Kings Park West Civic Association
— 2024 Membership Form —

STEP 1: MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s):

Address:

Home Phone:

Cell Phone:

Email:

Would you like to receive email updates from KPWCA? Circle: YES or NO

STEP 2: ADDITIONAL DONATIONS

Kings Park West Civic Association Activities

$25

1. Membership Dues (Required)

2. Herald Newsletter

3. Common Grounds Maintenance

4. Parks & Lake

5. Scholarships

6. Scout Packs & Troop

7. Halloween Fall Festival

8. Spring Egg Hunt

9. Unrestricted Community Use

Other Community Support

10. Volunteer Fire Department

11. Robinson All Night Grad Party

12. Pools in Our Community

13. Braddock Nights

TOTAL DOLLAR AMOUNT

I’m Interested in Volunteering:

Block Captain/Membership Welcome Committee

Herald Newsletter Streets & Signboards

Parks & Lake Dumpster Day

Spring Egg Hunt Fall Festival

Paying Online?
You can complete this form and pay via PayPal using the QR code or at kpwca.org

Paying by Check?
Please make checks payable to KPWCA and return to your Block Captain or mail to:

KPWCA, P.O. Box 7114
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

STEP 3: PAYMENT TYPE

☐ Cash ☐ Check (#_____)

Online (PayPal Payer’s Name:___________)

Contributions to KPWCA are not deductible for federal income tax purposes as charitable contributions.
Kings Park West Civic Association
October Membership Drive!

Fall is here, which means it’s time for pumpkin spice lattes, sweatshirts, and the Kings Park West October Membership Drive! Please renew your membership for 2024 today!

The KPW Civic Association serves all of Kings Park West and membership in the Civic Association is for everyone! Whether you’re an original owner or new to the neighborhood, whether you plan to stay for decades or just a couple of years, whether you rent or own your home, and whether you live in an HOA section or not, you benefit from the work of the Civic Association.

The KPW Civic Association is not an HOA. Membership is voluntary, but for just $25 each year you can connect with your neighbors and help us build a better community for all. Here are some of the many benefits sponsored or brought to you by the KPW Civic Association:

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<td>• Halloween Fall Festival</td>
<td>• Royal Lake Community Clean-ups</td>
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<td>• Spring &amp; Fall Dumpster Days</td>
<td>• Sidewalk &amp; Trail Maintenance</td>
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<td>• Park Restrooms &amp; Dog Waste Stations</td>
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Scan this code or visit www.kpwca.org to learn more about the Kings Park West Civic Association and to join or renew your membership today!

If you have any questions, please contact us at membership@kpwca.org.
“If you can be anything, be kind.”

Hey neighbors!

I hope everyone is enjoying some warmer spring-like weather these days. By the time you receive this printed Herald, the Eggstravaganza and FCPS Spring Break will be behind us.

I do hope that many of you reading this had a chance to enjoy our annual spring kick-off event at Laurel Ridge on March 17. The KPW Civic Association is so fortunate to have great partners for this event in the Property Sisters; we could not do it without Cathy DeLoach and her fabulous team providing food trucks, games, prizes, and the Easter Bunny! This fun family event is one of several that the Civic Association puts on each year for the community as a whole, thanks to the annual dues paid to the Civic Association, additional optional member contributions, our scout troops, and volunteers. Membership in the Civic Association is not required to enjoy the event, but I encourage all who attended to consider becoming members if they’re not already! (See QR code below to make the process even easier!)

Help us continue to provide such fun activities to all.

Please mark your calendars for the annual Volunteer Appreciation event on May 14 at 6 pm. More details to follow, but we will gather at Royal Lake Park down by the lake (where the Braddock Nights concert series is held) to celebrate all the amazing volunteers that make our community the best little corner of the world!

Speaking of volunteers … We are still looking for a new Herald editor, but I am delighted to report that the Civic Association has a new treasurer: Alan Morris. Thanks to Dan Joyce for his service on the Board and welcome to the KPWCA team, Alan!

As always, feel free to email me at president@kpwca.org or message me on Facebook with any ideas or suggestions. See you around the neighborhood!

Sarah G.J. 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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<th>Officers</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Sarah Lennon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:president@kpwca.org">president@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Merideth Manella</td>
<td><a href="mailto:vp@kpwca.org">vp@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Pamela Thibodeau</td>
<td><a href="mailto:secretary@kpwca.org">secretary@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Alan Morris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:treasurer@kpwca.org">treasurer@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Members-at-Large</td>
<td>Kaycie Blaylock, Donna Thomas, Jonathan Reiser</td>
<td><a href="mailto:boardmember2@kpwca.org">boardmember2@kpwca.org</a>, <a href="mailto:boardmember1@kpwca.org">boardmember1@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<td>Bruce Wallachy, <a href="mailto:KPWNeighborhoodAssist@gmail.com">KPWNeighborhoodAssist@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Welcoming</td>
<td>Natalie Croitoru, <a href="mailto:welcome@kpwca.org">welcome@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<td>Monica Grover, <a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<td>Herald Communications Editor</td>
<td>Rose Luczak, <a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Herald Advertising and Classifieds</td>
<td>Gayle Ostrom, <a href="mailto:classified@kpwca.org">classified@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Signboards</td>
<td>Jonathan Reiser, <a href="mailto:boardmember3@kpwca.org">boardmember3@kpwca.org</a>, (571) 423-8030</td>
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<td>Web Admin</td>
<td>Tim Hartle, <a href="mailto:website@kpwca.org">website@kpwca.org</a>, (703) 200-8375</td>
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<td>Membership</td>
<td>Nick Schumaker, <a href="mailto:membership@kpwca.org">membership@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<td>Parks and Lake</td>
<td>Tom McCook, <a href="mailto:parks@kpwca.org">parks@kpwca.org</a></td>
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<td>Invasive Species</td>
<td>Greg Sykes, <a href="mailto:greg@grsykes.com">greg@grsykes.com</a></td>
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<td>Keith Jodoin, <a href="mailto:kjodoin@gmail.com">kjodoin@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>Scholarships</td>
<td>Gayle Ostrom, <a href="mailto:geeostrom@gmail.com">geeostrom@gmail.com</a></td>
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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.

How do I advertise in The Herald?
Classifieds: Classified ads for the January issue must be received no later than April 8, 2024, 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.

The Herald
Published eight times a year by the KPWCA. Next deadline: April 8, for online publishing in the website. 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.
As I mentioned in a previous article, 2024 is the beginning of a new gardening project, growing artichokes in Kings Park West. Thomas Jefferson grew artichokes at Monticello in Northern Virginia and brought artichoke seeds to Virginia from France and Italy. He may have planted his seeds directly into the soil, but he may have germinated them earlier in an ancient greenhouse. I will use more modern methods that loosely follow Jefferson’s gardening methods.

I bought my globe artichoke seeds online from a small business, TKE Farms and Gardens. The seeds were advertised as about 75 seeds and, although I did not count them, that is approximately correct. I planted the seeds in an indoor greenhouse in small plastic cups, sat them on root warming pads, and provided light with LED grow lights. Germination started after 5 days and continued for about 10 days. The germination rate was over 90%. Here is my greenhouse.

It has been 13 days since I planted my artichoke seeds and most of the seedlings have produce a set of true leaves. I have watered the seedlings every 3 days and that seems adequate to prevent drying of the soil. My next watering will be done tomorrow. I have decided to water with a bit of fertilizer since artichoke are ferocious feeders and my seed starting soil does not have too much nitrogen and phosphorus in it. I will use some old Miracle that I have on hand.

Here are pictures of my artichoke seedlings 13 days after planting and at the end of February while they were being hardened before planting outside.

My hope is still to plant them outside in early March and cover them to protect them from a light freeze and allow them to go through 120 hours of vernalization.

One aspect of growing artichokes that I want to explore is the use of “companion planting.” Artichokes are threatened by pests such as plume moths, slugs, snails, thrips, and aphids. In order to address this potential pest issue, I will plant onions and marigolds in an attempt to repel pests. Since artichokes grow to a height of 3-4 feet and a width of about the same, they provide a significant amount of shade that could benefit such plants as radishes and lettuce.

A look at the space that I have for artichokes reveals that at the most I may be able to plant about 20 plants in the ground and five plants in containers.

I have obviously germinated more artichoke plants than I can use in my limited garden space. What to do; what to do? If you think you can help, contact me at thefairfaxgardencorner@gmail.com. Happy gardening!
KPW Recommends

by cathy deloach

Another Local Restaurant Gem
Môtier in Clifton - Oh Là Là!!!

If you’re looking to support local businesses and steer clear of chain restaurants, consider taking a drive to Clifton for a visit to Môtier, a charming small restaurant and bakery. Situated in the heart of historic Clifton, Môtier offers only six indoor tables and a few outdoor seating options - reservations are highly recommended! The service is relaxed, so indulge in a glass of wine while waiting for your meal. Rest assured, the wait will be worthwhile.

Our party secured a table for Sunday brunch and savored a Croque Monsieur (a classic grilled ham and cheese sandwich) with a side salad, alongside sampling nearly all the desserts. Each item was delightful, leaving us eager to return for more!

12644 Chapel Rd, Clifton, VA 20124 • (703) 857-0700 • www.motierclifton.com
Community Meeting Offers Details for Royal Lake Parks’ Trail Improvements

By Paul Gross

On February 20th, Friends of Royal Lake (FORL) held a community-wide meeting to discuss the trail and park improvements funded by the $1 million American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money. This money will be used for:

- **Trail connecting Commonwealth Blvd to Royal Lake Circuit trail.** This project will establish a paved trail from the Royal Lake circuit trail to Commonwealth Blvd. The Commonwealth entrance will be near DeQuincey Drive.
- **Rabbit Branch Bridge to be replaced and the surrounding trail upgraded.** The current bridge, while safe, is nearing the end of its useful life.
- **Richardson Drive Entrance to ball fields to be upped and expanded.** The paved entrance has deteriorated and needs to be expanded.
- **Lakepointe Community entrance to be enhanced with official trail.** The 60-yard entrance trail from Lakepointe and the top of dam trail will be upgraded.
- **Lakeside shade structure to be installed over the picnic area at Lakeside Park** (under consideration for another funding source).

These projects are in the early stages of work before completion. FORL will provide updates to the communities surrounding Royal Lake. However, if you would like more information, please see the friendsofroyallake.org website or email friendsofroyallake@gmail.com for a copy of our newsletter with details.

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Parks & Lake Update

Hello, neighbors!

Kelley Newsad and Steve Corley have recently taken over as the new co-chairs of the KPWCA Parks & Lakes Committee.

Kelley and her family moved to the area from Portland, Oregon, in June 2023. The lake, parks, and trail system were a big reason her family chose KPW to call home, and she’s very excited to help keep our community clean and beautiful.

Steve and his family have lived in KPW for over 20 years and have enjoyed seeing the changes to the neighborhood over the years.

We’d like to thank Tom McCook for doing such an amazing job leading the Road Raiders and serving as an invaluable liaison between KPW and the Fairfax County Park Authority!

**Road Raiders is a group of neighbor volunteers** that meets (usually) on the second Saturday of the month from 9-9:30 a.m. Please note the time change to allow those tweens and teenagers a little extra sleep before helping keep our parks and lake pristine.

Our next few events are:
1. April 20, 9 a.m. - noon: Earth Day. KPW has an annual tradition to clean up and explore nature in Lakeside, Royal Lake Parks, and associated stream beds.
2. May 11, 9-9:30 a.m. - location TBD
3. June 8, 9-9:30 a.m. - location TBD

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

These plans may change, and we’ll alert the community via an email distro and Facebook post ~ 1 week prior to the event.

If you’d like to join us OR if you have an area of our community that is neglected by VDOT/sidewalks that need special attention, please let us know at parks@kpwca.com.
Families that are active together – stay together!
Set yourself up for family success in 2024 and beyond. – by Shannon Slayer

“The best kind of parent you can be is to lead by example.”
-- Drew Barrymore

From boosting serotonin levels to improving posture, incorporating movement throughout our daily lives can be immensely beneficial to our well-being. Our little ones are watching us set a wellness example, and we, as parents, should show them that movement is fun! Plus, if we are being honest, we need to keep them active to manage their natural kid energy.

You want your kids to have healthy habits, right? Well, it’s one thing to tell your kids to move more, but it’s even better if you show them what that means. Seeing you exercise sends a powerful message to your little ones - but a more powerful message is incorporating them into your fitness program on some days (when they are old enough, of course!). By seeing you move more, they will want to join in as well, helping them establish an active lifestyle for themselves.

Here are some fun ways you can incorporate family activities in and around your local community.

1. Fresh air – grab your family and go on walks/runs. NoVa has amazing trails to explore. Create a scavenger hunt for your little one(s) to complete. Here is an example you can print and use: Nature Scavenger Hunt – Free Printable – Arts & Crafts Kids Do (artscraftskids.org)

2. Visit local parks; again, NoVa has an abundance of parks with top-notch equipment to explore. Many of them accommodate all age ranges. Some are highlighted here: https://www.pwcva.gov/department/parks-recreation-tourism/parks-and-centers or https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/locator


The list above is a great start to get you out and about with the entire family. You are lucky to have a body that moves, a body that craves activity, and a family that wants to experience life with you as a unit. What will you try first?
Does your Electrical Panel need a Health & Safety Check?

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Invasive Species Profile: Italian Arum (Arum italicum)

By Greg Sykes (greg@grsykes.com)

Native Range: southern and western Europe, northern Africa, and western Asia

U.S. Introduction: an ornamental, first date and place are uncertain

Life Cycle: perennial

Means of Spreading: self-dividing tubers or corms; berries, eaten by wildlife that pass the seeds

Commercially Available: yes

Control Method: dig up young plants and small patches; herbicides have varying degrees of efficacy.

Good Alternative Species: Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum)

Comments: In 2007, when Fairfax County Park Authority’s Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers first started scouring the parks around Royal Lake to remove designated invasive targets, Italian arum (Arum italicum) was nowhere to be seen. Its first sighting here of a single specimen happened in January 2020. Dark green leaves with distinctive silvery veins emerge in late autumn and last into spring (Figure 1). During winter, its foliage contrasts against the dried, brown husks of surrounding deciduous plants. Every year since that first discovery, Italian arum is found with increasing numbers.

In Fairfax County, Italian arum is classified as an Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) species whereas Arlington, Alexandria, and Washington state already label it invasive. Unlike IMA weeds (e.g., English ivy [Hedera helix], Bradford pear [Pyrus calleryana], autumn olive [Elaeagnus umbellata]), which are already major problems in natural areas, EDRR species have yet to fully establish themselves. As their populations are still low, usually because they were relatively recently introduced to the region, EDRR plants lack biological controls and are on their way to invading natural areas. The prime time to truly control and eradicate an EDRR target is when its numbers are still small—the sooner, the better. The best option is prevention by keeping the species out in the first place (Figure 2). Once it is introduced and escapes cultivation, those specimens or tiny populations are easily removed if initially detected, which is where Italian arum now stands in the Fairfax County. Leaving these populations unchallenged allows them to expand, often at rapid rates. Any EDRR species growing outside of parkland—from gardens to neglected lots—have the same expansion potential. After the weed becomes widespread, hopes of eradicating it shift to controlling it or preventing it from reaching ecologically sensitive habitats.

The problems with Italian arum are that those individuals and little clumps can form extensive groundcover mats that bully out native plants. All parts of the arum contain calcium oxalate crystals—a defense against getting eaten by herbivores. In people and pets, exposure can cause a range of symptoms from skin irritation on contact up to death after ingestion. Most critters avoid eating its leaves and roots. However, some birds withstand devouring the arum’s berries only to disperse the seeds through droppings. The ripe fruit clusters look like those of Jack-in-the-pulpit (Figure 3b) but tend to have more of an orange hue and better berry symmetry. Each seed can potentially germinate and multiply into a new patch.
The most effective way to control Italian arum is digging up young specimens. Older plants have deeper roots and corms—a specialized energy storage bulb-like structure—that are already self-dividing to form patches. All of the corms must be removed; any left in the soil will produce a new plant. Cutting back the leaves or only digging up the underground stem means that weed will grow back—sometimes in that same growing season! Large patches might need herbicidal treatments, though some sources claim herbicides perform poorly on arum. Others say chemicals work but require multiple applications over several years to kill the corms. According to Frey & Schmit’s 2019 publication, mixed herbicide treatments containing triclopyr + metsulfuron methyl or glyphosate + metsulfuron methyl were effective. Whenever using herbicides, read and heed the label!

A first-rate native alternative to arum is Jack-in-the-pulpit (Arisaema triphyllum; Figure 3). While this plant belongs to the same family as Italian arum and also has calcium oxalate, its populations stay balanced here in moist woodlands. It naturally ranges across the eastern half of North American. When buying this plant, doublecheck the Latin name because the “Jack-in-the-pulpit” common name is sometimes shared with Arum maculatum, a European species closely related to Italian arum.

For references and a bonus image, please visit https://www.grsykes.com/pdf/eco-articles/128_2024-03.pdf.
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APR 15 2024
TAX DAY!
Spring Real Estate Buzz in Kings Park West
There has been a notable uptick in buyer activity in Kings Park West recently. Properties that listed early are quickly getting sold, closing promptly, and often fetching prices above the asking price. This trend has proven beneficial for homes with minimal updates, as the limited inventory has prompted buyers to make higher offers to secure a property. The upcoming rise in inventory, as indicated by several homes listed as "coming soon" in the MLS, is expected, especially with sellers transitioning to Woodleigh Chase. With more properties entering the market, homes that lack updates may lose their competitive advantage. If you are thinking of selling a property as is, it's wise to take prompt action to enhance your market prospects.

KPW YTD Statistics on Homes Sold*
# of homes sold: 9 at average price of $832,023
Range of price: $655,000 to $1,010,000
Average days on market: 17

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*As of March 7, 2024

Sold Price Reflects Seller Concessions, if Any
Local Scout Earns Messengers of Peace Award

Star Scout Callum Chang from Troop 697 and resident of Gainsborough Drive recently completed the BSA Messengers of Peace Award.

From the BSA website, Messengers of Peace aims to promote a culture of peace and dialogue for mutual understanding, promote service initiatives led by Scouts, support the development of young people affected by conflict situations, provide further connection to the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals and connect Scouts around the world in a global network of 20 million Messengers of Peace. Each level of the Messengers of Peace Program is broken down into four stages: Inspire, Learn & Decide, Do, and Share. The final step in finishing this award is to publish an article about his service project. What better place to do this than in the Herald?

Starting as a Cub Scout in First Grade at Laurel Ridge, Callum is now an accomplished Scout on his way to Eagle with over 80 merit badges and over 100 service hours under his belt for this past school year alone. A 7th Grade straight-A Honor Student at Robinson, he recognized a need at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax for warm blankets, then split the cost of $400 in fabric with his parents. Executing the labor entirely on his own, Callum made 35 adult-sized no-sew fleece blankets. Waiting until the fabric was on sale, carefully measuring, washing and drying the fabric, and clocking in over 50 hours of hard work over the course of 3 months, he tirelessly worked towards his goal of providing comfort to those less fortunate. Knowing that families in his own community and children his own age needed these for the upcoming winter inspired him to only work harder.

Hand delivering the blankets in December 2023, Callum was thrilled to see the empty shelves in the shelter labeled "blankets" filled to the brim once his delivery was complete. He looks forward to further serving his community and working towards his goal of making the world a better place for all.
Girl Scout Service Unit 54-15 Inclusivity Group wants you to know

Girl Scouts is for ALL girls!

No matter what challenges a girl may face, she is welcome to join the Girl Scout Sisterhood!

Girl Scouts provides support, resources, and advocacy for girls with differing abilities, their troop leaders, and families.

Learn more by emailing the Service Unit 54-15 Inclusivity Group at:
SU5415InclusivityGroup@gmail.com
Or by scanning the QR code.
Girl Scout Update!

Troop 4141

On Saturday, February 10, Girl Scout Troop 4141—six sophomores based at Robinson and Woodson—hosted the annual Juliette Cup at Lord of Life Church.

Nearly 90 scouts raced in this annual pinewood derby car race and design competition named after Girl Scouts founder, Juliette Gordon Lowe. Scouts learned all about aerodynamics and car design and raced to see who had the fastest car in their level.

Finalists went head-to-head for the overall title of fastest car. Congratulations to Brownie Sofia S. for earning the fastest car of the 2024 Juliette Cup with her Taylor Swift “Bejeweled” car.

The host troop also selected one car’s design in each scout level and participants voted on the finalists for coveted best in show trophy. Congratulations to Gianna R., whose 3-D printed Year of the Dragon entry won best in show. Thank you to Boy Scout Pack 1967, allowing us to use and manage the track for our event!
Cub Scout Pack 1967 News

Pack 1967 has had a fun start to 2024, recently holding two of our marquee events. On February 10, the scouts took part in this year’s Pinewood Derby at Lord of Life Church (Bottom right). They competed for best in speed and best in show, with many fast cars raced and lots of creative designs. Winners in respective Dens went on to compete in the Patriot District championships on March 2, where multiple Pack 1967 scouts took home trophies for placing in the top 3!

On March 3, the Pack held our annual Blue and Gold celebration, headlined by our Arrow of Light scouts officially bridging over into Scouts BSA to begin a new chapter in their scouting lives (Bottom left). Instead of the usual dinner format, the Blue and Gold took a different approach this year. Hosted at Cinema Arts Theater in Fairfax, the Arrow of Light scouts bridged over in the movie theater followed by a showing of a scout cult classic, Down & Derby.

Congratulations to all our Arrow of Light scouts!

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