



August 2021

Vol. 51, Issue 4

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hey, neighbors!

By the time you're reading this, Fairfax's back-to-school is just around the corner, and some of our college kids have already started back. I hope everyone had a great summer, and here's hoping for a more normal fall. The Board is hard at work (yes, even during the summer!) getting ready for our fall General Membership meeting on September 28, 7-8:30 pm. Location is TBD, so stay tuned. We will be holding elections for several positions and approving the budget for the coming year. We will also be proposing a change to the by-laws to stagger the Board positions, so not all positions turn over in the same year.

Community Calendar

August 31 – KPWCA Board Meeting
 Labor Day – September 6
 Herald Deadline – September 15
 KPWCA Board Meeting – September 21
 Fall Begins – September 22
 Herald Delivery – September 25
 Herald Deadline – September 29
 Membership Drive – October 1

I hope to see many of you there—it's important to get a good turnout!

I hope you all have had a chance to check out our revamped website (kpwca.org). Did you know that we have a Website and Social Media Committee? We have a fantastic Webmaster who chairs the committee, but we could use a volunteer or two to manage the social media postings on Facebook and Nextdoor. We just added a lot of information regarding who our local elected officials are and how to get in touch with them and sign up for their newsletters. It's all under the "County-State" tab.

Fall also brings our Membership Drive, and you'll be hearing more about that in weeks to come. While I'm happy that we are now only lacking six Block Captains, our wonderful ambassadors to the community, that means we still need **six** more volunteers before the Membership Drive starts in October! I want to give a huge shout out to Nick Schumaker for taking the helm of the Membership Committee and to thank Donna Pennypacker for all her work last year with the Membership Drive. Nick works in fundraising so he will be a great asset to the Civic Association.

One final note, recently I attended the KPW Community Association (the HOA for many in the neighborhood—see the map in the Directory) membership meeting in the hopes of devising a strategy to increase the understanding of the difference between the Civic Association and the HOA.

Long story short: the **Civic Association** is the **voluntary** organization with **\$25/year** dues that sponsors all the fun activities; maintains the signboards; sponsors the park clean-ups, Road Raiders, and Dumpster Day; keeps the common areas looking beautiful; and provides scholarships (and so much more!). The Civic Association has more than 1,800 homes. The KPW **Community Association** is the **HOA** and has **mandatory \$40/year** dues. There are 580 homes in the KPW HOA. The primary mission of the Community Association is to handle liability for the HOA-owned common areas. They provide (through the Burke Community Management Group) the required disclosure packages if you're selling your house; they also will remove hazardous trees in certain instances. The website is kpwhoa.org, and email is kpwhoa@yahoo.com.

Enjoy the last days of summer, and I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you around the neighborhood!

- Sarah Lennon, President, KPWCA

Kings Park West Civic Association P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114 General Information: info@kpwca.org Community Association: kpwhoa@yahoo.com Website: kpwca.org			
Officers		Email	Phone
President	Sarah Lennon	president@kpwca.org	(703) 978-5608
Vice President	Mike Stonkey	vp@kpwca.org	(703) 509-9725
Secretary	Karen Cosgrove	secretary@kpwca.org	
Treasurer	Jonathan Reiser	treasurer@kpwca.org	
Members-at-Large	Adrienne Barna Kaycie Blaylock Donna Thomas	boardmember2@kpwca.org boardmember1@kpwca.org	
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	KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com	
Welcoming	Natalie Croitoru	welcome@kpwca.org	
Communications			
Herald Content Editor	Monica Grover	editor@kpwca.org	
Herald Communications Editor	RoseLuczak	editor@kpwca.org	
Herald Advertising and Classifieds	Gayle Ostrom		
Signboards	Adrienne Barna		(703) 323-0518
Web Admin	Tim Hartle	website@kpwca.org	(703) 200-8375
Membership	Donna Pennypacker	membership@kpwca.org	
Parks and Lake	Tom McCook	parks@kpwca.org	
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes		(703) 426-8246
Special Activities			
Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	vp@kpwca.org	(703) 509-9725
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin	kjodoin@gmail.com	
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom		

<p style="text-align: center;">How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association?</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 kpwca.org 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 style="text-align: center;">The Herald</p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: September 15 for delivery on September 25. 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 style="text-align: center;">How do I advertise in The Herald?</p> <p>Classifieds: Classified ads for the April issue must be received no later than September 15 to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or at classified@kpwca.org. 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>Advertisements: Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classified@kpwca.org for rates.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">How do I get my news in The Herald?</p> <p>The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to email 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

Road Raiders: *30 minutes month.* Performs common area clean-up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com.

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





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Elected Officials List

Need to contact an elected official?

From U.S. senators to school board members, here's a current list of names and contact information.

Local

Fairfax County Government

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay

- fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman
- (703) 324-2321

Braddock District Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw

- fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock
- (703) 425-9300
- Office: 9002 Burke Lake Rd., Burke, VA 22015
- Stay informed on Braddock District issues and events by signing up for the Braddock District email list at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. You will receive the Braddock Beacon Newsletter every first Friday of the month, the weekly Walkinshaw Advisory, and periodic district updates.
- Facebook: @SupervisorWalkinshaw
- Twitter: @JrWalkinshaw
- Instagram: @SupervisorWalkinshaw

Fairfax County Public School Board:

- fcps.edu/school-board/school-board-members

At-Large Members:

- Karen Keys-Gamarra
 - Karen.KeysGamarra@fcps.edu
 - (571) 423-1091
- Abrar Omeish
 - aomeish@fcps.edu
 - (571) 423-1089
- Rachna Sizemore Heizer
 - Rachna.SizemoreHeizer@fcps.edu
 - (571) 423-1090

Braddock School Board Member

Megan McLaughlin

- Megan.McLaughlin@fcps.edu
- (571) 423-1088

Federal

Senator Tim Kaine

- kaine.senate.gov
- (202) 224-4024 or (703) 361-3192
- Manassas Office: 9408 Grant Avenue, Suite 202, Manassas, VA 20110

Senator Mark Warner

- warner.senate.gov
- (202) 224-2023 or (703) 442-0670
- Vienna Office: 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 200, Vienna, VA 22182

Representative Gerald Connolly

- connolly.house.gov
- (202) 225-1492 or (703) 256-3071
- Annandale Office: 4115 Annandale Road, Suite 103, Annandale, VA 22003

State

Governor Ralph Northam

- www.governor.virginia.gov
- (804) 786-2211

Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax

- ltgov.virginia.gov
- (804) 786-2078

Atty. General Mark Herring

- oag.state.va.us
- (804) 786-2071

Virginia General Assembly

Senate (34th District), J. Chapman (Chap) Petersen

- district34@senate.virginia.gov
- (703) 349-3361
- District Office: P.O. Box 1066, Fairfax, VA 22038

Virginia General Assembly

Delegate (41st District) Eileen Filler-Corn

- DelEFiller-Corn@house.virginia.gov
- (571) 249-3453
- District Office: P.O. Box 523082, Springfield, VA 22152

kings park west herald's list

www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList

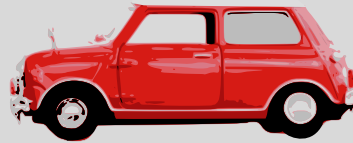


by cathy deloach

Your Neighbors Need Advice!

Here are some recent requests from the Facebook King's Park West Herald's List. Do you have any suggestions for your neighbors? Head to Facebook to help them out!

Will is looking for an honest local non-dealer Mini mechanic.



Andra is looking for a good eye care professional.



Holly is looking for a washing machine repair person/company.



www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList

KPW Scholarship Thank Yous

Dear KPWCA Scholarship Committee,

I'm so grateful for all that the Kings Park West community has given me over the past six years. From volunteering with the Road Raiders to attending various community sponsored events, I'll never forget the amazing experiences I've shared with the community.

Georgia Sherman

Dear KPWCA Scholarship Committee,

Thank you all for your decision to award me this scholarship. After such a hard year for my family and our community, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to ease some of the financial burden college tuition brings on my own.

I'm so excited to announce that I'll be studying abroad in London for the Fall semester through Verto before transferring to William and Mary in the Spring. I plan to major in either History or Secondary Education in Social Studies, before returning back to Fairfax and working as a teacher in FCPS.

Growing up in King's Park West has been incredible and shaped me into the person I am today. I will truly miss this community when I'm away in college, but this scholarship will remind me of the kind, diverse, and accepting place I grew up in.

Thank you all for having faith in me and I'll continue to make everyone proud and look forward to coming back to be a part of this community.

Sincerely,
Jackie Parrella

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Kings Park West Yard of the Month Information

Hello, neighbors!

Many of you have asked about our Yard of the Month award, so here is some info.

The KPW Yard of the Month is awarded in June, July, and August to two winners per month. As the award is sponsored by Burke Nursery, each winner receives a \$25 gift card to spend at their nursery to make KPW a more beautiful place to live!

They also receive a sign placed prominently in their yard declaring them the winner of Yard of the Month. It will be left for 30 days and then picked up so another person can have it placed in their yard.

We try to give the award to yards that are well-kept, colorful, and enhance the beauty of our neighborhood. If you know of a deserving yard, please send your suggestion to me at ccgene@me.com.

Let's continue to make this a welcoming neighborhood by keeping our yards beautiful!

Caroline McDonald

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Thank you to all our
members for a wonderful
2021 season! We can't
wait to see you all again
in 2022!

KPWCA Budget Update
Jonathan Reiser, KPWCA Treasurer

The KPWCA Board has prepared a draft FY22 budget for the October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022.

The FY22 budget is based on the current FY21 budget income and expenses to date, with several adjustments:

- The KPWCA Directory is published every other year in odd FYs, so the 2022 budget will not include income or expense from the Directory.
- The draft FY22 budget does not presume optional member donations and/or savings to help balance it, but your *past* generosity in two areas in particular (The Herald newsletter and common grounds maintenance) has, this year, given us the opportunity to significantly reduce budget amounts for their categories. We can provide the the same level of service without affecting budgets for other categories.
- Voluntary optional donations this year totaled \$18,455.69. Thank you again for your generosity.

Please come to the fall membership meeting on September 28. Among other matters, you will have the opportunity to review/comment on the budget and vote on it.

	<u>20-21 Actual</u>	<u>21-22 Budget</u>
Income		
Annual Member Dues	21,366.50	21,100.00
Herald Classified Ads	110.00	700.00
Herald Display Ads	4,232.00	8,000.00
Herald Subscriptions	0.00	10.00
Investment Income	4.94	200.00
KPW Directory Ads-print odd FYs	720.00	0.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00
Total Income	<u>26,433.44</u>	<u>30,010.00</u>
Expense		
Admin & Misc Activities		
Bank Charge	38.50	50.00
BDC of Community Assoc Dues	0.00	100.00
Insurance-D&O/General Liability	4,074.00	4,100.00
Other Misc Expenses	225.00	225.00
PayPal Fees	402.65	275.00
State Corporate Registration	35.00	25.00
Tax Prep & Filing Fees	0.00	100.00
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner	0.00	350.00
Total Admin & Misc Activities	<u>4,775.15</u>	<u>5,225.00</u>
Common Grounds Maint. Committee		
Area Maintenance Contract	2,654.00	1,000.00
Beautification & Gardening Grp	142.91	150.00
Message Board Maintenance	0.00	100.00
Utilities	236.49	160.00
Total Common Grounds Maint. Committee	<u>3,033.40</u>	<u>1,410.00</u>
Herald Newsletter Committee		
Herald Administrative Expense	0.00	100.00
Herald Delivery-\$350/issue	350.00	2,800.00
Herald Printing-8 issues	8,512.28	9,500.00
Total Herald Newsletter Committee	<u>8,862.28</u>	<u>12,400.00</u>

Upgrades at Lakeside and Royal Lake Parks

Paul Gross, Friends of Royal Lake

Have you noticed the changes at Lakeside and Royal Lake parks?

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has paved the walkways to integrate fields and playgrounds to make them assessable for all park patrons. This helps make Royal Lake Parks compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

FCPA paved the trail from the Lakeside parking lot to the ball fields, created handicap entrance capability to the playground and the bleacher for the baseball field, built small (5'x5')

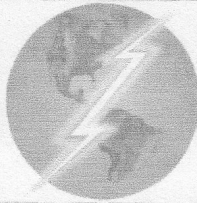
concrete pads to accommodate two wheelchairs at the soccer field (on the side closest to the lake), and did baseball dugouts upgrades with stone dust. Some additional work will be done next to the baseball field for improved drainage.

Additionally, the Royal Lake Park, on a smaller scale, received the same walkway paving integration between the various facilities, including the tennis courts, exercise equipment, basketball courts, and playground. All the other park trails will remain natural or with stone dust. (I am writing this while the work is in progress; by this time you receive The Herald, the work should almost be completed.)



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Invasive Species Profile: Himalayan Blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*)Greg Sykes, greg@grsykes.com**Native range:** Armenia**U.S. introduction:** 1885**Life cycle:** perennial shrub**Means of spreading:** runners along roots; berries, eaten by birds which pass the seeds**Commercially available:** yes, though often hybridized with other species**Control method:** hand-pull**Good alternative species:** black raspberries (*Rubus occidentalis*)

Figure 1. Himalayan blackberry's emerald green leaves usually have seven (sometimes three) leaflets. Both leaves and stems possess barbs.

Comments: Raspberry and blackberry species fall under the genus, *Rubus*. Precise naming can be difficult due to factors such as classification criteria and hybridizations. Of the nearly 250 species, around 13 are found in Fairfax County of which 10 are native. The Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*, previously *R. discolor*), which actually originated from Armenia, is one of the non-native species now in the county. It was introduced to the United States in 1885 for horticultural purposes. At that time, Himalayan blackberries gained fame for their berries and people actively brought them into gardens all around the world. Though some folks argue that these fruits lack the tastiness of other blackberries and raspberries, botanists cross-bred Himalayan blackberries with different *Rubus* species or earlier hybrids. As a result, Chehalem blackberries, Marionberries, and Silvanberries all share Himalayan blackberry lineage. These crosses are artificial, but studies suggest that some hybridization—and genetic contamination—is happening in the wild, too.

The Himalayan blackberry escaped cultivation and spread rapidly due to birds and mammals eating the fruits and then depositing the viable seeds elsewhere. While invasive plants often prefer germinating in recently churned soil (e.g., cleared or tilled within several years), Himalayan blackberry seeds sprout and grow anywhere from fields and gardens to mature, undisturbed forests. Once established at a spot, the plant sends rhizomes from which other new shoots emerge. Their spiny branches reach up to 10 feet long, making it the largest *Rubus* member growing in Northern Virginia. These branches have five sides; looking down a perpendicular cut, one sees a pentagon. Some of the branches die back in the winter and the shrub generates lengthy branches from mature roots within a growing season. Unable to support their own weight, the branches arch down and send roots anywhere they have prolonged soil contact. Whereas the berries nourish some wildlife during the short fruiting season, an insufficient number of other organisms, including pathogenic microbes, eat the roots, stalks, or foliage throughout the rest of the year. The result is sprawling tangles of thorny, ecologically worthless weeds that displace valuable native flora.



Figure 2. Himalayan blackberries five-petaled blossoms (A) are white. Their flowers are similar to other *Rubus* and [multiflora rose](#), which also bloom in May. Himalayan blackberry fruits (B) ripen in July and have larger fruits than their relatives. Thin, vicious spines (C) may pierce leather gloves. These thorns are at a nearly 90° angle to the flat-sided stem.

(Continued on next page.)



Figure 3. In June, a cluster of native black raspberries (A) offers a tempting snack for wildlife while a daddy longlegs rests on a leaf to the right. Black raspberry leaves have three leaflets (B). Their powdered branches start off green but turn purplish by winter. The slightly hooked thorns are smaller than those of Himalayan blackberries.

The best way to eradicate Himalayan blackberry is by pulling it out and extracting all of the roots. Those rhizomes are shallow and have a simple, cable-like structure yet they extend quite a distance from the mature plant. Since the root can break and a new plant may grow from the remaining fragment, getting all of the rhizome is imperative. Routinely cutting and digging eventually kills this weed, though it may take several months to a year or so. Depending on the type and time of year, herbicide treatments have varying results and should not be used if people are still nibbling on the berries. When applying herbicides, always follow the product labels and wear appropriate personal protection equipment, including chemical-proof gloves and safety glasses.

For each invasive weed, there are native alternatives. In this case, black raspberries or blackcaps (*R. occidentalis*) fit the bill! Compared to Himalayan blackberries, the black raspberries have slightly smaller branches with circular bisects and a whitish powder coating. They have three (occasionally five) leaflets filling each leaf and the foliage with a blue patina. Cultivars, such as “Munger” and “Jewel,” are available; purchasing wild types helps preserve genetic diversity. Common dewberries (*R. flagellaris*) and swamp dewberries (*R. hispidus*) are native blackberries with vine-like stems trailing close to the ground.

For more information on Himalayan blackberry:
<https://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=6338>
<https://www.invasive.org/gist/moredocs/rubarm01.pdf>

This article is also available online, with color photos, at grsykes.com.

Girl Scout News

In June this summer, Girl Scout Unit 54-15 held an Outdoor Activity Day which included canoeing, kayaking, archery, slingshots, darts, and tomahawk throwing. Girls also went hiking, made birdfeeders, and performed service projects of cleaning and painting structures around Girl Scout Camp Coles Trip in Stafford.

If your school-age daughter is interested in joining Girl Scouts this year, please contact Cheryl at cosborne@gscnc.org or visit GSCNC.org.





girl scouts
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Cheryl Osborne, Membership Specialist
cosborne@gscnc.org
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These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent or this school.



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Pack 1967 News

It's summertime! Time to get outside and enjoy the outdoors, and Pack 1967 has been busy doing just that. In June, the Scouts made water rockets out of 2-liter bottles and took turns launching them at Lakeside Park. After launching their rockets (and sometimes getting a little wet in the process), the Scouts enjoyed some ice cream and popsicles.

On July 3, the Scouts of Pack 1967 teamed up with the Scouts from Pack 1968 to represent the King's Park West Civic Association in the Fairfax City Independence Day Parade. The Scouts decorated their float, marched in the parade and even won first place for their group!



Scouts from the Pack attended the Patriot District Day Camp at Occoquan Regional Park. At Day Camp, Scouts practiced archery, shot sling shots, built rockets, learned Scout skills, and climbed the rock wall.



(Continued on next page.)

Also in July, the Scouts met at Royal Lake for some “ice fishing”—fishing while eating ice cream. The Scouts managed to catch a turtle and plenty of sunfish.

On July 25, the Pack received a private guided tour of the Tidal Basin from a National Park Ranger. And on July 29, the Webelos Den (4th graders) visited the Burke Centre VRE Connector construction site to learn about the science and machinery that go into construction projects.



If you're interested in learning more about Cub Scouts, what we do, and what we have planned, please contact us and join us for a Den meeting at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.



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