



June 2022

Vol. 52, Issue 4

Kings Park West Civic Association

"If you can be anything, be kind."

Hey neighbors!

Happy Summer... at last. Pools are open, and kids are out of school, so please be mindful as you drive around the neighborhood, as there may be more young ones on bikes or running on the sidewalks. Speaking of sidewalks, it would be wonderful if folks could take a moment and see if there are any bushes or trees overhanging the sidewalks; if there are, please consider trimming them back, if you're able.

One of the things I love most about the summer are the farmer's markets! I can't think of a better way to start my Saturday. In addition to supporting local farmers and finding amazing fresh fruits, veggies, pasta, cheese, salads, herbs, and so much more, did you know you can bring your composting to drop off at the Burke VRE Station Farmers Market? Composting is a relatively simple way to help combat climate change. Check out fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/food-scraps-composting-drop and compostingcouncil.org/ for more information.

The Kings Park West Civic Association is a proud sponsor of the Braddock Nights concert series held at Royal Lake Park, and I encourage everyone to come out on a Friday night to hear some great music, starting July 8. You can find the calendar of concerts at fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/Braddock-nights.

Also in July, the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) will be holding another trail maintenance workday on Saturday the 16, starting at 9:00 am (or maybe earlier if the forecast looks like it might be a steamy one). We would LOVE to get some scout or church groups to join in the most satisfying work that benefits the entire community. (This runs a close second to my favorite way to start a Saturday!) You can follow FORL's activities on their website (friendsofroyallake.org) or on Facebook ([friendsofroyallake](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofroyallake)). There will likely be another FORL photo contest this summer, so stay tuned!

I know the fall seems a long way away, but the Civic Association will be holding Board elections on September 27. The president, secretary, and an at-large member positions will be up for re-election. This fall will mark the end of my first term as president. I encourage all community members to think about if a Board position might be right for you!

Please remember to check in periodically on the KPWCA website (kpwca.org) and Kings Park West Civic Association Facebook page (this is separate from the KPW FB page) for calendar information. It's always available and updated now, so it's much more efficient than emailing or calling me to ask about an event!

As always, I love to hear your ideas and (constructive) comments. Reach out at president@kpwca.org.

See you around the neighborhood!

Sarah G.J. Lennon
President, KPWCA

Community Calendar

Father's Day – June 19, 2022

Juneteenth – June 20, 2022 (Holiday)

Summer Begins – June 21

Herald Delivery – June 25, 2022

Independence Day – July 4, 2022

RL Trail Maintenance – July 16, 2022

KPWCA Board Meeting – July 19, 2022

Herald Deadline - August 3, 2022

Herald Delivery – August 27, 2022

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Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	vp@kpwca.org	(703) 509-9725
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin	kjodoin@gmail.com	
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	geostrom@gmail.com	

<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;">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 an endorsement by the KPWCA.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">The Herald</p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: August 3 for delivery on August 27, 2022. Note: Acceptance of articles and advertising does not constitute an 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 August issue must be received no later than August 3, 2022, to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or at classifieds@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 classifieds@kpwca.org for rates.</p>

kings park west herald's list

www.facebook.com/groups/HeraldsList



by cathy deloach

Renaming Our Facebook Group!

Over 160 neighbors voted for a new name for our Facebook group. The top 5 are listed below (in alphabetical order). Head on over to the Kings Park West Herald's List and look for the image below. Put your FAVORITE suggestion in the comments section. If you originally suggested the name that wins the day, we will send you a \$100 Amazon gift card!

RENAME THE HERALD'S LIST

The following suggestions, listed alphabetically, received the greatest number of votes in last month's polling. Now, for the runoff!

- KPW Adviser
- KPW Herald's List (don't change it!)
- KPW Home and House
- KPW Home Edition
- KPW Home Help
- KPW Recommends

Put your favorite (just one!) in the comments section.



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decorating ideas

The Fairfax Garden Corner

Charlie Boring

Virginia was settled primarily by a segment of the population called “planters.” Planters were people who grew things, farmers, and, if you lived in a settlement, gardeners. Even Thomas Jefferson loved to grow a garden. He was one of the first American settlers to grow artichokes in Virginia.

In those days, people got the seeds for their gardens each year from friends and neighbors in a seed and plant swap. Trading plants and seeds can be a lot of fun, and watching them germinate and then grow is even more fun and rewarding. The kids can get involved by choosing some seeds to germinate, placing the seeds in a folded damp paper towel, and placing the entire thing in a sealed plastic baggie. Check the seeds every week to see if they have germinated and are ready to be transplanted into their first grow pot.

In Kings Park West, we are limited to the constraints of urban gardening, but in reality, urban gardening is not that limiting. An urban gardener can landscape their front and backyard, planting flowers and shrubs to beautify the home.

But you can also practice the art of “Edible Landscaping,” choosing edible plants for your landscaping or planting edibles among your other landscaping plants. Instead of planting a yard full of beautiful azalea bushes, you could plant a bush cherry, a blueberry, or other fruit producing bush. Among those bushes you could make space for a few tomatoes, a pepper plant, or an eggplant. Edible landscaping is suited for the front or back yard.

Pictured is an example of an edible landscape in which tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, artichokes, blackberries, and bush cherries are planted among the azaleas and roses.



Urban gardeners may also choose to build a raised garden or a container garden to house the newest plant members of their family. The walls of a raised garden can be made of anything, such as wood, but landscaping stones are particularly attractive.

For this growing season, this raised garden will contain strawberries and asparagus plants. Asparagus shoots were already showing their heads above the soil in early April



In August this is what they will look like.



There are so many options for an urban gardener: you can plant a garden in containers, you can plant a square foot garden, or you can plant a fruit tree like this Fuyu persimmon tree.

Whatever you decide to plant, you will enjoy sowing the seeds, planting the little plants, watching your plants grow, enjoying their beauty, and eating your own produce. Get the kids involved! Start planning your garden today and trade seeds and plants with your Kings Park West neighbors

Kings Park West Neighbor Assist

Our thanks to those KPW residents who have requested our services. You help us to achieve satisfaction when we help our KPW neighbors. It is a two-way street. You get some help, we get some satisfaction. For those who have not requested help for small projects that we can fix, you still have opportunities to do so.

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, we can give some advice about having it repaired and possibly things that you should consider when having a paid provider give you service. Remember, this service is free to anyone in Kings Park West.

As COVID cases continue to hang or even increase, we ask that you keep this in mind when our volunteer arrives to assist. The lingering effects on those who have been infected by COVID are still not totally known; a little bit of prevention reduces the chance of spreading the virus.

This service is brought to you by residents in KPW, who have freely volunteered to help our residents. We are no longer connected to the Kings Park West Civic Association, because of insurance liability issues. We appreciate living in a community with lots of residents helping each other.

Doggy Waste Stations: Bags Needed



Hey, neighbors!

Do you use the bags from the park “doggy waste stations” that were provided by the Kings Park West Civic Association (after the first FORL survey)?

We are going through bags much faster than anticipated—possibly because we have to pay for plastic bags at the stores now, thus reducing the number of extra bags (which actually is a good thing, but...).

When these dog waste stations were first discussed with the community, some offered to donate bags to the effort. The stations use the “ONEpul® Header Bag with pull strap.” They’re available on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) or at [dogwastedepot.com](https://www.dogwastedepot.com).

Please contact Paul Gross at friendsofroyallake@gmail.com or Sarah Lennon at sarahgjlennon@gmail.com if you would like to order or have any questions.

Thanks for your consideration!



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KPW Community Member Spotlight: Jeanette Parham

By Aziza Bayou

"You have to be a neighbor to have a neighbor," Jeanette warmly intoned as we sat together at her kitchen table in her Prince-model home on Gainsborough Drive.

After 51 years in KPW, which includes 22 years of teaching math to middle schoolers at Robinson, Jeanette knows a thing or two about community! A kind and articulate woman, Jeanette's memory is more exact than that of many who are half her age, and her life stories are a gift to hear.

Jeanette was born on July 13, 1939, and was raised just outside of Asheville, North Carolina. Her parents grew tobacco and vegetables and raised hogs, and her father worked for 8 years at a factory that produced rayon for parachutes for WWII. Her father also taught himself carpentry and built houses. Her mother was a homemaker and worked at Woolworth Five and Dime Store.

She met her husband Ed on the first day of school in August 1957 at Mars Hill Baptist Junior College. She noticed him on that first day, and soon after on a hike up Bailey Mountain, she had snagged a fingernail and asked if anyone had a clipper. When Ed pulled a rusty one from his pocket, that prompted them to walk and talk together, and it wasn't long after that they became engaged.

They both matriculated after two years at Mars Hill. Jeanette went on to graduate from Appalachian State University, where she studied math, Spanish, and English. Ed went on to NC State, where he studied electronic engineering, which formed the basis of his career.

Jeanette's first teaching job was a summer school plane geometry class, in which she taught students barely younger than herself. Jeanette recalls that those students threw her a sweet surprise engagement/birthday party weeks before she was to be married, with cake, gifts, and merriment.

Jeanette and Ed married August 20, 1961, just two days after she graduated from Appalachian State (she graduated a semester late due to a back injury she'd had in a pool in March 1960). After a week-long Blue Ridge Parkway honeymoon, she joined Ed in St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland, where he had been working since graduating shortly before Jeanette. Jeanette taught for three years there and became pregnant with her first child, at a time when teachers were often fired if pregnant to prevent them "showing" their condition. Rather than having to leave her position, Ed's job soon took them out of state to California, where she gave birth to Sandra in 1964.

Ed's career brought them from Maryland to Orange County, California, to Sierra Vista, Arizona, where their son John was born in 1967. The Parham family then came back east and settled in Fairfax County. After a brief stint in Annandale (where their daughter Sandra learned to rollerskate around the pond at NVCC), they purchased a home in Kings Park West, moving in on April 22, 1971. The

neighborhood appealed to her because she felt like she was "going into the country," and she continues to love how "people let you live your own life here, no matter your ethnic group or background."

Jeanette worked as a substitute teacher before starting full time at Robinson in September 1973, after the school year had already begun and a previous, unprepared substitute had let the math students play cards in class. Once she arrived, the students were eager to learn and happy they had a "real" teacher!

Jeanette also ran the computer lab at Robinson starting in 1980, where she taught BASIC computer language. Her husband helped fix the computers, and students played a Pacman-like game. In her time teaching, she once taught a grandmother, her child, and grandchild, as well as a brother and sister who were 18 years apart in age. She retired in 1995 and has many fond memories of her time teaching at Robinson. Today, Jeanette's four grandchildren—ages 26, 23, 20 and 12—are her pride and joy.

In the 1970s, Jeanette was on the Board of Directors at Lakeview Swim Club and volunteered at the concession stand, driving out to what was then the only bulk store in the area at Bailey's Crossroads to pick up large quantities of candies and snacks and syrup for their fountain Coke machine. She recalls kids coming with \$20 bills, filling up on the tasty treats. Her family provided the swimmers with donuts every Saturday morning.

Jeanette was a Brownie Leader and on the Board of Review for the Boy Scouts. She and Ed were camping parents for the Girl Scouts.

When asked what she would change about our neighborhood, Jeanette laments the speeding that she sees, especially on Commonwealth and Gainsborough. She has seen a lot in her life, but this unsafe behavior is alarming and puts our community at risk.

Jeanette hasn't been out as much lately due to pandemic precautions, but she still stays involved in charitable work. Jeanette's kindness and dedication to her values shows in her service. Jeanette and Ed are members of St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, and through the church she has been involved for decades with a charitable venture that collects and delivers much needed supplies to families in Sneedville, Tennessee.

The Sneedville community is in particular need of children's items, including clothing, shoes, and books. Jeanette collects the donations, and other volunteers drive a U-Haul filled with the donations down to Sneedville every fall, where the items are distributed to families in need via a free store. To donate, please contact Jeanette at jparham713@aol.com.

Road Raiders: Farewells

Three Robinson Seniors have contributed greatly to Road Raiders on Saturday mornings and special Royal Lake watershed cleaning events. They have done a great job and have been tireless and supportive in improving our environment and in Road Raiders, improving the appearance of Kings Park West. I will miss their enthusiasm and attendance at many of our events, especially when we were challenged during COVID to maintain safety while simultaneously improving the environment.

In their own words, their future plans and thoughts on Road Raider activity:

Mady Za: "I have enjoyed the Road Runners volunteering since I am able to help my community and environment with great people. Each week, the neighborhood

looks cleaner and happier! While I am sad to leave, I am excited to be playing Division 1 soccer and majoring in pre-med biology at University of South Dakota."

Mary Za: "I am attending Idaho State University this upcoming fall and will be

playing on the women's soccer team. I am also enrolled in the honors college and have received both academic and athletic scholarships. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experiences in volunteering with the Road Raiders as it was always great to be an active member in the community (and to of course keep our parks clean!)."

Evan Lindberg: "I'm attending University of Cincinnati for mechanical engineering, and I'll be on an AFROTC scholarship. I've always loved getting a head start to my day and helping the community. This group gave me the opportunity to see our impact on the local environment, which motivated me to come out and do my part throughout the years. Plus, it's always a nice group of people looking to help out which improves the whole experience. This group has always meant a lot to me and encouraged me to go out and do more."

Mady @ a recent trail day



Mary & Mady

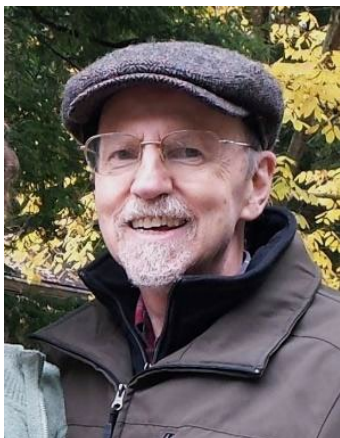
Evan

Mady, Mary, and Evan, congratulations on a very successful high school career and I wish you the best of luck in the future. As these stalwarts depart, I am always seeking volunteers to continue their great efforts.

We will restart Road Raiders on Saturday, September 17 after our summer break!

Andy Karp: A Neighbor You Should Know

Tom McCook



Have you walked the Royal Lake trail in the past few years? Have you noticed the extensive improvements made along the way? Have your feet stayed drier after rainstorms; is the path more accessible and easier to walk?

If you can say yes to any of the above, I'd like to thank and introduce you to Andy Karp. Andy has been a stalwart in our success to consistently improve Royal Lake trails. As the trails coordinator for the KPWCA/FORL committees, Andy has been relentless in driving for quarterly trail maintenance day, and piece by piece, he has led dramatic improvements around our lake.

Andy measured the entire trail system and determined during rainy days what areas were wet, stayed muddy and needed improvements. At 3-foot intervals around the entire trail, he laid out a priority plan for steady improvements and we all benefit greatly from this effort.

He has done and continues doing a wonderful job, and as a neighbor I think you should know.



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Two Ways Invasive Plants Enter Parks

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

During discussions about invasive plants, folks frequently ask how these weeds entered natural areas. Here are examples demonstrating how two noxious species got into the parks and how dumping yard debris harms the environment.

Next to the Glen Cove II townhouses, rose-of-Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) branches with last autumn's seed pods were discarded on parkland alongside a storm drain outfall (Figure 1). Rose-of-Sharon is an invasive weed that spreads through seed distribution. Sure enough, its seedlings already sprouted near the pile. Since the bundles were tossed by a waterway, flowing water carries seeds deeper into the park. Adding to the problems, the bundles were tied with nylon twine. Even after the plant matter decomposes, the plastic loops remain and can entangle wildlife. The best way to be rid of these branches is to bag them with household trash. Keep those seeds out of recycled yard debris because they can survive that processing and spread elsewhere. To reduce spreading this plant, cut the branches immediately after blossoming finishes and before the fruits mature. Better yet, replace the bushes with a native alternative such as swamp rose mallow (*Hibiscus moscheutos*).



1. Bunches of rose-of-Sharon full of seed pods lie on parkland next to a storm drain outfall.

Photo by Greg Sykes.

In the second example, the good news is that someone is getting rid of their invasive creeping liriopie (*Liriope spicata*). The bad news is that they dumped the clumps beside Royal Lake Park's parking lot (Figure 2). Even worse is that this person returned a few weeks later and unloaded even more liriopie! In addition to dumping being illegal, this activity illustrates another way invasive species enter natural areas. These clumps can easily survive, grow, and spread into the parks. Over the years, Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers found similar patches multiplying out of piles discarded on parkland. When removing liriopie and other bulbous weeds from the yard, the best actions are to shake or hose off as much soil as possible, then throw the roots into trash bags with other garbage destined for the

incinerator or landfill. Like the seeds, invasive plant roots should never be recycled with yard debris because they could survive composting, particularly when the composting is incomplete or infrequently churned.

In both cases, IMA volunteers collected all this waste and sent it to the incinerator. Susan Jewell discusses more problems with illegally discarding yard debris in her 2009 article, "That That Pesky Yard Waste: It's Biodegradable, So Why Can't I Just Dump It in the Woods?", *The Fairfax Chronicle* 7(2):4. Everyone can pitch in and do their bit to help the environment by properly discarding yard debris. Doing so is victory for all.



2. Had these liriopie clumps remained by the Royal Lake Park parking lot where they were dumped, they would have survived and invaded healthy native forests. Photo by Lynn Cline.

Quick Points About the Shanes Creek Restoration Project

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Many neighbors had questions pertaining to the Shanes Creek restoration project. Here are some highlights compiled from various presentations, meetings, correspondences, and field work.

- The reason for this restoration is that Shanes Creek's water quality ranks as "poor" and several sewer/wastewater lines are exposed.
- According to Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' (DPWES) March 28, 2022, presentation, 4,800 linear feet of stream will be restored to reduce 1,439 lb/total phosphorous, 3,400 lb/total nitrogen, and 462.1 tons of total suspended sediment. This restoration fixes the problem with high-energy storm water causing erosion along the streambank and dumping sediment into Royal Lake. It elevates the streambed so water does not cut deeper into the ground, disperses energy from floods across broader areas, reinforces the streambank, redirects the waterway in some areas, and restores the riparian buffer. However, this work does not address the underlying problem: too many impervious surfaces (e.g., pavement, roofs, decks, extensions) and low absorption areas such as lawn throughout the watershed without adequate compensation. Encroachment, including extending lawns and dumping debris piles, into the natural areas, thereby preventing the native plants to form a riparian buffer for waterways, further degrades the water quality. Some means to abate the runoff that people can do on their property include absorption beds, cisterns, and rain gardens. End private activities at the property line. Reduce or eliminate fertilizer usage and pick up after your pets—bonus points if you clean up the poop from other dogs.
- Meadville Land Service, LLC (MLS) are the contractors who DPWES hired through a bidding process to perform the stream restoration.
- During the restoration, the land is signed over to MLS, so they are the legal owners during the work period. Once construction is finished, the land reverts back to the Fairfax County Park Authority.
- This stream restoration is slated to be a 600-day project.
- Loud machinery will be used between April 2022 through November 2023.
- Noise ordinance allows weekday work to be between 7:00 a.m. through 9:00 p.m.; weekends can be from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. However, MLS

intends to keep most of the work only on weekdays between 7:00 a.m. through 7:00 p.m.



The construction entrance at Roberts Road has a staging area (foreground). Wood planks protect the soil from earthmovers traveling along the work zone.

- The work area, technically within the Limit of Disturbance (LOD), will be fenced off. For everyone's safety, this area is closed to public access during the construction period. There are no plans for gates along the LOD. Please do not damage or hop the fence; there was already vandalism to the welded metal fencing. Such acts require repair, slow the project, and increase the project's cost. While people loving the parks and certain trails is great, this construction is an opportunity to explore other areas if the route usually taken is now closed. Open construction entrances, at Roberts Road and Gainsborough Drive, are for workers and equipment but are closed to the public. The LOD stretches along areas between the two construction entrances and down the terminus, which is approximately 500 feet from



For everyone's safety, trail closure and "keep out" signs are posted throughout the construction site.

where Shane's Creek empties into Royal Lake. Some trail access points along Shane's Creek might be open, but they will be dead ends, i.e., the continuous trail from Roberts Road to the lake will be closed. Do not attempt to circumvent the fence because some of the LODs end at private property lines. The Royal Lake main loop trail will remain open.

- The new stream channel will cut through portions of the currently existing trail. The planners designed the waterway modifications along where the creek was headed and, as already seen, some of the original trail was washing out or is on eroded edges. New sections of trail will replace those impacted by the stream restoration. Part of this project is to have a single, good trail that runs from Roberts Road to the Royal Lake trail loop.
- A common concern is tree loss. One of the project planners' goals is to have every tree removal be purposeful. The trees impacted are generally of low quality, meaning that they are early succession, fast-growing trees (e.g., red maples, tulip poplars) in wooded areas that have low biodiversity and high invasive plant density. Biological surveys identified high quality forest with older growth trees (e.g., oaks, hickories), larger amounts of native biodiversity, seeps, and beneficial wildlife habitat for species such as spring peepers as amphibians are indicator species.
- Some of the dead trees will come down, especially if they are within the LOD. Unless there is concern about a dead tree next to the property line or trail, most dead trees are left standing for habitat, such as owls, woodpeckers, and other animals nesting in the hollows. The snags offer wood-eating insects a place to live, some of which become food for birds.
- There were 14 years of habitat restoration, especially invasive plant removal, in this section of park. The planners recognize it and that previous work will help in the post-project habitat recovery. Some sections where volunteer worked will be destroyed—there is no way around it—while other parts were deemed valuable and will be saved. Even in the areas that will be reworked, the volunteer efforts reduced the invasive seed source and subsequent weeds throughout the park, thereby having a net beneficial effect.
- There will be native plantings at the end of the project. Please respect that the cleared land is

under habitat recovery and not an open area to keep mowed or used for whatever people want. In the long run, this project helps everyone and wildlife from the Royal Lake watershed to the Chesapeake Bay. Restoring the riparian buffer is crucial and takes decades—each year sees it getting better and better.



Welded wire fences encircling the LOD are to protect folks from construction activities. This example of vandalism is doubly selfish because it occurred on an unauthorized path away from the main trail.

- FCPA and its volunteer partners needed to keep the new plantings healthy, monitor encroachments, and continue maintaining the new trail.
- The article leading up to physical construction is Q/As About Shanes Creek and Royal Lake (April 2019) http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/90_2019-04.pdf. For examples of what happens in stream restorations, please see the article, Emergency Restoration to Rabbit Branch (September 2020) http://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/101_2020-09.pdf.
- The public DPWER presentations and additional information are at https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/plans-projects/rabbit-branch-tributary-restoration-project-collingham-drive?fbclid=IwAR0GdTmcoTbSD-hirQDtthu8nzcY1KTmw30PLYeIpbVK3i6MUGJ28c_oJwQ. Specific questions should go to project manager, Meghan Fellows (Meghan.Noefellows@fairfaxcounty.gov) b

KPW Real Estate Corner by Cathy DeLoach



Housing Bubble? Will It Pop?

Home prices all over the U.S. have been rising astronomically: Moody's home price index shows a 32% increase in home sale prices nationally over the past two years. The National Association of Realtors reports an even bigger increase of 39%. With interest rates averaging above 5%, pushing up potential monthly mortgages, will our brisk sellers' market begin to cool?

"I expect prices to come down," says Mark Zandi, the chief economist at Moody's Analytics. "If you told me two years from now, prices are 5, 10, 15% below where they are today where they're peaking, I'd say that sounds about right to me."

However, Zand doesn't expect a collapse in house prices because of two fundamental forces: "One is supply — there's a shortage of homes available." Econ 101 tells us that strong demand coupled with low supply will keep prices pretty high. Also, many homebuilders went out of business after the housing bubble collapsed; home construction was stunted for much of the past decade. And now, we are about **4 million** homes short of what the country needs, according to the mortgage industry giant Freddie Mac.

The other reason a crash is unlikely: New federal rules have put an end to the reckless mortgage lending that led to the housing bubble 15 years ago. This time around, people can afford their loans. "Lenders have been very cautious," Zandi says. Under the new rules, homebuyers have to document their income and ability to repay the loans.

And lenders are not putting people into exotic adjustable-rate loans where payments jump up sharply, which is what happened before the last crash. The vast majority of mortgages now are 30 or 15 year fixed-rate loans.

For those same exact reasons, some economists don't think we'll even see a **mild** drop in home prices anytime soon.



"It's natural for people to ask themselves if we're in a housing bubble," says Selma Hepp, an economist with CoreLogic. But she says the fundamentals supporting home prices this time around are very different. "Our index ... shows a very low probability or risk of decline."

We expect home prices in Kings Park West and Northern Virginia area to remain steady with no significant decline in the near future. If you had fears that you had missed the window for selling your home at the top of the market, relax. No dramatic changes are likely in the next year or two.

~excerpted from "Home prices could fall in some U.S. cities. Here's where and why" by Chris Arnold, NPR

KPW Home Sale Stats*

YTD Sold: **23**
 Average Price: **\$807,873**
 Sold Range: **\$657,000 - \$995,000**
 Average Days on Market: **7**
 Under Contract: **7 (\$749,000 - \$869,900)**
 Active Listings: - **6 (\$700,000 - \$879,500)**

*as of 6/4/2022

Restoration of Shanes Creek: Progress Update

by Paul Gross

In the March issue of the Herald, we had written about the Shanes Creek restoration project and the "Pardon Our Dust" meeting. Construction has now started on the Shanes Creek restoration project that is designed to restore the natural stream channel. Shanes Creek is the stream that goes under Roberts Road and flows to Royal Lake. It runs close to Gainsborough Drive.

The County Program Manager has informed us that construction of the in-stream effort started on May 30. The projected work hours for the construction team through the summer are Monday to Wednesday from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm and Thursday 7:00 am to 11:00 am. Please remember these are the expected shifts and the big caveat of working outside is **weather permitting**.

Frankly, the stream will look a mess for quite a while, but the overall results will be a natural stream with

improved water quality, plants, and wildlife. With ongoing construction, all of us need to stay out of the construction area and away from the equipment. The county has put up a fence to mark off the work areas. For everyone's safety, do not cross over or cut the fence or go into the work area. The county is making an effort to keep the trails open as long as possible; however, we will have some disruption in normal trail usage.

The county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services website is a good source of information on the project that will be updated as the project progresses: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/plans-projects

On the Fairfax County website, the project is officially called Rabbit Branch Tributary at Collingham Drive.

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) Trail Maintenance Volunteers:

Approximately every three months, the FORL organizes a morning when neighborhood volunteers work to improve problem areas on the trails around the lake. See the graphic announcement elsewhere for more information about the upcoming workday on Saturday, July 16.

PLEASE JOIN FRIENDS OF ROYAL LAKE FOR VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE (ON A SHADY STRETCH OF TRAIL)

**SATURDAY JULY 16
8 - 11 AM**

We'll meet at the trail bridge over Rabbit Branch Creek

If you have them, bring shovels, rakes, tampers, and wheel barrows.

Stay for the full 3 hours or whatever you can

Service hours can be earned

FriendsOfRoyalLake@gmail.com



WE'LL MEET HERE FOR VOLUNTEER TRAIL MAINTENANCE (IN THE SHADE) ON SATURDAY JULY 16 8-11 AM



trail bridge over Rabbit Branch Creek
Parking lot for Lakeside Park
Royal Lake
earth dam



Girl Scout Service Unit 54-15 News

22 Girl Scout troops from KPW and surrounding neighborhoods in grades Kindergarten through 9th gathered at Prince William Forest Park to hold their annual encampment event in April at one of the historical cabin camp sites the park offers. With 300 total participants (girls and adults), the troops were able to get crafty with tie-dye and upcycled materials, practice knot-tying and fire skills, perform park clean-up, celebrate what it means to be a Girl Scout, and ignite their Girl Scout spirit by learning new songs as well as learn and participate in older traditions.

At night everyone participated in a Service Unit sing-a-long, followed by a night sky event with several volunteers from the Northern Virginia Astronomers club, who brought professional equipment to view the starry skies. Despite the late night, on Sunday morning many participated in sunrise yoga led by Yoga Warrior Kids. Our 2022 Encampment event culminated in a unit-wide field day event!

Brava to all of the Girl Scouts who managed to remain considerate, friendly, courageous, and respectful throughout the long and busy weekend. See you next school year Girl Scouts!

If you have a school-aged girl interested in joining a troop next year, please contact SU5415info@gmail.com..



girl scouts 

KPW BSA Troop 1966

Eagle Project: Take a Plant, “Leaf” a Plant Stands Jacob Stonkey

Dear Neighbors of Kings Park West, my name is Jacob Stonkey, I am a Life Scout from Troop 1966 and a sophomore at Robinson. I have been working on my Eagle Scout project over the last year and I’m happy to say that thanks to my sponsor, the Kings Park West Civic Association, the community now has three take a plant leaf a plant stands as of May 2nd. The stands are found in three locations throughout Kings Park West. The first location is Laurel Ridge Elementary School (10110 Commonwealth Blvd.), the second is Lakeview Swim Club (5352 Gainsborough Drive) and the third is Commonwealth Swim Club (9800 Commonwealth Blvd).



Stand SEQ Stand * ARABIC 2 Laurel Ridge Elementary School

What are take a plant leaf a plant stands you may ask? They are plant stands intended to promote the trading of native plants with neighbors. Each stand has rules on the side to help others know what you’re trading and to ensure the stands can be enjoyed for years to come. However, here are some common questions that have been asked about the stands.

Question: Can I put an invasive plant on the stand?

Answer: No, the stands are intended for the sharing of Native Plants.

Question: How do I know if my plant is invasive?

Answer: There are flyers on the stands with some information on native and invasive plants in our area, though I would suggest using one of several apps that you can get for your phone to aid with identification. Of course, when in doubt, check with your local nursery

Question: What if there are no flyers in the stand?

Answer: The stands have QR codes that point to the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), where you can get the information online. There is also a QR code that goes to the Plant Nova Natives website, which has very helpful information about Northern Virginia native plants.



QR Plant NOVA Natives



QR DCR Natives



QR DCR Invasives

Question: The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation site has several regions listed for the native plant brochures. Which region do we live in?

Answer: We live in the Piedmont region of Virginia.

Question: Can I put vegetables on the stands?

Answer: Yes, but make sure to label them so that people know what they are.

Question: What if I see a dead plant in the stand?

Answer: Please be a good neighbor and remove any dead plants. And feel free to use the pot to donate a native plant!

This project required many hours of coordination and planning, and there are several organizations and people that helped with this project. Here's a short list that I would like to thank:

- Kings Park West Civic Association for sponsoring the project.
- Laurel Ridge elementary, Lakeview Swim Club, and Commonwealth Swim Club for providing a space for each of the stands.
- Fairfax Home Depot for giving us a generous discount on the materials.
- Merryfield Gardens for supplying pots for the native plants.
- The scouts and parents in Troop 1966 for helping to pot the plants, as well as paint, assemble, and install the stands.
- My aunt and uncle for making and donating the Kings Park West Civic Association signs.
- My parents for supporting me through the designing and build of the stands.



Of special note, I would like to thank Plant NOVA Natives for promoting the idea and supplying many of the native plants used to start the stands. They are a great resource for information about native plants in Northern Virginia. If you're interested in helping to foster and distribute additional plants to the stands provided by the members of Plant NOVA Natives, please feel free to contact them on their website: <https://www.plantnovanatives.org/> or use the QR Code on the stand.

So, when you see the stands stop by and take a plant or leaf a plant. See you around the neighborhood!

Jacob Stonkey



JUNE
19
2022

Cub Scout Pack 1967 News

As the school year draws to a close, so does Cub Scout Pack 1967's year-long theme of citizenship. A core feature of all scouting programs, citizenship education is crucial to a scout's advancement in scouting and life.

By focusing on citizenship this year, Pack 1967's Cub Scouts deepened their understanding of what it means to be good citizens and strengthened their service to our community. Among other things, the Scouts learned about the importance of civic rights and responsibilities from Virginia Delegate David L. Bulova and participated in service projects, including collecting donations for Scouting for Food.

To cap off its Year of Citizenship, Cub Scout Pack 1967 focused on our country's history in May. The Pack invited a Civil War reenactment organization—17th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company D, Living History Society—to teach the Scouts about the experiences of men and women from that time period.



The reenactors included soldiers, infantryman, and a drummer, and stations were set-up portraying the life of the average Civil War soldier. One week later, the Pack visited the Gettysburg Visitor Center and went on a history hike with a National Park Service Ranger. Afterward, the Scouts stayed at the Artillery Ridge Campground, which is located on the grounds of the Union Artillery Reserve. The campout included a traditional campfire program with skits, songs, family fun, and, of course, s'mores.

Before the end of the school year, Pack 1967's Cub Scouts were busy completing their advancement rank requirements and other fun optional adventures.



For example, in April, our Webelos Den screened a movie they filmed in March, which even included a trailer for the film. The Cub Scouts also enjoyed plenty of popcorn during the movie screening. In May, the Den also learned a little about the challenges people face with disabilities. They learned how difficult simple things can be when you have a vision, hearing, or mobility impairment by playing a game where one Scout knew what needed to be built but could not talk; a second Scout had to build what the first could see, but could not see; and a third Scout who interpreted the first Scout's gestures and relayed them to the second Scout.

Please join us in congratulating Pack 1967's Cub Scouts for completing their rank advancement requirements this year. In addition, we wish to recognize and celebrate the five Cub Scouts who spent extra time outside of organized Den and Pack activities to complete all available adventures, which earned them Pack 1967's "Whole Enchilada" award. Congratulations, Andrew Cursio, Lucas Decker, Chase Heppner, Laura Jones, and Glen Qatipi, on this special achievement!

Are you interested in learning more about Cub Scouts and have a child in kindergarten through fifth grade? Come join us this summer for some adventure! Pack summertime activities include launching water rockets, marching in the City of Fairfax Independence Day Parade, a day out at the Washington Nationals Ballpark, and more. For details, please contact us at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.



For more information contact:
 Matt Jones, Cubmaster
CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com





Kindergarten



First Grade



Second Grade



Third Grade



Fourth Grade



Fifth Grade



LOOKING FOR ADVENTURE?

JOIN PACK 1967 TODAY!

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

June

- Water Rockets
- Udvar-Hazy Center

August

- Nationals Scout Day
- Model Rockets
- Back to School BBQ

July

- 4th of July Parade
 - GMU Observatory
 - Summer Camp
- Plus, a summer-long STEM challenge!*

Want to learn more? Contact us at:
cubscout.pack.1967@gmail.com

KPW 2022 Ultimate Pizza Survey Results

By: Justin Grover

Thank you all to those who participated in our second annual Kings Park West Ultimate Pizza Survey!

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

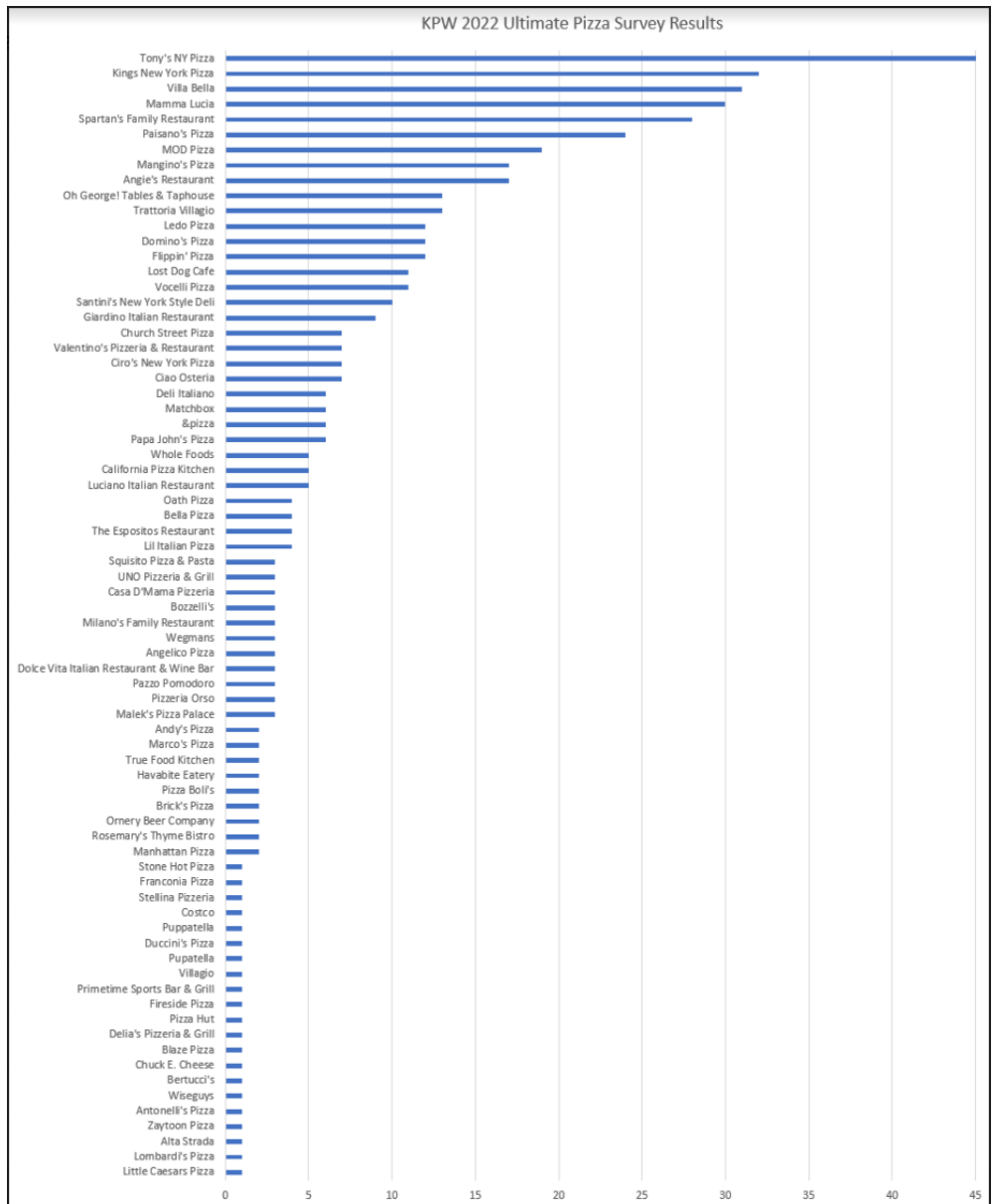
The survey received votes from 203 individual KPW neighbors, who each cast up to three votes for their favorite pizza parlors within a 10-mile radius of KPW. A total of 81 restaurants were represented in the survey, with 501 total votes cast. 74 places received at least one vote. Several participants chose to fill-in their own choice in an “Other” field, which yielded an additional one restaurant (Duccini’s Pizza) that was not included in the original list. Restaurant types included diners, grocery stores, chains, and independent establishments. Pizza styles ranged from Chicago to New York-style and more. Locations that only sold frozen pizza options were not considered.

Congratulations to the top 5 best pizza places as voted on by KPW residents in 2022:

1. Tony’s NY Pizza – 45 votes (included on 22.2% of respondent surveys)
2. King’s New York Pizza – 32 votes (15.8%)
3. Villa Bella – 31 votes (15.3%)
4. Mamma Lucia – 30 votes (14.8%)
5. Spartan’s Family Restaurant – 28 votes (13.8%)

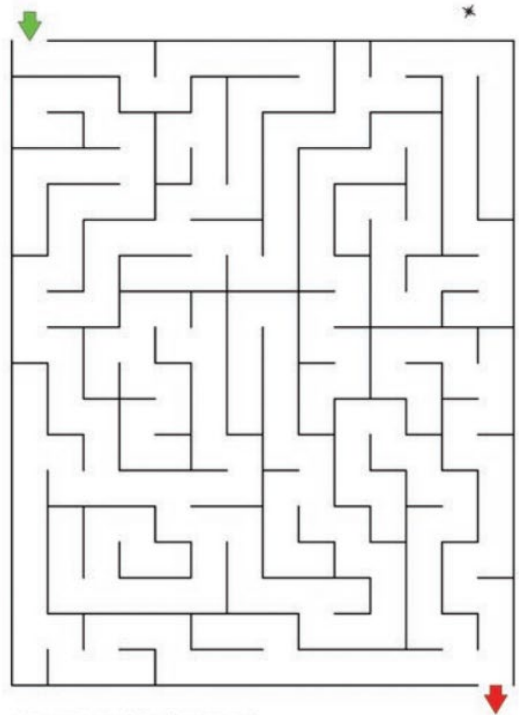
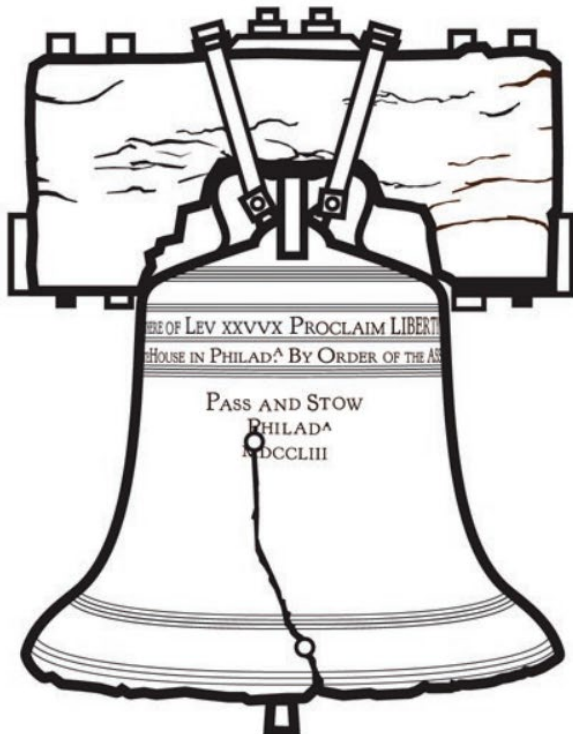
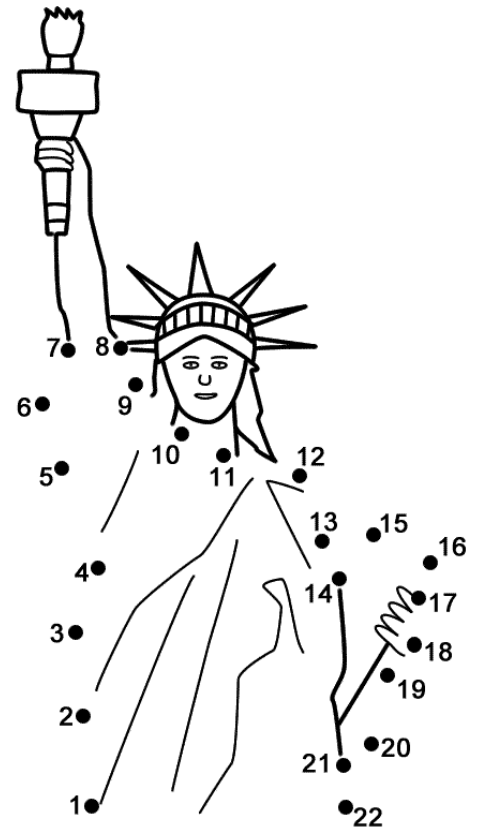
Analysis of Results:

- KPW has an amazingly diverse taste in pizza.
- With Pomodoro’s closing in the past year, King’s New York Pizza moved up into the Top 3.
- There was a 72% increase in the number of survey participants this year compared to last year.
- Locations that received 0 votes do not appear in the chart.



Have questions about the results? Have ideas for new surveys? Contact me at justin.grover@gmail.com

Activity Page



Sudoku

		3	7	8	1			
7		9				5		
	1	8					3	
		5	6	9		8		
	8				5			
1								
	5		3	7	8			2
9			2					
	6			5				

5	1	2					7	
				7				9
3			2	6				
		8					5	6
					3			2
							9	
9	2		7				5	6
	3	5						1
		7					8	9

Independence Day

C H A Y J I Y P V V A C A T I O N M P S
 A E G R E L K N I R P S P R A Z A A A D
 M F W N O S D N A L G N E G U E K E T N
 P P A C J K R A S P A C T I V C T R R E
 I V T K Z R D H Y H L X L N B N G C I I
 N J G M Q O P P J U F B Y J U E Y E O R
 G J R O P W R O J N V E C T P D H C T F
 O M H D Y E C B I Z V R Y W R N D I I E
 E U Q E B R A B S U N S H I N E Q M C K
 K W J E D I S T U O F G X K R P B N W I
 E N E R V F M V R U N L A C K E G I F B
 I B L F T S O D R C O N X O U D T U L X
 F A C Y L I M A F O T C M O A N N U W B
 P H I L A D E L P H I A B K U I I N E P
 P I S U M M E R E H C C W O E F L A G A
 G J P G H L J M Y I A N J U L Y C F V R
 C T O S B I M T N Y Z U S T M H U O V A
 U E P O P P W C Q J H O T D O G S R A D
 L R Q S G N I M M I W S E Q D J G G S E
 Y M I C C P W Q W D P P V A P N V D A W

- FIREWORKS
- FREEDOM
- INDEPENDENCE
- LIBERTY
- PARADE
- FLAG
- ANTHEM
- JULY
- SUMMER
- PATRIOTIC
- BARBEQUE
- PHILADELPHIA
- ENGLAND
- COOKOUT
- FLAG
- BEACH
- FAMILY
- POOL
- SWIMMING
- SPRINKLER
- ICECREAM
- SUNSHINE
- BIKE
- FRIENDS
- PICNIC
- HOTDOGS
- POPSICLE
- VACATION
- OUTSIDE
- CAMPING

*We've been busy! And look at these prices!!
Maybe we can do the same for you!!*

Coming Soon



5327 Gainsborough Dr.
\$700,000

Under Contract



10152 Bessmer
\$869,900

SOLD!!!



10025 Llewellyn Ct
\$995,000

SOLD!!!



5006 Wheatstone Dr
\$960,000

SOLD!!!



5307 Kaywood Ct
\$855,000

SOLD!!!



5214 Noyes Ct
\$900,000

SOLD!!!



10005 Eastlake Dr
\$775,000

SOLD!!!



5107 Spring Rock Ct
\$820,000

For Sale



5221 Nottinghill Ln
\$869,500

SOLD!!



5120 Swift Ct
\$765,000

SOLD!!



5366 Gainsborough Dr
\$850,000

SOLD!!



5417 Gainsborough Dr
\$800,000

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The Herald wishes you
a

HAPPY 
4TH OF JULY