

March 2025

Vol. 55, Issue 1

Kings Park West Civic Association

## Community begins with you.

I've always believed that a strong neighborhood isn't just about the houses—it's about the people. It's about us. It's the quick hello's on a morning walk, the familiar faces at local events, and the way we look out for one another. Community isn't something that just happens. It's something we create—together.

That's why I'm inviting you to take part in shaping the future of our neighborhood civic association. Whether you've been here for years or just moved in, your voice and energy matter. We need people who like getting things done, who want to connect, and who believe that small actions add up to something bigger.

Do any of these statements sound like you? Then we'd love to have you join us—on the board, as a volunteer, or even just by showing up and sharing ideas.

- **"There's something in my neighborhood I wish would change."** Maybe it's a safety concern, an issue with traffic, or a lack of public spaces—joining the association gives you a way to advocate for solutions.
- **"I want to make sure my voice is heard."** Decisions affecting the neighborhood shouldn't be made without community input—joining gives you a seat at the table with local government.
- **"I want to meet my neighbors and feel more connected."** A strong neighborhood is built on relationships, and the association helps foster them through clubs and events.
- **"I want to help plan events and activities that bring people together."** Whether it's a block party, clean-up day, or the Halloween festival, there's always room for creative ideas.
- **"I want to welcome new neighbors and make sure everyone feels at home."** Creating a more inclusive and friendly neighborhood is made possible through the work of our Block Captains.
- **"I want to give back and make a difference where I live."** Whether big or small, every contribution helps shape the community.
- **"I have skills or expertise that could be useful."** From organizing events to managing finances, associations benefit from all kinds of talents.
- **"I want to help build something that lasts."** A well-run association can have a long-term impact on everything from property values to the overall quality of life in the neighborhood.

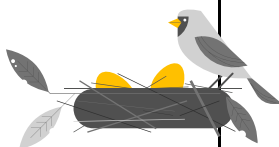
If your answer is yes, then let's talk. Reach out, attend a meeting, or just stop me when you see me around the neighborhood. Our community works best when we come together to make this neighborhood a place we are proud to call home.

We know that life is busy, which is why our upcoming April membership meeting will be virtual. You can join from anywhere—your couch, your office, and even on the go. This is your chance to hear about the work our incredible volunteers are doing and find ways to get involved that fit your time and interests. No big commitments, just opportunities to make a difference in ways that work for you.

Looking forward to seeing you soon—whether online, at an event, or out and about.  
Warmly.

Helen Santoro

President, KPWCA



Help us continue to provide fun activities to all. Join at [www.kpwca.org](http://www.kpwca.org)

OR

Scan the QR code to make the membership process even easier



<b>Kings Park West Civic Association</b> P.O. Box 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114 General Information: <a href="mailto:info@kpwca.org">info@kpwca.org</a>   Community Association: <a href="mailto:kpwhoa@yahoo.com">kpwhoa@yahoo.com</a>   Website: <a href="http://kpwca.org">kpwca.org</a>		
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Vice President	Merideth Manella	<a href="mailto:vp@kpwca.org">vp@kpwca.org</a>
Secretary	Pamela Thibodeau	<a href="mailto:secretary@kpwca.org">secretary@kpwca.org</a>
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Committees		
Common Grounds Maintenance	Laura Hall / Linda Reamy	
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Parks and Lake	Kelley Newsad	<a href="mailto:parks@kpwca.org">parks@kpwca.org</a>
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Community Services		
Invasive Species	Greg Sykes	<a href="mailto:greg@grsykes.com">greg@grsykes.com</a>
Special Activities		
Fall Festival	Keith Jodoin	<a href="mailto:kjodoin@gmail.com">kjodoin@gmail.com</a>
Scholarships	Gayle Ostrom	<a href="mailto:geeostrom@gmail.com">geeostrom@gmail.com</a>

<p><b>How do I join the Kings Park West Civic Association?</b></p> <p>Visit our website (<a href="http://kpwca.org">kpwca.org</a>) to complete the online membership form and to pay online. You can also print the membership form from the website to fill it out and mail your form and check to 5616i Ox Road #7114 Fairfax Station, VA 22039</p>	<p><b>How do I get my news in The Herald?</b></p> <p>The easiest way to get your news items in The Herald is to email the editor at <a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a>. 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><b>The Herald</b></p> <p>Published in print four times a year and hand-delivered to all 1,900 homes in KPW. Next deadline: <b>May 9, 2025</b> for <b>June</b> print edition.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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 for \$25/year, please contact <a href="mailto:editor@kpwca.org">editor@kpwca.org</a></p>	<p><b>How do I advertise in The Herald?</b></p> <p>Please contact <a href="mailto:classifieds@kpwca.org">classifieds@kpwca.org</a> for more information on publishing an ad or a classified in The Herald. The deadline for submissions for the June edition is May 9, 2025.</p> <p>The 2025 ad pricing structure is:</p> <table><tr><td></td><td><b>1-2 issues</b></td><td><b>3-4 issues</b></td></tr><tr><td>▪ 1/8 page</td><td>\$30/issue</td><td>\$27/issue</td></tr><tr><td>▪ 1/4 page</td><td>\$55/issue</td><td>\$50/issue</td></tr><tr><td>▪ 1/2 page</td><td>\$110/issue</td><td>\$100/issue</td></tr><tr><td>▪ Full page</td><td>\$360/issue</td><td>\$350/issue</td></tr></table> <p>Classified ads are <b>\$5</b> per issue for <b>35</b> words.</p>		<b>1-2 issues</b>	<b>3-4 issues</b>	▪ 1/8 page	\$30/issue	\$27/issue	▪ 1/4 page	\$55/issue	\$50/issue	▪ 1/2 page	\$110/issue	\$100/issue	▪ Full page	\$360/issue	\$350/issue
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▪ Full page	\$360/issue	\$350/issue														

## Meet the Board & Join the Team!

Our board members dedicate their time to make sure our association thrives. They're your neighbors—parents, professionals, retirees, and community-minded individuals who simply want to see good things happen here.

### Helen Santoro, President



I believe in the power of community and the importance of knowing your neighbors. I've lived out that philosophy as a musician and educator, teaching piano and voice to over 100 kids in our area over the last 15 years. My goal as president of the civic association is to make it

easy and enjoyable for everyone to get involved, shaping a neighborhood where we all feel at home. Off duty, you can find me making DIY improvements, building furniture, and doting on my three adorable cats and amazing husband!

### Alan Morris, Treasurer



My primary role as Treasurer is to steward the cash received from KPWCA dues and additional contributions, pay the bills, and keep accurate records. I joined as Treasurer as me and my family - wife (Silva), son (Conor), and daughter (Elena) - benefit from being a part of such a wonderful community, and the KPWCA supports activities (e.g., Halloween festival, Spring egg hunts, scholarships, parks & lake & grounds beautification) and organizations (e.g., pools, Scouts, volunteer fire departments, etc.) that help the community engage and thrive.

### Merideth "Meri" Manella, Vice President

Foreign service folks are accustomed to building community wherever we land. The Manella clan landed in KPW in July 2022, and I got involved with the KPWCA as soon as we settled. In addition to serving as Helen's right hand and sounding board, I am the proud Charter Organization Representative for Scouting America Troop 1966 and Pack 1967. With work, kids, dogs, and a husband, there isn't a ton of free time. Still, when there is, I'm at the barn riding horses, looking at horses, grooming horses, cleaning up after horses, talking to horses, educating people about horses down on the National Mall...I think you get the picture!



### Pamela Thibodeau, Secretary

My name is Pamela, and I've been the secretary of the civic association since 2023. As an Army wife, I've moved around a lot (10 states and countries in the last 20 years), and what I love about Kings Park West is the strong sense of community here. I decided to run for secretary because I really wanted to get involved in helping foster and develop that sense of community and give back a little to a neighborhood I've really come to love.



### Jonathan Reiser, At-Large Member

### Jeremy Hatfield, At Large Member

## Want to get more involved in the KPWCA?

We currently have open board and volunteer positions, and we need people who:

- Like getting things done
- Want to connect with their neighbors
- Have ideas for making our neighborhood even better

Sound like you? Let's chat! Whether you're interested in a leadership role or just want to help with a small project, there's a place for you here.

If you are interested in being on the KPWCA board, one of our three at-large positions is currently open.

If you love spreadsheets and processes, we seek volunteers to join our membership committee.

If you love our parks, we'd love to have you help build out our parks and lake committee.

If any of this piques your interest, let us know!  
board@kpwca.org





## Volunteer Spotlight: The People Who Make It Happen

Each quarter, we'll highlight a volunteer who's making an impact. These are everyday people who decided to step up, and we're grateful for every one of them. Know someone we should feature? Let us know by emailing [board@kpwca.org](mailto:board@kpwca.org).

### Sarah Lennon Awarded Special Recognition for Service in Braddock District

By Paul Gross

In December, Braddock District Supervisor James Walkinshaw gave **Sarah Lennon** a Special Recognition for Two Decades of Volunteer Community Leadership. As many of you know, Sarah is a tireless worker and leader who has enhanced Braddock District as a place to live. In her professional life, Sarah is a senior official in the Department of Energy, working on important national nuclear issues. Her efforts and accomplishments in our Braddock District community span over 20 years of sustained service that include the Braddock District Council, Kings Park West Civic Association (KPWCA), and Friends of Royal Lake (FORL).

Sarah was the Vice-Chair of the Braddock District Council from 2022 to 2023. She worked with others to revitalize the organization's focus on new topics relevant to the Braddock District and to expand outreach to the district's communities. Supervisor Walkinshaw publicly recognized Sarah for her efforts.

Sarah has been actively involved in KPWCA for over 20 years as Chair of the Membership Committee, Chair of the Parks and Lakes Committee, and for the past four years as President of KPWCA. In these various roles, she made significant improvements in the Kings Park West community. Her leadership skills were apparent when she recruited new individuals for key KPWCA committee positions, thus keeping the Civic Association a vital force in community life. Several important activities that were enhanced under her positive leadership style as President were the Spring Egg Hunt and Fall/Halloween Festival, which have become important activities that bring together various members of our diverse community. She also recruited local businesses to assist and participate in these community-wide activities.

Sarah is a co-founder and co-chair of FORL since the start of the organization in 2015. FORL is a volunteer organization of neighbors who want to preserve and protect the natural beauty

around Royal Lake and ensure a family environment to enjoy the outdoors. FORL works with Fairfax County Park officials, leads park clean-up days, organizes trail maintenance activities, participates in invasive plant removal and represents the community by advocating for improvements at Royal Lake Parks. FORL's efforts involve a wide variety of activities from conducting community surveys, holding community meetings, developing a Royal Lake Vision Plan, publishing newsletters, supporting Eagle Scout projects, hauling and spreading stone dust on park trails, and picking up trash in park cleanups. Sarah is involved in all the aspects of FORL's mission, especially leading park cleanups, trail maintenance activities and advocating to the Fairfax County Park Authority for major park enhancements.

Sarah's impressive track record over 20 years of service to the communities in Braddock District was definitely worthy of Supervisor Walkinshaw's recognition.



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## IN KINGS PARK WEST

By Linda H. Bassert

What questions are on your mind about design and decorating for the interior and exterior of your home? How do you transform your house to reflect your personality and taste and meet your functional needs in an updated way? How do you create a home environment that you would love to come home to every day?

We change over time and then realize we need to update our homes to reflect who we are today. The change might include a move for a new job, or a new home which meets our needs better than the previous one. It might consist of a change in family size, such as when children graduate and move out or a parent moves in with their adult children. It might be the point at which you no longer need to decorate in Fisher-Price toy colors. Whether you just moved into your home in Kings Park West or are a long-time resident, I hope to answer some of those questions here.

My name is Linda Bassert, and I am the design principal and owner of Masterworks Window Fashions & Design, LLC. I have been a resident of Kings Park West since 1998 and started my own business in 2006. Since that time, I have won design awards not by inflicting a “look” on clients but by listening to them and collaboratively helping them achieve the transformations that are best for them. “Your Story is My Inspiration.” If you have questions you would like answered here, please email me at [LHB@masterworksdesign.com](mailto:LHB@masterworksdesign.com), and mention my “At Home” articles for KPW.

Changes in your home require an investment of time and dollars: time to make the right decisions and sometimes to make those changes over time at the investment level that works for your family. How long are you anticipating living in your home? The answer to that question makes a significant difference in the choices you need to make.

If you expect to be in your home for just three years or less, you should focus on investing in items you can take with you to the next home: furnishings, art, and accessories that you would enjoy no matter where you live. You may also consider paint color updates and minor changes that would contribute to appeal at resale, such as updating countertops or flooring in limited spaces. Functional needs, such as privacy or light control at the windows or better lighting in a space, can be accomplished with a modest investment. Trying different arrangements of your furniture would also be helpful.

**Tip:** If you are planning to do painting, be sure to hang up your art before you paint. That way, if you decide after it is up that it would be better in a different location, any holes will be filled in as a part of the painting project. And if the location works well, the artwork can inspire paint color selections. Sometimes people start with painting, but ideally you select paint last, and then do it first. There are many paint colors from which to choose, so it is easier to select furniture, rugs, or art, and then select the paint color which best complements those choices, rather than to paint, and then have to make everything else work with that color.

If you anticipate being in your home for five to ten years, investments that enhance the value of your home, such as remodeling bathrooms or kitchens, can be added to the list above. Changes to the exterior – upgraded lighting, a new mailbox and post, a new garage door, and similar changes to improve lighting and flooring on the interior of your home, are also reasonable investments. Drapery panels and valances or fabric shades soften a space and can help carry the colors and mood of a room to new heights.

For a forever home, a more significant investment enjoyed over a long period of time could include new windows, a new roof, landscaping changes, changes to update furniture, window treatments, and accessories. Sorting out priorities while keeping focused on the transformation you want to ultimately achieve is a challenge for this home.

And if you are looking ahead to downsizing after living in your home for many years, you are considering what to edit, instead of adding, and what to upgrade or update for resale purposes. Taking the “overwhelm” out by breaking down decisions into smaller ones is most helpful here.

In each case, professional advice in the form of a design consultation can offer value to help you make better decisions and better investments, to help you sort out the priorities, and do them in the right order to create a space you love to come home to every day.

Make sure whoever you consult is listening to you, to your needs and your tastes, not focused on making you get rid of things so they can sell you new ones. Don't let anyone bully you into putting their taste in your home – not your children, parents, friends, and certainly not a designer. It's Your Home. Ask questions, listen to their expertise, and then make the decisions that are right for you. There are many choices which could be right for your home. The best advice comes from someone focused on helping you make the right decisions for you.

*Linda Bassert is the Design Principal of Masterworks Window Fashions & Design, LLC, an award-winning interior design and decorating firm, based from her Kings Park West home. Linda was named Designer of the Year 2024 at the 2024 International Window Coverings Expo Grace Awards, and her business has been awarded Best of Houzz 2025 in Design and Service. Masterworks can be found on Houzz, Facebook and Instagram, as well as at [www.masterworksdesign.com](http://www.masterworksdesign.com).*

### How can you support the KPWCA This Quarter

- Show up to our virtual meeting - April 8 (details to come)
- Help plan the upcoming Eggstravaganza or just come out to hide the eggs
- Lend a hand in sprucing up the KPWCA site
- Start a neighborhood club
- Bust out your tools and help us fix up the KPWCA shed
- Renew or start your membership

## KPW Real Estate Corner by Cathy DeLoach

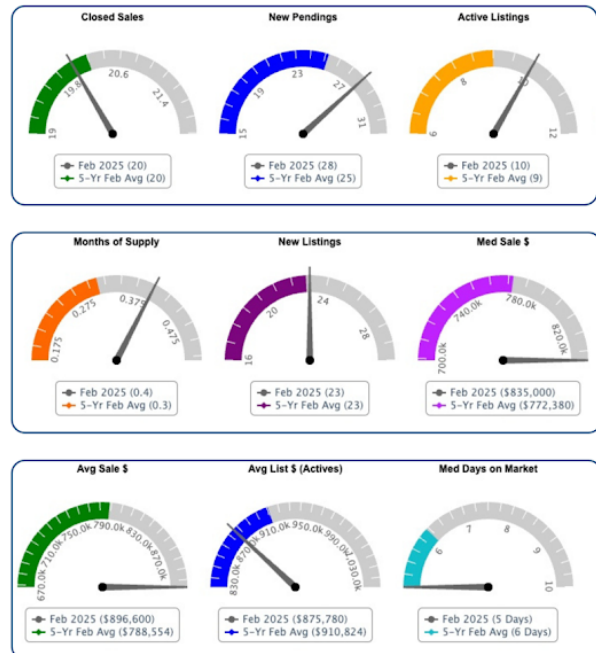


### Is the anxiety surrounding real estate justified at this moment? We don't think so...

With an abundance of federal workers and contractors living in the neighborhood, many of these potential home sellers are experiencing unease. Nevertheless, the latest statistics in the 22032 zip code indicate encouraging signs in the market.

The "gauges" displayed to the right provide a comparison of February 2025 data with that of the previous five years. Key insights from this data are as follows:

- Closed sales are nearly on par with historical averages.
- Active and New Pending listings have seen a slight increase.
- Months of Supply (inventory) have also risen slightly.
- Both Average Sale and Median Sale prices have experienced a **significant** increase.
- There is a modest uptick in Days on Market, which may be reflective of the slight rise in inventory levels.



Thus far in 2025, we are still seeing multiple offers on **well-prepared** homes with limited contingencies including two listings (one closed, one pending) at over \$1,000,000. It is notable that some poorly-prepared homes have come in at lower price points. Perhaps flippers and other market opportunists are feeling cautious at this time. We believe that the lower end of the pricing spectrum will decrease before the higher end does, if it decreases at all.

### KPW YTD Statistics\*

**Number of Homes Sold:** 10

**Average Sold Price:** \$881,716 (\$761,000 to \$1,125,000)

**Average Days on Market:** 17

**Active and Coming Soon:** 4 (\$699,223 to \$975,000)

**Pending or Under Contract:** 3 (\$735,000 to \$1,074,500)

*\*as of March 14, 2025*



## Friends of Royal Lake New Lakeside Park Shade Structure

By Paul Gross

Have you visited Lakeside Park recently and seen the construction of the new shade structure over the concrete pad in the picnic area? The shade structure is nearly complete. If you look closely, you may wonder, where is the canopy? The Lakeside Park shade structure is designed with a fabric canopy that will be set up each spring and taken down for storage in late fall. Another missing item is one of the three new picnic tables, which is missing a top and has been reordered (its disappearance is disappointing). Additionally, the fence around the picnic area pad remains up to allow grass to grow—if summer ever arrives.

You may ask how this project came about. The Friends of Royal Lake assessed the community's desires for improvements to Royal Lake Parks, and providing shade over the picnic area was a high priority. FORL included this need in the "Royal Lake Community Vision Plan" and presented it to the Park Authority officials. This project, while using separate funding, was included with four other Royal Lake Park trail improvement projects funded by the American Rescue Plan Act.

The Park Authority will announce a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the community to celebrate in the spring.



When the canopy is installed in early spring, it will mark a significant addition to Lakeside Park. Special thanks to everyone who supported this project, especially Tom McFarland and Elizabeth "Beth" Iannetta, Park Authority Program Managers, for their dedication in bringing this project to life.

## Parks & Lake Update

By Kelley Newsad

On President's Day, volunteers gathered for another successful park cleanup at Crooked Creek. The event, organized by the KPWCA Road Raiders, saw a handful of participants who worked together to clear debris and pick up litter that would've ended up in our lake. Thanks to their efforts, the park is now in better shape for the community to enjoy.



The cleanup event not only helped improve the environment but also strengthened community bonds. Participants filled over 6 large garbage bags and left with a sense of accomplishment while contributing to the beauty of their local park. Special thanks to all who showed up to lend a hand.

Volunteering counts towards service hour requirements for your school/church/other. We invite everyone to join in our upcoming cleanups and help

maintain our beautiful parks and lake!

Saturday, March 9 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. at the Royal Lake dam  
Saturday, April 19 from 9:00-11:00 for our big Earth Day cleanup at Royal Lake and its surrounding parks

\*\*\* We are also looking for a few volunteers to assist with leading some of the cleanup efforts when Kelley is unable to attend due to family commitments. Please email [parks@kpwca.org](mailto:parks@kpwca.org) if interested. \*\*\*

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**2025 KPWCA Scholarship Application**  
Mail completed form & required information to:  
KPWCA Scholarship Committee  
P.O. BOX 7114, Fairfax Station, VA 22039-7114  
**Deadline/postmarked by: April 25, 2025**

**Applicants parent/guardian must be a member of the King's Park West Civic Association  
on or before the deadline of the application - April 25, 2025.**

<https://kpwca.org/>

The Kings Park West Civic Association will award up to three \$1,250 scholarships to 2025 graduating seniors. Each scholarship will be awarded on the basis of community service, civic activities and extracurricular service involvement (40%), academic achievement (20%), a written essay (20%), and a personal interview (20%). This scholarship is open to seniors who are enrolling in a 4-year college/university, 2-year college, trade or technical training, or formalized Gap Year program.

Please type or write legibly in ink.

- A. 1. Name
2. Address  Phone #
3. E-mail address:
4. Please attached an unofficial copy of your transcript.
5. Self-reported ACT or SAT (if taken)
6. Parent/Guardian Name(s)
7. Parent Email
8. Name of High School
- B. On a separate sheet of paper, list your community service, employment or volunteer work, extracurricular service activities, church service or any non-academic honors you have received. List only those activities and awards in high school. Describe these activities and indicate your level and number of years of involvement, including leadership responsibilities.
- C. Following this list, write an essay, not to exceed 350 words, about your involvement in one or more of these service activities. *The Kings Park West Civic Association is looking for individuals who are providing or have provided exemplary service to the community, our country or to the world. Tell us why you chose to do the work you did, what you have learned from the experience and how you believe you have contributed to others.*
- D. If you choose, attach information about financial hardships of which you wish the committee to be aware.

Semifinalists will be asked to come for a panel interview on May 8 or 9, 2025. Awardees will be notified by May 12th, 2025.

This application must be signed by the applicant and his/her parent or guardian. Applicants will be disqualified if application instructions are not followed, including current membership with KPWCA or the application is incomplete.

Signature of applicant

Signature of parent or guardian

# KPW Recommends



by cathy deloach

## Deck Sweet Deck

The temperatures are finally climbing, and the great outdoors are calling. I recently expanded my outdoor living area by adding more decking and a pergola, and I couldn't be happier with the results.

I wholeheartedly recommend **Vicente Ovalle Galán** (see his photo below). He is a talented carpenter with both vision and artistic flair. Reach out to him today if you're looking to upgrade your outdoor space!



**Vicente Ovalle Galán**  
(240) 543-9475



*To seek recommendations from your neighbors, or to recommend a contractor or service that has done an amazing job, head on over the the KPW Recommends Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kpwrecommends>.*



## 2024 Update on the Shanes Creek Restoration Project

By Greg Sykes

Since the major portions of the [Shanes Creek Restoration Project](#) were completed in autumn 2023, the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and the Park Authority's (FCPA) staff and contractors monitored the site on multiple occasions. Overall, the work zone area (aka, Limit of Disturbance or LOD) is healing well. Native plants are growing but invasive species are ever-present. Assessments of water quality improvements will be determined over several years of testing. There are some concerns about encroachments and destructive actions neighbors took. The County staff ask for these findings to be conveyed to the public:

- In September, there was extensive weed whacking inflicted within the LOD, especially behind Windsor Hills Drive and extending towards Roberts Road on both sides of the creek. The perpetrator(s) left the planted tree saplings but mowed down just about everything else including plants germinating from the seed mixes and transplanted plants shrubs, grasses, and forbs. This whacking occurred nowhere near trails.
- So-called social trails were made that stomped through restoration planting zones. Figure 1 shows an example.
- Rocks were rearranged to form dams. Please keep the rocks in place and remember that there is a purpose to the stream design. In addition to monitoring the overall stream flow, there are several stations along Shanes Creek where the water level and quality are routinely measured.



Figure 1. An unauthorized trail at left was trampled through the recovering LOD. Though the official trail is near, this social trail loops between Shanes Creek (seen at right) and a flood control wetland (far left outside of view); see Figure 2 for the exact location. The pink ribbons mark the potted restoration plants that were added and found alive during a recent County survey; none survived on the illegal path.

To the first two points, the County paid for these plants, which came with a limited warranty. However, these outside factors that impact plant survival void that warranty and slow the LOD's recovery. Seeing people wanting to enjoy nature is great but kindly do so by staying on the trails and obeying [park rules](#), which state to leave animals, plants, and minerals alone without prior FCPA permission. When visiting a park, [leave no trace](#) of your presence.

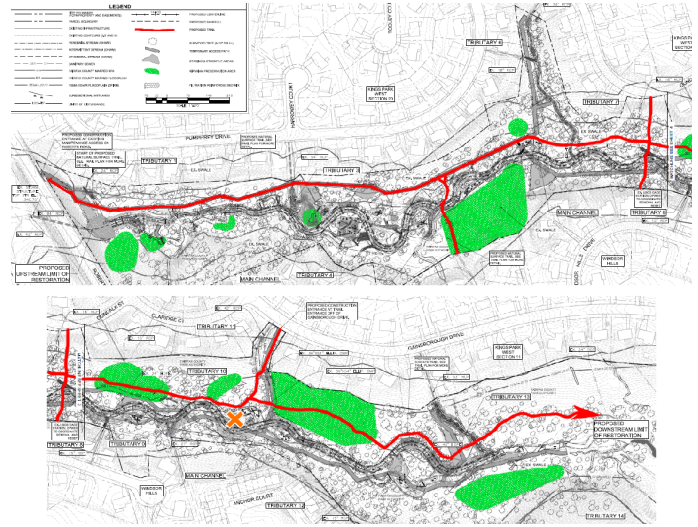


Figure 2. This map, split with a slight overlap, is from the DPWES "Pohick Creek Watershed, Rabbit Branch at Collingham Dr. Final Design Plan, Stream Restoration Project" (this waterway was officially renamed "Shanes Creek" into the planning process). Highlighted in red is the parkland trail (the line is wider than scale for easy viewing). It runs parallel to Shanes Creek from Roberts Road to the end of the project (arrow points towards the path's continuation to Royal Lake). Since the trail is in the final blueprints, it should have been physically integrated with the rest of the work. There is current discussion on redirecting wetter portions of the trail. The orange X is where Figure 1 was photographed.

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An incredibly sore point within the community is the shoddy condition of the trail that runs from Roberts Road to the Royal Lake trail loop (Figure 2). DPWES and FCPA are aware of the following points:

- So much of the trail remaining in disrepair is a PR disaster for the County and this project.
- If the official trail was more clearly defined after construction, there would be less confusion or no excuse as to where visitors should walk and not stray into restoration areas.
- Having stone sills that look like sidewalks yet are where people should not walk was bad planning.
- Regardless of how good or effective the restoration is, much of the public only really cares about the trail, i.e., people would be happier to have a great trail run through a woodland choked with invasive Bradford pears and contaminated streams than a poor trail amid a forest filled with native biodiversity and excellent water quality.

- Some of the project's most vocal critics engage in landscaping practices that necessitated this project in the first place, like piping roof runoff directly to the street instead of allowing the water to filter into the ground.
- In spite of rules and laws, there are park visitors and neighbors with entitlement issues that result in encroachments. DPWES and the contractors first realized this fact by the repeated fence vandalism and trespassing into the LOD. The problem extends to self-proclaimed nature lovers who treat natural areas as resources to exploit.

Being a biologist with intense studies in other sciences, I volunteer as a site leader for FCPA's Invasive Management Area program. This work involves habitat restoration and healthy land stewardship in Royal Lake's watershed on FCPA's land. However, despite the multiple complaints conveyed to me about Shanes Creek's trail condition, I am not "the trail maintenance guy." For more information about FCPA trails, please visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails>

## Celebrating Our KPWCA Scouts!

By KPWCA VP Meri Manella

Huge congratulations to **Miles Salvo** of KPWCA Troop 1966 for achieving Eagle Scout, the highest advancement rank in Boy Scouting. In the words of the Eagle Scout Promise, Eagles do their best each day to make their training an example, their rank and their influence count strongly for better Scouting and better citizenship in their troop, in their community, and in their contacts with other people.

Miles and his parents, Chuck and Jenny Salvo, were honored in an Eagle Scout Court of Honor held on February 8.

Miles started his Scouting America journey in 2013 as a Tiger Cub and transitioned to KPWCA Troop 1966 in 2018. During his scouting journey, Miles held various leadership positions in the Troop, participated in countless service projects, was elected Crew Chief for two High Adventure Camps, earned 37 merit badges, and received the Religious Knot, Camping Gold, Ad Alter Dei, Triple Crown, and the Northern Tier and Philmont 50 miler awards.

The KPW community will benefit tremendously from Miles' Eagle Scout project that successfully transformed a section of the Royal Lake trail that was prone to flooding into a year-round usable stretch of trail. Working with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Friends of Royal Lake,



and almost 30 volunteers, Miles designed adequate drainage and an overflow pond to improve the trail and help with runoff without compromising the lake's water quality.

KPWCA wishes Miles continued success and thanks him for his many contributions to our community.

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Proceeds benefit the Clifton Community Woman's Club 501(c)(3) Charitable Trust.



## Scouting Quarterly - KPWCA Troop 1966

Scouting: More than Just Camping! It's Experiences

The boys have been busy! The cold weather hasn't stopped them from caving, competing with other local troops at Klondike Derby, and skiing at Snowshoe.

### Merit Badge Highlight

Three scouts from Troop 1966, Chase Heppner, Brandon Pelham, and Theo Schaffling, completed the requirements for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge, an Eagle Scout requirement. This badge requires the boys to learn about what it means to be a citizen, research issues in their community, and understand how citizens can participate in their community. Brandon, Theo, and Chase selected the Resource Center at Fairfax Church to complete their volunteer requirement associated with this merit badge by assisting with one of the Resource Center's missions of assisting refugees from Afghanistan. The boys purchased and bundled hygiene items for distribution by the Resource Center to people in Fairfax County. If you know someone that could use support from the Resource Center and benefit from Theo, Chase, and Brandon's contributions a request can be made at: <https://www.fairfax.cc/resourcecenter/request-form/>. You can learn more about how you can support the needs of our community through the Resource Center at:

<https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxresourcecenter>.

### Need Mulch? Or Help Spreading?

Troop 1966 is selling mulch for delivery on April 5 and offering mulch spreading services on April 6. Mulch sales and payment for spreading services help our troop fund their amazing adventures. Purchases of mulch and services are available at: <https://troop-1966-mulch-sale2025.cheddarup.com> or via this QR code below.



### Interested in Scouting?

Troop 1966 meets at Laurel Ridge Elementary, Thursdays at 7pm.

Please contact Troop Master Nick Wathen ([nick.wathen@gmail.com](mailto:nick.wathen@gmail.com)) for more information.





## Winter '25 Highlights from KPWCA Scout Pack 1967



Since our last missive, Pack 1967 has been bustling with activity! Along with completing adventures and working toward their badges, Scouts have been actively engaged in their community, growing physically, mentally, and morally. On Saturday, December 14, they gathered at Old St. Mary's Church to take part in National Wreaths Across America Day—a special event to remember the fallen, honor

speedsters to imaginative designs, each car was a testament to hard work and ingenuity. Beyond the thrill of competition, the event celebrated teamwork, resourcefulness, and the joy of building something from scratch. Congratulations to our Den champions, who will go on to race in the Patriot District



the brave, and reflect on the value of freedom.

Scouts have been working hard over the winter to create, construct, and fine-tune their Pinewood Derby Cars, and on February 22, they finally got to test their designs. The Pack held its annual Pinewood Derby at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day, where our young engineers and artists met for what was truly a fusion of function and form, substance and style. From sleek



championships in March!

As we look forward to warmer weather, we're excited for the two summer camps that Pack 1967 traditionally attends. If you'd like to learn more about these camps, our Scouts, or the exciting adventures ahead, we'd love for you to join us at a Den meeting – feel free to reach out! [cubscout.pack.1967@gmail.com](mailto:cubscout.pack.1967@gmail.com)



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- Login to the eSoft portal. Instructions found here: <https://conta.cc/3imddBL>.
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- Enjoy the pool all summer!

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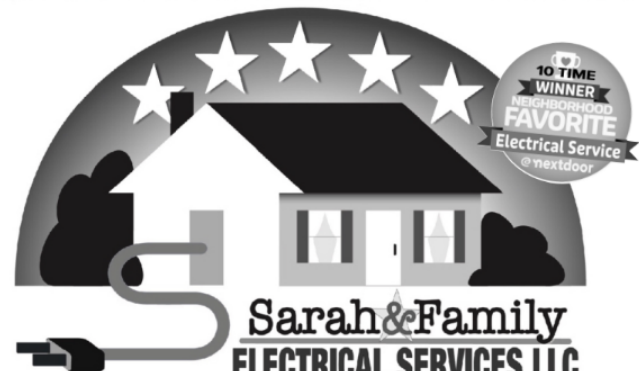
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	2	3	9		8		6	
6		1	3				9	8
	9	8						
						2	3	5
7								
		6	7	2				1
				3		8	7	2
2		9						

5		9			1			3
	1					4		
3							1	2
			2			3		6
							2	
		4			5			
						8		
		8	1	4			9	
	6			2				4



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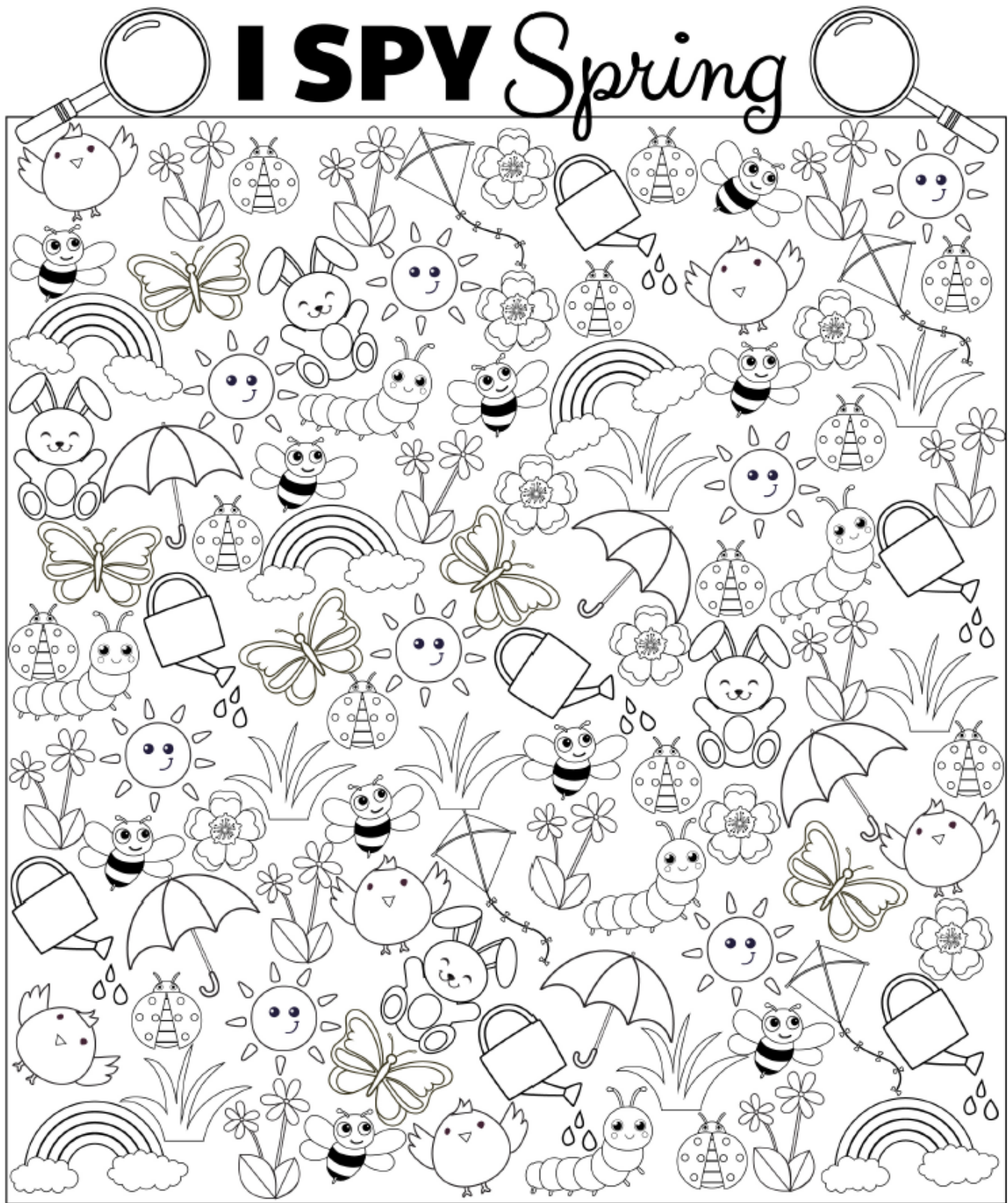
















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	<b>13</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>4</b>

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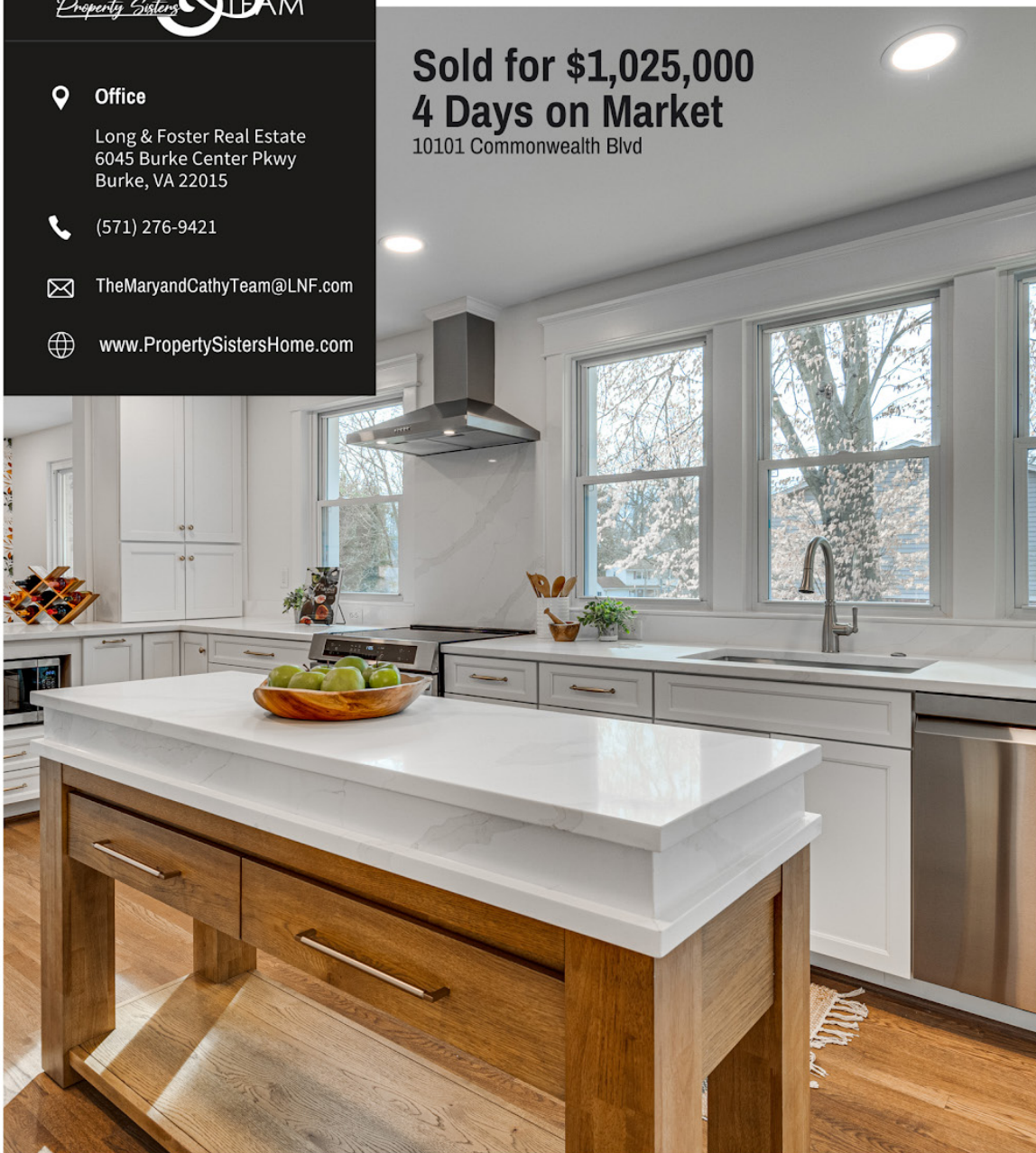
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