



April 2021

Vol. 51, Issue 2

Kings Park West Civic Association

Community Calendar

- KPW Neighborhood Yard Sale.....May 1
- Spring Membership Meeting.....May 11
- Dumpster Day.....May 15
- FORL Trail Maintenance Workday.....May 15
- Memorial Day.....May 31
- Herald Deadline.....June 2
- Herald Delivery.....June 19

Hey Neighbors!

It's SPRING... Hooray for warmer weather, greening yards, flowers blooming, baseball being back... and vaccines! Hopefully, we will slowly be able to resume pre-pandemic activities as more people are vaccinated.

As you're giving your yard a spring cleaning, remember that plastic bags can no longer be used for yard waste—only those big, sturdy paper bags or a reusable container that is clearly labeled “yard waste only.” Also, I encourage everyone to take a moment and make sure that your sidewalks are clear (trim back bushes) for increased foot traffic and that there are no low-hanging branches that could impede neighbors out for a stroll.

On April 10, the KPWCA Parks & Lake committee held its Spring Cleanup around Royal Lake. The Committee approached this effort with a goal of picking up trash as much as possible upstream at the source. The hope is to eliminate the trash BEFORE it can reach Royal Lake, the Potomac River, and the Chesapeake Bay—and beyond. And just in case you missed the April clean-up, it's not too late! Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) is pleased to restart its quarterly trail maintenance workday on Saturday, May 15. (See associated article on page 6.)

On May 11, we will hold our Spring General Membership and Volunteer Appreciation meeting. It will be virtual, again, via Zoom starting at 7pm, and we are lining up some great speakers to provide tidbits of information on topics of interest, such as interior decorating, cooking, and maybe local gardening. It's our treat to you to thank all of our volunteers! Additionally, Braddock District Supervisor Walkinshaw plans to attend and will provide an update on Fairfax County issues and address any questions membership may have. Watch the KPWCA Facebook page for more information.

Dumpster Day on May 15 will be an excellent opportunity to get rid of all the items you purged in spring cleaning! This is a great service that is available only to current, paid members of the Civic Association. The gate at Lakeview pool will open at 8am and will close once the dumpsters are filled.

As always, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions so feel free to email me at [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org) for more information or with ideas.

See you around the neighborhood.

Sarah Lennon, President, KPWCA

<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	Sarah Lennon	<a href="mailto:president@kpwca.org">president@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 978-5608
Vice President	Mike Stonkey	<a href="mailto:vp@kpwca.org">vp@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 509-9725
Secretary	Karen Cosgrove	<a href="mailto:secretary@kpwca.org">secretary@kpwca.org</a>	
Treasurer	Jonathan Reiser	<a href="mailto:treasurer@kpwca.org">treasurer@kpwca.org</a>	
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Committees			
Common Grounds Maintenance	Laura Hall Linda Reamy		(703) 978-6641 (703) 978-1564
Community Support Services			
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland		
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland		
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant		
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy	<a href="mailto:KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com">KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com</a>	
Welcoming	Natalie Croitoru	<a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a>	
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Membership	Donna Pennypacker	<a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a>	
Parks and Lake	Tom McCook	<a href="mailto:parks@kpwca.org">parks@kpwca.org</a>	
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes		(703) 426-8246
Special Activities			
Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	<a href="mailto:vp@kpwca.org">vp@kpwca.org</a>	(703) 509-9725
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin	<a href="mailto:kjodoin@gmail.com">kjodoin@gmail.com</a>	
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom		

<b>How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association?</b> 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.	<b>The Herald</b> Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: June 2 for delivery on June 19. 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.
<b>How do I advertise in The Herald?</b> <b>Classifieds:</b> Classified ads for the April issue must be received no later than June 2 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. <b>Advertisements:</b> Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email <a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a> for rates.	<b>How do I get my news in The Herald?</b> 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.

### 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 organizes a morning when neighborhood volunteers work to improve areas in need of attention on the trail around the lake. For more information, please contact Andy Karp, FORL trail maintenance lead, at [KarpAndy7@gmail.com](mailto:KarpAndy7@gmail.com).

**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 & Lake 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 [KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com](mailto:KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com).

**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 [KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com](mailto:KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com).

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



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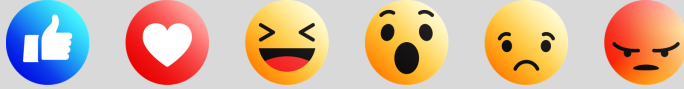
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# kings park west herald's list

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



by cathy deloach

## Find Your People!

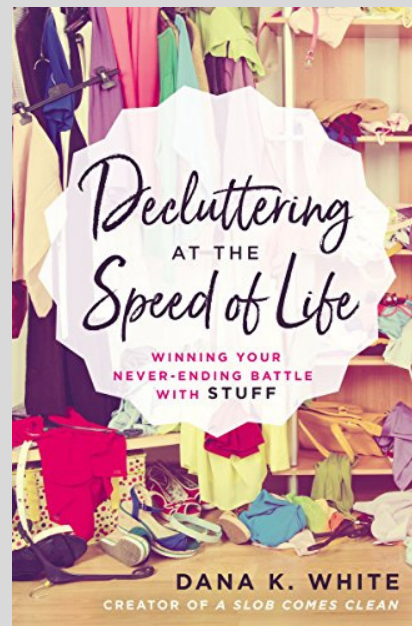
Community is a wonderful thing. When people share common concerns or problems and work together for a solution, a sense of well-being is enhanced. To me, that's the purpose and the beauty of the Kings Park West Herald's List on FaceBook, a place where neighbors help neighbors with a variety of common problems and issues. Whether you want a recommendation for a tried and true contractor, or are looking for a notary for that important document, the Herald's List helps you reach out to your community for suggestions.

I recently used the Herald's List to share access to a book title that helped me immensely, ***Decluttering at the Speed of Life*** by Dana K. White. As many of you know, we have almost completely re-done the main floor of our Regent. As exciting as this project sounds, it made me (finally) face 25 years of accumulated clutter. Using White's book as a roadmap, I was able to navigate this daunting task and make real progress (not perfection). And as a real estate agent, I've seen other homeowners face a similar challenge and I wanted to help. Using the Herald's List, I

gave out 11 copies of the book to those who posted, "I need this book!" I felt bonded with these friends and neighbors who expressed interest, and was gratified to be a part of the solution.

If you want to be a member of a wonderful community, head on over to the Herald's List - you may find a great recommendation or help a neighbor with a dilemma.

Oh, and the book is also available free with your Kindle Unlimited subscription. 😊



**Become a KPWCA Ambassador**

The Kings Park West (KPW) Civic Association (KPWCA), as its name indicates, is a civic association serving the KPW community. It is not a home owners association, or HOA (that is the KPW Community Association). Rather, the KPWCA is a completely volunteer-powered organization focused on enhancing our community and life in KPW. Volunteers make possible the many KPWCA events, including dumpster days, community yard sales, the directory, Fall/Halloween and Spring festivals, park clean-ups, scholarships, message boards, and common area maintenance.

KPWCA is led by a small group of dedicated neighbors—eight executive board members, plus a handful of standing committee chairs (e.g. Membership, Parks & Lake), and others who take on activities such as the Fall/Halloween Festival and Spring Egg Hunt.

Vital to the success of the KPWCA is our team of block captains. We like to think of them as KPWCA ambassadors who provide the link between the Civic Association and the greater KPW community and are responsible for two primary tasks:

- First, to provide information about the KPWCA to neighbors, including provision of KPWCA membership forms and collection of dues. This is done each fall.
- Second, every two years, they deliver the eagerly anticipated KPWCA directory to Civic Association members.

KPWCA is in dire need of additional block captains. KPW is divided into 99 blocks with one captain per block and currently there are **11** vacancies. Over the years, some block captains have taken on more than one block. This year, some volunteered to deliver the directories for the “captain-less” blocks. Their “above and beyond” effort is greatly appreciated! Now, we *need* some new blood for this vital community link. It is a *great way* to get to know some new neighbors and the community.

**The blocks that need captains are:**

<b>Block #</b>	<b>Addresses</b>
<b>7</b>	Richardson Dr. 5217-5223 odd, 5228-5236
<b>9</b>	Chatsworth Ct. – All
<b>50</b>	Swinton Dr. 5017-5035; Wycliff Ln. 4900-4902
<b>55</b>	Swinton Dr. 4951-4965; Wheatstone Dr. 4893-4898
<b>57</b>	Bessmer Ln. 10177-10198
<b>58</b>	Bessmer Ln. 10167-10176; Heversham Ct. – All
<b>64</b>	Gainsborough Dr. Collingham Dr. 10426-10450- All
<b>65</b>	Cascade Ln. – All; Gainsborough Dr. 4923-4940
<b>85</b>	Collingham Dr. 10426-10450
<b>86</b>	Commonwealth 10317, 10319-10340
<b>100</b>	Vertain Ct. 9801, 9807-9011

**Please consider joining the KPWCA team as a block captain.** It’s easy to join—contact Sarah Lennon at [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org) or Donna Pennypacker and Tim Hartle using the [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org) address. We’d love to have you work with us!

### Trail Maintenance Around Royal Lake Andy Karp and Sarah Lennon

For the past several years, the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) has organized trail maintenance workdays when neighborhood volunteers have worked on improving the circuit trail around Royal Lake. However, last year’s pandemic lockdown brought that process to a screeching halt, and the March 2020 workday was postponed.



Now that people can be vaccinated against COVID-19, we’ll once again be doing these workdays. However, considering that many people have not yet been vaccinated, and that variants of the virus now exist, all volunteers must wear face masks and maintain social distancing.

Community volunteers, supervised by the FORL team, are needed to do this sort of trail maintenance because the Fairfax County Parks Authority (FCPA) only has enough staff to deal with major trail work, such as replacement of deteriorating bridges. However, the FCPA provides all needed materials, such as crushed stones, and it approves all trail work projects before the FORL commits to them.

The FORL leadership team walked the circuit trail a few weeks ago to assess the state of the trail. After consultation with the FCPA, we have decided that the first order of business will be working on the trail between the dam and the Shanes Creek bridge, installing low-profile culverts and spreading crushed stone to improve stretches that become muddy when it rains.

On Saturday, May 15, we’ll meet at the dam spillway to work from 8-11am, but you can participate for any part or all of the three-hour work period. All age groups are welcome. If you have shovels, rakes, tampers, and (*especially*) wheelbarrows, please bring them. Otherwise, just bring yourself! It’s always a pleasure to be out with neighbors working to improve the trail around our beautiful lake.

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

**When:**  
Saturday, May 15  
8 - 11 AM

**Where we will meet:**  
Where the trail around Royal Lake meets the dam spillway

*bring shovels, rakes, tampers, and wheel barrows*

*Stay for the full 3 hours or whatever you can.*

Service hours can be earned

[FriendsOfRoyalLake@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfRoyalLake@gmail.com)

### Kings Park West Neighbor Assist

Spring is here, and COVID vaccinations are increasing. Both allow us to start feeling like normalcy is coming. We remind you that KPW Neighbor Assist is still functioning, and we would like your business.

Don't be shy about asking, because you are helping us as we help you. We have some dedicated individuals with skills that you may not have to fix issues in your home. Since we can't list all the types of items that we can repair or fix, it is best to email to us at **KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com**.

Please provide your **contact information, name, phone number, street address and a brief description** of what you would like us to do. Then, we can assign the right individual to contact you.

If the request is bigger than we can take on, which is seldom, we can give some advice about having it repaired and possibly any things that you should consider when having a paid provider give you service. Remember, this service is free to anyone in Kings Park West. To date, we have completed well over 100 separate services without incident.

We will be following the mask-wearing requirements of the state and county officials. So please comply with that direction to keep both you and us safe from the COVID virus.

This service is brought to you by other residents in KPW who have freely volunteered to help our residents. We are a community with lots of great residents helping each other. Families seeing new housing find this community spirit a reason to reside among us.

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- Shrub Pruning
- Shrub Removal and Replacement
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- Mulching
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- Landscape Design, Installation including Hardscapes (Walkways/Patios/Walls)
- Holidays, Fall Weddings, Parties, Yard Enhancements

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We welcome your questions, comments, or special service needs.  
Feel free to call Frank, The Outdoor Man at (703) 425-1748 or  
**E-mail [Georgekyle@aol.com](mailto:Georgekyle@aol.com)**



## 2021 KPW Ultimate Pizza Survey Results Justin Grover

Thank you all to those who participated in our first-ever Kings Park West Ultimate Pizza Survey!

Having originally grown up in New York, pizza has held a special place in my heart. From the moment my wife and I moved into KPW seven years ago, the never-ending quest to find the “best” pizza in the area has remained a constant goal. Seeing ad hoc posts on Facebook and Nextdoor about everyone’s pizza preferences drove me to collect this critical information so that we can be better informed when answering the question: “What’s the best pizza around here?”

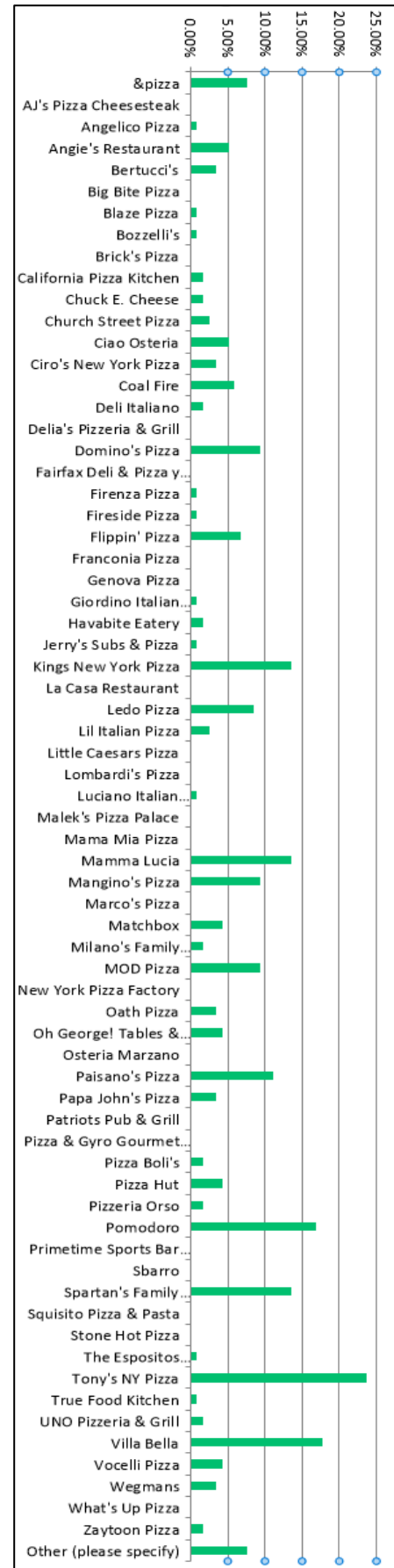
The survey received votes from 118 individuals, who each cast up to three votes for their favorite pizza parlors within a 10-mile radius of KPW. A total of 68 restaurants were represented in the survey. Several participants chose to fill-in their own choice in an “Other” field, which yielded an additional two restaurants (Ornery Brewpub and Valentino’s) that were not included in the original list. Restaurant types ranged from diners to grocery stores and chains to independent establishments. Pizza styles ranged from Chicago to New York-style and more.

Congratulations to the top 3 best pizza places as voted on by KPW residents in 2021:




1. Tony’s NY Pizza – 28 votes (23.73%)
2. Villa Bella – 21 votes (17.80%)
3. Pomodoro – 20 votes (16.95%)

The full results are in the chart to the right.

Have questions about the results? Have ideas for new surveys? Contact me at [justin.grover@gmail.com](mailto:justin.grover@gmail.com).



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 \*\*Applies to regular mowing service only.



### New Fairfax County Requirement for Yard Waste Containers

Each year, the county and private haulers manage more than 200,000 tons of yard waste such as grass clippings, brush, leaves, and branches. You can assist by adopting all or some of the sustainable yard waste management practices suggested at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste>

Eliminating plastic bags for yard waste collection will help reduce the amount of plastic in our natural environment, and for that reason, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has voted to prohibit the use of plastic bags for yard waste. **Enforcement will begin on Monday, April 19, 2021.**

When preparing yard waste for collection at the curb, you can use reusable containers, paper lawn bags, or tie branches up with string. Reusable containers like old trash cans are a great way to manage yard waste – especially branches and twigs. Paper yard waste bags are designed to withstand the elements and are great for all types of yard waste.

For many people, reusable containers will be a very convenient option. Such containers should be prominently labelled “YARD WASTE ONLY.” Stickers with these words are available on amazon.com and elsewhere. If the surface of your container has a bumpy texture, you will need to reinforce the perimeter of the sticker with duck-tape to keep it from peeling off (see photo).



**FREE Introduction Evaluation for KPW Residents!**  
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 5425-B Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151  
 703-321-DOGS | [infospringfield@adogsdayout.com](mailto:infospringfield@adogsdayout.com)

[adogsdayout.com](http://adogsdayout.com)

**Craft and Bake Sale – St. Mary of Sorrows**  
 5222 Sideburn Road

Hours: Saturday, May 1 – 4, 4 to 6:30pm  
 Sunday, May 2 – 9am to 1pm

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# Kings Ridge Swim Club

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- Masters Swim program
- Winter Swim program



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Swim Team*

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Need more information?  
[kingsridgeswimclub@gmail.com](mailto:kingsridgeswimclub@gmail.com)



**FREE VISIT:** KRSC Members invite you to visit the POOL for free!! Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Lifeguard Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

One visit per family/individual for 2021 season.

**CommonwealthSwimClub.org**  
**Join the family fun this summer!**



**Commonwealth Swim Club**

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KPW Real Estate Corner  
by Cathy DeLoach



**So It's A Seller's Market. What Does That Mean?**

Real estate insiders are predicting that 2021 will be very similar to 2020: low inventory of homes, low interest rates, and lots of buyers. In short, a seller's market. But what does that really mean?

When we look back at the 2020 statistics for KPW, the overall data definitely reflects seller's market numbers: The average sold price of \$652,219 was 101.48% of the average list price, meaning the average home in KPW sold for **more** than the asking price. In an average of 13 days. However, note that 11% of the homes sold in 30 to 90 days. And 7% of the homes sold for less than 95% of the asking price. Over and over again, we see that the reality of home sales reflects the state and condition of the home when placed on market, even in a seller's market. Poorly presented homes languish on the market and sell for less than nicely updated and presented counterparts.

Some homeowners wish to avoid the hassle and expense of home prep and staging, reconciling themselves to the reality of more days of viewings and a smaller check at closing. Others, motivated by the thought of a quick sale with multiple offers over list, prepare their

**KPW Home Sale Stats**

YTD Sold: 14  
Average Price: \$672,714  
Range: \$607,000 to \$756,000  
Active Listings\*: 4  
Under Contract\*: 8

\*(as of 4/6/21)

Northern Virginia home values are expected to increase 8% over 2020.

home accordingly via thoughtful updating, decluttering and staging. Whatever your tolerance level and expectations, a good realtor should be able to share the pros and cons of either path with you.

**Does your Electrical Panel need a Health & Safety Check?**

**Yes, if it's over 30 years old!**

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### Girl Scout News

**Cadette Troop 1465** hosted the newly named Girl Scout Juliette Cup virtually this year. A renaming contest was held and the most popular name, Juliette Cup, was submitted by Junior Troop 54051. The name is a nod to the founder of the Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low. Special thank you to our judges, Cathy Durfey and Anne Hall. Thank you and congratulations to all of the participants!



Fastest Cars Overall (top photo):

- 1 - Kate J.
- 2 - Taylor F.
- 3 - Sloane S.

Best in Show Overall (bottom):

- 1 - Sarina H.
- 2 - Lorelei G.
- 3 - Olivia K.



**Troop 4914** closed out 2020 by visiting the Lucy Burns Museum at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton.



The Museum explores the history of the Occoquan Workhouse (later called the Lorton Correctional Facility), with particular focus on the Silent Sentinels -- suffragists who were imprisoned at the Workhouse for their silent picketing of the White House in the quest to secure the right to vote for women. It was an appropriate way to end the year that celebrated the centennial of women gaining the right to vote, and the visit helped complete the girls' work to earn the Women's Suffrage patch.

CALLING ALL SCHOOL-AGE GIRLS (INCLUDING RISING KINDERS)!

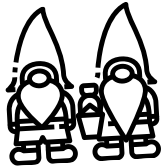
Interested in learning more about **Girl Scouts**?  
Love the **great outdoors** and **scavenger hunts**?  
Introducing...

## Girl Scouting for Gnomes

Join Girl Scout Troop 1356 for a fun, self-paced scavenger hunt around the lake!  
During your stroll, be on the lookout for friendly gnomes who will share information about Girl Scouts via QR codes.

**MAY 22 • SATURDAY**  
**10 AM TO 2 PM**  
LAKESIDE PARK AND  
ROYAL LAKE PARK  
RAIN DATE: SUNDAY, 5/23

This event will be COVID-19 friendly! Social distancing and masks encouraged!

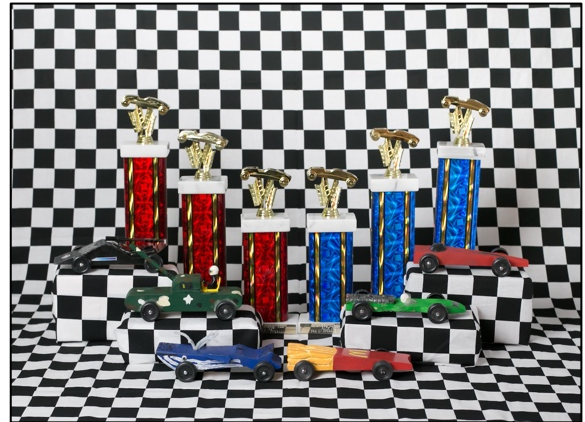


**Pack 1967 News**

Pack 1967 hopes everyone is healthy and happy. Spring is here, and we are ready to get back in the outdoors!

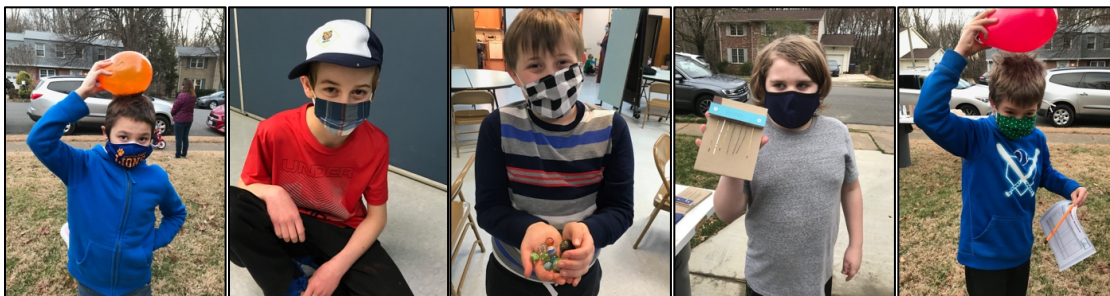
Back in February, the Pack held its annual Pinewood Derby race with a twist—the race was conducted virtually. Each year, Scouts, family members, and a few adults take the same block of wood and four wheels and turn them into their very own racing machines! We had cars that looked like cars, tanks, trucks, and food items, as well as those based on video games and Star Wars. In the more than 50 cars we received, all were unique and very creative.

Congratulations to all our Den champions! After racing and judging each of the Dens, the Pack had a champions race and judging. Congratulations to Jack Szydluk for winning the overall Pack speed championship and to Mitch Finrock for winning best in show for the Pack!



	<u>Speed</u>	<u>Show</u>
Lion	Logan LaFrance	Wesley Burke
Tiger	Laura Jones	Laura Jones
Wolf	Luciano Quiroga	Andrew Cursio
Bear	Jack Szydluk	Brennan Goetz
Webelos	James Xing	Mitch Finrock
Arrow of Light	Scott Shelby	Noah Klein

The Bear Den (3rd graders) started the new year by completing a number of science adventures. They learned about static electricity, buoyancy, and color in January, built robot hands and bristle bots in February, and learned about fluid dynamics and aerodynamics in March. They also learned about humor and built three musical instruments: a mbira, a rain stick, and a sistrum.



Our Webelos Den 6 started January by working on the Webelos Walkabout adventure, where they learned how to prepare for and go on a 3-mile hike. In February, they learned about outdoor cooking and in March learned first aid skills. At the end of March, the Den got together for an outdoor viewing of the virtual Pinewood Derby, complete with a fire pit and campfire snacks.

This time of year is always bittersweet for the Pack—we get to congratulate our oldest Scouts on completing the Cub Scout journey and wish them well as they begin their time in a Scouts BSA Troop. As a Den, the Scouts of Den 3 accomplished much in their five years. Over the course of 92 Den meetings, they completed 533 adventures, earned the Outdoor Activity award six times, the World Conservation Award nine times, the religious emblem three times, the shooting sports award seven times, 26 NOVA science awards, and nine Supernova science awards. While it is sad to see them go, we're proud of what they accomplished and can't wait to see what they do next. Congratulations to Ryan Barry (Troop 1865), Christopher Justice (Troop 1865), Noah Klein (Troop 1966), Cormac Mann (Troop 1865), Charlie Murray (Troop 1865), Bryce Schaffling (Troop 1865), Scott Shelby (Troop 1865), Ryan Sisco (Troop 1865), and Oliver Stowe (Troop 1865).

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

## Eagle Scout Projects Supporting the IMA Program Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

*Author's Note: This article was intended for publication in spring 2020. The pandemic shut down park activities for several months, which later opened with restrictions. This article provides insight for planning an IMA-based scout project for when the workday(s) can occur safely.*

The last two Eagle Scout projects benefiting Royal Lake Park were absolutely stellar! Both projects supported the volunteer-based Invasive Management Area (IMA) program, which is operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).

The first one was performed by Ben Siebert of Troop 698 on October 5, 2019. Before Ben selected IMA for his project, he volunteered for an untold number of workdays including a summer assisting co-site leader, MaryAnne Boyer. During that summer session, they primarily pulled large patches of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) from areas next to Royal Lake's main looping trail. After Ben asked about leading an IMA workday for his Eagle Scout project, he, his father, and I visited several potential sites that needed work but had little to no previous IMA activity. Ben selected a section near the Royal Lake Park entrance at Dundalk Street, a strategic area that had horrible infestations of multiflora rose with some Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Bradford or Callery pear (*Pyrus calleryana*), winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*), privet (*Ligustrum* sp.), and Japanese stiltgrass (*Microstegium vimineum*). This work is close to and supports two earlier Eagle Scout projects based in habitat restoration.



**Figure 1.** This eastern box turtle, tucked into its shell, is one of the critters found during Ben's workday. Normally, wildlife is left alone. Since this one was in the middle of the site and risked becoming trampled, everyone had a chance to look at it before moving it a short distance outside of the work zone. It is one of many animals benefiting from the habitat restoration. Photo by MaryAnne Boyer.

On the day of the event, Ben, his father, and I remained on site the entire time while scout volunteers and their families rotated throughout the session. Ben led his Eagle Scout project so well that his group cleared out all of the targets within the delineated site and were able to start pulling more invasive weeds from adjoining parkland! The eight-hour marathon workday resulted in clearing invasive weeds filling 41 bags. Due to the thorns and cabling roots, rose can be a difficult target to eradicate, which makes these bag numbers all the more impressive. These bags, containing rose seeds that could otherwise last in the soil for 20 years, were later sent to the incinerator. Removing so much rose opened the site for future volunteers to have better access during the springtime garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*) pulls. Ben's efforts helped restore habitat for critters like the box turtle, American toad, and pileated woodpecker encountered on this day.

Michael Volkman of Troop 1346 headed the second Eagle Scout project. After touring several sites with his father and me, Michael chose an area near Royal Lake's spillway that was especially infested with Amur honeysuckle and Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), with lesser amounts of porcelain-berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*), English ivy (*Hedera helix*), oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), Italian arum (*Arum italicum*), Bradford pear, garlic mustard, multiflora rose, and winged burning bush. (Continued on next page.)



(Continued from previous page.) The sunny exposure here caused the Amur honeysuckles and olives to produce copious amounts of berries, so eliminating these giant seed factories helped both the immediate parcel and the surrounding areas to which the seeds would have spread. Michael's March 15, 2020, workday occurred when concerns about the pandemic began but right before the closures. Still, this job was executed with safety as a top priority and included social distancing, plenty of hand sanitizer, and steps to keep refreshments clean.

Michael adapted well to these last-minute challenges and the workday resulted in a whopping 120 bags of weeds, many additional bundles of tied branches, and zero cases of COVID-19. Michael's project also involved a public service message about properly disposing of yard waste instead of "dumping it in the woods" where it smothers native flora, spreads any invasive plant seeds and fragments that may take root, and transfers excessive landscaping chemicals and nutrients to natural areas.

IMA projects are excellent for scout merit badges because they require labor, thought, planning, education, and personal growth. Furthermore, the ability to work is already held by the IMA site leader, to whom the FCPA granted permission to pull specific weeds and toil in sensitive habitats (e.g., near streams). Normally, digging and ripping out plants is illegal in parks, so the scouts learn the park rules and understand that their special endeavor is under the site leader's umbrella permit. After the project's completion, scouts know that they cannot go tearing through parkland without receiving further permission from the park service or other landowner; even parents alone are never allowed to give children permission to disturb wildlife, plants, or soil on parkland.

Whereas IMA projects require a general frame and conformance to the program rules, each site is different with unique challenges to solve. Before approaching me to lead an IMA-based project, the candidate should have at least three workdays under their belt so they realize what is involved and are capable of running a session. Then, if the scout likes the IMA option, send an email to me at [greg@grsykes.com](mailto:greg@grsykes.com), indicating you would like a project and stating deadlines to complete it. ***Always cc at least one parent or guardian in your communications with me!*** Again, this work is conducted under permits granted to me so I must be present throughout the workday.

In addition to recruiting volunteers and bringing refreshments, the scout must know basic habitat restoration concepts, how to use the tools, how to minimize soil disturbance and erosion, what the target invasive species look like, and ways to distinguish those weeds from native plants. The scouts completing IMA-based projects have a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Though not required, most returned for additional workdays even after leaving the scouts.

Now is the time for scouts to start planning projects and seeing if IMA will be a good fit for them when the time comes. See you in the field!

# Buyers LOVE Neighborhood Pools! And KPW Has Three! Splash Into A Selling Advantage!



KPW's three pools are a huge selling point for buyers - that's why The Mary & Cathy Team consistently supports our pools through memberships, donations and sponsorships - totaling over \$10,000 in 2020.

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**KPWCA Scholarship Application - Updated January 2021****Mail completed form and required information to:**

KPWCA Scholarship Committee  
 c/o Ostrom  
 4912 Gainsborough Dr.  
 Fairfax, VA 22032

**Deadline/postmarked by: May 14, 2021**

**The Kings Park West Civic Association will award up to three \$1,000 scholarships to 2021 graduating seniors whose parents or guardians are members in good standing of the KPW Civic Association as of the deadline of the application, May 14, 2021.**

This year due to the circumstances, each scholarship will be awarded on the basis of academic achievement, a written essay, and additional questions. This scholarship is open to seniors who are enrolling in a 4-year college/university, 2-year college, trade or technical training, or formalized gap year program.

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

A. Parent/Guardian is a Kings Park West Civic Association member (dues paid) in good standing? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

B. 1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

3. Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Self-reported GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Self-reported ACT or SAT (if taken) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Parent/Guardian Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

6. Parent Email \_\_\_\_\_

7. Name of High School \_\_\_\_\_

C. Main essay (not to exceed 350 words):

Please share with our scholarship committee any insight into the impact that the Covid 19 pandemic has had on you. This could include activity changes, personal challenges or financial hardship.

D. Additional questions in lieu of interview (2-3 sentences each):

1. Identify a personal adjustment that you made over the past year and describe what you learned about yourself?
2. What skill/s have you developed during the pandemic that you will use in the future?
3. How has your community made a difference in individual lives during this time?
4. Twenty years from now, how will you look back upon your KPW experience?

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

**Applicant signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian signature:** \_\_\_\_\_