



March 2018

Vol. 48, Issue 2

Kings Park West Civic Association

Happy spring! The days are getting longer, affording us more time to get outdoors and enjoy our community.

Speaking of which, we will soon have an improved park nearby to enjoy. It is a pleasure to hear that the Monticello Park project, which is located along the east side of Guinea Road between Burke Road and Bronte Drive, is becoming more of a reality. Fairfax County Park Authority has bid the project for construction. The park improvements include a playground, a dog park, parking lot, and walkways. I understand that this will be the first dog park (also known as Off Leash Dog Area) in Braddock District! Please see a detailed article inside The Herald by Tony Vellucci. Thanks to all who helped with the planning of this great project.

As we enter into spring, the Association has many activities planned. Please keep an eye out on social media – Facebook and Nextdoor – for announcements and updates. We hope to see you at the annual KPWCA Easter Egg Hunt on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm at Lakeside Park. We are hoping for beautiful weather as the children hunt for colorful eggs. Just in case the weather does not cooperate, a rain date has been set for March 25<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm. Many thanks to Cub Scout Pack 1967 for planning and hosting this fun event for the community again this year.

The Royal Lake Park spring clean-up for our community is scheduled for Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 8 am. Removing trash from the parks and stream valleys helps protect our natural resources, making Kings Park West a better place to live. We appreciate the efforts of all who volunteered. Many thanks to Sarah Lennon for organizing the event.

Also, the Friends of Royal Lake Community Vision Plan is making good progress. The plan is based on a tremendous amount of community input and several public meetings. The vision plan is expected to be finalized soon for presentation to the community.

*Continued on Page 3*

***In this Issue:***

- Interested in volunteer opportunities? Check out Page 3 to see how you can help.
- Learn more about the progress of the Monticello Park development on Page 20.

## 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
	Jonathan Reiser	571-423-8030

### 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	<b>Vacant</b>	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan:	<a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471

#### Communications

Herald Newsletter:

Display Editor	Leah Larson-Taylor	703-283-0208
Communications Editor	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Advertising	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Classifieds	Ejona Lika	<a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a>
Signboards	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett	<a href="mailto:website@kpwca.org">website@kpwca.org</a>
Membership	Patti Dickerson	<a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a>
NW Coord.	Tara Mooney	<a href="mailto:tarajmooney@yahoo.com">tarajmooney@yahoo.com</a>
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
	Keith Jodoin	<a href="mailto:kjodoin@gmail.com">kjodoin@gmail.com</a>
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	703-323-0206

### Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

#### OFFICERS

President	<a href="mailto:President@kpwca.org">President@kpwca.org</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@kpwca.org">Treasurer@kpwca.org</a>

#### COMMITTEES

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

#### HERALD STAFF

Editor	<a href="mailto:Editor@kpwca.org">Editor@kpwca.org</a>
Classifieds	<a href="mailto:Classified@kpwca.org">Classified@kpwca.org</a>

Advertising See Below

#### General Information

Community Association	<a href="mailto:Info@kpwca.org">Info@kpwca.org</a>
	<a href="mailto:KPWHO@kpwca.org">KPWHO@kpwca.org</a>

### How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

**CLASSIFIEDS:** KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the April 21st issue must be received no later than April 4th by Ejona Lika, 9810 Bronte Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or email [classified@kpwca.org](mailto:classified@kpwca.org). Please print clearly, and include payment to KPWCA. Furnish your name, address, and phone number. Rates: KPWCA members, \$2 for each 15 words; nonmembers, \$5 first 25 words, plus \$3 for each additional 15 words. Found items listed free.

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

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

The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to e-mail the editor at [editor@kpwca.org](mailto:editor@kpwca.org). We invite items on neighborhood schools, churches, organizations, and other noteworthy neighborhood news. News items and letters will be published if deemed suitable and as space permits. We reserve the right to edit any item submitted to The Herald. Acceptance of news items does not constitute endorsement by KPWCA.

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

Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$20.00, to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114. Members receive the Community Directory and support from community programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Scholarship Awards, community social activities, Parks & 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 April 4, 2018

for delivery on April 21, 2018

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

**Herald Classified Ads Coordinator:** 2-4 hours per issue. Receives and organizes all classified ads by coordinating communication with interested parties, manages and submits fees, and maintains the ads and payment records database. Please contact [classified@kpwca.org](mailto:classified@kpwca.org) or call 703-459-4577.

**Herald Display Ads Coordinator:** 2-3 hours per issue. Coordinates communication with interested parties for business ads, manages and submits fees, and maintains the payment records database. Please contact [editor@kpwca.org](mailto:editor@kpwca.org).

**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. Please contact Sarah Lennon at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahglennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon@gmail.com).

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

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

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

**Invasive Management Area:** 3 hours a few times per year. Details at [www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=32](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

The scholarship committee is gearing up for the 2018 scholarship program, with applications being due on (postmarked) May 6<sup>th</sup>. Up to three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 2018 graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the KPW Civic Association. Please find the scholarship application on the last page of The Herald and on the Civic Association webpage.

In closing, please consider volunteering with the Association, as we are in need of your help! There are lots of fun and interesting opportunities, which are described on Page 3. If you have a couple of hours a month to help, we need a Classified Ads Coordinator to support the production of this newsletter. The coordinator receives and organizes the classified advertisements for inclusion in The Herald. The Herald is published eight times a year. I can answer any questions you might have about the volunteer positions. Please feel free to contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org).

Enjoy the warm weather.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson







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### Aging in Place Presentations

Every third Wednesday of the month, there is a program in the Kings Park Library about some aspect of living longer and more fully, preferably in your KPW home. In February, the program was all about pets. A staff member at the County Animal Shelter provided a great program regarding all of the renovations completed at the shelter, and the many services provided by the staff there. Pets are often considered members of the family, and they can be great companions to those who are living alone.

On Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 1 pm, in the Kings Park Library Meeting Room, a member of the County's Consumer Affairs office will make a presentation titled "Charities, Charity Fraud and Medical Billing". All are invited to come. There is plenty of room so no reservations are required.

Many KPW residents regularly attend these presentations. If you want to receive an email announcing the presentations every month, please send an email to wallbdc@gmail.com and request to be added to the AIP email list. Let us know if you have a topic of interest that others may appreciate. We are into our sixth year of presentations and are always open to new topics. During the previous year, we focused on scams and how to reduce your vulnerability. One of the best methods is to ask for a trusted friend's opinion before you take on a major financial commitment, or anything else of significance. They may save you from wiring money to your grandson or other family member who called saying they were in jail in Colombia.



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**KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S  
SPRING PARK CLEAN-UP AND COMMUNITY FUN DAY  
SATURDAY APRIL 7TH, 8A-11A**

**Come join your friends and neighbors for a morning of TLC for our parks! What could be better than a spring morning enjoying some *games, entertainment and food*, all while helping to make our corner of the world a better place. There will be clean-up teams starting at Royal Lake Park and Lakeside Park, as well as on Commonwealth Boulevard between Gainsborough and Dequincy.**

**Team leaders will guide groups around the lake.**

**Students can earn service hours and raffle prizes will be awarded.**

**Great event for teams, scout groups and families of all ages and sizes!**

***For more information on volunteering with the KPW Parks & Lake Committee and helping with the clean-up, please contact Sarah Lennon at***

***[parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahglennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahglennon@gmail.com)***

***The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.***

***– Gandhi***



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### **Get Off the Couch**

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

#### **March 10 - April 8**

##### **Farm Easter Egg Hunt**

A hunt for treat and toy-filled eggs takes place 10 am, 12 and 2 pm Saturdays and Sundays at Ticonderoga Farm. The hunt is for the kids, but children and adults can play on the giant slides and bouncers. Bring your own camera for photos with the Easter Bunny. \$14.95 for ages 2 and up. 9:30 am – 5 pm. 26469 Ticonderoga Rd, Chantilly.  
[www.ticonderoga.com/seasons/spring/](http://www.ticonderoga.com/seasons/spring/)

#### **March 20 - April 15**

##### **National Cherry Blossom Festival**

March 24: Opening Ceremony  
March 31: Kite Festival  
April 7: Petalpalooza  
April 14: Parade  
TBA: Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival  
[www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/)

##### **The Magic Tree House: Space Mission**

Visit Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium for a screening of the film based on the popular children's book series. Seating is first come, first serve; it is recommended that you arrive at least 15 minutes before show time. Cost is \$5 for ages 13-59, \$3 for everyone else, cash only. EVERY Sunday, 3 pm. 1426 N Quincy St, Arlington  
[friendsoftheplanetarium.org/event/](http://friendsoftheplanetarium.org/event/)

#### **March 29**

##### **Egg-Streme Night Egg Hunt: (Rain or Shine)**

For Ages 10-14, 8 pm, hunt begins at dark, \$5 per hunter. Historic Blenheim and the Civil War Interpretive Center. Glow in the Dark themed egg hunt. Pictures with the Easter Bunny and an obstacle course moon bounce. Bring a basket to hold your eggs and a flashlight. Register online.  
[www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/community-events](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/community-events)

#### **March 31 - April 1**

##### **Cherry Blossom Kite Festival**

Everyone is welcome to bring their kites, kids can craft kites, or just enjoy watching hundreds of beautiful kites take to the skies above Washington. \*FREE\* Saturday only, 10 am - 4:30 pm. On the grounds of the Washington Monument near 17th Street NW and Constitution Avenue.  
[www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/)

#### **April 7 - 8**

##### **City of Fairfax Annual Fishing Derby**

Ashby Pond will be stocked with hundreds of trout! Please bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag and ice. Bait will be supplied. Pre-registration required. 9:30, 10:15 and 11 am.

Saturday only. Fee: \$5 per fisherman. Ashby Pond Conservatory, 9817 Ashby Rd, Fairfax.

[www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/community-events](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/community-events)

##### **USA Science & Engineering Festival Expo**

Explore 3,000 hands-on exhibits from the world's leading scientific and engineering societies, universities, government agencies, high-tech corporations and STEM organizations. The two-day expo is perfect for children, teens, and families who want to inspire their curious minds. At the Washington Convention Center, 7th and H St. NW, Washington. Saturday 10 am – 6 pm, Sunday 10 am – 4 pm. \*FREE\* [www.usasciencefestival.org/](http://www.usasciencefestival.org/)

#### **April 14-15**

##### **28th Annual Multicultural Fair**

University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg campus. Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, is devoted to multicultural entertainment, children's activities, international and American food, and ethnic craft vendors. 10 am – 5 pm \*FREE  
[students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/multicultural-fair/](http://students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/multicultural-fair/)

**National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade** Saturday, 10 am - noon. Standing along the parade route from Constitution Avenue between 9th and 15th streets, NW is **free** and open to the public. Arrive early for the best views.  
[www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/parade/](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/parade/)

#### **April 21-29**

##### **National Park Service Week**

Free admission to all National Parks this week. Visit one of the more than 400 National Parks in the United States. Celebrate wildlife in their habitat, amazing vistas, and rich history at a National Park. [www.nationalparkweek.org](http://www.nationalparkweek.org)

#### **Family Friendly Activities Happening at Mason**

Patriot Center: [www.eaglebankarena.com/](http://www.eaglebankarena.com/)

April 12-15: Disney on Ice Presents Follow Your Heart

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

Men's Spring Sports: Baseball, Golf, Track & Field, Volleyball: [gomason.com](http://gomason.com)

Women's Spring Sports: Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track: [gomason.com](http://gomason.com)

And for those of you planning ahead: Summer Camps: [summercamps.gmu.edu/](http://summercamps.gmu.edu/)





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## REAL ESTATE CORNER by Mary and Cathy



### KPW Home Owners Likely to See Property Tax Increase

Fairfax County has reassessed residential property values. Odds are that will mean a 2.11% increase in the property tax of Kings Park West homes – 64.5% of residential property value assessments will see an increase this year.

The 2018 estimated tax levy that's shown on the assessments is just that – an estimate. As required by state law, the estimated tax for 2018 is based on the 2018 assessment and the county's 2017 tax rates. However, the Board of Supervisors hasn't yet finalized the tax rates for 2018 - this is scheduled for their May 1, 2018 meeting.

The county cites a variety of reasons for the increases including local sales prices, number of days on market, improvements (remodeling, additions) and other factors.

If you think your assessment is wrong, contact the county at (703) 222-8234. Residential appeals must be submitted by May 1, 2018. The process can be initiated online at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/real-estate/online-appeal-pref-ace](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/real-estate/online-appeal-pref-ace).

~Excerpted from [www.FairfaxCounty.gov](http://www.FairfaxCounty.gov)

## KPW STATS

7 Sold YTD  
 4 Under Contract  
 4 Active listings  
 Average List Price: \$567,109  
 Average Sold Price: \$583,164

Address	Model	List Price	Sales Price	DOM	Status
10329 Commonwealth Blvd	Baron	\$650,000	\$658,000	24	SOLD!
10178 Bessmer Ln	Cromwell	\$569,900			Under Contract
4745 Farndon Ct	Cromwell	\$549,000			Under Contract
10307 Nantucket Ct	Cromwell	\$589,900			For Sale
10206 Bessmer Ln	Duchess	\$560,000			Under Contract
4972 Swinton Dr	Duke	\$549,000			For Sale
9702 Commonwealth Blvd	King	\$500,000	\$482,000	76	SOLD!
5102 Pommeroy Dr	Prince	\$524,200	\$521,400	136	SOLD!
9712 Commonwealth Blvd	Queen	\$529,900	\$521,000	161	SOLD!
5211 Claridge Ct	Queen	\$575,000	\$580,000	7	SOLD!
10023 Eastlake Dr	Queen	\$575,000			For Sale
10028 Eastlake Dr	Regent (expanded)	\$725,000	\$735,000	0	SOLD!
4988 Swinton Dr	Regent	\$585,000	\$584,750	6	SOLD!
5275 Pumphrey Dr	York	\$525,000			Under Contract
5240 Ridge Ct	York	\$499,740			For Sale

### KPW Homeowner Solar Panel Installation

*By Neil Billings*

Last September, we installed fifteen solar panels on the roof of our Kings Park West home. The panels are producing electricity just as predicted and is helping to lower our Dominion bill. In the first full billing cycle that they were operating (9/22 to 10/24), we only bought 355 kWh from Dominion, for a whopping cost of \$49.49. Over the course of a year, we expect the panels will produce 55% of the power we use. That will cut our Dominion bill in half, making this an investment that will pay for itself.



As you can see in the photo taken from the sidewalk on Commonwealth Boulevard, the panels blend into the existing roof pretty well. I bet not many people have even noticed that they are there.



We worked through a local non-profit, Solarize NOVA ([www.solarizenova.org](http://www.solarizenova.org)), to see if our house was a viable candidate for installation, and also used their negotiated prices and pre-screened installation company for the work. The process was very easy; from the first time we started talking about the system to the day we flipped the breaker to turn them on, it was approximately four months.

We're glad we did this, and we encourage everyone in Kings Park West to investigate whether solar panels would work for their homes. Solar panels are saving us money every month, reducing our carbon production, and reducing our country's dependence on foreign fuels.

For more information on our installation, you can find the full article under the Letters to the Editor section of the KPWCA webpage ([www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org)).



### GMU Pantry Update

*By Mary Crowder*

This February, which marks one year from our first donation, our contribution of 86 pounds brings us to a total of 1,331.4 pounds to date. They like to see me coming, as our community always provides fun and creative items. In addition to toilet paper, shampoo and pasta, we provided a box of writing pens, notebooks, and three-ring binders. Also, there were a couple of bottles of laundry pods, and they put six of these in a zip-lock bag for the students to grab (Gary was particularly happy to see the laundry pods). They have an abundance of canned green beans and corn, as these are not the most popular items. They seem to love pasta, canned meat, crackers, and granola bars.

I keep a bin on my front porch and check it daily. Thanks again to all for your generosity.



# The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

## Another Awesome Contest!!



Check out the Herald's List Facebook page for our March contest! You could win FREE power washing for your home! Services to be provided by:

**E&R Services**  
**(703) 932-8087**

Good luck!!

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)



### EARTH DAY CARNIVAL

SATURDAY, APRIL 21  
12-4 PM - RAIN OR SHINE!



Celebrate Earth Day with Lord of Life Preschool! There will be crafts, games, a bounce house, a recycling truck, insect collections, a presentation by a Nature Center and much more. Lunch and snacks will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit the Fairfax Preschool Playground.

Cost: \$10 per family



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\*\*Applies to regular mowing service only.



## Invasive Species Profile: Japanese Holly (*Ilex crenata*)

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

**Native Range:** eastern Asia

**U.S. Introduction:** 1864 as an ornamental plant

**Life Cycle:** perennial shrub

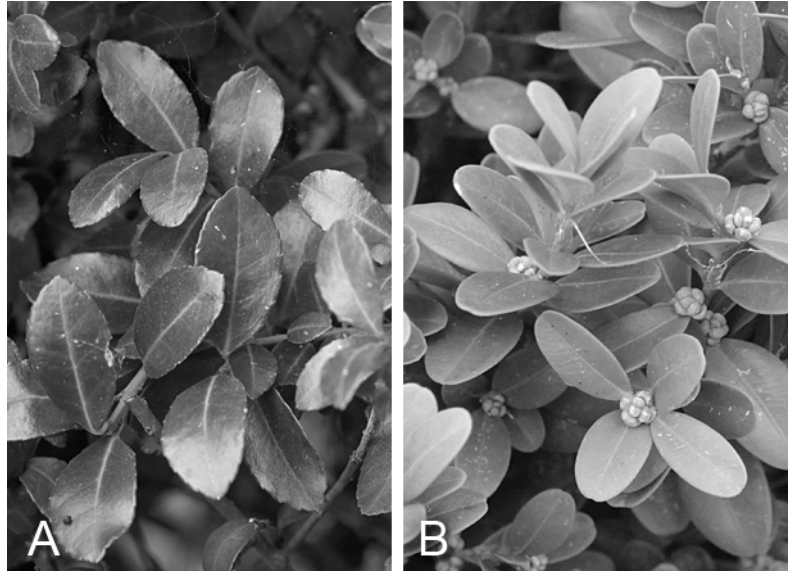
**Means of Spreading:** berries, eaten by birds, which pass the seeds

**Commercially Available:** yes

**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:** inkberry holly (*Ilex glabra*)

**Comments:** In seasons when deciduous plants are dormant and without leaves, large native ever-greens, such as American holly (*Ilex opaca*), red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), or Virginia pine (*Pinus virginiana*), become conspicuous in the woods. This time of year is also a perfect time to spot non-native invasive evergreens, such as Japanese holly (*I. crenata*). This shrub's story in the United States begins with its introduction in 1864. People immediately liked (and still do now) the compact, dark, evergreen foliage. All hollies come as separate male and female plants; only female Japanese hollies produce berries, which are black. As nurseries imported different subspecies and cultivars, American arborists developed other varieties here. These days, landscapers often turn to Japanese holly as a tougher substitute for boxwood (*Buxus* sp., especially *B. sempervirens* and *B. microphylla*). The popular Japanese hollies now pepper many private and commercial American properties, especially in hedges and foundation plantings.



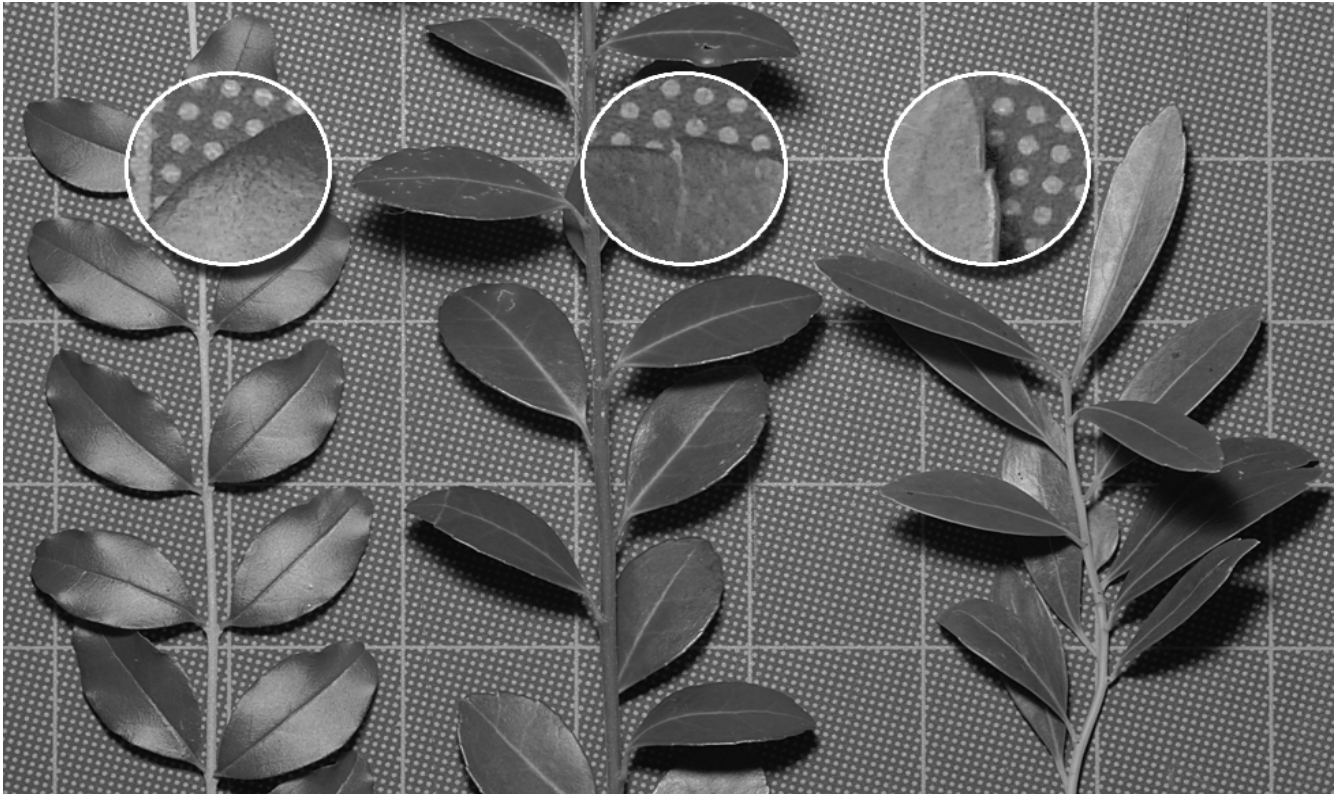
**Figure 1.** Japanese holly (A) has serrated, dark green leaves alternating along the branch. This bush is often mistaken for boxwood (*Buxus* sp., B), a well-behaved exotic genus. Among the differences, the latter has smooth-edged, medium to light green leaves positioned opposite each other on the branch.



**Figure 2.** All of the evergreens in this winter woodland scene are Japanese hollies invading Royal Lake Park.

Japanese holly adapts to many climates (hardiness growth zones typically 5-9, depending on variety), accepts diverse soil conditions, requires little care, and resists scores of pests and diseases. Birds ingest the berries and pass the seeds elsewhere, enabling this plant to escape cultivation. In natural areas, this plants' exceptionally dense foliage and branches close to ground block native plants from growing. The branches continuously touching the soil can sprout roots, thereby widening the holly's real estate. Without sufficient biological controls, Japanese holly's "garden delight" status now becomes "noxious weed." Currently, Fairfax is one of several counties throughout the U.S. that recognize Japanese holly as an invasive weed.

Other localities view it as an emerging threat. Adding to the problem is that Japanese hollies are still deliberately propagated and purchasable here. From budget hardware store garden centers to landscape contractors to upscale nurseries, Japanese hollies are sold under either the broad species name or as a cultivar, such as Green Luster, White Heller's, Sky Pencil, Golden Gem (variegated), Dwarf Pagoda, Compacta, or Mariesii.



**Figure 3. Japanese holly (middle) shares a similar appearance with several other bushes, seen here with magnified leaf edges. On the left is non-native invasive [Chinese privet \(\*Ligustrum sinense\*\)](#), with smooth, opposite leaves. Native inkberry (right) is another holly. Both hollies possess alternating leaves and tiny serrations on the ends. Inkberry leaves extend long and narrow. The background grids are one inch.**

A good native substitute for Japanese holly is inkberry (*I. glabra*), which flourishes along the coastal states from Texas to Maine. In Virginia, it naturally occurs on the Delmarva Peninsula and in south-eastern counties. The moderate leaf coverage allows other garden plants to grow near the inkberry's base. Examples of landscaping with inkberry include the median at GMU's Roanoke River Road entrance and along the tree-lined pavement at Fairfax Corner.

For more information specific to Japanese holly and general non-native invasive weed lists, check out these online references:

[www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=11555](http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=11555)

[arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/11/invasive-1.pdf](http://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2013/11/invasive-1.pdf)

[dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wabadplants.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/wildlife/Pages/habitat/wabadplants.aspx)

[www.fosc.org/InvasivePlantList.htm](http://www.fosc.org/InvasivePlantList.htm)

[plantfacts.osu.edu/pdf/0246-1216.pdf](http://plantfacts.osu.edu/pdf/0246-1216.pdf)

[www.gardenguides.com/101446-pests-diseases-japanese-holly.html](http://www.gardenguides.com/101446-pests-diseases-japanese-holly.html)

\* \* \* \* \*



### Concerts at Good Shepherd

#### **Concert Series 2018**

This is the 6<sup>th</sup> fabulous season of concerts by **prominent regional and national artists** with something to fit every music taste. Join us for superb concerts in April and May.

**Tickets** are on sale now at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com)  
**Single ticket sales** at \$30 adult (\$15 student) will be available at the door.

\* A special feature of each concert performance is a free reception with an opportunity to meet and mingle with performers and enjoy delicious appetizers.

\*\*\*\*\*



#### **“Gloria” ~ by John Rutter ~ Sunday, April 15, 2018 10:15 a.m.**

The Good Shepherd Senior Choir, along with organ and brass, will perform Rutter’s *Gloria*, a lively setting of the Gloria text and one of the most popular compositions by this well-known composer. *Gloria* will be integrated into the Church Service to enhance the liturgy. There is **no admission charge**.



#### **Patagonia Winds ~ Sunday, May 13, 2018 6:00 p.m.**

Now in its seventh season, this dynamic wind quintet is known for its innovative programming featuring standard chamber repertoire as well as music by contemporary composers. Our special **Mother’s Day** concert will be one the whole family can enjoy!

The Church of the Good Shepherd

[www.good-shepherd.net](http://www.good-shepherd.net)



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\*\*\*\*\*

### **Neighbor Assist in Kings Park West**

We are still looking for a new volunteer to help with handyman requests. If you are interested, please contact us. We thank those who told others about our handyman service. We are slowly getting more requests, but not nearly what we expected from a community of 1,900+ homes. It costs nothing to give us a call or email to discuss a project. If your project is beyond the scope of our abilities or service, we will provide some advice on how to get it completed.

Spring is coming soon, and that means mowing season will soon follow. KPW has a number of older residents who would like to support local KPW students interested in mowing lawns and other gardening activities. We like to see the younger generations putting some sweat into making money, as many of us grew up that way. So, this is a call again to KPW residents who are willing to provide mowing and gardening services to our community. It is a paid program under Neighbor Assist. If you are interested, please send an email to [NeighborAssist@kpwca.org](mailto:NeighborAssist@kpwca.org) or call 703-401-0275, with your name and contact info. We will send your information to older KPW residents, and if these residents want to hire you, they will contact you directly. Then, you and the homeowner can negotiate the scope and costs of the work.

The Nextdoor Kings Park West network currently has over 1,100 members. It is meant to be a social resource for KPW to share information and expertise. Membership is restricted to KPW residents; other communities have their own networks. There are many good questions about how to find service providers, such as recommended doctors, plumbers, etc. Nextdoor is also a good way to sell personal items. However, Nextdoor is not meant to be a commercial ad resource for a business, so please use it as it was meant to be used.



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**Pack 1967 News**

February events have gotten 2018 off to a busy start for the members of Cub Scout Pack 1967. Our first pack-wide event of the year was our ever-popular Pine Wood Derby Race on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. We followed that up with a special tour and ride on the Capital Wheel in the National Harbor on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Then our Annual Blue & Gold Banquet was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>.



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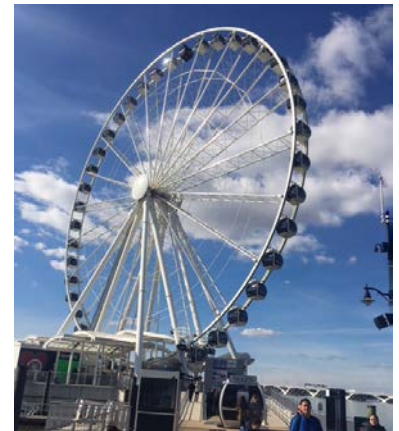


	<b>Speed</b>	<b>Show</b>
Lion Den	Henrik Mann	Henrik Mann
Tiger Den	Nicholas Glaze	Jacob (Coby) Lowe
Wolf Den	Talay Uhing	Cormac Mann
Bear Den	Chris Jones	Sam Corley
Webelos Den	QB Lee	Noah Lowe
AoL Den	Dylan Andrada	John Laun



During our group tour of the Capital Wheel, the boys and their families enjoyed learning about the construction and inter-workings of the wheel. Then each family was able to board one of the gondolas for a ride. Everyone was impressed by the view of the Washington, D.C. skyline across the Potomac.

Our last event of the year was our Annual Blue & Gold Banquet where we held a bridging ceremony for our AoLs moving into Boy Scouts. This year, we have three scouts advancing: Troop 1865 – Dylan Andrada and Jacob Komnenous; Troop 187 – John Laun.



Pack 1967 meets monthly, generally on the second Wednesday evening of the month. Individual dens (boys of the same age) meet about twice a month on a selected day to work on achievements, participate in projects, and have fun together. If you have a child in grades K-5 and would like more information about joining our pack, please email us at [CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).



## Spring Parks & Lake Clean-Up AND Community Fun Day!

Mark your calendars now because you're not going to want to miss the Civic Association's Spring Parks & Lake clean-up on April 7<sup>th</sup>, from 8 – 11 am! We're going to be trying something new this year to make this fun for all, as well as beneficial for our parks, lake and overall environment. We'll have scavenger hunts for the kids, raffle drawings, and some games and refreshments afterwards! Over the course of the past several years chairing the Parks & Lake Committee and running the monthly Road Raider clean-ups, I've come to know a handful of dedicated residents who care about, and for, Royal Lake and the surrounding parks. But there are *thousands of people* who live in the community and use the parks, and I hope that more will join this community effort. I particularly would love to get the younger crowd involved. Thanks to an intrepid Robinson student who made a fantastic connection for me, at least triple the number of Robinson Rams participated in the fall clean-up last year than in years past. That's great, but I know KPWC can do better! Teaching the millennial and younger generations the importance of community service and taking care of our environment cannot start too early, and this is a great hands-on experience to drive those concepts home (and earning those all-important service hours certainly helps, too!).

This time, we're also looking for some folks who can meet a few days before the clean-up, walk the trails with us to identify key sites needing attention, and then lead groups of volunteers the day of the clean-up. We may also need some folks to help trim back bushes from the trail. Please contact me at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) if you're interested in leading a small party. In addition to starting locations at Royal Lake and Lakeside Parks, a team will start on Commonwealth Boulevard between Gainsborough and Dequincy and walk along (and IN) the Rabbit Branch to the Lakeside parking lot; wear old sneakers or boots and be prepared to get wet and muddy, as you will be going where few have gone before! Boaters with a kayak or johnboat are welcome to run lake trash patrols along the shoreline inaccessible to land-based volunteers. If you would like to make a difference in the parks but are physically unable to do the fieldwork, your help in manning the check-in and meeting points is needed – please contact me about it!

### Some general tips for the clean-up:

- wear long sleeves/long pants and boots, waders, or shoes that can get wet and muddy
- bring work/gardening gloves and a wide-brim hat
- bring small plastic (grocery) bags or 5-gallon buckets (great to get into the bush without snagging the large bag), and "grabbers" or long-handled nets for reaching items
- refillable water bottle to stay hydrated
- bug spray and sunscreen recommended

Some supplies will be provided as well, so don't worry if you do not have some of those items!





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The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke (SCFB) is a volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enriching the lives of older adults in the Fairfax-Burke community. Below are upcoming SCFB activities in March.

***Lunch N' Life***

**Are You 50 or Better?** Please join us for the next *Lunch N' Life* sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke on Thursday, March 15th, (12 - 2 pm) at Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The program is a presentation by the VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County's Global Search and Rescue Team. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at (703) 273-5730 by March 9th. The cost is \$10.00; please make checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office (703) 323-4788. See [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more information.

**Transportation Program**

If you no longer drive and need transportation to a medical appointment (Monday through Friday) or an accompanied shopping drive (offered Tuesday afternoons/evenings and Friday mornings), contact the SCFB transportation phone number (703) 323-4788 at least five days in advance to make arrangements for your driver.

## THE GARDEN CORNER

*By Charlie Boring*

Winter is winding down in Kings Park West and there are a few tasks that we urban gardeners need to perform to get our gardens ready to plant. One immediate task, if you want to germinate seeds indoors, is to plant your seeds in an appropriate germination medium. You can buy what you need, such as germination pots and trays, or if you are a frugal gardener, you can make your own. This year, I used solo cups to plant my artichoke seeds; I simply punched four holes in the bottom of the cup to allow adequate drainage, and filled the cup with a good composted potting soil. You can also make your seedling pots from newspaper; here is a link providing a video with instructions on how this is done:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dlGQP81yfo>.

Decide what plants you want to grow from seeds. I advise the new gardener to grow plants that your family likes to eat. Involve the children and make the garden a family project. Some common plants that benefit from early indoor germination are artichokes, onions, leeks, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, squash and melons. Plants such as peppers, onions, leeks, and early tomatoes can be transplanted into the garden as early as the first week of March, if covered to protect from a late frost. That means that these seeds need to be planted indoors early enough to give them approximately eight weeks before you plan to transplant them.

Plants such as cucumbers and squash do better if transplanted during the first week of May or later. Some seeds do better if planted directly into the garden, such as beans, carrots, spinach, lettuce, and other greens.

In order to germinate your seeds, you will also need a source of light; a south facing window with good sunlight for at least six hours will suffice. You can also use daylight quality florescent lights, as I have, or you can buy grow lights. Your seeds will need to be kept damp, but not soaked.

Plan on how you will prepare your soil for planting. Of course, you can buy everything you need, but I enjoy using a frugal approach. Your soil will need compost to help the soil to retain water; you can buy a bag of humus and manure for about \$3.00. A bag of compost costs about the same. Or you can visit the Fairfax Transfer Station and get some composted leaf mulch to mix with your soil for free. Your soil will also need fertilizer; you can use commercial non-organic fertilizer, but I prefer to use organic. I normally use composted cow manure at a cost of about \$4.00 per bag.

When I transplant the little plants into their garden home, I improve the soil in the hole in which they are transplanted by adding a nutritious soil mixture. This year, I am making my transplanting mix with peat moss (helps retain moisture), worm castings (the best natural fertilizer; a small amount will do), a small amount of azomite (provides needed minerals), a small amount of Epsom salts (causes the plant to have stronger stalks and greener leaves) and some blood meal (rich in nitrogen) and bone meal (rich in phosphates and calcium).

I know the plants appreciate their rich, new home because they provide me with the gift of beautiful tomatoes, large zucchini, delicious eggplants, and plump bell peppers. But occasionally I find that the local squirrels and chipmunks raid the garden and take the gifts that the plants intended for me! I imagine that the plants complain about this to Mother Nature, but I have no confidence that she listens.

So, as soon as I can, I must prepare to protect my garden from those little raiding bandits. But they are cute, aren't they? Sometimes, I think that just sharing my garden with the little critters is worth the effort. Happy gardening!



## Monticello Park Development Moving Forward

*By Tony Vellucci*

After many months of negotiations with Fairfax County Land Development Services and both the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), the Park Authority is moving forward with the development of Monticello Park. With permits in hand, the FCPA Planning & Development Division solicited sealed bids for Monticello Park Development, which includes the construction of the first Off Leash Dog Area (OLDA), also known as dog park, in the Braddock District.

Several issues that required additional time for engineering design approvals and permits included:

- Relocating the current entrance so as to not be so close to the Guinea Road/Bronte Road intersection,
- Addressing infrastructure issues such as storm water management, and ensuring the proper alignment and connectivity of park trails and sidewalks to be constructed, and
- Vacating and dedicating parts of Guinea Road within Monticello Park to VDOT since FCPA owns a portion of Guinea Road.

From the County website, the following public information is available:

Monticello Park Development  
CONTRACT NO. CP1851259-01  
PROJECT NO. PR-000009-002

The work shall include the following: The demolition of existing site features and the construction of a large playground and a dog park with related amenities and supporting infrastructure to include storm water management facilities, parking lot, walkways, utilities, fencing and related site work

This is a lump sum Contract. Contract length is 150 calendar days.

Engineer's Estimate (Base Bid): \$1,020,700.00

A Pre-Bid Conference was held February 14, 2018. at 10:00 am, on-site at Monticello Park, 5315 Guinea Road, Burke. About seven bidders attended. Three bids were submitted to the Director, Planning and Development Division, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 406, Fairfax, on or before 2:00 pm March 1, 2018. At about 2:05 pm, the bids were opened publicly and read aloud at Park Authority Headquarters, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax.

The winning bidder was Avon Corporation, 5621 Vine Street, Alexandria. Avon Corporation was established in 1979 as a Site and Specialty contractor. The largest share of Avon Corporation's revenue is contracting with local government, schools, universities, public agencies and state municipalities. Since 1979, Avon Corporation has built over fifty large scale parks, numerous trails and pedestrian bridge projects, boardwalks, stream restoration and wetland projects, retaining walls, underpinning, athletic fields, soil nailing walls, and slope stability projects. They have completed several Fairfax County projects. Additional information about the company can be found at its website – [www.avoncorporation.com](http://www.avoncorporation.com).

Once Avon is issued a Notification to Proceed, they will have a 150-day period of performance to complete the statement of work; consequently, the Braddock District should see its first dog park before the end of this year. The FCPA Project Manager is Mohammad Mahboob, Engineer III, Project Management Branch.



**Pack 1968 News**

Pack 1968 has been full of energy and filled with excitement during these winter months.

Congratulations to our Pinewood Derby winners – we wish them good luck at the District races in March!

Den	Speed	Show
TIGER	Nathaniel Scott	Richard Watkins
WOLF	Gunner Larson, Robbie Sheipe	Gunner Larson
BEAR	Jake Francis	Luke Francis
WEBELO	Ryan Oedemann	Joshua Celio
AOL	Isaac Juni	Isaac Juni, Aidan Murphy



In February, our annual Blue & Gold banquet was met with lots of WOWs and AHHHs throughout the night. We had over twenty entries in various categories of the dessert contest, and all were equally yummy! Our scouts earned many adventure loops covering all sorts of interesting themes: art sculpting, learning about extinct animals, collecting items of value or interest, learning about scouting in India, sharing musical talents, creating and teaching new games, and extended skill building with pocketknives for our AOLs. We finished off the evening with entertainment from Science Storytellers, and with audience participation in many experiments involving chemistry and physics.

Pack 1968 is a fun dynamic Cub Scout Pack that is open to 1st-5th graders who are interested in having fun while learning new skills and providing service to the community. You cannot find any other extracurricular activity that provides what scouting does. Now is the time to sign up for scout summer camp. If you are interested in finding more about Pack 1968 and what scouting is all about, you can email us at [cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com)



# What's Going On Next Door???



KPW Tour of Homes  
Sunday, April 22, 2018  
12:00 to 4:00 p.m.



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

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

**AFFORDABLE HOUSE CLEANING:** 15 Years of experience; Monday through Saturday; Weekly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly, Move-in / Move-out; Free estimates, references can be provided; Call, text, or email Giovanna at 571-236-0855 [gioturquoise12@gmail.com](mailto:gioturquoise12@gmail.com)

**HOUSECLEANING SERVICES:** I clean weekly, bi-weekly, every three weeks, monthly, periodic, moving out and moving in. I have licenses, bonded, and insurance. Good references, 11 years' experience and LOW RATES. Call Maria L. Barreda at (703) 378-4059, or cell (703) 856-2512

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

Kings Park West Neighborhood since 1992.

**REAL ESTATE:** Looking to buy or sell - Call Jim & Lin Tars at 703 677-2007. Two NVAR Life Top Producers serving Northern VA since 1990. Offering a free market analysis, free home & termite inspections. Tars Realty & Associates, Inc. E-mail: [tars96@aol.com](mailto:tars96@aol.com) Web: [www.tarsrealty.com](http://www.tarsrealty.com).

**BR Mechanical Heat & A/C Installation & Service:** KP West Resident 703 987 1005 (Bob)

**Sandy Yoon, a professional hairstylist with 25 years of experience:** Family haircuts, 10% off on Color/ Foil Highlight, Permanent, Roller Set, Face Wax, Blow dry, Up Styles. Please make an appointment. Call or text 571) 594-9869. Hours: Mon through Sat: 10:30 - 5:45 Sunday: Closed

**Dahlia's Daycare:** State licensed, providing childcare since 1991. Safe, caring, and nurturing environment. Indoor/outdoor activities, large yard for lots of fun. Excellent references, reasonable prices. Rest assured your child will be happy. Please call 571-271-5877

### WANTED

**FUN JOB FOR MOMS:** Local dog walking and pet sitting company, seeking fit adults **for permanent year-round positions**. Must love dogs, and being outside. Cell phone, internet, flexibility, and a reliable vehicle a must. Competitive pay, fun work environment if you love animals. Call Abbie at 703 473-9768.



**KPWCA Scholarship Application**

Mail completed form & required information to:  
 KPWCA Scholarship Committee PO Box 7114  
 Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114

**Deadline/postmarked by: May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**The Kings Park West Civic Association will award up to three \$1,000 scholarships to 2018 graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the KPW Civic Association as of the deadline of the application, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018.** Each scholarship will be awarded on the basis of community service, civic activities and extracurricular service involvement (40%), academic achievement (20%), a written essay (20%), and a personal interview (20%). This scholarship is open to seniors who are enrolling in a 4-year college/university, 2-year college, trade or technical training, or formalized Gap Year program.

**Please type or write legibly in ink, for all pieces – particularly emails.**

- A. 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_
3. E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_
5. Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

B. On a separate sheet of paper, list your community service, employment or volunteer work, extracurricular service activities, church service or any non-academic honors you have received. List only those activities and awards in high school. Describe these activities and indicate your level and # of years of involvement, including leadership responsibilities.

C. Following this list, write an essay, not to exceed 350 words, about your involvement in one or more of these service activities. The Kings Park West Civic Association is looking for individuals who are providing or have provided exemplary service to the community, our country or to the world. Tell us why you chose to do the work you did, what you have learned from the experience and how you believe you have contributed to others.

D. Attach an official transcript in sealed school stationery, authenticated by the school transcript official. Transcript will include your grades covering the first seven semesters of high school.

E. Attach a copy of your SAT or ACT test scores.

F. If you choose, attach information about financial hardships of which you wish the committee to be aware.

**Semifinalists will be asked to come for a panel interview on May 16<sup>th</sup> or May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**Finalists will be recognized during the Robinson Senior Awards Ceremony on June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 4pm.**

**This application must be signed by the applicant and his/her parent or guardian. Applicants will be disqualified if application instructions are not followed, including current membership with KPWCA or the application is incomplete.**

**The student's information may be used as a possible nomination by KPWCA for a Best of Braddock Awards. These awards are given annually by the Braddock District Council and Supervisor Cook in recognition of those who contribute to the betterment of life and services in the Braddock District.**

**We understand that in applying for the scholarship we agree to abide by the terms stipulated.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of parent or guardian