

December 2018

Vol. 48, Issue 8

Kings Park West Civic Association

Happy Holidays!

The Board and I extend our sincere thanks to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents to the community these past couple of months. We certainly have been busy!

Our 2018 membership drive was held in October. Many volunteers worked diligently on this campaign – thank you to our block captains, who administered the door to door appeal; to the membership committee, who maintain the Association database; to the Treasurer, who maintains our banking record deposits; and to our membership chair, who oversees everything. Many thanks for an awesome job!

The annual Halloween Festival was held on Sunday, October 21st. Everyone was happy that the weather cooperated this year (and we did not need a rain date!). It was a beautiful, crisp, and sunny day for the festival. I hope you had a chance to stop by with your family and friends for the parade, petting zoo, bounce houses, games, and food. We also had several costume characters joining in on the fun-filled day. We appreciate all volunteers, including the Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Optimist Club, and community members for making this day a great community event. Many thanks to Keith Jodoin who did a fabulous job coordinating this event; in the spirit of the day, he even attended in costume!

Our fall Dumpster Day, which is open to Association members, was held on November 3rd. True to form, we had many folks show up to discard unwanted household items. We appreciate the efforts of Barbara Murillo, Mary Hovland, Cathy DeLoach, and Lakeside Pool (for the use of the parking lot) for the continued support with this event.

I am also pleased to let you know that Gayle Ostrom has stepped up to take over as Classified Ads Coordinator in support of the publishing of The Herald. Ejona Lika is stepping down. Thank you, Gayle and Ejona, for all your help with The Herald!

As a follow up to the fall membership meeting discussion, a letter was sent on October 29, 2018 to Kiel Stone, Fairfax County Park Authority, Braddock District Representative, requesting consideration of the renaming of park parcels surrounding Royal Lake. Lakeside Park, located at Pommeroy Drive and Bronte Drive, which includes the playground, parking lot, basketball courts and athletic fields, will retain its name. All other park properties surrounding Royal Lake were requested to be named Royal Lake Park. Our members support the park renaming to reduce confusion for residents of Kings Park West and our nearby communities, making the administrative management of the parks more efficient. We will keep the community updated as we hear back on this request.

Remember – the Holiday Decorating Committee will be judging the house decorating contest during the weekend of December 15th. Please light up your displays! Enjoy the Holiday Season!

Community Calendar	
Braddock District Council.....	Dec 12
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Dec 18
Winter Begins.....	Dec 21
Christmas.....	Dec 25
New Year's Eve.....	Dec 31
New Year's Day.....	Jan 1
Herald Deadline.....	Jan 2
Braddock District Council.....	Jan 9
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Jan 15
Herald Delivery.....	Jan 19
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....	Jan 21
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Feb 5

Sincerely, 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	Mike Stonkey	703-509-9725
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

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	Gayle Ostrom	classified@kpwca.org
Signboards	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett	website@kpwca.org
Membership	Patti Dickerson	membership@kpwca.org
NW Coord.	Tara Mooney	tarajmooney@yahoo.com
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.

OFFICERS

President	President@kpwca.org
Treasurer	Treasurer@kpwca.org

COMMITTEES

Membership	Membership@kpwca.org
Welcome Coordinator	Welcome@kpwca.org
Consumer Affairs	Consumer@kpwca.org
Zoning	Zoning@kpwca.org
B.A.G.G.	BAGG@kpwca.org
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	Info@kpwca.org
Community Association	KPWHO@kpwca.org

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the January 19th issue must be received no later than January 2nd by Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or email classified@kpwca.org. Please print clearly, and include payment to KPWCA. Furnish your name, address, and phone number. **UPDATED RATES:** \$5 per issue for 35 words. \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). 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.

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.

The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is January 2, 2019

for delivery on January 19, 2019

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 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 sarahgjlennon@gmail.com.

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

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 Tom McCook at trmccook@gmail.com or call 703-839-5205.

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.

EDITORS' NOTE

In the August 2018 issue of The Herald, a story was reprinted from the June 2008 issue regarding the honoring of John McAnaw, but did not include the preamble that accompanied the article:



Kings Park West and Royal Lake Lose A Good Friend

By Tony Vellucci

On Saturday, 7 July 2018, longtime KPW resident John P. McAnaw passed away. John had lived in KPW since 1983. For close to twenty years, John was the Civic Association's Parks and Lake Chairman. Working with the Fairfax County Park Authority, he was the driving force in developing and maintaining the circuit trail around Royal Lake.

In May 2008, then Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova, the Park Authority and KPWCA recognized John's contributions to our community as they unveiled the John P. McAnaw Woodlands and Recreation Area at Royal Lake.

We will miss you, and we will continue to take care of the lake and the park you loved so much.



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THE GARDEN CORNER*By Charlie Boring*

For Kings Park West urban gardeners, the growing season can be divided into the four seasons. With the arrival of a new season, I always ask myself, “What would my grandmother do during this season?” We grandchildren referred to our grandmother as “Big Mama.” Her gardening advice became known as Big Mama’s rules for the garden.

Autumn has arrived and there are always a few chores that need to be done. October – November chores revolve around the fall harvest, soil preparation, and planting over-winter crops.

If my Big Mama were growing in my urban garden, she would be looking forward to harvesting our fuzzy kiwis just before the first frost. We also have one fuzzy kiwi vine with about forty kiwis. We will probably eat the fuzzy kiwis as fresh fruit, so we intend to harvest them after the seeds turn black and place them in a plastic bag in the refrigerator. Then before we eat them, we will remove a few from the fridge and let them soften on the counter in a paper bag. Big Mama would have loved to harvest our hardy kiwis. We harvested enough to make a couple of quarts of kiwi jam. Finally, our fall harvest will include about 100 Fuyu Persimmons, a significant reduction from last year’s harvest of about 350. We will eat most of this harvest as fresh fruit. Persimmons are harvested after the first frost and will keep in an unheated garage for two to four months.

This year, we also grew some hot peppers, mostly Big Jim, jalapeños and habaneros. Big Mama always canned her peppers. She had a “root cellar,” where she stored her canned produce. Instead of canning, I decided to preserve my hot peppers by lactose fermentation to make some hot pepper sauce. My recipe includes cutting the stems off of the peppers and submersing them in brine water (a three percent solution) in a glass jar and letting them ferment in a dark place for two to three weeks. Afterwards, I drain off the brine and blend the one-quart of peppers with six cloves of garlic, a small onion and a large tomato until they are a paste; then, add brine until you get the consistency that you desire. At this point, I place the sauce into bottles and refrigerate. You can add a cup of vinegar to preserve the sauce, but that kills the healthful bacteria developed through the lactose fermentation process.

Now, Big Mama’s voice in my head reminded me that it is time to plant my garlic. Luckily, I have sufficient garlic from my summer harvest to plant a good-size bed, about four by eight feet. First, I prepared the soil, and since I have to use my little electric cultivator, I decided to till my entire garden plot and let the remainder remain fallow over the winter.

After tilling my garlic bed to a depth of about eight inches, I mixed in a bag of composted cow manure, then leveled the bed to accommodate Marisa’s demand for orderliness. I used an old broom handle to make holes from three to six inches deep, five inches apart and six inches between rows. I put in five rows with twelve garlics per row. I intend to cover the bed with about two inches of leaf mulch, although that is probably not necessary. That will give me sixty plants. I would really like to have about seventy plants, so I may plant ten more cloves in a large container later. I am unsure about the varieties of garlic that I planted; most of my garlic is hard-neck (Romanian Red, Bavarian White, Korean Mountain or German White). I also have one variety of soft-neck garlic, Silver Skin. Three weeks after planting my garlic, they have started to break ground. On October 27, they are only two to three inches tall, but should be about eight inches tall before the first freeze stops their above-ground growth. During the winter, the roots will continue to grow, when the ground is not frozen.

Each year, I try to propagate some plants – it is a lot of fun. Last year, I propagated a pair of hardy kiwis in pots from vine cuttings. I gave these little plants to a gardening friend who is now preparing his trellis for next spring. I also gave him a jujube tree that I grew from a root sucker that grew from my tree. The only plant that I have left that needs a home is a gojiberry bush. If interested, send an email to thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com.

The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

Who Has The Scariest Room?????



Our October contest asked for rooms in your home in desperate need of a makeover. The winning entry received a makeover plan and a \$100 gift card to Home Goods. Head on over to the Herald's List (www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList) to see who won!

Neighbor Recommendation

Dawn Fields Cassidy has recommended **Heigar Contracting** for kitchen and bath remodeling projects in KPW. According to Dawn's comments on the Herald's List Facebook page, "Gary and his staff know the good, bad and the ugly about the Kings Park West homes...They pride themselves on honesty, open communication throughout the project, and meticulous attention to detail. The team of employees are professional, friendly, and conscientious."

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www.heigarcontracting.com

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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Kings Park West Neighbor Assist Update

The Holiday season is almost upon us. As a reminder, please be careful about food spoilage. You would not want someone to get sick on spoiled food – that would certainly spoil your holiday, and theirs. Food, especially meats and foods with egg, become breeding grounds when sitting out too long on buffets or on the counter. Do not let food sit for more than two hours without having a chafing dish or Sterno to keep it at 135 degrees. It might be easier to put your food in the refrigerator to chill it; you can always retrieve it from the refrigerator, as needed.

We ask that those in KPW who can help others with snow removal to please let us know. We do have seniors who need help. This is a paid program – the requester and the provider will negotiate the charge. I think you will find that KPW residents are generous when people remove their snow.

We collect the list of providers and upon a resident request, we send them the list to contact directly. If you are interested in providing snow removal, call (703) 401-0275, or email NeighborAssist@kpwca.org.

While the Handyman service is now independent of KPWCA, we continue to get calls, and we appreciate those who reach out to us. Volunteering without any work to provide is not something that we enjoy. We have a wide variety of skills available, so please call and ask if your issue is something that we can fix. Remember, this is a free service, except for any items we may have to purchase to repair your issue.

The KPW Handymen salute those in our community who assist their neighbors. Some live near older residents and provide much appreciated support. We thank you for being a good KPW neighbor. Together, we can continue to provide services that make our community better and entice others to move here.

Finally, we wish you all the happiest of holidays!



Pack 1967 News

The school year is in swing and so is Pack 1967!

The Bears hosted a Cub Scout carnival for the rest of the Pack at the October Pack meeting, leading other Scouts in games and passing out candy. The Bears' games included ring toss, car races, cup knock down, bouncing balls, and pin the tail on the donkey. Thank you, Bears, for getting everyone in the spirit of Halloween a little early!



The Pack also camped out at Camp Wilson Scout Reservation at Pohick Bay Regional Park on October 20.

After setting up camp, the Pack participated in a rousing athletic competition of mini-golf. The competition was fierce, but everyone had a good time and showed great sportsmanship. And most surprisingly, none of the Scouts lost any balls in the surrounding woods! After mini-golf, the Pack returned to the camp, performed skits at the camp fire, and even received trophies for their mini-golf adventures. The Cubmaster tried to pass off the trophies as solid gold, but they sure looked an awful lot like spray-painted golf balls. Even though it was a little windy at night, the Scouts are already looking forward to the spring camp out.



If your child is interested in finding out more about Scouting, please join us at a den meeting! If you have any questions or want to contact a den leader, we can be contacted at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



KPW STATS

53 Sold YTD • 5 Under Contract/Pending • 9 Active Listings
 Average List Price: \$579,873 • Average Sold Price: \$611,733

As is typical this time of year, sales and listings in KPW have slowed dramatically. Inventory is low, with just 9 homes for sale; another 5 are under contract or pending contract finalization. Well-presented homes continue to sell quickly at or near list price while poorly prepared homes are lingering on the market. These homes will most likely close at a lower price than their more carefully prepped counterparts, and can drive down market value overall in the neighborhood!

Thinking of selling this spring? Start the process now by purging unwanted items, addressing maintenance and presentation issues, and consider getting a professional home evaluation. A real estate agent can provide you with a punch list of to-do items to help your home sell quickly.

Interested in the neighborhood real estate scoop? Check out our **Weekly KPW Market Update** in the "Notes" section of our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/YourRealtorsNextDoor

Recent Sales and Active Listings					
Address	Model	List Price	Sales Price	DOM	Status
5120 Richardson Dr	King	\$569,900	\$565,000	76	SOLD!
10305 Nantucket	Baron	\$675,000	\$680,000	4	SOLD!
10429 Headly Court	Baron	\$725,000			For Sale
4771 Farndon Court	Baron	\$644,800			For Sale
4762 Tapestry	Baron w/addition	\$644,900	\$626,500	3	SOLD!
10187 Bessmer Ln	Baron w/partial fin	\$660,000	\$659,000	0	SOLD!
5131 Pumphrey Drive	Cromwell	\$569,900			Under Contract
5211 Noyes Ct	Duchess	\$589,900	\$589,900	14	SOLD!
10006 Whitefield Street	Duchess	\$534,900			Pending
10010 Latimer Ct	Duke	\$550,000	\$550,000	6	SOLD!
4810 Allenby Road	Duke	\$479,000			For Sale
5107 Pommeroy Drive	Duke	\$485,000			For Sale
4824 Gainsborough Drive	Essex	\$525,000			For Sale
5218 Pommeroy Drive	King	\$585,000			For Sale
5218 Pommeroy Drive	King	\$585,000			For Sale
5109 Richardson Drive	King	\$570,000			For Sale
4939 Gainsborough	Prince	\$534,888	\$530,000	17	SOLD!
5426 Gainsborough Drive	Prince	\$500,000			Under Contract
4955 Swinton Dr	Queen	\$570,000	\$565,000	56	SOLD!
4889 Wheatstone Dr	Queen	\$585,000	\$568,000	24	SOLD!
5112 Gainsborough Drive	Queen	\$559,900			For Sale
4931 Gainsborough Drive	Queen	\$625,000			Pending
10320 Collingham Dr	Regent	\$569,000	\$554,050	70	SOLD!



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KPW Residents in Line for Prestigious Park Authority Elly Doyle Award

By Friends of Royal Lake

Two KPW residents have been nominated for the prestigious Park Authority Elly Doyle Award. Longtime resident Maryanne Boyer has been recognized by the Park Authority as an Elly Doyle Award Outstanding Volunteer for her volunteer service as an Invasive Management Area (IMA) Site Leader, leading IMA workdays at Royal Lake, and Anthony Consumano, who moved to KPW about a year ago, has been recognized for an Elly Doyle Special Recognition Award as the driving force behind the Cub Run Stream Valley Private Volunteer Team that helps to clean up and maintain the Cub Run stream valley.

The Elly Doyle Park Service Award program was established by the Fairfax County Park Authority in 1988 in recognition of former board member and Chair Ellamae Doyle's years of outstanding service. These awards recognize outstanding volunteer service to the Park Authority and are the agency's top honors for volunteer service. Awards will be presented in November at an evening ceremony. The awards program is sponsored in part by the Fairfax County Park Foundation.

Maryanne was nominated by Gloria Medina of the Park Authority's Resource Management Division, Invasive Management Area who noted that:

"Mary Boyer has served as a volunteer in the Resource Management Division and IMA of Royal Lake Park for two years. As a volunteer, she works tirelessly to restore Royal Lake Park's habitat, contributing hundreds of hours to removing invasive species, planting species that will benefit the local wildlife, instilling a passion for conservation in young volunteers, and taking charge of projects focused on managing invasive species.



In March, Boyer held her first native planting workday with volunteers, planting fifty native plants on a hill in danger of erosion. She has continued her dedication to this endeavor, making several trips to water the plants to ensure their survival. Boyer's impact extends beyond Royal Lake Park to all of Fairfax County. The IMA program has nearly sixty habitat restoration sites across the County, and Boyer's hard work and perseverance have contributed greatly to this program."

Separately, Mary noted, "I'm a site leader for Royal Lake Park. I have read research on happiness. There are many components and three are: volunteering, being outside and being near water. At Royal Lake, we have all three. It's the happy place! Working at Royal Lake has been [a] most rewarding experience. Please join us. "

The IMA program focuses on invasive plant removal through community involvement. Royal Lake has other IMA site leaders and dedicated volunteers, including Greg Sykes, Suzanne Doherty, Sarah Francia, and Suzie Xu. Their relentless dedication has been a great contribution to the IMA program, and their passion for protecting nature helps forward the Fairfax County Park Authority's mission of assisting citizens in the protection and enhancement of environmental values and natural habitats.



Anthony was nominated by Park Authority Board Member Maggid Godbold for his efforts in starting, organizing, and coordinating the efforts of the Cub Run Stream Valley Private Volunteer Team (PVT). He still runs the Cub Run PVT, but has also started getting involved with Friends of Royal Lake.

Anthony was nominated by Park Authority Board Member Maggid Godbold for his efforts in starting, organizing, and coordinating the efforts of the Cub Run Stream Valley Private Volunteer Team (PVT). He still runs the Cub Run PVT, but has also started getting involved with Friends of Royal Lake.

To participate in any one of the many activities around Royal Lake, contact Sarah Lennon, KPWCA Parks & Lake Chairperson.

GMU Patriot Pantry

Mary Crowder | (703) 239-2581

We continue to collect items for the George Mason Food Pantry. I keep a bin on my front porch, which I check daily.

We first donated in February of 2017, and have donated 1,843 pounds so far!

Needed items are: protein bars, chips, shakes, shampoo, conditioner, hygiene items, shaving supplies, canned fruit, pasta and pasta sauce, macaroni & cheese, small cereal bowls, and crackers.

Again, many thanks in advance for your wonderful generosity.

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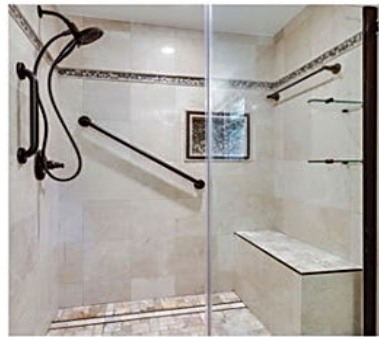
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Girl Scouts News – Service Unit 54-15

The Girl Scouts of Service Unit 54-15 hosted two free public events this fall – an outdoor movie night featuring “Hotel Transylvania,” and our first annual “Pumpkin Chunkin Palooza,” where Girl Scouts and members of the community built and used trebuchets, catapults, and slingshots to see who could chuck pumpkins and apples the furthest.

On November 6th, the 6th grade Cadette Troop #2280 participated in a badge workshop called, “Finding Common Ground.” To earn this badge, the girls had to:

- Find things they had in common with someone they did not know
- Make decisions as a group
- Explore civil debate
- Understand compromise
- Find common ground through mediation



Isabel Andrews, Olivia Miller, Abigail Meehan, Siobhan Hartigan, Vivian Seay, Savannah Cobb and Maddie Weston.

The girls also learned about the women (and men) who dedicated their lives to the Women's Suffrage Movement, which led to the 19th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution - an appropriate activity, given that the workshop took place on Election Day.

The 3rd grade Junior Troop #1465 participated in a low ropes course at Camp Crowell in September, archery at Camp Potomac Woods, and planned their own mystery Halloween Party. Troop #1465 is looking ahead to planning and hosting our Service Unit's World Thinking Day, which we will be celebrating on February 22nd along with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from 150 countries!

The 2nd grade Brownie Troop #54022 participated in their first



Brownie Girl Scouts at the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center.

backyard campout in October. For many girls, this campout was their first time sleeping away from home. Troop #54022 also had fun completing the requirements to earn their Making Games badges, as well as visiting the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center along with their sister Brownie Troop #54051 to learn about Fairfax County's 9-1-1 Call Center and basic first aid skills.

Do you have a child interested in joining Girl Scouts, or are you interested in volunteering with us? We have a new Kindergarten troop forming at Laurel Ridge Elementary School that is welcoming new girls, and openings in troops at many other grade levels. Please visit our website at www.gscnc.org/ or email us at su5415info@gmail.com for information.

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

Did you know that Girl Scouts have been selling cookies for more than 100 years? Girl Scout cookies had their earliest beginnings in the kitchens and ovens of our girl members, with moms volunteering as technical advisers. The sale of cookies as a way to finance troop activities began as early as 1917, five years after Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouts in the United States.

Key Dates for 2019 Cookie Sales

- Initial Order Phase: December 17 – January 12
- SU Cookie Deliveries: February 1 – 14
- Booth Sales: February 15 – March 17
- Cooke Sales End: March 24



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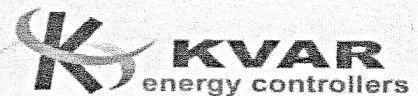
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Mistletoe

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

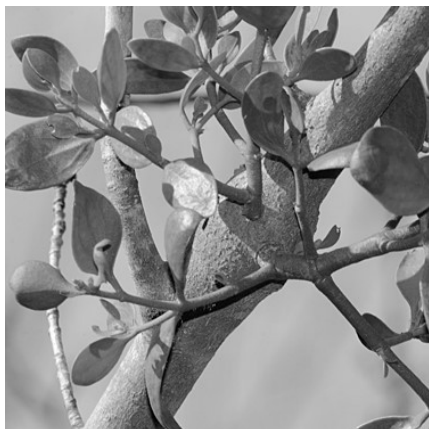
'Tis the season for mistletoe! Folks often associate mistletoe with any of many myths and variations of the tales, such as protecting the home, Norse lore, imparting fertility, and a Christmas kiss for good luck. Let's look beyond the legends and find out the cool facts behind these plants!

Traditionally, mistletoe refers to *Viscum album*, the species native to northwestern Europe. The name "mistletoe" expanded to hundreds of flora – some related and some not – around the world. Most of these plants share a "hemiparasitic" biology, meaning that they both photosynthesize a portion of food from their leaves while sponging nutrients off of another plant.

The rest of this article pertains to the mistletoe species native to Northern Virginia: the American mistletoe (*Phoradendron leucarpum*). This plant's U.S. range stretches diagonally from New Mexico (actually dipping into Mexico) to New York and fills in all of the lower states down to Florida. To the casual observer, this species looks like the European variety except with shorter, rounder leaves. Also called "oak mistletoe" as it latches onto oaks, it develops on dozens of other hardwood species and grows primarily on red maples (*Acer rubrum*) around Royal Lake. Whereas American mistletoe is an evergreen, it appears as conspicuous, loosely packed green balls on tree branches after the host loses its leaves for the winter. Mistletoe sprouts near tree tips thanks to birds, which earlier ingested the pearly fruits and then passed the seeds onto the twigs and boughs. These berries are toxic to humans despite purported medicinal properties. Encompassed in a glue-like coating, the seeds stick to the limbs where they germinate. The roots penetrate the bark and connect with the host. The root remains invisible from the exterior but the tree branch swells at this connection point.



Figure 1. Mistletoe forms green, airy clumps on trees (A). This specimen, loaded with berries (inset displays close-up of the fruits) was photographed in December. Winter's defoliated trees reveal squirrel nests called "dreys" (B), too. Dried leaves give the drey a brown hue and more of a solid mass than mistletoe. Mistletoe tends to grow along single limbs whereas squirrels tuck dreys into bough junctions.



Although mistletoe uptakes some nutrients from the host, the mild parasitism does not appear to affect the overall tree's health. At worst, the mistletoe could make that branch slightly more prone to storm damage. The only way to remove mistletoe is by cutting the limb, which could cause more injury to the tree than to simply leave it.

People might wonder if this parasitic plant has any ecological value. In fact, it does! First, birds derive nourishment from eating the fruits, but they also eat

Figure 2. The mistletoe's sprigs emerge straight out of the branch bulge, seen here in this young specimen. The swollen section conceals *Phoradendron's* roots. All of the photographs in this article show the mistletoe parasitizing red maples at Lakeside Park.

other berries. A more specifically dependent example finds members of *Phoradendron* being the host plants to caterpillars of the great purple hairstreak (*Atlides halesus*). Without mistletoe, these larvae would starve and never mature into stunning butterflies. In a balanced ecosystem, a species that parasitizes one life form provides life to another organism.

In the spirit of giving, share these fun-filled facts the next time someone brings up “mistletoe” at a holiday gathering!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year!

For more information on mistletoe:

www.hiltonpond.org/ThisWeek051208.html

www.carolinanature.com/trees/phle.html

www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=PHLE14

* * * * *

Pack 1968

By Tanis Gray

Here we are in the tail end of 2018, ready for the holidays and knee-deep in fallen leaves and (possibly) snow! Pack 1968 has been busy as usual this autumn, and we started with a bang at the Family Camp Out. Families had a wonderful experience enjoying nature, sleeping in the great outdoors, working on achievements, stuffing themselves with marshmallows, performing skits, sharing jokes, hiking, and bonding with both their families and their Pack.



Many neighbors assisted in the Royal Lake Clean-Up, where we found turtles and toads, cans, bottles, wrappers, trash, fishing line, and one lucky Scout even found \$5.00! With so many of us enjoying the lake, the more help and time people donate to its maintenance, the more beautiful it will remain.



Our Scouts and Scout Parents braved the wind and chill to help set up and run the Fall Festival. Candy, games, and many familiar faces made this a successful event. We saw some amazing costumes, and cannot wait to see what next year brings!



During October's Pack Meeting, we honored our Bobcats that made rank – a touching moment that always makes us proud. With Scouts sporting their costumes, food and games rounded out the evening and got everyone in the mood for trick-or-treating. And in November, Scout families drove or walked from house to house to collect food donated by our neighbors. The Scouting for Food event is another great opportunity for our kids to put into use their helping and sharing habits. Working in conjunction with Pack 1967, our combined Packs collected over 350 bags from our neighborhood to donate! Great work, and thank you, neighbors!

As we hunker down for the winter, Scouts remain in full swing. Whatever your family celebrates, we wish you and yours a happy holiday and prosperous 2019. This time of year reminds us what we are grateful for; we are grateful and proud of our Scouts and the good work they do, and for belonging to this exceptional community.

KPW Riddle

KPWCA - Parks and Lake Committee and Friends of Royal Lake

What do cans, bottles, a \$5.00 bill, food wrappers, fishing line, an iron barrel hoop, and toys all have in common? These were all items of trash removed from Royal Lake Park during this Fall's park clean-up day! A car axle, tires, oil slicks, and other various car parts have been unearthed in past clean-ups.



Thirty-five volunteers came out for the clean-up on Saturday, October 20th, which was co-sponsored by the Kings Park West Civic Association - Parks and Lake Committee and Friends of Royal Lake (FORL). Among the volunteers was a strong showing from Boy Scout Pack 1968, some hard-working high school students, and other industrious folks. All volunteers are thanked for their efforts!

These volunteer citizens saw firsthand the impact of pollution in our local environment. But, also to be considered – what goes into the lake, if not cleaned up, can end up

in waterways leading out to the ocean. A little work close to home on a Saturday morning can have a much larger impact on our environment as a whole.

Did you know that park clean-ups happen twice a year, spring and fall, generally the first Saturday in April and the third Saturday in October? How about putting a reminder in your home or group calendar for advanced planning? For interested high school students, this is a great way to add service hours. We are always looking for more volunteers to come out and share their ideas and concerns, and in particular, team leads to take groups on targeted clean-ups.

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Get Off the Couch

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

December 5

Join the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia as we light the menorah, sing songs, feast on sufganiyot (donuts), spin the dreidel, and more! Wednesday, December 5, 5:30-8 pm, Strawberry Park, Mosaic District, Fairfax. mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/chanukah-festival/

November 9 to January 6, 2019

Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct., Vienna. Every year between Thanksgiving until just after New Year's Day, the garden is transformed into a half-mile, animated light show. 5:30-10 pm, Timed tickets required. Tickets/Info: www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights

November 21 to January 6, 2019

Bull Run Festival of Lights

Experience 2.5 miles illuminated by holiday light displays. After viewing the lights, bring your family and friends to the holiday village to enjoy rides and refreshments. Cost: \$20-25. Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 pm, Friday-Sunday and holidays, 5:30-10 pm. www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights

November 23 - January 1, 2018

Zoo Lights at The National Zoo

More than half a million lights illuminate the National Zoo during this popular annual event. Stroll around and check out nocturnal residents, take a carousel ride, or take a slide down the tubing hill. Admission to the zoo is *FREE*, but there is a charge for activities. 5-9 pm (excludes Dec. 24, 25 and 31). nationalzoo.si.edu/events/zoolights

December 14-15

Christmas Illumination at Mount Vernon Estate

Enjoy an evening of holiday-themed fireworks and special programs: watch colonial artisans make chocolate, meet re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, enjoy cider by a bonfire, and learn 18th century dance moves from costumed guides. 5:30-9 pm. www.mountvernon.org/

December 24

The Water-skiing Santa, Old Town Alexandria

This unusual annual event features a water-skiing Santa, flying elves, the Jet-skiing Grinch, and Frosty the Snowman performing on the Potomac River. 1 pm. www.tripsavvy.com/water-skiing-santa-washington-dc-1038629

December 27-29

VA Ballet Company & School Presents: "The Nutcracker"

A magical holiday experience and tradition since 1950. This wonderful production features many dancers who are

KPW residents. Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center, NVCC, Annandale. Order tickets \$20-30 online at vaballet.org/nutcracker/

December 31

First Nights and family-friendly events celebrating the New Year are held in: Alexandria, Falls Church, Winchester, Fredericksburg. Enjoy live music and entertainment by a wide variety of local performers and fireworks at some of the events. For all the details:

www.tripsavvy.com/washington-dc-family-friendly-new-years-eve-events-1039051

January 2019

January is a great time of year to visit the many outdoor ice-skating rinks in the area. Here are a few options, check venue websites for more information:

Sculpture Garden Ice Rink - Perhaps the oldest and most popular ice rink in the area. Admission \$6-\$7, skate rental \$3.

Tyson's Corner Center Ice Rink - New to the scene, right outside the Tyson Corner mall. Admission \$9-\$10, skate rental \$6.

Harris Pavilion - This is a covered rink located near the Manassas VRE station. Admission \$7-\$8, skate rental \$5, all day open skate.

Georgetown's Washington Harbor - Skate along the Potomac on DC's largest outdoor rink. Admission \$9-\$10, skate rental \$6.

Reston Town Center Ice Rink,

www.restontowncenter.com/amenities/ice-skating/

Pentagon Row Ice Rink, www.pentagonrowskating.com/

Family Friendly Activities Happening at Mason:

Patriot Center: www.eaglebankarena.com/

Men's and Women's Basketball: gomason.com

Center for the Arts www.cfa.gmu.edu

December 21: Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker

January 15-20: Shen Yun

January 27: The Phantom Tollbooth

Men's and Women's Basketball and Swimming & Diving:

gomason.com

Friends of Royal Lake Community Update and Future Actions Meeting

The Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) met on October 24th at Laurel Ridge Elementary School to discuss and gain community input on proposed future enhancements to Royal Lake parks.

Vision Plan: Paul Gross, President of FORL, provided a short status of the community’s efforts over the past year for Royal Lake parks that included the publication of a Royal Lake Community Vision Plan and follow-up discussions with John Cook, Fairfax County, Braddock Supervisor, and with senior Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) planning and maintenance officials. Those officials provided very positive comments concerning the Vision Plan, particularly because it was based upon the communities’ input from a survey and the community-wide meetings, which identified Royal Lake parks’ greatest needs. Our community’s voice, that is, your views, is being heard.

Community Support: The goal of FORL is to be a catalyst for the communities surrounding our parks for maintenance, upgrades, and enhancements that support the parks. One of the lessons we have learned is that county officials, FCPA and DPWES respond to needs expressed by the community that are supported, where applicable, with volunteer help. When we come together as a community and we pool our energy and expertise – results happen.

Thanks to our efforts, we got FCPA support to repair some very steep parts of the trail around Royal Lake (near the Lakeview Swim Club) as a first project. During the meeting, FORL presented a list of proposed upgrades and enhancement park projects to the community that were, in part, based on the Vision Plan. We highlighted proposed efforts that are in the major categories of capital improvements for trails, bridges, environment, park amenities and facilities, and maintenance of trails, environment and services upgrades. Over the course of the next year, FORL will work with the FCPA/DPWES to identify, categorize, and prioritize the needs of Royal Lake and surrounding parkland. Then, FORL will work to get those requests addressed! Thus far, FORL has supported the purchase and installation of exercise equipment around the lake, helped coordinate spring and fall park/lake clean-ups, hosted community meetings to develop the Community Vision Plan for Royal Lake, in addition to the trail improvements.

Volunteers Needed: There are so many talented, passionate people in our community, and FORL would definitely benefit from an infusion of new ideas and expertise. We are looking for volunteers to lead and/or participate in park improvement projects. Currently, we are looking for a few volunteers to take on specific tasks, such as:

- Communications: We would like to have a quarterly FORL newsletter, and possibly a FORL Facebook page
- Liaison to schools, scouting organizations, and representatives from the neighboring communities to broaden our message and reach
- Point of contact for the park recreational equipment

Also, please consider participating in future discussions that will be held early next year, where, among other things, we will discuss a spreadsheet of our community’s priority of maintenance and capital improvement projects that we would like FCPA to undertake. Your participation is essential! As always, you can email Sarah Lennon at parks@kpwca.org or Paul Gross, President of FORL, at friendsofroyallake@gmail.com.

*** **

Slippery When Wet

By Greg Sykes

During the winter months, we know to keep sidewalks free from snow and ice to prevent pedestrians from slipping on the slick surfaces. However, muddy sidewalks are slip hazards during *any* season as long as it remains wet. On gardens, lawns, and natural areas, the ground yields under foot, thereby absorbing that energy. On unyielding pavement, the foot’s downward force gets diverted horizontally and into a slide. The thinnest coat of muck is all it takes.

If you have a muddy sidewalk, please be kind enough to clean it up. Removing the mud is easily done by scraping it up with a flat shovel (e.g., a coal shovel) and using a hose to blast off any residual dirt. A healthy lawn can help prevent future mud from washing in. If excessive tree roots, shade, or other features prevent grass from growing, consider adding a garden to this spot with hardy, soil-retaining native plants geared for those particular conditions.

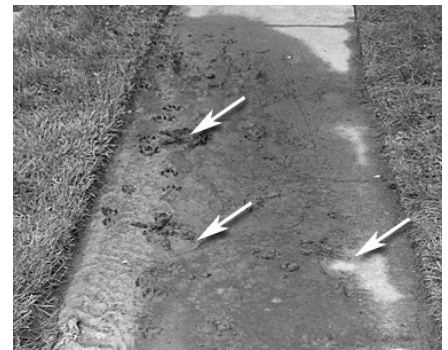


Figure 1. On this muddy sidewalk, skid marks (indicated with arrows) show where people slid.

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