



March 2023

Vol. 53, Issue 2

Kings Park West Civic Association

"If you can be anything, be kind."

Hey neighbors!

Happy Spring, and I hope you're all excited for the Eggstravaganza at Laurel Ridge on Sunday afternoon, March 26th. The Civic Association is delighted to bring back this fun community event to celebrate the season. Thanks to the Mary and Cathy team for partnering with us again!

In addition to the Eggstravaganza, we have a LOT going on in the next couple of months. April 15th will bring not just Tax Day but our annual Earth Day Spring parks and lake cleanup, at both Royal Lake and Lakeside Parks.

May 6th is our Community Yard Sale day and then May 9th we will celebrate all the wonderful volunteers in our community at the KPWCA Spring Membership meeting and Volunteer Appreciation event. Stay tuned for more information — watch our Facebook page and website for details as they develop. I hope to see many of you there, and I look forward to hearing some ideas about what's important to YOU for our community.

Along those lines, please mark your calendar for the FALL Membership meeting (Sept. 26th), where we will be holding elections for Vice President, Treasurer and an At-Large member. I encourage you all to start thinking about what YOU can contribute to the Civic Association and our amazing little corner of the world!

And don't forget, the last Saturday of every month is a great opportunity to pass along those things that you no longer need or want to others as part of "Free Share Saturday." It's a wonderful community-wide event to help others, clean out your house and save things from the landfill. For more information and to get yard signs, contact Cathy Deloach at Cathy.deloach@longandfoster.com. As always, you can reach me at president@kpwca.org, and see you around the neighborhood!

Sarah G.J. Lennon
President, KPWCA

Community Calendar

- Herald Delivery – March 25, 2023
- KPW – Eggstravaganza – March 26, 2023
- Eggstravaganza Rain Day – April 1, 2023
- Passover Begins – April 5, 2023
- Herald Content Deadline - April 5 (Digital edition)
- Easter – April 9, 2023
- Tax Day – April 15, 2023
- Earth Day Cleanup – April 15, 2023
- KPW Community Yard Sale – May 6, 2023
- KPWCA Spring Membership Meeting – May 9, 2023
- Volunteer Appreciation – May 9, 2023
- KPW Dumpster Day – May 13, 2023



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			
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Common Grounds Maintenance	Laura Hall Linda Reamy		(703) 978-6641 (703) 978-1564
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Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland		
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant		
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Special Activities			
Spring Egg Hunt	Pack 1967	vp@kpwca.org	(703) 509-9725
Halloween Festival	Keith Jodoin	kjodoin@gmail.com	
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	geoostrom@gmail.com	
How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association? 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.		How do I get my news in The Herald? 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.	
The Herald Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: April 5, 2023, for upload on April 15. 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.		How do I advertise in The Herald? Classifieds: Classified ads for the January issue must be received no later than April 5, 2023, to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032, or at classified@kpwca.org . Please print clearly and include payment to KPWCA. Provide your name, address, and phone number. Rates: \$5 per issue for 35 words or \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). Found items listed free. Advertisements: Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classifieds@kpwca.org for rates.	

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www.facebook.com/groups/kpwrecommends



by cathy deloach

What Color Mulch Do YOU Prefer? Win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

Spring is the perfect time to lay down mulch in your garden beds. Mulching reduces weeds, prevents erosion, moderates the soil temperature, and helps maintain soil moisture. Many materials are suitable for mulch. Organic materials such as shredded bark, peat moss, leaves, pine straw, and wood chips are commonly used. There are some artificial materials available.

When mulching, leave 4 inches clear around the trunk of larger plants, and maintain no more than 2 to 3 inches of mulch around your trees and shrubs. Excessive mulching provides an excellent home for mice that will feed on and kill your plants during the winter. Feeder roots will tend to grow in the mulch and will be more susceptible to drought and winter freezing.

-Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

Fairfax County provides FREE mulch. Read more at their website:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/free-mulch>

Go to **kpw recommends** on FaceBook
and tell us what color mulch you prefer!

What Color Mulch Do You Prefer?
Win \$100 Amazon Gift Card!

To enter the random drawing, put **BROWN, NATURAL, RED, or BLACK** in the comments section.

For an extra entry, list a recommended vendor for purchase of product and/or installation.

The Fairfax Garden Corner

Charlie Boring

The early settlers in Northern Virginia, typically called “planters” in those days, were not only farmers, but many were just gardeners, much like you and I.

Thomas Jefferson was a prime example who loved to grow a garden and chronicled his gardening exploits, which can now be found in his “Garden Book.” He planned and worked with his family in his garden and left us a book of interesting insights into his gardening techniques. I encourage you to involve the entire family as Thomas Jefferson did. Keep your garden journal indicating when, where, what, and how much you plant and harvest.

These early gardeners grew many of the same plants that we grow today but perhaps a different variety. They had to deal with many of the same diseases and pest threats to their gardens as we are dealing with now. In this article, I would like to look at some of the threats to our fruit crops that we try to grow.

A neighbor advised me not to try to grow fruits in Kings Park West because the squirrel, chipmunk, racoon, possum, and bird populations would devour the entire harvest every year. I am sure that the early gardeners of Northern Virginia faced an even greater threat from these cute pests, yet they grew many of the same fruits that we are trying to grow.

On my small lot, I have planted a number of fruit-bearing plants. I have an apple tree that is just preparing to produce fruit. I have two Asian pear trees, two pawpaw trees, two persimmon trees, two young peach trees, a jujube tree, a cherry tree, three blackberry bushes, a blueberry bush, two honeyberry bushes, three kiwi vines, and a bunch of strawberry plants.

You might ask: “What should I plant?” My suggestions are to plant those plants that 1) you enjoy watching grow; 2) your family enjoys eating; or 3) are suited for growing in Northern Virginia (Zone 7a).

My experience with growing these fruits and dealing with the threats to those plants may be of benefit to your decision-making process.

Persimmons: I grow Fuyu persimmons and have found that there are almost no diseases that attack them. If the weather is variable to the extreme, many fruits may drop during July. Pests that attack them include racoons and crows. Other pests have not been a big threat. Crows

are smart, and if you threaten them, they are reluctant to attack the fruit. I hang a stuffed crow in the tree.

Peaches and pears: The biggest threats to my peach harvest are a fungal disease (that I am attacking with dormant spraying) and squirrels and chipmunks. Squirrels will take a couple of fruit at a time, but chipmunks take all of the fruit. I have found that live trapping helps, but planting onions or garlic around the trees also deters these cute pests. I am willing to share fruit with the squirrels, but the chipmunks are greedy.

Berries and cherries: All of my berry plants are threatened primarily by birds but also squirrels and chipmunks. Covering the plants with netting helps to protect the harvest from birds but planting onions or garlic might help deter the squirrels and chipmunks. Additionally, my strawberries are attacked by slugs, snails, and even turtles. I place a board in the strawberry bed and turn it over in the day to eliminate the snails and slugs. I usually just share the harvest with the turtles.

Kiwis: Although I lose a few kiwis to squirrels and birds, the number is not significant and I consider that the price of being allowed to garden in Virginia.



Persimmon tree



Fuzzy Kiwi Vine



Pawpaw Tree



Peach Tree

Happy gardening! Remember that the squirrels and chipmunks really want you to succeed with your garden, so, try to discourage their attacks on your fruit without declaring war on them. They are so cute, aren't they?

Parks and Lake Update

by Tom McCook

Hello neighbors, here are our continuing plans for Spring 2023.

Royal Lake Park Trails and More

We have several Eagle Scout projects in various stages of planning and approvals. Two of these projects should be completed in the spring/early summer and will disrupt normal flow of joggers and walkers on the Royal Lake Trail (bridge rehabilitation and trail improvement with erosion controls).

These Scouts **need** your cooperation to minimize disruptions to their leadership projects that will greatly enhance the trail. More info to follow from the Scouts and sincerely appreciate your help. **Please avoid walking/running the lake trail during these projects!**

Two more projects are in early planning stage, and I have a great idea for another Eagle/Gold Star award Scout project.

Road Raiders

Road Raiders is a group of neighbor volunteers that usually meets on the second Saturday of the month from 8-9 a.m. to improve our community, our next few events are:

1. April 15, 8-11 a.m. (new date) – Our annual Earth Day tradition to clean up and explore nature in Lakeside, Royal Lake Parks and associated stream beds (up Rabbit Branch to

Commonwealth and Shane’s creek as available during construction)

2. May 13, 8-8:30 a.m. – Road Raiders Day, location to be determined.
3. June 10, 8-8:30 a.m. – Road Raiders Day, location to be determined.

Volunteers at all our events can earn service hours for Scouts, schools, church, etc. as appropriate.

These plans may change, and I’ll alert the community via an email distro ~2 weeks prior to the event.

If you’d like to join us, please send me an email at KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com

And if you have an area of our community that is neglected by VDOT/sidewalks that need special attention, please let me know!

New Leadership

I am looking for a relief as the KPWCA Parks & Lake lead during this summer. It is a great opportunity for new ideas to take over running this great volunteer organization. I have done it for about 5 years, and it takes no more than 30 minutes of planning each month and then support to the planned activities. If you are interested, please contact me.

Any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Tom McCook
KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com
 703.839.5205



Debby Mossburg of Kings Park West Recommends:

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Local Author published two books.

"The Last Neanderthal Clan" is a novel of the struggle for survival of the last Neanderthals fifty thousand years ago.

"Michael's Eyes" is a novel of the adventures of a boy with a special ability who grows up in Texas and is sent to fight in Vietnam.

Order books directly from the author at thelastneanderthalclan@gmail.com or from Amazon.com. Free book signing is available. Coordinate by email.



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Does your Electrical Panel need a Health & Safety Check?

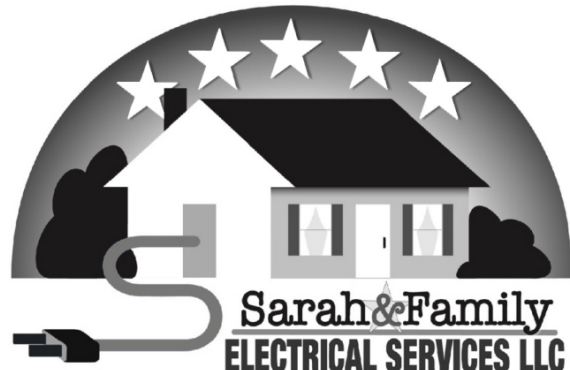
Yes, if it's over 30 years old!

Many older circuit panels were manufactured with dangerous flaws*. Aging parts can malfunction, melt down and catch fire, endangering your home.

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KPW Real Estate Corner
by Cathy DeLoach



Then and Now: A Tale of Rising Interest Rates

In the past year, interest rates have been raised 8 times [in an attempt to curb inflation](#). The housing sector has experienced the biggest slowdown due to these hikes while the rest of our inflationary economy is cooling at a slower pace. What is the impact of these higher rates on mortgage payments?

In January of 2022, before the first rate hike, prime was 3.25% and mortgage rates were hovering around 4%. Today, we are seeing mortgage rates around 6.65% on average.

Using the average sold price of KPW homes in 2022 (\$779,000) with a 20% down payment of \$15,575, estimated monthly payments are \$4,901 before taxes and fees.

Compared to \$3,645 in January of 2022, buyers are now paying more than \$1,200 more per month for the same priced home. Now, more than ever, buyers are seeking good value for their dollar - well-presented homes are a must!

PRIME INTEREST RATES

Effective Date	Rate
2/2/2023	7.75%
12/15/2022	7.50%
11/3/2022	7.00%
9/22/2022	6.25%
7/28/2022	5.50%
6/16/2022	4.75%
5/5/2022	4.00%
3/17/2022	3.50%
3/16/2020	3.25%

JANUARY 2022

Monthly payment | Purchase budget

Include taxes & fees

Loan amount: \$ 763,425

Loan term: 30-yr fixed | Interest: 4 %

Monthly payment
\$ 3,645

MARCH 2023

Monthly payment | Purchase budget

Include taxes & fees

Loan amount: \$ 763,425

Loan term: 30-yr fixed | Interest: 6.65 %

Monthly payment
\$ 4,901



KPW Home Sale Stats*

YTD Sold: 6
 Average Price: \$711,667 (\$575,000 - \$711,667)
 Average Days on Market: 21
 Under Contract: 3 (\$675,000 - \$785,000)
 Active Listings: 4 (\$675,000 - \$784,900)

*as of 3/7/2023

Taking a Look at Trails: Part 1

Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Park trails are terrific instruments for folks to experience nature firsthand. The strolls offer green spaces to relax, exercise, see organisms that might live away from urbanized yards, and observe animal interactions in the wild—all in relative comfort. Trails are ambassadors that introduce people to the natural world.

Over the past decades, when folks decided that they wanted a trail going from Point A to Point B, they or a scout troop simply cleared the land to do so. Back in the day, a trail's sustainability was not considered, resulting in a mix of good (low environmental impact and minimal maintenance) and bad trails (ecologically detrimental and high upkeep). Muddy trails result in increasingly worse conditions because the trail lowers through soil compaction and displacement. To avoid the puddles, trekkers walk around it, trample vegetation, the newly stomped section also sinks, and the cycle widens the trail even more.

These days, we can learn from past successes and mistakes as we apply modern science to trail design. Topography, geology, soil conditions, water movement, water saturation levels, ice accumulation, and environmental sensitivity all factor into good, sustainable trail placement in natural areas. The crucial key is having a gentle slope so the surface sheds water efficiently. Sustainable trails may still connect Points A and B though the route might need redirection away from unsuitable areas. Maintaining a fully sustainable trail means only trimming branches once or twice per year. It can be a bare soil surface without adding gravel or pavement—a win for both trail users and repair crews! In contrast, inferior settings are in flat areas that experience frequent flooding, loose soil, or insufficient drainage. When applied correctly, anchored puncheons (slightly elevated wooden boards) or a turnpike with proper stone layering and affixed culverts can help span short distances through a wet spot just like a bridge crosses a waterway. Any trail features should not interfere with waterflow especially in sensitive habitats such as vernal pools, seeps, and magnolia bogs. The following multi-part photo essay illustrates good and bad aspects of trails. Special thanks to Robert Fina, owner of Fina Trails LLC, for technical consultation throughout this series.



Figure 1 - Most Fairfax County trails were created before sustainability became a consideration. Some of these trails, such as this clay and stone footpath along a well-drained forested hillside (A), happen to be sustainable. Such natural surface pathways are easier on the knees than pavement. Many new, natural surface hiking and mountain bike trails (B) are created with sustainable designs.



Figure 2 - Trails along manmade structures, such as an abandoned railroad (A), can be sustainable. When permitted, good trails may run on or beside certain, elevated utility easements like powerlines and pipelines (B), where the corridor's vegetation is already trimmed periodically. Sewer line easements tend to be unacceptable locations due to their inherently low elevations, more on this topic later.



Figure 3 - Paved trails have their place, such as to ADA-accessible venues and sport fields. Asphalt trails are necessary across artificial structures such as dams and spillways (A). Concrete is used in small, specialized trail sections like stream crossings (B) where water flows over the part for maintenance vehicles and dry steppingstones enable pedestrians to transverse. Concrete crossings are expensive and used in select locations.

In [Part 2](#), we will explore poor path locations and some of the challenges inherent in trails. This article is available online at https://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/120_2023-03.pdf, which provides access to the entire series.



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- RECORDING** – VIDEO of: Music, Dance, Storytelling, Dramatic Reading, Acting...
- EDUCATION** – Video or PDF of any type of class, teaching or instructional material...
- SERVICE** – Photos and written description of an individual serving as a volunteer, with materials being created and/or donated. Any gift of service or volunteerism...

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KPWCA BOY SCOUT TROOP 1966

March 2023



*SERVICE AND
THE WORLD
AROUND US*

*BSA Troop 1966 had a
very busy fall and
winter with service
projects, camping,
hiking, and weekly
activities.*

Check us out online!

BSA Troop 1966 Fairfax VA

FALL/WINTER SERVICE

Troop 1966 had a great fall and winter filled with service in our community. Congratulations to our scouts who achieved Eagle by supporting our community in restoration and conservation projects. Many of our scouts also supported a local food pantry, picking up and delivering nourishing food for our community each week keeping the shelves full! This fall and winter over 1100 lbs of food collected! We also supported the February Stuff the Bus event locally to support BritePaths—our scouts handed out flyers and stuffed the bus full of needed food and supplies.



THE WORLD AROUND US

Troop 1966 had a great couple of months with outdoor activity including camping, canoeing, caving, and hiking. We also had a very special visit by Karla Bruce, Fairfax County chief equity officer. Many of our life rank scouts have earned the Citizenship in Society merit badge, learning, and leading in our community.

Thank you, KPW, for supporting us through our mulch fundraisers, which support camping and outdoor supplies. The Troop is looking forward to a fun Spring ahead- Beach camping, Hersey Park, Merit Badge Weekend, service events and Eagle projects.

Look for our **Spring Mulch** order form on the next page!

Pay online or by check—premium mulch delivered or pick up same day!

Email for more info: troop1966.mulch@gmail.com

Saturday & Sunday March 25th and 26th

Check us out online  [BSA Troop 1966 Fairfax](#)

Boy Scout Mulch Sale

BSA Troop 1966 Fairfax VA

Kings Park West Chartered Troop

Delivery Date: Sat March 25th & Sun March 26th



- Premium (double-shredded, deep brown, finely screened hardwood mulch) and premium black mulch also available for additional cost
- 3 cu. ft. bags (**Decreased cost from last season even with market increased cost!**)
You do not need to be home to receive your order. Friendly Boy Scouts will neatly place & stack bags along the side edge of your driveway unless otherwise noted.




Ordering is simple and easy- 2 options available

1. Fill out the form below or order online- click →
2. Make check payable to Boy Scout Troop 1966
3. Return form and check/cash to: Troop 1966 Spring 2023
Mulch Order- 9856 Natick Rd Burke, VA 22015
4. Orders must be received by March 4th

7 mile delivery radius from Laurel Ridge *if outside radius pick up will be available

# Of bags (5 bag minimum)		X\$5.00(brown)= X\$6.00(black)= +flat rate spreading fee*please email for rate	\$	<p>Order Online! It's fast and easy!</p> <p>Go to https://mulch-sale-spring-2023.cheddarup.com</p> <p>Load up your bags + spreading service and...</p> <p>Add to Cart</p>
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Phone:		Email:		
Any specific delivery instructions?				

Have questions, please e-mail Troop1966.Mulch@gmail.com Thank you for your continued support of our Troop and supporting outdoor programs, including our upcoming high adventure camp! Check us out online  Troop 1966, BSA, Fairfax VA to see how active Troop 1966 is in our community with service, nature, and the world around us. Thank you! Troop 1966 KPW Chartered

Girls Scouts News!

In February local Girl Scout troops participated in the Juliette Cup! Pictured are the best-in-speed winners for Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes! Daisies and Brownies also had the opportunity to earn their mechanical engineering badge by participating.



Also in February, Daisy Girl Scout Troop 54148 hosted its second annual Valentine's Day card collection. Based on the larger Girl Scout USA and AARP collaboration, our Cupid's Crew made and collected over 300 cards from the scouts in our Service Unit. Handmade cards were delivered to a senior living community here in Fairfax, VA and the delivery also included specialized cards for residents with vision impairments.



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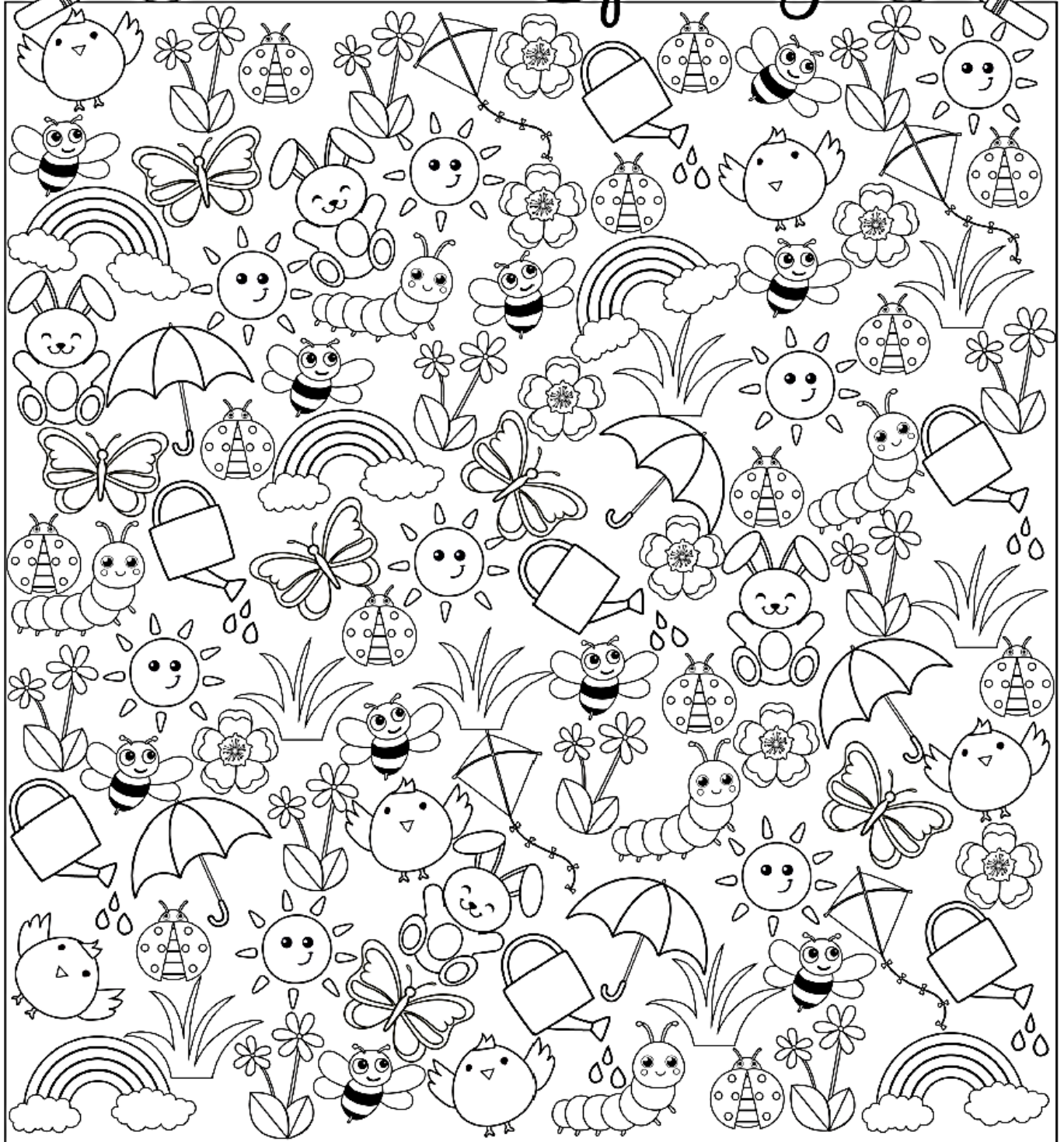
6045 Burke Center Pkwy















Burke, VA 22015

TheMaryandCathyTeam@LNF.com

Activity Page

I SPY Spring



- | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
|  7 |  5 |  6 |  11 |  7 |  4 |  6 |
|  13 |  8 |  5 |  10 |  5 |  8 |  4 |

Sudoku

			4	9			
			8	7			
				5		2	
3					1		
	2			7	8		
			3	8			
	8	1	5		3	4	
		4				9	2
9			7	3		5	1

							6
		9		6	5	2	1
						4	8
9	2			7	1		
8			6		2		9
		6		4		5	7
	9					6	2
1							
				4		5	9

Word Search

Happy Spring!

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

- bunny
- daffodils
- lamb
- ducklings
- easteregg
- iris
- hyacinth
- jellybeans
- hotcrossbuns
- basket
- rabbit
- chicks
- eggs
- chocolate
- Spring
- March
- April
- May
- Flowers
- Baseball
- Green
- Grass
- Sunshine
- Thaw
- Melt
- Showers
- Rain
- Umbrella
- Easter
- Birds

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