

Block # \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2021 KPWCA Membership Form

### Member Information

All information provided will be entered into the Membership Database

**PLEASE check the boxes on the left below for information you want published in the Directory**

Check these to publish in the Directory	}	<input type="checkbox"/> Name	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Address	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Home Phone	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Cell Phone	<input type="text"/>
		<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="text"/>

Please enter amounts you would like to contribute to the following organizations or activities:

### KPWCA Committees, Activities and Communications

<input type="text" value="\$25"/>	1	Membership Fee (\$25 required for each household)	
<input type="text"/>	2	Herald Newsletter	
<input type="text"/>	3	Common Grounds Maintenance	
<input type="text"/>	4	Parks & Lake	
<input type="text"/>	5	Scholarships	
<input type="text"/>	6	Scout Packs and Troop	
<input type="text"/>	7	Halloween Fall Festival	} If cancelled due to COVID restrictions, donations will be reallocated to Other Community Support.
<input type="text"/>	8	Spring Egg Hunt	
<input type="text"/>	9	Unrestricted Community Use	

### Other Community Support

<input type="text"/>	10	Volunteer Fire Department
<input type="text"/>	11	Robinson All Night Grad Party
<input type="text"/>	12	Pools in Our Community

<input type="text"/>	<b><u>Total Dollar Amount</u></b>	Please make checks payable to <b>KPWCA</b> and mail to the address below, or return to your Block Captain <b><u>KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114</u></b> Alternatively, go to <a href="http://www.kpwca.org">www.kpwca.org</a> and pay using Paypal
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Check appropriate box or enter check number below

### Payment Type

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash
<input type="checkbox"/>	PayPal _____
Check #	<input type="text"/>

**Volunteering:** I'd like to learn more about volunteering with:



### Using PayPal to Join the KPWCA

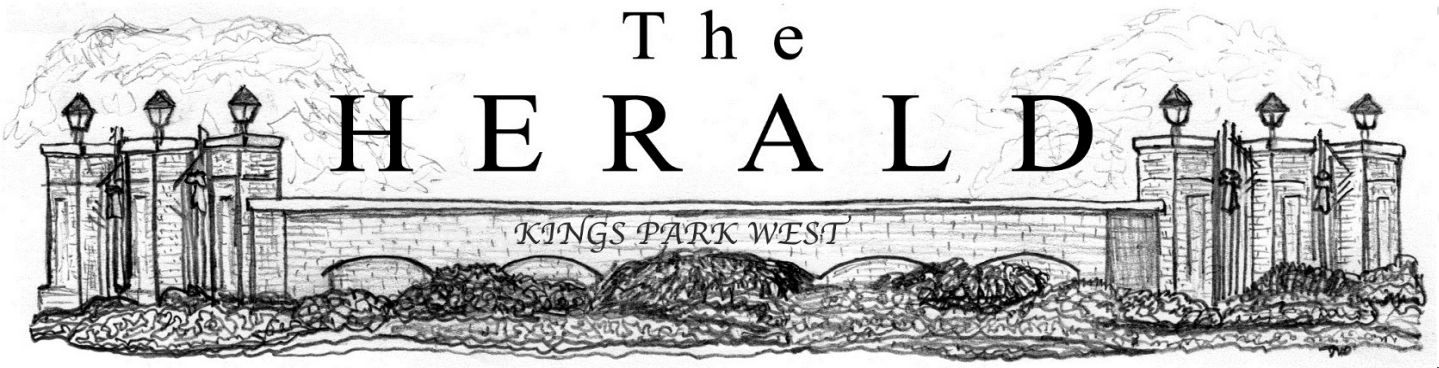
#### *Using the online form:*

1. Visit [kpwca.org](http://kpwca.org)
2. Near the center of the page, at the bottom of the page, click on the link beside Option 2: "Google Form – KPWCA Membership" to complete the online form.
3. Click the "Donate" button.
4. Enter the **total** amount of your donation. This will be your **\$25 membership and** any additional amounts, if any, you want to contribute.
5. If you have a PayPal account, log in (see step #6 if you do not have PayPal).
6. If you don't have a PayPal account, just click on the "Continue" button on the bottom left under "Don't have a PayPal account?" Then enter your credit card and billing information.
7. Click continue.
8. At the next screen, you will be asked to review your donation.
9. Click "Donate Now"—and you're done!

#### *Using the paper form but paying via PayPal:*

1. Visit [kpwca.org](http://kpwca.org)
2. If you prefer to use a paper form, use the form included in this edition of The Herald OR click "KPWCA Membership Form and PayPal Instructions" and right-click the form to save a blank copy to your computer. Then, print it out and complete it.
3. Decide what additional amounts over \$25, if any, you want to contribute. Make a note of the number next to that/those organizations or activities in the chart (items 2-12).
4. Click the "Donate" button.
5. Enter the **total** amount of your donation. This will be your **\$25 membership and** any additional amounts, if any, you want to contribute.
6. If you have a PayPal account, log in (see step #7 if you do not have PayPal).
7. If you don't have a PayPal account, just click on the "Continue" button on the bottom left under "Don't have a PayPal account?" Then enter your credit card and billing information.
8. Click continue.
9. At the next screen, you will be asked to review your donation.
10. Under "Kings Park West Civic Association Membership," click on the pencil icon or "Additional Contributions" if you are making optional contributions beyond the \$25 membership fee. A drop down box will open up.
11. Refer back to the membership form and use those numbers in front of the organizations or activities (2-12) to indicate how your contributions above the \$25 should be used. For example, if you want to donate \$30 to Parks and Lakes, you would enter 4-\$30.
12. Click "Donate Now"—and you're done with your payment! If you're submitting a paper form, take note of the last four digits of your PayPal transaction number and write them beside "PayPal" at the bottom of the form where you check the PayPal box.
13. **Important!** If you don't use the Google form, it is imperative that you send in your paper form. Make sure "PayPal" is checked on the form, the total dollar amount is entered, and the date paid is clearly indicated. You can give a printed copy of your form to your block captain.

**Questions?** Don't hesitate to contact [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org).



September 2020

Vol. 50, Issue 6

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hello Neighbors—I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend. The summer always seems to go by too quickly.

The beginning of fall means many of the association activities will soon be underway with the current COVID protocols. Our annual membership drive will take place during the month of October. Please know that your association membership helps supports many important volunteer efforts, such publishing the Herald; funding scholarships; sponsoring scouting groups, community social events, and grounds maintenance around our neighborhood entrances; and so much more! The annual membership dues are \$25 again this year. Please join by completing the membership form included in this edition of the Herald.

As preparations for the 2021 membership drive are underway, we had a recent change with the membership committee, and we are actively seeking a membership co-chair. Cherylyn LeBon has stepped down as membership co-chair due to new commitments. We thank Cherylyn for her hard work and volunteer efforts of this past year. I am grateful that Donna Pennypacker, current membership co-chair, has graciously volunteered to fill in and assume the membership duties. Thank you, Donna! We have a great volunteer opportunity to fulfill the co-chair for membership position. Please consider volunteering. If interested or if you have questions, contact me at [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org).

Please mark your calendars for the Annual Membership Meeting on **Tuesday September 29 at 7:00 pm via Zoom**. For the Zoom link, please email [boardmember2@kpwca.org](mailto:boardmember2@kpwca.org). We will be electing the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary and presenting the 2021 association budget. I hope many of our members plan on attending.

The archery hunting program is underway in Pohick Stream Valley, Crooked Creek Park, and Kings Park West Park, as part of the efforts to control the deer population in Fairfax County. You may have received a letter from the county or noticed the red sign postings on the trees at the entry to these parks. The program season runs from Saturday, September 12, 2020 to Saturday, February 2, 2021. Archery groups are permitted to conduct deer management at their assigned site Monday through Saturday during the season. Legal hunting hours in Virginia are 30 minutes prior to sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset. Sunday hunting is not allowed in the park. Additional information can be found at [fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/wildlife/archery-program).

This is my last president’s letter. It has been a privilege to serve as president for the last 5.5 years. I have had an opportunity to meet and volunteer with so many terrific neighbors. KPW is a wonderful community.

The board and I look forward to seeing many of you at the membership meeting. In the meantime, please contact me at [president@KPWCA.org](mailto:president@KPWCA.org) with any questions, feedback, or concerns.

- Jeanmarie Roberson

Community Calendar	
Autumn Begins.....	Sept 22
KPWCA Membership Meeting.....	Sept 29
Herald Deadline.....	Sept 30
Membership Drive Begins.....	Oct 1
Columbus Day.....	Oct 12
Herald Delivery.....	Oct 17
Halloween Parade.....	Oct 18
KPWCA Board Meeting.....	Oct 20
Halloween.....	Oct 31

<b>Kings Park West Civic Association</b> P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114 General Information: <a href="mailto:info@kpwca.org">info@kpwca.org</a>   Community Association: <a href="mailto:kpwhoa@yahoo.com">kpwhoa@yahoo.com</a>   Website: <a href="http://kpwca.org">kpwca.org</a>			
Officers		Email	Phone
President	Jeanmarie Roberson	<a href="mailto:president@kpwca.org">president@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 425-1286
Vice President	Mike Stonkey		(703) 509-9725
Secretary	Frank Cumberland		(703) 426-2868
Treasurer	Jim Mays	<a href="mailto:treasurer@kpwca.org">treasurer@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 978-0417
Members-at-Large	Adrienne Barna Mary Crowder Jonathan Reiser		
Committees			
Common Grounds Maintenance	Laura Hall Linda Reamy	<a href="mailto:bagg@kpwca.org">bagg@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 978-6641 (703) 978-1564
Community Support Services			
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland	<a href="mailto:consumer@kpwca.org">consumer@kpwca.org</a>	
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland		
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant		
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy		(703) 401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan	<a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>	
Communications			
Herald Content Editor	Monica Grover	<a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a>	
Herald Communications Editor	Sara Rezk	<a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a>	
Herald Advertising and 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	Donna Pennypacker	<a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a>	
Parks and Lakes	Sarah Lennon	<a href="mailto:parks@kpwca.org">parks@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 978-5608
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes		(703) 426-8246
Special Activities			
Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967		
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin		
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	<a href="mailto:scholarships@kpwca.org">scholarships@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 323-0206

<p align="center"><b>How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association?</b></p> <p>Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$25 to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114, or visit <a href="http://kpwca.org">kpwca.org</a> and pay via PayPal. Members receive the Community Directory and support from community programs like Scholarship Awards, community school activities, parks and lakes clean-up, and a free subscription to The Herald.</p>	<p align="center"><b>The Herald</b></p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: September 30 for delivery on October 17. Note: Acceptance of articles and advertising does not constitute endorsement by the 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 community news, get a subscription. Send \$25 per year to: Kings Park West Civic Association, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.</p>
<p align="center"><b>How do I advertise in The Herald?</b></p> <p><b>Classifieds:</b> Classified ads for the October issue must be received no later than September 30 to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or at <a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a>. Please print clearly and include payment to KPWCA. Provide your name, address, and phone number. Rates: \$5 per issue for 35 words or \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). Found items listed free.</p> <p><b>Advertisements:</b> Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email <a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a> for rates.</p>	<p align="center"><b>How do I get my news in The Herald?</b></p> <p>The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to email the editor at <a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a>. 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 the KPWCA.</p>

### Volunteer Opportunities

**Membership Co-Chair: Kings Park West Civic Association needs your help!** A membership co-chair position is open, and we are looking for someone to help us! This is a shared effort in overseeing the annual membership campaign, which is held during the month of October. This volunteer will coordinate with the block captains, answer emails, prepare packets, and coordinate on data entry with a dedicated group of volunteers! Please consider getting involved and helping KPW. Interested? Questions? Please email [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org).

**Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) Trail Maintenance Volunteers:** Every three months, the FORL or organizes a morning when neighborhood volunteers work to improve problem areas on the trails around Royal Lake.

**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:** *A few hours per month in the months leading up to the April and October clean-ups.* We are looking for 3-5 motivated members to help plan and organize twice-a-year park/lake clean-ups. Please contact Sarah Lennon at [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@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).

**Road Raiders:** *30 minutes 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).

**Invasive Management Area:** *3 hours a few times per year.* Details at [gryskes.com](http://gryskes.com). Send an email to [greg@gryskes.com](mailto:greg@gryskes.com) and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.



**NOW is the time to repair your summer-stressed lawn. We are scheduling Lawn Aeration and Grass-Seeding Services. Our methods work! Other outstanding services include:**

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Pansies coming in October! See FB for updates.

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Kings Park West  
Real Estate Corner  
by Cathy DeLoach



**This Year, Fall is a GREAT Time to Sell**

What crazy times! We will always remember 2020 as an atypical year on so many different fronts, real estate included. For whatever reason, or most likely, for a variety of reasons, there have been fewer homes offered for sale this year in our neighborhood than in past years. This low inventory, and the trend towards meticulous home preparation and improvement prior to listing, has resulted in considerable appreciation in our home values. Available properties are receiving multiple offers over list, and some buyers have "hit the wall" with disappointment fatigue, writing multiple contracts for different homes, only to be outbid. Buyers are living in hotels, frustrated, desperate and tired of the process.

Because of this unique situation, if you've been postponing listing your home for sale, you may be ultimately jeopardizing a higher potential return on investment. While it's not convenient for everyone to pick up and sell their home, if you know that a change is coming soon, you might want to consider listing now to take advantage of this environment.



**Kings Park West  
Neighborhood Stats  
Year-to-Date**

Number of homes sold: 57  
Average list: \$599,000  
List range: \$450,000 to \$750,00  
Average sale price: \$636,124  
Sale price range: \$505,000 to \$760,000  
Average Days on Market: 14

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

*-Muhammad Ali*

## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

### **POST-QUARANTINE PARKS & LAKE CLEAN-UP**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 8AM-10AM**

**It's been almost a year since our last Parks & Lake clean-up due to the global pandemic. The Park Authority is now allowing volunteer groups to have workdays again.**

This is a fantastic opportunity to help protect our natural resources, meet some new neighbors (from 6 feet away!), have fun in the sun, and make our special corner of the world a better place in a small, local way!

**Clean-up teams will start at Royal Lake Park (by tennis courts) and Lakeside Park (by playground). A Sign-Up Genius will be used to eliminate the need for sign-ins on the day of the clean-up; it will be posted on Facebook and Nextdoor.**

We ask that everyone practice appropriate social distancing and wear face coverings (mask/bandanna) if social distancing isn't possible. Gloves are strongly encouraged.



**The Parks & Lakes Committee is looking for new faces to help plan/organize twice-a-year clean-ups.**

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

*For more information on volunteering with the KPW Parks & Lake Committee or Friends of Royal Lake (FORL), please contact Sarah Lennon at [parcs@kpwca.org](mailto:parcs@kpwca.org) and/or [sarahjlennon@gmail.com](mailto:sarahjlennon@gmail.com).*

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

*- Gandhi*

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**2021 Membership Drive***Jeanmarie Robson, KPW President*

Hello KPW! The Kings Park West Civic Association membership drive will be held during the month of October. The annual membership dues are \$25 again this year. Please join by completing the membership form included in this edition of the Herald.

Your \$25 Civic Association Membership fee goes a long way in keeping our neighborhood a fun, safe, friendly, and beautiful place to live. Your membership has many direct and indirect benefits and supports our **all-volunteer** committees that provide value added to our community, including:

- The Herald newsletter, published 8 times each year and delivered by various community groups, is filled with helpful information about the community.
- College scholarships are awarded each year to high school seniors of KPWCA members.
- KPWCA sponsors two Cub Scout Packs and one Scouts BSA Troop.
- Common area maintenance that landscapes and maintains the entrances to Kings Park West, bringing beauty and enhancing property value of our community; updates the three KPWCA signboards that provide messages that keep us all informed of community happenings; and hosts the Road Raiders meet-ups that do targeted road/sidewalk cleanups on Saturday mornings several times a year.
- The Welcome Committee prepares packets with information available to new neighbors/families that move into KPW to welcome them, introduce them to our community, and provide helpful information.
- The annual Halloween Parade/Fall Festival is held at Lakeside Park with food, music, games, bouncy houses, and so much more. It takes place before Halloween.
- The annual Spring Egg Hunt is a well-loved tradition and is fun for the whole family. It takes place the Sunday before Easter.
- Twice a year—in the spring and fall—the Parks and Lake Committee organizes a clean-up of Royal Lake and the surrounding parkland. Without this community effort, many of the paths we all walk would become impassable, the trash would accumulate, and the plants and bushes would become overgrown.
- And finally, Dumpster Days, which are conveniently held in KPW in the spring and fall, provide an opportunity for neighbors to discard their unusable items that have accumulated over time. Access is available only to paid KPWCA members.

As you can see, joining the civic association really does have its privileges! Your contributions combined with the activities of all our **volunteers** make KPW a vibrant, neighborly, and desirable community!

**Halloween Parade 2021**

This year, we're planning a Halloween parade for October 18 at 5p.m.!

It will be similar to the recent parade to honor Robinson seniors.

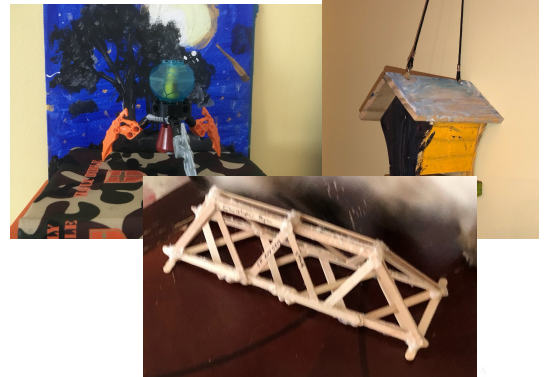
The parade route will be published on social media, so keep an eye out!

**Pack 1968 News**

Pack 1968 Cub Scouts have been busy over the past several months finishing their adventures from last year to earn their ranks and participating in other socially distanced adventures like the BSA National Camp-In. Our Cub Scouts also had great fun participating in the Summer Adventure Club and NOVA Award programs that were hosted this summer by Pack 1967. These activities included building bird feeders, learning about space and spacecraft, and learning a little about engineering by building bridges with less than 50 popsicle sticks and then testing the bridge's strength.



While Pack 1968 is currently refraining from in-person Cub Scout gatherings, we are continuing to work on badges and rank advancement from home and are starting this new year with virtual den meetings, pack meetings, and new rank adventures.



Our Lions (kindergarteners) will be working on:

1. Lion's Honor
2. Fun on the Run
3. Animal Kingdom
4. Mountain Lion
5. King of the Jungle



The Tigers (1st graders) will be tackling six adventures:

1. Games Tigers Play
2. My Tiger Jungle
3. Team Tiger
4. Tiger Bites
5. Tiger Circles: Duty to God
6. Tigers in the Wild



Our Wolves (2nd graders) will be working on:

1. Call of the Wild
2. Council Fire (Duty to Country)
3. Duty to God Footsteps
4. Howling at the Moon
5. Paws on the Path
6. Running With the Pack



*(Continued on page 11.)*

The 5 Core Adventures our Webelos (4th graders) will tackle this year are:

1. Cast Iron Chef
2. Duty to God and You
3. First Responder
4. Stronger, Faster, Higher
5. Webelos Walkabout



Our AOLs (Arrow of Light 5<sup>th</sup> graders) will be working on:

1. Building a Better World
2. Duty to God in Action
3. Outdoor Adventurer
4. Scouting Adventure



Pack 1968 also plans a have a Pinewood Derby in January and a Spring Campout at Blue Ridge Regional Park in Bluemont, Virginia, if in-person activities are deemed safe by then. All of our pack activities are for the entire family—siblings, parents, and the Scout.

Pack 1968 always welcomes new members and encourages you and your child to get involved in this wonderful organization that boosts confidence, teaches life skills and teamwork, and promotes qualities expressed in the Scout Oath—being trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

If your child is interested in learning more about Scouting, please contact our Cubmaster Ed Ryan at [cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com](mailto:cubmaster.pack1968@gmail.com) and our Committee Chair Alaina Watkins at [ccpack1968@gmail.com](mailto:ccpack1968@gmail.com). We welcome new families at any time of year.

### Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 hope everyone is healthy and happy. Being at home makes life a little different these days, but the Scouts of Pack 1967 and their families are making due and hope you and your family are as well.

With school restarting, so are the activities of Pack 1967. Just like Laurel Ridge, we’re learning how to do everything just a little differently. This summer, we had a number of virtual Scouting events, where Scouts completed National Park Service Junior Ranger programs, served the community, and participated in fun STEM activities. While we’ll probably keep doing some things virtual during the year, we’ll also be doing some activities in person with proper restrictions on number of people, face coverings, and hand sanitizer.



Cub Scout packs are organized into grade and gender separate dens. Kindergarteners join Lion dens, 1st graders are Tigers, 2nd graders are Wolves, 3rd graders are Bears, and 4th and 5th grade scouts are Webelos. Scouts can join at any grade level and will work together with other Scouts in their grade level to learn age-appropriate outdoor skills, provide service to their community, and learn about wide-range of subjects through den-level activities.

If you’re interested in learning more about Cub Scouts, what we do, and how we’re adapting to the new environment, please contact us and join us for a den meeting. For more information contact us at [CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com).



# Join Cub Scouts!

## Pack **1967**

## Fairfax, VA

Pack 1967 wants boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade. Scouting in-person with safe COVID-19 precautions. Campfires, Pinewood Derby race, Raingutter Regatta, outdoor fun, and make new friends.

**For more information contact:**

**Dave Holden, Cubmaster**

**(757) 903-6326**

**[CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com)**



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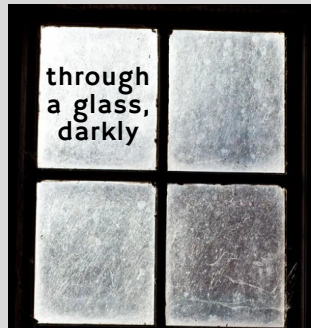






 by cathy deloach

As I take my daily walks around our neighborhood, I'm amazed at the progress of outdoor home improvements. We are truly using this stay-at-home time to enhance our surroundings. To help further this trend, I am offering a contest for you to win either a free window washing or power washing of your home.

**Here's how to enter:**

- Take a picture of either your dirty windows or siding/exterior.
- Caption this picture.
- Post it on the KPW Herald's List page: [www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList](http://www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList).

**Here's how to WIN!** The captioned photo that earns the highest number of likes or loves WINS!



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# Boy Scout Troop 1966

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- You do not need to be home to receive your order. Beginning at 8am, friendly Boy Scouts will neatly place & stack bags along the side edge of your driveway unless otherwise noted (no backyards please).

**Ordering is as easy as 1-2-3!**

1. **Fill out the form below**
2. **Make check payable to Boy Scout Troop 1966**
3. **Return form and payment to:**

**Troop 1966 Fall 2020 Mulch Order  
10213 Pumphrey Ct  
Fairfax, VA 22032**

**Orders must be postmarked by Sat., Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 or hand-delivered by Wed., Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.  
Due to the supplier's firm ordering lead times, late orders cannot be accepted. Sorry.**

If you have questions, please e-mail [Troop1966.Mulch@gmail.com](mailto:Troop1966.Mulch@gmail.com)

**Boy Scout Troop 1966 Fall 2020 Mulch Sale Order Form**

Please make check payable to "Troop 1966"

# of bags (5 bag minimum)		X \$4.95=	\$
Full Name:			
Address:			
Is this a pipestem?		Subdivision Name:	
Phone:		Email:	
Any specific instructions?			

Thank you for supporting your local Scout Troop. All proceeds support Troop 1966's Outdoor Activities program.

## Emergency Restoration to Rabbit Branch

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

Over the past few months, earthmovers and construction contractors busily (and noisily) toiled near the northernmost Gainsborough Drive and Eastlake Drive intersection, in the Royal Lake Park area that was formerly Kings Park West Park. Through the Department of Public Works and Environmental Service (DPWES), these contractors worked on two emergency stream restoration projects. Most of the time, Rabbit Branch quietly meanders along this stream valley park. During storms, this creek floods so that its raging water carves significantly into the streambanks. These flood events are more frequent as absorptive forests and open residential parcels are turned into impervious surfaces—anything from house, deck, and driveway additions to expanded GMU rooftops and pavement—without sufficient water capture devices elsewhere. The biggest alarm was the hillside giving way, which exposed and collapsed the storm drain outfall (Figure 1). The creek cut either up to or under private property. Around here, huge, mature trees fell like dominos. Several hundred feet downstream, by the construction entrance, water frequently shot out of a second storm drain outfall with such force that its flow excavated a deep chasm all the way to Rabbit Branch. Report stream concerns like these to <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/public-works/stormwater/contact-msmd-form>. Call 911 for life-threatening flood emergencies.

To fix these two problems, the restoration entailed several strategies, such as raising the streambed so the creek no longer funnels through a gorge, reinforcing the banks with stone or tree trunks, and redesigning the stream flow based on the direction that the waterway is already taking. It included features such as small cascades to oxygenate the water, deep pools with cooler water, and snaking routes to break swift water's momentum. Normally, stream restorations cost up to \$1,000 per linear foot, but this project involved additional work, such as grading the crumpled hillside. After finishing each section, a grass species, such as annual rye, was immediately sown to stabilize the surrounding soil. The heavy work finished in mid-August. Sod was placed on the neighbors' properties along the access easement to Gainsborough Drive. Major plantings were suspended due to summer heat reducing survival rates. Extensive native reforestation involving mixes of bushes, trees, and herbaceous flowering plants tend to follow in autumn with more favorable transplant weather. These combined efforts improve the overall ecological health and reduce sediment flowing into Royal Lake. The following mini-photo essay depicts different phases of stream restoration.

*(Continued on pages 17 and 18.)*



**Figure 1. This “before” image reveals the destroyed storm drain outfall and massive erosion next to private property.**



**Figure 2. The “after” shot of the restored area shows a new outfall where stormwater hits stone boulders. A rock wall protects the hill from churning floodwaters. Until native restoration plants arrive, coir and straw promote grass growth that retains the soil. The county and other institutions are getting away from synthetic lawn netting since it inevitably becomes another source of plastic waste polluting the environment.**





**Figure 3.** A temporary bridge enabled earthmovers to cross Rabbit Branch and perform work upstream. Boulders on the left await placement in repairing the water’s course from a storm drain outfall. Logs from fallen trees (center) will integrate into the stream bank and provide favorable habitat for aquatic life.



**Figure 4.** Restoration typically goes in a downstream direction. This incomplete section shows the coir nets (1) unrolled to retain soil. Whereas the county is moving away from plastic materials in restoration projects, synthetic geofabric (2) lines the waterway bottom with boulders and pebbles on top.



**Figure 5.** Near the outfall, the waterway is finished. Boulders and a curved course reduce the rushing storm water’s energy. The interim roadway (left) remained in use until completion of all major earthmoving activities.



**Figure 6.** To temporarily reduce the creek’s water level for work on that stretch, a pump (left) bypassed water to a down-stream location. Daces and other minnows soon returned.



**Figure 7.** To help the grass grow, scattered straw on bare ground is held by a biodegradable coir net. Wooden stakes secure the net, which protrude and therefore are used away from traipsing hikers.



Figure 8. The restoration’s upstream terminus (left) used modern approaches to replicate a natural creek. It is a more conducive environment for aquatic life than the gabion walls (center) to control bank erosion, which were installed decades earlier. This wall and the concrete-lined portions of creek bed with “speed bumps” (not seen here) are outdated waterway control methods.



Figure 9. The preliminary work for this stream restoration is done. A shallow streambed allows water to dissipate energy across a wide surface. Grass is already sprouting along the banks. The orange work zone fence will soon come down. After adding native plants in the cool-season months, the reforestation begins—a process that continues for many decades.

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