

June 2021

Vol. 51, Issue 3

Kings Park West Civic Association

Hello, neighbors!

Happy start of summer! I know we are all looking forward to getting together with family and friends to celebrate... so many things!

Congratulations to all the graduates, be it elementary schoolers moving on to middle school, high schoolers moving on to college or employment, and college grads entering "the real world." Your community salutes and supports you in your new endeavors and next adventures! **Community Calendar**

Father's Day - June 20 Summer Begins - June 20 Independence Day - July 4 KPWCA Board Meeting - July 20 Herald Deadline - August 4 KPWCA Board Meeting - August 17 Herald Delivery - August 21

I want to thank our newest KPWCA volunteers as block captains and the new Herald editor! There are plenty more opportunities for anyone looking to get more involved in the community and share their talent and time. I hope to see many of you at our September general membership meeting, and hopefully we will be able to meet in person again—stay tuned.

I wanted to share a gentle reminder that *no matter the season or situation*, everyone should be respectful of their neighbors and obey the Fairfax County parking regulations. No parking is allowed within 10 feet of a driveway, within 15 feet of a fire hydrant, within 20 feet of an intersection, or within 30 feet of a stop sign. I know we're all glad that our roads are being repaved, but everyone I'm sure understands that this can cause some temporary challenges for parking.

As many hopefully know, the KPWCA website has been completely revamped and improved. Please check it out at kpwca.org and let us know what you think! (We love constructive feedback.) We have posted updated KPWCA board position descriptions and committee descriptions (to help people find the best place for them to join the team) and most recently, old editions of the Heralds have been added. We would love to share any neighborhood pictures that you may have on the website, too; this is a site for all of us in the community! You can email me or our new webmaster, Tim Hartle, at website@kpwca.org.

So with that, enjoy your time with family and friends, travel safely, and I wish you all a happy and healthy summer.

Sarah Lennon, President, KPWCA

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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	Kaycie Blaylock	boardmember2@kpwca.org		
	Donna Thomas	boardmember1@kpwca.org		
Committees	1			
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	Linda Reamy		(703) 978-1564	
Community Support Services				
Consumer Affairs	Mary Hovland			
Dumpster Day	Mary Hovland			
GMU Student Liaison	Vacant			
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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			

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.	The Herald Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: August 4 for delivery on August 21. Note: Acceptance of articles and advertising does not constitute endorsement by the KPWCA, nor liability for products or services advertised in its publications. Subscriptions: If you are moving out of the neighborhood and want to keep in touch with community news, get a subscription. Send \$25 per year to: Kings Park West Civic Association, P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114.
How do I advertise in The Herald? Classifieds: Classified ads for the April issue must be received no later than August 4 to Gayle Ostrom, 4912 Gainsborough Drive, Fairfax, VA 22032 or at classified@kpwca.org. Please print clearly and include payment to KPWCA. Provide your name, address, and phone number. Rates: \$5 per issue for 35 words or \$40 per year (8 issues/35-word ad). Found items listed free. Advertisements: Advertisements are received by Gayle Ostrom; please email classified@kpwca.org for rates.	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 endorsement by the KPWCA.

Volunteer Opportunities

Membership Co-Chair: Kings Park West Civic Association needs your help! A membership co-chair position is open, and we are looking for someone to help us! This is a shared effort in overseeing the annual membership campaign, which is held during the month of October. This volunteer will coordinate with the block captains, answer emails, prepare packets, and coordinate on data entry with a dedicated group of volunteers! Please consider getting involved and helping KPW. Interested? Questions? Please email president@kpwca.org.

Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) Trail Maintenance Volunteers:

Every three months, the FORL organizes a morning when neighborhood volunteers work to improve areas in need of attention on the trail around the lake. For more information, please contact Andy Karp, FORL trail maintenance lead, at KarpAndy7@gmail.com.

KPWCA Sign Posting: *30 minutes per month.* KPWCA maintains three signs that serve to keep KPW residents informed of community activities. We have a team for each sign and would like to add a member to each team. Responsibility is to post



announcements provided by the KWPCA Board periodically throughout the year.

Parks & Lake Committee: A few hours per month in the months leading up to the April and October cleanups. We are looking for 3-5 motivated members to help plan and organize twice-a-year park/lake clean-ups. Please contact KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com.

Neighbor Assist Volunteers: *As needed*. Looking for friendly callers (a great way to volunteer without having to leave your home), computer experts to provide IT assistance, and handyman volunteers. Contact Bruce Wallachy at wallbdc@gmail.com.

Road Raiders: *30 minutes month*. Performs common area clean-up around neighborhood once per month early Saturday mornings. Please contact KPWRoadRaiders@gmail.com.

Invasive Management Area: *3 hours a few times per year*. Details at grsykes.com. Send an email to greg@grsykes.com and ask to be on the volunteer distribution list.







Fairfax City – Old Town Square Select Fridays from 6:30pm to 9:30pm

June 25 - The Rockets July 23 - Trial by Fire August 27 - The Reflex September 24 - Sudden M Pac October 22 - The Darby Brothers



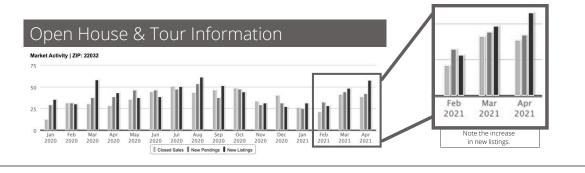
KPW Market Appears to be "Normalizing." What Does This Mean?

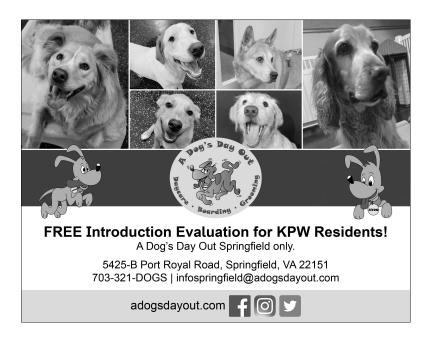
Early projections predicted that 2021 would be similar to 2020: low home inventory, low interest rates and lots of buyers. In truth, the year started that way, as noted in the graph below. However, close scrutiny of recent months reveals that home inventory is increasing, with a notable rise in number of homes for sale. While much of 2020 and early 2021 was described as a "frenzied" market, we are now normalizing into a "robust" market. This should mitigate extreme inflation of home prices due to low inventory.

KPW Home Sale Stats

YTD Sold: 37 Average Price: \$691,787 Range: \$607,000-\$831,000 Under Contract*: 12 *(as of 6/2/21)

In Kings Park West, homes are still receiving multiple offers in some instances, but instead of 13 to 15 offers, it's 3 to 5 offers. The takeaway? If you are looking to sell, adjust your expectations accordingly, and remember that properly prepared homes always sell more quickly than those with obvious presentation defects.





kings park west herald's list

by cathy deloach

Warmer weather inspires us to improve the exterior of our homes, sprucing and refining that first glance impression presented to visitors. As you focus on your lawn and landscaping, don't forget that worn and cracked concrete can diminish the overall impact of an otherwise well-manicured yard.

I recently moved my walkway, expanded my driveway and resurfaced both using the wonderful folks at JP Companies. Please consider giving them a call if you would like to refresh walkways, patios, driveways or any other hardscape surface.

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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.

We have some dedicated individuals with skills that you may not have to fix issues in your home. Since we can't list all the types of items that we can repair or fix, it is best to send an email to us at **KPWNeighborAssist@gmail.com**.

Please provide your **contact information, name, phone number, street address, and a brief description** of what you would like us to do. Then, we can assign the right individual to contact you.

If the request is bigger than we can take on, 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.

We will be following the mask-wearing requirements of the state and county officials. So, please comply with that direction in keeping both you and us safe from coronavirus.

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.

KPW Scholarship Thank You

Dear KPWCA Scholarship Committee,

I am honored to be one of the recipients of the KPWCA Scholarship. Thank you for your generous award!

I am blessed to be able to attend Liberty University in the fall of 2021 and plan to study Computer Science. I have worked hard to earn good grades. I plan to keep up the hard work and continue this success in college.

This scholarship of \$1,000 will go towards paying for books and other college expenses, making college more affordable for me. It also allows me to take ownership of some of the costs of getting an education.

Doing community service throughout high school made me realize the value of helping those in need. Thank you for helping me pay for school!

Sincerely, Nathan Patrick



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

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

- Spring turf clean-up
- Mowing and Edging Walkways
- Shrub Pruning
- o Shrub Removal and Replacement
- Flower bed clean out and flower rotation
- o Mulching
- o Aerate/Overseed & Lawn Care Renovation
- Landscape Design, Installation including Hardscapes (Walkways/Patios/Walls)
- o Holidays, Fall Weddings, Parties, Yard Enhancements

We appreciate the opportunity to be your full-service grounds care company through the coming seasons.

We welcome your questions, comments, or special service needs. Feel free to call Frank, The Outdoor Man at (703) 425-1748 or E-mail Georgekyle@aol.com

Come Get (Re)Acquainted with Friends of Royal Lake (FORL)!

Did you and your family enjoy the neighborhood parks and use the circuit trail around the lake more this past year with the pandemic? Ever wonder how those trail improvements happen? Who helped spur the installation of the dog waste stations at the parks? Encouraged the KPW Civic Association to support additional months of service for those porta-potties?



Well, wonder no more-it is the small but mighty Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) team of volunteers!

After a long hiatus, the FORL group is excited to host an in-person, community-wide meeting on **Wednesday, June 23, at 7 pm**. As seems only fitting, we will be meeting at the lake—Royal Lake Park, to be exact!

Please bring a chair, as well as some questions and ideas and join us on the hill (where the soonto-be-returning *Braddock Nights* concert series is held). The FORL leadership team has many ideas for improvements to the parks and trails, but we want to hear from YOU!

Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw will join us to share his thoughts and give us an opportunity to explain to him what our priorities are, as well. We also hope to pay tribute to Ed Richardson, our strong ally and partner in the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) for many years, who is heading to a well-deserved retirement at the end of the month.



Visit kpwca.org

One Restoration Site, Two Outcomes

Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

The Invasive Management Area (IMA) program, which is sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), supports many habitat restoration sites throughout county parks.

On October 8, 2018, the first action on one IMA site began near Royal Lake as a corporate workday for Accenture and provided children with service hours. Led by two IMA site leaders who had FCPA permission to pull targeted invasive species, this group made tremendous progress eradicating species, such as multiflora rose, porcelain-berry, Amur honeysuckle, and winged burning bush. Since runoff from a storm drain outfall cuts through the site, erosion is a concern so going slow while preserving soil integrity is better than tearing up the ground.

Additional work over the months opened space for native plantings to begin, including red chokeberry, arrowwood viburnum, willow oak, flowering dogwood, several aster and boneset species, golden ragwort, woodland phlox, eastern enchanter's nightshade, Jacob's ladder, golden Alexander, bottlebrush grass, northern river oats, and Pennsylvania sedge. Best of all, some of the native plants started coming back, such as boxelder trees and Virginia creeper, which are excellent floodplain plants for soil control.

Over two years later, the site still needs attention but is on the way to recovery. One of the two residential neighbors, whose property backs up to this site, was great and left it to nature and site leaders to encourage the restarction process (Figure 1, photographed wi



Figure 1. At this time, blooming golden ragwort is the most conspicuous native plant in this reviving natural area. Other species will soon flower.



Figure 2. Few native plants arise in this plot blitzed by encroachment. Thickly dumped yard debris stifles native flora and obstructs volunteers from pulling tough, invasive vines (e.g., ground ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and English ivy), which survive through leaf piles and reemerge.

restoration process (Figure 1, photographed with back to the fence line).

Sadly, the other neighbor, who knew about the project, decided to indiscriminatingly whack everything back and dump yard waste, which smothered smaller native plants, onto the site (Figure 2, same day and camera settings as Figure 1). (Continued on next page.)

(Continued from previous page.) These actions are counterproductive and against park rules. Additionally, this yard debris had pieces of invasive Pachysandra in it, which was not previously present at this site. Left in moist soil and leaf litter, Pachysandra can re-root and establish a new weed patch. Combing through the leaves, a volunteer pulled the Pachysandra before it could grow, but any seeds from other invasive species wait undetected until they sprout.

Any private land and housing "entitlements" end at the property line without extending into parks. Perhaps an ultimate irony is when people justify such actions by claiming that they want to get rid of poison ivy—activity like this actually **encourages** poison ivy to thrive! Poison ivy is an early succession native—the kind of species that colonizes recently disturbed soil, which is why it is common around roadsides and abandoned farm fields.

Many chapters remain to be written on how this story turns out. Natural area rehabilitation takes years or decades—longer than anyone wants. That time is crucial as it balances eradicating weeds, cultivating native plants, minimizing erosion, and preserving soil.

We welcome new IMA volunteers; even better if folks would like to be trained and granted the FCPA permits to become an IMA site leader! Let me know how you would like to participate by sending a message to greg@grsykes.com. As seen here, education, coordination, and lawful activity are keys to successful habitat restoration and for both people and wildlife to enjoy the native environment.

A full color version of this article is available at grsykes.com (look for eco-article 106a).



Invasive Species Profile: Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: China, Taiwan, North Korea U.S. Introduction: 1784, in Philadelphia, PA Life Cycle: Perennial tree Means of Spreading: seeds; suckers along roots Commercially Available: no Control Method: hand-pull seedlings, herbicide applications for saplings and mature trees Good Alternative Species: staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*); American hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*)

Tree-of-heaven is an invasive species topping the list of botanical misnomers! At first, this ornamental tree might seem like a landscaper's dream as it easily and quickly grows in many different soil types and climates. It even tolerates city life and urban pollution. Reaching 70 feet or so, they are valued as a hardy shade tree. Their wood can be fashioned into furniture, steamer baskets (mostly in its Chinese homeland), and charcoal. A moniker like "tree-of-heaven" further promoted this species into widespread usage starting in the 1800s.

Into the 20th century, people recognized some of *Ailanthus*' positive aspects to be a double-edged sword. Without too many pests or other biological controls, that fast growth in numerous habitats is now considered weedy. The roots can penetrate concrete structures, such as building foundations and sewer pipes—a big problem in cities!

Suckers spring up along the roots. Its dense coverage outcompetes native plants. Cutting *Ailanthus* back is like trying to decapitate the mythical Hydra: instead of killing it, chopping stimulates even more growth! If that vegetative expansion was not enough, the female trees generate seed masses that spread to other areas; the wing-like flanges help winds to disperse these fruits. Furthermore, *Ailanthus* has allelopathic properties, meaning that it secretes toxins into the soil to ward off competing plants from forming too closely or too densely. Trees that grow fast and multiply rapidly often live a short life and, averaging only 50 years, *Ailanthus* adheres to that generalization.

Invasiveness aside, a big question as to why anyone would want a tree-of-heaven revolves around the vile stench it emits when branches break or foliage gets crushed. The pungent odor, resembling rotting garlic pastries, is absent from finished wood products.

Hand-pulling seedlings is one method of controlling *Ailanthus*. Since cutting back stems stimulates its regenerative properties, herbicides are currently the best way to kill the mature trees. In Fairfax County parks, only trained staff and county contractors treat these trees, so report these *Ailanthus* locations to the Invasive Management Area Program Manager, Patricia Greenberg (patricia.greenberg@fairfaxcounty.gov), or use https://www.eddmaps.org/ outside of county parks.

The trees growing by Crooked Creek Park are slated for herbicide application this year. Last year, one of these mature *Ailanthus* trees had a sticky trap on it (Figure 2)—a monitoring station for another, newer invasive species: the spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). Native to southeast Asia, spotted lanternfly's (SLF) first American sighting was in Pennsylvania in 2014. Its first Virginia discovery was three years ago in the city of Winchester. As of 2020, the closest it has come to the D.C. area is Clarke County, VA. (Continued on next page.)



Figure 1. Features characterizing tree-of-heaven include large, compound leaves (A), prominent leaf scars on branches (B), and winged fruits on female plants (C). Seed masses can weigh down branches (D).

(Continued from previous page.) SLF both ingest significant amounts of sap out of many different tree species and defecate undigested sap called honeydew. Honeydew buildup creates a perfect environment for opportunistic yeasts and fungi, like sooty mold, to grow. Sooty mold is one of the major causes of agricultural crop loss due to the SLF. Accumulation of the sugary waste around the base of trees can also attract ants and wasps. SPF coevolved with and prefer to feed on *Ailanthus*, despite the tree's chemical defenses, and the tree can tolerate feeding damage from SLF.

Controlling the host tree population may help manage the invasive insect. To the chagrin of many beekeepers, European honeybees drink the lanternflies' honeydew, adding impurities to the nectar-based honey. Lanternfly honeydew from *Ailanthus* sap imparts a strange flavor to the honey. More on SLF follows this article and is reprinted with permission.

Researchers recently identified a fungal species, Verticillium



Figure 2. Using the Ailanthus as a lure, the trap captures any SLF drawn to the tree at this monitoring situation.

nonalfalfae, that appears to be a Mid-Atlantic native and kills *Ailanthus*. While this fungus naturally infects *Ailanthus*, it is not completely controlling the invasive tree on its own. Best results occur when applying the *Verticillium* inoculum to cuts on the trunk. Initial experiments show promise that this pathogen will be a good biological control against *Ailanthus*.

Folks wanting a majestic shade tree have many native alternatives for tree-of-heaven, such as American hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*), chestnut oaks (*Quercus montana*), and pignut hickories (*Carya glabra*). Black walnuts (*Juglans nigra*) develop into grand shade trees with feathery, compound leaves similar to *Ailanthus*, but their allelopathy restricts some garden plants beneath the dripline. Fast-growing natives include river birches (*Betula nigra*) and Virginia pines (*Pinus virginiana*). Staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*) is a native tree with leaf and branch structure similar to *Ailanthus*. Other sumacs worth considering include the aromatic (*R. aromatica*) and winged (*R. copallinum*) species.

A full color version of this article, as well as additional resources on tree-of-heaven, is available at grskyes.com (look for eco-article 10b).





The spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) is an invasive plant pest that was introduced to the United States in 2014. It was found in Winchester, Virginia in January 2018.

A quarantine is now established but there may be populations outside of the quarantine area that have not yet been found.

It feeds on more than 70 different species of plants including the invasive tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*). This insect is of interest to managers to contain new populations as early as possible.

What do I do if I find one?

- Try to capture it in a bag, jar or lidded container and store in the freezer.
- Take a few good pictures, noting the identifying features.
- Note the location where you may have seen the insect.
- Call Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division at 703-324-1770, TTY 711 or email at pestmail@fairfaxcounty.gov
- An urban forester will reach out to you for more information.



All photos : Lawrence Barringer Pennsylvania Dept of Agriculture, bugwood.org

A Fairfax Co. Publication, Sept. 2020





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Girl Scout News

In May, Girl Scout Troop 1356 placed painted gnomes on the trails around Royal Lake for neighbors to find. Each gnome had a QR code to scan that brought up a video of girls talking about their favorite pastimes in Girl Scouts! You can view all videos posted until the end of the summer at https://flipgrid.com/gnomehunt.

If your school-age daughter is interested in joining Girl Scouts next year, please contact Cheryl at cosborne@gscnc.org or visit gscnc.org.



Your KPW chartered - BSA Troop 1966 Spring Events and Activities

The Spring has been a busy time for the scouts, including camping, canoeing, merit badges, and community service







From the Shenandoah River TO

Islamorada, FL SeaBase High Adventure Camp Summer 2022







Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 hopes everyone is healthy and happy and wishes everyone a happy end of the school year to everyone! And with the warmer months come more opportunities for use to get outside and enjoy nature.

At a recent Den meeting, the Wolf Den (2nd graders) received an interactive paleontology lesson from a local fossil hunter.

First, they learned about the tools of the trade which included climbing gear, rock picks, and earth sifters. Then, they got a brief hands-on lesson of life on earth starting with trilobite fossils (450 million years old), dinosaurs bones and claws (100 million years old), and then



mega shark teeth (15 million years old). In early June, the Den will do their own fossil hunting at Calvert Cliff State Park in southern Maryland.

The Bear Den (3rd graders) continued their year by learning about local Native American cultures and how to care for their pets in April. In May, the Den went into the woods and into the wild, learning how to identify native trees and plants, invasive species, and local snakes, and learned about the importance role of aquatic wetlands and flyways. The Den put what they learned into practice when they hiked on the rollercoaster section of the Appalachian Trail and camped overnight at Bear's Den lodge in Bluemont, VA.





The Webelos Den (Den 6) went camping in April at Prince William Forest National Park. The Den met up with members of Scouts BSA Troop 1966 who instructed them in Scout craft skills, camping techniques, and map reading and orienteering skills. The Scouts then put what they learned to use by going on an orienteering-based hike! In May, the Pack went to Mt. Airy, MD to build and launch rockets with the NARHAMS Model Rocket Club. Each Scout received a model rocket kit to build and decorate and then launch. After a day of rocketry, the Scouts camped out at Pinecliff Park in Frederick, MD.



If you're interested in learning more about Cub Scouts, what we do, and what we have planned, please contact us and join us for a Den meeting. For more information contact us at CubScout.Pack.1967@gmail.com.



All rising Kindergarteners through 5th grade are welcome.

Cub Scouts is a community-based organization open to all children between the ages of 5 to 11. Members are organized by grade level and challenged with numerous activities including STEM, arts, camping, and civic-based engagement.

Cub Scouts learn how to be a leader, learn about and help their community, fish, go camping, go hiking, earn awards, play games, launch rockets, race boats, retire flags, make and eat s'mores by the campfire, build and race Pinewood Derby cars, and make new friends to name a few.

We will have a few events over the summer where current and any perspective Scouts can have fun and learn a little something, too. Feel free to join us at any of these! And if you can't make it to one of the events, feel free to contact Cubmaster Matt Jones at cubscout.pack.1967@gmail.com.

Pack 1967 Summer Activities

JUNE

June 13, 2 p.m. Water Rockets at Lakeside Park June 26, 7 p.m. Firefly Run at Laurel Ridge

AUGUST

August 22, 4 p.m. Back to School BBQ

JULY

July 3 Marching in the Fairfax 4th of July Parade

July 10, 2 p.m. Ice cream and fishing and Royal Lake Park

> July 25, 5 p.m. Hike at Great Falls



Does your Electrical Panel need a Health & Safety Check?

Yes, if it's over 30 years old!

Many older circuit panels were manufactured with <u>dangerous flaw</u>s*. Aging parts can malfunction, melt down and catch fire, endangering your home.

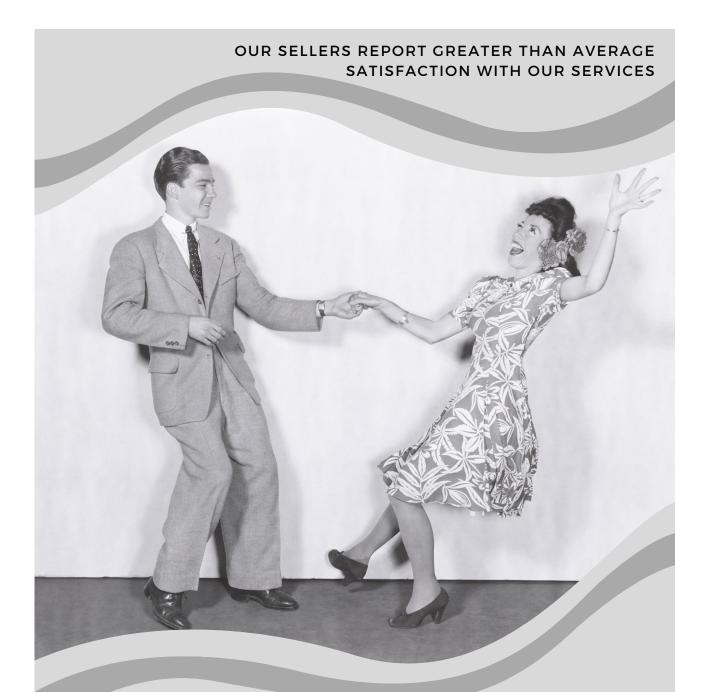
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ELEMENTARY TUTOR: Grades 1-5 for reading, writing, and

math. Retired FCPS teacher with 30+years' experience and KPW resident. Call, text or email Hope Brady at 703-585-0445 or hopebrady18@gmail.com

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