



January 2017

Vol. 47, Issue 1

Kings Park West Civic Association

On behalf of the KPWCA Board, I would like to wish you a Happy 2017!

I hope you had a safe and joyful holiday season. As we begin 2017, there is much to be thankful for in our wonderful community.

Many of the Kings Park West homes were festively decorated during the holidays. I had several visitors from outside the neighborhood comment that they really enjoyed the holiday decorations. On that note, Caroline McDonald and her many elves (judges) of the Decorating Committee combed Kings Park West looking for the best decorations. As usual, there were many beautiful homes to choose from, making their job difficult. The following are the Winners of the 2016 Holiday Lights Contest:

Community Calendar	
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Feb 7
Braddock District Council.....	Feb 8
President's Day Holiday.....	Feb 20
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Feb 21
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	Feb 28
Herald Deadline.....	Mar 1
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Mar 7
Braddock District Council.....	Mar 8
Begin Daylight Saving Time.....	Mar 12
St. Patrick's Day.....	Mar 17
Herald Delivery.....	Mar 18
Spring Begins.....	Mar 20
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Mar 21
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Apr 4



Individual Winners:

- 5228 Stonington Drive
- 9802 Bronte Drive
- 10016 Eastlake Dive

Best Group:

Nottinghill Lane



Congratulations to all our winners – you have bragging rights until next year! Thanks to everyone for making our neighborhood look so festive this time of year!

It is officially winter, meaning there is a potential for snow/sleet/ice. Please watch your speed around our neighborhoods, especially as the weather deteriorates. I also ask that you keep your sidewalks cleared along your property. It is most helpful to our neighbors who walk to work, bus stops, and school.

*Continued on Page 3*

***In this Issue:***

- Homes sold and average home sale prices for 2016! See the Northern Virginia 2017 Predictions on Page 7 for details. Want to know the most popular models sold last year? Check out Page 19!
- Are you prepared for winter? Some helpful tips are on Page 5.

# 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: [welcome@kpwca.org](mailto:welcome@kpwca.org)

Zoning, Code, Safety Jackie Agnew 703-862-8471

### Communications

Herald Newsletter:

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Membership Patti Dickerson: [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org)

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 [President@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:President@KPWCA.ORG)

Treasurer [Treasurer@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:Treasurer@KPWCA.ORG)

### COMMITTEES

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Consumer Affairs [Consumer@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:Consumer@KPWCA.ORG)

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Signs, St.s, Sidewalks [St.s@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:St.s@KPWCA.ORG)

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Classifieds [Classified@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:Classified@KPWCA.ORG)

Advertising See Below

General Information [Info@KPWCA.ORG](mailto:Info@KPWCA.ORG)

Community Association [KPWHOAA@yahoo.com](mailto:KPWHOAA@yahoo.com)

## How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

**CLASSIFIEDS:** KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the March 18th issue must be received no later than March 1st 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 March 1, 2017

for delivery on March 18, 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 [sarahgjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgjlennon@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 [sarahgjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgjlennon@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. □

### *President's Letter continued from Page 1*

Our membership committee is working diligently in preparing the 2017 KPWCA Directory. The directory primarily helps us keep in touch with other members. However, it is also loaded with other interesting information, such as contacts for neighborhood swim clubs, plans for the various home models, important community contacts, and Civic Association block details. Many thanks to Patti Dickerson, Tim Hartle, Samantha Juni, Leah Larson-Taylor, and the membership committee for all the good work in preparing the directory. We anticipate having the directory ready for delivery by March.

Our winter membership meeting will be held next month. Please mark your calendars as follows:

What:	KPWCA Winter Membership Meeting
When:	Tuesday, February 28, 2017 at 7:30 pm
Where:	Laurel Ridge Elementary School Cafeteria

The Civic Association board and committees anticipate another great year. Our strong, cohesive membership defines the Association. It is my hope for the coming year to meet new members who would like to volunteer and participate in the great work of the Association. This past year, many of our members graciously stepped up and volunteered. A challenge of 2017 will be to maintain our robust volunteer spirit to keep the Association programs active.

Hope to see you next month at the membership meeting. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org) with any questions, comments or general feedback.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

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### Prepared for Winter?

Winter is upon us with snow predicted again. It is best to prepare ahead of the snow's arrival.

- \* Clearing property of snow can be dangerous, resulting in falls, pulled muscles, dehydration, frostbite, and heart issues. Many KPW neighbors already help each other (a great tribute to our community spirit). Some neighborhoods have even come together to purchase a snow blower. For those not fortunate to receive neighborhood help, the Neighbor Assist program has some workers who are willing to help with snow removal. For the list of snow removal providers, contact NeighborAssist@kpwca.org, or call (703) 401-0275. We can give you the names, but you must coordinate times and costs.
- \* Sidewalk clearing is often believed to be a County Ordinance. However, the County does not require that you clear your sidewalks. Our Supervisor has explained that older residents, for one, would jeopardize their health by doing so. The County does not want to be placing people in jeopardy.
- \* Driving on icy roads with pedestrians walking in the streets is dangerous. Everyone knows who will win: no one! Motorists, please drive carefully in bad weather. You don't want to live with the regret of injuring someone, even though you may feel you were in the right. Pedestrians, stay on the sidewalks as often as possible. Ice provides no traction for you or cars. One-ton vehicles, even traveling slowly, can cause lots of damage to YOU!
- \* Prepare for a possible power outage (batteries, fireplace wood, water, etc.). Fortunately, most of KPW has underground utilities. However, ice and wind can bring down the high voltage lines that feed our community, and it does take a while for the utility providers to repair the damage.
- \* Keep in touch with family and friends so that all can know your status in case of need.
- \* It is a good idea to keep some warm clothing in the car. Getting stuck and having to walk in cold, windy weather can quickly chill anyone.
- \* Hydration is something not normally discussed, but important. Ask anyone who has been treated for dehydration about how quickly your body shuts down. Exertion in cold, dry weather can quickly dehydrate you. Prepare to shovel snow like you would do for a long hike, and drink plenty of water before and stop periodically to re-hydrate.



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Kings Park West Community Association – Responsibilities and Activities, Part 1  
*By Nancy Grant, President, Kings Park West Community Association*

You may be among the many people who occasionally wonder why the Kings Park West Community Association exists, and what responsibilities the Association fulfills. After all, not only is membership involuntary, the Association does not host holiday parties, nor does it hold contests for holiday decorations like the Kings Park West Civic Association!

In contrast to the civic association, the King Park West Community Association – often informally called the Kings Park West Homeowners Association – is a state-mandated homeowners association (HOA) that includes homeowners living in the western part of KPW, specifically in Sections 16 through 22. You can visit a map on [kpwhoa.org](http://kpwhoa.org), which shows the area covered by the Kings Park West Community Association.

**Membership is Mandatory.** Membership in the Association is mandated for those who own homes within the HOA, as stipulated by the Virginia Property Owners Association Act. Specifically, membership is required as a condition for owning the home.

That requirement, in turn, raises the issue of why the HOA even exists. The answer goes back to the 1970s, when the Richmarr Corporation built KPW from Guinea/Twinbrook Roads west to Sideburn Road. As houses were built and sold, pieces of land unsuitable for building (such as streams and wetlands) were acquired by Fairfax County as parkland. This led to the development of Crooked Creek Park and other parkland connected to Royal Lake.

But when KPW reached west to Roberts Road and north to Tapestry Drive in the mid-70s, the County had stopped acquiring additional parkland. Under state law, remaining unsuitable land had to be owned by someone. The County didn't want it, and the land could not be used for commercial purposes, so Richmarr – legally, properly, and routinely – created an HOA to take title to and manage this land, to be owned in common by all homeowners in the sections containing the parcels.

**44 Acres of Land.** The Community Association and its members together own approximately 44 acres of land. The largest pieces are in the Commonwealth/Roberts/Collingham area, and along Tapestry Drive from the old Kings West Pool to Braddock Road. There are smaller parcels as well, such as the green space containing the KPW wall and sign at Guinea/Twinbrook.

The HOA exists to manage this common land, especially to maintain liability insurance to protect individual homeowner members, and to minimize hazards that may come from it, such as dead trees falling on homeowners' properties.

A future article will provide more information about specific actions and activities that the Association carries out. For more information on the Association, visit [kpwhoa.org](http://kpwhoa.org).



## REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



### NORTHERN VIRGINIA 2017 PREDICTIONS

Mortgage rates have gone up since the election. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates on December 14, 2016 and is expecting three more increases to take effect in 2017. From a low of 3.47% on November 7th, the average fixed 30-year mortgage rate increased to 4.19% as of December, 2016.

Economists are expecting interest rate volatility, with day-to-day changes driven by the moves and statements of the incoming administration. At the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Economic Summit, Terry L. Clower, Ph.D. with the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University presented a positive economic outlook for the area which has seen significant price increases since 2009 and has almost rebounded back to 2005-2006 prices. Looking ahead, home prices are expected to see 1-3% annual increases.

The Northern Virginia – DC Metro area has also seen significant job growth in the last few years. More jobs mean more people coming into the area looking for homes. This is great for the local real estate market.

Additionally, promised tax breaks could reinvigorate sales of luxury homes, which have stagnated in recent years. This could create a ripple-down effect throughout the rest of the real estate market, spurring sales and construction of mid-level and lower-priced housing.

In Northern Virginia, the unemployment rate under is 4%. This is considered to be full employment and a very good sign for the 2017 real estate market.

*~excerpted from Kevin Bailey, weblog*

### 2016 KPW Stats

57 Sold YTD, 3 Under Contract, 3 Active listings.

Average List Price: \$548,481

Highest List Price: \$699,000

Lowest List Price: \$449,000

Average Sold Price: \$545,162

Highest Sold Price: \$689,000

Lowest Sold Price: \$438,000

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# The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

## Chimney Sweep Recommendations

According to the National Fire Protection Association Standard 211, "Chimneys, fireplaces, and vents shall be inspected at least once a year for soundness, freedom from deposits, and correct clearances. Cleaning, maintenance, and repairs shall be done if necessary." This is the national safety standard and is the correct way to approach the problem. It takes into account the fact that even if you don't use your chimney much, animals may build nests in the flue or there may be other types of deterioration that could make the chimney unsafe to use.



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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



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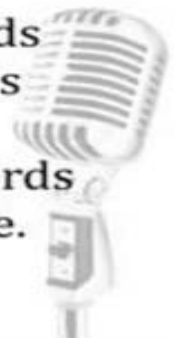
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For last year's words belong to last year's language,  
And next year's words await another voice.

T. S. Eliot





## Make Your Voice Heard for the Parks!

*By Sarah G J Lennon & Paul Gross*

**We in KPW have a rare opportunity in 2017 to help decide the future of our parks.** The Fairfax County Park Authority has a process plan for development work at all parks called the Planning and Development Annual Work Plan, and the FY18 Work Plan is slated to address the Royal Lake Master Plan. “What is the Master Plan?” you may ask. The purpose of a Master Plan is to create a long-range vision for the park by determining the best uses and resource management for specific sites; it is a twenty-year look into the future, essentially, and serves as a long-term decision-making tool to be referenced before any planning, or before any programming or resource management activities are undertaken. What it does NOT do is guarantee funding to support the work that needs to be done at the park. That money would have to come from a Bond Referendum, and the next time we may see a Referendum that would provide funds for the Park Authority would be the 2020 Bond. (For reference, see this link <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/mparchives.htm>)

Okay, that was the boring part. Now for the good part – YOU have a voice and can make a difference in what Royal Lake Park and Lakeside Park will become in the future for generations to come. During the course of 2017, the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) will be hosting a series of community meetings every other month to discuss various aspects of our park. We will have discussions of the overall process, followed by more specific discussions and workshops on trail improvements, sustainability of the lake itself, possible consolidation and renaming of Royal Lake and Lakeside Parks, the amenities and recreation at the parks, and possible aquatic programs – such as bringing back the rental boats the Park Authority had in the 1980’s. For those involved in the Monticello Park master plan process, this is very similar, with the exception that the Friends of Royal Lake want to take the initiative to provide solid, structured community inputs for the Park Authority’s consideration; this will make it clear what WE think is important for the future of OUR community.

We need a team of people to help make this work, however! If you are interested, please contact Paul Gross, Chair of the Friends of Royal Lake ([friendsofroyallake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroyallake@gmail.com)), or Sarah Lennon, Chair of the Parks & Lake Committee ([Parks@kpwca.org](mailto:Parks@kpwca.org) or [sarahgjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgjlennon@gmail.com)).

The first meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Thursday, February 9, 2017, most likely at Laurel Ridge. Stay tuned for details on Facebook, Next Door and future Heralds. This will be discussed at the February 28 KPWCA Membership meeting.

THIS is our chance! As is commonly said regarding elections, if you don’t vote, you can’t complain. If you do not take the time to share your ideas and thoughts and help guide the Master Plan development now, you lose the opportunity to kvetch about it later on.



## Invasive Species Profile: Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

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

**Native Range:** Japan, China, and Korea

**U.S. Introduction:** 1830s as an ornamental shrub

**Life Cycle:** Perennial shrub

**Means of Spreading:** Berries, eaten by birds, which pass the seeds

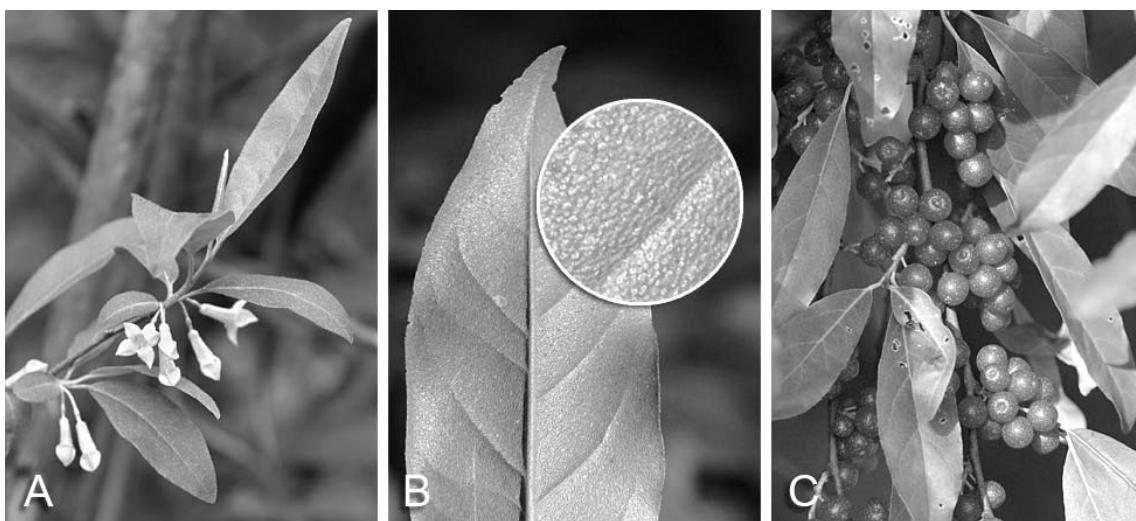
**Commercially Available:** Yes, with a shrinking market; some states ban or prohibit autumn olive sales

**Control Method:** Hand-pull seedlings and saplings. Mature bushes may require mechanical tools, such as a Weed Wrench. Cut down large shrubs leaving two feet of defoliated branches; continue manually removing new growth until the plant dies (takes approximately two years).

**Good Alternative Species:** Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*), flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*), eastern baccharis or groundsel tree (*Baccharis halimifolia*).

**Comments:** The case of autumn olive illustrates how introducing a non-native species with good intentions can go bad. First brought to America from Asia in the 1830s, it was promoted to control erosion and act as a wind break. Adding to the appeal, this tall shrub grows fast in many soil types and moisture levels, even fixing atmospheric nitrogen thanks to the relationship its roots have with bacteria from the genus *Frankia*. Some people found *Elaeagnus*' metallic green leaves with silvery scales attractive, while others enjoyed the potent, sickeningly sweet aroma from the cream-colored springtime blossoms. As recently as the 1970s, its fruits, ripening in September and October, were thought to help birds, and wildlife advocates encouraged planting autumn olive. Other folks harvested the drupes to make food items like jams and pie fillings.

So far, this plant sounds like a miracle bush! Unfortunately, autumn olive has no serious North American parasites, diseases, or predators to keep it in check. Only aphids significantly attack it, which draw ladybugs, but that micro-ecosystem has no major contribution to the broader habitat. Without a natural control, autumn olive forms vast, dense thickets that blocks out sunlight so that native plants cannot grow. Furthermore, it is allelopathic, meaning that the olive secretes chemicals into the soil, thereby inhibiting the growth of other plants. Whereas the berries feed some adult animals, the lack of insect biodiversity hosted by the olive means that the arthropod-eating birds and many chicks that start life eating bugs have



**Figure 1.** Autumn olive's pungent, sweet-smelling, cream flowers (A) bloom as the leaves develop. Some silvery scales speckle the foliage tops; the leaf underside (B) is lighter in color with more prevalent scales (magnified inset). In the fall, berries, which also display scaly flecks, weigh down the branches (C). One mature bush can produce up to 200,000 fruits.

reduced meal options near autumn olive groves. Those few adult bird species that gulp the fruits end up dispersing the seeds; those seeds germinate and quickly grow into new berry factories within several years. Clearly, autumn olive’s dark side overshadows any benefit.

Two other species of *Elaeagnus* plague the D.C. metropolitan area: the thorny olive (*E. pungens*) and the Russian olive (*E. angustifolia*). Easy ways to tell these *Elaeagnus* apart are summarized in Table 1. Russian olives have received a great deal of press lately, because this little tree is a huge problem in the western states, and is especially invasive around waterways and lower canyon regions. North America has only one native *Elaeagnus* representative, the American silverberry (*E. commutata*), but it does not naturally occur in Virginia. All *Elaeagnus* members are unrelated to the familiar food item, European olives (*Olea europaea*).

**Table 1. Several key characteristics help distinguish the three *Elaeagnus* species found in Fairfax (from Weakley, et al. 2012).**

Characteristic	Autumn Olive	Thorny Olive	Russian Olive
Bloom Time	Spring	Autumn	Around early summer
Fruits Ripen	Late summer to autumn	Early spring	Late summer
Berry Color	Red	Red	Yellow to brown
Berry Size	0.8 cm	1.5 cm	1.0 cm
Leaf Length x Width	3.0-8.0 x 1.0-3.0 cm	3.0-10.0 x 1.5-3.5 cm (evergreen)	3.0-10.0 x 0.4-3.2 cm
Leaf Scale Coloration	Silver	Silver with some bronze on undersides	Silver

For several years, Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers worked towards controlling autumn olive, and 2016’s site leader increase at Royal Lake enabled more aggressive olive targeting. Killing autumn olive and its relatives is easiest done when the shrubs are young and can be hand-pulled. A Weed Wrench extracts larger specimens. If the tree is too large to be uprooted, then cut back the olive to completely defoliate the branches and prevent it from fruiting while leaving the main trunk standing. Volunteers will then return to the stump and remove new growth and suckers every several months or so. Starving the plant through persistent defoliation kills it in a couple of years.

For more information on autumn olive:

- <https://www.nps.gov/plants/ALIEn/fact/elan1.htm>
- [http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive\\_plants/weeds/autumn-olive.pdf](http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/autumn-olive.pdf)
- <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=3021>
- <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3021>
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/shrub/elaumb/all.html>
- <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/indiana/journeywithnature/autumn-olive.xml>

Weakley, Alan S., J. Christopher Ludwig, and John F. Townsend. 2012. *Flora of Virginia*. BRIT Press, Fort Worth, TX. pp. 1554. [floraofvirginia.org](http://floraofvirginia.org)



**Figure 2. Autumn olive infestations can dominate open areas (A, seen in spring at Monticello Park in Burke) and woodland understories (B, at Hemlock Overlook in Clifton last fall).**

\* \* \* \* \*

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://grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/72\\_2017-01.pdf](http://grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/72_2017-01.pdf)



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"/>	<b>Name</b>	<input style="width: 650px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Address</b>	<input style="width: 650px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Telephone</b>	<input style="width: 650px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Email</b>	<input style="width: 650px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>

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

\$ 20	<b>Membership Fee</b> (\$20 for each household)
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>1. Volunteer Fire Department</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>2. KPWCA Boy Scout Units</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>3. Robinson HS Drug/Alcohol Free Grad Party</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>4. TJHSST Drug/Alcohol Free Grad Party</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>5. Herald Newsletter</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>6. Unrestricted Community Use</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>7. Halloween Festival</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>8. Easter Egg Hunt</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>9. College Scholarships</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>10. Parks &amp; Lake</b>
<input style="width: 80px; height: 25px;" type="text"/>	<b>11. Common Area Maintenance</b>

**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).

### Cub Scout Pack 1967

As the fall of 2016 came to a close, the boys of Cub Scout Pack 1967 were able to enjoy the last of the beautiful weather with a hike to the top of Old Rag Mountain. We took advantage of a day off school on November 7 and headed west to the Shenandoah. The boys enjoyed hiking to the summit, and were happy to be joined by four alumni who are now Boy Scouts, and one sister too!

We also spent the latter part of the fall delivering popcorn products purchased during our annual sales event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our KPW neighbors who purchased and donated during this drive. Your contributions fund our organization's activities throughout the year, and we appreciate your generosity!

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).



### Cub Scout Packs 1967 and 1968

On November 18, 2016, Virginia Delegate David Bulova visited both Pack 1967 and Pack 1968 at Laurel Ridge Elementary School and helped them complete their Building a Better World adventure. Delegate Bulova quizzed the boys about Virginia history as well as the Virginia government. He also ran a very fun and interactive exercise as the scouts walked a bill submission through the House of Delegates and up to the governor. There was a lively debate on what bill to submit, and the usual suspects rose to the top with proposals to cut taxes and increase school funding as candidates.

The scouts from both packs learned a great deal, and really appreciated Delegate Bulova taking the time to visit with them.



\*\*\*\*\*

#### 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). Thanks!



## Concerts at Good Shepherd

### Concert Series 2017

.....

#### Night and Day Valentine Concert, Sunday, February 12, 2017, 6 p.m.



Our popular Valentine program features the swing band *Night and Day* in an evening of love songs and dance tunes for all to enjoy! Enjoy music from the Great American Songbook, in jazz, swing and big band style. The event features delicious food, drinks, and music in an intimate cabaret setting in the Parish Hall.

#### Gabriel Fauré Requiem, Friday, April 14, 2017, 7:30 p.m.

The Good Shepherd Senior Choir performs the exquisitely beautiful Requiem by Gabriel Fauré on Good Friday evening. This chamber edition, scored for choir, organ, harp, violin, and cello, will be integrated into the Good Friday Service to enhance the liturgy. There is **no admission charge**.



#### Choral Arts Chamber Singers, Sunday, May 21, 2017, 6 p.m.

The chamber ensemble from the nationally renowned Choral Arts Society of Washington, under the direction of Scott Tucker, will present a program of music from Renaissance to contemporary. The Choral Arts Chamber Singers have performed throughout the region and will be featured on the concert series at the historic Dumbarton Church and the Choral Arts Society.

\* A special feature is a free reception with an opportunity to meet and mingle with performers and enjoy fabulous appetizers.

**Season tickets:** You can buy season tickets now at a discounted rate of \$60 adult / \$40 student

[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2561554](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2561554)

**Single ticket sales** at \$25 adult/\$15 student will be available at the door and are online.



The Church of the Good Shepherd [www.good-shepherd.net](http://www.good-shepherd.net)  
9350 Braddock Road  
Burke, VA 22015  
703-323-5400



## Get Off the Couch

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

### January 21

#### Family Owl Outing at Huntley Meadows Park

Discover the world of owls and learn what makes them excellent predators of the night. \$7 per person. Hours: 4:30-6 pm. Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd, Alexandria. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows-park/>.

### January 28-29

#### Chinese New Year Festival

The Smithsonian American Art Museum and Chinese Embassy presents a family-friendly event to welcome in the Year of the Rooster. Enjoy a variety of activities and demos throughout the day including: paper cutting; bristle dolls; dough sculpting; a display of painting the inside of snuff bottles by Beijing Folk Artists; calligraphy. \*\*Free\*\* Sat. 11:30 am-3 pm. 800 G St. NW, Washington. <http://si.edu/Museums/america-art-museum>

#### Tet (Lunar New Year) Celebration

Join the Vietnamese community for a joyful celebration of the New Year. Musicians, traditional Vietnamese food, Lion Dance, and children's activities. \$5 admission, children under 6 \*\*Free\*\*. 10 am-11 pm. Dulles Expo Center. [www.tetfestivalva.com](http://www.tetfestivalva.com)

#### Astronomy Festival

Here's a chance to stargaze and look through a telescope at Riverbend Park. There will be storytelling around the fire pit, information about constellations, and other fun activities. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. Canceled in the event of snow or rain. \$6 pre-registration, \$7 day of the event. Sat. 5:30-7:30 pm. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>

### February 4-5

#### Chocolate Lover's Festival

The City of Fairfax presents the 25th annual Chocolate Lover's Festival. Children's events, chocolate tastings, samples, and a showing of Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory. Sat. 10 am-5 pm (chocolate pancake breakfast at 8 am), Sun. 12 pm-4 pm. Throughout Downtown Fairfax. [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net)

#### Black History Month Family Day

Celebrate Black History Month with performances by "Guitar Man" Warner Williams, a puppet show, a step workshop by the Taratibu Youth Association Performers and a screening of Chris Rock's documentary, *Good Hair*. \*\*Free\*\*. Sat. 11:30 am-3 pm. Film screening at 3:30 pm. <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/>

### February 11-12

#### African-Americans at Walney Walking Tours

Learn the names and stories of the many African-American families who lived here, in slavery and freedom.

Learn about slave tenancy and stories of resistance and survival in Fairfax County. Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Rd, Chantilly, 11 am-12 pm, \$6/person. <http://www.fxva.com/event/african-americans-at-walney-walking-tour/17798/>

#### Second Saturday Art Walk

Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Rd., Lorton, 6-9 pm. \*\*Free\*\*. <http://www.workhousearts.org/>

### February 18-19

#### Greenberg's Great Train & Toy Show

Visit the largest and longest-running model train and collectible toy show in the country. The show features hundreds of tables of trains and accessories for sale, huge operating exhibits, activities for kids, and more. \$10 per adult (Sat.), \$9 per adult (Sun), Kids ages 11 and under are \*\*Free\*\*, Dulles Expo Center. 10am - 4pm <http://greenbergshows.com/>

### February 25-26

#### DC Roller girls

DC's all-women roller derby team kicks off their latest season Saturday. Doors open at 3 pm, the first of two bouts starts at 4 pm. Tickets: \$15 for adults, \$6 kids 6-11, under 6 \*\*Free\*\*. 2001 East Capitol St. SE, Washington. <http://www.drollergirls.com/>

### March 12

#### Family 4-Pack at Clay Café Chantilly

Up to 4 people in a family can paint for a \$15 flat studio fee, unlimited time. Clay Café Chantilly, 13894 Metrotech Dr., Chantilly, (703) 817-1051 <http://claycafe.com/special-offers/>

#### Family Friendly Activities Happening at Mason

Patriot Center: <http://www.eaglebankarena.com/>  
March 17 & 19: Harlem Globetrotters

Center for the Arts: <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>  
Feb. 18 & 19: Taj Express: *The Bollywood Musical Revue*  
March 5: Keyboard Conversations® with Jeffrey Siegel: *The Immortal Melodies of Schubert*  
March 11: Metropolitan Jazz Orchestra featuring New York Voices  
March 17: Danú: *St. Patrick's Day Celebration*  
March 18: Russian National Ballet Theatre: *Chopiniana and Carmen*  
March 19: Russian National Ballet Theatre: *The Sleeping Beauty*

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

Homecoming, February 11: block party/tailgating with children's activities/crafts <http://homecoming.gmu.edu/>



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## THE GARDEN CORNER

*By Charlie Boring*

I have noticed that the urban gardener suffers from an affliction that I like to refer to as “lack-of-growing fever” or LOGF during the long winter months. The symptoms start to appear in December when the gardener starts to fidget, look out the window and turn to the internet to search for gardening information. The victim may have visions of growing tomato vines or gigantic zucchini plants loaded and ready to harvest. I myself have had such an experience, but my vision was of beautiful artichokes growing in Virginia, just like they did for Thomas Jefferson years before. Spouses have been known to criticize this apparent lack of focus. Luckily, there is a cure, and that cure is starting your garden planting indoors during the winter months.

If you suffer from LOGF, just plan to start your seeds indoors for your spring planting. If you choose this guaranteed cure for LOGF, you need to make some plans. One advantage to starting your seeds indoors is that you can save money, and a second is that you can grow superior varieties. So what will you need to start? You can purchase everything you need, but let’s assume that you want to be a bit frugal to keep your spouse from criticizing your efforts.

You will need light. If you do not have a large window that gives you at least six hours of sunlight, you will need a light source. You will also need a warm location. I chose to use my basement, which is maintained at about 60-65 degrees in the winter. This is a little cool for starting some seeds. I found a five-shelf metal shop rack on sale and purchased it. I also purchased two root warmers that I placed on the two shelves that I intend to use for my seed pots, and four shop lights that take two 48-inch bulbs each (two shop lights per shelf). I used florescent bulbs rated as “daylight” quality bulbs. You can reuse all of this equipment each year, so your cost would be reduced by multiple use.

You can purchase your seed pots, but I decided to make mine from biodegradable newspaper. It is easy, fun, and meets my goal of frugality. Instructions are available online. Here is one location: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uuuSnO4YD4>. The pots are biodegradable and can be planted directly into the garden without removing the plant from the pot. After you have made a sufficient quantity of seedling pots, you need to fill them with a good seed-starting mix.

You can purchase this mixture as well, but I find that it is a bit pricey, so I use regular potting soil which I find works quite well. If you are worried about soil-transmitted disease, look online for instructions on using your microwave to sterilize your soil. Fill the pots to within an inch of the top with your seed-starting mix.

Decide what plants you want to grow in your garden and purchase your seeds. You can get some good deals online during the winter, but check a number of vendors and ensure you consider shipping charges when making your decisions. If the seeds are available locally, I prefer to purchase them from a local vendor and save the shipping and handling charges. The sowing dates for indoor planting should be indicated on the seed packets. When deciding on what varieties you would like to grow, consider what varieties are recommended for Northern Virginia (Zone 7a). Also, consider where you are going to grow your plants and the amount of sunlight that the location gets.

Since I am an urban gardener, I like to employ a planting technique called “edible landscape” gardening. Simply put, that means you may plant some of your vegetables and fruit among bushes and flowers that make up the landscaping around your house. During the next growing season, I plan to scatter peppers, tomato, eggplants and maybe artichokes among our flowers and flowering bushes. I already have a blackberry bush, some bush cherries and a small strawberry patch growing near my azaleas, roses and other flowers.

No matter what you plan to grow, starting your seeds indoors is fun and rewarding. Get the whole family involved. The children will enjoy selecting their seeds, making their pots, and planting them. When their plants start to grow, the look in their eyes makes it all worthwhile.

# The Mary & Cathy Team

## #1 Kings Park West for a long, darn time!

Once again in 2016, the Mary & Cathy Team sold more homes in Kings Park West than any other single realtor or team. Homes sold by The Mary & Cathy Team listed at an average price of **\$554,635** which was **\$5,774 MORE** than the average list price of all the others. And The Mary & Cathy Team's listings sold for an average of **\$549,505** which was almost **\$10,000 MORE** than the average sales price of \$539,887 for the other realtors and teams.

2016's most popular model? The **Regent** with 12 homes sold at an average price of \$563,211. The **Queen** came in 2nd place with 8 homes sold at an average price of \$537,523.

*The **Regent** is the second largest model in Kings Park West and continues to be extremely popular with buyers!*



*The **Queen** was KPW's first three-level colonial followed by the Baron.*



**The Mary & Cathy Team KPW Homes Sold 2016**

Address	Model	List Price	Sale Price
4905 Wheatstone Dr	Duchess w/Addition	\$605,000	\$600,000
5088 Dequinney Dr	King	\$539,000	\$539,000
5074 Dequinney Dr	King	\$545,000	\$545,000
5232 Pommeroy Dr	King, lake view	\$575,000	\$575,000
4916 Wycliff Ln	Prince	\$515,000	\$508,000
5207 Pimlico Ct	Prince	\$525,000	\$520,000
9613 Commonwealth Blvd	Prince	\$539,900	\$531,000
9901 Commonwealth Blvd	Queen	\$550,000	\$550,000
10419 Ashcroft Way	Regent	\$580,000	\$575,000
5114 Pumphrey	Regent	\$590,000	\$585,000
10403 Collingham Dr	Regent	\$575,000	\$568,580
5354 Gainsborough Dr	Regent	\$625,000	\$612,000
4950 Gainsborough Dr	Regent	\$535,000	\$510,000
4994 Swinton Dr	Regent	\$575,000	\$575,000
5305 Kaywood Ct	York	\$530,000	\$530,000
10423 Collingham Dr	York w/bsmt	\$485,000	\$479,000
10305 Commonwealth Blvd	York w/bsmt & addtn	\$539,900	\$539,000



**(703) 946-1775**

Long and Foster  
6045 Burke Center Parkway  
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