

# 2022 KPWCA Membership Form

## Member Information

All information provided will be entered into the Membership Database

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

If boxes are not checked, we cannot publish your info in the Directory	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Address	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Home Phone	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cell Phone 1	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cell Phone 2	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	

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

### KPWCA Committees, Activities and Communications

\$25	1 Membership Fee (\$25 required for each household)
	2 Herald Newsletter
	3 Common Grounds Maintenance
	4 Parks & Lake
	5 Scholarships
	6 Scout Packs and Troop
	7 Halloween Fall Festival
	8 Spring Egg Hunt
	9 Unrestricted Community Use



### Other Community Support

	10 Volunteer Fire Department
	11 Robinson All Night Grad Party
	12 Pools in Our Community
	13 Braddock Nights

**Volunteer Opportunities**  
 Block Captain, Membership or Directory  
 Dumpster Day - Herald Newsletter  
 Welcome Committee - Parks and Lake  
 Streets and Signboards - Spring Egg Hunt  
 Halloween Fall Festival

**Total Dollar Amount**

Please make checks payable to **KPWCA** and mail to:  
**KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114**

Check appropriate box or enter details below

or return to your Block Captain

or pay via PayPal: [tinyurl.com/KPWCA-Pay](https://www.tinyurl.com/KPWCA-Pay)

### Payment Type

Cash

Check #

PayPal Payer's Name

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

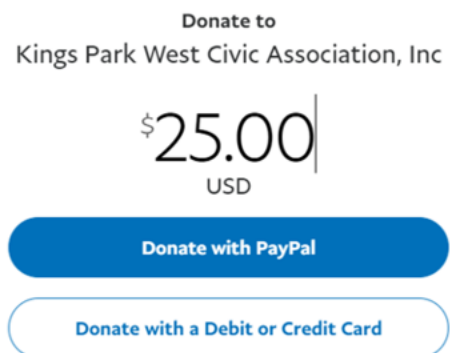
## **Two Important Pieces of information:**

1. **Total Donation Amount** - You'll need to know this regardless of which payment type and which form you use. It will be the total amount you pay via cash, check or PayPal. We recommend that you calculate this amount before continuing. (Review page 1)
2. For on-line payments, in order to create an association between your payment and your membership form, you need to include your **PayPal Payer's Name** near the box at the bottom of the form. So, when you make your on-line payment, jot down the name associated with your PayPal account and then complete the membership form.

## **Instructions for Paying with PayPal**

Go to the [tinyurl.com/KPWCA-Pay](http://tinyurl.com/KPWCA-Pay) webpage.

Enter your Total Donation Amount. Then, click one of the two ways to donate. If you choose to pay with a card, you'll be prompted for additional information. **Make a note of your PayPal/Card payer name for your membership form.**



## **Instruction for Completing the On-line Membership Form**

Go to the [kpwca.org](http://kpwca.org) homepage, click on the green Google Membership button and follow the on-line prompts.

## **Instruction for Completing the Paper Membership Form**

1. Print out page one of this document and complete it by hand (Make sure your handwritten data is perfectly legible before giving it to your Block Captain.)
2. Be sure to enter the Total Dollar Amount of your donation: (\$25 Membership Fee + any additions)
3. If paying by Cash, check the "Cash" box. If paying by Check, write in the check number. If paying by PayPal enter the PayPal Payer's Name at the bottom of the form.
4. Then, give the completed form and any check or cash to your Block Captain.

***If you don't use the on-line Membership Form, it's imperative that you give the completed paper form to your Block Captain.***

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org).



October 2021

Vol. 51, Issue 6

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hey Neighbors!

It's that time of year again – the 2022 Membership Drive is underway, and you should be hearing from your Block Captain. You can also check out our awesome updated website ([www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org)) to get the form, pay through PayPal and see all that's going on. If you do not get a visit from your Block Captain, you may live on a Block that is "Captain-less" (Blocks 9, 50, 55, 64, 65, 100) and I would love to fill those slots with some new folks!

I encourage everyone to come out and join the community at an upcoming clean-up; together we can all have a greater impact on improving our little corner of the world. All ages are welcome, and I can think of nothing better than a crisp fall morning working with friends and neighbors. Please contact Tom McCook for more information at [kpwroadraiders@gmail.com](mailto:kpwroadraiders@gmail.com) and check the Herald calendar of events for more information.

On September 28th, the Fall Membership meeting was held in a hybrid fashion – in person and on Zoom. I want to give a heartfelt thanks to all who made it possible – it was so nice to see many come out in person. I don't know about you, but I am so happy to NOT have yet another Zoom meeting! The By-Laws were amended, so now we will stagger Board member elections, which will provide stability and continuity. I am thrilled that Karen Emmons was elected to be our new Treasurer! Welcome Karen and we all appreciate your spirit of community service.

As always, I look forward to hearing your ideas and suggestions for how the Civic Association can support the community, so feel free to email me at [president@kpwca.org](mailto:president@kpwca.org) with ideas.

See you around the neighborhood.

**Sarah G.J. Lennon**  
*President, KPWCA*

### Community Calendar

KPW Fall Festival – October 17

Halloween – October 31

Veterans Day – November 11

Herald Deadline – November 17

Herald Delivery – December 18

<b>Kings Park West Civic Association</b> 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	Karen Emmons	treasurer@kpwca.org	
Members-at-Large	Kaycie Blaylock Donna Thomas Jonathan Reiser	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	Rose Luczak	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	Nick Schumaker	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;"><b>How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association?</b></p> <p>Send your name, address, and phone number, along with a check for \$25 to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114, or visit 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;"><b>How do I get my news in The Herald?</b></p> <p>The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to email the editor at 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>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Herald</b></p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: November 17 for delivery on December 18. 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;"><b>How do I advertise in The Herald?</b></p> <p><b>Classifieds:</b> Classified ads for the April issue must be received no later than November 17 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. <b>Advertisements:</b> Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classified@kpwca.org for rates.</p>

## Volunteer Opportunities

**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 KPWCA 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.



### KPW Real Estate Corner by Cathy DeLoach



#### Looking Ahead to 2022: What to Expect

Due to the pandemic, 2020 and 2021 have been remarkable years for residential real estate as has been well noted in Kings Park West. Home appreciation has outpaced past trends, due in a great part to low inventory, and partially due to families and individuals seeking comfortable upgrades to facilitate the widespread stay-at-home mandates. Interest rates have remained low, so the home price appreciation has been manageable for those in the above-average price range categories. Entry-level homeownership has remained more elusive with these higher asking prices.

We expect 2022 to reflect a slighter less "hot" sellers' market, with home prices increasing at a slower pace. Furthermore, supply chain issues should begin to resolve which will allow more new home construction. The economy tells us that there will likely be a modest interest rate hike, pushing that monthly payment higher.

The takeaway? The market will be cooling, so sellers should act sooner rather than later if they want to take advantage. However, waiting until 2022 to sell will still land you in a sellers' market, just not as hot.

<b>KPW Home Sale Stats</b>	
YTD Sold:	73
Average Price:	\$697,529
Range:	\$540,000-\$831,000
Under Contract*:	11
Active*:	3 <small>*(as of 9/29/21)</small>



# kings park west herald's list

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



by cathy deloach



Dirty windows are scary.

Head on over to the KPW Herald's List on Facebook for our latest contest: Win Window Cleaning! Post the following in the comment section: Clearly, I need clean windows! A winner will be selected at random on November 1, 2021.

**Deadline to comment: October 31, 2021.**

Services provided by:



**(888) 329-8859**  
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## *Hi Neighbors!*

I'm Nick Schumaker and I'm the new Membership Committee Chair for the Kings Park West Civic Association. My wife Gretchen and I moved to the neighborhood last year and feel very lucky to call KPW home!

When we set out on our house hunt, we spent a day driving through neighborhoods in the Fairfax area. Immediately, we knew there was something special about KPW. We made our first offer on a Queen model, but like so many others in this competitive market, we didn't get it. After several more offers in other neighborhoods, we were thrilled when we closed on a Duke model a couple months later.

One thing we couldn't see on our first drive through KPW was the neighborhood pride and the kindness of neighbors in a difficult year. **Given the strong sense of community in KPW, I was surprised to learn that not even half of households are members of the Civic Association!**

The Kings Park West Civic Association is **not** an HOA. Membership is voluntary. But for just \$25 each year, you can connect with your neighbors and help make our community a better place:

Throughout the neighborhood, we all benefit from the **landscaping and maintenance of common areas** at entrances, the targeted **road and sidewalk cleanups** managed by the Road Raiders, and the updates on the **Civic Association signboards**.

In the spring and fall, the Parks and Lakes Committee organizes a **clean-up of Royal Lake** and the surrounding paths and parkland at the heart of our community.

Although the pandemic affected our ability to host neighborhood events, the Civic Association looks forward to bringing back the traditional **Halloween Parade/Fall Festival** and **Spring Egg Hunt!**

If you have unusable items but don't want to go to the dump, Civic Association members have access to convenient **dumpster days** twice a year right here in KPW.

Every year, the Civic Association awards **scholarships** to neighborhood students heading to college.

And if you're reading this edition of *The Herald* right now, you have the Civic Association to thank!

Membership dues help fund printing and delivery of *The Herald*.

Membership in the Civic Association is for everyone—whether you're an original owner or new to the neighborhood, whether you plan to stay for decades or just a couple of years, whether you rent or own your home, and whether you live in the HOA section or not. If you're renewing your membership, thank you so much for your continued support of our community! And if you're considering membership for the first time (or after a break), you will join more than 890 of your neighbors in supporting so much of what we love about KPW.

During the **October Membership Drive**, dues are collected for membership in the upcoming calendar year. That means it's time to send in your membership form and dues for 2022, and there are two convenient ways to do so:

1. **Online Form** (Preferred Method): To complete your membership form online, please visit [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org) and click "Google Membership Form." Once you submit your information, you can pay your dues online with PayPal by clicking "Donate/Pay Dues." You can also pay by check given to your Block Captain or mailed to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.
2. **Paper Form**: If you prefer to complete a paper membership form, please use the form provided here or print one out at [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org). You can still pay by PayPal on our website or include a check with your form. Please return your membership materials to your Block Captain or mail them to KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.

If you have questions or suggestions for the Civic Association, please reach out to [membership@kpwca.org](mailto:membership@kpwca.org). We're here to help and always welcome feedback! And if you're not yet ready to sign up, we'd still love to hear from you about what you'd like to see from the Civic Association. By coming together and investing in our community, we can keep KPW an amazing place to live.

Thank you,

**Nick Schumaker**

Membership Committee Chair

Kings Park West Civic Association



# Residential Paving and Yard Coverage

*Do you know about Fairfax County's rules on paving and coverage?*

## Front Yard Regulations:

Article 6 of the Zoning Ordinance requires that parking for vehicles or trailers in a front yard be on a surfaced area. Surfaced area includes asphalt, poured or precast concrete, brick, stone, gravel or other similar impervious surface.

Further, on single-family detached dwelling lots that are 36,000 square feet or less in the R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 Districts, surfaced area for a driveway or vehicle or trailer parking area is limited as follows:

- R-1 and R-2 District lots may have no more than 25% of any front yard surfaced.
- R-3 and R-4 District lots may have no more than 30% of the any front yard surfaced.
- For information regarding exceptions for accessibility improvements and lots with narrow front yards, please contact the Zoning Administration Division at 703-324-1314, TTY 711.

## Rear Yard Regulations:

### Residential (R) Districts

Article 4 of the Zoning Ordinance states all uses and structures accessory to single-family detached dwellings in R districts may cumulatively cover no more than 30% of the minimum rear setback, with the option of filing for a special permit to allow up to 60% coverage.

### Planned Development (P) Districts

In P districts, all uses and structures accessory to single-family detached dwellings may cumulatively cover no more than 75% of the minimum rear setback on lots that are 5,000 square feet or less, and no more than 50% of the minimum rear setback on lots containing more than 5,000 square feet of area, with the option of filing for a final development plan amendment for an increase in permitted rear setback coverage.



**To report a possible violation:**

**Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035**



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

*This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published July 2021) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.*



## St. Mary's Holiday Express Boutique Sale

St. Mary's of Sorrows, Parish Center  
5222 Sideburn Road.

**Saturday, November 13--(10 am to 6:30 pm) and Sunday, November 14--(9 am to 1 pm)**

One-of-a-kind, unique holiday items for all Angels, table linens, soft baby books, gnomes, bibs,

Small Christmas trees, ornaments, baby quilts and blankets, pumpkins, turkeys, and much more.

Gifts for all from babies to grandparents.

Sweet Shoppe both days. All items homemade.

Lunch on Saturday only: Chili and hot dogs in Cafe' (10 am to 4 pm)

Silent Auction and Raffle

Winners notified BY PHONE - November 14 after 2 pm

## LRES collects more than 2,000 pounds of donations for Afghan Refugees

By Catherine Phelps, Afghan Refugee Collection Drive Coordinator, Laurel Ridge PTA

LRES collects more than 2,000 pounds of donations for Afghan Refugees

by Catherine Phelps, Afghan Refugee Collection Drive Coordinator, Laurel Ridge PTA

The Laurel Ridge Elementary School PTA and LRES Military Families Group would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to all of you who assisted in our Afghan Refugee Collection Drive in early September. Your generosity helped us gather more than 35 SUV loads of donations.

As you may know from news accounts, many of these people had to leave their country with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. Your generous donations included personal hygiene items, clothes, diapers, and toys for Afghan refugees awaiting resettlement here in the DMV. All of these donations will be delivered by a team at Ft. Belvoir.


Many items were donated by members of the neighborhood--not just LRES families--and we greatly appreciate the support! And some good news for all of you realtors and owners: You can tell potential buyers a Duke model selling point is its ability to house more than 2,000 pounds of donations in just half of the lower level! You all truly embody the spirit of giving and community support.



### FREE Introduction Evaluation for KPW Residents!

A Dog's Day Out Springfield only.

5425-B Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 22151  
703-321-DOGS | info@springfield@adogsdayout.com

adogsdayout.com   

Thank you for your kind hearts and deeds; the world needs more communities like KPW!

## KPW Community Association (HOA) Information

By Larry Velte

Why is there a **Kings Park West Community Association**, and how is it different from the **KPW Civic Association**? Distinguishing between the two has often been a source of confusion for KPW residents and realtors. The *KPW Civic Association* is a voluntary organization open to all residents of KPW. A civic association cannot own real property. The *KPW Community Association*, on the other hand, is a mandatory homeowners association (HOA) that includes properties in the western part of KPW in sections 16 through 22. Under the Virginia Property Owners Association Act, membership in the HOA is not voluntary, but is required as a condition for owning the home. Here's why the HOA exists:

The RICHMARR Corporation developed KPW in the 1970s from east (Guinea/Twinbrook Rds.) to west (Sideburn Rd.) As the houses were built and sold, the pieces of land that were unsuitable for building (streams, wetlands, etc.) were acquired by Fairfax County as parkland; hence Crooked Creek Park and other parkland connected to Royal Lake. But by the mid-1970s, when KPW reached west to Roberts Rd. and north to Tapestry Dr., the county decided it would stop acquiring additional parkland. Under the law, the remaining unsuitable land had to be owned by someone. The county didn't want it, and it could not be used for commercial purposes, so RICHMARR quite legally, properly, and routinely, created a HOA to take title to and manage this land, to be owned in

common by the 580 homeowners in the sections (16 through 22) containing the parcels. Operation of the HOA was turned over to the homeowner/members in 1975 when KPW construction concluded and RICHMARR departed.

The Community Association and its 580 members own approximately 44 acres, the largest pieces of which are in the Commonwealth/Roberts/Collingham area and along Tapestry Dr. from the old Kings West Pool to Braddock Rd. There are smaller patches as well, such as the green space containing the KPW wall and sign at Guinea/Twinbrook. The HOA, as a state-registered corporation, exists to manage this common land, especially to maintain liability insurance on it for the protection of the individual homeowner members, and to minimize any hazards to people or property that may be associated with it.

The tasks of collecting assessments, maintaining liability insurance, and doing the administrative actions required of a corporation are performed by a board of directors, neighborhood volunteers elected by the HOA membership. The board is assisted by a professional management firm, Burke Community Management Group. (NOTE: the name refers to the last name of the firm's founder and is not associated with Burke, Virginia.)

Future articles will cover various aspects of HOA authorities, responsibilities, and procedures.

### New to the Neighborhood?

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# Aging in Place Presentation

By Bruce Wallachy

Before we moved into our house, we received a note from the former owners that the neighbors across the street The Aging in Place Presentations have switched from in-person to Zoom this year to compensate for the pandemic concerns. We continue to have monthly presentations on the third Wednesday of each month at 1 PM. While we miss seeing and socializing with attendees, we have found that Zoom has a big advantage over in-person presentations. We have been recording the presentations, uploading them on Youtube for member on our Email list to watch at their leisure. If you desire to take advantage of Aging in Place presentations, send your request to wallbdc@gmail.com and you receive announcements and URLs to watch the presentations.

## November 17th Aging in Place

KPW's own Joe Walker will provide very useful information to show you techniques and strategies to use when going on the Internet. With all the scams we hear about it is hard to keep up. His presentation is titled, "Safe Computing: How to Increase the Safe and Secure Use [of] Computers and Mobile Devices on the Internet." It is a popular presentations and one which will help you to reduce being scammed. Remember, you don't have to be on Zoom on November 17th to watch his presentations, but you do have to be on the Aging in Place email list to receive information about the URL address to watch it.

## Kings Park West Neighbor Assist

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 send an 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 in keeping both you and us safe from the COVID virus.



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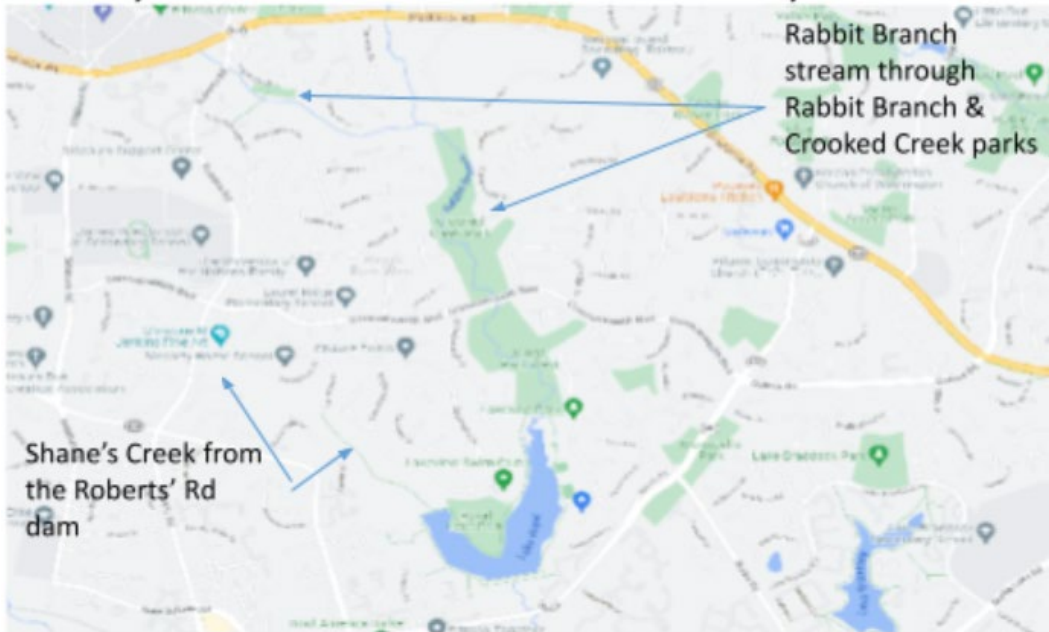
## Road Riders Annual Planning

Annual efforts to keep our beautiful lake and surrounding parks as clean as feasible, KPWCA, Road Raiders' and FORL teams have developed the following annual plans:

- Columbus Day: Clean-up the lower portion of Shane's Creek area (meet at Gainsborough & Claridge Ct).
- Nov 1 (FCPS Fall-break): Clean up the "upper portion" of Shane's Creek (meet at Roberts' Road dam area).
- MLK Day: Clean up Rabbit Branch Park (off Tapestry).
- President's Day: Clean up the Crooked Creek Park (off Commonwealth Blvd).
- Earth Day (mid-April): Clean up Royal Lake (meet at Lakeside & Royal Lake parks)

Each of these activities is planned to support the environment, our local parks and Royal Lake. We will meet

### Royal Lake watershed & contributory streams



at 8AM for two hours of dedicated actions to beautify our environment.

Neighbors of all ages – a great opportunity to clean-up and support the Royal Lake Park system. We look forward to your support!

Students & Scouts – a great opportunity for community support and service hours reporting.

Gold Star & Eagle Scout candidates – are you looking for a project? Let's get together & plan a project to support our parks and community.

Any questions,

Tom McCook

703.839.5205; [kpwordraiders@gmail.com](mailto:kpwordraiders@gmail.com), join the KPWCA Parks & Road Raiders information email list



Our links:

<https://kpwca.org/>

<https://www.friendsofroyallake.org/about>



## Invasive Species Profile: Creeping Liriope or Monkey Grass (*Liriope spicata*)

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

**Native Range:** China, Japan, and Vietnam

**U.S. Introduction:** at least 1890

**Life Cycle:** herbaceous perennial

**Means of Spreading:** rhizomes and seeds

**Commercially Available:** yes

**Control Method:** hand-pull

**Good Alternative Species:** stout blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*), blue wood sedge (*C. flaccosperma*), Christmas fern (*Polystichum acrostichoides*)

**Comments:** Many times, when an exotic plant is introduced to a new place, people are unsure how it will fare. Will it even survive here? Will it behave and remain in cultivated places? Will it escape cultivation, grow aggressively, reproduce prolifically, and become invasive? Sadly, when people see the last scenario, they think, “Great! It’s growing! I can propagate it for nurseries and make money! Nothing eats it and it resists all diseases. It has a high survival rate even when neglected so customers will be happy that it lives and grows, too!” This case has all of the hallmarks of the species becoming invasive. There is a lag period between its introduction and it becoming a full-fledged invasive weed. Though the problem with



11 *Liriope* blooms with small, purple flowers in late summer. The grass behind this specimen is another invasive weed, Japanese

“mile-a-minute” (*Persicaria perfoliata*) was recognized within several years, normally the gap takes decades. As concerns rise about a given organism, it becomes a “species of concern” or an “early emerging invasive species.”

Creeping liriope (*Liriope spicata*) goes by many monikers including liriope, lilyturf, and monkey grass—a confusingly common name shared with other plants. The names implying a lily or grass are inaccurate because liriope is in the asparagus family, which include the genera, *Yucca*, *Agave*,



2 Figure 2. When creeping liriope escapes garden settings, it takes root and infests natural areas. The dense, low-growing carpet obstructs native plants, especially diminutive species and seedlings.

and Hosta. Creeping liriopie is an emerging invasive species from Asia. Whereas a handful of U.S. counties and municipalities declare it invasive, Arlington and Alexandria are among those recognizing it as a problematic weed that can crowd out native flora. Encountering creeping liriopie in Fairfax County parks, including the Royal Lake watershed, is more frequent than it was merely 10 years ago. Spreading by rhizomes lends to the “creeping” part of its name.

The roots enter natural areas by simply growing across the property line, breaking off and washing into another area, neighbors illegally dumping yard debris that contains liriopie roots, or even people deliberately planting it under the false assumption that they are doing a good deed.

Throughout much of the year, creeping liriopie displays narrow, dark green foliage, extending several inches to over a foot. By late summer, tiny purple flowers emerge, though they can occasionally be whitish. In autumn, small, black, ball-like fruits replace the flowers along the stalks. While some references state that wildlife may consume and scatter the seeds, water motion and foot traffic are the more frequent modes of dispersal. With few diseases or herbivores keeping it at bay, liriopie roots fragments and seeds start growing where they please. Since liriopie is so hardy and cheap, it is over-utilized in landscaping projects by both contractors and private residents, thereby furthering its coverage. Creeping liriopie is a frequent find at plant swaps since people inevitably end up with more than want. However, sharing an invasive weed is about as friendly and neighborly as sharing a virus: one infects other people, the other afflicts landscapes and natural areas, as evidenced in Figure 2. Countless gardeners who thought creeping liriopie would be a good, easily controlled addition to their plot ended up regretting planting it. What was to be a low-maintenance plant proved to be too much work in corralling this weed!

Instead of creeping, some liriopes form clumps, such as a variegated variety and *L. muscari*, but these liriopes are also on invasive watch lists. Furthermore, mislabeling amongst the species at nurseries is a problem, especially when they share

common names. A sure way to avoid the liriopie conundrum and beautify the yard is by planting



*Sisyrinchium angustifolium* flowers (A) adorn blue-eyed grass in the spring. The foliage lasts long into the growing season, seen here in late summer (B).

native alternatives. Stout blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium angustifolium*), which is related to irises, blooms in the spring and keeps its low, upright foliage throughout the year. Many sedges fit the bill with short-standing blades during the growing season, such as Pennsylvania sedge (*Carex pensylvanica*) and blue wood sedge (*C. flaccosperma*). Christmas ferns (*Polystichum acrostichoides*) make lovely evergreen borders, especially in shade to partly sunny locations with dry to moist (not wet) soil. For every invasive weed, there are vastly more healthy natives from which to choose!

For more information on creeping liriopie:



Blue wood sedge is a *Carex* species that thrives in gardens.

<https://mgv.org/2020/09/30/invasive-plant-factsheet-creeping-liriopie-liriopie-spicata/>  
<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/liriopie-spicata/>  
<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=11562>  
[https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/sceppc/publications/LiriopieSCEPPC\\_SCNLASep2015.pdf](https://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/sceppc/publications/LiriopieSCEPPC_SCNLASep2015.pdf)  
<https://thegardeningcook.com/controlling-monkey-grass/>

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## What's With the Gloves?

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

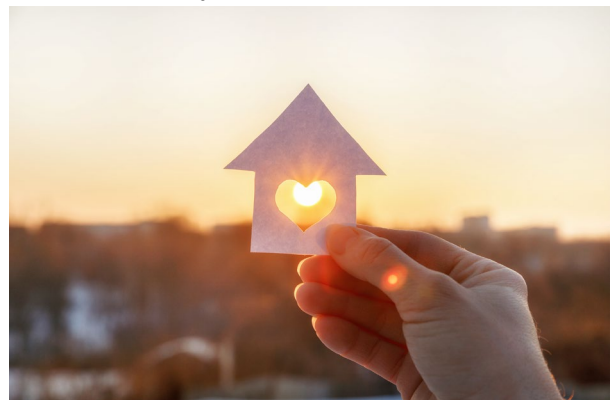


What's with the latest phenomenon of tossing used, latex-dipped gloves onto the street? It is mostly done by outdoor contractors, especially landscapers and gutter cleaners. Sometimes, clean-up volunteers find gloves in natural areas next to where the contractors encroached and unlawfully dumped refuse onto parkland. These gloves contribute to the plastic pollution problems in the environment when polyester is in the weave, synthetic rubber is used, or chemicals added to natural latex prevent biodegradation. Washed and lodged down storm drains, plastic waste buildup causes clogs—and from personal experience, nobody wants a blocked storm drain backing up and carrying water and junk across their yard! Furthermore, if these contractors have trouble with the simple task of proper trash disposal (that is, place it in a garbage can), where else are they cutting corners or doing things that they should not?

You can help! When using contractors, kindly make clear that they are to properly and legally dispose of any trash that they generate. When finding debris after their work or even catching them in the act, politely talk to them or their supervisor about it. Afraid that calling them out will be embarrassing or discourteous? Well, littering and dumping is far ruder! Turn it into a friendly, educational opportunity.

Thank you to the conscientious contractors who thoroughly tidy up after their work. A big “thanks” goes to those neighbors who pick up the gloves... in addition to dropped nails and screws, nylon line from edge-trimmers, cigarette butts, beverage containers, food packaging, masks, ear plugs, and other waste on the streets!

This article is online at [http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/109b\\_2021-10.pdf](http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/109b_2021-10.pdf)





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### Pack 1967 News

Welcome to fall! It's the perfect time of year to for a hike in Shenandoah National Park or to camp out under the stars. Pack 1967 encourages everyone to get outside and enjoy it. And the Scouts of Pack 1967 are busy getting outside already.

In September, Scouts from the Pack joined with Scouts in Pack 1968 to March in the Robinson Homecoming Parade. Also in September, Scouts from the Pack attended the first Patriot District Cub-O-Ree at Camp Snyder in Haymarket, Virginia. At the event, Scouts took part in the climbing wall, BB guns, archery, sling shots, stomp rockets, and lawn games.

Our Dens have also been busy. Our Bear Den (3rd grade) went fishing at Royal Lake. Scouts learned to bait their hooks, cast their lines, and even caught some fish. Our Webelos den (4th grade) worked on physical fitness, competing in the seven-event Webelolympics! The meeting included a mix of activities designed to test the body and mind, including push up competitions, tests of dinosaur and Pokémon knowledge, and distance and accuracy challenges with bean bags and nerf guns. The Den proudly received their wooden medals (they're Scouts – what else would they be made of?) and is very confident that nerf grenade launching for distance will soon be incorporated into the Olympics.

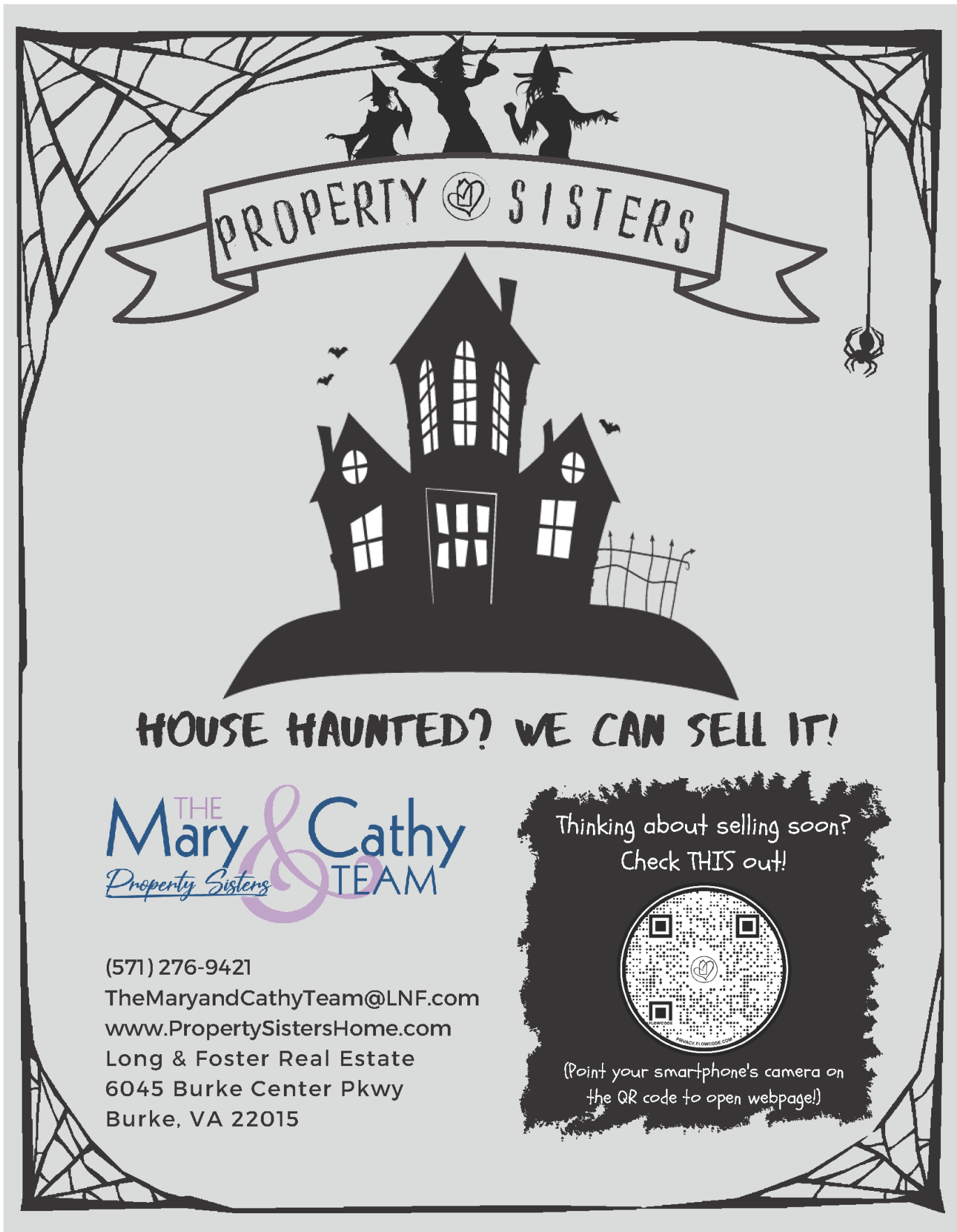


Pack 1967 is looking for boys and girls from kindergarten through fifth grade. Scouting in-person with safe COVID-19 precautions. Campfires, Pinewood Derby race, outdoor fun, and making new friends. If you're interested in learning more about Cub Scouts, please contact us and join us for a Den meeting.



For more information contact:  
Matt Jones, Cubmaster  
[CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com)





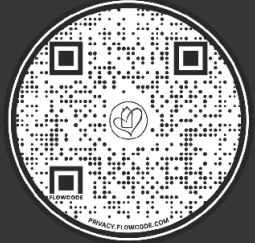
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