



March 2021

Vol. 51, Issue 1

Kings Park West Civic Association

There has been quite a bit of discussion on social media recently about the KPW Civic Association, the confusingly named KPW Community Association (the mandatory HOA of which some homes in KPW are a part), directories, and dues.

Community Calendar	
First Day of Spring.....	March 20
Spring Egg-Stravaganza.....	March 21
Easter.....	April 4
Herald Deadline.....	April 7
Herald Delivery.....	April 24

As hopefully many know, our KPW Civic Association is led by a small group of dedicated neighbors—eight executive members, plus a handful of standing committee chairs (membership, parks & lake, etc.) and a smattering of others who take on activities such as the Halloween Festival.

A vital component of the membership committee is the roster of block captains, and this is where we need an infusion of energy and activity. The KPW is broken into 99 blocks and currently there are **ELEVEN** vacancies. (Now, I don't do math much, but that's more than 10%!) Some block captains have taken on more than one block over the years, and this year some volunteered to deliver the directories (printed every other year) for some of the blocks that have no captain. Let me assure you that their "above and beyond" effort is greatly appreciated! *(Continued on page 4.)*

**Get ready for the KPWCA Spring "Egg-Stravaganza!"
Sunday, March 21, 2-5 pm.**

In lieu of the traditional Spring Egg Hunt, this year the KPW Civic Association is organizing a neighborhood-wide KPW candy hunt! Similar to the socially distanced Halloween trick or treating last fall, neighbors will be putting out individually wrapped treats at their homes. A candy hunt trail map will be available ahead of time. And keep an eye out for the special GOLDEN EGGS!

Captain Cookie will be returning to KPW to provide delicious cookie treats, courtesy of the Mary & Cathy team! The truck will be set up in the LRES parking lot from 3-5 pm. Stop by to grab a sweet treat, as well as treat bags with maps of the candy hunt trail.

Contact Sarah Lennon at president@kpwca.org with questions.

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	bagg@kpwca.org	(703) 978-6641 (703) 978-1564
Community Support Services			
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland	consumer@kpwca.org	
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland		
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant		
Neighbor Assist	Bruce Wallachy		(703) 401-0275
Welcoming	Melissa Morgan	welcome@kpwca.org	
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Herald Communications Editor	Sara Rezk	editor@kpwca.org	
Herald Advertising and Classifieds	Gayle Ostrom	classified@kpwca.org	
Signboards	Adrienne Barna		(703) 323-0518
Web Admin	Kathy Shifflett	website@kpwca.org	
Membership	Donna Pennypacker	membership@kpwca.org	
Parks and Lake	Tom McCook	KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com	
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes		(703) 426-8246
Special Activities			
Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967		
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin		
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	scholarships@kpwca.org	(703) 323-0206

<p 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 align="center">The Herald</p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: April 7 for delivery on April 24. 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">How do I advertise in The Herald?</p> <p>Classifieds: Classified ads for the April issue must be received no later than April 7 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. Advertisements: Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classified@kpwca.org for rates.</p>	<p 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 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 & 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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(Continued from cover.)

Block captains are the link between the Civic Association and the greater KPW community. They can be sources of information, provide the membership forms, collect dues, and deliver the directories. Most of the effort is concentrated in the fall for the membership drive, but every other year in the January-February timeframe, it includes delivery of the members-only directories.

We are in dire need of some new blood for this vital connective tissue responsibility. It is not an enormous time commitment, and it IS a great way to get to know some new neighbors and the community. (Trust me, I know... I've been a block captain for ~15 years and served as membership committee chair too!)

The blocks that need captains are:

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

So, **please**, think about this and then if you can join the KPWCA team, reach out to me at president@kpwca.org and Donna Pennypacker and Tim Hartle using the membership@kpwca.org address.

Sarah Lennon, KPWCA President

KPW Road Raiders
Tom McCook, KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com

Clean up activities: We had a great turn-out of 75 volunteers on MLK day of service and 44 volunteers on President's Day. So many thanks to all these great volunteers.

Collectively, we bagged over 90 bags of trash—think plastic and odd metal that shouldn't be in the environment! What a great job!



Our next planned event is on Saturday, April 10 at both Lakeside (off Pommeroy) and Royal Lake (off Gainsborough) parks.

This clean-up is coordinated with both the Nature Conservancy, Clean Fairfax and, of course, our Fairfax County Park Authority.

The goal as always is to discover nature in our parks and then to make a community a bit cleaner by picking up trash. If you see areas of extreme neglect in our parks, please let us know, and we may be able to support spot cleaning efforts! **I am looking for volunteers to support organizing and coordinating this clean-up effort. If you can help, please let me know.**

Neighbors, students, volunteer groups, Scout troops: I am looking for volunteers to lead small or large projects based on your personal goals. I have got both small (one Troop meeting effort) or larger semester long projects that you can accomplish.

Gold and Eagle Scout projects: I have many ideas and the KPWCA may sponsor your projects. Interested Scouts, please contact me for more information.

Please contact me if I can support your organizational goals and make our parks better.

Finally, I am seeking your ideas and suggestions on how to improve our parks throughout our neighborhood. I will consolidate and forward your ideas to FCPA on specific projects. Please send me your ideas for both Scout projects and FCPA-level work!

Also, the porta-potties have returned to both Royal Lake and Lakeside parks. The KPWCA pays for about 50% of the cost (\$1200) for service between March and November 2021. The monthly costs are slightly higher than normal, due to the COVID rules to clean the porta-potties twice a week. I hope they are clean for you when needed.

Brought to you by your neighbor, Cathy DeLoach

January 2021

REAL ESTATE YEAR IN REVIEW



Predictions: Where is the real estate market headed in 2021?

Similar to 2020, the real estate market in Northern Virginia is expected to experience a low inventory of homes, low interest rates, and buyers competing for available properties.

The past year has been among the most difficult in memory. The pandemic brought devastating job losses to the national and regional economy. Despite the job losses, there are signs of resilient strength in Northern Virginia. Job growth continues in the higher paying professional and technical services sub-sector. As heard anecdotally from local real estate agents, there are plenty of consumers in the market who can afford to enter the ranks of homeownership in the NoVa region.

Regional economic indications are all pointing to a bright year ahead. Job growth in high-paying sectors appears to be robust, and we can expect the new

federal administration to expand efforts to stimulate the national economy as we continue to be challenged by the pandemic.

Have we finally seen a bottoming out of regional inventory levels? The work-from-home phenomenon may ultimately benefit local home buyers. An increase in the inventory of for-sale properties could benefit the many eager buyers who plan to continue to work AND live in Northern Virginia.

The residential real estate industry was an economic sector leader in adapting to the challenges of COVID-19. This adaptability has allowed many regional residents to realize their dreams of homeownership. Still, lingering economic and market factor unknowns make predicting real estate market performance in 2021 a real challenge.

~Northern Virginia Association of REALTORS®

Kings Park West 2021 MARKET REVIEW

Most Popular Model

Decorating Trends

Should We Do An Extreme Makeover?

2021 Colors of the Year



2020 Was The Year Of The Queen

The four bedroom, two-and-a-half bath colonial was extremely popular with buyers this year.



For the past decade, the Baron and the Regent have battled for the top spot (most sold) in Kings Park West. But this year, the **Queen** has taken the prize with 20 homes sold. This spacious, traditional floorplan sold for an average of \$652,219 with top sales price coming in at \$712,000. Queens sold on average in 15 days.

Here are the Queen stats:



20 homes sold.



Average sold price: \$652,219
Highest sold price: \$712,000
Lowest sold price: \$558,000



Average days on market: 15
Longest DOM: 70
Shortest DOM: 1

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, 2020 outperformed 2019 in Kings Park West. A total of 84 homes changed ownership, beating 2019's 79 transactions. The average sold price in 2020, \$645,263, was up almost 6% over 2019's average of \$610,460. Homes sold more quickly in 2020 also, averaging 13 days on the market, well under the 2019 average of 29 days. Limited inventory pushed prices higher with some properties receiving multiple offers, many over list price. Prospective buyers experienced frustration, some losing several homes before an offer was finally accepted.



KPW STATS: 84 homes sold
with a price range of \$505,000 to \$770,000
Average days on market: 13

As stated above, honors for most sold go to the Queen with 20 sold; the ever-popular Regent took 2nd place with 17 sold. Regarding prices, the big Baron had the highest **average** sold price at \$722,679. The Regent earned top honors for highest sold price (\$770,000) followed by a York with a basement and a full second-story extreme addition (\$744,000). And no home sold in the \$400's: The lowest sold price of 2020 was \$505,000 for a York without a basement.

Looking to 2021, low inventory and low interest rates should continue to support an active real estate environment in Kings Park West.

Model	# Sold	Average Sold Price	Average Days On Market	Highest Sold Price	Lowest Sold Price
Baron	10	\$722,679	5	\$757,000	\$678,000
Cromwell	4	\$635,625	4	\$705,000	\$579,900
Duchess	6	\$632,042	19	\$660,000	\$615,000
Duke	9	\$632,372	18	\$662,000	\$603,200
Essex	5	\$585,228	26	\$635,277	\$554,865
King	5	\$625,000	15	\$680,000	\$550,000
Prince	3	\$574,629	20	\$584,000	\$560,000
Queen	20	\$652,219	15	\$712,000	\$558,000
Regent	17	\$658,878	11	\$770,000	\$550,000
York w/ basement	3	\$632,967	3	\$744,000	\$524,900
York w/o basement	2	\$515,000	7	\$525,000	\$505,000

February 2021 - KPW MARKET REVIEW

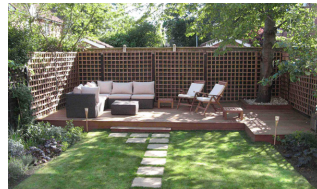
2021 Decorating Trends



In 2021, as we focus on comfort at home, interiors will become warmer, with more pops of color and “significant” furniture pieces - items that have meaning.

The pandemic has made a huge impact on our sense of home, and the 2021 decorating trends predicted by experts reflect a desire to make our home practical, comfortable and comforting. Here are a few trends that are making everyone’s list:

- **Comfortable furniture** - overstuffed chairs and couches, and plenty of seating for watching television. Mid-century modern furniture, with its minimalist aesthetic (spindly legs, petite profile and structured cushions), is out.
- **Big TVs** - home theatre meets comfy living room. This marks the acceptance of the TV as the focal point, surrounded with comfortable seating for viewing.
- **Outdoor spaces** - pandemic safe spaces for socializing.
- **Multi-purpose rooms** - dining room as office, playroom as classroom, living room as gym. Pandemic isolation is forcing multiple roles for the same rooms.
- **House plants** - breathing life, hope and optimism into all rooms, incorporating living plants in decor is a huge feature on all trend lists.



..... ”

Character as a decorating theme will return with vintage, quality furniture pieces, warmer tones and the use of natural textures.

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February 2021 - KPW MARKET REVIEW

Colors of the Year 2021



Each year, the major paint manufacturing companies set paint trends that reflect or react to current events. Unsurprisingly, this year’s paint colors are geared to portray serenity and/or optimism in an attempt to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Pantone actually combined two colors to send this dual message: Ultimate Gray to reflect solid and enduring foundational elements, and Illuminating, a bright yellow to inspire optimism and hope for the future. Benjamin Moore’s Aegean Teal is described as “balanced” and “soothing.” And Sherwin William’s Urbane Bronze is described as having warmth and down-to-earth tranquility.

PANTONE 17-5104 Ultimate Gray + PANTONE 13-0647



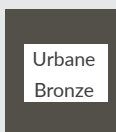
The union of an enduring Ultimate Gray with the vibrant yellow Illuminating expresses a message of positivity supported by fortitude.

BENJAMIN MOORE 2136-40 AEGEAN TEAL



Intriguing, balanced, and deeply soothing, the Benjamin Moore Color of the Year 2021, Aegean Teal 2136-40, creates natural harmony.

SHERWIN WILLIAMS SW 7048 URBANE BRONZE



Tap into nature with a hue whose warmth and comfort breathe down-to-earth tranquility. Urbane Bronze, captures that simple sophistication every space is searching for.

REAL ESTATE ADVICE

Should I Consider an “Extreme” Home Renovation?

Construction on Kings Park West began in 1967 with new sections added every few years through 1986. Needless to say, when viewed with modern eyes and sensibilities, many features and original finishes are perceived as dated. However, the neighborhood is a prime location for the D.C. Metropolitan area, and includes fantastic amenities like sidewalks, parks and schools within walking distance that newer neighborhoods lack, and thus remains very popular with buyers. So, how much should you spend to upgrade and improve your home? Is an extreme makeover worth it?

What is an Extreme Makeover?

An extreme makeover is defined as one that is more than just a cosmetic update. Any project that includes major demolition (for example, moving or eliminating walls) or a significant addition is considered extreme. So, when does it make sense to go big?

How Long Do Plan to Stay in Your Home?

Nationally, home improvement projects recoup anywhere from 50 to 95% of their cost in added home value (Source: www.remodeling.hw.net/cost-vs-value/2020). However, in “hot” markets like ours, these updates can return more than 100% in added equity value as our properties tend to appreciate faster than the national average, especially over time. If you’re planning a move in less than five years, a

Popular Extreme Renovations in KPW

Throughout Kings Park West, homeowners are updating kitchens including removing walls to create open floor plans, expanding bathrooms, adding one and two story additions and making fantastic outdoor destination spaces. For inspiration on what others have done with the various floor plans in KPW, head to Facebook. Each model has its own FaceBook Group and homeowners are sharing their renovation successes and asking questions about projects, problems and more.

Don’t Forget Routine Maintenance

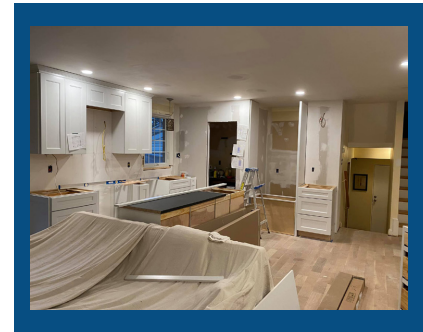
Homeownership requires prioritizing expenditures. So if your roof or HVAC needs replacing, these tasks should be



Regent with addition

major renovation may be an expensive endeavor with little to no return other than personal enjoyment. However, if your intention is to stay put for at least five to seven years, the added equity over time and improved overall home enjoyment may well be worth it.

tackled before or along with cosmetic improvements. Prospective buyers consider these types of items mandatory, and will deduct replacement costs from offers they submit. Roofs in poor shape can also cause you to be dropped from your homeowners insurance policy.



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The smart home renovator plans to spend at least 10% more than the contractor quote due to **scope creep**.

.....

Contractor Recommendations

Plan to get at least three quotes from contractors. Estimates can range widely so make sure you get references. A great source is your neighbors! Ask them directly or head over to the Kings Park West Herald’s List on Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList.

What is Scope Creep?

Many homeowners are shocked when they realize that their open concept new kitchen looks terrible next to their existing living room furniture. Suddenly, changes to other rooms become glaringly necessary, and the homeowner is now a victim of the expensive “scope creep” syndrome in which the scope of their project is suddenly bigger than originally anticipated. The smart home renovator plans to spend at least 10% more than the contractor quote due to scope creep.

Financing Options

The most affordable way to pay for home renovation is out of savings. However, if additional funds are needed, low interest FHA renovation loans are available. Or, consider a home equity line of credit (HELOC).

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Good News from the Neighborhood
Kaycie Blaylock, Board Member

As we move into a new year and a season of renewal, I thought it was important to first acknowledge that there have been losses in Kings Park West. We have not been immune to deaths due to the pandemic. To those people who have lost loved ones, I send my deepest condolences.

It's easy to stay in a bubble during this time and not recognize what your neighbors are currently going through. In the spirit of kinship, it is a great time to use that new KPWCA directory to reach each out to a neighbor. You may have a neighbor in need. You may find someone has good news to share. But as we are somewhat limited to our homes and the local area, I personally have found great comfort in connecting with my neighbors, even if it means yelling at each other from across the street.

Along those lines, I have decided to share some good news from people in Kings Park West. If you would like to have something mentioned in The Herald, please feel free to reach out to me. You can always message me on the Kings Park West Facebook page or email me at boardmember2@kpwca.org.

Deana Miller turned 96 years young on December 12! She is an original owner and has lived here since May 1968! Her neighbor Sarah Capponi turned 80 on February 15! Sarah is also an original owner.

Caelyn Wathen (pictured) graduated from MCRD, Parris Island and is now a U.S. Marine. He is a Robinson High School graduate and a very active KPW resident. He's one of my children's favorite lifeguards too. Thanks for serving our country!



Brianna Camp has illustrated a new children's book titled *Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Splash* through Rocket Science Productions, which is also a local and independent book publisher. It looks fun, beautiful, and informative! She was discovered by her sidewalk chalk drawings in the neighborhood, and she did a remarkable job on the book by Megan Fitzharris. If you are interested in a signed copy, you can find more information at rockscienceproductions.com.

And Linda Silver Bufano is a new retiree! Now she will get to focus on her volunteer efforts as the chair of the Conner Strong Foundation and as the chair for the Community Outreach and Communications Committee of the Task Force on Disability Inclusion in Volunteering. And Ann Sharp retired with her! Congrats to you both!

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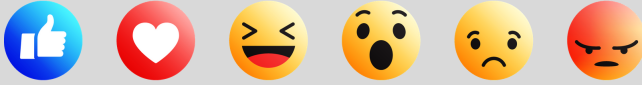
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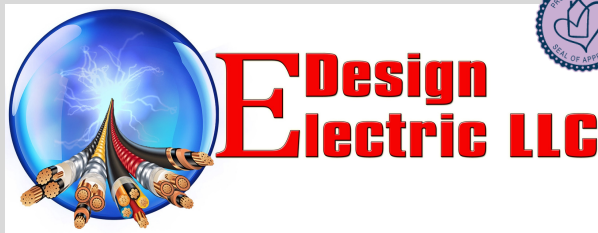


by cathy deloach

As many of you have noted from my Facebook and Instagram posts, I have embarked on a fairly substantial upgrade of the kitchen, dining room, living room and downstairs bathroom in my Regent. This has given me ample opportunity to work very closely with a number of contractors. They have been all awesome, but I would like to give a special shout out to a couple of standout providers: **EDesign Electrical** and **Cabinet Paint by Design**.

Edinson Valle, project manager with Edesign Electrical, was the consummate professional, and was truly concerned with my satisfaction. He met deadlines, even with change orders, and was simply wonderful to work with.

Karim Grace (who goes by Grace) is the owner and project manager for Cabinet Design by Paint. She contributed many great ideas and the quality of her work was impeccable. She uses high-quality products, and the results are stunning! You should see the built-ins in my living room - they have become the showpiece focal point. I couldn't be more pleased.



Edinson Valle

(202) 384-8265

edinson@edesignelectric.com
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Karim Grace

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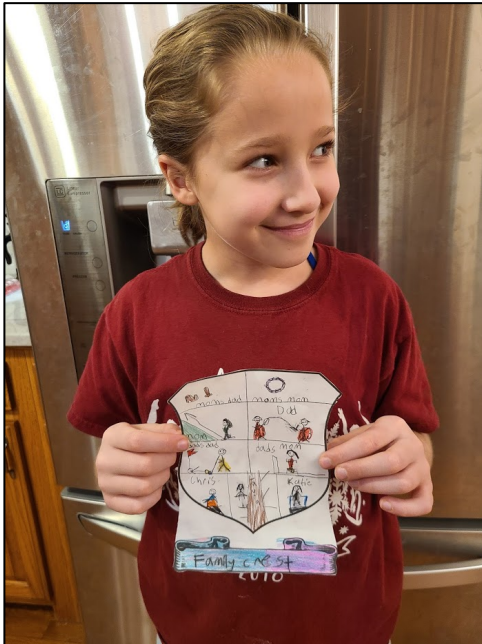
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Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 hopes 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.

Our Tiger (1st grade) and Webelos (4th grade) girl dens worked on their Family Stories and Project Family adventures this month. As part of these adventures, Scouts learn about their family history by interviewing their grandparents and making a family tree and crest.

Our Tiger Den also completed the Curiosity, Intrigue, and Magical Mysteries adventure, where they learned a new magic trick from a real magician and put on their own magic show.



In December, the Bear Den (3rd graders) learned the basics of woodworking, including how to be safe with tools and the differences between types of wood. The Bears practiced with some of the tools and built candy dispensers.

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Later in the month, the Bears completed the Make it Move adventure where they learned about the differences between kinetic and potential energy, how levers work, and built a crane out of cardboard to learn about pulleys.



Our Webelos Den 6 also kept busy over the holiday break. On November 22, they worked on the Aware and Care elective, participating in disability awareness activities that taught them about the challenges other people may face. The activities focused on simulating visual impairment, movement impairment, sensitivity impairment and autism.

On December 6, the Webelos focused on the Engineering elective learning about the different kinds of engineers, engineering design principles and designing and building their own engineering projects. On December 20, they practiced their campfire cooking skills as each planned and prepared their own individual snack and cooked them individually over a backyard campfire using cast iron pie irons. And if this wasn't enough, they also recorded video holiday messages for residents of the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Way to go, Scouts!

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.

Girl Scout News

THANK YOU KPW!



On Saturday, December 19, Girl Scout Troops 2280 and 4141 conducted a food drive, going door-to-door in the KPW Community. We collected SEVEN car trunks full of food for ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others). Your generosity is appreciated and helped many families served by ECHO.



In December 2020, scouts from GS Troop 2280 delivered 18 Christmas gift baskets and additional toys for the families of the MiRaH Center located in Alexandria. The Center helps women and families with needed expenses and items for newborns to two years old. Many of the women that use the MiRaH Center's support also have older children. These gift baskets were a welcome treat for the older siblings. If you have any gently used baby items, please consider donating to the MiRaH Center.

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!





BSA Troop 1966

Kings Park West Sponsored



Spring Mulch Sale

Delivery Date: Sat., April 10th 2021

- Premium Merrifield (double-shredded, dark brown, finely screened hardwood mulch)
- 3 cu. ft. bags (\$5.00 per bag)
- 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 simple and easy!

- 1. Fill out the form below**
- 2. Make check payable to Boy Scout Troop 1966**
- 3. Return form and check/cash to:**
Troop 1966 Spring 2021 Mulch Order
4911 Charles Lawrence Ct
Fairfax, VA 22032

Orders must be postmarked by Sat., April 3rd or hand-delivered by Wed., April 7th
 If you have questions, please e-mail Troop1966.Mulch@gmail.com

Boy Scout Troop 1966 Spring 2021 Mulch Sale Order Form
 Please make check payable to "BSA Troop 1966"

# of bags (5 bag minimum)		X\$5.00=	\$
Full Name:			
Address:			
Is this a pipestem?		Subdivision Name:	
Phone:		Email:	
Any specific delivery instructions?			

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

A Garden for Children

Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Many adults remember back to childhood, when they received their very first allowance. Starting to get money weekly was a big deal! Concealed within that exciting moment, parents began teaching children practical lessons about financial accountability: spend it all immediately on small things or save for a future purchase. Invest some of that money in a bank account and watch it accumulate interest.

Life lessons also start when children have their first pet—not the family dog or cat, but a goldfish, small mammal, or some other animal primarily under the child’s care. That pet teaches commitment and responsibility.

A plot of land as little as 6x6 feet can make a phenomenal first garden for a youngster while providing additional, practical life’s lessons. This garden is a perfect way for kids to learn about healthy land stewardship, responsibility, and discovering nature. It offers an opportunity to watch plants grow from seed, whether the germination starts indoors or directly in outdoor soil.

Children see which plants like sun or shade and which ones prefer different watering requirements. Invest some time and creativity and this backyard classroom can be the foundation for a science project.

For example, how many local pollinators does a daffodil (*Narcissus pseudonarcissus*), a European species, attract? Despite the showy yellow blossom, the answer is **zero!** None of the native bees, butterflies, beetles, or other insects recognize daffodils as a food source.

On the other hand, Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) are abuzz with pollinators, even though both bluebells and daffodils are spring ephemerals, blooming in the spring and enter dormancy by early summer. No fair using this experiment since its conclusion is published here, but countless others awaiting a youngster’s questions and revelation of the answers.

A good way to measure a plant’s beneficial quality is to count the number of times it gets visited within a given time. Using the flower visitation experiment as an example, watch three or four flowers or clusters for small blossoms—and only those flowers, not a neighboring one on the same plant—for 15 minutes and tally how many times it is visited by an insect. Regardless if the same insect jumps from one flower to the next and back again, each one of those stops counts as one visitation event.

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Figure 1. Though it may be pretty, a hillside of daffodils (A) is ecologically worthless while a few, smaller bluebell blossoms (B) draw in speedy, pollinating bees.

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Whenever possible, determine if that insect is feeding from the flower or simply landing on it. For example, a dragonfly only eats other insects so when it lands on a flower, that blossom is a perch instead of a food source. Determining which major order of insect (e.g., beetles, true flies, bees, etc.) can be significant because some flowers feed only certain types of insects. Check for munching, nesting, and other activity elsewhere on the plants, such as the foliage.

Follow this garden along with the changing seasons and over the next few years as projects that collect data across long periods are often viewed favorably by teachers and science fair judges. When testing out non-native plants, never use invasive species since they can get out of control fast, including seeds escaping the property only to start infestations in previously unspoiled natural areas.

Another taboo is leaving an empty plot to naturally fill with plants; while this method used to be a good idea, now invasive species are sure to pop up from seeds brought by birds, the wind, or even shoes after the wearer previously walked through a contaminated area.

In addition to pollinators, the young scholar sees how a native garden draws other wildlife—from the insects foraging on the plants to the predators keeping the herbivore population in check. With a nice bed of leaf mulch overtop, notice how many birds inspect that tiny garden, flipping leaves and looking for a buggy meal during colder months, compared to a grassy lawn or pavement.

What other critters seek shelter in this little habitat island? A small study site still offers daily discoveries, as David Haskell illustrates in his book, *The Forest Unseen*, where he visits a circular old growth forest patch a bit wider than a meter throughout a year. A magnifying glass or microscope further opens more worlds.

Perhaps the child would like to have a food garden. That is how some farmers got their start—by easily growing fruits and vegetables only to have people buy their goods. A student can learn from raising food gardens plus have pride when he or she produces his or her first tomato and basil salad for the family!

Will the garden be plowed or no-till? What are the challenges and benefits of “going organic?” What happens when, over the winter, the top is bare, mulched, or has a cover crop? How about hydroponics? If a problem arises, what went wrong and how is it fixed?

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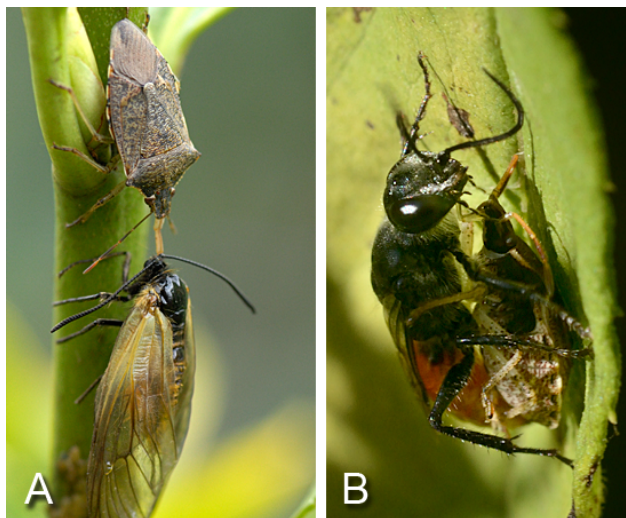


Figure 2. Folks often think of stink bugs being plant-eaters and moths having opaque wings. In this garden, a carnivorous native stink bug, the spined soldier bug (*Podisus maculiventris*), sucks the juices out of a clearwing moth (A). The tables are turned when the soldier bug falls prey to an ichneumon wasp (B).

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Any type of garden helps kids become enlightened, get fresh air, and exercise while the parents can rest easy knowing their children are safe. Very important: always keep the garden on the parents' property. **Never dig on or cut into parkland or other places without that landowner's permission.** With some imagination, the possibilities of this child's backyard garden are endless!



Figure 3. Which critters will a garden dominated with native plants entice? It could be (A) an arrow-shaped micrathena, (B) a bicolored sweat bee, seen here on a New England aster, or (C) a red-lined salamander. What will you find in your garden?

To see color photographs, references, and bibliography, please visit http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/104_2021-03.pdf for the online version of this article.

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The Outdoor Man

PROFESSIONAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

It is that time of year and the growing season is approaching. The Outdoor Man is scheduling 2021 Spring and Summer services. Be the envy of your street!

We highly recommend our **Spring turf clean-up** be performed prior to the first mow. This will enhance the effectiveness of fertilization application and turf appearance. This service targets leaves and debris that have settled next to the soil by using our powerful, but gentle blowers.

- **Spring turf clean-up**
- Mowing and Edging Walkways
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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: _____