



August 2022

Vol. 52, Issue 5

Kings Park West Civic Association

"If you can be anything, be kind."

Hey neighbors!

It's hard to believe that another summer has come and gone. Back to school, more people heading back into the office (maybe hybrid work situations?), and yes, busy season for the Civic Association.

We will hold the Fall Membership meeting on Tuesday, September 27, at 7 pm in the Recital Hall at Robinson. This will be an important meeting for a variety of reasons: 1) Elections (president, secretary, and one at-large position are up); 2) review and approval of the 2023 budget; and 3) kick-off for the 2023 Membership drive!

(Whew, I'm tired just thinking about it all!)

As many of you know, I'm generally a pretty positive, glass-half-full, see-the-world-through-rose-colored-glasses kind of person. But right now, I'm frustrated and struggling: We have a budget that is not sustainable, and we need to make some cuts or find more revenue/donations.

Kings Park West has just over 1,800 homes but fewer than HALF are members of the Civic Association. Yet ALL benefit from what KPWCA does, be it the community events in the spring and fall, scholarships, maintaining the common grounds (so our overall property value remains high), supporting the Braddock Nights concert series, providing portable toilets at the parks, park clean-ups and trail improvements, sponsorship of scout groups and the Robinson All Night Grad Party... I could go on and on (and I often do, on our Facebook page!).

You can read about the budget in more detail further on in this Herald, but I wanted to focus on a few things. The cost of producing the Herald has been increasing over the course of several years, and ad revenue has dropped by half. We plan to shift to printing four issues of the Herald starting next year from the current eight. The much-loved Halloween festival used to run between \$2,000-3,000 but has escalated to \$5,000-\$6,000, which consumes a significant portion of the budget. We need to take a closer look at that, too.

Why am I telling you all this? Because we need to hear from YOU, the community—and the Membership meeting on Tuesday, September 27 is an excellent opportunity to start that dialogue. We plan to also develop a survey this fall to gauge people's interest in things like the Directory (do people really use it, and if so, how/how much?), making Civic Association events for members only, having the Herald only be online, possibly raising dues (\$25/year is just about \$2/month...far less than buying a weekly cup of coffee!), and more.

The Civic Association values your opinions, but if you don't participate in the process, it may not turn out the way you might want. It's like voting in an election—if you don't vote, you can't complain about the outcome! So please, spread the word. Thanks, and see you 'round the neighborhood!

Sarah G.J. Lennon
President, KPWCA

Community Calendar

Herald Delivery – August 27, 2022

Herald Deadline – August 30, 2022

Labor Day – September 5, 2022

KPWCA Board Meeting – September 20, 2022

Fall Begins – September 22, 2022

Herald Delivery – September 24, 2022

KPWCA Membership Meeting – September 27, 2022

KPWCA Membership Drive – October 1, 2022

| 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 | 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 | classifieds@kpwca.org | |
| Signboards | Jonathan Reiser | boardmember3@kpwca.org | (571) 423-8030 |
| 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 | geostrom@gmail.com | |

| | |
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| <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">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 align="center">The Herald</p> <p>Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: August 30 for delivery on September 24, 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.</p> <p>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 September issue must be received no later than August 30, 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> |

KPWCA Budget Update

The KPWCA Board has prepared a draft FY22 budget for the October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023 year. Please come to the fall membership meeting on September 27. Among other matters, you will have the opportunity to review/comment on the budget and vote on it.

KPWCA Board Offices Open for Nomination

by Michael Stonkey, KPWCA Vice President

It's that time of the year again when we have elections for new Board Members. However, before I get to the legal speak, let me just say that I'm always amazed at how many people say after the fact:

"Oh, I would have volunteered if I was asked..."

Well now is your opportunity, because we're asking for new volunteers to help us shape the future of the Kings Park West Civic Association.

On September 27, in accordance with the by laws, KPWCA will hold elections for Board Member and Director positions. You can be a nominee (or nominate another KPWCA member) for the open positions whose two-year terms expire as of our September 27, 2022, meeting.

Nominees must be KPWCA members in good standing, willing to serve the full term, act on behalf of, and for the benefit of, the KPWCA and its members, and be approved by ballot by the members, or their proxies, present at the meeting.

Two director positions and one member-at-large position will be up for election. The incumbents of the director positions are Sarah Lennon (president) and Karen Cosgrove (secretary). The incumbent of the member-at-large position is Kaycie Blaylock. Sarah Lennon has expressed interest in running again for president, and Kaycie Blaylock has expressed interest in running again for the member-at-large position.

To nominate yourself or someone else prior to the meeting, contact Michael Stonkey, vice president KPWCA, at vp@kpwca.org or (703) 509-9725, between now and September 27, or submit the nomination in person at the meeting.



Wants You!

KPWCA Proposed Budget - FY2023 October 2022 - September 2023

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| INCOME | |
| Annual Member Dues | 21,100 |
| Herald Classified Ads | 900 |
| Herald Display Ads | 4,000 |
| Herald Subscriptions | - |
| Investment Income | 100 |
| KPW Directory Ads-print odd FYs | 800 |
| Other Income | - |
| TOTAL INCOME | 26,900.00 |

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|--|--------------|
| EXPENSE | |
| Admin & Misc Activities | |
| Bank Charge | - |
| BDC of Community Assoc Dues | 100 |
| Insurance-D&O/General Liability | 4,600 |
| Other Misc Expenses | 250 |
| PayPal Fees | 200 |
| State Corporate Registration | 25 |
| Tax Prep & Filing Fees | 100 |
| Volunteer Appreciation Dinner | 350 |
| Admin & Misc Activities - Other | - |
| Total Admin & Misc Activities | 5,625 |

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|--|--------------|
| Common Grounds Maint. Committee | |
| Area Maintenance Contract | 3,000 |
| Beautification & Gardening Grp | 175 |
| Message Board Maintenance | 100 |
| Utilities | 160 |
| Total Common Grounds Maint. Committee | 3,435 |

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|--|--------------|
| Herald Newsletter Committee | |
| Herald Administrative Expense | 100 |
| Herald Delivery-\$350/issue | 1,400 |
| Herald Printing-8 issues | 7,100 |
| Total Herald Newsletter Committee | 8,600 |

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Membership Committee | |
| Admin Expenses | 240 |
| Block Capt Appreciat'n | 300 |
| Directory Printing-odd FYs, \$3K | 2,000 * |
| Welcome Package/Marketing | - |
| Membership Other | 100 |
| Total Membership Committee | 2,640 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Standing Committees | |
| Halloween Fall Festival Committ | 4,000 |
| Parks and Lake Committee | - |
| Scholarship Committee | 3,050 |
| Spring Egg Hunt Committee | - |
| Web and Social Media Committee | 920 |
| Total Standing Committees | 7,970 |

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|---|--------------|
| Support for Special Activities | |
| Spring/Fall Dumpster Day | 1,700 |
| Decorating Contests | 150 |
| Yard of the Month | - |
| Total Support for Special Activities | 1,850 |

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Support for Youth Groups | |
| Robinson Grad Party | 250 |
| Scout Packs and Troop | 750 |
| Total Support for Youth Groups | 1,000 |

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|----------------------|---------------|
| Total Expense | 31,120 |
|----------------------|---------------|

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|-------------------|----------------|
| NET INCOME | (4,220) |
|-------------------|----------------|

*Note: Setting aside a reserved amount of \$2000 from the Unrestricted Community Use Funds from FY 2022

kings park west herald's list

www.facebook.com/groups/KPWRecommends



by cathy deloach

INTRODUCING

KPW RECOMMENDS



The votes have been tallied and **KPW Recommends** has been selected as the new name of our Facebook group (formerly Kings Park West Herald's List). We love the name - it totally captures the spirit of the group - neighbors asking neighbors for recommendations.

renovation



contractors



remodeling



decorating ideas



Congratulations to Sandy Breunig Glotfelty who originally suggested KPW Recommends. Sandy, look for a \$100 Amazon card! It's coming your way!

The Fairfax Garden Corner

Charlie Boring

Just before winter freezes the soil, we urban gardeners have a final chance to plant. It is the best time to plant hard-neck garlic plants. When I discussed growing garlic with my spouse, she said that she could buy garlic at the supermarket for less than a dollar a bulb. She also asked the question that if we grew our annual requirement of garlic, how could we preserve it so it would be good for the entire year?

Extending the preservation time of garlic can be achieved in several ways. After harvesting my 2022 garlic crop in July, I tied the garlic bulbs together in bunches and hung them in my unheated shed to cure. The shed is well-ventilated and not too hot in the summer. I have a small space heater in the shed that is set for 38 degrees to prevent freezing during the colder weather. We have used a lot of the 2021 garlic harvest, since we share it with friends, but we still have perhaps a third of the harvest that is starting to get too dry to use.

One reason that I like to grow my own garlic is that the garlic that you purchase in the supermarket is soft-neck garlic, which is not as savory or as strong a flavor as the hard-neck varieties that I grow. I planted Bavarian, German White, Romanian Red, Silver Skin, and Korean Mountain.

You can also store garlic over the winter by placing the bulbs in cold storage. Once the upper garlic leaves have browned and died back, your garlic is ready to harvest.

In Kings Park West, the best harvest time is late July. Leave the garlic cloves out to dry slightly in the sun for a few days. If the weather does not cooperate, bring the cloves inside and spread them out in a single layer in order to allow the outer skins to dry out. After a few days, hang the garlic in a cool, dry place until ready to use. The garlic cloves should last through the winter

for use in cooking. Care must be taken to keep the area cool, but not freezing, and out of direct sunlight.

Garlic cloves can also be stored in extra virgin olive oil in a sealed jar in the coldest place in your refrigerator for short periods of time. Storing garlic in oil is not a long-term solution to winter storage. This garlic can be used like fresh garlic. If you are looking for a long-term solution, the container must be frozen in small batches to keep it fresh. The garlic-flavored oil can be used for cooking or salad dressings and is a favorite dip for Italian bread. If your heart is set on storing the garlic in olive oil, dry it first so that there will be no risk of any contamination or spoilage.

Remember, there are some tasty reasons for growing your own garlic. If you did not plant your garlic in the fall, plant it in early spring as soon as the ground has thawed. My 2022 patch of garlic was planted on November 2, 2021.



I have found that if you wear a clove of garlic around your neck, vampires will leave you alone. Since I have never been attacked by a vampire while wearing garlic, it must be true! Happy gardening!



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Love KPW? You Should Be a Block Captain!

1. What's a Block Captain?

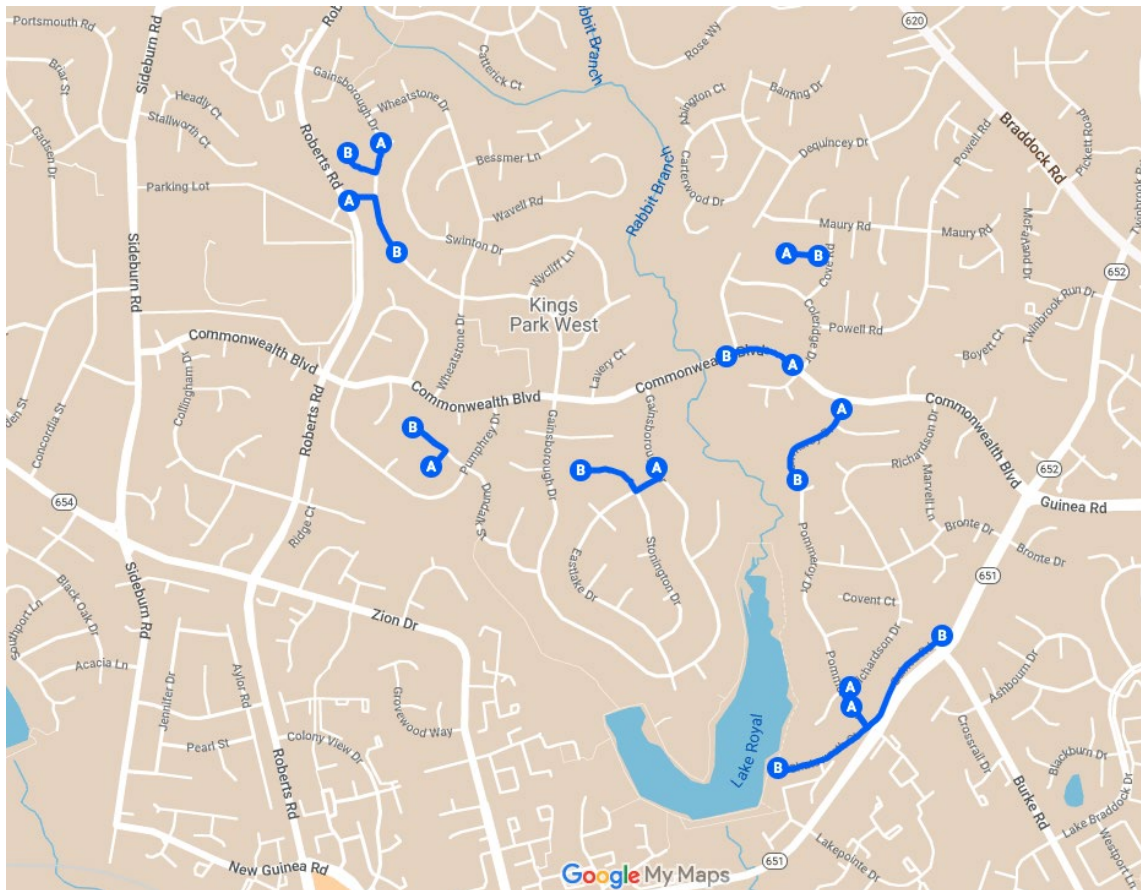
Block Captains are volunteers for the Kings Park West Civic Association (KPWCA) who welcome new residents to their streets and help neighbors join and renew their membership. As ambassadors for the Civic Association, Block Captains are at the heart of the October Membership Drive. Each fall, they remind neighbors about the many community benefits sponsored by the Civic Association and distribute and collect membership forms on their blocks.

2. Why do Block Captains volunteer for the KPW Civic Association?

The Civic Association is a crucial part of the Kings Park West community. Unlike an HOA, membership isn't required, but the voluntary annual dues of \$25 and generous donations from our neighbors fund many community benefits we all enjoy. That includes the Herald you're reading now, the annual Spring Egg Hunt and Fall Festival, landscaping at neighborhood entrances, park restrooms and dog waste stations, and so much more.

3. Does the KPW Civic Association need Block Captains?

We're glad you asked! We have nine blocks that need volunteer captains:



- Block 8: 5301 - 5305 Pommeroy Dr (odd) & Guinea Rd
- Block 9: 5302 - 5304 Pommeroy Dr (even) & Chatsworth Ct
- Block 17: 5100 - 5124 Pommeroy Dr
- Block 23: 9813 - 9909 Commonwealth Blvd
- Block 36: 9930 - 9933 Eastlake Dr & 5200-5217 Stonington Dr
- Block 64: 4912 - 4921 Gainsborough Dr & Orkney Ct
- Block 65: 4923 - 4940 Gainsborough Dr & Cascade Ln
- Block 72: 10203 - 10219 Dundalk St & Tooley Ct
- Block 100: 9801 & 9807 - 9011 Vertain Ct

4. I'd love to help, but I don't live on those streets and don't have a lot of time.

We have good news — you don't have to live on a block to serve as its captain! Although it might make it easier if you already know your neighbors, adopting a nearby block is a great way to meet others in the community.

We are so grateful for the hard work of our Block Captains! As volunteers, we know your time is limited, and we will work with you to support your efforts and make sure serving as a Block Captain doesn't take up too much time.

5. I'm in! How do I sign up to be a Block Captain?

Thank you for stepping up to support our community! Please email membership@kpwca.org and let us know which block you can take on.

Does your Electrical Panel need a Health & Safety Check?

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Pansies coming in October! See FB for updates.

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KPW Community Member Spotlight: Julia Gardner

By Aziza Bayou

"I love seeing the kids blossom and grow!" says Julia Gardner cheerfully. Julia is the director of Lord of Life Preschool (LOLP). Located on Twinbrook Road, LOLP has served our area since 1973. Julia and I met at LOLP on a summer afternoon while she prepared the school to ensure that everything will be ready for the children's return this fall. From her warm and vivacious demeanor, it is easy to see that working with young children and families is Julia's vocation.

Julia was born in Denver, CO, and moved to Manassas when she was 8 years old. She and her husband Tom both graduated from Virginia Tech. Tom's Navy service took them to various locations, which they enjoyed exploring—from Groton, CT to Charleston, SC to Virginia Beach, to Eliot, ME to Naples, Italy. As their family grew, they knew they wanted to return to northern VA "to put down roots." Julia and Tom have three children: Trey (age 11), Louisa (age 9), and George (age 6).

From 2015 to 2019 the family lived on Covent Court. They relocated to Chipper Lane in late 2019. Julia says that they "were so lucky to find KPW," and that before her family even moved into their home on Covent Court, four different neighbors came over to greet them. She fondly recalls how they got to know their neighbors well from court parties, Christmas parties, cookie exchanges, and even flower arranging parties. Though they moved to Chipper Lane a few months before the onset of the pandemic, her family even joined Zoom parties in March and April of 2020.

One aspect of our community that Julia appreciates is the multi-generational engagement here. She emphasized that in both areas of KPW where she has lived, they have befriended community members of all walks of life, ages and stages. As an example of this, in fall 2020 "one of my dear retired neighbors volunteered to stay with my older two kids during virtual school every Tuesday and Thursday so George could go to his preschool pod" with other families from LOLP (the preschool itself was closed at that time). "It is hard to express how much that meant to me—her commitment of her time was invaluable, and we formed such a nice connection," Julia says.

"Being able to depend on neighbors is the absolute best part of living here," says Julia, who has made close community ties all over KPW. Julia tells of the time that her oldest son accidentally went home on the bus rather than stay at school as was planned for the first day of

an after-school activity. When he arrived home to find no one there, he knew to go to his neighbor's home, and Ms. Dot, a kind, caring neighbor on Covent Court, stayed with him until his mom returned.

When asked about her family's favorite places to go in northern VA, Julia notes our wonderful Nature Centers, like Hidden Oaks and Hidden Pond, both located within lovely parks near KPW. Hidden Oaks Nature Center was recently renovated and reopened in June. They also enjoy regular trips to our bountiful libraries. Julia recommends checking out Vox books and Wonderbooks, which are "books that read to you" and can be a fun part of a reading routine that provides "a simple way to connect and build [children's] love of learning." The Gardner family also loves going to all the Smithsonian museums. It is a gift to have these wonderful public places nearby that are both educational and wonder-inspiring.

When asked her advice to new or prospective KPW residents, Julia encourages them to "get involved, join a pool, volunteer, help out at a school!" Julia noted that "at LOLP, almost every one of our teachers joined the preschool as a parent, then became a substitute, board member, or teacher." She herself followed this path, and all three of her own children attended LOLP.

She also mentioned that amongst LOLP families, there are 12 languages other than English spoken at home, which underscores the unity in diversity that is characteristic of our community. Julia says that at LOLP, "Our staff recognizes and celebrates this diversity by welcoming parents to share cultural and holiday traditions, whether that means coming into the classroom to read a book, play a game, make a craft, or eat a treat!" She also shared that since 2008 LOLP students have fundraised to sponsor students at the Village of Hope School in Haiti. "We show our students their pictures, we talk about what their days are like at school, etc. The funds we send provide education, meals, and healthcare for the entire year for VOH students. We want our preschool students to know that no matter how old you are, you can help others every day."

Julia's experiences and perspectives highlight how KPW continues to be a community of inclusivity and civic engagement.

Note: More information about LOLP can be found here: <https://www.lordoflifepreschool.org/Our-Program>

Friends of Royal Lake

Survey Says...

As many people who use the Royal Lake Parks are already aware, the Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) made an extensive effort in May to survey the views of the parks' patrons. A group of six FORL volunteers held weekly meetings where the team reached agreement on survey goals, designed a draft questionnaire, conducted field testing, finalized the draft, and developed a broad-based plan for data collection.

This survey was a follow-up to a previous Spring 2017 survey that was used as a significant input to a "FORL Community Vision Plan for Royal Lake Parks." The vision plan and related documents were then presented to various county officials to highlight the communities' desired improvements for Royal Lake parks. Many of our highlighted areas for improvement was achieved. After an assessment, FORL will now update the vision plan and present it to the county government and local civic organizations.

Given these accomplishments, the new survey had two goals:

1. to understand how the community members used the parks
2. to identify and prioritize further potential improvements and maintenance efforts from the perspective of park patrons.

So, what did the "Survey Say?"

433 individuals/families responded to the survey, which had questions concerning the environment, trails, community activities, playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, soccer fields and baseball fields.

The survey results are available for review in a published report and/or synopsis in a presentation format on the

FORL website. (The presentation was given at a FORL meeting on August 10 that is before the publication of this newsletter).

Overall, the community universally agreed that the parks are a highly valued community resource!

A few highlights:

Environment:

- 94% (318 / 338) indicated that a top goal is to preserve peace, quiet, and the natural environment.
- Native plants: Nearly all (96%, or 267 / 277): I would like more native plants to be planted to improve the ecology of Royal Lake.
- Garbage cans and pollution: 73% agreed and cited pollution/litter in or near the lake as a problem.
- 68% think more garbage cans should be placed throughout the parks.
- Fishing lines: 83%, or 204 / 246 agreed that fishing lines being improperly discarded is a problem.

Trails:

- 88% of those who responded use the trails for walking, running, dog walking, or watching nature.
- 71 vision plan responded mud on the trails was the biggest problem, followed by improving the trail segment from the upper dam to the lower dam.

Playgrounds:

- 48 vision plan responded to the playground questions
- 66% would like a shade structure added (Lakeside)
- 46% would like improved toilet facilities (Lakeside)

To get a completed picture of the survey, please go to the FORL website at www.friendsofroyallake.org

Advertise in the Herald!

Did you know that there are two ways to advertise your business or services in the Herald?

All houses in KPW—that's almost 2,000 homes!—receive every issue of the Herald, so it's a great way to get seen. Each issue includes Classifieds (back page) and paid ads (found throughout each issue).

To advertise either way in the Herald, email classifieds@kpwca.org for rates and additional information.

- Classifieds are \$5 per issue for 35 words or \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). Found items listed free.
- Advertisement costs vary. Ads can be as small as 1/8 of a page and as big as a full page, and you can choose to run your ad in as many issues as you'd like.

If you don't have anything to advertise in the Herald, please consider joining the KPW Civic Association. (When you join, there also is an option to donate additional funds towards The Herald.) All these contributions also help us publish this wonderful neighborhood newsletter!



Sanitary Trash Disposal

Lately, curbside trash pickup services are problematic for many residents. Contributing factors include forced adjustments to once-per-week trash and recycling pickups, disposal companies failing to arrive on the scheduled days, and the sanitation worker labor shortage.

However, trash and recycled waste still needs to be secured against wind and rummaging animals. Any food-related or other stinky items must be kept in hard containers—such as roll-out bins—or risk getting ravaged by scavengers.

This image of an overstuffed wheely bin shows holes in bags torn by raiding critters. Garbage is scattered in the street, though a lot more of it was picked up prior to taking this photograph. Waste like this must be protected against scavengers such as crows, rats, raccoons, foxes, loose pets, and even the occasional bear.

When animals raid the refuse, any of the following happens:

- It creates an unsanitary problem.
- The scattered garbage litters neighboring properties and the community.
- Junk enters the environment.
- The critters can be harmed by indigestible materials or improper food.



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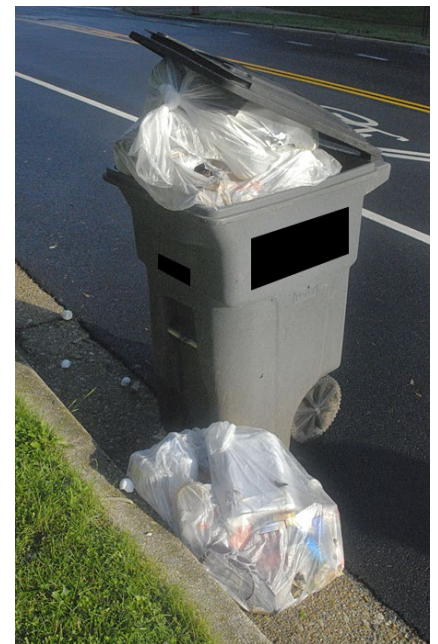
| | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mowing | <input type="checkbox"/> Sod Installation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Material Delivery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dethatching | <input type="checkbox"/> Debris Removal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn Renovation | <input type="checkbox"/> Driveway Dumpster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Size & Mini Skid Steer Work | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mulching & Garden Bed Edging | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Core Aeration with or without Overseeding | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bush & Small Tree Trimming & Removal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardscape and Landscape Installation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Full Service or Curbside Leaf Cleanup & Removal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Work & Grading | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> and much more! | |




- Those animals get into the bad habit of ransacking rubbish.

Some solutions include:

- Replace broken bins, especially ones with large holes. Most disposal companies swap worn-out bins with new ones for free upon request.
- Ask the disposal company for additional bins.
- Raccoon-proof the bin's lid with a weight (e.g., a cinder block), clips, or bungee cords.
- Reevaluate the household waste stream. See if more items can be recycled and free up regular trash space.
- Rinse out recycled food and beverage containers so they do not reek.
- Prioritize disposal of smelly trash so it all fits in the bin. Keep this rubbish separated from other refuse like "clean" plastic packaging material. Non-recyclable items that will not attract wildlife, such as pressure-treated wood or large Styrofoam blocks, could be packaged outside the bin.
- Start at-home composting. Details are in the gryskes.com article *Free, Easy, Plentiful Live Bait for Fishing* (June 2020), which caters to fishermen, but the composting principles benefit everyone.



- Certain materials, such as meat and bones, should be kept out of a home compost bin. However, all food bits can be processed in Fairfax County's Food Scraps Composting Drop Off program. The composting efficiency and temperatures reach much higher levels than small household operations, which enable more types of items to be processed.
- Got too much garbage that needs to be gone ASAP? Take it (or hire someone to do it for you) to the I-66 Transfer Station or I95 Landfill Complex.

Keeping garbage from animals and the elements helps everyone stay healthy and safe.

For this and other articles, visit gryskes.com

Invasive Species Profile: Running Bamboo (Various Species) Part 1

Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native range: temperate and tropical regions globally

U.S. introduction: 1870s as an ornamental

Life cycle: perennial grass

Means of spreading: rapid rhizome growth

Commercially available: yes

Control method: herbicides

Good alternative species: black willow (*Salix nigra*), Indian grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*)

Comments: Of the questions people ask about controlling invasive plants, English ivy and bamboo top the list. Running bamboo received recent attention with Fairfax County's new ordinance, effective January 1, 2023, mandating that residents contain running bamboo within their property. Many municipalities already restrict or ban this weed. In 2007, a more general Virginia Supreme Court ruling (case #1153823) stated that the owner of the property for which the plant originates, (e.g., tree roots damaging a neighbor's driveway), is liable for damages.

First, let's look at what bamboo is not. Lucky bamboo or Chinese water bamboo (*Dracaena sanderiana*) is sold in grocery store floral departments and greenhouse nurseries. A member of the asparagus family, it has segments resembling bamboo. It is from tropical Africa and cannot survive Mid-Atlantic winters outdoors. Since it is often commercially grown and sold from cuttings in water, transporting stagnant water has spread mosquitoes. Heavenly bamboo (*Nandina domestica*) is another misnomer. It is a toxic, invasive shrub that produces red berries in winter.



Figure 1. Running bamboo patches have canes packed tightly but not clumping. Here, a camera flash lights the base of the 30 to 40-foot canes. Leaves grow on the top half of the culms.

True bamboo species are tall, perennial, evergreen grasses, mostly woody ones in the Bambusoideae subfamily. Like all grasses, bamboos are flowering plants except they go years or decades without generating a blossom. When they do, all members of the woody species usually bloom at the same time

around the world then die, leaving the seeds to germinate and perpetuate the species.

This gregarious flowering has exceptions and is imperfect, for example, resulting in some individuals blooming the next year, but they are less likely to be pollinated. Depending on the species, the seeds can take up to three years to develop. The fruiting masses falling on the ground can become immense messes that temporarily spur rodent populations. Between these fruiting periods, bamboo spreads vegetatively through rhizomes. New shoots sprout out of the rhizome nodes. The tough, shallow roots and rhizomes are primarily within the first foot of topsoil. In species where the rhizomes are short, the bamboo canes or culms appear to clump. Running bamboo has long, fast-growing rhizomes that sprout distinctly single culms, although a dense field may have crisscrossing rhizomes with canes that happen to be close. Running bamboo is a term applied to multiple species. Common running bamboos include arrow bamboo (*Pseudosasa japonica*) and members of the genus *Phyllostachys*, such as golden bamboo.



Figure 2. Soil removal shows the exact position of running bamboo's rhizomes. As rhizomes are subterranean stems, they have nodes (A) and internodes (B). Roots grow thick at the culm's base (C) compared to nodal roots' open form (D). Rhizome buds (E and enlarged inset) may extend upward, break the surface, and become culms (F, damaged) or grow underground into more rhizomes (G). The scale bar is 5.0 cm.

Cold-hardy running bamboo from Asia has no biological controls in Northern Virginia, plus its speedy growth makes it extremely invasive and difficult to confine. Bamboo patches may sweep around mature trees, but this weed grows too densely for any other plants to coexist with it including tree seedlings.

Folks who assume they can keep running bamboo under wraps and plant it anyway often regret their decision. The rhizomes extend many feet away from the visible patch. This subterranean expansion remains undetected until spring when shoots emerge. Mowing is

an inefficient way of restricting bamboo and, depending on the species and cane development, may damage the mower and stumps can be hard on people's feet.

One way to contain running bamboo is to surround it with water because most Asian bamboos cannot tolerate saturated soil (some native *Arundinaria* species like wet roots), but installing a moat for a bamboo patch is usually impractical.

The second is by encompassing it within a solid barrier, such as one made from poured concrete, aluminum sheets, or thick plastic like high-density polyethylene that penetrates at least three feet underground and pokes several inches above the surface. The barrier

must be intact because the rhizomes breach breaks and gaps. Rhizomes exploiting masonry cracks can cause further damage to foundations and pavement. Bamboo easily pierces thin plastics.

For borders facing onto the same property, the strong barrier should be at an angle away from the patch so that any rhizome growth deflects upward where it can readily be seen and cut. For bamboo borders at the property's edge, the wall above ground should tilt back towards the patch to redirect rhizomes away from the neighbors.

For this article and more, including part 2 of Invasive Bamboo, visit grsykes.com.

Retired? Try Feeding Your Hungry Mind Osher Lifelong Learn Institute at GMU

When KPW resident Debby Mossburg retired from Fairfax County Public Schools, she thought she was done with classrooms. But—no! With energetic discussions, surprising insights, and burgeoning friendships—and without homework, grades, or tests—the classrooms of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) have lured her back, to her delight.

Debby says she particularly values the opportunities OLLI offers to meet people with widely varied backgrounds and intersecting interests, to discover new passions and dive deeply into old ones, and, in the words of lifelong learning guru Nancy Merz Nordstrom, to “feed your hungry mind.”

In the past six years, Debby has met state legislators, archaeologists, noted authors, and an up-and-coming orchestra conductor; visited a cooking school for a gourmet lunch; and toured destinations as diverse as the Fairfax County Solid Waste Recycling Center and Landfill and the U.S. Capitol (with a private docent), all for less than \$15 a course.

Anyone 50 or better can join, retired or still working. OLLI also offers dozens of special interest clubs, including bridge, mah-jongg, current events, history and theatre lovers, an investment forum, and many others. Classes and clubs are held in the daytime and meet in person and/or via Zoom. OLLI's nearest campus is only minutes away from Kings Park West at 4210 Roberts Road, next to the Fairfax Swimming Pool.

Introductory memberships are currently available for just \$300 for your first year. Retirees of GMU or any northern Virginia school system can check the website for a new promotion that offers them a further discount that lets you sign up for as many of the more than 500 classes, clubs, and special events as you want and includes access to the George Mason library and, COVID restrictions permitting, discounted Mason gym membership.

Want to know more? Visit the OLLI Mason website at olli.gmu.edu, call (703) 503-3384 to request a catalog, or contact Debby at debby.mossburg@verizon.net. Priority registration for Fall classes runs from August 16-24, 2022; however, members can continue to sign up for classes after that date.

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KPW Real Estate Corner
by Cathy DeLoach



What is the Impact of Rising Interest Rates in Kings Park West?

After two crazy years of COVID, the real estate market in 2022 roared into early action with KPW houses selling quickly, sometimes with 10 or more offers and unheard of price escalation. The frenzy was fed to a certain extent by the inevitability of interest rate increases predicted to control rising inflation. Sellers wanted to cash in on the action, and rushed to list homes. Buyers were anxious to lock in at a lower rate, and rushed to make competitive offers.

When rumors of another rate hike hit in June, all players hit pause to see what was going to happen. A lull of activity ensued with fewer homes listed, fewer buyers looking, and fewer contracts presented. Many wondered, "Is this it? The disaster I feared?" However, after that brief slow down, AND another rate hike in July, the real estate market in Kings Park West resumed, albeit in a slightly subdued fashion:



- Home prices remain stable with few significant drops, and contracts are less likely to experience the extreme escalation seen in early 2022.
- Buyers are out there looking, but are currently more cautious than we saw earlier in the year, seeking homes that are attractively priced OR extremely attractive (think well maintained, updated and invitingly presented).



KPW Home Sale Stats*

YTD Sold: 35
 Average Price: **\$801,602**
 Sold Range: **\$630,000 - \$995,000**
 Average Days on Market: 8
 Under Contract: 6 (**\$685,000 - \$829,000**)
 Active Listings: - 4 (**\$729,000 - \$789,500**)

*as of 8/3/2022

The message remains the same: In normalized markets, well-presented houses sell well for more money. Less well prepared homes still sell, but must be priced to reflect their lack of move-in-ready appeal. Sellers should set their expectations accordingly.



Interested in Girl Scouts for Your Girl?

Girl Scouts become leaders by making new friends, building skills, and discovering the world around them. Contact us or go online to learn more about how your family can become a Girl Scout family.

To learn more about Girl Scout opportunities for girls in the Laurel Ridge ES area, contact:

Nina Cox and Jennifer King at su5415info@gmail.com

Or add your information to this link
<https://bit.ly/girlscouts-5415>

These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the Fairfax County School Board, the Superintendent, or this school.

Girl Scout Service Unit 54-15 News

The **Virginia Outdoor Girls' Ultimate Expeditions** group, or VOGUE, is a teen outdoor and high adventure group in Girl Scout Association 54, open to Girl Scouts Cadettes and above.

VOGUE Girl Scouts participated in a High Adventure Day at Camp Coles Trip in Stafford, Virginia, on June 17-19. They enjoyed canoeing, kayaking, archery, and tomahawk throwing.

Additionally, they worked with the camp caretaker to coordinate and complete the building of three much needed benches at the camp.

If you have a teen Girl Scout interested in **VOGUE**, please let your troop leader know!

If you have a girl interested in Girl Scouts, contact Nina Cox and Jennifer King at su5415info@gmail.com.





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Cub Scout Pack 1967 – A Summer of Space

What an incredible summer! Over the past few months, Pack 1967 offered an incredible, home-grown program we called the Summer of Space. And what a summer it was! The scouts were busy with a calendar filled with wonderful opportunities afforded to us in Northern Virginia—all with a theme of space.

We kicked off our summer in the usual fashion with a water rocket launch at Lakeside Park. Scouts built 2-liter bottle rockets at home, then came to the Lakeside launch pad. Through the fun of launches and the tasty popsicles, the scouts experienced Newton's 3rd law by making a rocket engine work through action and reaction.

In June, we visited the Udvar-Hazy Museum for a staff-led demonstration on the challenges of living and working in space. The scouts saw how difficult it is to do very simple things in space, like eating or stepping outside.



Also in June, Pack 1967 marched in the Fairfax City Independence Day Parade as the defending 1st place float winner from 2021. This year, the pack entered a space themed float. Although we did not win 1st place float again, we did win Most Creative from the City of Fairfax Commission on Fine Arts!

In July, the scouts toured the GMU Observatory to learn about how the school's telescope works, view some incredible images of our neighboring planets and distant galaxies, and even view the moon through the telescope directly. Thank you, GMU!

By August, the scouts were ready to step it up a little. The water rocket launch was great, but if we are going to get to space, we need to build and launch real rockets. The scouts visited our friends at NARHAMS model rocket club in Frederick, Maryland, to build and launch their own model rockets. Some of these rockets even launched to 1000 feet or more! There goes Newton's 3rd law again!

Throughout the summer, a small group of scouts worked on a special cubmaster challenge—the Deep Space Buffett Challenge. These scouts took everything they learned about space to develop a recipe fit for astronauts in space and engineer a solution to deliver their recipe to friends and family. These creative young scouts created the "S'more-NASA"—a s'more-like treat made from Nutella, fluff, and crepes. And the delivery device was an anti-gravity clothesline that "floated" the tasty desert from the kitchen directly to hungry mouths!

All this is a great experience—but the best part of the summer was a special message for the Pack from one of KPW's own. Commander Kjell Lindgren, a KPW and Robinson graduate as well as an Eagle Scout, is currently orbiting Earth in the International Space Station as the commander of SpaceX Crew4. He graciously took time from his busy schedule to record a special greeting for the scouts of Pack 1967! Please visit our new website at pack1967.org to see the short video!



Last but not least, we had a total of 18 scouts attend summer camp and day camp! Sounds like fun? Please join us this year!



**Join Cub Scouts
Pack 1967 Fairfax, VA**

Do you have a child in kindergarten through fifth grade? Come join us for campfires, Pinewood Derby race, outdoor fun, making new friends, and more!



For more information contact:
Matt Cursio, Cubmaster
CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com
www.pack1967.org



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Labor Day

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- LABORDAY
- WORKER
- PARADE
- MONDAY
- SEPTEMBER
- STRIKE
- UNEMPLOYMENT
- INDUSTRY
- OVERTIME
- UNION
- BENEFITS
- CAREER
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- EQUALITY
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