

March 2019

Vol. 49, Issue 2

Kings Park West Civic Association

Happy spring!

Calling all High School Seniors! The scholarship committee is gearing up for the 2019 scholarship program, with applications being due on/postmarked by **April 1st**. Up to three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to 2019 graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the KPW Civic Association. This scholarship is open to seniors who are enrolling in a four-year college/ university, two-year college, trade or technical training, or formalized Gap Year program. Please find the scholarship application on the last page of The Herald and on the Civic Association webpage.

We hope to see you at the annual KPWCA Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 7th, at 2 pm at Lakeside Park. We are hoping for beautiful weather as the children hunt for colorful eggs. Just in case the weather does not cooperate, a rain date has been set for Sunday, April 14th, at 2 pm. Many thanks to Cub Scout Pack 1967 for planning and hosting this fun event for the community again this year. Please keep an eye out on social media – Facebook and Nextdoor – for announcements and updates.

The Parks & Lakes Spring Clean-Up is scheduled Saturday, April 27th, from 8 am until 12 pm at both Royal Lake Park and Lakeside Park. All are welcome to come out and join us to help with the removal of trash from the parks and stream valley to protect our natural resources, making Kings Park West a better place to live. Please join us for this important volunteer activity.

Speaking of volunteering – Tom McCook, our neighbor and community volunteer, was named the Braddock District Citizen of the Month in February! Tom leads the Road Raiders team, who work to clean up trash in common areas around KPW. Last month, the Road Raiders picked up twenty-five bags of trash from Roberts Road north of Commonwealth Boulevard! A great accomplishment, improving the environment and beautifying our neighborhood. Thank you for your service, Tom, and to the Road Raiders team!

Continued on Page 3

In this Issue:

- Interested in volunteer opportunities? Check out Page 3 to see how you can help!
- Activities for the whole family are listed on Page 18 – get a head-start on planning your weekends!

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
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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@kpwca.org

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the April 20th issue must be received no later than April 3rd 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 April 3, 2019

for delivery on April 20, 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 sarahjlennon@gmail.com.

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

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.

Continued from Page 1

You may have noticed that there have been a number of community meetings recently hosted by Supervisor Cook to inform Braddock District residents of several impending land development projects. The following three redevelopment projects are located in close proximity to KPW:

1. Erickson Living proposes to rezone the property to develop a Continuing Care Facility, including approximately 1,225 units and public recreation area on the site of the former Northern Virginia Training Center along Braddock Road at Burke Station Road (the Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for June 19th and the Board of Supervisors hearing is on July 16th).
2. Roberts Road Investment LC proposes to rezone the property at the northeast corner of Braddock Road and Roberts Road to include 45 single-family homes on 9.94 acres (the Planning Commission public hearing is currently scheduled for June 26th).
3. One University involves redevelopment of property located along University Drive and Ox Road, across from the George Mason Field House for a mixture of senior (age 62+) housing, affordable and student housing units, and a retail building (the Planning Commission public hearing is scheduled for April 24th and the Board of Supervisors public hearing is on May 21st).

Additional information can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/land-use-and-zoning.

In closing, please consider volunteering with the Association - we are in need of your help! There are lots of fun and interesting opportunities, which are described on Page 3 of The Herald. I can answer any questions you might have about the volunteer positions. Please feel free to contact me at president@KPWCA.org.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

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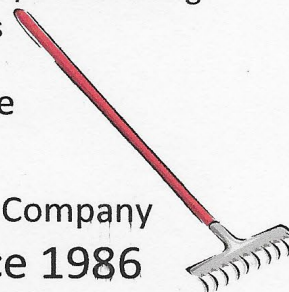
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February's Friends of Royal Lake Meeting Brings Together Community Experts to Plan for the Future

By Sarah G. J. Lennon

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL), an informal group of neighbors working to help preserve, protect, and improve Royal Lake and its surrounding parkland, met on February 27th at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. There was an excellent turnout, particularly given that the meeting had been rescheduled due to the snowstorm the previous week. Attendees included a motivated teacher from Robinson who focuses on environmental issues, some students looking to develop scout projects, a candidate for Braddock District Supervisor, a representative from the Braddock District Land Use & Environment (BLUE) committee, and neighbors concerned with invasive species management, watershed/storm water management issues, and trashcans at the soccer field!

We discussed the priorities of desired Royal Lake projects that has been provided to Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) staff; helpful maps were shared that visually pinpointed the locations of the proposed upgrades/maintenance/capital improvement projects. We would love to hear from more of you in the community; we know hundreds of people use the trails around the lake on a regular basis, so let us know what you see and what you think could make for a better experience for all.

Another major topic of discussion was the potential impact of aggregate stormwater runoff on the Rabbit Branch and Royal Lake from construction projects at the old Northern Virginia Training Center and a 45-unit housing project at the intersection of Braddock and Roberts Roads. FORL plans to get more involved in the community meetings held by the County related to zoning issues. If you are concerned and would like to get involved in this process, let us know.


Over the course of this year, FORL plans to continue our coordination with the Park Authority to highlight the needs of our Royal Lake and surrounding parkland, categorize and prioritize projects and then work to get them addressed. We have proposed projects for inclusion in the 2020 County Bond referendum and may seek out Mastenbrook grants that provide matching funds for specific projects at Royal Lake.

We were thrilled to have Lynn Cline volunteer to help FORL get pictures from around the lake to add to our website that is currently under development, thanks to an industrious and talented Robinson senior! Copies of the FORL newsletter, thanks to editor Suzanne Doherty, were distributed and can be provided electronically upon request.


Mark your calendars now for....

- the Spring Parks & Lake Clean-Up on Saturday, April 27th, from 8 – 11 am,
- monthly Road Raiders clean-ups on the second Saturday of every month, 7:30-8 am, and
- the next FORL Community Meeting on May 22nd, at Laurel Ridge Elementary School in the cafeteria.

As always, you can send an email to me at parks@kpwca.org or Paul Gross, President of FORL, at friendsofroyallake@gmail.com for more information, share your expertise as a FORL volunteer, and to get on our mailing list. And, please, watch for more information in The Herald, as well as on Facebook and Nextdoor.



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THE GARDEN CORNER*By Charlie Boring*

I have found that some of the most enjoyment that I get from gardening is the propagation of new plants. There are a number of advantages to propagating new trees; first, it is less expensive (virtually free); and second, in the case of stem cutting propagation, the plant created is a genetic clone of the mother plant. For this article, I am going to try to propagate jujube and pomegranate trees from stem cuttings. I will use a Sherwood Jujube and a Russian Red Pomegranate that grows in my yard.

The Jujube originated in China. At full maturity, it is completely red. Most people like to eat the fruit at the stage when it is yellowish-green with red spots, because then it has a crisp texture. Tests have shown the Jujube to be very high in vitamin C. The trees are twenty to forty feet tall, with branches that naturally droop to give it a graceful appearance. The fruit of the Sherwood Jujube Tree has a sweet apple-like flavor. The Sherwood Jujube fruit is a large, oblong, shiny, reddish-brown date-like fruit. Like the other jujube trees, it is drought tolerant, cold hardy, and is good for eating fresh or dried. The Sherwood has less thorns than the other varieties. Also, the Sherwood Jujube fruit ripens later than the others.

Pomegranate trees or bushes are lovely additions to your garden. The leaves are shiny green and the blossoms are trumpet-shaped with orange-red ruffled petals. We love the luscious fruit. It's such a delight to grow that it only makes sense to grow a couple in our garden.

Growing a pomegranate tree from stem cuttings requires a hardwood cutting taken at an appropriate time. You should take pomegranate tree cuttings in late winter (February is best). Each cutting should be about ten inches long and taken from year-old wood that is a quarter to half-inch in diameter. Morning is the best time of day to take a cutting, preferably after a rain. Hardwood cuttings are harder to root than softwood (green) cuttings. I am using the hardwood technique.

What will I need? I will need sharp pruning shears, alcohol or a mixture of one-part bleach and one-part water to sterilize the shears, a small pot with several drainage holes, rooting medium (I use potting soil with sand and vermiculite added for good drainage and moisture retention), rooting hormone (optional), and a zip-lock bag or polythene bag with tie.

Procedures include filling the pot with the rooting medium. The growing medium needs to be disease-free; so, place it in a microwave for about two minutes per pound, set aside and water well. Preparation of the cuttings includes ensuring that the cuttings have at least one node just above the lower cut end which will be in the rooting medium; remove the lower leaves and cut the upper two to three leaves into half. Scrape the bark near the lower cutting end. Apply a rooting hormone at the cut end including the scrapped portion. Make a deep hole in the potting soil with a stick and insert the cutting in it. Do not force the cuttings in the soil. Press the soil around it by your fingers. Similarly, plant other cuttings.

Enclose the pot in a zip-lock bag to keep the humidity high. I always enclose the pot in a polythene bag with a tie. The success of propagation depends on the environment in which the planted cuttings are kept. Enclosing the planted pot in a polythene bag creates an environment like a greenhouse. If you pot the cuttings before the weather warms, you will need to keep them indoors in indirect sunlight.

The most successful propagation method for jujube trees is from root suckers; however, I know of one gardener that has had success propagating jujube trees from stem cuttings taken in the winter. The procedures are essentially the same. If you are not going to plant the cuttings immediately after taking them, wrap them in a damp paper towel, seal them in a zip-lock bag, and place them in the crisper drawer of the fridge for storage. They will be fine for thirty to sixty days.

For our experiment, we will take seven cuttings of the jujube and seven cuttings of the pomegranate and see if any of them root. We should know in March or April.

If the cuttings root and produce new little trees, the baby trees will need new homes since I do not have room in my yard for them. I offer no guarantees, but, if you would like a free baby tree, send an email to thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com.

Pack 1967 News

Even as the temperatures have gotten colder, the Scouts of Pack 1967 have remained busy! In January, some of the Scouts learned how to design their own video game at a Mason Gaming and Technology Academy workshop. Some of the Bears and Wolves also learned how to care for their pets by visiting the VCA University Veterinarian Clinic.



In February, the Pack joined with Pack 1968 and had the 2019 Pinewood Derby! It is always fun to see all the cars that the Scouts built and how well they race. In addition to racing the cars, the Scouts' cars were judged for show by our guest judges, Mrs. Parsons, Ms. Parsons, and Ms. Roberson. Thank you to our judges!



Congratulations to all our champions! After racing and judging each of the Dens, the Pack had a champions race. Congrats to James Xing for winning the overall Pack speed championship and to Henrik Mann for winning best in show for the Pack!

Lion
Tiger
Wolf
Bear
Webelos
Arrow of Light

Speed
Chase Heppner
Wyatt Strawn
James Xing
Scott Shelby
James Gross
QB Le

Show
Dexter Rudd
Henrik Mann
Michael Kloman
Cormac Mann
Isaac Klontz
Noah Lowe



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.



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Girl Scout Service Unit 54-15 – It’s Cookie Time!

In December, your local Girl Scout troops launched their 2019 Girl Scout Cookie season. Not only does the program bring some of the best cookies right to your doorstep, it also allows girls to discover their leadership potential and use their earnings to support amazing experiences for themselves and their troops, including travel, outdoor adventures, and more. Many girls put the money toward impactful community projects right in their own backyards, such as supporting animal shelters and local food banks. Be sure to buy a few boxes before they are gone until next winter!



potential and use their earnings to support amazing experiences for themselves and their troops, including travel, outdoor adventures, and more. Many girls put the money toward impactful community projects right in their own backyards, such as supporting animal shelters and local food banks. Be sure to buy a few boxes before they are gone until next winter!

In February, our Service Unit hosted a pinewood derby race. Over sixty girl scouts designed, built, and raced their cars in the pinewood derby.



A big thank you to Cub Scout Packs 1967 and 1968 for sharing their race tracks with our Service Unit, and for partnering with us in this fun event!



Our individual troops have also been keeping busy. Fourth grade Girl Scout Troop 1465 took a journey at Hidden Oaks Nature Preserve. The girls learned about energy: life cycles, natural resources, and conservation. The troop was able to look for flying squirrels and observe the bearded dragon in the Nature Center. And second grade Girl Scout Troop 54021 visited a Robinson Secondary School science laboratory to do water science experiments, made care kits for Inova Children's Hospital, and hosted a winter coat drive at Laurel Ridge Elementary School. As a result of the girls' hard work, the Troop was able to donate 129 coats from the drive, along with snow boots and pants, gloves, hats and scarves.



Finally, our Troops have also been busy learning about other countries and preparing for the 2019 World Thinking Day. Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship and provides an opportunity for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides worldwide to take part in activities that promote changing the world for the better. In preparation, second grade Girl Scout Troop 54022 decided to learn about the Dominican Republic and had the opportunity to meet and visit with the Ambassador and tour its Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The Herald's List

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

Plumbers, Kitchen Remodels & Mold Remediation

The Herald's List is flourishing with neighbors seeking and receiving contractor recommendations for home issues. Here are some of the companies that your very own neighbors have recommended:

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Pack 1968 Update

By Tanis Gray

Happy 109th Birthday to the Scouts! We celebrated our birthday month in February and look forward to many more to come as we continue to educate boys and girls.

One of our favorite scouting events took place this past month at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department – our Pinewood Derby! Scouts from Pack 1968 and neighboring Pack 1967 raced their cars down the time tracks taking home awards for speed and style. The refueling station filled with snacks and drinks kept our crew members operating at peak performance, and was a big hit with all the friends and families who attended. Excellent sportsmanship was displayed, and adults and children alike were wowed with a variety of innovative car designs. After the Scouts raced, adults and siblings were also given the opportunity to race down the track! The first-place winners in each Den and category will go on to race again in March against other Packs.



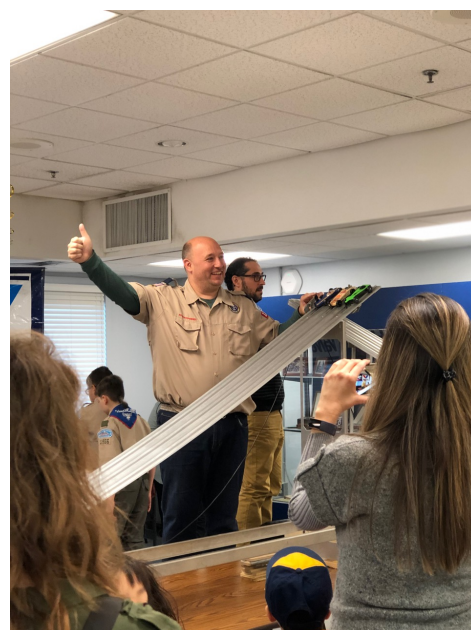
Scout Sunday/Sabbath/Jumu'ah happened in late February. Congregations recognized the contributions of the children and adults in scouting, and they were given the chance to stand in recognition and wear their uniforms for their respective service.

Our Scouts are selling Camp Cards for 2019 in lieu of popcorn. Camp Cards are a plastic card offering discounts to a myriad of places such as Safeway, Dick's Sporting Goods, Jiffylube, Sport Clips, Firehouse Subs, Six Flags, and the Scout Shop, and help provide resources to Scout families and units,

provide camp tuition for those who cannot attend otherwise, and teach responsibility and budgeting. Each card is \$5.00, and many Scouts will be around local businesses selling them. You can also contact any Scout directly.

Spring brings our Blue and Gold Dinner, and we cheer our AOLs on as they bridge from Cub to Boy Scouts.

Our Scouts continue to work hard on their activities and service to earn their awards and mark their achievements. If you know a young man or lady wishing to join Pack 1968 or an adult looking for volunteer opportunities, please contact our Scoutmaster Bobby Burke at robert.l.burke.iii@gmail.com.



Concerts at Good Shepherd **Concert Series 2018-19**



Join us for the 2018-19 celebratory season of concerts by prominent regional and national artists with something to fit every music taste.

This is a special season of superb concerts with an additional spring performance.

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

Tickets are available through Brown Paper Tickets coqs.brownpapertickets.com

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***Celebrating Mother's Day!**

The Capital Hearings ~ Sunday, May 12, 6:00 pm



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The Church of the Good Shepherd

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www.good-shepherd.net



REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



The spring selling season is right around the corner, and the market in KPW is slowly starting to warm up. As of March 1 there were only 7 homes for sale - but unlike other low inventory markets, current buyers are taking their time, and homes that are not meticulously prepared are lingering on the market. As usual, well-presented homes are selling quickly. Thus far in 2019, 8 homes have sold for an average price of \$578,847. Eight homes are under contract.

2019 Real Estate Assessments:

Fairfax County real estate assessments were mailed to homeowners on February 19. Overall, assessments were up an average of 2.36% with 75.6% of homes seeing an increase. For more information, go to:

www.FairfaxCounty.gov

Model	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Status
Baron	4771 Farndon Court	\$659,500	\$639,000	SOLD!
Baron	10429 Headly Court	\$700,000	\$700,777	SOLD!
Baron	4794 Catterick Court	\$699,900		Under Contract
Baron	10215 Commonwealth Blvd	\$729,500		Under Contract
Baron	10410 Stallworth Court	\$749,500		Under Contract
Cromwell	10440 Collingham Drive	\$589,900	\$585,000	SOLD!
Cromwell	5212 Mornington Court	\$649,900	\$650,000	SOLD!
Duke	5107 Pommeroy Drive	\$515,000	\$465,000	SOLD!
Duke	4810 Allenby Road	\$479,000	\$476,000	SOLD!
Essex	4824 Gainsborough Drive	\$525,000	\$545,000	SOLD!
King	5218 Pommeroy Drive	\$585,000	\$570,000	SOLD!
King	9624 Commonwealth Blvd	\$599,000		Under Contract
King	4951 Swinton Drive	\$580,000		Under Contract
Prince	4871 Wheatstone Drive	\$595,000		Under Contract
Queen	5231 Stonington Drive	\$614,999		For Sale
Queen	5006 Wheatstone Drive	\$635,000		For Sale
Queen	4919 Wycliff Lane	\$585,000		For Sale
Queen	5082 Coleridge Drive	\$589,900		Under Contract
Regent	10439 Collingham Drive	\$549,900		For Sale
Regent	10017 Eastlake Drive	\$599,888		For Sale
Regent	4870 Wheatstone Drive	\$650,000		For Sale
Regent	4992 Swinton Drive	\$620,000		For Sale
Regent	9803 Ward Court	\$649,000		Under Contract

Ecology Q/As About Native and Non-Native Species: Part 2

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Part 1 of this series addressed some of the questions that folks had about native and non-native species. Let's dive into some more answers to your questions!

Q: What can I do to help the natural areas?

A: You can always join an Invasive Management Area (IMA) workday, where volunteers eradicate non-native invasive weeds from parkland and restore the habitat. Contact me for more information or check out the IMA workday calendar parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/rmdwebcal/?CalendarID=5. Removing any target weeds from your home lot prevents them from spreading. Properly dispose of yard debris through curbside recycling or composting on your property; invasive plant seeds or vines capable of surviving the mulching process should be thrown in the trash destined for the landfill or incinerator. Never dump yard debris or otherwise encroach onto natural areas outside of your property. Consider adding native plants to your yard and encourage others to do the same, including neighbors, churches, schools, and HOAs. Before doing any work, always seek the landowner's permission first. The best way to help or thank park volunteers is to pick up after your dogs each time, every time, and dispose the waste in proper trash receptacles!

Q: After these IMA workdays, the area looks devastated. Bushes where birds nested and privacy screens are gone. How can this be better than simply leaving the invasive plants?

A: The level of disturbance depends on factors such as the target species and density. For example, garlic mustard pulls minimally affect the untargeted surroundings. Think of the invasive targets as a malignancy; medical teams select the appropriate clinical action for that cancer type and stage. Left without treatment, that growth will spread and cause even more harm than it currently does. Like surgeons operating on a patient to remove the tumor, IMA volunteers only hit specific non-native invasive weeds, leaving native plants to help the area heal and recover. If the work results in pulling every plant on a plot, then the infestation was dense.

There is more happening than what meets the eye. Invasive bushes may hold bird nests but fail to host the insects that the chicks need to grow. By removing the weeds today, we both prevent them from imminent dispersal and foster the native plants conducive to future bird populations. With favorable conditions, native vegetation fills into an area within several years, which addresses the privacy concerns. We tested a "slow kill" approach (where the weeds are trimmed but not removed) at a few sites, but that ineffective method amounted to performing surgery only to leave half of the tumor. Clearing all targets enables a much faster recovery. People still interested in all-season screens might consider planting fast-growing red cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*) on their side of the fence line. These junipers (not true cedars) are tall, bushy, and evergreen. Other excellent screening species are American holly (*Ilex opaca*), mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), sheep laurel (*K. angustifolia*), and American rhododendrons (*Rhododendron maximum*), although these species grow slower than red cedars.

Q: Hostas and crepe myrtles are from Asia but I don't see them spreading. Are they okay to keep in my yard?

A: Many exotic species are "well behaved," do not escape cultivation, and are considered safe to grow. Some species, like hybrid tea roses (*Rosa x odorata*), struggle to survive in the Mid-Atlantic and southeastern climates. A handful of non-native species, such as Callery pears and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), were initially thought to be infertile or slow to reproduce, but decades later these plants proved to be invasive. The lag time from when a shrub is introduced and it becomes invasive averages between 50 to 75 years; for trees, it is around 200 years. Ecologically, hostas (*Hosta* sp.) and crepe myrtles (*Lagerstroemia indica*) equate to "plastic plants" because they contribute little to the ecosystem, but they can 1) help with erosion control, 2) provide shelter, and 3) supply some added benefits, such as air purification. Hostas, for example, directly benefit only a handful of animals, such as deer, bumblebees, slugs (most of which are themselves European invaders), and the occasional confused hummingbird.

Q: Slugs are invasive? I thought that they were natural garden pests.

A: Some slugs are invasive. The most obvious alien is the giant leopard slug (*Limax maximus*), which originated from Europe and North Africa and reaches four inches or more. Many of the exotic slugs have short mantles (that shield starting on top of its head and stretching down the body) extending less than halfway down the specimen. Native slug mantles, such as those belonging to the Philomycidae family, cover the whole body. Philomycid slugs are native in other parts of the world, but those species are not a problem in Northern Virginia.

Q: Are some species native to Fairfax County invasive in other parts of the world?

A: Yes! Goldenrod (*Solidago* sp.) escaped cultivation in Europe and Asia. In China alone, Canadian goldenrod (*S. canadensis*) is blamed for dozens of native plant extinctions. In America, black cherry trees (*Prunus serotina*) are kept in check by potent strains of soil-borne, pathogenic *Pythium* fungi that causes root rot and seedling mortality. These trees are weeds in Europe due to the weaker *Pythium* varieties and favorable growing conditions there. The large, aggressive American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*) devours just about any animal that fits in its mouth. From its native range, the eastern half of North America, bullfrogs are now found across to the Pacific coast, in parts of Europe, Asia, and South America. Extending into the Chesapeake Bay, ship ballast water carried comb jellies (including *Mnemiopsis leidyi*) to the Black Sea and other marine bodies. Unchallenged in their new home, comb jellies eat newly hatched fish and planktonic fish food, resulting in significant fish population reductions.

None of these species are “bad,” but they cause problems when out of place. Keep your questions coming!



Figure 1. Both of these images portray woodlands during a season when the dominant plant species are evident. The late spring and summer find native woodlands fully leafed out (A). This botanical diversity includes lycopodium, sassafras, grape, maple leaf and arrowwood viburnums, trefoil, red oak and hickory saplings, red maple seedlings, and northern highbush blueberry. In late autumn, many non-native invasive plants still cling to their leaves, making them apparent (B) when most natives are dormant. This image shows low biodiversity in an area overrun by autumn olive, Amur honeysuckle, and winter creeper groundcover.

* * * * *

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Nandina Bush Berries: Beautiful but Deadly for Birds

By Mary Boyer

Nandina bushes (*Nandina domestica*) are very popular in landscaping, green all year long, and some have clusters of bright red berries. The berries last for months when the food supply is low for Cedar Waxwings, American Robins, Eastern Bluebirds and other birds; however, these berries are toxic. Unfortunately, every block in KPW has homes with bunches of berries.



In April 2009, a flock of dead Cedar Waxwings were found in a yard in Thomas County, GA. Five of them were taken to the Tifton Veterinary Diagnostic and Investigational Laboratory where the only food found in the digestive tracts was digested and undigested nandina berries. There was hemorrhaging of blood, and edema in every organ in the body, including the eyes and brain. The damage was characteristic of hydrogen cyanide toxicity. In the fall and spring, Cedar Waxwings migrate to and from northern United States and Canada. Food is scarce and the flock will gorge on what is available.

According to Audubon Arkansas (ar.audubon.org/news/nandina-berries-kill-birds):

“The US Department of Agriculture and most states classify *Nandina domestica* as a noxious, non-native, invasive weed from China and Japan. It has naturalized and invaded our national parks, national wild life refuges, national forests, city parks and other habitats throughout the US. Yet homeowners and commercial landscapers are still planting this toxic species without constraint. In addition to bird deaths in Georgia, bird deaths have been reported in Houston and other parts of the country. Hydrogen cyanide is a painful, and unnecessary way for birds to die. Nandina is also toxic to dogs, cats, and many other animals.”

If you have a nandina bush, please remove their berries and discard them in the trash, not yard waste. Better yet, replace this “heavenly bamboo” with native shrubs that produce berries, like winterberry. For further reading:

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3005831/?fbclid=IwAR0qRk7vEGOC_oqABEAFxcqs-1pu4Mdl3O3tdPiQq7iiK7AqgtufEFMUI4,

GMU Patriot Pantry

Mary Crowder | (703) 239-2581

February marked the second anniversary of our donations to the food pantry at George Mason. And we broke the 2,000-pound mark for donations! We have now donated 2,106 pounds. Thank you very much for your generosity!

I have a bin on my front porch that I check every day. People that are moving drop off their canned goods, and folks that are shopping may buy an extra package of granola bars and put it on my porch. Someone puts those extra plastic-ware packages in the bin; another person put in the items that her children would not eat. And when Robinson did the play *Spamalot*, they brought the cans of spam that had been used in the production! I appreciate all donations!

They are looking for paper products, toilet paper, pre-made meals, snacks, granola bars, chips, crackers, rice, cereal, non-perishable milk, and peanut butter. Thanks in advance!

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Get Off the Couch

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

March 22 - April 14

Alice in Wonderland

General admission \$18, kids, military and seniors \$14-16. Saturday and Sunday 2 pm, Saturday 7:30 pm, Sunday 4 pm. 410 S Maple Avenue, Falls Church.

www.creativecauldron.org/alice-in-wonderland.html

March 30 - April 28

Farm Easter Egg Hunt

A hunt for treat and toy-filled eggs takes place at 10 am, noon and 2 pm Saturdays and Sundays at Ticonderoga Farm. The hunt is for the kids, but children and adults can play on the giant slides and bouncers. Bring your own camera for photos with the Easter Bunny. \$14.95 for ages 2 and up. Adults \$12.95. 9:30 am – 5 pm. 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly.

www.ticonderoga.com/seasons/spring/

March 20 - April 14

National Cherry Blossom Festival

March 23: Opening Ceremony

March 30: Kite Festival

April 6: Petalpalooza at The Wharf

April 13: Parade

April 6: Southwest Waterfront Fireworks Festival

www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/

March 30-31

Cherry Blossom Kite Festival

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

www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/

April 6-7

City of Fairfax Annual Fishing Derby

Ashby Pond will be stocked with hundreds of trout! Please bring a fishing rod, bucket, plastic bag and ice. Bait will be supplied. Pre-registration required. 9:30 am, 10:15 am and 11 am. Fee: \$5 per fisherman. Ashby Pond Conservatory, 9817 Ashby Road, Fairfax.

www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/community-events

April 13-14

29th Annual Multicultural Fair

Saturday April 13th is devoted to multicultural entertainment, children's activities, international and American food, and ethnic craft vendors. 10 am – 5 pm *FREE. University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg campus.

students.umw.edu/multicultural/programs/multicultural-fair/

National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Saturday, 10 am - noon. Standing along the Parade route from Constitution Avenue between 9th and 15th Streets, NW is **free** and open to the public. Arrive early for the best views. www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/parade/

April 18

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

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

April 21-29

National Park Service Week

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

Family-Friendly Activities Happening at Mason:

Patriot Center: www.eaglebankarena.com/

March 22-31: Marvel Universe LIVE!

Center for the Arts www.cfa.gmu.edu

April 6: Russian National Ballet: Giselle

April 7: Russian National Ballet: The Sleeping Beauty

Men's Spring Sports: Baseball, Golf, Track & Field, Volleyball: gomason.com

Women's Spring Sports: Lacrosse, Rowing, Soccer, Softball, Tennis, Track: gomason.com

And for those of you planning ahead: Summer Camps: summercamps.gmu.edu/



THE GARDEN CORNER

By Charlie Boring

In 2013, I ordered two pomegranate trees and planted them on the south side of my house. I like to plant in the landscaped area around the house using a method called edible landscaping, so the pomegranates were planted among the azaleas. One of the pomegranates was an Angle Red variety that is supposed to have seeds small enough to allow swallowing of the seeds. The problem with this variety was that it was not well-suited for Zone 7a, which is our zone here in Kings Park West. My theory was that if I planted it on the south side of the house and near the house, it might have a micro-environment warm enough to survive our winters. I liberally used shredded limb mulch to protect the roots.

The second tree was a Russian Red Pomegranate that should be able to survive winters in our zone. I do not know if you recall the winter of 2013, but the temperatures dropped to almost zero degrees. Alas, my Angle Red Pomegranate tree did not survive that winter. But, on an encouraging note, my Russian Red Pomegranate survived that winter and has continued to grow. I named her Tasha. The bush has not bloomed; but I am hoping for spring blooms this year.

I have had some requests from gardening friends who would like to receive a clone from Tasha; I did some research to determine how to propagate a pomegranate bush without using seeds. There are two methods of propagation that provide a good possibility of success. The first and most dependable method is the harvest and transplant of a sucker. A sucker is a new plant that grows from the roots of the mother plant. As luck should have it, I have one sucker growing from Tasha. I plan to harvest her in late February and directly transplant her somewhere in my backyard where her red blooms will provide needed color.



Russian Red Pomegranate Cuttings

branches the correct size that had grown toward the inside of the bush and needed to be pruned. From the pruned branches, I created seven cuttings and cut off all of the side growth and trimmed them to about eight- inches long. I damaged the lower end of the cuttings with my clipper and dipped that end into the rooting powder until it was coated. Then I pushed the cuttings about four-inches deep into the potting soil and sprayed them well with water. I then placed them into my small green house that I have set up in my basement. I will use a root warmer to apply warmth to the container, but will initially keep the cuttings out of direct light until I see some growth. Now I will keep the cuttings damp and warm to see if they root successfully.

On March 2nd, I checked the progress of the cuttings and saw evidence that the cuttings may be rooting successfully, as indicated by the small leaf growth shown in the picture. Another picture shows cuttings from my Sherwood Jujube tree that have begun to grow leaves. It is still possible that the cuttings have not developed roots, but I am hopeful that if given time and kept in the proper environment, they will develop roots.

If successful, I hope to give some of these plants away to good homes. If interested, please send an email to thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com.

The second method that has been somewhat successful, according to my online gardening friend, is propagation from dormant hardwood cuttings. To perform this task, I will need my plant clippers (cleaned with alcohol), a pot about eight-inches deep (I am going to use a recycled plastic coffee container with holes drilled into the bottom for drainage), rooting powder (I have some on hand), and some potting soil (I will use some that I saved from last year's pots). First question – when do you take the cuttings? I am told that you should take the cuttings in late winter. The cuttings need to be healthy and from one quarter to half inch diameter and about six to ten inches long.

I decided to take my cuttings a little early before the snow on January 12. So, I examined Tasha and saw that she had several healthy



Sherwood Jujube Cuttings

Invasive Species Profile: Higan Cherry Tree (*Prunus subhirtella*)

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: Japan (origin)

U.S. Introduction: Mid-1800s

Life Cycle: Perennial tree

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

Commercially Available: Yes, sometimes sold as “weeping cherry”

Control Method: Hand-pull seedlings and young plants. Saplings may require mechanical tools, such as a Weed Wrench. Cut down mature trees; continue manually removing new growth until the plant dies.

Good Alternative Species: Black cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Comments: Countless cherry species and hybrids exist throughout the world. Scores of cherry varieties abound in the D.C. area, with their popularity a nod to the Tidal Basin’s fame. Of these trees, some escape cultivation, primarily through avian dispersal: a bird eats the small fruit, deposits the pit in a dropping elsewhere, the seed germinates, and a tree develops. Collectively, most of these “bird cherry trees” currently pose little immediate threat to the local area.

The exception is the Higan cherry (*Prunus subhirtella*), also called weeping cherry and rosebud cherry. First appearing in Japan, Higan cherry is believed to be a mix between two other cherry species because its wild ancestor remains unknown. It came to America as an ornamental tree during the mid-nineteenth century. Whereas Higan cherry is currently of little concern throughout much of the United States, Northern Virginia is an epicenter for this emerging non-native invasive species. Cherries only live for several decades, so their population depends on trees growing quickly and reproducing plentifully. After a bird deposits a cherry pit, the tree grows and matures in several years, at which point it produces more cherries. As birds consume and distribute these cherries, many other second-generation cherries drop close to the parent. Wildlife avoid eating the leaves or the pit interiors because both contain potentially lethal doses of cyanide. Deer love eating native tree saplings, such as oaks, but leave the Higan cherries alone. Hundreds to thousands of these young cherries keep growing, especially in clearings once grand old trees eventually die. The forest dynamics are poised to shift in favor of the Higan cherries and other invasive species over native tree species that typify a mature forest.



Figure 1. Higan cherry trees are conspicuous during their early April bloom period, before leaves emerge. Here, a young tree flowers with another in the background.

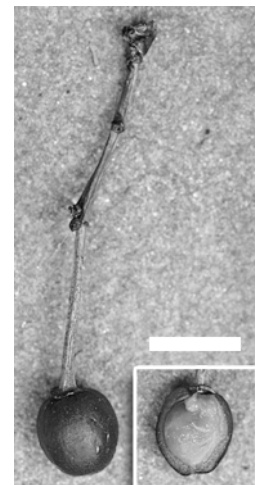


Figure 2. Higan cherry fruits lack much flesh so birds swallow them whole. This image includes the cross-section (inset). The scale bar is 1.0 cm.



Figure 3. Silvery ribbons around the trunk distinguish Higan cherry bark (A). Like many Asian cherry trees, Higan cherries bloom pink flowers with five petals (B). Another name for it is winter-blooming cherry, even though it flowers in April along with most other Asian cherries. Fruits soon develop after flowering (C). This photograph also shows the leaf shape and undersides.

Environmentally conscientious alternatives to the Higan cherry consist of the native black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), which displays creamy blossoms in May. The small fruits make yummy jam! For pink springtime flowers, chokeberries (*Aronia* sp.) fit the bill! Virginia’s native crabapples, especially the southern crab-apple (*Malus angustifolia*) and sweet crabapple (*M. coronaria*), produce pink flowers that, unlike cherry blossoms, fill the air with sweet fragrance. People cannot smell cherry blossoms! Products marketed with “cherry blossom” aromas instead often use hyacinth or honeysuckle scents. If an Asian cherry tree is deeply desired, the extra petals in double blossom ornamental varieties inhibit pollination so no fruits develop.

To folks liking flavorful barbecues, save the wood pruned from cherry and apple trees. Add it to the grill in place of hickory or mesquite chips. Fruit tree wood imparts a rich, smoky flavor to the food.

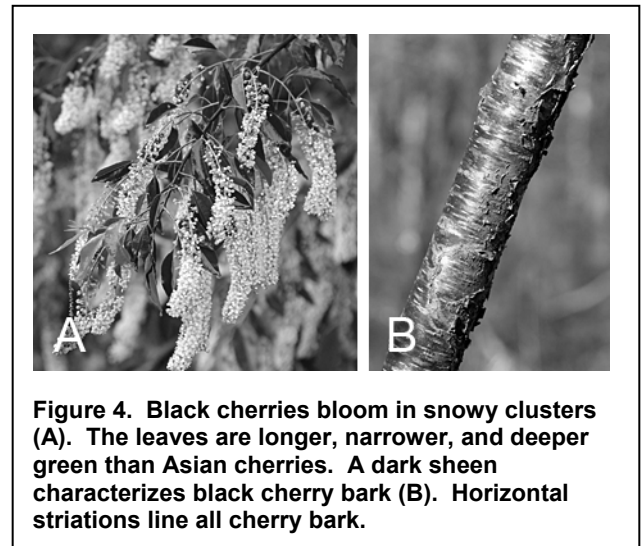


Figure 4. Black cherries bloom in snowy clusters (A). The leaves are longer, narrower, and deeper green than Asian cherries. A dark sheen characterizes black cherry bark (B). Horizontal striations line all cherry bark.

For more information on Higan cherry:

- www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/InvasiveExoticPlantsThatThreatenParksinAlexandria.pdf
- www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/parks/NonNativeInvasivePlantsArlington.pdf
- www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=57555
- arnoldia.arboretum.harvard.edu/pdf/articles/2012-69-4-japanese-flowering-cherries-a-100-year-long-love-affair.pdf

For further reading and links to additional resources, see the full article by scanning the QR code with your smart phone or go to: www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/89b_2019-03.pdf



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KPWCA Scholarship Committee PO Box 7114

Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114

Deadline / postmarked by: April 1, 2019

The Kings Park West Civic Association will award up to three \$1,000 scholarships to 2019 graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the KPW Civic Association as of the deadline of the application, April 1, 2019. Each scholarship will be awarded on the basis of community service, civic activities and extracurricular service involvement (40%), academic achievement (20%), a written essay (20%), and a personal interview (20%). This scholarship is open to seniors who are enrolling in a 4-year college/university, 2-year college, trade or technical training, or formalized Gap Year program.

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

A. 1. Name _____

2. Address _____ Phone # _____

3. E-mail address: _____

4. Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

5. Parent Email _____

6. Name of High School _____

- B. On a separate sheet of paper, list your community service, employment or volunteer work, extracurricular service activities, church service or any non-academic honors you have received. List only those activities and awards in high school. Describe these activities and indicate your level and # of years of involvement, including leadership responsibilities.
- C. Following this list, write an essay, not to exceed 350 words, about your involvement in one or more of these service activities. The Kings Park West Civic Association is looking for individuals who are providing or have provided exemplary service to the community, our country or to the world. Tell us why you chose to do the work you did, what you have learned from the experience and how you believe you have contributed to others.
- D. Attach an official transcript in sealed school stationery, authenticated by the school transcript official. Transcript will include your grades covering the first seven semesters of high school.
- E. Attach a copy of your SAT or ACT test scores.
- F. If you choose, attach information about financial hardships of which you wish the committee to be aware.

Semifinalists will be asked to come for a panel interview on April 10, 2019.

Finalists will be recognized during the Robinson Senior Awards Ceremony on June 4, 2019 at 4pm.

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

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

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

Signature of applicant

Signature of parent or guardian