

June 2018

Vol. 48, Issue 4

Kings Park West Civic Association

Greetings!

May is always a busy month for the Civic Association. We started the month with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Spring Membership Meeting on May 1st. We had an enjoyable dinner with pizza, salad and cake. Thank you to Mary Crowder (Board Member at Large) for organizing, preparing the beautiful floral arrangements, which were all from her garden (impressive), and hosting this event. The Board extends a warm thank you to everyone who volunteered this past year in support of the twenty KPWCA committees and many important community incentives. A KPWCA Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Peter Linn and Susan Osborn in recognition of their 32 years of volunteer service to the community. Peter and Susan were involved in many association volunteer efforts, such as Block Captain and Signboard Manager. We wish Peter and Susan all the best with their move to a local retirement community.

Community Calendar	
Father's Day.....	June 17
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	June 19
Summer Begins.....	June 21
Citizen Advisory Council.....	July 3
Independence Day.....	July 4
Best of Braddock.....	July 11
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	July 17
Herald Deadline.....	Aug 1
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Aug 7
Herald Delivery.....	Aug 18
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Aug 21
Labor Day.....	Sep 3
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Sep 4

The neighborhood spring yard sale and dumpster days were also held in May. We would like to extend our thanks to Lakeview Pool for the continued use of their parking lot, Barbara Murillo, The Mary & Cathy Team, and Patti Dickerson, Membership Chair, for hosting this successful event.

The Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC) Task Force continues to gather information on the potential development of the training center. A community meeting was held on April 23rd in the Robinson Gold Cafeteria. At this meeting, development concepts were discussed, including potential impacts on traffic and schools. Attendees had a chance to express their opinions on what features (playing fields, trails, playgrounds, child care center, affordable housing, etc.) they would like to see included in the overall plan.

On June 2nd, KPW community volunteers and Fairfax County Park Authority staff joined forces to make some much needed repairs to parts of the loop trail around Royal Lake. This initiative will enhance the trail in three areas that have become very steep and hard to navigate.

2018 Braddock Nights Summer Entertainment Series is back in KPW at Royal Lake! The Summer Concerts will be held at Royal Lake (5344 Gainsborough Drive) on Friday evenings, July 6 through August 24, from 7:30-8:30 pm. For all music lovers, park enthusiasts and activity seekers, check out www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

If you are interested in organizing the 2018 National Night Out Event for KPW, which is on August 7th, please email me at president@KPWCA.org. In the meantime, our three neighborhood pools – Commonwealth Swim Club, Kings Ridge Swim Club, and Lakeview Swim Club – are now open for summer fun and relaxation. Enjoy your summer!

Best Regards, Jeanmarie Roberson

KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

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	Vacant	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan:	welcome@kpwca.org
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471

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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
	Keith Jodoin	kjodoin@gmail.com
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	703-323-0206

Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

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Treasurer	Treasurer@kpwca.org

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Consumer Affairs	Consumer@kpwca.org
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Parks & Lakes	Parks@kpwca.org
Signs, St.s, Sidewalks	St.s@kpwca.org
Neighborhood Watch	Watch@kpwca.org
Scholarships	Scholarships@kpwca.org
Neighbor Assistance	NeighborAssist@kpwca.org

HERALD STAFF

Editor	Editor@kpwca.org
Classifieds	Classified@kpwca.org

Advertising See Below

General Information

Community Association	Info@kpwca.org
	KPWHO@yaho.com

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the August 18th issue must be received no later than August 1st by Ejona Lika, 9810 Bronte Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or email 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. 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. 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.

The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is August 1, 2018

for delivery on August 18, 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.

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 and pay using PayPal.

Volunteer Opportunities

Stream Mussel Rescue: The Friends at Accotink Creek (FACC) routinely sponsors Mussel Rescue Parties after major summer storms. If you want to volunteer, please contact the FACC at accotink.org/contact.htm.

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 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.

KPWCA Sign Posting: *30 minutes per month.* KPWCA maintains three signs that serve to keep KPW residents informed of community activities. We have a team for each sign and would like to add a member to each team. Responsibility is to post announcements provided by the KWPCA Board periodically throughout the year.

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 and/or 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.

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 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.

Invasive Management Area: *3 hours a few times per year.* Details at www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=32. Send an e-mail to greg@grsykes.com and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

Deer Harvest Management Results for KPW Parks

By Tony Vellucci

The Fairfax County Police Department is responsible for overseeing and implementing the Deer Management Program. The program includes about ninety FCPA parks and three treatment methods (archery, managed shotgun hunts, and sharpshooting). There are currently no non-lethal methods approved for deer population control in Virginia.

For this fiscal year (FY-18), deer herd reduction activities took place at ninety-four parks with 860 deer removed (1,091 in total including non-FCPA properties). KPW is within the Pohick Stream Valley Cluster. That cluster is comprised of ten FCPA parks, of which two are within KPW – Crooked Creek Park and Kings Park West Park. This past year, 69 deer were harvested from the Pohick Stream Valley Cluster; almost half came from Pohick Stream Valley Park, seven were yielded from Crooked Creek Park, and three from KPW Park. This compares with one yielded from Crooked Creek Park and nine yielded from KPW Park in FY-17.

For the next fiscal year, the two KPW parks should remain on the list. No additional parks have been identified in the Braddock District. For more info, see the county website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/deer-management-program.

Pack 1968

By Tanis Gray

In March, after obtaining Cub Scouting's highest rank, our oldest scouts in Pack 1968 have now become Boy Scouts in Troops 697 and 1966. We are pleased to congratulate the Arrow of Light (AOL) class of 2018: Aidan Murphy, Isaac Juni, Jimmy Wyllie, John Huber, Joseph Watkins, Lando Rebeyro, Mark Huber, and Peter Sheridan. Despite the weather and our cancelled March Pack meeting, the boys received their ceremonial arrows and rank, and are now fully immersed in Troop life and merit badges. The younger boys also moved up a rank in May during our Bridging Ceremony and will continue on their Cub Scout path. Congratulations to all!



The Bears made their own fishing rods and tried their luck at Burke Lake. They also took a trip to Hidden Pond and learned about the neighboring wildlife and habitat, while the Tigers worked on a conservation project removing refuse from the creek behind Bessmer/Tapestry streets. The Tigers also visited the West Springfield police station, while the Webelos from our Troop and Troop 1967 went to visit the fire station and paramedics. Our Wolves recently visited the Go Ape ropes course and learned about trust and overcoming fears.



Pack 1968 enjoyed their annual Spring Campout at Pohick Bay Regional Park during the Memorial Day weekend. The boys and their families had a wonderful time hiking, singing, and gathering around the campfire before being rained out. We look forward to the Autumn Campout!

As we close out the Scouting calendar year, we are looking forward to our Raingutter Regatta on June 10th from 2-4 pm at Lakeside Park – always a highlight! Then we will be off to Scout Day Camp and Scout Overnight Camp for the older scouts. We continue the excitement and fun throughout the summer with events like our pool party, marching in the 4th of July parade, our Nationals Park game and campout, ice cream social, and more, so if you know of a cub interested in Scouts who is a rising kindergartener through rising fifth grader, please contact our Cubmaster Bobby Burke at cubmaster.Pack1968@gmail.com.



We wish to congratulate the boys of Troop 1968 for the great work they do for our community, and the individual work they do to become good citizens as they move through our ranks. We are proud of you! Thank you to the Huber Family for all they have done for us as they move onto Boy Scouts, and welcome to our new Cubmaster, Bobby Burke.



CUB SCOUT PACK 1968

Visit our website for our information on our summer activities



<https://sites.google.com/view/cubscoutpack1968>

We take pride in providing the highest quality program for our cubs and it shows. Our pack is GOLD again!

DAY CAMP July 9-13

Oct 6-7
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June 10th
Raingutter Regatta

6/26 & 7/24
Pool Parties

Aug 26
Bike Rodeo

Sept 9
Rocket Derby

Jan 12, 2019
PINEWOOD DERBY

Cub Scouts is a great way for kids to learn new skills, make new friends, and above all have fun.

Join us for our annual Rain Gutter Regatta & Popsicle Social



Build a boat and race it!

Sunday June 10th from 2-4pm
at Royal Lake Park,
through the Gainsborough Dr. Entrance.



Have a rising kindergartener (Lion) or first grader (Tiger) who's ready for some adventure? Are you interested in leading a den? We provide training and it's easier than you think! Contact Alaina (info below).



So Come Join Us!

Pack Meetings:
One Tuesday of each school month at Laurel Ridge

New Cubs always welcomed
Rising K through Rising 5th Graders

For more information contact:

Bobby Burke, our Cubmaster
cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com

Alaina Watkins, our Committee Chair
ccpack1968@gmail.com

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- Masters Swim program
- Winter Swim program

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- Wine and Cheese Nights
- Movie Nights—12ft screen



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One visit per family/individual for 2018 season.

THE GARDEN CORNER

By Charlie Boring

There are some unique challenges to growing a garden in Kings Park West. First, of course, is the limited space, but if you are a “gentleman/woman” gardener and do not want to expend an extreme amount of effort in your garden, you have conquered the limited space problem with a smaller garden. Maybe you grow a container garden or are using the “edible landscape” method. Your next challenge is the clay soil, but you have probably fixed that with a bag of lime and some soil additives. You also love the environment, so you compost your vegetative kitchen waste, leaves, and grass clippings into a great compost that you add to your garden soil. You also worry about high water bills, and you may have installed a couple of rain barrels to collect rain water, which also serves as a reminder of the good-old-days, when life was slower. And now you have a final challenge – garden pests.

I do not like to use non-organic pest control chemicals, so for insect control, I use DIY spray recipes, which you can find at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D_ldEayJg7E. The insect pests that I have most often encountered in Kings Park West are aphids, Japanese beetles, potato bugs (that also attack squash), tomato caterpillar, slugs/snails and grubs. Many of these insects can be controlled in a small garden by using manual methods. For example, for aphids, you can use a strong spray of water to wash them off your plants. If I find Japanese beetles and tomato caterpillars, I crush them with my gloved fingers. For snails and slugs, I place a board in my garden and in the morning, I lift the board and crush the slugs hiding under it. You can also crush egg shells and place them around your plants so that the soft-bodied slugs and snails cannot reach them. For grubs, I search for them as I dig through the soil where I am going to plant and crush them. But, our gardens are also threatened by larger pests, such as deer, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, and rodents.

Last year, I had a large number of peaches, pears, plums, persimmons, cherries and kiwis. I looked forward to a great harvest, but in the end, I only harvested cherries and persimmons, although I did share my harvest of those fruits with the birds. The other fruit trees were robbed of their bounty by an abundance of squirrels and chipmunks. So, my challenge this year is to deal with these two pests.

My wife, Marisa, has insinuated that the squirrels and chipmunks are smarter and cuter than I am, and I have to agree with her concerning the cuteness factor. But, if you know anything about a chipmunk’s lifestyle, you know that they live in burrows as long as thirty-feet with numerous food storage rooms. They fill their expandable cheeks with food and take it back to their den and pile it in the storage rooms. Last year, they took all of my peaches; I can imagine piles of peaches in their storerooms (the little, cute gluttons). But, what happens when a pile of my tasty peaches sits over the winter? Well, you have a large pile of fermented peaches. My wife disagrees, but I think the little guys enjoy the alcohol from the fermented peaches and are sitting around their dens staying tipsy during the winter. She thinks they are cute, but I think they are just a bunch of cute drunks, watching chipmunk television.

I know that I can thin out the population with live traps and such, but Marisa is on the side of the squirrels and chipmunks, so I have to control my initial inclination for mayhem. I decided to add a rodent repellent that can be applied before the fruit ripens. After some research, I decided to use an industrial strength DIY pepper repellent. I found a site with a good recipe that I am going to try at www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vWBaoNQs9k.

Marisa still insists that the chipmunks are smarter than I am, and points to the fact that it took me years to decide to use the pepper repellent. I gave up the argument, since my experience has taught me that Marisa is usually right.





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Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 has been busy! In April, the Pack visited Go Ape Treetop Adventure in Springfield. The boys (and some of their braver parents and siblings) put on their harnesses, crossed rope bridges, and ziplined their way through the trees for a fun-filled day!

The Pack also had their spring family camping event at Burke Lake Park in April. More than sixty Scouts and family members set up tents and stayed the night in the great outdoors. The Scouts worked together to cook dinner, perform campfire skits, retire an American flag, and of course, enjoy s'mores.



Four Scouts earned the prestigious Dr. Lewis Alvarez Supernova Award. The Supernova Award recognizes superior achievement by a Cub Scout in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Congratulations to Chris Jones, Sam Corley, Josh Bryant, and Isaac Klontz! And in May, the Scouts earned their ranks and were promoted to the next rank. Congratulations to all the new Tigers, Wolves, Bears, Webelos, and Arrow of Light Dens!



If your child is interested in finding out more about Scouting, please join us at a summer event! In June, we will be launching water rockets in Lakeside Park on Sunday, June 10th at 2 pm, and we will be fishing at Royal Lake Park on June 24th at 2 pm. If you have any questions, we can be contacted at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.

CUB SCOUT PACK 1967



**Join us to begin your
Scouting adventure!**



All new Kindergarteners through 5th graders are welcome.

We'll be kicking off our summer activities by building and launching water rockets at Lakeside Park on Sunday, June 10 at 2 p.m.

What will you do as a Scout? Camping, Rain Gutter Regatta, Pinewood Derby, hiking, Den meetings, learn new skills like using a knife and starting a fire, and much more!

Pack 1967 meets from 7 to 8 p.m. On the second Wednesday of the month from September to June. Dens (which have children from the same grade) meet two to three times a month. Children and their parents are welcome to attend a meeting and our summer activities to

For more information, or to receive updates and reminders about all of our summer activities, contact Cubmaster Matt Jones at: cubmaster.pack.1967@gmail.com

Pack 1967 Summer Activities

JUNE

June 10, 2 p.m.

Water Rockets at Lakeside Park

June 24, 2 p.m.

Fishing at Royal Lake Park

AUGUST

Aug 18, 11 a.m.

Arlington Cemetery/trip into D.C.

Aug 26, 5 p.m.

Cookout at Royal Lake Park

JULY

July 4

Marching in the Fairfax 4th of July Parade

July 14, 6:35 p.m.

Scout Night (and campout) at
Potomac Nationals game

July 22, 2 p.m.

Ice cream at Woody's in Fairfax City

The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

Thinking About Remodeling?

Perhaps you're a big fan of HGTV's Fixer Upper with Chip and Joanna. Or maybe you saw a home improvement that you loved during the recent KPW Tour of Homes.

Whatever your inspiration, one of the best sources for contractor recommendations is your neighbors. That's the beauty of the The Herald's List. You can ask specific questions about specific services and receive a variety of responses.

Check it out today!



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

www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList



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Second Ever KPW Homes Tour a Smashing Success!

By Tony Vellucci

The second ever KPW Tour of Homes was held from 12:00 – 5:00 pm on Sunday April 22nd and involved over 250 KPW residents and eighteen homes.

The first KPW home tour was held in September 2009 to benefit the Katie Thelin Playground at Royal Lake Park. It was the brainchild of Linda Vellucci and Cathy DeLoach. During a KPW Tables of Eight dinner conversation, they came up with the idea as a way for the community to show support for the Thelin family and support the playground effort. An unqualified success, the first tour raised over \$3,500, and over the years, several KPW residents have asked when there would be another one.

Upon learning of Commonwealth Swim Club's goal of raising money for unexpected repairs earlier this year, Cathy DeLoach and The Mary & Cathy Team of Long & Foster sprang into action and started planning for the next tour. The DeLoaches (Cathy and Mike) then approached the Vellucci's (Linda and Tony) to move forward, bringing together the community team that held the first remodeled homes tour. Initially, the effort was to benefit Commonwealth Swim Club, but some community feedback prompted CSC President Danielle Nicholson to recommend 90% of the proceeds be split equally between the three community pools, with the remaining 10% going to the Civic Association.

The event was an incredible success from several perspectives. Over 210 tickets were sold, and with sponsorships, brought in about \$4,500. Folks were able to see other KPW homes, meet their neighbors, and support the community pools.

There were some similarities with the first tour. First, the weather was just wonderful, allowing for lots of foot travel between the houses. Secondly, Commonwealth and Gainsborough was again Ticket Central, and again we were still selling tickets an hour into the tour! And lastly, all the homeowners did an awesome job of showcasing their homes with fresh flowers and even videos on laptops to show some of the in-depth renovations. We saw neighbors catching up with one another, and all kinds of wonderful decorating ideas and problem-solving designs. The atmosphere was electric with fun and enthusiasm – it was truly an impressive show of neighborliness by all.



But there were many differences this time around as well. First, social media platforms such as Facebook and Nextdoor played a significant role in getting the word out about the tour, given the commitment to move forward did not align well with the Herald delivery schedule; the Herald delivery occurred that weekend. Interestingly though, a surprising number of ticket buyers said they heard about it by word of mouth. Second, the proliferation of smart phones resulted in many attendees

having the ability to take pictures - with the owner's permission - of the modification they were interested in, and to have a GPS map to know how to get to each of the homes. Third, whereas the first tour provided a listing of about twenty-five homes mostly focused on one or two improvements, the eighteen homes featured in this tour showcased significantly greater modifications – in some cases, adding over 1,000 square feet of living space.

Next, given their role in the community as real estate agents, The Mary & Cathy Team had a good idea of the homes that would be interesting to show. The first tour required significant “selling.” Asking people to open up their homes to “strangers” required quite a bit of persuasion the first time. This time it was much easier, since many in the community had participated in the first tour.

Also, this effort included sponsors and provided a 34-page e-brochure that listed the sponsors and the show homes with a detailed description and images of the modifications. The first tour only listed the homes with a short description of the modification. The e-brochures were sent out by email and posted on Facebook. And while most of the ticket sales occurred at Commonwealth and Gainsborough, a good number of tickets were sold by Mary & Cathy at Open Houses, and at Lakeside Park. Further, at Commonwealth and Gainsborough, volunteers provided curb side service when possible.

And last, but not least, this tour raised \$4,500 between ticket sales and sponsorships. As a result, each KPW pool has received \$1,350, and the Civic Association received \$450.

Many participants noted that ten years was too long for the next tour, so at present, we are considering holding the next tour in three years – in 2021. Given the neighborliness and goodwill demonstrated during this tour though, ideas are floating around for a less intense Garden Tour in 2019, and a Holiday Homes Decoration Tour in 2020.

One of our key concerns is finding a credible initiative for the ticket proceeds to support. The first remodeled homes tour supported the Katie Thelin Playground at Royal Lake Park. This tour supported our community pools. We would like to hear from you regarding what community initiative you think the next homes tour(s) should support.

A huge thank you to our eleven sponsors who helped make this tour a success:

- Little River Veterinary Clinic
- Progressive Dental Care
- NOVA Flooring
- Shoemaker and Son Plumbing
- HC Roofing
- Heigar Contracting
- Tim Frazier Tree Service
- DesignPro Remodeling
- A&C Remodeling Contractor LLC
- Fresh Coat Painters of Fairfax
- EDesign Electrical LLC

Thanks to everyone who purchased tickets, the volunteers, and especially the following eighteen families who showed their homes and helped make the tour a success: Mary and Doug Hovland; Corey and Matt Tilley; Amy Cauffman and John Fucci; Maria and Charlie Lopez and Antoinette Crandell; Vance and Barbara Mitchell; Courtney and Rob MacFarlane; Diane and Kevin O' Neill; Liz and Brian Engeldrum; Jayne Dunnum; Jennifer and Jason Little; Joanne and Dave DeCerbo; Kathie and Jack Baumgart; Kay and Neil Billings; Laura and Andrew Nemets; Liz Wozny and Daniel Del Alcazar Teixeira; Mary and Greg Gervais; Shauna and Joel Oswald; and Suzanne Cavadel and Lewis Perez.

A big thanks to Jack and Kathie Baumgart who hosted an after-tour get-together for those who showed their homes and volunteers – Mike DeLoach, Kathryn Fox, Mary Hovland, Nicki McGuill, Danielle Nicholson, Jackie Steventon, Linda Vellucci, Tony Vellucci, and Teresa Watson. And of course, special thanks to Cathy DeLoach who was the spark for the entire effort.



Tour participant Susie Duvall summed it up best in her comments:

“We do have good neighbors in Kings Park West who got together to help not only Commonwealth Pool but Kings Ridge and Lakeview as well as the Civic Association. This is what being good neighbors is all about.”

What a great neighborhood to live in... go KPW!



FREE!

FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY Summer Entertainment Series 2018 Braddock Nights

Friday Evenings



Welcome to our summer 2018 season! This series of free musical performances presents a wide array of performances from classical to bluegrass and everything in between. The atmosphere is informal and you're encouraged to bring a picnic dinner, blankets and lawn chairs and relax with friends and family to celebrate the end of the workweek. Volunteers are always welcome! For more information, please contact my office at 703-425-9300. I look forward to seeing you this summer.

John C. Cook, Braddock District Supervisor

Lake Accotink Park

7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield
Fridays • 7:30-8:30 p.m.

JULY

- 6 City of Fairfax - Main Street Community Band (Concert Band)
- 13 Karl Stoll & The Danger Zone (Rockin' Blues)
- 20 BG & The Mojo Hands (Swing)
- 27 Marian McLaughlin Ensemble (Chamber/Folk)

AUGUST

- 3 Empty Bottle String Band (Oldtime String Band)
- 10 The Ragbirds (Folk/Roots/Pop)
- 17 City of Fairfax Band 'Alte Kameraden German Band' (German)
- 24 St. Stephens United Methodist Church Youth Band (2017 Battle of the Bands Winner)



Royal Lake Park

5344 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax
Fridays • 7:30-8:30 p.m.

JULY

- 6 Little Red & The Renegades (Zydeco)
- 13 Gina DeSimone and the Moaners (Blues/Swing)
- 20 The Reflex (80's Tribute Band)
- 27 Natty Beaux (Swing)

AUGUST

- 3 Veronneau (World Jazz)
- 10 Frankie Addison Band (R&B)
- 17 Thrillbillies (Roots Music)
- 24 Mars Rodeo (Classic/Modern Rock)



Braddock Nights is presented in partnership with the supporters of Braddock Nights and generous contributions from the following sponsors:



The Summer Entertainment Series is made possible through corporate and private donations. To donate, visit fairfaxparkfoundation.org/projects



Shows are canceled in cases of inclement weather.
Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour prior to showtime for updates.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances



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Successful Trail Improvement Project

By Paul Gross



The Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) volunteers teamed up with Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA) Operations and Maintenance staff to upgrade a steep section of the Royal Lake Circuit Trail with new steps to enhance safety and improve water flow to limit erosion. We had fifteen volunteers who participated between the rainstorms to make this a successful effort. This project was a joint effort with the Park Authority, who provided all the necessary materials for the project along with technical and some labor support. The volunteers included those from our neighborhoods surrounding Royal Lake and the KPW Civic



Association. I would like to extend a special thanks to the Boy Scouts and students from Robinson who were instrumental in this effort.



Many members in the community have participated in the FORL's effort that developed and published a FORL Community Vision for Royal Lake Parks. This Vision has been presented and was well-received by the Braddock District Supervisor and the FCPA. Several important aspects of the Vision are the upgrade and integration of a network of trails that support our Royal Lake Parks as well as the improvement of the lake and park natural environment. Some of the projects will be accomplished by FCPA; however, other projects will need those of us in the community to participate. These joint efforts are an important step in upgrading the park. We will have two additional trail projects that are being scheduled for August and September. Please look for those project opportunities – your volunteer efforts are important. Thank you!



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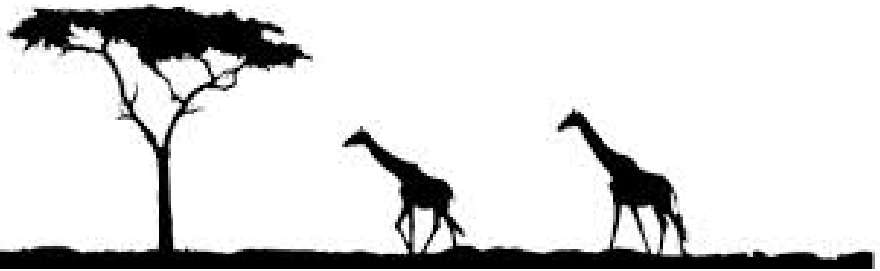
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Kings Park West
Safari Supper
August 25, 2018
5 – 9 pm



Embark on a neighborhood safari, traveling to different neighbors' homes for each course of dinner. You can join in as a couple (\$20) or by yourself (\$10). End the evening at Commonwealth Swim Club for entertainment and socializing.

Register and pay before August 5th by contacting Terra Wathen at terra.wathen@gmail.com or 571-425-5703. All of those involved will be asked to prepare and host one course for either six or eight people. If you prefer not to host a course at your home, you can choose a dessert option and bring the dessert with you to Commonwealth Swim Club at the end of the evening.



Good Shepherd Music Camp 2018

Grades 2-12

August 6-10 ~ 9:00 am-12:30 pm (Mon ~ Fri)

August 12 ~ 9:00-11:30 am (Sun)

The purpose of the camp will be to **prepare, rehearse, and present a musical**, "***It's Cool in the Furnace***", based on the biblical story of a godly guy named Daniel, his three side-kicks, an angry King, and a fiery *furnace*.

The musical will be performed on **Sunday, August 12, at the 10:15 am service.**

Camp members will participate in **singing, movement, creation of costumes and sets**, and other aspects of preparing a musical. (*Snacks will be served each day*)

Printable Registration Form at www.good-shepherd.net/childrenyouth-choirs/

**Church of the Good Shepherd
9350 Braddock Road, Burke, Virginia 22015
703-323-5400**

REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



KPW STATS

23 Sold YTD • 14 Under Contract • 7 Active Listings
 Average List Price: \$591,783 • Average Sold Price: \$592,451

Homes in Kings Park West are selling briskly right now, just 34 days on average! Buyers love KPW for its sidewalks, proximity to schools, parks, pools and of course, all the great people!

Address	Model	List Price	Sales Price	DOM	Status	Address	Model	List Price	Sales Price	DOM	Status
10329 Commonwealth Blvd	Baron	\$650,000	\$658,000	24	SOLD!	5080 Coleridge Dr	Queen	\$590,000		6	Active
10188 Bessmer Ln	Baron	\$685,000		0	Contract	9712 Commonwealth Blvd	Queen	\$529,900	\$521,000	161	SOLD!
10412 Stallworth Ct	Baron	\$675,000		2	Contract	5211 Claridge Ct	Queen	\$575,000	\$580,000	7	SOLD!
10444 Collingham Dr	Baron	\$685,000		3	Contract	5212 Richardson Dr	Queen	\$699,000		1	Contract
10325 Commonwealth Blvd	Baron	\$640,000		30	Contract	5398 Gainsborough Dr	Queen	\$575,000		22	Contract
10307 Nantucket Ct	Cromwell	\$575,000	\$575,700	28	SOLD!	10021 Whitefield St	Queen	\$599,900		24	Contract
10178 Bessmer	Cromwell	\$569,900	\$562,900	6	SOLD!	5131 Richardson Dr	Queen	\$585,000		27	Contract
4745 Farndon Ct	Cromwell	\$549,000	\$530,000	88	SOLD!	5921 Cove Rd	Queen w/addition	\$669,900	\$672,000	4	SOLD!
10006 Whitefield St	Duchess	\$575,000		20	Active	5307 Stonington Drive	Queen w/addition	\$659,000	\$672,000	8	SOLD!
5200 Twinbrook Rd	Duchess	\$550,000		28	Active	10023 Eastlake	Queen w/enc garage	\$575,000	\$560,000	18	SOLD!
10206 Bessmer Ln	Duchess	\$560,000	\$560,000	5	SOLD!	10320 Collingham Dr	Regent	\$577,000		49	Active
5209 Richardson Dr	Duchess	\$563,000		0	Contract	5118 Pumphrey	Regent	\$573,000	\$571,000	24	SOLD!
4906 Wycliff Ln	Duchess	\$600,000		8	Contract	5236 Pumphrey Dr	Regent	\$624,900	\$600,000	5	SOLD!
4905 Wheatstone Dr	Duchess	\$625,000		33	Contract	5212 Noyes Ct	Regent	\$625,000	\$635,000	1	SOLD!
10011 Latimer Ct	Duke	\$525,000		16	Active	10161 Bessmer Ln	Regent	\$600,000	\$605,000	4	SOLD!
9895 Becket Ct	Duke	\$549,900		22	Active	10447 Collingham Dr	Regent	\$600,000	\$605,100	3	SOLD!
4936 Gainsborough Dr	Duke	\$528,000		23	Active	4988 Swinton Dr	Regent	\$585,000	\$584,750	6	SOLD!
4972 Swinton	Duke	\$549,000	\$532,530	113	SOLD!	5240 Pommeroy Dr	Regent w/add on lake	\$695,000	\$690,500	0	SOLD!
5209 Stonington Dr	Duke	\$550,000		31	Contract	5208 Ellington Ct	Regent w/addition	\$650,000	\$650,000	3	SOLD!
4824 Gainsborough Dr	Essex	\$535,000		138	Active	10028 Eastlake Dr	Regent w/addition	\$725,000	\$735,000	86	SOLD!
10314 Commonwealth Blvd	Essex	\$544,900		19	Contract	5240 Ridge Ct	York	\$484,740		196	Contract
9702 Commonwealth Blvd	King	\$500,000	\$482,000	76	SOLD!	5275 Pumphrey Dr	York w/basement	\$525,000	\$521,500	5	SOLD!
5102 Pommeroy Dr	Prince	\$524,200	\$521,400	136	SOLD!						

Update on Neighbor Assist in Kings Park West

We again thank those people who have been requesting Neighbor Assist help. Our volunteers are committed to fixing issues for you, but without your requests, we cannot help. And that is what our volunteers love to do. Remember, you can always call or email us to find out whether a task is within our scope and skillset. While we cannot remodel your home, there are usually smaller tasks for which these decades-old KPW homes need remedies. If the task is something we cannot handle, we can advise you on ways to get it fixed. Call **703-401-0275** or email, NeighborAssist@kpwca.org.

Now that schools have closed for the summer, some students may want to earn some extra money by helping residents with yard work. If you want to have your name and contact info sent to residents, send us your name, phone number and/or email address. I have a list of some older KPW residents who may want to hire you.

On Wednesday, June 20th at 1 pm, Dr. Fred Schack of George Mason University will make a presentation on "Alternative Health Care" in Braddock District Supervisor's office. His presentation includes additional sources of treatment without the unwanted or unnecessary side effects of prescription drugs. The Braddock Supervisor's office is in the Kings Park Library complex at 9002 Burke Lake Road in Burke.

If you missed Michelle Singletary's column in the May 30th *Washington Post*, you should be aware that recently passed laws have required that by September 21st, everyone will be able to place and remove a "security freeze" on their credit files at no cost. A credit freeze thwarts identity thieves from using your financial information to open credit cards and take out loans in your name. With all the information available about you on the internet, it has become easy for thieves to make your lives miserable by ruining your credit score. Stay tuned for more details as credit reporting companies comply with this new law.

Understanding Orchids: Part 1

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Many people regard orchids as the jewels of the plant world. This special Eco-Article series examines orchids' diverse family, highlights some Northern Virginia representatives, and reveals the true value of these botanical gems. Some orchid species are epiphytes, living amongst the trees and never touching terra firma. The moth orchids (*Phalaenopsis* sp.), which are the most common, commercially cultivated type of ornamental orchid, are epiphytes from tropical Asia. Terrestrial orchids, such as the ones native to Virginia, grow on the ground, ranging from bogs to dry woodlands, depending on the species.

Part of what makes finding wild orchids so special is that they only flourish in particular habitats and are not simply found anywhere. For example, the pink lady's slipper (*Cypripedium acaule*) thrives in pine woodlands, whereas its relative, the large yellow lady's slipper (*C. parviflorum* var. *pubescens*) requires sloping hardwood forests with moderately moist soil. A key factor to an orchid's success lies in its dependency on fungi. The Eco-Article, "The World Beneath" (June 2014), contains an overview on how soil microbes help to form the forest's foundation; Richard Grant's "Do Trees Talk to Each Other?" article (March 2018) delves into forester Peter Wohlleben's metaphorical (and controversial) interpretation of tree and fungal interconnectivity. To summarize, trees nourish soil fungi with sugars, while the fungi help trees and other plants uptake elements. Fungal webs interconnect the forest's flora, thereby enabling nutrient exchanges – a critical aspect to orchid survival. Soil bacteria play vital roles in founding a healthy natural area, too, but air and water currents freely transport bacteria to new places. Fungal distribution and colonization takes a much longer time. Once established, several miles of hyphae (the individual fungal filaments) stretched out end to end fit into a spoonful of healthy forest soil.

Orchids' reliance upon fungi starts at germination. Orchids produce a multitude of dust-like seeds that scatter readily, yet few grow to reach maturity. The miniscule seeds lack any energy reserves, so symbiotic mycorrhizal fungi must affiliate with the embryo for plant development. For many orchids, fungal dependencies continue throughout their lives, including different fungal species at different growth stages. Whereas orchids are not keystone species, their presence indicates good, healthy habitats, which is why orchids burgeon in places like old growth forests but not in scrublands infested with non-native invasive weeds. Adding to the complexity, not all of the fungal species that some orchids appear to rely upon are known to science. Because orchids are so tightly bound to their environment, they rarely withstand transplantation – sometimes taking a year or so to wither away, even when moved to a similar habitat, so **please never take or collect orchids from the wild!**

Tipularia discolor is Northern Virginia's most prevalent orchid. Its common name, crane fly orchid, comes from the small, spindly, brown flowers that are reminiscent of the frail insects. In July, the blossoms form on 18-inch spikes where they await pollination by owl moths. Without leaves during this period, only the flower stalk reveals that a plant inhabits this site. One leaf per plant emerges in the autumn and photosynthesizes sugars during the winter, when bare trees allow unfettered sunlight to reach to forest floor. The deep green foliage is either solid or sports a warty texture. The leaf dies back in mid-spring, when upper canopy leaves block the sun. This orchid lives in mixed maple, oak, and beech-dominated forests. The



Figure 1. The pink lady's slipper is one of Fairfax County's iconic orchids. Sadly, Royal Lake Park's specimens, including this one, are all dead due to people trampling a "social trail" through the orchid patch even after park authorities closed the path multiple times. By keeping to the main trails while enjoying the parks, folks stay out of sensitive, natural, or washed-out sections.

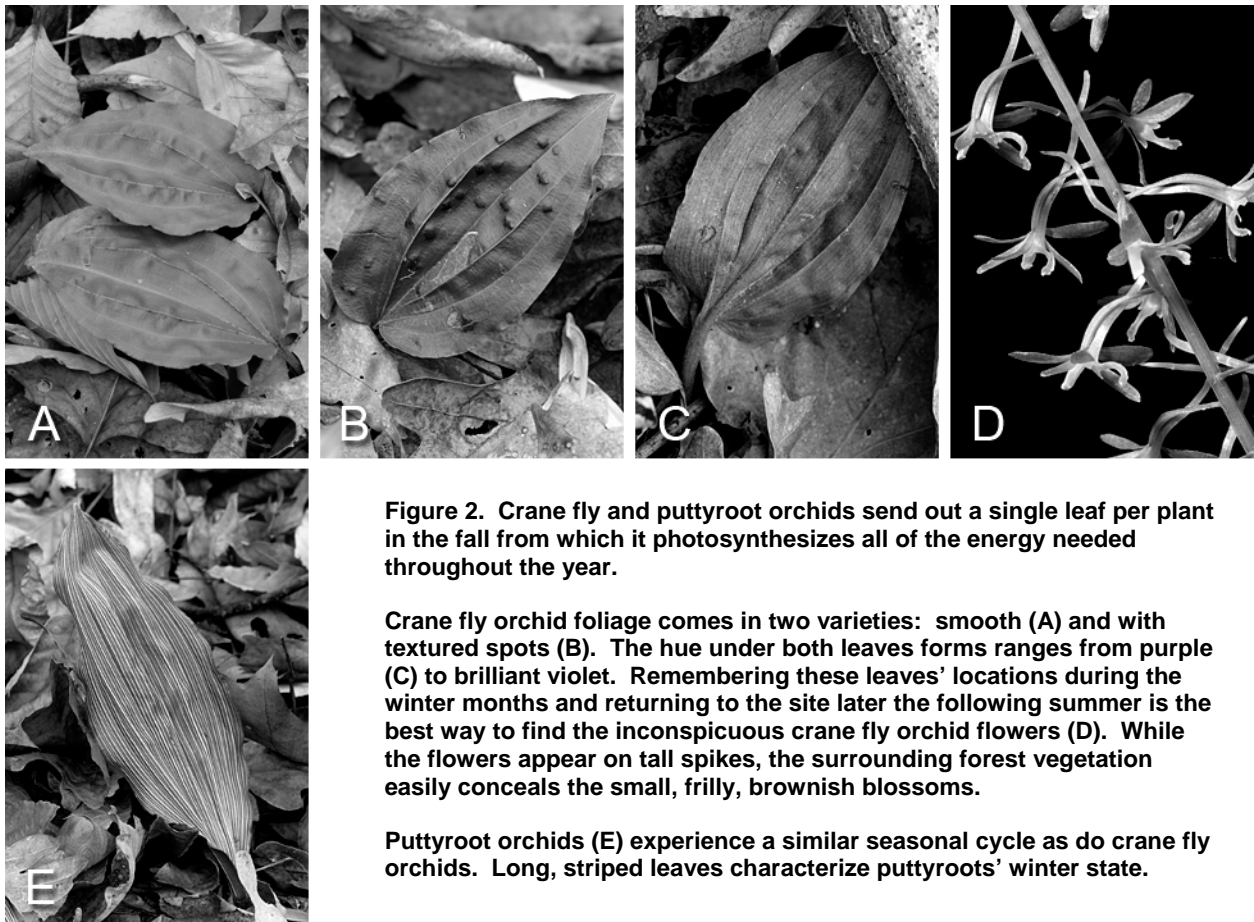


Figure 2. Crane fly and puttyroot orchids send out a single leaf per plant in the fall from which it photosynthesizes all of the energy needed throughout the year.

Crane fly orchid foliage comes in two varieties: smooth (A) and with textured spots (B). The hue under both leaves forms ranges from purple (C) to brilliant violet. Remembering these leaves' locations during the winter months and returning to the site later the following summer is the best way to find the inconspicuous crane fly orchid flowers (D). While the flowers appear on tall spikes, the surrounding forest vegetation easily conceals the small, frilly, brownish blossoms.

Puttyroot orchids (E) experience a similar seasonal cycle as do crane fly orchids. Long, striped leaves characterize puttyroots' winter state.

puttyroot orchid (*Aplectrum hyemale*) shares a similar appearance and seasonal phases with the crane fly orchid, except its leaf has thin, light stripes running lengthwise.

Speaking of cool leaf patterns, the venation on the downy rattlesnake plantain (*Goodyera pubescens*) is arguably prettier than its flower! Unrelated to plantains (either common lawn *Plantago* sp. or banana relatives, *Musa* sp.), this orchid mirrors the former genus members with its evergreen leaves growing into ground-hugging rosettes. Whitish veins lace across pine green foliage. Its floral cluster resembles a rattlesnake's tail. This orchid was the Virginia Native Plant Society's 2016 wildflower of the year.

Part 2 of this series introduces more native orchids, best ways to study them, and additional references!

Further reading is at:

Grant, Richard. March 2018. Do trees talk to each other? *Smithsonian* 48(10):44-57. www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/the-whispering-trees-180968084/

For moth orchids: www.ranwild.org/Phalaenopsis/module/introduction/intro1/Eenvironhead.html



Figure 3. Native bees and ants (seen here, lower left) pollinate the downy rattlesnake plantain's summer blossoms (A). The "downy" comes from a fine fuzz that covers this plant. Light veins grace the leaves (B).

* * * * *

To see the full article with color photographs, visit grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/83_2018-06.pdf.

Get Off the Couch*A roundup of family friendly weekend events around the region...***June 23-24****Alexandria Food & Wine Festival**

This all-ages community-based event features local foods and wine, artisans, a Children's Corner, and live entertainment. Held on the waterfront at Oronoco Bay Park. Saturday only noon - 6 pm. The event is free, but there is a charge for food/wine. vineonthewaterfront.com/

National BBQ Battle

Pennsylvania Avenue between 3rd and 7th Streets will be the site of a huge BBQ celebration. Taste tons of BBQ and enjoy cooking demos, children's activities and samples. Saturday 11 am – 10 pm, Sunday 11 am - 7:30 pm. Adults \$12, children 12 and under ****FREE****. bbqindc.com/

June 30 - July 1 and July 7-8**Smithsonian Folklife Festival**

June 27 - July 1 and July 4 - 8. Celebrate cultural traditions from around the world. This year highlights the cultures of Armenia and Catalonia with music/dance performances, crafts and cooking demos, storytelling and discussions of cultural issues. This is one of DC's most popular summer events. ***FREE*** 11 am – 5 pm, with concerts most nights at 6:30 pm. National Mall. festival.si.edu/

July 14-15**Movies on the Potomac**

Sundays May 6 through September 30. The National Harbor presents "Alice Through the Looking Glass" on its huge outdoor screen. The movie starts at 6 pm, Sunday only. ****FREE**** On the water at National Harbor.

www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/

July 21-22**Claude Moore Colonial Market Fair**

Held on the third full weekends of May, July, and October, the 18th Century Colonial Market Fair is a favorite among regular and first-time visitors alike. Visitors come from around the globe to sample the foods and merchandise of the Market Fair. 1771.org/marketfair/

July 28-29**Montgomery County Farm Tour**

Explore local farms and purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, and other local products. Several farms have hayrides, pony rides, music, demos and other fun and educational activities for all ages.

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agfarmtour.html

Loudoun County Fair

July 23 - 28. Family fun includes a carnival, rodeo-bull riding, dairy show, goat show, horseback demos, magic acts, pet shows, floral exhibits, obstacle courses, tug-of-war, live musical entertainment, and more.

loudouncountyfair.com/

August 4-5**Frying Pan Farm Park: 70th Annual 4-H Fair & Carnival**

Highlights include: interactive educational exhibits, carnival rides, live entertainment, animal demos, carnival food and food court, exhibit competitions, big truck night, tractor pull and more. ****FREE**** www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair

BrickFair at Dulles Expo Center

BrickFair is a fan festival featuring LEGO models, displays and LEGO games. Original LEGO creations on display covering 100,000 square feet! Stay and Play area for kids. 10 am – 4 pm. Dulles Expo Center, Admission: \$15.

www.brickfair.com/

August 11-12 and 18-19**Prince William County Fair**

Come visit the largest County Fair in Virginia. The annual event includes livestock exhibits, home arts exhibits, tractor pulls, a rodeo, demolition derbies, baby contests, live music and a variety of midway shows. Games and carnival rides, too! August 10-18, 2018. Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas.

pwcfair.com/

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

The fair includes livestock competitions/displays, monster trucks, family-friendly entertainment and traditional fair food. August 10-18. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg, MD.

mcagfair.com/

Arlington County Fair

August 15-19. Enjoy competitive exhibits, midway rides and games, entertainment, vendors, racing piglets, and more. The Thomas Jefferson Community Center is transformed into a special place with something for everyone to see. Admission is free, and shuttle service is provided from locations throughout Arlington.

arlingtoncountyfair.us/about-us/

Family Friendly Activities happening at Mason:

Summer Camp information: summercamps.gmu.edu/

Featured Event: July 4th

52nd Annual Fairfax City Independence Day Celebration
Our celebration kicks off at 10 am with a parade through Downtown Fairfax (rain or shine) and concludes with fireworks at Fairfax High School after dark (fireworks start at approximately 9:20 pm). During the day enjoy an Old-Fashioned Firefighters' Day, Superhero Fest noon - 1 pm, and other events throughout the city. All events ****FREE****.

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www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration/schedule-of-events

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New Signboards Planned for KPWCA

By Frank Cumberland, KPWCA Secretary

Our current KPWCA signboards are falling apart and we need to replace them.

Over the past year, the KPWCA Board of Directors has reviewed a range of designs and prices for new signboards. We even took a “field trip” to inspect the signboard at the intersection of Commonwealth Boulevard and Guinea Road. As we considered the design of our new signboards, we were looking for a product that would last a long time and that would be at least as visible as our current signs. We considered traffic patterns to ensure that signs could easily be read by drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

The Association will replace our signboards at three locations: near the intersection of Commonwealth and Guinea; near the intersection of Tapestry Drive and Braddock Road; and the location near Robinson Secondary School on Commonwealth Boulevard. The two-sided signboard near Robinson will be replaced by a two-sided signboard, while the other one-sided signboards will be replaced by one-sided signboards.



The company who will produce our signs also makes signs for the Fairfax County Public School System. If you would like to see an example of what our signboards will look like, check out the signboard in front of Laurel Ridge Elementary. Also, here is a graphic illustration of our new signboards.

The Board briefed the May 1, 2018 KPWCA Membership meeting on signboard design, cost (approx. \$24,000 for three signs), and timeline. We hope to have the signs installed in the next year.

~~~~~ Fairfax County Trash Service Simply by Asking for It?

Well, there is a little bit of a process and we still have to pay for it, but we have an alternative to the current private companies if people are interested. Basic details are below:

- County trash/recycle/yard waste services would cost \$87.50 per quarter, or \$350/year, per residence, and is billed as part of property taxes.
- Trash and recycle pickups are done 1x weekly.
- Yard waste pickups are done 1x weekly March 1st through December 24th.
- Vacuum leaf collection included and would cost an estimated \$100/year per residence.
 - (charged at 0.013% per \$100 of assessed value of the property - also billed with property taxes)
- Vacuum leaf collection is done over three passes during the season.

If you have an opinion and do not mind sharing it, please respond to our quick and simple online survey that can be found here: www.surveymonkey.com/r/RYZ5GF8

More detailed information can be found by visiting the following links:
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/county-collection-customers
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/petition-process

Block Captain Recognition

By Patti Dickerson

Three Block Captains are receiving recognition from the Civic Association for their community spirit and service: Susan Kinsley, Kathie Baumgart and Connie Trexler. Each Block Captain will receive a monetary contribution towards the community events they coordinate, as outlined below.

Block 67 holds an annual Block Party/Picnic. This is an event that we have held for more than twelve years. It is a community effort, with a core group dividing the planning duties. We have done it for so long that everyone just does what is needed without needing to discuss things. We bring out the grills, tables, and chairs. Some of us provide the basics like paper products, ice, condiments, and coolers, and then everyone brings their main dish for themselves and a dish to share. Nothing formal, just bring what you can. We continue to have this event because it helps to build community. In the business of our lives, we do not often get to know and spend time with those around us. This allows us to connect with one another and get to know the families that live around us. I just love it when your neighbors can walk around the neighborhood and you can greet them by name, or in those times of snow and ice when everyone helps each other out. We typically hold our event in early September after Labor Day when everyone has returned from vacation. One year we did hold it in the spring to honor a long-time family who was moving away.

Kind regards, Connie Trexler

Block 10 has two annual picnics, since we moved here in 1983. We have had the picnic, with approx. 30 to 40 people in attendance, on Memorial Day and Labor Day at 6 pm. Everyone brings a chair, a dish to share, drinks, and plates and silverware for themselves. This worked even when we rented our house out for six years, the renters had the picnic!

We invite the neighbors up Richardson and also on Pommeroy. Judy Poinsett and Sue McElfresh help and encourage me to put out the invitation which I always do. If we are unable to have this picnic, they do it; each of us have ranches, making it easy to entertain!

Judy and Sue have spur-of-the-moment fires in the cul-de-sac, where everyone brings a chair and maybe a treat or two. About ten to fifteen folks come to this; it is very informal, as are all the events we do.

A wonderful spirit of hope and love lives in this area. Love that you are looking into the neighborhoods... KPW is an amazing place! Anything I can do to help, please let me know.

Kathie Baumgart (cell 703-862-9521)

Block 72 will have its 20th annual block party this year! We hold it in the early part of October to avoid the heat and bring out the chiminea if it is chilly.

My neighbor and I pull out our grills, and each family provides and prepares their own meat and brings a side or dessert (most bring both).

I started it as a way of getting to know the neighbors when I first moved in, and we continue it so that we can reconnect in person, rather than just waving from our cars or porches!

:) Susan Kinsley



What is Encroachment and Why Should You Care?

By Sarah G J Lennon

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is the single largest landowner in the county and strives to be a responsible property owner and overseer of public land. Many County residents who adjoin public lands abide by the established property boundaries, being good stewards of both their private property and public land. But some do not, and it is important to realize that encroachment on parkland is a crime. In a recent meeting between representatives of Friends of Royal Lake and the FCPA to discuss maintenance improvements for the Royal Lake trails, the discussion veered into the persistent problem of encroachment around the lake and surrounding streams.

Encroachment – be it building a storage shed, putting up a swing set or dumping grass clippings outside your property line – is not legal. Think of it this way: would you like it if a neighbor came onto your property without your permission to put up a new shed in your backyard, or if they started taking down trees on your property to get a better view of the stream valley? What about planting a garden on your property without permission? Would you allow this, or would you take the initiative to stop these actions by calling the authorities (and possibly seeking damages)? While I am sure that many would never think of dumping their leaves in their neighbor's backyard, cutting down one of their neighbor's trees, or putting up a shed on their neighbor's property, they do not give a second thought to doing just that on parkland. Encroaching structures can affect the **homeowners** who build them (risking fines and demolition costs), can create **flooding risks** (structures in flood plains can change flood patterns and impact our community as a whole), and can impact **wildlife habitats** (buildings on parklands can destroy animal habitats) and **native plants** (which cannot grow if buildings or debris impact the soil).

Should you notice encroachment on parkland, you can report it by contacting the Park Authority at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. When made aware of encroachment activities, the Park Authority prefers voluntary compliance from violators, encouraging adjoining property owners to respect legal property boundaries. For more on encroachment and to check your own property lines, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/encroachment.



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Update on Monticello Park/Disbandment of Braddock Dogs

By Braddock Dogs

You may have noticed that development has already started at Monticello Park on Guinea Road. The contractor – Avon Corp of Alexandria VA – started in early April and should be completed in the October/November timeframe, with a ribbon-cutting following shortly thereafter. We should soon have our first usable off-leash dog area (OLDA) in the Braddock District at Monticello Park. The OLDA will be two separate areas – one to accommodate large dogs, and the other for small dogs.

The Mastenbrook Grant application submitted by Braddock Dogs was approved by the Park Authority Board last year, and most of the funds raised to support the dog park have been transferred to the FCPA to help offset construction costs. Some funds still sit at the Fairfax County Park Foundation to be used for acquiring canine playground equipment.

On another note, the former Braddock District Representative to the Park Authority Board has recommended we disband Braddock Dogs, and we have decided to take the advice. While we were working to raise funds for the Monticello Park OLDA, the group Reston Dogs – an unincorporated grassroots friends group which supports Baron Cameron Park's OLDA, was sued by a neighboring community.

To prevent similar risks, the FCPA has reevaluated its public-private partnerships with unincorporated friends groups that support Park Authority parks and initiatives. The Park Authority now recommends that supporters volunteer through the County's website to ensure legal protection under the Park Authority's insurance as official volunteers, rather than be presented as a separate organization. This is intended to protect volunteers from potential legal action and liability aimed at dog park supporters.



Looking northeast from the Burke/Guinea Road intersection

Here is how to sign up! Visit the site below and sign up as a volunteer for FCPA, and you should be able to see the volunteer opportunities available. When Monticello Park development is closer to completion, the Park Authority will create a specific listing for Monticello Park. Primary concerns will most likely be monitoring waste cleanup, which was always expected to be one of the Braddock Dogs Association's primary responsibilities. So, while Braddock Dogs no longer exists, some of the responsibilities will continue and are expected to be picked up by those specifically using the OLDA facilities. Volunteer Sign-up can be found here: volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/index.php.

A future article will include details of the ribbon-cutting at Monticello Park. In the meantime, former members of Braddock Dogs want to thank everyone for their time, energy, and financial support. This park will be a lasting legacy to our families and our dogs. Thank you for your support and for being a part of it!



Sidewalks going in while looking southwest along Guinea Road from the Bronte Road intersection

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