

April 2019

Vol. 49, Issue 3

Kings Park West Civic Association

Greetings!

As I write this letter, the Spring Egg Hunt has not yet happened, but I hope you had a chance to attend this annual event which is scheduled for April 7<sup>th</sup> at Lakeside Park. Every year, many KPW families join us to hunt for colorful eggs filled with candy and small prizes. I hope the weather cooperated with beautiful warm and sunny temperatures. Many thanks to Cub Scout Pack 1967 for planning and hosting such a fun event for the community again this year. We appreciate the continued support.

Another important community activity, the Spring Park Clean-Up, is scheduled for Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, from 8 to 11 am. Clean-up teams will start at Royal Lake Park and Lakeside Park. Please come out and join us! Many thanks to Sarah Lennon, Parks & Lakes Committee Chair, and the Mary & Cathy Team for sponsoring the games. We are so fortunate to have Royal Lake as part of our community. A special place to enjoy, relax and recreate. As you read on, you will find a poem about Royal Lake written by our neighbor and Board Secretary, Frank Cumberland, that sums up the meaning of this special community place. I hope you have an opportunity to visit Royal Lake sometime this spring.

I am happy to write that we are currently transitioning new volunteers to the Membership Committee Chair and The Herald Co-Editor, both vital functions of the Association. Membership is the foundation of the Association, comprised of 100 block captains, who provide direct interaction to the neighbors. And The Herald continues to be a vital publication that is distributed to all of Kings Park West, a long-held tradition of the Association that keeps the community connected. It is with great pride to say that our neighbors have answered the appeal for help.

Many thanks to Patti Dickerson and Samantha Juni for their volunteer efforts. Our outgoing Membership Chair, Patti Dickerson, has worked diligently for the last three years to manage the Association membership,

*Continued on Page 3*

Community Calendar	
Parks & Lakes Spring Clean-Up.....	Apr 27
KPW Community Yard Sale.....	May 4
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.....	May 7
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	May 7
Citizen Advisory Council.....	May 7
Braddock District Council.....	May 8
Spring Dumpster Day.....	May 11
Mother's Day.....	May 12
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	May 21
Memorial Day.....	May 27
Herald Deadline.....	May 29
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Jun 4
Braddock District Council.....	Jun 12
Herald Delivery.....	Jun 15

***In this Issue:***

- A poem about Royal Lake from our very own Frank Cumberland is featured on Page 12.
- How did Shanes Creek get its name? Find out on Page 20.

# KINGS PARK WEST CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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

[www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org)

## OFFICERS

President	Jeanmarie Roberson	703-425-1286
Vice-President	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	<b>Vacant</b>	
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	703-401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan: <a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>	
Zoning, Code, Safety	Jackie Agnew	703-862-8471

### Communications

Herald Newsletter:

Display Editor	Leah Larson-Taylor	703-283-0208
Communications Editor	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Advertising	Samantha Juni	703-395-4049
Herald Classifieds	Gayle Ostrom	<a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a>
Signboards	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett	<a href="mailto:website@kpwca.org">website@kpwca.org</a>
Membership	Mike and Rima Karame	<a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a>
NW Coord.	Tara Mooney	<a href="mailto:tarajmooney@yahoo.com">tarajmooney@yahoo.com</a>
Parks & Lakes	Sarah Lennon	703-978-5608
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes	703-426-8246
Signs, St.s, Sidewalks	Jeff Root	703-323-4438

### Special Activities

Easter Egg Hunt	Pack 1967
Halloween Festival	Jeanmarie Roberson 703-425-1286
	Keith Jodoin <a href="mailto:kjodoin@gmail.com">kjodoin@gmail.com</a>
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom 703-323-0206

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

Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$20.00, to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114. Members receive the Community Directory and support from community programs such as Neighborhood Watch, Scholarship Awards, community social activities, Parks & Lakes Clean-up, and a free subscription to The Herald. Alternatively, go to [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org) and pay using PayPal.

## Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

### OFFICERS

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

### COMMITTEES

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

### HERALD STAFF

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

Advertising See Below

### General Information

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

## How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

**CLASSIFIEDS:** KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the June 15th issue must be received no later than May 29th by Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or email [classified@kpwca.org](mailto:classified@kpwca.org). Please print clearly, and include payment to KPWCA. Furnish your name, address, and phone number. **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](mailto:editor@kpwca.org). Contact Samantha for rates.

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

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

## The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.

NEXT DEADLINE is May 29, 2019

for delivery on June 15, 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](mailto: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](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjlennon@gmail.com).

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

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

**Road Raiders:** *1/2 hour each month.* Performs common area clean-up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact Tom McCook at [trmccook@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.grsykes.com/main.php?page=32). Send an e-mail to [greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com) and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.

*Continued from Page 1*

collaborating with the block captains and overseeing the printing of two community directories. She did an exceptional job and always with a smile and helpful demeanor. And our outgoing Herald Co-Editor, Samantha Juni, has co-edited The Herald for three years, managing and soliciting material, organizing delivery and publication, organizing advertisers, and so much more. She did an outstanding job, working seamlessly to produce our community newsletter eight times a year. It has been a pleasure working together with both Patti and Samantha. We extend our sincere appreciation for their hard work and dedication to KPW.

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Mike and Rima Karame, who have volunteered to co-chair membership, and Sara Rezk, who has volunteered to co-edit The Herald (with Leah Larson-Taylor, our current co-editor). All three of our neighbors bring a wealth of knowledge and an awesome community spirit. We are delighted to welcome our new membership co-chairs and Herald co-editor!

The Board is anxious to welcome and thank all our volunteers! Please mark your calendars for:

***Volunteer Appreciation Dinner***  
***Tuesday, May 7 at 6:00 pm***      ***Members Meeting at 7:00 pm***  
***Laurel Ridge Cafeteria***

We hope you will plan on attending this event for pizza, salad and dessert. I look forward to seeing you at the dinner and Members Meeting to follow. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org) with any questions, concerns or comments.

Sincerely, Jeanmarie Roberson

**Girl Scouts News – Service Unit 54-15**

Late February is always an exciting time of year for Girl Scouts. Every year since 1926, World Thinking Day has called for Girl Scouts and Girl Guides to join together on or about February 22<sup>nd</sup> and take part in activities that promote changing the world for the better. This year’s World Thinking Day theme was Leadership. Fourth grade Troop 1465 hosted the 2019 Annual Girl Scout World Thinking Day for Service Unit 54-15, which included twenty-one troops presenting informational exhibits from different nations with food, music, and swaps. The program showcased dancers from Hawaii and Turkey. It was also a chance for our troop to demonstrate their hard work in learning about the country of Germany, managing events, leadership at the event, and performing the flag ceremony with color guard. The Scouts did a wonderful job, and learned a great deal about Scouting programs from around the world.



Girl Scout Troop 2280 earned their “Eating for You” Badge by participating in a nutrition tour at Giant Food in Burke, and enjoyed a sweet treat after a behind-the-scenes tour of Sweet Frog. The Cadette Troop learned how to read product labels and were introduced to Giant’s “Guiding Stars” Program. Guiding Stars is a nutrition guidance program that helps customers quickly navigate to foods with the most nutritional value. The system rates foods as “good”, “better” or “best” to give consumers at-a-glance advice; the more stars a product has, the more nutritious it is.

In addition, the girls of Troop 2280 are currently planning a Girl Scout Recruitment Tea Party scheduled for Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, for girls who will be K-3rd grade this fall. For more information, please email [SU5415recruitmentteaparty@gmail.com](mailto:SU5415recruitmentteaparty@gmail.com).

Girl Scout Troop 54051 had Earth Sangha come and speak to them about native species, and the girls planted native species from seeds which they will then plant around Laurel Ridge in the spring. They did this as part of earning the WOW! Wonders of Water Journey.



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**The Herald's List**

by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

**Home Improvement Contractors**

Home improvement projects seem to be at an all time high in KPW and so are the requests and recommendations being made on the Herald's List!

**Recent Requests**

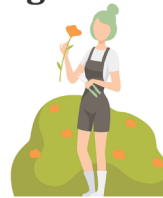
**House Cleaner**

-Requested by Virginia Doherty



**Organic Gardener**

-Requested by Cathy DeLoach



**Exterior House Painter**

-Requested by Timothy M. Sebenick



**Power Washer**

-Requested by Virginia Doherty



**Foundation Repair**

-Requested by Matt Lemery



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



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- and much more!



### Pack 1967 News

February is always a bittersweet time for Pack 1967. While we celebrate Scouting's birthday with our annual Blue and Gold banquet, we say goodbye to our Arrow of Light Scouts as they cross over to Scouts BSA troops. We had a great banquet filled with wonderful food (thank you Chick-fil-a), a fantastic magician, and of course, our cake decorating contest.



Congratulations to our six Scouts for earning their Arrow of Light and bridging into Scouts BSA troops. We'll miss you all in Cub Scouts, but we know you'll do great in your troops! Congratulations and best of luck to Brock Riley (Troop 1865), Daniel Slesar (Troop 1865), QB Le (Troop 1966), Noah Lowe (Troop 1966), David Taylor (Troop 1966), and Shawn Mitchell (Troop 577).



In March, Scouts from Pack 1967 competed in the Patriot District Pinewood Derby against packs from other schools across Fairfax County. Congratulations to Cormac Mann for winning third place in the show competition for third graders!



Now that the weather is getting warmer, Pack 1967 will be looking forward to getting outside more. We'll be hiking Old Rag and having our spring camp-out at Burke Lake in April. If your son or daughter is interested in finding out more about Scouting, please join us at a Den or Pack meeting! If you have any questions or want to contact a Den Leader, we can be contacted at [CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).

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## Q/As About Shanes Creek and Royal Lake

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

**Q:** What are all of those ribbons around Shanes Creek?

**A:** Many people asked this question. To first clarify the question, Shanes Creek is a major Royal Lake tributary that originates at Robinson Secondary School, flows under Commonwealth Boulevard, and bends to run under Roberts Road. It is named after John McAnaw's Irish setter, Shane (details are in *The Naming of Shanes Creek*), and local residents have used this name for decades. The first steps to formally register this stream as "Shanes Creek" were recently initiated, since it is currently listed as "a tributary to Rabbit Branch." The branch junction was flooded and lost when Royal Lake was created. The Royal Lake dredge that occurred in 2016-2017 removed deposit, but did nothing to stop more sediment from entering the lake – it is akin to treating the symptoms without addressing the problem's root cause.

Fast-forward to 2018. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) began addressing the erosion along Shanes Creek to improve water quality flowing into Royal Lake and further downstream. To bolster riparian shorelines, the usual approach is to restore the stream throughout the length of a given waterway, much like the streambed raising, path redirection, and bank reinforcement conducted at Crooked Creek Park in 2013 and 2014. For Shanes Creek, DPWES' strategy will be to shore up or otherwise correct specific, high-priority areas and leave the rest of the stream natural. Before any restoration begins, Shanes Creek's length, parkland, and property lines from Roberts Road to the lake were surveyed and mapped. Those ribbons and flags mark different features, such as delineating wetlands, stream courses (including any tributaries from storm drain outfalls), underground utilities, and soil sample locations. Archeological teams dug test pits, searching for significant sites needing further excavation; some flakes from making stone tools (a common find) were unearthed. A core-borer took soil samples for substrate analysis. Any tree, live or dead, having at least a 12-inch-diameter received a uniquely numbered medallion. DPWES and its contractors, primarily Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc., did much of this work.

The resulting pre-design plans were released in March for a 30-day review. The plans contain items such as technical, topographic diagrams akin to a building's blueprints, tree listings, and proposed restoration sites. The project is still in the early stages, so exact plans are subject to change. DPWES will post concept plans on its website in June. The targeted year to begin on-site restoration work is 2021.



**Figure 1.** Indications of the surveys include (A) ribbons lining a ditch and (B) a tree tag. Stream restoration sites will look much like sections of Crooked Creek Park (C). This image of the final stages, with cooling pools and water-oxygenating cascades, shows the foundation before adding native woody plants and partial concealment by foliage.



Q: How much sediment builds up in the lake each year?

A: That depends on various upstream factors. Increased impervious surfaces (e.g., roads, parking lots, decks, and rooftops), tree loss, and rainfall amounts in the year all mean more streambed and bank erosion, resulting in more sediment deposited into Royal Lake. Prior to the last dredge, DPWES estimated that 80 percent of the sediment comes from waterway erosion; the rest originate from actions like topsoil washing off, especially after a disturbance. The forebays installed during the last dredge are supposed to help capture sediment and make future dredges more efficient.

Q: There was a lot of tree loss, mess, and noise during the Crooked Creek restoration. Besides, I prefer natural streams. Isn't there a better way to address Shanes Creek's water quality problems?

A: Unfortunately, Shanes Creek is terribly impaired. Correcting upstream problems is more efficient than downstream reparations. The targeted restoration approach should cause less of an environmental disturbance and save taxpayer money, as stream restorations cost around \$1,000 per linear foot. Ideally, developers would have the foresight to apply measures such as cisterns and absorption beds to disperse storm water evenly in more but smaller points than through the few but forceful outfalls. Landowners can offset precipitation shed from decks, expanded driveways, and other impermeable features by building rain gardens, installing rain barrels, planting native trees, and dedicating at least half of the property to native habitat to sponge up excess water before it reaches the streams. More on storm drain discharge and remediation is in the Eco-Article, Applying the Beavers' Blueprints (January 2009). Additional resources are:

- [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/drainage-problem](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/drainage-problem) - a handy webpage on soil and water conservation, including steps to stem erosion and help with drainage problems.
- [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/conservation-assistance-programs](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/conservation-assistance-programs) - homepage of the Conservation Assistance Program and the Virginia Conservation Assistance Program (CAP/VCAP). In some cases, representatives visit onsite and discuss options for your particular land and water management problems. Improvements might be eligible for the state grant program.
- [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/cap-vcap-faq](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/cap-vcap-faq) - FAQs about CAP/VCAP.

Further CAP/VCAP-related questions may be sent to [conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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/90\\_2019-04.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/90_2019-04.pdf)



\* \* \* \* \*



**Figure 2. Before Royal Lake's 2016 dredge, silt shoals and islands formed where Shanes Creek and Rabbit Branch emptied into the lake. This cut-away profile of an island offers an estimated sediment accumulation rate by noting the amassed autumn leaf deposit layers. The silt and anoxic conditions preserved the leaves.**

### Kings Park West Neighbor Assist Spring Reminder

Spring is here and that often means spring cleaning. Sorry, the handymen do not wash windows (we are not joking)! While this is really true, we do want to remind you that the KPW Neighbor Assist program provides free services to our own KPW residents.

So, while you are cleaning for spring and you come across a minor problem that has irritated you for a while, you might want to call or email KPW Neighbor Assist and request their assistance. Both you and the Neighbor Assist person who helps you will benefit. You get an item fixed or restored, and the Neighbor Assist handyman gets the satisfaction of being able to help you. It is mutually beneficial. So, help us by letting us help you.

The contact information is [NeighborAssist@kpwca.org](mailto:NeighborAssist@kpwca.org), or call **703-401-0275**.

As the weather becomes warmer and you decide to engage in some "green thumb" activities, please remember to hydrate and take it slowly. Unless you have been engaged in some vigorous exercise during the winter, doing too much too quickly may give you some REAL aches and pains. Stretching and gradually building stamina will help keep you healthy and able to continue in your gardening endeavors.



#### St. Mary's Craft and Bake Sale

St. Mary's of Sorrows  
5222 Sideburn Road  
Fairfax, VA 22032

Saturday – May 4 (4 to 6:30 pm) and  
Sunday – May 5 (9 am to 2 pm)

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Questions?  
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that floats on high o'er vales  
and hills, when all at once I  
saw a crowd, a host, of golden  
daffodils; beside the lake,  
beneath the trees, fluttering  
and dancing in the breeze."

- WILLIAM WORDSWORTH



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## On the Beauty and Serenity of Royal Lake

By Frank Cumberland

The traffic report warns us:

“Five-mile backup between Braddock Road and Tysons on 495”

Our jaws tighten. We have a morning meeting at 8:30

“Route 123 is backed-up all the way to Occoquan”

“Avoid the Mixing Bowl if you can—it’s going to be a brutal commute”

We play relaxing music in our cars, we yearn for peace and quiet

But there is no serenity on Braddock Road

We seem to be the busiest people in the busiest county in the busiest country

In the world

We work long hours and volunteer and shuttle the kids and grandkids to school and youth baseball and band and karate and scouts

We yearn for peace and quiet. National surveys of every age group show that people wish that things would slow down a bit, and that they could rest and reflect and just

Breathe the fresh air.

The percentage of the day we spend looking at electronic screens seems to increase every year

We see kids riding bikes while actually looking at their phones, wearing earbuds

We wish they could know the quiet times and places we knew as kids

And then we walk to Royal Lake

We see the wind shimmering across the water on a winter afternoon

We hear our own footfall on the fallen leaves and solid earth of the natural trails

We stop to watch a cardinal, framed in a delirious green forest

We greet our neighbors, walking, and stop to visit

We hear the joyous cacophony of the Charlie Browns playing a form of soccer

We hear the joy on the playground at Lakeside Park

And the inexpressible audible happiness emanating from Lakeview Pool on the day the pool opens

But mostly at Royal Lake we feel our muscles loosen a little, we find ourselves in a rare and treasured place of natural beauty

We find sometimes, stuck in our cars on Braddock Road, we can relax a bit just by *thinking* of a visit to Royal Lake, and its eternal combination of woods and water and sky

Walking its natural paths we find a moment of peace and reflection and rest

We are lucky to have Royal Lake, its woods and natural trails and playgrounds and fields

Right in our neighborhood

Let us treasure this oasis

Let us preserve the beauty and serenity of Royal Lake

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## THE GARDEN CORNER

*By Charlie Boring*

Marisa makes a delicious asparagus risotto, so we buy fresh asparagus quite often. We also eat it boiled with a vinegar and oil dressing, and even grilled. Of course, you can use canned or frozen asparagus, but it will not be as tasty. So, I started considering growing my own asparagus. I had put this possibility off for many years, and that appears to have been a bad decision.

Asparagus is a perennial plant, so it grows and produces for 15 to 20 years. That also means that you need to select an appropriate location for your bed and prepare your soil well before planting. Asparagus grows best with 6 to 10 hours of direct sunlight and requires well-drained, sandy-loam soil with a lot of compost. I do not have many locations that will do for an asparagus bed, so I chose my existing raised garden. It is bordered by landscape stones, is kidney shaped and varies from 48" wide at each end to 38" wide in the center and is 210" long.

Many gardeners prepare an asparagus bed by digging an 18" deep trench and then backfilling it with a mix of compost and soil. An alternative method that is less work is to plant 6" to 12" deep; this method produces almost twice as many spears per plant. Because of the shape of my bed, I will employ a mixture of both techniques. I will use a series of holes dug 12" to 18" deep and filled with a mix of soil, compost, sand, and manure.

Before planting a new asparagus bed, it is critical to eradicate all of the weeds and grasses. Asparagus plants will not tolerate weed competition. I will accomplish this by cultivating the entire bed extremely well and removing all weeds and grass. My little electric cultivator works well down to about 10", so I will have to give it some help with my handy shovel.

Asparagus is usually planted with "crowns" that are one, two, or three years old. I am planting twelve two-year-old crowns, so that my first harvest will be the spring of 2020, after one year of growth. The crowns should be planted 12" to 18" apart. For my bed, I will not use a trench down the middle of the bed, which would only allow me to plant ten crowns. Since I have purchased twelve crowns, I will stagger the holes so that I can get them in the bed with plenty of room between plants. First, I will dig a hole 12" to 18" deep and then put a shovel of my soil/compost/sand/dried cow manure mix in the hole, forming a 4" high mound. I also added some azurite and bone meal fertilizer to my mix to promote root growth.

Next, I set the asparagus crown on top of the mound and drape the roots down around the sides. The top of the crown should be approximately 6" below the soil surface. I cover the roots with garden soil and water well. As shoots begin to appear, I will add more soil until the hole has been filled back up, level with the soil surface.

To keep my asparagus bed productive the first year after planting, I could harvest a few spears from each plant, but it is best not to harvest the first year. If I choose to harvest the first year, I will harvest for about two weeks and then stop so that the fronds can unfold and begin feeding the root system. The next year I will harvest for three weeks, and four to six weeks after that. If I harvest too often, my plants will not be able to develop the strong root system needed to produce an abundant crop of spears the following season.

Spears should be harvested when they are 5" to 7" high and before the tips begin to loosen. Once the tips loosen, the spears become tough and fibrous. To harvest spears, cut or snap them off just above the soil level. Leaving a stub causes no harm to the plant. Once the bed is well-established, harvesting can continue until the bed yields only skinny spears that are less than a half inch in diameter.

Once the harvesting season has ended, which will be in late spring/early summer, I will allow the spears to develop naturally. They will grow 4' to 6' feet high, with lacy, light-green foliage. Keep the bed weeded, mulched and watered. The healthier the fronds, the more energy the plants will have for next year's harvest. When fall arrives, the fronds will turn yellow. At this time, it is generally best to cut the fronds about an inch above ground level and remove them from the area. This will help keep pests, such as the asparagus beetle, from overwintering. It will also make sure your bed is neat and ready to go next spring. Each spring I will apply organic fertilizer as a top dressing.

Twelve asparagus plants will yield more than enough for us to enjoy asparagus risotto many times once the plants are a few years old.

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-----  
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## SPRING into action with Friends of Royal Lake (FORL)!

*By Sarah G. J. Lennon*

What part of Royal Lake and its surrounding parkland interests you the most? The trails? The environmental quality? The picnic tables, playgrounds and ball fields? Well, whatever your interest is, chances are FORL is working on something related to it!

If you are concerned about the trash that you see around the lake, in the woods, and on the trails, come with some friends and join us for the Spring Parks and Lakes Clean-Up on April 27th! While the best option would be for people to pick up their **own** trash, we want to make sure it goes no further into the Pohick Creek watershed that feeds into the Potomac River and into the Chesapeake Bay. And while we are talking about trash and trails, wouldn't it be fantastic if all who brought their furry friends to scamper around the trails picked up all their waste so it does not contaminate our waterways? (It does not just harmlessly dissipate into nature.)

Maybe the quality and reliability of the trails around the lake are of most importance to you. If so, please join us in May for the second in a series of work days to address trail segments that get soggy and muddy periodically, making the trail impassable, difficult to navigate, or may become potential breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Another major issue area in which FORL is getting involved is the potential impact that future planned construction projects – such as on the grounds of the old Northern Virginia Training Center and at the intersection of Braddock and Roberts Roads – may have on aggregate storm water run-off and the greater watershed of which Rabbit Branch and Royal Lake are a part. (There will also be major traffic impacts on our community from these projects.) Come share your opinions and make your voice heard if this is important to you!

Mark your calendars now for....

- **Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 8 - 11 am** – The Spring Parks & Lakes Clean-Up at Lakeside and Royal Lake Parks. There will be family fun and games for all at Lakeside Park as well!
- **Saturday AND Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> (9 am - noon) & 19<sup>th</sup> (1 - 4 pm)** – Royal Lake circuit trail maintenance day where we will be fortifying segments of the trail with gravel provided by the Fairfax County Park Authority. All are welcome (kids middle school ages and up), as are wheelbarrows, shovels, rakes, etc. Great opportunity to earn some service hours for students/groups/teams! Meet by the dam.
- **Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7 - 8:30 pm** – The next FORL Community meeting, Laurel Ridge cafeteria.

And remember the targeted monthly Road Raiders clean-ups (now including donuts and coffee!) on the **second Saturday of every month, 7:30 - 8 am**. Contact Tom McCook for more information ([trmccook@gmail.com](mailto:trmccook@gmail.com)).

Please watch for more information on Facebook and Next Door; a FORL website and/or FB page are forthcoming. As always, you can email me at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org), or Paul Gross, President of FORL, at [friendsofroyallake@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofroyallake@gmail.com), for more information, to share your expertise as a FORL volunteer, and to get on our mailing list.



# REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



The spring market is heating up in KPW. Well presented homes are selling with multiple offers and reduced contingencies while homes that are just a little bit off are lingering on the market and experiencing price drops. Damaged exteriors, moldy basements, a lack of attention to the finer points is reducing price points significantly and causing some houses to lose their contracts. Buyers will pay more for actual turnkey homes but are increasingly skittish in this strong sellers' market.

Model	Status	Address	Original List Price	Current Price
Baron	SOLD!	4794 Catterick Ct	\$699,900	\$700,000
Baron	For Sale	10189 Bessmer Ln	\$659,000	\$659,000
Baron	SOLD!	10215 Commonwealth Blvd	\$729,500	\$745,000
Baron	For Sale	4839 Gainsborough Dr	\$699,000	\$689,000
Baron Expanded	SOLD!	10410 Stallworth Ct	\$749,500	\$760,000
Cromwell	For Sale	10217 Commonwealth Blvd	\$520,000	\$520,000
Duchess	For Sale	4925 Gainsborough Dr	\$549,000	\$549,000
Duchess	Under Contract	5247 Pommeroy Dr	\$599,500	\$599,500
King	SOLD!	4951 Swinton Dr	\$580,000	\$580,000
King	SOLD!	9624 Commonwealth Blvd	\$599,000	\$615,000
King	For Sale	5104 Thackery Ct	\$599,500	\$599,500
Prince	SOLD!	4871 Wheatstone Dr	\$595,000	\$595,000
Queen Expanded	Under Contract	5006 Wheatstone Dr	\$635,000	\$635,000
Queen Expanded	Under Contract	5112 Gainsborough Dr	\$559,900	\$549,900
Queen Expanded	For Sale	5231 Stonington Dr	\$609,990	\$609,990
Regent	Under Contract	10439 Collingham Dr	\$549,900	\$549,900
Regent	SOLD!	9803 Ward Ct	\$649,000	\$655,000
Regent	Under Contract	4870 Wheatstone Dr	\$649,500	\$649,500
Regent	Under Contract	4992 Swinton Dr	\$625,000	\$625,000
Regent	Under Contract	4779 Farndon Ct	\$599,888	\$599,888
Regent	SOLD!	10017 Eastlake Dr	\$614,888	\$600,000

Number of Homes Sold: 16\*  
 Average List Price: \$612,940  
 Average Sold Price: \$590,896  
\*(Table to the right reflects homes sold since last edition of Herald)

The 47th Annual

## Clifton Homes Tour

Proceeds benefit local scholarships and charities through the Clifton Community Woman's Club 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust

May 17, 2019



**Tour:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Tickets:** \$30 in advance, \$33 online, \$35 the day of the tour  
**Silent Auction:**  
 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
 Free Admission  
 Clifton Presbyterian Church

- ❖ Tour Four Elegant Clifton-Area Homes
- ❖ Visit Two Historic Clifton Churches
- ❖ Shop at the Silent Auction at Clifton Presbyterian Church

Visit [www.cliftoncwc.org](http://www.cliftoncwc.org) or contact [stemory@aol.com](mailto:stemory@aol.com).

### GMU Patriot Pantry

Mary Crowder | (703) 239-2581

To date, we have donated 2,264 pounds of food and toiletries to the George Mason food pantry. Food items they need include cereal, instant oatmeal, granola/protein bars, crackers and snack packs, fruit cups, cans of tuna and chicken, and pasta and sauce.

Toiletry items needed include body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, laundry detergent pods, shampoo/conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, and toilet paper.

I keep a bin on my front porch which I check daily, and usually deliver once a month to GMU.

Thanks in advance for anything you can donate!



## *Burke Historical Society Upcoming Events*

### ***BHS General Meetings at Pohick Regional Library***

**Sunday, May 19, 3:30**

**Sydenstricker: A Living Link to Springfield's Past**

Annette Tison and Lisa Friedrich Becker recount the history of the Sydenstricker community (for which Sydenstricker Road is named), including the historic Methodist church and the schoolhouse, both preserved.

**Sunday, June 30, 3:30**

**Local POW Camps of WWII**

Ann Shields shares her research on the WWII-era camps for German prisoners of war at Fort Meade, Fairfax, and Fort Hunt, within the context of the national POW-internment program.

**Sunday, July 28, 3:30**

**Col. Mosby from 1865 to 1916**

William Connery speaks on the post-Civil-War career of John S. Mosby: supporting Ulysses S. Grant's presidency, serving as U.S. consul to Hong Kong, and mentoring George S. Patton.

### ***BHS Seminar at Burke Centre Library***

**Tuesday, June 4, 7 p.m.**

**Searching Military Service Records**

Learn to search for an individual's military service records, from the War of Independence through the Vietnam War.

### ***BHS Speakers at George Mason Regional Library***

**Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m.**

**The Ball-Sellers House**

Archaeologist Patrick O'Neill will speak on Arlington's oldest house built by John Ball and preserved through many owners until its donation to the Arlington Historical Society.

Burke Historical Society  
Attn: Membership  
P.O. Box 243  
Burke, VA 22009

[burkehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com](mailto:burkehistoricalsociety@hotmail.com)

[www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org)

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### **Get Off the Couch**

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

#### **April 27-28**

##### **Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival**

Dozens of events take place during the festival running through May 5th. It kicks off with the Bloomin' Wine Fest, and includes a carnival with midway and other events. Prices vary. Carnival is open noon - 11 pm Saturday, noon - 10 pm Sunday. In Winchester. [thebloom.com/](http://thebloom.com/)

#### **May 4-5**

##### **Around the World Embassy Tour**

Get an inside look at embassies and consulates of countries around the world as part of Passport DC. Food, art, dance, fashion, and music from more than 40 participating countries including Australia, Brazil, Nepal, and the Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center (Oman). Saturday only 10 am - 4 pm. \*FREE\* Throughout NW Washington. [culturaltourismdc.org](http://culturaltourismdc.org)

#### **May 11-12**

##### **The Heritage India Festival**

South Asian culture and heritage will be celebrated at the 15th Heritage India Festival. Dance competitions, food, shopping and kids' activities. Admission is \$5, children age five and under are free. Saturday noon – 9 pm, Sunday noon – 7 pm. At Dulles Expo Center. [hifestival.com/](http://hifestival.com/)

#### **Spring Farm Day**

Visit Frying Pan Farm Park for a day out on the farm. Milk a cow! Milk a goat! Meet baby animals! There will also be crafts, games, and fair-type food. Saturday only 10 am – 3 pm, \$7 in advance, \$8 at the gate. Kids under two free. [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/)

#### **European Union Embassy Open House**

The member nations of the European Union open their doors during Passport DC. Enjoy dance, food, film, and art of 28 European countries, including Portugal, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, Poland, and Greece. Even little Luxembourg gets its day in the sun. Saturday only 10 am – 4 pm. \*FREE\* Throughout NW Washington. ([culturaltourismdc.org](http://culturaltourismdc.org))

#### **May 18-19**

##### **Fiesta Asia**

Held in honor of Asian-Pacific Heritage Month, this street fair encourages visitors to explore and enjoy different cultural experiences. Held in DC along Pennsylvania Avenue vendors, performers, martial artists and more. Saturday only 11 am – 7 pm. \*FREE\* [www.fiestaasia.org](http://www.fiestaasia.org)

#### **May 25-26**

Opening Weekend for your neighborhood pool! Most pools offer a free trial all weekend. Check the schedule for ribbon cutting, cookouts, Movies under the Stars, etc. [commonwealthswimclub.org](http://commonwealthswimclub.org), [krswim.org](http://krswim.org), [lakeviewmarlins.com](http://lakeviewmarlins.com).

#### **Delaplane Strawberry Festival**

Sky Meadows State Park, Delaplane. Live entertainment, children's games, pony rides, hayrides, a petting zoo, a 5K fun run, a raptor exhibit, antique cars, food, crafts and strawberries. 10 am – 5 pm. \$20/car in advance and \$25/car at the gate. [www.delaplanestrawberryfestival.com](http://www.delaplanestrawberryfestival.com)

#### **June 1-2**

##### **Imagination Bethesda**

Children's street festival featuring costume characters, face painters, dance troupes, theatre performances and arts activities. \*FREE\* Saturday 10 am - 3 pm in Bethesda. [www.bethesda.org/bethesda/imagination-bethesda](http://www.bethesda.org/bethesda/imagination-bethesda)

#### **Herndon Festival**

Downtown Herndon. Live entertainment, international foods, carnival rides and games, children's entertainment, a business expo, 10K and 5K races, a Fitness expo, fireworks and more. \*FREE\* [www.herndonfestival.net/](http://www.herndonfestival.net/)

#### **Greek Festival**

Come out for authentic Greek food, desserts, dancing and entertainment, starts Friday at 6 pm. St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 3149 Glen Carlyn Road, Falls Church.

#### **Movies on the Potomac**

The National Harbor presents family films on its huge outdoor screen. The movie starts at 6 pm, Sunday only. \*\*FREE\*\* On the water at National Harbor. [www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/](http://www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/)

#### **June 8-9**

##### **Celebrate Fairfax!**

Over 300 exhibitors, food vendors, and interactive activities. Celebrate Fairfax! showcases live concerts on eight stages, a petting zoo, the Fairfax County Karaoke Championship, carnival rides, and great festival foods. [celebratefairfax.com](http://celebratefairfax.com)

#### **June 15-16**

##### **Taste of Reston**

At Reston Town Center, this the largest outdoor food festival in the area, voted "Northern Virginia's Best Food Festival" by Virginia Living magazine. Great food, live entertainment on three stages, the Family Fun Zone! and the Wine 'n Dine area. [www.restontaste.com/](http://www.restontaste.com/)

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

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

May 4-5: Sesame Street Live! Make Your Magic!  
Congratulation to all families attending Graduation ceremonies in May and June!

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

Baseball and Softball: [gomason.com](http://gomason.com)

Summer Camps: [summercamps.gmu.edu/](http://summercamps.gmu.edu/)

## The Naming of Shanes Creek

*By Mary McAnaw, Maire McAnaw Weathers, and Susie Duvall*

John P. McAnaw was a historian, preservationist, and an outdoorsman. When he moved to Kings Park West in 1982, he was on active duty with the US Army. Upon retiring, he became involved with the KPWCA's Parks and Lakes Committee, and went on to serve as Chairman for over twenty years. He spearheaded numerous projects to improve our trails and parkland. In 2008, John was honored in a ceremony that renamed this area the "John P. McAnaw Woodlands & Recreation Area at Royal Lake" in recognition of his selfless dedication.

In 1983, John and his family adopted an Irish setter puppy by the name of Shane. Shane was a big red friendly puppy, energetic, and always up for an adventure. He was John's constant companion as they explored the wooded areas around Royal Lake. Their family home on Gainsborough Drive backed up to the parkland and was a stone's throw from a winding creek. This creek begins west of Roberts Road and meanders along the southwest border of KPW before flowing into Royal Lake. John and Shane were a familiar sight to all along this creek bed; neither had ever met a stranger, always greeting fellow trail lovers with conversation and a tail wag.

One day, John was stepping over rocks, halfway to the west side of the creek, while Shane paced anxiously on the east bank. Shane let out a high-pitched puppy "yelp" and leapt onto John's back for a free ride across the creek. Over the next year, Shane grew to a muscular 115 pounds, conquered his fear and learned to joyfully vault over the creek in a single bound.

John researched Fairfax County Land Records and was unable to find any record that officially named this creek, so he started referring to it in his speeches and writings as "Shanes Creek" (intentionally leaving out the apostrophe). As Chairman of Parks and Lakes, John frequently visited



Area 4, Fairfax County Park Authority and the Government Center on behalf of lake and woodland concerns. During presentations and when showing homeowners around, John referred to the unnamed creek as "Shanes Creek." John organized volunteers to meet for park cleanup days on the east side of Shanes Creek. Everyone knew exactly which creek John was talking about. Over time and after many repetitions, it became widely known as Shanes Creek.

Shanes Creek continues to be cited in newsletters and Kings Park West Facebook posts today. Shanes Creek Trail is a beautiful wooded path that leaves Royal Lake and follows Shanes Creek upstream. Three public access points are located on Gainsborough Drive (near intersection with Claridge Court), on Dundalk Street, and on Roberts Road. But don't tell too many people about this hidden gem!

Susie Duvall presented a wooden sign to John McAnaw in 1990. It was never displayed near Shanes Creek for fear vandals would destroy it. Hence, it has been in the McAnaw's home ever since. Mrs. McAnaw is donating this sign to the KPWCA Parks and Lakes Committee, in hopes that it will be installed along the trail to formally recognize Shanes Creek for all who enjoy it.

*Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on Earth*

*– Muhammad Ali*

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!!**

**SPRING PARK CLEAN-UP**

***SATURDAY APRIL 27TH, 8A-11A***

**This is a fantastic opportunity to help protect our natural resources, meet some new neighbors, have fun and make the world a better place! (*Not bad for a beautiful spring morning!*) There will be clean-up teams starting at Royal Lake Park and Lakeside Park.**

**Service hours can be earned and there will be fun and games at Lakeside Park, courtesy of the Mary & Cathy team!**



**The Parks & Lakes Committee is looking for motivated neighbors to help plan and organize twice-a-year park/lake clean-ups.**

**We need *YOUR* ideas to make the clean-ups successful, fun and inviting!**

***For more information on volunteering with Parks & Lakes and helping plan the clean-up, please contact Sarah Lennon at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahgilennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgilennon@gmail.com).***

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

*– Gandhi*

## Pack 1968

By Tanis Gray

Happy Springtime, neighbors!

Pack 1968 enjoyed our annual Blue & Gold Dinner – a celebration of the Boy Scouts of America. Scout families were transported to the magical land of Harry Potter and the Laurel Ridge Cafeteria was transformed into Hogwarts! Guests walked through a faux brick wall much like the one from Diagon Alley, where we feasted on excellent potluck fare and enjoyed entertainment from an improv comedian that had the Muggles on their feet asking for more. Scouts participated in a Harry Potter-themed baking competition and the results were both magical and delicious. Great work, Scouts!



In March, our AOL (Arrows of Light) had their Bridging ceremony. We congratulate Scouts Jonah Burke, Joshua Celio, Ryan Oedemann, and AJ Sekera, and wish them well on their journey to the next level of Scouting. The boys and their families will be greatly missed, and we cheer them on as they move from Cub Scouts onto Boy Scouts. Jonah has moved onwards to Troop 1966 (sponsored by the Kings Park West Civic Association), and AJ, Ryan, and Joshua have moved to Troop 697 (sponsored by St. Mary of Sorrows).



card is \$5, and many Scouts will be around local business selling them. You can also contact any Scout directly.

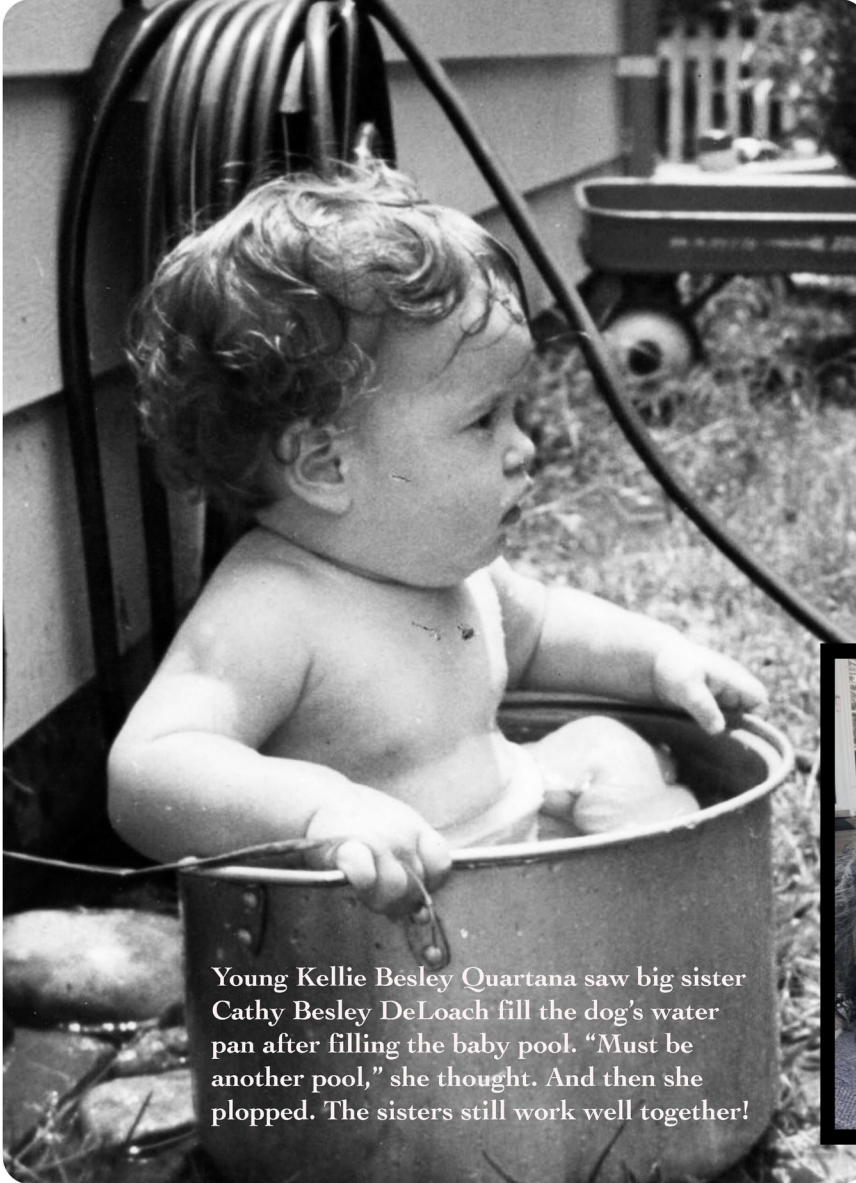
Our Scouts continue to work hard on their activities and service to earn their awards and mark their achievements. If you know a young man or lady wishing to join Pack 1968 or an adult looking for volunteer opportunities, please contact our Scoutmaster Bobby Burke at [cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com).

May brings our popular Spring Family Campout! This year we hope for better weather and look forward to our time together in the woods.

Our Scouts are selling Camp Cards for 2019 in lieu of popcorn. Camp Cards are a plastic card offering discounts to myriad 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



# You Call This a Garden Tub?



Young Kellie Besley Quartana saw big sister Cathy Besley DeLoach fill the dog's water pan after filling the baby pool. "Must be another pool," she thought. And then she plopped. The sisters still work well together!

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