

December 2016

Vol. 46, Issue 8

Kings Park West Civic Association

Happy Holidays!

As fall ended, so did the busiest time for the Civic Association. The Board and I extend our thanks to the many volunteers who gave of their time to the community these past couple of months.

The annual Halloween Festival was a wonderful success again this year. We estimate that there were 700 people in attendance. It was a beautiful, warm, sunny day for the festival. Many thanks to all who volunteered, including the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Optimist Club, community members, etc., for making this day a great community event. The parade, bounce houses, games, food, and Thomas the Tank Engine ride made for a fun-filled day. Special thanks to Karen Hasselman, Ruby Hansen, Linda Velluci, Tony Velluci, Mario Lucero, and Steve McCarty.

October was also our 2017 membership drive. Many volunteers worked diligently on this campaign - thank you to the block captains who administered the door-to-door appeal, to the membership committee who updates the association database, to the Treasurer who maintains our banking record deposits, and to our membership chair who oversees everything. Many thanks for an awesome job!

Our fall Dumpster Days, which is open to association members, was held on November 5<sup>th</sup>. True to form, we had many folks show up to discard unwanted household items. Thanks to Mary Hovland, Barbara Murillo and Patti Dickerson, who managed the event.

The Royal Lake Dredging project is proceeding along, with the contractor removing approximately 38,000 cubic yards of sediment from the lake along the Lakeside Park portion of the project. Dredge material removal operations from the Royal Lake Park side of the project recently started. The good news is that the project is currently on schedule for completion by June 2017. I know we are all looking forward to seeing the lake filling up with rainwater soon.

Remember: the Holiday Decorating Committee will be judging the house decorating contest during the weekend of December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please light up your displays.

Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

Community Calendar	
Braddock District Council.....	Dec 14
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Dec 20
Winter Begins.....	Dec 21
Christmas.....	Dec 25
New Year's Eve.....	Dec 31
New Year's Day.....	Jan 1
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Jan 3
Herald Deadline.....	Jan 4
Braddock District Council.....	Jan 11
Martin Luther King Holiday.....	Jan 16
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Jan 17
Inauguration Day Holiday.....	Jan 20
Herald Delivery.....	Jan 21

## 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	Jim Mays	703-978-0317
Members-At-Large	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
	Mary Crowder	703-239-2581
	Karen Hasselman	703-272-3658

### 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:	<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	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
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	Karen Hasselman 703-272-3658
	Jeanmarie Roberson 703-425-1286
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom 703-323-0206

### 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@Yahoo.com">KPWHO@Yahoo.com</a>

### How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the January 21st issue must be received no later than January 4th 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. Acceptance of news items does not constitute endorsement by KPWCA.

### 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 KPWCA, 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. Alternatively, go to [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org) and pay using PayPal.

### The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is January 4, 2017

for delivery on January 21, 2017

Note: Acceptance of articles and 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

**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 [sarahglennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon@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 [sarahglennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon@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.

### Volunteer Spotlight: George Ewing

*By Frank Cumberland*

The Herald is proud to shine its Volunteer Spotlight on longtime volunteer – and original Kings Park West owner – Mr. George Ewing. Mr. Ewing, 88 years of age, has provided many years of support to the Association, having served as Display Ad Coordinator for The Herald as far back as 1982. He notes that in those days, the Ad Coordinator and Membership Coordinator for the Association actually received (small) salaries!

He has served as a Block Captain for many different blocks for 20 years, since 1996. As a reflection of his dedication, he has supported blocks far from his own home on Claridge Court – as far away as Richardson Drive. What is his favorite thing about living in Kings Park West? “Our access to George Mason University is a tremendous asset for this neighborhood,” he says, noting that he has attended many GMU basketball games over the years.

Mr. Ewing, a former elementary school teacher, is also an active member of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason, both as a student and presenter. He takes a walk in Kings Park West every single day, and swims five days a week at the GMU Aquatic and Fitness Center. Our multi-talented block captain also sings melody in the Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop quartet. He served in Korea during the Korean War as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve.

For his many years of service to his community and to our country, The Herald is proud to recognize Mr. George Ewing.

Free bootcamp exercise class offered at Lakeside Park (off Pommeroy Drive)

Tuesday/Thursday at 9:15 am (weather permitting). Bring a mat and water and get ready to workout.

Questions? Email Mary at [mbray920@yahoo.com](mailto:mbray920@yahoo.com)

Hello from Patti Dickerson, Membership Coordinator!

The fall Kings Park West Civic Association 2017 membership drive has officially ended, but if you have not had the opportunity to join, memberships are still being accepted. There are approximately 1,800 homes in our neighborhood; as of mid-November 2016, 800 memberships have been received for a 44% overall participation rate. The Civic Association is comprised of 100 individual blocks that range from a total of 15-20 homes. Currently, there are a few blocks with vacancies for a Block Captain (blocks are listed in the Directory by street in two places, if you need to determine your block number). There are vacancies in the following blocks: 1, 8, 10, 47, 61, and 100. If you are a person who already enjoys walking in the neighborhood, maybe you would consider volunteering to help with the Membership Committee next fall. Another possible way to support Membership is by being a substitute Block Captain. Sometimes volunteers have family emergencies, are out of town, or have other extenuating circumstances that prevent them from helping out at the last minute. We have use for back-up Block Captains if you are able to jump in at a moment's notice. Feel free to email your name to [Membership@KPWCA.org](mailto:Membership@KPWCA.org) and I will contact you.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to the fantastic Block Captains who participated in this year's campaign. Many of you have held the volunteer position for years and generously agree to support Membership in the Civic Association annually. Thank you for your efforts in keeping our community strong!

#### **Fall Cleanup Reminder**

As we clean our yard of autumn leaves and yard debris, kindly dispose of it properly, either for curbside recycling or composting on your own property. Please respect the property lines and do not dump any materials from your yard into parks or other natural areas, as doing so degrades the habitat and is against the law.

Thank you!

#### **Winter Reminder**

As winter comes upon us, it often ushers in sleet, snow, and ice. Please be courteous and remove snow from sidewalks within 24 hours of the storm's end. Ice, especially refreeze, can be treated with sand, bird seed, or animal-safe melting agents. Some kitty litters also provide traction, but others use new formulas which turn to a slime that is slicker than ice – please be cautious and know how your cat litter reacts with ice. **Not** recommended are fertilizers (pollutes the water), rock salt (can kill grass and sensitive plants near the sidewalk), and laying down tarps before the precipitation (tarps get covered by snow and pedestrians can slip when they do not know the tarp is underneath the snow).

Thank you!

#### **Gidders and Sons Plumbing, LLC** VA License # 2710 041727 **Master Plumber & Gas Fitter**



#### ***Personalized neighborhood plumbing!***

Repair or replace all types of fixtures including...

- ...Hot water heaters, gas fireplaces,
- ...Kitchen fixtures including gas,
- ...Bathroom fixtures and much more!
- ...Drain cleaning and camera inspection

***Complete renovation of bathrooms.***

Check out our web site for photos and references

**Barney Gidders, Licensed Master Plumber**  
**Patrick Gidders, Licensed Journeyman Plumber**

703/250-1807 Office, 703/850-9590 Cell

[www.giddersplumbing.com](http://www.giddersplumbing.com)  
[Barney@giddersplumbing.com](mailto:Barney@giddersplumbing.com)

## MOWING & TOWING



www.MOWINGTOWING.COM

703 - 865 - LWN1

mowingtowing@yahoo.com

**Your Outdoors  
Is Our Office!**

*We are family  
owned & operated,  
licensed & insured.*

Contact us  
for a free quote!

**Mowing & Towing, LLC's services include:**

- Mowing
- Fertilizing
- Dethatching
- Lawn Renovation
- Full Size & Mini Skid Steer Work
- Mulching & Garden Bed Edging
- Core Aeration with or without Overseeding
- Bush & Small Tree Trimming & Removal
- Hardscape and Landscape Installation
- Full Service or Curbside Leaf Cleanup & Removal
- Hauling & Trailering Services
- Commercial & Residential
- Sod Installation
- Material Delivery
- Debris Removal
- Driveway Dumpster



## Wilson Industries & Services Unlimited Inc. Home Improvement

- ✓ Painting
- ✓ Drywall Patching
- ✓ Gutter Cleaning
- ✓ Window replacement
- ✓ Repairing/Replacing Exterior Rotted Wood
- ✓ Bathroom Caulking
- ✓ Tile Work
- ✓ Bathroom and Kitchen Renovation
- ✓ All Carpentry and Woodwork including Crown Molding
- ✓ Custom Cabinetry
- ✓ Built-in Cabinets
- ✓ Bookcases
- ✓ Closets
- ✓ HVAC Diagnosis/Repair\*



.....AND MUCH MORE

**\*\*Professional Design Services  
Available\*\***

General Contractors that specialize in Interior/Exterior  
Remodeling but no job is to small...

FOR A FREE ESTIMATE CALL 703-472-6392

Licensed/Insured VA BLD/HVAC

\*\$75.00 CHARGE FOR HVAC SERVICE CALLS

## CUSTOM | INNOVATION | QUALITY KPW SPECIALISTS



*Remodeled Queen Kitchen*

## Full Service Interior Remodeling & Design



**Proudly Serving  
KPW Residents  
for 10 Years.**

*Preferred Contractor of*  
**THE Mary & Cathy  
TEAM**  
Success By Design

Thomas Topp, Owner & KPW Resident  
www.ToppDesigns.com (703) 272-3661



*You Dream It... We Build It*

### Successful Park Cleanup

On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Friends of Royal Lake and the KPWCA Parks and Lake Committee held another successful park and Royal Lake cleanup. Since Royal Lake was drained for dredging, this park cleanup provided an opportunity to better clean the shores of the lake. The results were impressive, as the groups collected approximately 40 bags of trash, some of which appeared to have been in the lake for an extended period. While collecting an extensive amount of trash is gratifying, the fact that we have so much trash is disappointing. Please, let's pick up after ourselves and improve our park and lake environment.

Sarah Lennon and I would like to thank all who participated from Lakepoint, Robinson High School, our Burke neighbors and, of course, our Kings Park West neighbors – almost 40 individuals. We even had whole families participating. Thank you to Clean Fairfax who provided gloves and bags. Sarah again organized a raffle with prizes. The raffle was a big hit, and special thanks go to both University Mall Theatre and Target for donating gift certificates and a gift basket. Target employees also volunteered their time and participated in the cleanup with KPW neighbors.

By: Paul Gross  
Friends of Royal Lake

Sarah Lennon  
KPWCA Parks and Lakes Committee



~~~~~



(703) 323-4671

**MR. GUTTER, LLC**  
 Cleaning • Screening • Repairing  
**Roof Repairs**

Richard Sumner  
Owner

Burke, VA  
Licensed/Insured

**Now Serving Your Area**  
**BURKE CENTRE PET SITTING**  
 "YOUR BEST FRIENDS' BEST FRIENDS"  
 Dog Walking and Pet Sitting in your area!  
**703-250-PETS (7387)**  
 burkecentrepetsitting.com

**\* New Client Discount! \$25 off first bill.**  
**\*new clients only. Some restrictions**

## Get Off the Couch

A roundup of family friendly weekend events around the region...

### December 10-11

#### 16th Annual Bethlehem Walk

Ancient Bethlehem's streets will come alive as Parkwood Baptist Church presents its 16th annual commemoration of Jesus' birth. Admission is \*FREE\*. Guided tours 3 to 7 pm through a replica of the famous city. Re-enactors in costumes, continuous Christmas music performances, children's craft activities and refreshments will be provided. Ample, directed parking is available. Visit website [www.parkwood.org/bethlehem](http://www.parkwood.org/bethlehem) or call [703-978-0160](tel:703-978-0160) for details. 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale

### December 17

#### Festival Sully at Sully Historic Site

Experience the main house at Sully decorated for an 18th century season of celebration. Relive the 1885 holiday memories of a young Sully visitor seeing the tree decorated in Victorian splendor. Cost: \$7 per adult, \$6 per student, \$5 per senior & child.

Register/Info:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/calendar.htm>

#### Zoo Lights at the National Zoo

From November 25 - January 1. 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. Hours: 5 to 9 pm. <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights>

### December 24-25

#### Bull Run Festival of Lights

From November 23, 2016 to January 8, 2017. Every year from Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day, you can experience the Bull Run Festival of Lights. 2.5 miles illuminated by holiday light displays. After viewing the lights, bring your family and friends to the holiday village to enjoy rides and refreshments. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 pm; Friday-Sunday and Holidays, 5:30-10 pm Cost: \$15+. <https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>

### December 31

10th Annual Rocknoceros New Year at Jammin' Java. Shows at 11 am and 2 pm. Rocknoceros is three guys: Coach, Williebob, and Boogie Bennie, who have been making award-winning music together since 2005 and are celebrating their 10th

year together with a brand new album. Cost: \$10 per person. <http://www.jamminjava.com/event/1307669-10th-annual-rocknoceros-new-vienna/>. 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna

#### Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

November 23, 2016 to January 8, 2017. Every year between Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day, the garden is transformed into a half-mile, animated light show. Hours: 5:30-10 pm, TIMED TICKETS REQUIRED.

<https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>. 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna

### January 2017

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 Pavilion - This is a covered rink located near the Manassas VRE station. Admission \$7-\$8, skate rental \$5, all day open skate.
- Georgetown's Washington Harbor - Skate along the Potomac on DC's largest outdoor rink. Admission \$9-\$10, skate rental \$6.
- Reston Town Center Ice Rink, <https://www.restontowncenter.com/amenities/ice-skating/>
- Pentagon Row Ice Rink, <http://www.pentagonrowskating.com/>

#### Family Friendly Activities at Mason this Month

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

December 16-18: Sesame Street Live: Elmo Makes Music

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

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

December 17: A Canadian Brass Christmas

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

January 8: *Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel: A French Musical Feast*

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



**THE HIGHEST QUALITY CONCRETE IN NORTHERN VA.**

*RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
25 YEARS EXPERIENCE*

- CUSTOM BRICKWORK & FLAGSTONE
- DRIVEWAYS • SIDEWALKS
- STEPS • PATIOS
- REPAIR & RESURFACING
- STONE WALLS
- EXPOSED AGGREGATE
- POOL DECKS
- LICENSED & INSURED
- VERY AFFORDABLE RATES
- FREE ESTIMATES
- REFERENCES AVAILABLE
- "WE DO THE JOB RIGHT THE FIRST TIME."
- CAR PORTS • GARAGES
- CHIMNEY REPAIRS

Call: **WRIGHTS CONCRETE**  
**(703) 615-2159**  
**OR (703) 753-4550**



[www.wrightsconcrete.net](http://www.wrightsconcrete.net)  
**Family Owned & Operated**  
**Deal Directly With The Owner**

See Our Website For Coupons



**Free Estimates**  
**Cheerfully Given**

GROUP DISCOUNTS • BUILDERS DISCOUNTS

**Ryan's LANDSCAPING**

Planting, Clean-Up, Design, Retaining Walls & Patios

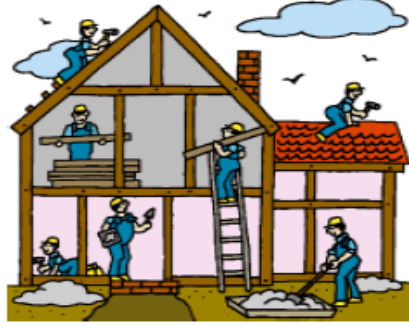
Ryan Minton  
ryan@ryans-landscaping.com  
www.ryans-landscaping.com  
https://www.facebook.com/RyansLandscaping.NOVA

Office: 703.569.4505  
Cell: 703.967.2939  
Fax: 703.912.7867

P.O. Box 5504  
Springfield, VA 22150



**Silver Fleet Construction Corp.**  
Virginia Class A Contractor  
Phone: 703.819.3500 or 703.987.6370  
**Additions, Remodeling, Renovation & Repairs**

| A Kings Park Neighbor                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Additions:                                                                                                                                           | Remodeling:                                                                                                                                                   | Repairs:                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <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<br>In-law/parent suites<br>Sun rooms<br>Screened porches<br>Decks<br>Sheds<br>Garages<br>Patios<br>Retaining walls | Kitchen<br>Bathrooms<br>Basement<br>Carports to Garage<br>Garage to Living Space<br>Flooring—tile, hardwood, carpet<br>Recessed lighting<br>Doors and windows | Electrical<br>Plumbing<br>Painting—Interior & Exterior<br>Damp or wet basements<br>Replace damaged trim<br>Yard drainage<br>Handyman repairs<br>Trim and Carpentry |

Please see our website for more details: [www.silverfleetconstruction.com](http://www.silverfleetconstruction.com)  
Email contact: [silverfleetconstruction@verizon.net](mailto:silverfleetconstruction@verizon.net)

 **A.J. Siding**

- . Siding / Doors / Windows
- . Soffit / Fascia / Wood Trim
- . Shutters
- . Gutters & Down Spout

\*Licensed                      Insured\*

Free Home Estimates For Your Convenience  
(703) 764-0842 or (571) 334-4610

**Walking The Dogs, LLC**  
We make owning pets easier

Specializing in daily dog walks  
Our pet care professionals also provide care for cats, dogs, and other small animals.

Licensed\* Bonded\* Insured  
Felicia  
703-473-9768

Established 2007                      Felicia@walkingdogsva.com  
www.walkingdogsva.com





## THE GARDEN CORNER

By Charlie Boring

Urban gardeners have to deal with many of the same threats to their gardens that real-to-life farmers confront, albeit on a smaller scale. In the urban garden, if you lose some of your harvest to a garden pest, it may mean the loss of a large percentage of your harvest, or it may mean that your flowers will look more like weeds than the centerpiece of your landscape. So pest control in the urban garden is often the difference between success and failure.

This article takes a look at an interesting garden pest in the King's Park West urban garden, and possibly the cutest: the chipmunk. Do you know anything about these inhabitants? If you were a chipmunk in my garden, you would probably be an eastern chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*), or possibly a least chipmunk (*Eutamias minimas*). These are the two most widely distributed species of the twenty varieties in Virginia.

The eastern chipmunk is small, typically 5 to 6 inches long, and weighs about 3 ounces. It has two tan and five blackish longitudinal stripes on its back, and two tan and two brownish stripes on each side of its face. The least chipmunk is the smallest of the chipmunks, typically 3 2/3 to 4 1/2 inches long, and weighs 1 to 2 ounces. The color varies from a faint yellowish gray with tawny dark stripes to a grayish tawny brown with black stripes.

The chipmunk is a burrowing animal. Its burrow may be anywhere in your yard or that of your neighbor; it may be under your patio, under a tree, in your downspouts, or even in an open area. Its burrow may be as long as 30 feet and as deep as 4 feet. The burrow will include an entrance about 2 inches in diameter, larger food storage rooms, and a nest filled with leaves and food. There may also be another entrance that is plugged with leaves – this is the chipmunk's emergency exit.

Chipmunks are most active at dusk and dawn, and in the winter, they hibernate. During hibernation, chipmunks can appear dead; their heart rates can drop from 350 beats per minute to around 4 beats per minute, and their body temperature can drop from 94 to 40 degrees.

Most chipmunks live between 2-3 years, but some (maybe your sage Grandma Chipmunk) might live to the ripe old age of 8 years. Imagine the stories she could tell!

Chipmunks will eat many different items from your garden that are close to the ground such as seeds, berries, fruit, nuts, and mushrooms. They can also climb trees to gather such food items, or to prey on young birds and bird eggs. Sometimes sunflower seeds, watermelon, apples and squash are also eaten. They may also eat insects, worms, salamanders, and occasionally moles, young mice, small songbirds and frogs.

Chipmunks have cheek pouches that allow them to carry large amounts of food. These pouches are used for carrying food to store for winter consumption and are emptied by squeezing them with their front feet.

This year, my garden was devastated by chipmunks. They climbed trees and took all of my peaches and most of my figs. The little robbers also took most of my tomatoes and blackberries. I decided it was time to limit the damage that they can do to my urban garden.

My first attempt at chipmunk control was to employ a live trap. The plan was to capture and relocate the chipmunks to Lake Royal. After a week of baiting the trap with peanut butter, I caught six mice and no chipmunks. I decided that my wife was correct when she said that the chipmunks were smarter than me. They never even went into the trap for a taste of peanut butter.

Next time, I am going to try repellents around my garden. Chipmunks also don't like mothballs, so next spring I am going to try putting mothballs around my peach trees. Stay tuned!

## Local Scout Units and Volunteers Key to the Success of the KPW Festival

Our annual festival would not have been possible without all of the volunteers that made it happen. A special thanks to Mike Stonkey, Cubmaster from Pack 1968, for organizing all of the games. He had considerable help from Scouts from the following units:

*Cub Scout Pack 1968:* Wesley Moore, Brandon Reberyo, Lando Reberyo, Ryan Mitchell, Ben Snow, Robbie Sheipe, Mark Huber, John Huber, Peter Sheridan, Isaac Juni, Aidan Murphy, Derek Pritchard, Joseph Watkins, Harlen Taylor, Armaan Khan, Ryan Oedemann, AJ Sekera, Jonah Burke, Ethan Burke, Charlie McDade, Jake McDade, Jacob Stonkey

*Cub Scout Pack 1967:* Daniel Slesar, Noah Lowe, Brock Riley, QB Le, David Taylor, Shawn Mitchell

*Girl Scout Troop 2280:* Yumi Perez, Siobhan Hartigan, Maddie Henry, Olivia Miller, Maddie Weston

*Boy Scout Troop 1966:* Patrick Foos, Andrew Casper, Alex Cobb, Thomas Kelley, John Thomas, Reid Scarborough, Wilson Friestad, Derek Guidorizzi, Xander Guidorizzi, Dillon McGrail, Ryan Pittman

We also had support from unit leaders, parents, and other volunteers, to include: Autumn Riley, Brock Riley, Lissette Reberyo, Bert Mitchell, Shawn Mitchell, Heather Lowe, Theresa Sheipe, David Huber, Dan Sheridan, Cristina Murphy, Mike Pritchard, Tim Watkins, David Taylor, Michael Scanlan, Luke Scanlan, Page Miller, Jenny Weston, Mike Slesar, Michael Casper, Andrew Foos, Cindy Thomas, Dennis Scarborough, and Sean Griffin.

Thank you for all of your support especially the setup and takedown of the festival. The Kings Park West Community greatly appreciates your time and efforts.

### **KPWCA Community Resiliency Group (CRG)/Disaster Preparedness Update**

*By Karen Johnson*

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, we held our first KPWCA Community Resiliency Group meeting. Although there were only six residents in attendance, we had an encouraging discussion and made plans for moving forward.

In addition to the six that attended the meeting, there have been several other residents who have shown interest in the initiative. I will be contacting those individuals in the near future to answer any questions they may have and see what their level of interest is.

If you have any questions or interest in this disaster preparedness effort, please send me an email at [communityresiliency@kpwca.org](mailto:communityresiliency@kpwca.org). I would love to hear from you!



### **CONTRACTORS LLC**

Lifetime needs changes, so should your home!!

Our highly trained and experience technicians have the knowledge and skills to complete any size job with precision and efficiency.

- \* KITCHEN REMODELING
- \* BATHROOM REMODELING
- \* BASEMENT REMODELING
- \* PAINTING AND HANDYMAN SERVICES

We'd love to achieve your home improvement goals.

Contact us at : (571)201-1581 - (571) 484-3304

[aandcremodelingcontractors.com](http://aandcremodelingcontractors.com)

[a.c.contractors@hotmail.com](mailto:a.c.contractors@hotmail.com)

[evelyna.c.contractors@outlook.com](mailto:evelyna.c.contractors@outlook.com)

Ready,  
Set,  
Sing!

# FREE Singing Lessons

## for Men of All Ages!



- When:** Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm starting January 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 and continuing for 5 weeks
- Where:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church (West)  
13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton, Virginia
- Who:** Men, young and old, that have always wanted to sing, or would like to hone their singing skill
- Cost:** There is NO COST; the program is FREE. Materials provided
- RSVP:** Just show up! Or RSVP by email: [adwatts78@gmail.com](mailto:adwatts78@gmail.com)  
Or call 703.793.7166 to request additional information

The Fairfax Jubil-Aires are serious about helping you enrich your joy of singing, no strings attached! C'mon, we ALL sing! ... In church, in the car, in the shower. But many of us are unsure about singing in front of others. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires want to help you get the most beautiful sound possible from your voice. We are very experienced in helping men sing better! The 2017 FREE Singing Lessons program will provide you ways to get more resonant chords in a safe environment; In the company of like-minded men! Come one night or complete the full five week course, it's up to you! Our talented and award winning Director, Richard Lewellen, will inspire you! Richard has the skills to reach students of all talent levels and brings a great amount of energy and humor!

Check it out!: <http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/Jubilaires/>



**We come for the music, we stay for the friendships**

## Cub Scout Pack 1967

It has been an eventful fall for the boys of Pack 1967! In addition to being in full swing with our school-year pack and den meetings, we participated in two overnight events: our fall campout, and a visit to Norfolk Naval Base.

Our annual fall campout was held at Burke Lake Park, where the boys set up tents for their overnight stay, built an evening campfire, and enjoyed a morning breakfast. The campfire experience began with skit performances, followed by a reverent flag retirement ceremony, and finished up with our traditional s'mores campfire treat. Our annual Raingutter Regatta competition was hosted at the October pack meeting. Each boy built a small catamaran boat and competed for speed and design medals.

The boys also enjoyed an once-in-a-lifetime experience aboard the aircraft carrier *USS George H.W. Bush* in October. The ship's crew graciously hosted the boys and their families for an overnight adventure. We participated in tours of the carrier, along with other squadrons, including AEW aircraft and helicopters, as well as the history-rich destroyer *USS Cole*. Fun and educational activities included eating in the mess hall, watching a movie in the hangar bay, sleeping in the berthing bunks, witnessing the raising of morning colors, and a Sunday morning interdenominational service. In honor of our hosts, the boys collected Boy Scout popcorn donations for our military as part of our annual popcorn fundraiser.



Come join us! Pack 1967 meets monthly, generally on the second 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](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).



## Boy Scout Troop 1966

By Sean Griffin, Troop 1966 Scoutmaster

The scouts of Kings Park West **Troop 1966** have been busy enjoying the scouting way of life over the past few months. After spending a week at the Goshen Scout Reservation over the summer learning various outdoor and STEM skills, we went canoeing and kayaking in the Shenandoah in August. On November 13<sup>th</sup>, we finished up our second camping trip since school started – this time the boys hiked over 6 miles with all their gear, with most packs weighing about 25 lbs. My Fitbit recorded that we climbed 430 feet in elevation over 6.6 miles. After reaching camp, we built a large, hot fire to stave off the coldest night we've seen so far this fall – 29 degrees – and drank hot tea while listening to funny stories (as well as a few attempts at scary ones) until three hours after dark (that would be 8 pm). We were well-prepared for the cold, though, so we slept more or less cozily until the next morning.

We have also been busy giving back to the community – delivering The Herald, volunteering at the KPW Fall Festival, distributing bags for Scouting for Food, and helping out in a few other volunteer events in and around KPW. We are headed off to go indoor rock-climbing in early December. More on that trip next time.

**CALLING ALL WEBELOS** reading this article (especially those in Packs 1967 and 1968) – the scouts of Troop 1966 would like to invite you to attend our Troop's holiday celebration on Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm in the Laurel Ridge Cafeteria. Please RSVP at [ScoutmasterTroop1966@gmail.com](mailto:ScoutmasterTroop1966@gmail.com). We look forward to celebrating with you!



Block # \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

### 2017 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 type="text"/> |
|                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Address   | <input type="text"/> |
|                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Telephone | <input type="text"/> |
|                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | Email     | <input type="text"/> |

Please enter amounts you would like to contribute to the following organizations or activities:

|                      |                                             |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| \$ 20                | 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="text"/> | 9. College Scholarships                     |
| <input type="text"/> | 10. Parks & Lake                            |
| <input type="text"/> | 11. Common Area Maintenance                 |

Cash  
 PayPal  
or

Total Dollar Amount                      Check #  (important)

Please make checks payable to **KPWCA** and mail to the address below, or return to your Block Captain  
**KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114**

Alternatively, go to [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org) and pay using Paypal

I'm interested in learning more about volunteering with: *(please check each)*

- Block Captain/ Membership Committee/Directory
- Beautification & Gardening Group (BAGG)
- Dumpster Day
- Herald Newsletter
- Neighbor Assist
- Welcome Committee
- Parks & Lake
- Streets & Signboards
- Neighborhood Watch
- Other... \_\_\_\_\_
- Disaster Preparedness/Community Resiliency Group



## Instructions for Using PayPal

- Go to the [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org) website and click on “Membership Benefits” at the left side of the screen.
- At the top-right of the page, click on “KPWCA Membership Form and Paypal Instructions”.
- Right click the form and save the blank copy to your local drive. Then, open it from the saved location, type in your information and save it again or print it out. Make sure your data is visible after saving or printing. The saved version with your data can be emailed to [membership@kwca.org](mailto:membership@kwca.org). Or the paper form, once completed electronically or legibly by hand, can be given to your Block Captain.
- Decide what additional amounts, if any, you want to contribute in addition to the Membership Fee. Make a note of the number next to that organization or activity in the chart (1-11).
- Click on PayPal button.
- Enter in the **TOTAL** amount of your Donation: \$20 Membership + any additional.
- If you have a PayPal account, log in.
- If you don't have a PayPal account, that's ok, you don't need one! Simply click on the "Continue" button on the bottom left under "Don't have a PayPal Account?" Then enter your billing and credit card information. [You can be sure the transaction is secure if you see “https” near the beginning of the web address at the top of your browser window.]
- Click Continue.
- At the next screen, you will be asked to review your donation.
  - Under "Kings Park West Civic Association Membership" you will see a little "+" sign and "Additional Contributions." If you are making optional contributions in addition to the \$20 membership fee, click on that "+" and a drop down box will open up.
  - Refer back to the membership form and use the number in front of the organization or activity in the chart (1-11) to type into that box how your contributions above the \$20 are to be used.

For example, if you want to donate \$25 to the Volunteer Fire Department, you would enter 1-\$25. For a \$30 contribution to Parks and Lakes, you would enter 10-\$30, and so on.

- Once that is completed, click "Donate Now" and you are done with your payment!

***It's imperative that you provide us a copy of the form.*** Double-check to make sure "PAYPAL" is checked, the total dollar amount is entered and the date paid is clearly indicated at the top of the form. Then, be sure to either email the completed form to [membership@kwca.org](mailto:membership@kwca.org) or give a printed copy of your completed form to your Block Captain.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [membership@kwca.org](mailto:membership@kwca.org).



**As the busy fall and winter season approaches, let The Outdoor Man take care of you! Enjoy your fall weekends and vacations while they last, Sign up for his great services:**

Mowing and Edging  
**Prompt Leaf Clean-Up**  
**Hardscapes**  
 Back Yard Improvements

Yard Enhancements  
 Mulching  
 Shrub trimming/removing  
 Light Landscaping

Sign up now for 2017 services  
 Call Frank TODAY for your free Estimate  
**(703) 425-1748**

Licensed and Insured      Veteran-Owned      Service Since 1986

**REAL ESTATE CORNER**  
 by Mary and Cathy



Traditionally, a new president in the White House has very little effect on the local housing market in the D.C. metropolitan area. However, the election of Donald Trump has prognosticators uncertain. Since Trump is a Washington outsider, market watchdogs have no idea what to expect from his administration. Some believe that the Federal Reserve will wait to raise the prime interest rate (which many had predicted they would do this December) until they can see how his policies will affect the overall economy. Many speculate that the area will continue to experience a housing shortage in conjunction with a shortage of building supplies and workers as Trump turns his focus to infrastructure improvement. Inventory shortages generally results in higher home prices.

***KPW Stats***  
 53 Sold YTD; 9 Sold since October 1.  
 6 Under Contract.  
 7 Active listings.  
 Average List Price: \$549,327  
 Average Sold Price: \$542,875



| Status   | Model                | Address                 | List Price | Sold Price |
|----------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| Sold     | Baron                | 10301 Collingham Dr     | \$560,000  | \$550,000  |
| Contract | Baron w/ sunroom add | 10412 Collingham Dr     | \$659,900  |            |
| Contract | Duchess              | 9812 Bacon Ct           | \$534,900  |            |
| Sold     | Duchess              | 5223 Richardson Dr      | \$529,888  | \$529,888  |
| Contract | Duke                 | 5377 Gainsborough Dr    | \$545,000  |            |
| Sold     | Duke w/Addition      | 5100 Gainsborough Dr    | \$569,000  | \$563,800  |
| Contract | King                 | 5074 Dequincey Dr       | \$550,000  |            |
| Contract | Prince               | 4909 Orkney Ct          | \$528,900  |            |
| Sold     | Prince w/nice pool   | 9819 Covent Ct          | \$569,900  | \$566,000  |
| Sold     | Queen                | 9712 Galsworth Ct       | \$525,000  | \$505,682  |
| Contract | Regent               | 4901 Orkney Ct          | \$564,900  |            |
| Sold     | Regent               | 4994 Swinton Dr         | \$575,000  | \$575,000  |
| Sold     | Regent               | 4950 Gainsborough Dr    | \$535,000  | \$510,000  |
| Sold     | Regent               | 5354 Gainsborough Dr    | \$625,000  | \$612,000  |
| Sold     | York w/bsmt & addtn  | 10305 Commonwealth Blvd | \$539,900  | \$539,000  |





On behalf of the  
 Laurel Ridge PTA:  
 Laurel Ridge Elementary is  
 bringing a brand new, inclusive  
 playground to our campus, and  
 we need you to help make it  
 happen!

The *Lions Play With Pride* campaign is led by a team of local parents, school administrators, teachers, students, and other local citizens who seek to provide an all-inclusive playground that is truly accessible to all students.

- Our current playground is 20+ years old and not ADA compliant
- Simply bringing our old playground into compliance will not make the playground truly accessible to all students

No child should ever have to stay outside the gates and wait while their friends enjoy the fun.

In addition to benefiting our students, a new high quality playground benefits our greater Kings Park West neighborhood. Let's make sure this vital community resource stays the gem of our neighborhood.

A gift to a public school is tax-deductible, but you should always consult with your own tax professional to evaluate your personal situation.

#### Projected phases of completion –

Phase 1 – (Summer 2017) demolition, installation of main structure and accessible swings.

Total cost: \$200,000

- \$170,000 provided by FCPS
- \$30,000 raised by LRES community

Phase 2 – (Summer 2018) addition of stand-alone play station(s) and rubber flooring.

Total cost: \$60,000

- raised entirely by LRES community



Please help us reach our \$90,000 goal! We have split our two year fundraising campaign into two phases, each \$45,000. Giving through our Edbacker site (<https://tinyurl.com/lionsplaywithpride>) allows our school staff the ease of centralized accounting and automatic gift acknowledgement. All contributions will go to the playground. You may also donate by sending cash or a check made out to Laurel Ridge ES to our school office at:

Laurel Ridge Elementary, 10110 Commonwealth Blvd, Fairfax VA 22032, Attn: Playground



This appeal from the LRES-PTA is for voluntary contributions from the community at large. We welcome your questions and input and are always looking for volunteers to help with events and facilitate new donations. Please contact us at [LRESPlayWithPride@gmail.com](mailto:LRESPlayWithPride@gmail.com).

**Thank you for supporting the LRES Lions and our community!**

## Girl Scout Troop 2280

By Jennifer Weston, Co-Leader

The Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital Troop 2280 have been very busy participating in a patch program called "Election Connection." The program is designed to teach the scouts about the election process, and to encourage them to be informed citizens who will one day exercise their power to vote. The girls devoted three meetings this fall to learning many of the unique aspects of our country's democracy.

They started with learning election terms such as incumbent, non-partisan, and mock election. After learning that the first citizens allowed to vote in a national election were white male property owners, the scouts created a timeline focusing on the 15th, 19th and 26th Amendments. Next, the girls created a questionnaire to learn from their family members, among other things, about their political leanings and most memorable elections for them. The scouts also designed non-partisan voting posters that were displayed in their community encouraging adults in their lives to exercise their right to vote. Lastly, many of the girls accompanied their parents to the polls on Election Day to see the process in action.

Upon reflection, the girls commented that although they enjoyed the program and learned much about our great democracy, they realize that there is more to learn.

For information about becoming a Girl Scout, please contact [SU5415info@gmail.com](mailto:SU5415info@gmail.com).



## Keeping the Wildlife Wild: Part 2

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

In [Keeping the Wildlife Wild: Part 1](#) (October 2016), we learned how feeding wildlife has a detrimental impact on the very critters that folks want to help. Many people feeding wild animals have their hearts in the right place, so what is a person to do? Here are some ways you can truly support Earth's creatures:

- **Grow native plant gardens and shrubbery:** Birds directly consume berries, seeds, and nuts. Foliage nourishes many insects, which feed birds, toads, frogs, bats, and a host of additional animals. Small birds and mammals attract hawks and other predators. Nature's hunters keep the ecosystem balanced. Creating a native garden returns some of the habitat lost through urbanization and encroachment. Go ahead and tear up that unused lawn – the part with the hard-to-mow hill or along a fence line – and sink in those Virginia native plants! Whenever possible, include water-saving features like rain gardens. BONUS: You can watch wildlife interactions from your home!
  - Most biologists consider bird feeders acceptable and encourage providing sustenance during harsh winter conditions, when nuts and seeds become scarce. However, survey data indicates some bird species frequenting the feeders are becoming plump, growing shorter wings, and increasingly less likely to migrate.
- **Replace your exotic invasive plants with native specimens:** In addition to replacing ecologically worthless weeds with beneficial natives, destroying those invasive species prevents them from spreading outside of your yard. A partial list of plants to avoid can be found here: Invasive Plant Q/As: the Short-List [www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/22\\_2010-05.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/22_2010-05.pdf)
- **Respect property lines:** Clearing natural landscapes, setting up play areas, or dumping garbage or yard debris on property other than your own or without the owner's permission constitutes encroachment. These acts degrade and rob habitat from wildlife, especially in parks.
- **Pick up trash:** Garbage harms wildlife as the animals swallow or get tangled in it. Pet waste fouls the immediate area and impairs downstream water quality. Junk like e-waste and batteries corrode and discharge toxins. Bottles, cans, and plastic bags and containers trap water and become breeding pools for mosquitoes. Plastics break into smaller and smaller pieces, inevitably winding their way into the ocean and potentially leaching toxins along the course. From pavement to parklands, remove litter wherever it is found.
- **Avoid using pesticides and herbicides:** While targeting a group of organisms, many of these poisons are not species-specific, so they end up creating collateral damage, especially to sensitive aquatic life as they wash into waterways.
- **Avoid using synthetic fertilizers:** Lawn chemicals contain excessive nutrients, 90 percent of which end up washing into and polluting streams, lakes, rivers, and eventually the Chesapeake Bay. Switching to compost, organic fertilizers, and natural soil amenders is environmentally healthy.
- **Keep vehicles properly maintained:** Fuel, oil, and antifreeze leaks contaminate the environment and poison critters wandering into or licking up these puddles. Susceptible aquatic fauna takes a hit when hazardous compounds wash into waterways. Properly dispose of automotive and household toxic materials by bringing them to a hazardous material handling facility.
- **Keep pets leashed, fenced in, or indoors:** Unleashed dogs may harass other animals, both wild and domesticated. A study in *Nature Communication* (Loss et al., 2013) estimated that free-ranging domestic cats kill 1.3–4.0 billion birds and 6.3–22.3 billion mammals each year in the United States. The other side of



Figure 1. During a blizzard, this American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) fuels up on winterberries (*Ilex verticillata*) from a native hedge. When snow obscures many food sources and refilling bird feeders might be dicey (and species like robins shun typical bird feeders), birds benefit the most from native plants for nourishment and shelter. People can enjoy the native plants' aesthetics, the wildlife visitors, and knowing how this landscaping helps the overall environment in any season.

allowing pooches and kitties to run free is that they have higher injury and death rates due to anything from getting hit by cars to, for cat-sized pets, becoming dinner for local coyotes.

- **Volunteer in habitat restoration projects:** From watershed cleanups to removing non-native invasive weeds from parks, there is a way for you to help! A great place to get started is Volunteer Fairfax ([www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org)). County-sanctioned groups are active around Royal Lake, including the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program ([www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resource-management/ima/)); KPW Parks & Lakes Committee (contact [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org)); Friends of Royal Lake (contact [friendsofroyallake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroyallake@gmail.com)); Road Raiders (contact [sarahgilennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgilennon@gmail.com)). If you are physically unable to perform fieldwork, but would still like to aid park efforts, you can always spread the word and recruit others.
- **Share this article:** For one reason or another, someone who could benefit the most from this material or other information in the Eco-Article series might have missed seeing it. Feel free to bridge the language barrier and translate these manuscripts for people who are working on mastering English. While the subjects pertain to Northern Virginian ecology, the readership extends from Maine to Florida and west of the Mississippi as folks learn how we handle environmental issues and then apply those principles to their neck of the woods. The entire series is available at [www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=33](http://www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=33). Best of all, most articles have additional references – anything from website links to peer-reviewed scientific journal articles – for readers to delve deeper into the subject.

Remember that if the wild animal reacts to your presence, chances are you are too close; if an animal approaches you from a distance, other people have already inappropriately interacted with it or it is ill. Clearly, there are many ways you can be a true friend to wildlife while keeping a healthy space. As I tell volunteers at the end of habitat restoration workdays, “It’s not the ‘thanks’ that you hear from me that is important. It’s the unheard gratitude from the wildlife and future generations that matters most.”

Native gardens ideas and suggested plants can be found in the Eco-Article Archives:

The Birds and the Butterflies: Part 1 [www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/15b\\_2009-06.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/15b_2009-06.pdf)

The Birds and the Butterflies: Part 2 [www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/17a\\_2009-09.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/17a_2009-09.pdf)

Hummingbird Attraction [www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/39b\\_2012-10.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/39b_2012-10.pdf)

Some Native Plant Suggestions [www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/64\\_2016-01.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/64_2016-01.pdf)

Articles regarding bird feeders:

[www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/notes/BirdNote01\\_WinterFeeding.pdf](http://www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/notes/BirdNote01_WinterFeeding.pdf)

[www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2011/Effects-of-Bird-Feeding.aspx](http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/National-Wildlife/Birds/Archives/2011/Effects-of-Bird-Feeding.aspx)

<http://feederwatch.org/blog/impacts-supplemental-feeding-bird-populations/>

[www.hummingbird-guide.com/stop-feeding-hummingbirds.html](http://www.hummingbird-guide.com/stop-feeding-hummingbirds.html)

Reference on cats impacting the environment:

Loss, Scott R., Tom Will, and Peter P. Marra. 2013. The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States. *Nature Communications*. <http://www.nature.com/ncomms/journal/v4/n1/full/ncomms2380.html>

Marra, Peter P. and Chris Santella. 2016. *Cat Wars: The Devastating Consequences of a Cuddly Killer*. Princeton University Press, Princeton, New Jersey. pp. 216.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2016/10/18/a-wildlife-rehab-center-confirms-that-cats-are-killers/>

\* \* \* \* \*

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/71\\_2016-12.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/71_2016-12.pdf)



**ELECTRICAL****DEPENDABLE SERVICE****SOLUTIONS****REASONABLE RATES****RESIDENTIAL ♦ COMMERCIAL**

- ◆ Troubleshooting & Repair Work
- ◆ Electrical Service Upgrades
- ◆ Lightning & Surge Protection
- ◆ Security Lighting
- ◆ Home Inspection Repairs
- ◆ New Circuits
- ◆ Network Computer Cabling
- ◆ Hot Tubs & Pools
- ◆ Home Theaters

**703-922-2040****FREE** Phone Estimates[www.ElectricalSolutionsLLC.com](http://www.ElectricalSolutionsLLC.com)

Save 6% to 30% on your Energy Bill

- ◆ Optimize your Electricity
- ◆ Increase the Life of Appliances
- ◆ Reduce Your Carbon Footprint
- ◆ UL Listed and CSA Approved
- ◆ Installs In About An Hour!

Go Green & Save Money  
with KVAR Energy Controllers[www.SaveAlotOfEnergy.com](http://www.SaveAlotOfEnergy.com)*Mention this ad and receive 10% off service charge*

Same Day Service

Licensed • Bonded • Insured

24/7 Emergency Service



## Mr. Mow

*"all you need to know is Mr. Mow"*

### Late Fall Specials any house

mow, trim, and edge \$30

aerate &amp; overseed \$125 or less

fertilizing \$90 or less

leaf removal (3 visits incl. gutters) \$375 or less

gutter cleaning \$60

### sign up for snow removal now!

call for your other fall clean-up projects

**(703) 503-3130**

## Cub Scout Pack 1968

*By Michael Stonkey, Cubmaster Pack 1968*

Fall is a great time to be a Cub Scout, but then again, anytime of the year is a great time to be a Cub Scout! And the boys of Pack 1968 certainly had a fun-packed couple of months, culminating in the running of the games for the KPW Fall Festival. The Bear Den (3rd Graders) were dressed in uniform running various games that day to complete their "Grin and Bear It" Adventure. However, one of the many things that Scouting teaches boys is civic duty, which includes giving back to the community. So, I certainly applaud all the boys of the Pack for helping out in the festival and scouting for food.



The Tiger Den (1st graders) started off the fall activities by planting trees in an outdoor train garden. And though the trees don't grow into the 60'+ tall maples, oaks, or poplars that adorn our landscape, they do offer the boys the opportunity to learn how to plant and care for a tree on a much smaller scale. However, if you ask the boys, they were probably more excited to learn about the trains!

The oldest boys of the Pack in our Arrow of Light Den (5th Graders) completed their Build-it Adventure by making Candy Dispensers using non-powered tools. This gave the boys a great perspective on how modern technologies have made construction much easier.

Early in November, the Wolf Den (2nd graders) joined the Arrow of Light Den on a Geocaching adventure in Burke Lake Park.

Our October Pack meeting was also well-attended, with 13 boys receiving the first rank in Cub Scouts, the Bobcat badge. Four of those boys showed that it's never too late to join Cub Scouts with awardees being from 1st-4th grades.



Congratulations to Ben, Colin, Derek, Devin, Eitan, Ethan, Gabriel, Harlan, Isaac, Logan, Noah, Robbie, and Xavier.

In pack tradition, after the awards, all the boys enjoyed games, food and fun in Halloween-style lead by the Webelos Den (4th graders) who taught all of the other boys the kangaroo balloon relay game.



Pack 1968 is a fun and dynamic Cub Scout Pack that is always looking for families who have boys in 1st-5th grade who are interested in having fun while learning new skills and providing service to the community. You can't find any other extracurricular activity that provides what scouting does for boys. If you are interested in finding more about Pack 1968 and what scouting is all about, you can email me at [mstonkey@verizon.net](mailto:mstonkey@verizon.net) or visit us on the web at [pack1968.scoutlander.net](http://pack1968.scoutlander.net).

# *Wishing You Peace and Happiness This Holiday Season*



THE  
**Mary & Cathy**  
Success By Design & TEAM

## KPW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

**PROFESSIONAL TUTORING:** 20 years of experience. Grades 1-12 and college. Math through Calculus, Science, Spanish, French, English, History, Study Skills and Organizational Coaching. Please call (703) 830-7037 or visit [www.JuliaRossPT.com](http://www.JuliaRossPT.com)

**SAT PREPARATION:** Junior SAT Classes registering now. Many students improve over 40 points. SAT scores open doors for college admissions and incredible scholarship opportunities. (703) 830-7037 or visit [www.JuliaRossPT.com](http://www.JuliaRossPT.com)

**PIANO LESSONS IN KPW:** Affordable neighborhood piano teacher with over 35 years of experience. BA, MA and doctoral work in piano performance. Diverse, fun and challenging programs to motivate students. Instruction tailored to individual goals. Few openings! FREE TRIAL. Call (703) 955-0058

.....  
**NEED HELP with HIGH SCHOOL MATH?** Retired FCPS high school math teacher can help with Algebra 1, 2, and Geometry. KPW resident - your house or mine. Call Skip Sterling at (703) 978-9704 or email [skip.sterling@verizon.net](mailto:skip.sterling@verizon.net)

**COMPETITIVE MATH SERVICES, LLC:** Seriously Fun Math!! Mentoring students since 2009 to excel in MATHCOUNTS, AMC, Algebra, Trig, Probability, Geometry, Calculus & Beyond. Guest Lecturer for Vern Williams (Math Reasoning) and Former Contest Writer; KPW Resident. Website:

[competitivemathservices.com](http://competitivemathservices.com) E-mail [CompetitiveMathLLC@yahoo.com](mailto:CompetitiveMathLLC@yahoo.com)

**ART LESSONS IN KPW:** Art teacher with 11 years of experience. I teach acrylic, watercolor and oil painting. Adults and children of all skill levels. Contact Christine Jenkins at (703) 537-9391 or [Chris9900@hotmail.com](mailto:Chris9900@hotmail.com)

**CRAFT CLASSES:** Wooden photo block and sign making classes! Come make a great gift to give as a Christmas present or keep yourself! Call Mary [571-245-5796](tel:571-245-5796) or email [mbray920@yahoo.com](mailto:mbray920@yahoo.com) for more information.

**ALTERATIONS** for women and men. Custom dress making. Wedding dresses. Call Bok Kim at (703) 323-0979.

**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 at (571) 278-7521 or email [Deb.Billings@yahoo.com](mailto:Deb.Billings@yahoo.com)

**HOUSECLEANING SERVICES:** I clean weekly, bi-weekly, every three weeks,

monthly, periodic, moving out and moving in. I have licenses, bonded, and insurance. Good references, 11 years experience and LOW RATES. Call Maria L. Barreda at (703) 378-4059, or cell (703) 856-2512

**LAWN MOWING + MORE:** Grass cutting, Fertilizing + Weed control, Aerating + Seeding, Mulching, Shrub Pruning, Spring + Fall Cleanups. Reliable service with professional results. Since 1991 – Call Today for a Fast/Free Estimates. Professional Property Maintenance Inc. (703) 273-9626 [www.ppmlandscapes.com](http://www.ppmlandscapes.com)

**TREE SERVICES:** Storm damage. Trimming/pruning. Removals and Stump grinding. We also plant new trees. International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist. Since 1991 Professional Property Maintenance Inc. Call (703) 273-9626 [www.ppmlandscapes.com](http://www.ppmlandscapes.com). Call or email for a Fast/Free Estimate

**HOME REPAIR AND REMODELING SERVICES:**   
 •Plumbing Service and Repairs   
 •Hot Water heater installations  
 •Heating and Air Conditioning Repairs and Replacements  •Gas Work  •Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling  •Appliance repairs..... REASONABLE PRICES! Call John Andican anytime at (703) 472-0150. Master Licensed and Insured, Proudly serving the Kings Park West Neighborhood since 1992