

June 2019

Vol. 49, Issue 4

Kings Park West Civic Association

Greetings!

The month of May is always a busy month for the Civic Association. We started the month with the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner and Spring Membership Meeting on May 7th. We had an enjoyable dinner with pizza (from Angie’s), salad and cake. Mary Crowder (Board Member at Large) oversaw the dinner again this year. Many thanks to her for organizing, preparing the beautiful floral arrangements (which were all cuttings from her garden and very impressive), and hosting this event. The Board extends a warm thank you to everyone who volunteered this past year in support of the twenty KPWCA committees and many important community incentives. Certificates of Appreciation were presented this year to Patti Dickerson, Samantha Juni, and Steve McCarty, who generously volunteered in support of the Association.

The membership meeting followed the volunteer dinner, which included two presentations of community interest. The first presentation was given by Frank Cumberland (Board Secretary and Friends of Royal Lake Secretary) on preserving natural-surface trails. As the Park Authority prepares for the 2020 bond referendum to fund park improvements, we are hopeful to have some much-needed improvements to the Royal Lake trails. As we move forward over the next year or so, and as new trail projects are identified, the matter of trails being paved or not is an important subject that the community will need to consider.

The second presentation was given by representatives of Erickson Living on the new independent living and continuing care community, which will be located on the former site of the Northern Virginia Training Center. Erickson plans to build 1,050 independent living units and approximately 175 assisted living/skilled nursing units. They are currently going through the planning and design process with Fairfax County. They hope to start construction in late 2021.

Our spring dumpster day was held on May 11th. It seems that many of us were busy with spring cleaning and filled the dumpsters. We would like to extend our thanks to Lakeview Pool for the continued use of their parking lot, The Mary & Cathy Team for planning the event and providing donuts and coffee, and Mike Karamah, Membership Chair, for providing registration services.

Community Calendar	
Father’s Day.....	Jun 16
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Jun 18
Summer Begins.....	Jun 21
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Jul 2
Independence Day.....	Jul 4
Best of Braddock.....	Jul 10
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Jul 16
Herald Deadline.....	Jul 31
Citizen Advisory Council.....	Aug 6
Braddock District Council.....	Aug 14
Herald Delivery.....	Aug 17
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Aug 20
Labor Day.....	Sep 2

Continued on Page 3

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:

Content Editor	Leah Larson-Taylor	703-283-0208
Communications Editor	Sara Rezk	571-277-0782

Herald Advertising and Classifieds

	Gayle Ostrom	classified@kpwca.org
Signboards	Adrienne Barna	703-323-0518
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett	website@kpwca.org
Membership	Mike and Rima Karame	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

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.

Email Addresses for KPWCA Inc.

OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEES

Membership	Membership@kpwca.org
Welcome Coordinator	Welcome@kpwca.org
Consumer Affairs	Consumer@kpwca.org
Zoning	Zoning@kpwca.org
B.A.G.G.	BAGG@kpwca.org
Parks & Lakes	Parks@kpwca.org
Signs, St.s, Sidewalks	St.s@kpwca.org
Neighborhood Watch	Watch@kpwca.org
Scholarships	Scholarships@kpwca.org
Neighbor Assistance	NeighborAssist@kpwca.org

HERALD STAFF

Editor	Editor@kpwca.org
Classifieds	Classified@kpwca.org
Advertising	Classified@kpwca.org
General Information	Info@kpwca.org
Community Association	KPWHO@yaho.com

How Do I Advertise in The Herald?

CLASSIFIEDS: KPWCA Newsletter classified advertisements for the August 17th issue must be received no later than July 31st 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 Gayle Ostrom; please email classified@kpwca.org for rates.

How Do I Get My News in The Herald?

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

The Herald

Published eight times yearly by the KPWCA.
NEXT DEADLINE is July 31, 2019
for delivery on August 17, 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

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 KPWCA 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

The following weekend, on May 18th, the Friends of Royal Lake, KPW community volunteers, and Park Authority staff, joined forces to make some much-needed trail repair at Royal Lake. The Park Authority provided the stone dust/gravel materials, and the community volunteers provided the backbone/labor. This was another great initiative where teamwork and volunteerism resulted in an upgrade for our community.

It is with great excitement to report that the KPWCA signboard replacements are now underway. The original wooden signboards that have served KPW nobly for over thirty years are being taken down, and new signboards will be installed and will continue to provide community information to KPW, hopefully for another thirty years. We appreciate that KPW Homeowners Association gave us permission to replace the signs on their property. Many thanks to Adrienne Barna (Board Member at Large) who has worked tirelessly on this project! Over the past couple of years, she has negotiated with the sign manufacturer, coordinated with the contractor, and secured Fairfax County sign and construction permits.

As summer approaches, please mark your calendars for FREE outdoor musical performances right here in KPW. The *2019 Braddock Nights Summer Entertainment Series* Concerts will be held at Royal Lake Park (5344 Gainsborough Drive) on Friday evenings from July 5th through August 23rd from 7:30-8:30 pm (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances). For all our music lovers, park enthusiasts and activity seekers – mark your calendars, and bring lawn chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner. And enjoy!

Our three neighborhood pools, Commonwealth Swim Club, Kings Ridge Swim Club and Lakeview Swim Club, are now open for summer fun and relaxation!

Enjoy your summer!

Jeanmarie Roberson

Q/As About Solarization

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Folks asked about solarization, a non-chemical means of eradicating weeds and soil pests from a plot. It involves enclosing broad areas under a tarp during the summer months, enabling the sun's heat to cook and kill the plants, weed seeds, and other organisms beneath the cover. Ideally, temperatures reach 60°C (140°F), but even 50°C (122°F) can help, depending on the incubation time and problematic organism. Periods of longer, sustained higher temperatures increase the sterilization efficacy. Variations exist within this general concept, such as whether to use a clear covering (enabling deeper heat penetration) or black tarp (allowing a hotter surface temperature and block photosynthesis). The coverings must be secured to trap the heat and prevent them from being blown off by the wind.

This technique acts on organisms on and in the soil; decomposing plant material severed from the soil and killing any associated seeds becomes a composting operation – a completely different subject. Solarization's caveats are 1) without a regulated heat, the temperature might not get high enough for a sufficient period to kill the targets, and 2) successful solarization may also kill beneficial soil microbes and non-target plant roots.

Q: I read an article about how to solarize weeds so they can be composted and not spread. I tried and found even after a much longer period of time, the roots of invasive stuff (like Bishop's weed [*Aegopodium podagraria*]) were still alive and sprouting. Do you have any tips I may have missed?

A: There are a few tricks to solarizing. One of them is timing: for best results, do it at the beginning of the summer season (meteorological summer starts in May for Fairfax) and keep it going into September or even October. First thing to do is prepare the area, including removing anything that will poke through the tarp (e.g., unwanted shrubs). If possible, mow the plot and let the clippings fall. Never solarize on weeds like bamboo because the shoots will pierce through many types of plastic tarp. Manually remove weeds and roots around the desirable shrubs. Leave space around their root area to protect them from roasting and so that they will continue receiving water, proper gas exchange, etc. Also, add organic fertilizer and water the ground so that the plants to be solarized want to grow. Then, the rude surprise for the weeds will be the tarp that traps heat and helps kill the plants underneath. Furthermore, the wet soil enables heat to transfer better into the soil than through dry ground.

Solarizing is more effective on shallow-rooted clumping plants and not as good on vines like Bishop's weed, English ivy, and even clover. The problem with vines, especially ones that travel underground, is that finding and covering the whole plant is difficult. Some of these vines are more than thirty feet long, so covering a small section might beat that piece of it down. If the parts of the plant are too deep or otherwise escape the baking heat, nutrients supplied by other parts of the plant keep it alive. Even if portions of the weed die, the small surviving segments can come back and re-infest the area. Some weeds, like wisteria, have deep roots and vast energy reserves, so solarizing those will not work.

Getting back to the original Bishop's weed problem, a recommended strategy that Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers apply to English ivy is to manually pull small sections at a time. Proceed progressively across the plot (do not try to hit it all at once), pull up any re-sprouting plants from missed root fragments, and continue until the plot is clear. Planting replacements on this plot is fine as long as the target weed is down to small levels and will be pulled immediately upon discovery.



Figure 1. Securing the solarizing tarp along the edges prevents heat escape and wind damage. This example uses metal rods and stakes; stacked masonry works, too. Include fastenings in the center when covering broad plots and entire lawns.

Q: Would you recommend the same strategy for Japanese stiltgrass?

A: Yes, *Microstegium vimineum* is a perfect plant to hit with tarp and solarization: a shallow-rooted annual without vines or rhizomes. The seeds are relatively short-lived. Folks can get a stiltgrass infestation in their yard under control by simply pulling it. People will likely track in more seeds, but those small germination events are easily controlled. It also underscores the importance of cleaning footwear in a controlled area, especially after walking in the mud.

Q: Thanks for that. The article I read only said to cover with black bags in full sun for 14-15 hours for a couple of days. I left them in the sun for weeks but sounds like this is not the effective method for my issue.

A: Small tarping like that will only beat the weeds back for a little bit. For best results, solarizing is more than blocking light; it needs to cook the roots, which might be deep in the soil. The soil acts as an insulator, hence the need for a long solarization exposure during the hottest time of the year and while the plant wants to grow instead of when it is dormant or in some other "hunker down" survival mode.

Additional solarizing techniques and strategies (of which there are many) can be found at:

agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/library/gardening/soil-solarization/
homeguides.sfgate.com/black-plastic-vs-clear-plastic-killing-weeds-86841.html
edis.ifas.ufl.edu/in856
ucanr.edu/sites/Solarization/Natural_resources_users/Weed_solarization/

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/91_2019-06.pdf



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The Herald's List


by Mary Hovland and Cathy DeLoach

Decluttering Contest!!!!


Check out the Herald's List on Facebook for the details about our Decluttering Contest. We will be awarding winners weekly and the prizes will be fantastic! If you have any creative storage solutions or products to recommend, please plan to share them! Let's put Marie Kondo to shame!




Before




After




Before



After




Before



After

www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList



Cub Scout Pack 1967

The school year is getting close to ending, but Pack 1967 is busy as always! Earlier this year, the Pack voted on and made their own custom neckerchief slides that listed the twelve points of the Scout law and highlighted the Pack's relationship with the KPWCA.



In March, a few of the older Scouts hiked to Overall Run Falls, the highest waterfall in Shenandoah National Park. The hike included part of the Appalachian Trail, and seemed to go through fog for most of the hike. Thankfully, the fog cleared as the Scouts got to the waterfall. After completing the six-mile hike, many of the Scouts (and parents) were a little tired, but proud of their accomplishment.

In April, the Pack had its monthly meeting at Lake Royal and were grateful for the support of Scouts BSA Troops 1865 and 1966! The two troops manned four stations, teaching the Pack about wilderness first aid, how to clean their dishes in the outdoors, and how to cook many yummy desserts in Dutch ovens. Thanks again to the troops for their help in the event!



Pack 1967 finished the month by camping out at Burke Lake Park. It rained a little during the campout at night, but the Pack enjoyed a beautiful day and a fun campfire at night filled with skits, stories, and s'mores. At the campfire, ten of the Scouts received the prestigious Supernova science award. The Supernova award recognizes in-depth, advanced achievement in STEM-related activities. Congratulations to Sam Corley, Chris Jones, Isaac Klontz, Christopher Justice, Chase Macfarlane, Cormac Mann, Charlie Murray, Scott Shelby, Ryan Sisco, and Talay Uhing for earning this award!

In May, the Pack celebrated the achievements of all its members as Scouts earned their rank badges and were promoted to the next rank. Congratulations to all of the Scouts of Pack 1967 on their achievements! The new neckerchiefs look good on you!



As the summer months start, we will have many activities for the Scouts and anyone else interested in Scouting. Please join us for water rockets, fishing, ice cream, touring the National Museum of the American Indian, and a cook-out. We will also be joining up with Pack 1968 again to march in the Fairfax Fourth of July parade. 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, email CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.

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

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

Pack 1967 Summer Activities

JULY

July 4

Marching in the Fairfax 4th of July Parade

July 14, 2 p.m.

“Ice” Fishing at Lake Royal Park

July 28, 2 p.m.

Ice cream at Woody’s in Fairfax City

AUGUST

Aug 21, 10 a.m.

Tour of the National Museum of the American Indian

Aug 25, 4 p.m.

Cook-out at Royal Lake Park



REAL ESTATE CORNER

by Mary and Cathy



As we head towards summer with soaring temps it appears that the brisk spring market has cooled slightly. Homes are not selling as quickly and some buyers, perhaps experiencing cold feet, are actually cancelling contracts. As always, those sellers who scrupulously prepare their homes for market tend to have the best results. Clean, uncluttered, modernized homes retain their appeal to buyers and do not languish on the market. Preparation is everything!

Number of Homes Sold: 20*
 Average List Price: \$610,071
 Average Sold Price: \$609,038
*(Table reflects homes sold since last edition of Herald)

Model	Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Model	Status	Address	List Price	Sold Price
Baron	For Sale	5304 Kaywood Ct	\$649,000		Queen	For Sale	4919 Wycliff Ln	\$574,900	
Baron	For Sale	10324 Collingham Dr	\$719,000		Queen	Under Contract	5304 Pommeroy Dr	\$625,000	
Baron	For Sale	10189 Bessmer Ln	\$659,000		Queen	Under Contract	5334 Gainsborough Dr	\$749,500	
Baron	SOLD!	10410 Stallworth Dr	\$749,500	\$760,000	Queen	Under Contract	10103 Dundalk St	\$614,900	
Baron	SOLD!	4839 Gainsborough Dr	\$699,000	\$698,000	Queen	SOLD!	5112 Gainsborough Dr	\$559,900	\$537,500
Cromwell	SOLD!	10217 Commonwealth Blvd	\$520,000	\$529,000	Queen	SOLD!	5006 Wheatstone Dr	\$635,000	\$628,800
Duchess	For Sale	5307 Richardson Dr	\$599,000		Queen	SOLD!	5231 Stonington Dr	\$609,990	\$600,700
Duchess	SOLD!	5247 Pommeroy Dr	\$599,500	\$643,000	Queen	SOLD!	5228 Richardson Dr	\$615,000	\$607,500
Duke	For Sale	5004 Wheatstone Dr	\$594,750		Regent	For Sale	10120 Eastlake Dr	\$650,000	
Duke	Under Contract	5311 Richardson Dr	\$599,500		Regent	Under Contract	5303 Kaywood Ct	\$619,000	
Duke	Under Contract	4910 Eland Ct	\$550,000		Regent	Under Contract	5315 Stonington Dr	\$585,000	
Duke	Under Contract	4905 Wycliff Ln	\$544,000		Regent	SOLD!	10017 Eastlake Dr	\$614,888	\$600,000
Duke	SOLD!	5375 Gainsborough Dr	\$550,000	\$570,000	Regent	SOLD!	4870 Wheatstone Dr	\$649,500	\$675,000
Duke	SOLD!	5069 Coleridge Dr	\$546,000	\$546,000	Regent	SOLD!	4779 Farndon Ct	\$599,888	\$590,000
Essex	For Sale	10181 Bessmer Ln	\$675,000		Regent	SOLD!	4992 Swinton Dr	\$625,000	\$626,650
Essex	Under Contract	4925 Gainsborough Dr	\$549,000		Regent	SOLD!	10439 Collingham Dr	\$549,900	\$518,800
King	For Sale	5112 Lavery Ct	\$630,000		Regent	SOLD!	10436 Heady Ct	\$644,900	\$647,800
King	SOLD!	5104 Thackery Ct	\$599,500	\$609,500	Regent	SOLD!	4786 Catterick Ct	\$649,900	\$665,000
King	SOLD!	5326 Gainsborough Dr	\$540,000	\$540,000	Regent	SOLD!	10023 Llewellyn Ct	\$609,000	\$587,500
Prince	For Sale	10001 Eastlake Dr	\$560,000		York	Under Contract	10316 Commonwealth Blvd	\$524,990	
Prince	Under Contract	4937 Gainsborough Dr	\$575,000						

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Service Unit 54-15: Our Impact

As the 2018-2019 school year draws to a close, Service Unit (SU) 54-15 would like to thank Kings Park West for being part of our Girl Scout community. This year, girls explored the outdoors, participated in hands-on STEM experiments, ran a business, learned new skills, and developed lasting friendships. Below are a few highlights of our impact.

Entrepreneurs

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led business in the U.S. It helps girls learn to set and achieve goals, manage money, make decisions, and work with people, all while making it possible for them to embark on amazing adventures.



The Top 3 Cookie Flavors in Our Neighborhood!

36,012

boxes of cookies sold by 299 girls in our SU

2,655

boxes donated to the military & charities



In our SU, we have:

343

Girl Members

302

Adult Members

29

Troops

Outdoors

Each spring, our Service Unit plans and hosts a camping trip where girls learn and lead outdoor activities, build campfires, and camp overnight.



attended annual camping trip

Community Service and Support

Girl Scouts would not be possible without donations to SHARE, which provides financial assistance for girls and camp maintenance. Girl Scouts help in many other ways, including clean-up projects, coat and toy drives, and mentoring.



262

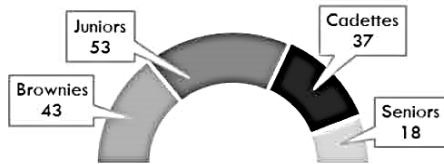
hours of community service by Laurel Ridge and Robinson Girl Scout Troops

\$2,434

raised by 17 troops for SHARE

Advancement

Bridging to the next level in Girl Scouts is a defining moment to celebrate achievements and prepare for new adventures.



Bridging Girl Scouts

STEM

Girl Scouts recently introduced new STEM badges so girls can learn about and improve the world. In our SU, we hosted a community pumpkin chucking contest where KPW residents got to create and use catapults and slingshots to see who could chuck their pumpkins the farthest. Also, we hosted an annual pinewood derby race, where over 80 girls designed, built, and raced pinewood cars.



Do you have a child interested in joining Girl Scouts, or are you interested in volunteering with us? Please visit our website at www.gscnc.org, or email us at su5415info@gmail.com for information.

Friends of Royal Lake Trail Repair Workday Was a Success!

By Sarah G. J. Lennon

Over the course of six hours on the May 18-19 weekend, hardy bands of volunteers spread gravel on six segments of the Royal Lake circuit trail between the dam and Shanes Creek. The Fairfax County Park Authority generously provided a large pile of crushed stone, and with a wheelbarrow brigade and many strong backs combined with community-minded spirits, we were able to repair a total of about two hundred feet of trail. HUGE shout outs to the volunteers who donated chunks of time from their weekend in the heat and humidity, and thanks as well to the people running/walking around the lake who agreed to be pressed into labor for a few wheelbarrows full of shoveling! These trail segments that had been getting soggy and muddy periodically, making the trail impassable, difficult to navigate and a breeding ground for mosquitoes, are now in good condition, even after a heavy rain.

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) held its second community meeting of the year at Laurel Ridge ES, and we were delighted with the turnout. There were many new faces, including some from neighboring communities outside of KPW that border the lake, so the communications plan of posting more broadly on Nextdoor is working! We discussed priority work projects, as well as our past and planned interactions with Fairfax County officials in both the Park Authority (responsible for the parkland) and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (responsible for the water and the dam). We shared that our goal is to have the trail maintenance/repair workdays on a quarterly basis (roughly August, November, February and May). We also answered the oft-asked question of why the targeted monthly Road Raiders clean-ups start so early on Saturdays (answer: so you can help for thirty minutes before the sports and other demands of the day begin). Thanks to Tom McCook who took over from me last year, Road Raiders now includes donuts and coffee on the **second Saturday of every month, 7:30-8 am**. Contact Tom for more information (trmccook@gmail.com).

As a reminder, no matter what part of Royal Lake and its surrounding parkland is most important to YOU (trash, trails, water quality, picnic tables, playgrounds and ball fields), chances are that FORL is working on something related to it! We have a trails spreadsheet with tangible, discrete, limited scope projects. We also have a large (*and growing!*) network of volunteers. However, we do need "Project Champions" to spearhead some efforts. Every individual can make a difference! We continue to look for more ideas from the community to add to our spreadsheet and to improve our parks.

Please watch for more information on Facebook and Nextdoor; an FORL website and/or Facebook page will be forthcoming. As always, you can email me at parks@kpwca.org or Paul Gross, President of FORL, at friendsofroyallake@gmail.com for more information, to share your expertise as an FORL volunteer, and to be added to our mailing list.

"A hearty **thanks** to those dog owners who are in the vast majority and are already cleaning up after your pups, and a thank-you in advance to those who will now start to do so. A plea to those walking their dogs or letting their dogs run free in the parks – PLEASE pick up what your hound deposits so it doesn't leave a mess on our parkland and contaminate our waterways! You may think that if your pup does its business off the trails in the woods, no one will notice. Well, the volunteers who pull the invasive plant species or pick up trash notice when they get their hands and feet in it! And parasites and other contaminants in the dog poop can get washed into our waterways when rainwater runs over the ground."

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Get Off the Couch

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

June 22-23

National BBQ Battle

Pennsylvania Ave between 3rd and 7th Streets. Taste tons of barbecue and enjoy cooking demos, children's activities and samples. Saturday 11 am - 10 pm, Sunday 11 am - 7:30 pm. Adults \$12, children 12 and under. ****FREE****
bbqindc.com/

June 29-30

Smithsonian Folklife Festival

Celebrate cultural traditions from around the world. This year's festival highlights daily and evening music and dance performances, crafts and cooking demos, storytelling and discussions of cultural issues. One of DC's most popular summer events. ***FREE*** 11 am – 5 pm, with evening concerts most nights at 6:30 pm. National Mall.
festival.si.edu/

July 13-14

Movies on the Potomac

Sundays 5/2 through 9/30. The National Harbor presents "Coco" on its huge outdoor screen. The movie starts at 6 pm, Sunday only. ****FREE**** On the water at National Harbor. www.nationalharbor.com/movies-on-the-potomac/

July 20-21

Claude Moore Colonial Market Fair

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

July 23-28

Loudoun County Fair

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

July 27-28

Montgomery County Farm Tour

Explore local farms and purchase fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, plants, and other local products. Several farms have hayrides, pony rides, music, demos and other fun and educational activities for all ages.
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/AgServices/agfarmtour.html

August 3-4

Frying Pan Farm Park: 71st Annual 4-H Fair & Carnival

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

BrickFair at Dulles Expo Center

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

August 10-11 and 17-18

Prince William County Fair

Come visit the largest county fair in the state of Virginia. The annual event includes livestock exhibits, home arts exhibits, tractor pulls, a rodeo, demolition derbies, baby contests, live music and a variety of midway shows. Games and carnival rides, too! Prince William County Fairgrounds, 10624 Dumfries Road, Manassas,
pwcfair.com/

Montgomery County Agricultural Fair

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

Arlington County Fair

August 14-18. Enjoy competitive exhibits, midway rides and games, entertainment, vendors, racing piglets, and more. The Thomas Jefferson Community Center is transformed into a special place with something for everyone to see. Admission is free, and shuttle service is provided from locations throughout Arlington.
arlingtoncountyfair.us/about-us/

Family-Friendly Activities Happening at Mason

Summer Camp information: summercamps.gmu.edu/

Featured Event: 52nd Annual Fairfax City Independence Day Celebration

The celebration kicks off at 10 am with a parade through downtown Fairfax (rain or shine) and concludes with a huge fireworks show at Fairfax High School after dark (fireworks start at approximately 9:20 pm). During the day, enjoy an Old-Fashioned Firefighters' Day, Superhero Fest from noon – 1 pm, and other events throughout the City.

Thursday, July 4th. All events ****FREE****. Located throughout downtown Fairfax. Fireworks at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run. www.fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/independence-day-celebration/schedule-of-events

Cub Scout Pack 1968

Welcome summer! School is out, the pools are open, and our lake and community are vibrant and bustling!

During a walk in the woods on a beautiful day with blue skies, swaying trees, and the cheerful chatter of spritely Scouts from Pack 1968, we celebrated our Bridging Ceremony. At Royal Lake Park, one by one our Scouts recited the twelve principles of the Scout Law (trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent), as they physically and mentally crossed the bridge to their next rank. Once on the other side, they were received with a warm welcome by their family, friends and fellow Scouts as they moved to the next level and adorned themselves in their new bandanas. Congratulations to all on their hard work during the year as they earned their badges, patches, and medals.



Although it was a record-setting weekend in Northern Virginia for high temperatures, we drove an hour to the Blue Ridge Mountains where we had a blast at our Spring Campout. We hunkered in for a creature critter hike, volleyball, kickball, skits, songs, jokes, riddles, food, chitchat, marshmallows, flag retirement and much more. This is one of our favorite events where Scouts and their families enjoy each other's company out in nature. We look forward to our Fall Campout!

Coming up in June, we have our annual Raingutter Regatta on the Gainsborough side of

Royal Lake, where all current and prospective Scouts and siblings are welcome to attend and compete. We cannot wait to see the creativity and skills of our boat racers.

This summer, our Cub Scouts are attending the Patriot District Cub Scout Day Camp at Geshner Jewish Day School from July 8-12th. Scouts participate in archery, BB guns, slingshots, a climbing wall, Scout skills, sports, and more. Please contact Alaina at ccpack1968@gmail.com if you have a Scout who would like to sign up and attend day camp.

Pack 1968 wishes you, your family and friends a safe and enjoyable summer! If you have a Scout looking to join our pack, please contact our Pack Leader, Bobby Burke, at cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com.

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In this picture, Kellie Besley Quartana and Cathy Besley DeLoach, are sitting on the front walkway to their childhood home on Blundell Road in Falls Church, VA. Their connection via sisterhood has translated into a great partnership with The Mary & Cathy Team. They're still hanging out at houses with great snacks!



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