) with the number of attendees in your party. Details on the venue and agenda will be published in the next issue of The Herald.

There is an old adage that is dear to my heart: "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." So, let's get started and be ready for the next disaster that comes our way!

### Follow-Up to Canine Considerations

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

[Canine Considerations](#), appearing in the last edition, encouraged dog owners to clean up after their pups and obey the leash law. Let's take a look at some of the recent canine-related comments, questions, and observations.

We have folks bagging their dog waste while on walks, which is great. However, neighbors posted on a community Facebook page that bags of poop were thrown into their empty, curbside trash bins. Years earlier, all one needed to say was, "Pick up after your dog," and that placing the bag in a trash can was understood. These days, bags of dog waste wrongly wind up in storm drains, left on front yards, or chucked into natural areas. Therefore, adding the trash can as an appropriate destination for the bag was necessary. To further clarify, kindly pick up dog waste with a plastic bag and deposit that bag in your home garbage or, when walking in the park, use any of the County's garbage cans instead of your neighbor's. Before depositing the waste bag, you win extra points if you pick up other rubbish along the way. I do so and several neighbors seeing my haul have even offered to dispose of my bag. Here is a great motto to adopt when dog walking: "We pick up more than only after ourselves."

In a recent e-mail correspondence, a neighbor near Accotink Creek shared these observations after partaking in watershed training:

I was concerned with all of the pollution in Accotink Creek and Lake Accotink and wanted to do something about it. Additionally, an alarming number of young dogs in our neighborhood have lost their battle with cancer in a short period of time. Searching the Internet for potential causes led me back to "their environment." Drinking water from Accotink Creek, licking their paws after walking next to the creek and down sidewalks covered with chemical lawn fertilizer/pesticides applied to lawns. I also have a pond my dog drinks out of and thought of pesticides getting into that water poisoning him and the fish, birds, frogs, snakes, chipmunks... what could I do to mitigate my dog's chances of being exposed to a carcinogen?

Knowing how the watershed is all connected and how residential runoff into storm drains affects water quality has inspired me to make the switch from chemical lawn products to organic fertilizer, cut my lawn on the highest setting, mulch all grass clippings back into the lawn. I have even installed rain barrels on all of my downspouts and use the water for my plants and garden. These are some small changes I have made to reduce my impact on the watershed and improve the environment on my own property and the runoff to the creek, lake, river, bay, and ocean.

First, kudos to this neighbor for becoming a better land steward! Folks from different neighborhoods have made similar observations associating synthetic lawn treatments with pet incidences of cancer, neurological diseases, and/or severe allergic reactions.\* Even stand-alone fertilizers often contain irritating salts. Families should consider keeping synthetic lawn treatments out of yards where children and pets play. We can hope that "lawn doping" will be viewed in the same, critical light as sports doping, especially since the former harms more than just the user. Just like an athlete can choose a healthy fitness program over banned drugs and steroids, home owners and lawn professionals can opt for vibrant yards through sustainable land management. That day might be soon upon us as priorities shift; for example, within a decade, Californians under a severe drought are replacing traditional lawns with attractive xeriscaping and native plants, using the motto, "Brown is the new green." Those not complying receive anything from peer shaming to fines.

Until more people here in Northern Virginia implement healthier landscaping practices, the following are some recommendations to help mitigate the repercussions from synthetic lawn chemicals to dogs:

- Keep your dog(s) on a 6-foot leash at all times.
- Never permit them to swim in or drink from any natural water bodies, including streams, ponds, and puddles. Let pets drink only from water bowls, preferably using filtered water. Even without the lawn chemicals, leaking petroleum products, and other human pollution, you never know when feces or a dead, rotting animal is contaminating the water upstream.
- If a neighbor has applied lawn chemicals, keep the dog on a tight leash while you pass that house. Restrict the dog to the sidewalk. If the sidewalk is contaminated with lawn chemicals, walk in the street if possible. Keep this practice up until the next good rain. Commercial applicators' "stay off" signs are often posted for an arbitrary period (e.g., without precipitation or irrigation, granular products are as potent 24 hours after treatment as when first spread).
- Prevent your pooch from picking up and eating anything on the walk. For example, a massive worm die-off all over the sidewalk in front of a neighbor's yard might be due to overabundant pesticide use or misapplication. Those dead worms could still carry concentrated poisons.
- No matter how much you try to keep your canine companion's nose clean, he or she is bound to stick it somewhere nasty. Once home, use a damp paper towel to gently wipe the dog's snout.
- Use a small bucket filled with approximately two inches of warm water to rinse each paw. Dry them immediately with an old towel. Grab a fresh bucket of water with each dog if you have more than one. Definitely wash paws when de-icing salts covers the streets. Washing paws year-round regardless of weather conditions also helps address lawn chemicals contaminating and irritating the paws, then getting licked up by the pooch.
- Doggie booties help protect paws, but some pups never get used to them.
- Go totally organic and encourage your neighbors to do so, too. Amend the soil with natural ingredients such as seaweed and fish-based fertilizers, compost, manure, and lime. Hand-pull weeds or limit their germination with corn gluten-based products. Apply milky spore or nematodes to control insect infestations. Many on-line and local brick-and-mortar companies carry numerous good, pet-safe products.

\*From my research and fieldwork during my employment in a toxicology laboratory, I saw how both some of the active and "inert" lawn chemical ingredients can be pretty hazardous. Many reports cited fish and bird kills on golf courses. Chemical cause and effect is a complicated discipline that marries toxicology (the study of how harmful chemicals interact with organisms) and epidemiology (investigating how harmful substances and disease spread within a population). In an uncontrolled environment (i.e., real world situations, outside of a laboratory setting), countless factors are at play which can be neutral, offset the toxin with health benefits, or amplify the given chemical's harmful effects. With humans, OSHA requires health records to be stored throughout an employee's tenure plus 30 additional years following a chemical exposure incident.

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## THE GARDEN CORNER

The urban gardener has many exciting ways to grow plants that not only beautify the landscape, but teach valuable lessons to our children (and adults like me who have child-like interests). This Garden Corner article will explore two of those fun activities: urban composting and planning the fall garden. As we have previously mentioned in Garden Corner articles, the soil in much of Virginia has a high clay content and needs improvement in order to grow flowers, vegetables and other crops. Adding compost to the soil attracts those beneficial earthworms mentioned in previous articles, and adds needed nutrients to the garden soil. A gardener can purchase organic compost or compost plus manure that works well in improving your soil, but it is much more enjoyable, frugal and green to make your own compost.

There are many ways to make your own compost pile, bin, or container; but in an urban environment, we are often concerned with making the compost bin aesthetic. You can purchase a compost bin online or at a local garden supply store, but where is the fun in that? Let's make our own! Almost any container will do, but I recommend that they meet these requirements: 1) It should be economical – why spend money unnecessarily? 2) It should be a dark color in order to use the sun to produce the heat needed for the best composting temperature. 3) It should be small enough to allow mixing of the compost without undue effort, but large enough to produce adequate compost needed for your garden.

The container that I have chosen for my own compost bin is a black 32-gallon plastic barrel with a locking lid that recently sold at Home Depot for \$14.95. This site indicates the procedures I used to build my compost bin: <http://thehappyhousewife.com/frugal-living/diy-compost-bin/>. To build your compost bin, you will need a drill with a 3/8-1/2 inch bit and two bungee cords of an appropriate length to reach across the top of the barrel. Drill a series of randomly placed holes around the sides of the barrel to allow air to enter the barrel. Good compost requires an adequate supply of oxygen. Attach the bungee cords across the top to hold the lid in place. This will allow you to lay the barrel on its side and roll it to mix the compost, thus reducing the amount of work needed to produce compost. You may want to produce two or three compost barrels to allow fresh garden and kitchen scraps to be added to one while the other is becoming usable compost.

So what do you add to your compost bin? Experts say your compost pile will take from 3 weeks to a year to produce compost. The speed of composting depends primarily upon: 1) the size of your compost pile - it needs to be at least 3 cubic feet; 2) the material used - the fastest compost maturation happens when the ratio of carbon to nitrogen is about equal; 3) the moisture level - compost should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge; 4) the frequency the compost is turned - for the fastest maturity, turn your compost pile frequently, every one to two weeks. It may be helpful to consider this in terms of a "green" to "brown" ratio. You will need a mix of green materials that are high in nitrogen and brown materials that are high in carbon. Some examples of green materials are vegetable and fruit scraps, egg shells, grass clippings, fresh tree and plant leaves, aquatic weeds, hair, seaweed and algae, garden weeds, bread, crackers, cake, pasta and cereals, manure (cattle, chicken, horse, and bird), coffee grounds and tea bags. Some brown materials are dry tree leaves, straw/hay, shredded paper, wood chips, sawdust, dead plants, and dead yard trimmings. More green products and a higher temperature will increase the rate of decomposition. Never add weed seeds, diseased plants, meat products, dairy products, pet feces, oils and grease, and pressure-treated lumber. Your compost should be damp, not wet.

Have you considered planting a fall garden? Fall vegetables such as beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce, radishes and spinach can be planted as early as the first week in August. Want to over-winter a garlic bed to give your plants a head start next spring? Plant your garlic cloves around the middle of October and cover them with about three inches of compost. Don't worry if they begin to show growth through the mulch before winter; they will over-winter just fine and be ready to harvest a month before spring-planted garlic.

There has been little interest expressed in our seed and plant swap to date. Therefore, I have a few homeless plants to offer for free to anyone who is interested. They should be planted in their new home to allow them to expand their root systems before winter. I am looking for a home for rooted male (meader) and female Anna Hardy Kiwi vines, rooted August red raspberry (I believe) bushes and a few rooted gojiberry bushes. If you would like to give these plants a home send an email to [thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com](mailto:thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com).



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