



August 2017

Vol. 47, Issue 5

Kings Park West Civic Association

Greetings! I hope the summer months have been relaxing and enjoyable, and that you are staying cool, as the heat and humidity are upon us.

As the weather has warmed, wildlife has become more active. As many of you know, there have been multiple black bear sightings in and around Kings Park West. The Board received a message from Katherine Edwards, Ph.D., Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist, explaining that common food attractants for bears are bird feeders, garbage, beehives, pet food, grills, and compost piles. Most conflicts with bears can be avoided by keeping properties clear of food attractants. Often, a bear in your yard is just passing through and, if it finds no food, will simply move on. If you encounter a bear, stay calm, back away slowly, and do not approach the bear. Do not run or make sudden movements. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. If a bear huffs or “woofs,” clacks its teeth, growls, slaps the ground, or bluff charges, it is warning you that you are too close. For the complete message from Dr. Edwards, please visit the Kings Park West Civic Association webpage at [www.kpwca.org/announcements](http://www.kpwca.org/announcements).

Community Calendar	
Labor Day.....	Sept 4
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Sept 5
Herald Deadline.....	Sept 6
Braddock District Council.....	Sept 13
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Sept 19
Autumn Begins.....	Sept 22
Herald Delivery.....	Sept 23
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Oct 3
Herald Deadline.....	Oct 4
Columbus Day.....	Oct 9
Braddock District Council.....	Oct 11
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Oct 17
Herald Delivery.....	Oct 21

I am happy to announce that after thunderstorms forced postponement of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Royal Lake Dredging project, the rescheduled event was held on Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside Park. It was a beautiful day to be lakeside to celebrate the completion of the project. Community members, State Senator Chap Peterson, Supervisor John Cook, Tony Vellucci, Braddock District Park Authority Board, representatives from the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District, and Friends of Royal Lake were all on hand to celebrate the completion of this important project in our community. I encourage everyone to plan to visit and enjoy the lake!

The 2018 budget has been prepared by the Board and is published within this edition of the Herald. The 2018 budget assumes a 990-voluntary membership participation, which is based on the membership dues collected this year. We are very thankful for all our neighbors who willingly join the civic association. Please take a moment to look over the budget. The Board will be presenting the budget at the KPWCA Annual Fall Membership Meeting. We will also be electing the Board Members at Large (three positions) to a two-year term.

*Continued on Page 3*

***In this Issue:***

- The budget is in! See Pages 7 and 8; proposed changes to the budget are always welcome.
- Check out Page 16 for the 2017 winners of the Yard of the Month.
- Bored this weekend? See Page 20 for family-friendly events around the area.

# 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  
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 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	Jeanmarie Roberson 703-425-1286
Scholarships	Tara Mooney <a href="mailto:tarajmooney@yahoo.com">tarajmooney@yahoo.com</a> 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>
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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 September 23rd issue must be received no later than September 6th 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 & Lakes 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 September 6, 2017  
 for delivery on September 23, 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 [sarahjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjlennon@gmail.com).

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

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

**Road Raiders,** *1/2 hour each month.* Performs common area clean-up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact Sarah Lennon at [sarahjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjlennon@gmail.com).

**Invasive Management Area,** *~3 hours a few times per year.* Details found at <http://www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=32>. Send an e-mail to [greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com) and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

*Continued from Page 1*


I recently noticed an interesting posting on Nextdoor that I wanted to share with you. Fairfax County is considering new Zoning Ordinance regulations for short-term rentals (a short-term rental refers to any home, condo, apartment, or portion of a home rented for less than thirty days, typically on websites such as Airbnb, HomeAway, VRBO, FlipKey, and Roomarama). Currently, the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance prohibits property owners from renting their homes as short-term rentals unless the Board of Supervisors approves a Special Exception for a bed and breakfast use. Fairfax County is looking for input from residents to help develop a proposal. You can find additional information and take a short survey by August 31, 2017, by going to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm).

Braddock Nights concerts are in full swing. Please stop by on Friday evenings to enjoy the music at Rutherford Park, 4710 Guinea Road, in Fairfax, which will be held through August 18<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org) with any questions, concerns or comments. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Best Regards, Jeanmarie Roberson

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## Lakeside Park Celebration Marks Completion of Royal Lake Dredging

*By Tony Vellucci*

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held at Lakeside Park on Saturday, July 15, 2017, by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), to mark the completion of the rehabilitation and dredging project at Royal Lake in Fairfax, Virginia. The celebration also marked the completion of the broader Pohick Dams project – a multi-year commitment by Fairfax County and its partners to meet current dam standards and restore the sediment pool of the lakes formed by dams at four county parks.

Elected officials in attendance included Braddock District Supervisor John Cook and State Senator Chap Petersen. Leigh Nussbaum, Legislative Assistant, attended for Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn.



**Pictured from left to right are: Doreen Pfeiffer, KPW resident; John Palmer, DPWES; Amber Lum, ASI Construction LLC; Paul Gross, President, Friends of Royal Lake; George Lamb, NCSWCD; Anthony Vellucci, Park Authority Board, Braddock District Representative; John Cook, Board of Supervisors, Braddock District Representative; Sen. Chap Peterson, Virginia Senate; Randy Bartlett, DPWES; Darold Burdick, DPWES; Dipmani Kumar, DPWES; Laura Grape, Executive Director, NCSWCD; Tim Hackman, Park Authority Board, Dranesville District Representative; and a friend of Royal Lake.**

This was the fifth and by far the largest effort undertaken for the Royal Lake community by DPWES, who started draining the lake in May 2016. The dredging effort was substantially completed in April 2017. Efforts since then have included the paving of damaged areas at both Lakeside Park and Royal Lake Park, and the repair of a culvert at Lakeside Park. The \$6.57M project will result in such projected water quality benefits as the removal of 31 tons per year of sediment, 150 pounds per year of phosphorus, and 2,500 pounds per year of nitrogen. An important component of the project was the creation of forebays in the lake that catch sediment from storm-water runoff to provide water quality benefits and facilitate future maintenance dredging.

This was a project that depended on partnerships including the DPWES, the Park Authority, Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NCSWCD), ASI Construction LLC, other contractors, and nearby residents who enjoy the amenities that Royal Lake provides. Previous DPWES projects impacting Royal Lake in Kings Park West include the following:

- Royal Lake Dam Auxiliary Spillway Project. This effort cost \$2.3M with 65% cost share from the federal government. Major rehabilitation tasks included widening and realignment of the auxiliary spillway to direct water away from existing townhouses and armoring the auxiliary spillway with articulated concrete blocks covered with soil and grass to prevent erosion. Construction commenced in June 2008 and concluded in April 2009.
- Roberts Road Dam Stabilization Project. A minor project in Pohick Creek Stream Valley Park to reinforce the earthen dam walls upon which Roberts Road travels, and upgrade storm-water infrastructure to bring it to current design and safety criteria. That project was completed in June 2010, at a cost of \$375,000.
- The Kings West Swim Club/Rabbit Branch Park Project. This effort consisted of removing the pool-house, tennis courts and the asphalt parking lot at the pool, and providing for re-vegetated porous surfaces, and storm-water facility improvements, with the subsequent ownership transference to the Park Authority as Rabbit Branch Park. It cost about \$450,000, commencing in January 2013 and being substantially completed in April 2013.
- Rabbit Branch Tributary Stream Restoration Project. This effort in Crooked Creek Park restored over 1,500 linear feet of highly degraded tributary of Rabbit Branch. It started in October 2013 and was substantially completed by April 2014 at a cost of about \$915,000.

That comes out to approximately \$10.6M these past ten years. This project touched all four parks that comprise the Royal Lake area – Royal Lake Park, Lakeside Park, Kings Park West Park and Pohick Stream Valley Park.

Several of the speakers and Project Coordinator Amber Lum (ASI Construction LLC) praised the cooperation of the community in helping to make this a smooth project, noting that at previous lake dredging projects in Fairfax County, contractor personnel had to deal with several work disruptions, including vandalism. There was no vandalism at Royal Lake, even though contractor equipment was spread out over a wider area at four separate parks to allow the contractors to focus on the project at hand instead of distractions. DPWES personnel involved with the project noted the significant community support events, such as the freshwater mussel rescue held before the draining of the lake. DPWES, the Park Authority, and ASI wanted to thank everyone for their support of the project.

While the majority of work for the Royal Lake dredging and restoration project has been completed, there are still some tasks that the ASI will be undertaking in the late fall/early winter when the weather is more favorable; specifically, the reforestation of areas around the park and two forebay islands, and additional lake shoreline restoration. As for the two new islands, while the contract calls for their reforestation, DPWES naturalists are now evaluating whether the compactness of the soil may be a hindrance to tree growth such that the best course of action may be to let nature take its course with natural vegetation regeneration. Additional information will be provided when available.

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## **KPWCA Current FY Status and FY 2017-18 Budget**

*By James Mays, KPWCA Treasurer*

The Board has prepared a budget for the October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018 Fiscal Year. The first column shows the FY 2016-17 expenditures to the end of July. The second column shows the FY 2016-17 budget. The third column shows the proposed FY 2017-18 budget.

**FY 2016-17 Income Comments:** We publish the KPWCA Directory every two years. We published it this year, but did not sell as many directory advertisements for the 2017 directory as planned, so there is a \$2,795.00 shortfall in the income we planned on that budget line.

**FY 2016-17 Expense Comments:** Some of the expense lines were assisted by generous membership optional donations, which will help us lower expenses on some budget items.

**FY 2016-17 Optional Donation Comments:** The membership drive allows optional donations for community interests. Optional income and expenditures are not part of the budget process. We put the optional donation funds into QuickBooks equity accounts, and we only spend the optional donations for what they were intended. Optional donations are not zeroed out at the end of the year. Any remaining funds are kept in each optional equity account, and are carried over for use in future fiscal years.

This year, some of the optional accounts supported these organizations and activities:

- Optional Volunteer Fire Department donations were sent to Burke VFD of \$3,133.32 (60%) and Fairfax VFD of \$2,088.88 (40%) that cover Kings Park West.
- Optional Spring Easter Egg Hunt donations of \$517.25 went to this special activity.
- Optional Fall Halloween Festival donations of \$3,363.75 went to this special activity.
- Optional Boy Scout donations of \$660.00 (\$220.00 each) went to Troop 1966, Pack 1967 and Pack 1968.
- Optional Scholarship donations of \$813.00 and Optional Unrestricted Community donations of \$187.00 allowed us to award a third \$1,000.00 scholarship in addition to the two budgeted scholarships that we awarded.

**FY 2017-18 Comments:** We created a Yard of the Month budget line with a modest \$100.00, and we increased the Scholarship budget and the Area Contract Maintenance budget by \$1,000.00 each. This plan requires us to balance the budget by planning to use income from our reserves if necessary, designated as Other Income.

Members that would like to propose changes to the budget are encouraged to attend the September general membership meeting. Board members will be available to answer questions.



## **KPW Trees Beautify Our Neighborhoods – But Occasionally Pose a Threat**

*By Nancy Grant, President, Kings Park West Community Association*

One of the joys of living in Kings Park West is the abundance of beautiful trees throughout the community – on homeowners' properties, on community association property, and property owned by other governmental organizations.

But trees can also pose dangers by falling over, dropping branches and the like. In fact, tree-related issues take up more time than any other issue that the Kings Park West Community Association (generally referred to as the Kings Park West Homeowners Association) faces.

If you see a tree on HOA property (also called common property) that may be posing a danger to nearby private property, just let the HOA know and we will look into it. It is best to email [KPWHOA@yahoo.com](mailto:KPWHOA@yahoo.com) with all relevant information: where the tree is located (street address, as well as any additional identifying information), a description of the threat it may be posing, and photos of the tree. However, the Association does not have the authority to remove trees on land owned by other entities (the County, for example).

By looking out for trees that might pose a danger, and helping to remove trees that do pose a threat, we help ensure both the beauty and safety of our neighborhoods.

## Kings Park West Civic Association – FY2018 Notional Budget Report

	Actuals Oct 2016-Jul 2017	Budget FY 2016-17	Budget FY 2017-18
<b>Income</b>			
Directory Ads	205.00	3,000.00	0.00
Herald Classified Ads	454.00	950.00	800.00
Herald Display Ads	8,226.00	10,000.00	8,500.00
Herald Subscriptions	50.00	140.00	140.00
Investment Income	15.48	0.00	20.00
Membership Dues	19,839.00	20,880.00	19,800.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	5,190.02
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>28,789.48</b>	<b>34,970.00</b>	<b>34,450.02</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
<b>Admin &amp; Misc Expenses</b>			
Bank Charge	50.00	60.00	60.00
BDC of Community Assoc Dues	0.00	100.00	100.00
Insurance	2,681.00	2,850.00	2,800.00
Other Admin & Misc Expenses	163.94	150.00	200.00
PayPal Fees	88.36	110.00	90.00
State Corporate Registration	25.00	25.00	25.00
Tax Prep & Filing Fees	99.00	550.00	99.00
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	224.22	400.00	300.00
<b>Total Admin &amp; Misc Expenses</b>	<b>3,331.52</b>	<b>4,245.00</b>	<b>3,674.00</b>
<b>Common Area Maintenance</b>			
Area Contract Maintenance	2,755.00	2,600.00	4,000.00
BAGG Expenses	104.30	200.00	200.00
Parks and Lakes Maintenance	104.87	100.00	100.00
Utilities	140.73	200.00	210.00
<b>Total Common Area Maintenance</b>	<b>3,104.90</b>	<b>3,100.00</b>	<b>4,510.00</b>
<b>Communications</b>			
Herald Admin Expenses	8.00		9.52
Herald Delivery	1,783.28	2,800.00	2,800.00
Herald Printing	7,634.79	12,000.00	12,000.00
Website	115.80	135.00	160.00
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>9,541.87</b>	<b>14,935.00</b>	<b>14,969.52</b>
<b>Community Support Services</b>			
CERT and Neighborhood Watch	0.00	100.00	100.00
Consumer Affairs	0.00	25.00	0.00
Neighborhood Assist	151.50	100.00	101.50
Other Support Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00
Welcome Committee	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total Community Support Services</b>	<b>151.50</b>	<b>225.00</b>	<b>301.50</b>
<b>Membership</b>			
Admin Expenses	100.33	200.00	120.00
Block Captain Appreciation	300.00	300.00	300.00
Directory Printing	3,076.70	3,000.00	0.00
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>3,477.03</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>420.00</b>
<b>Special Activities</b>			
Dumpster Day	1,744.64	1,500.00	1,800.00
Fall Halloween Festival	2,099.64	4,000.00	4,000.00
Spring Easter Egg Hunt	157.37	600.00	600.00
Winter Christmas Contest	0.00	15.00	75.00
Yard of the Month	0.00	0.00	100.00
<b>Total Special Activities</b>	<b>4,001.65</b>	<b>6,115.00</b>	<b>6,575.00</b>
<b>Youth Support Services</b>			
Boy Scouts Sponsor Support	630.00	600.00	700.00
Grad Party Other HS Support	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grad Party Robinson Support	100.00	100.00	200.00
Grad Party T Jefferson Support	100.00	100.00	50.00
Scholarship Admin Expenses	0.00	50.00	50.00
Student Scholarships	2,000.00	2,000.00	3,000.00
<b>Total Youth Support Services</b>	<b>2,830.00</b>	<b>2,850.00</b>	<b>4,000.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>26,438.47</b>	<b>34,970.00</b>	<b>34,450.02</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>2,351.01</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>



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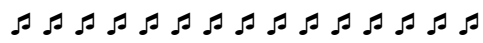
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**Battle of the Bands Takes Lakeside Park by Storm**  
*By Tony Vellucci*

On Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>, Braddock District Supervisor John Cook hosted the first ever Braddock District Battle of the Bands at Lakeside Park. The event started at 3:00 pm and ran to 8:00 pm, highlighting the talents of ten local bands.

The bands played to compete for a spot to play in the 2018 Braddock Nights Concert Series with the audience voting for the best band. That honor went to the St. Stephens UMC Youth Band. Other bands included Cinema Hearts, Messenger, Cooler Fist of Empires, Mars Rodeo, Steve Young & The Sounds, City Saints, Line Item Veto, No Right Mind, and Irresponsible.

The Braddock Nights concerts have had performers from as far away as Colorado and Halifax, Nova Scotia. The Braddock District Supervisor wanted to give local bands an opportunity to play, and for the community to come out and enjoy local music. All the bands volunteered to perform.

Fairfax County Police and the Burke Volunteer Fire Department provided security and a first aid station, respectively. The Park Authority made available their two show mobiles used for the Summer Entertainment Series – including the one used for Braddock Nights.

Food vendors included Doug the Food Dude, Nitro's Creamery, and Colonial Kettle Corn. Glory Days Grill handed out free water and both Republic and American Disposal provided event trash receptacles.

# The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

## The Dog Days of August Contest!

Our August Giveaway is all about dogs!! We're looking for vet recommendations, grooming recommendations, food recommendations, dog adventure recommendations--any and all dog related recommendations you've got!



Just comment with your recommendation along with a photo of your pup to be eligible to win!



The Kings Park West Herald's List Facebook Page is an interactive community resource for KPW residents. Requests and recommendations come in daily, and offers searchability and immediate access to recommendations. Post your own requests or recommendations.

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



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## THE GARDEN CORNER

*By Charlie Boring*

The urban gardener has many exciting and fun ways to grow plants that not only beautify the landscape, but make our gardens more organic while conserving resources. This Garden Corner article will explore fun activities for making our gardens more “green” that have been neglected by many modern gardeners: urban composting. Such projects are making a comeback with the organic gardening movement.

As we have previously mentioned in Garden Corner articles, the soil in much of Virginia has a high clay content. That fact makes the soil harder and restricts the growth of plant roots. Therefore, we need to improve the soil in order to grow flowers, vegetables and other crops. Adding compost to the soil attracts beneficial earthworms and adds needed nutrients to the garden soil. A gardener can purchase organic compost, or compost plus manure, that works well in improving your soil, but it is much more enjoyable, frugal and green to make your own compost.

There are many ways to make your own compost pile, bin, or container, but in an urban environment, we are often concerned with making the compost bin aesthetic. You can purchase a compost bin online or at a local garden supply store that will be aesthetically acceptable, but where is the fun in that? I have employed three methods for the production of compost for my garden.

The first method is using a compost bin that I made from a black 32-gallon plastic barrel with a locking lid that recently sold at Home Depot for \$14.95. This site indicates the procedures I used to build my compost bin: <http://thehappyhousewife.com/frugal-living/diy-compost-bin/>.



The barrel on the left is my collection of leaves and grass clippings from last fall, and the barrel on the right is my compost barrel. The compost bin has 3/8 inch holes drilled in the sides and is secured by bungee cords to allow rolling of the barrel to mix the compost.

You may want to produce two or three compost barrels to allow fresh garden and kitchen scraps to be added to one while the other is becoming usable compost.

So what do you add to your compost bin? Experts say your compost pile will take from three weeks to a year to produce compost. The speed of composting depends primarily upon: 1) the size of your compost pile – it needs to be at least three cubic feet; 2) the material used – the fastest compost maturation happens when the ratio of carbon to nitrogen is about equal; 3) the moisture level – compost should be as moist as a wrung-out sponge; and 4) the frequency the compost is turned – for the fastest maturity, turn your compost pile frequently, every one to two weeks.

It may be helpful to consider this in terms of a "green" to "brown" ratio. You will need a mix of green materials that are high in nitrogen and brown materials that are high in carbon. Some green materials that may be available to the urban gardener are vegetable scraps, fruit scraps, egg shells, grass clippings, fresh tree and plant leaves, aquatic weeds, hair, seaweed and algae, garden weeds, bread, crackers, cake, pasta and cereals, manure (cattle, chicken, horse, and bird), coffee grounds and tea bags. Some brown materials are dry tree leaves, straw/hay, shredded paper, wood chips, sawdust, dead plants, and dead yard trimmings. More green products and a higher temperature will increase the rate of decomposition. Never add weed seeds, diseased plants, meat products, dairy products, pet feces, oils and grease, and pressure treated lumber. Your compost should be damp, not wet.



I collect kitchen scraps (vegetables and fruit) in the container in the first picture and normally either transfer them to my compost barrel or to my worm factory shown in the second picture.

In the second picture, you can also see about 2.5 gallons of worm castings/worm compost that I recently harvested from my worm factory. I will use the worm castings in my potted plants and in the garden. It is a great fertilizer, and a little produces great results.

The third method that I use to produce compost is the direct dig, dump and cover method. During the winter when my compost bin was not working efficiently due to the temperature, I dug trenches in my garden, dumped in my kitchen scraps and covered them up. When I turned over the ground during the spring, the soil was dark and rich. So far, my garlic plants have been the biggest beneficiaries of my 2016 composting. Here is how they looked in April.



Create a happy garden – get composting! Anyone willing to give a goji berry bush a good home, they are free until gone. Send an email to [thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com](mailto:thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com).

## REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



So far in 2017, 45 homes have sold in Kings Park West. Of that 45, 22 transactions have closed since June 1. Early to mid summer tends to be an excellent time to sell your home since there is typically an abundant buyer pool. As summer wanes, homes must be priced correctly and attractively presented to appeal to a smaller group of potential purchasers. Homes that linger on the market typically are overpriced, improperly prepared or both.

### Homes Sold in KPW since June 1, 2017

Model	Address	List Price	Sales Price	DOMP
Baron	10430 Stallworth Ct	\$654,900	\$646,900	18
Baron	4845 Allenby Rd	\$652,000	\$647,000	12
Baron	10214 Dundalk St	\$650,000	\$640,000	26
Duchess	5101 Richardson Dr	\$575,000	\$560,000	41
Duchess	5105 Pommeroy Dr	\$560,000	\$560,000	23
Duchess	5126 Lavery Ct	\$539,900	\$525,600	4
Duke	5207 Pommeroy Dr	\$524,900	\$519,000	9
Essex	5236 Harrowby Ct	\$504,999	\$510,080	5
King	5401 Gainsborough	\$575,000	\$579,500	4
Prince w/addition	5113 Pumphrey	\$575,000	\$569,000	39
Queen	4887 Wheatstone Dr	\$550,000	\$560,000	4
Queen	5206 Pommeroy Dr	\$549,900	\$550,000	15
Queen	5204 Sterne Ct	\$525,000	\$522,500	42
Queen w/addition	4868 Wheatstone Dr	\$624,900	\$624,900	4
Queen w/addition	10010 Commonwealth Blvd	\$600,000	\$598,500	3
Queen w/addition	10196 Wavell Dr	\$585,000	\$560,000	47
Regent w/Add	9804 Lord Ct	\$635,000	\$634,750	0
Regent w/Add	10190 Wavell Rd	\$630,000	\$638,000	6
Regent w/Add	10427 Finchley Ct	\$615,000	\$614,500	30
York w/bsmt	4822 Gainsborough	\$525,000	\$525,000	13

#### KPW Statistics YTD

- ▶ Homes Sold: 45
- ▶ Average Sale Price: \$578,240
- ▶ Highest Sale Price: \$695,000
- ▶ Average List Price: \$580,791
- ▶ Average Days on Market: 21
- ▶ Homes Currently on Market: 10
- ▶ Homes Currently Under Contract: 6

## Native Meadows: Part 1

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

When most people think of pre-Columbian terrestrial habitats in what has become Northern Virginia, old growth deciduous forests and wetlands come to mind. Add to this list “native meadows.” These meadows were not the vast expanses of the Great Plains. Wildfires were often the forces keeping the area devoid from tall trees. When trees eventually reforested the plot and covered the ground with too much shade for the meadow plants to survive, another clearing event might happen elsewhere, the meadow seeds there germinate, and the cycle renews. Within Fairfax County parklands, regenerative controlled burns are away from populated locations and limited to large areas, such as Ellanor C. Lawrence and Huntley Meadows Parks.

Homeowners can apply the native meadow concept to residential gardens, of course without setting fire to the property! Native meadows can be the perfect solution for places where trees should not grow, such as next to the house or along underground utility easements. Following Mother Nature’s example, a meadow may be planted as temporary groundcover while the nearby trees mature; this approach is currently applied to Rabbit Branch Park. The meadow needs extended direct sunlight, preferably with an intense, noontday exposure. Soil conditions can range from wet to dry, and plant species need to be selected accordingly. Unlike old growth forest plants, which need [undisturbed soil and complex subterranean microbial communities](#), meadow plants often thrive in recently turned ground. Some plants, like the short-lived black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), might dominate a new meadow while other species, such as purple milkweed (*Asclepias purpurascens*), flourish after establishing for several years. Since the different plant root structures vary from deep taproots to fibrous surface roots, they form an effective complex that helps to retain the soil and prevent erosion.

Native meadow gardens are easy to install. First, plan the garden. It can be anything from geometrical and formal to one that emulates a natural environment, depicted in Figure 1. Delineate the area where the meadow will be; anything outside of it is manicured lawn, a garden path, or some other feature. Remove all unwanted woody plants in the plot; leave the lawn. Avoid churning or otherwise disturbing the soil short of clearing unwanted vegetation. Mow, then cover the area with newsprint or paper bags. Weigh the paper down with six inches of leaf mulch or compost. Whereas this thickness is too much for a normal garden, it



**Figure 1.** This Virginia native meadow garden in Fairfax, growing over sewer easement, features red cardinal flowers (*Lobelia cardinalis*), boneset (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), crimson-eyed rose-mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*), pink turtleheads (*Chelone obliqua*), and green-headed or cutleaf coneflower (*Rudbeckia laciniata*).

will kill most plants underneath it while lightly fertilizing the soil. Do not use wood or bark-based mulch. Periodically water this new garden, pulling any lawn or other unwanted plants sprouting through the leaves. After four to six months, once the mulch settles and decays, begin planting the meadow. Usually potted plants work better than scattering seeds. Some Mid-Atlantic native plant suppliers are found on this vendor directory: [http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/native\\_vendors1.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/native_vendors1.pdf). Additional native plant sellers are on the list available here: <http://www.gardenlist.com/Natives.html>. These lists are for informational purposes and not an endorsement. Cautions:

- Not all plants native to the United States are native to Virginia. For example, the California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) is a predominantly West Coast native that sports brilliantly orange flowers. It is not biologically recognized by D.C. area organisms, fairs poorly here, and yet this poppy is often included in “U.S. native” seed mixes.
- Mail order companies might have words like “American” and “Meadow” in their name, but sell seed mixes containing European and Asian species. People who want a true Virginia meadow should check and confirm the native range of the listed species in all seed mixes. Enter the species name at <https://plants.usda.gov/java/nameSearch> and a map displays a North American plant’s native range or places invaded by an exotic weed.

In Part 2, we will consider some species to populate the native meadow.

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/76a\\_2017-08.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/76a_2017-08.pdf)



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**Thank You Notes from the 2017 KPWCA Scholarship Recipients**

*Dear Kings Park West,*

**I am sincerely honored to have been selected as the recipient of the Kings Park West Civic Association Scholarship. I am still not 100% sure what I will be doing this autumn, but your generosity will support all of my future endeavors.**

**Thank you again for your thoughtful and generous gift.**

**Sincerely,  
Jaemin Yeon**

Dear Kings Park West Civic Association,

It is an honor to be a recipient of the Kings Park West Civic Association Scholarship.

This fall, I will be attending the University of Michigan. I plan to major in aerospace engineering and continue to be engaged in volunteer services at the university or the city of Ann Arbor. This scholarship will provide additional financial support towards my education.

Thank you again for the generous scholarship.

As I have lived in this community for my entire life, it means a lot to be part of such a supportive community.

Sincerely, Khanh Ngo

*Dear Kings Park West Civic Association,*

*I am honored to be a KPWCA Scholarship recipient! Thank you so much for the generous gift. I appreciate the support you give students to realize our educational goals beyond high school.*

*This scholarship will help me attend Johns Hopkins University in the fall. I intend to major in a scientific field, such as chemistry or molecular and cellular biology, with the ultimate goal of pursuing a medical career. I truly appreciate that your gift is helping me begin the next part of my education and journey.*

*Thank you again for this honor and gift. I feel very privileged to have lived in such a tightly-knit and encouraging community my whole life. While I will be moving to college, I am glad to know that I will not be too far away, and will always be able to call Kings Park West my home.*

*Sincerely, Emma Elias*



**The KPWCA Yard of the Month Committee is pleased to announce the six winners for 2017:**

- June: 4926 Wheatstone Drive  
5006 Wheatstone Drive
- July: 5307 Richardson Drive  
5033 Swinton Drive
- August: 5110 Pommeroy Drive  
10124 Eastlake Drive

The winners have a sign posted in their front yard for one month, and they each receive a \$25 gift certificate from Burke Nursery.

**Congratulations!**



**Pack 1968 News**

Cub Scout Pack 1968 has been having a busy and fun-filled summer so far. We started with our annual Raingutter Regatta where the boys and their siblings were able to build sailboats that they raced against each other. Although competition was stiff, everyone had fun. Of course, the treats at the end helped! We closed out June with an ice cream party at Woody’s in Fairfax City and talked of summer adventures. Next, we moved on to a pool party at the Kings Ridge pool. The weather threatened, but we prevailed!

The highlights of our summer programs are the two camps we attend. The first one was the Day Camp. We had six boys there learning new scouting skills and practicing ones they only get to do at camp. The BB and Archery ranges are always popular; so was the rock climbing wall. The older boys (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders) attended a week-long camp too, but they get to sleep there as well. Camp P.M.I. at the Goshen Scout Reservation is an amazing place. The twelve boys swam and paddled in the lake, hiked up a mountain, learned about nature, and had the most fun imaginable! They will have stories to last all year in school.

In August, we held our annual Bike Rodeo, learning about bike safety and trying our skills on various obstacle courses, and finished with ice cold treats. We also attended the Potomac Nationals Baseball game, and closed out the night with camping on the outfield with fireworks and a movie!

Our annual fundraiser of popcorn sales will be starting up soon. Please consider contributing to the success of our Pack and Scouting by making a purchase or donation to this tasty opportunity as you see us in the neighborhood over the weekend of **September 9-10**.

Our Pack and Den meetings will start up again in September. We will have our **ROCKET DERBY on Sunday, September 17 at 2:00 pm at Lakeside Park. All boys K-5<sup>th</sup> grade interested in scouting are welcome to join us. We will have a NEW SCOUT information meeting and BBQ on Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The Pack meetings are usually the third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 – 8:00 pm at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. If you have a boy in kindergarten through fifth grade and would like to learn more about our Pack, please contact Cubmaster Michelle Huber at 703-323-1580 or email her at [cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com).



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## Beware of Exploding Trees

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

Folks in Fairfax County are encountering trees that appear to have exploded (Figure 1). The cause of this catastrophic collapse is by something much smaller and more subtle than a lightning strike. The trees are ashes (*Fraxinus* sp.) and a small, close relative, white fringe trees (*Chionanthus virginicus*) – victims of a non-native invasive beetle, the emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*), or EAB for short. A photograph of this insect is in Figure 2.

An East Asian species, the EAB first came to the United States (specifically, Michigan) in 2002 by hiding in imported wood for crates. By 2003, it arrived in other parts of the country, including Fairfax County. Since the insect does not naturally travel fast enough to reach Virginia from Michigan in a year, it either was reintroduced from outside the U.S. or, more likely, hitched a ride in wood products or nursery specimens.

Since the beetles quickly spread, officials immediately tried to contain the problem. Combatting early EAB infections involves injecting the tree with insecticide. Untreated trees incur a 100% mortality rate within two years of first contact; chopping down and incinerating afflicted trees is the only option once the tree shows definite signs of progressed illness. Measures to stop severe outbreaks include treating or removing all other ashes within a certain radius, even ones appearing healthy. Purple, triangular-shaped traps help to monitor EAB populations.

At first, the EAB appeared to be under control.

Unfortunately, more local outbreaks happened, with a prominent one forcing the National Park Service to close Theodore Roosevelt Island earlier this year as they managed the infestation and took down sickened trees. The best way people can help battle EABs is to report any sightings to the Virginia Cooperative Extension Office at (703) 324-8556, TTY 711. Capturing specimens, photographs, and locations or GPS coordinates will assist in assessing the outbreak. Other actions people can take against EABs include:

- In your fireplace or chiminea, burn only locally-harvested firewood.
- Transport only kiln-dried wood across County lines.
- Purchase only quarantined ash trees from nurseries. EAB entered Prince George's County, MD, through infected tree stock.
- Have afflicted trees treated or taken out (details follow).

The only good way to remove an infected, mature ash tree is through an insured, professional tree service company with a licensed arborist onsite. Certified arborists have been through the training and do their best to



**Figure 1.** This ash tree has no lightning burns. EABs destroyed it. The beetle larvae ate the inner bark, preventing proper nutrient flow within the tree, which killed it in one or two years. The wood transforms into a spongy product, seen here on the ground. When the spongy wood reaches a critical tipping point and no longer supports the tree, it instantly gives way, appearing to “explode.” A catastrophic collapse can happen at any time or be triggered by forces like wind, ice, or people climbing the tree. This photograph was taken last March in Clifton.

run an honest, aboveboard business. All EAB-infected tree products are incinerated. Taking out this tree is not a job for homeowners since the tree can collapse in a wink – without warning.

Unlicensed home repair and tree workers, aka “woodchucks,” typically lack the expertise to take down an EAB-damaged tree. Woodchucks are another Northern Virginia “pest” receiving recent media attention as they overcharge for shoddy work. Here are several ways to spot woodchucks as this list illustrates activities they did in KPW:

- Swinging from trees with ropes while making Tarzan calls. Any insurance company covering them would drop a customer acting so negligently.
- Allowing tree trunks to fall within inches of a house. A good company lowers branches and logs with ropes instead of letting them freefall.
- Illegally dumping their customers’ yard debris. When called out on it, they give backtalk until they see County credentials and then they “play nice” and comply with cleaning up their mess.
- Spiking a live tree that is only slated for trimming. Usually, tree workers only wear spurs when they are taking down a tree. Although there is no rule against spiking a tree that will remain standing, a good arborist climbs trees with ropes and does not damage the bark with sharp metal objects.
- Leaving stubby branches – a practice no arborist worth their salt does. All of the cuts on trees should be flush with the branch collar.
- No company name or contact information on the vehicles; business cards with nothing more than a cell phone number. Through some investigation, many woodchucks run operations out of Culpeper. Legitimate businesses want to advertise and let everyone know who they are, how to contact them, and see the work they do.
- Driving through neighborhoods soliciting business. Licensed arborists have no need to roam the streets since they usually have busy schedules. People already know their companies through advertising, telephone books, referral websites, etc. Here is a website listing certified arborists serving Fairfax: <http://www.goodtreecare.com/find-an-arborist/va/fairfax>.
- Burglaries shortly after woodchucks were in the area. While up in trees, woodchucks case the immediate neighborhood. Robberies typically target woodworkers, contractors, and other households storing high-end tools. Police know about these mini crime syndicates.

Remember that most woodchucks do not have insurance, so if injured on your property – anything from taking down a dangerous EAB tree to their own foolish negligence, the homeowner is accountable. Lacking liability insurance means the homeowner is responsible for any property damage caused by woodchucks. In the proposal, many legitimate tree companies include a copy of their license and liability insurance.

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/76b\\_2017-08.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/76b_2017-08.pdf)



**Figure 2.** The half-inch-long EAB adult is narrow and metallic green. While the adult does not damage the trees, this image shows the burrows and spongy wood dust created by the larvae. Photo by Eric R. Day and used by permission.

## **Get Off the Couch**

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

### **August 26-27**

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

Fairfax County Park Authority presents **\*\*FREE\*\*** movies Saturday nights in August. This week's offering is "Storks." Tune in to the movie on your car stereo's sound system, or, bring chairs or a blanket and watch under the stars. Evening begins with free children's games and rides, as well as food available for purchase. Gates open at 6pm, movies start at dusk. Trinity Center Park, 5875 Trinity Pkwy, Centreville. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/starlight-cinema.htm>

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

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

#### **Northern Virginia Reptile Expo**

There's probably no better place to see your favorite reptile up close than the Northern Virginia Reptile Expo. 9am-3pm. Saturday only, at the Prince William County Fairground. Children 3-9 \$3, adults \$8. Presented by the Maryland Reptile Farm. <http://mdreptilefarm.com/>

#### **Shakespeare Theatre Company**

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

### **September 2-3**

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

Celebrate the 11th annual Lake Anne Jazz and Blues Festival. This **\*\*FREE\*\*** family-friendly event will feature regional and national acts. While listening to the music, enjoy tasting chocolates and Virginia wines. Saturday only, 1pm-9pm. Lake Anne Plaza, Reston VA. [lakeanneplaza.com/](http://lakeanneplaza.com/)

#### **Virginia Scottish Games**

Calling all Scots and sassenachs. A drive to The Plains, Virginia will take you all the way to Scotland. Watch games of strength, eat traditional Scottish grub, taste whisky and listen to the pipes. 9am-6pm Saturday and Sunday. Adults \$20, children 5-12 \$5, under 5 free.

Sunday, all kids are free. Discounts for senior and active military. 5089 Old Tavern Road The Plains, VA. [www.vascottishgames.org/](http://www.vascottishgames.org/)

### **September 9-10**

#### **Art Attack Fredericksburg**

Over 90 local artists will be demonstrating their talent: painting, ceramics, mosaic art, music and dance on the sidewalks of Caroline and William Street in the historic district. It's free to participate and all artists and observers are welcome. Saturday only. 10am-4pm. **\*\*FREE\*\*** <http://artattackproject.com/>

#### **Chalk Art Fest**

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

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

Featuring artwork from artists in residents and artists from around the country. View and purchase paintings, photographic art, ceramics, woodwork, jewelry and more. **\*\*FREE\*\*** 11am-7:30pm Saturday, 11am-5pm Sunday. 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/)

### **September 16-17**

#### **Alexandria King Street Art Festival**

This free outdoor art festival will line six blocks of Old Town Alexandria, showcasing sculptures, paintings, photography, glass, jewelry and more. The festival features 200 of the nation's top award-winning artists. Saturday 10-7, Sunday 10-5. <http://www.artfestival.com/cities/alexandria>

### **September 24**

#### **Turkish Festival**

Experience authentic Turkish culture and cuisine in downtown Washington. This **\*FREE\*** celebration will include folk dancing, traditional Turkish music, a "kids tent", and fortune telling. You can also shop in the Turkish Bazaar, and enjoy authentic Turkish coffee and other Turkish food. Sunday only. 11am-7pm. Pennsylvania Ave between 12th and 14th Streets NW. <http://www.turkishfestival.org/>



## How Come I Didn't Know That?

*By Tony Vellucci*

Did you know there was a cardboard boat regatta at Lake Accotink Park on June 2, 2017? Did you know about the County's 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on June 17, 2017? How about the Braddock Road Multimodal Study: Guinea Road to I-495 and the recommendations for road improvements discussed at the fourth community meeting held June 26, 2017?

Did you know the weekend of July 15/16 was a big weekend for Lakeside Park and Royal Lake? A ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate the substantial completion of the lake dredging and restoration effort was held Saturday July 15<sup>th</sup>, and the first ever Braddock District Battle of the Bands was held from 3:00 – 8:00 pm on Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup>.

The Herald is a great way to get information on what is going on in KPW, but there are many other events going on in the Braddock District outside of KPW that could have an impact on you – such as road construction and graduation ceremonies at George Mason.

One way of knowing what is happening in the Braddock District is to subscribe to Braddock District Supervisor John Cook's electronic newsletters – the monthly Braddock Beacon and periodic Cook Advisory's. They are quick references that provide information on events of interest in the Braddock District.

Supervisor Cook's office does a great job of letting residents know what is going on in the Braddock District, but since I also routinely travel through other parts of the County – especially the Mason and Springfield districts, I also subscribe to Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity's newsletter and Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross' newsletter.

While many of us get more emails than we really want, emails that provide useful information about where we live, work and play may have a slightly higher priority than others. How can you get these newsletters and know what is going on? Go to any of the County district supervisor websites and sign up.

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dranesville/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/lee/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mason/>

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Nature does  
not hurry, yet  
everything is  
accomplished.

- Lao Tzu

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT



For vision safety, protect your eyes during the eclipse by wearing appropriate sunglasses.

For peace of mind, call The Mary & Cathy Team for home buying and selling in KPW. They eclipse the competition with quick sales for top dollar!

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**THE KID'S HABITAT - DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING CARE:** Preschool play based education in a home environment for children ages 3-5. Offered by the newly retired consultant and former director of Child Development Programs for GMU. Located in Kings Park West. Opening in September. Daily or 2 and 3 day preschool classes plus, developmental learning care 8:00 am – 5:30 pm. To learn more and for registration information Email Tina @ [tmmorris17@gmail.com](mailto:tmmorris17@gmail.com) 703-865-7868 or join our Face Book Page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/200708230458787/>

### WANTED

**FUN PART TIME JOB FOR MOMS:** Local dog walking and pet sitting company is currently seeking fit adults **for permanent year round positions.** Est in 2007. Love dogs and the outdoors? Come join our dynamic team. Cell phone, internet, flexibility, and a reliable vehicle are a must. Call Abbie at 703 473-9768.

### SALE

**FOR SALE:** Chippendale sofa in very good condition. Has slip covers. \$200. 2 Victorian chairs in very good condition, have been reupholstered. \$250. 703-323-9473