

# Gazette

JULY/AUGUST 2017



## 4th of July Parade and Picnic

Please join your community for some family fun at the traditional Kings Park 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and Picnic. The King Park Civic Association has organized this event for many years, and we are hoping for the best turnout ever this year.

The parade line up begins in front of Kings Park Elementary School at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. All bike riders, scooter riders, skate boarders, wagon pullers, stroller pushers, wheel chair riders or anyone else is encouraged to join the fun event!

If you have a classic or cool car, please join the parade. All vehicles should stage in the parking area of the school near the cafeteria entrance.

The parade will begin promptly at 11:00 AM. Volunteer safety personnel will be available along the route to help ensure everyone's safety. All parade participants are asked to stay behind the fire truck.

Once you arrive at Kings Park Park, you will be treated to patriotic music from our very own Kings Park Band. Don't forget to bring a chair so you can listen in comfort. Cold drinks, hot dogs, and chips will be sold.

We still need volunteers to assist with set-up, selling food and clean-up. If you'd like to help out with the parade or picnic, please contact Marie Cullerton at 703-426-4904 or [mcullerton42@mac.com](mailto:mcullerton42@mac.com).

See the schedule of events on page 3

Happy Birthday, USA!!



### Inside this issue:

<i>President's Letter</i>	2
<i>July 4th Schedule</i>	3
<i>Whimsy Corner</i>	4
<i>Neighborhood Watch</i>	6
<i>The Neighbors</i>	7
<i>Interesting Facts About the 4th of July</i>	8
<i>The Search for Groundcover</i>	8

## KPCA Calendar of Events

- July 4 **KPCA Parade and Picnic in the Park** Parade Starts at 11:00 at Kings Park Elementary School and Proceeds to Kings Park Park
- July 6 **KPCA Board Meeting** 7:00-9:00pm

For a complete calendar of KPCA events go to [www.Kings-Park.org](http://www.Kings-Park.org)

# From the President

## From the President:

As I begin my seventh year as the Civic Association President. I want to sincerely thank the board and committee members for the great support and encouragement they have given me. My special thanks to the other Board members who have again stepped forward for another year to help our work continue.

For the coming 2017-18 year we hope to present some new ideas and sponsor more opportunities for residents of Kings Park to get together socially and also become more involved in expanding community spirit.

There is a notable decline in KPCA membership. The \$25 membership fee (\$20 for seniors) shouldn't be the reason. There are many new residents in Kings Park and we hope they will be joining the Kings Park Civic Association (KPCA) to show their support for the many community programs and services that make this a great neighborhood.

Often many of our longtime residents *forget* to rejoin each year and have to be reminded. Talk to your neighbors about joining (*or rejoining*) the KPCA.

The Braddock Road Widening Study is coming to an end. The recommendation of the community representatives on the Task Force to not widen Braddock Road will be presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this Fall. The details of the recommended intersection improvements, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and a protected crosswalk to the Kings Park Shopping Center are detailed on the KPCA website. The second part of the Study considered the building of a Transit Center at the Kings Park Shopping Center. The Task Force recommendation was a strong NO. The details of the Task Force's recommendation that was presented to the Community Information Meetings held at LBSS on June 26<sup>th</sup> is also posted on the KPCA website. If the recommendations are accepted by the Board of Supervisors the next phase is the design and engineering of the *proposed* improvements. During that phase, the affected community representations have an opportunity to view and comment on specific details. Optimistically, actual construction and the implementation of lane changes may not be completed until 2024.

The KPCA is planning on presenting a "Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness" event in September. The event will take place over several days and at different locations in Kings Park. The objective is to showcase what you can do to help prepare yourself and your family in case of a local emergency, and

## Committee Chairs

Community Potluck	Susan Metcalf	703-503-0176	<i>Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net</i>
Emergency Preparedness	Sher Plunkett	703-503-0277	<i>sherplunkett@gmail.com</i>
Environmental Awareness	Beverly Boschert	703-425-3478	<i>terry.boschert@verizon.net</i>
Government Affairs	Ken Malmberg	703-425-1478	<i>ken.malmberg@gmail.com</i>
Membership/	Marie Cullerton	703-426-4904	<i>mcullerton42@mac.com</i>
	Jean Kennedy	703-323-8878	<i>kennedy45TJ@aol.com</i>
Public Safety and Neighborhood Watch	Robert Rivera	703-978-3034	<i>roblizrivera@yahoo.com</i>
	Terry Boschert	703-425-3478	<i>terry.boschert@verizon.net</i>
Social - Kids	Liz Rivera	703-978-3034	
Youth Community Services	Susan Metcalf	703-503-0176	<i>Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net</i>

## KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151

*www.kings-park.org*

### Board of Directors

<b>President:</b>	Jim Sobecke	703-978-2035	<i>jsobecke@gmail.com</i>
<b>1st VP:</b>	Ken Comer	703-425-5655	<i>kwc5@cornell.edu</i>
<b>2nd VP:</b>	Terry Boschert	703-425-3478	<i>terry.boschert@verizon.net</i>
<b>3rd VP/Communications:</b>	Susan Metcalf	703-472-6512	<i>susan.metcalf@verizon.net</i>
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<b>Treasurer:</b>	Susan Malmberg	703-425-1478	<i>susan.malmberg@gmail.com</i>
<b>Immediate Past President:</b>	Kayleen Fitzgerald	703-282-5110	<i>briankayleen@aol.com</i>
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## About the Gazette

The Gazette is published every other month, and suggestions and submissions should be sent to *Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net*.

The KPCA reserves the right to not publish any material it deems inappropriate. To advertise, see the advertising form at *www.kings-park.org* or contact Susan Metcalf.

If you are moving and want to continue receiving the Gazette, join the KPCA and let us know that you need the Gazette mailed to you at your new address.

# From the President

extend that to the concept of “neighbors helping neighbors”. The event will highlight the capabilities of the County’s first responders (Fire, EMS, and Police) and also provide a show-and-tell demonstration of what *emergency response* capabilities we already have among our community members.

Those of you who have already indicated an interest in emergency preparedness and a willingness to help others on your KPCA Membership form will be invited to be active participants in the September event. More details are forthcoming.

Traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety must be concern of our residents. The county wide “Slow Down, You Live Here, We Live Here” campaign is still ongoing. All the streets in Kings Park have a 25 mile per hour speed limit, including Southampton! Don’t become complacent on our neighborhood streets. STOP, Yield, Speed Bump, and Speed Limit signs are not *suggestions* for your consideration – it’s the LAW. Observations have shown that some of the more egregious violators are residents of Kings Park! The seconds you think you are saving can have serious consequences.

The KPCA Board’s efforts are aimed at giving more back to the community – we want your dues to show lasting impact. Many residents don’t realize that the KPCA is responsible for the upkeep of the common areas of Kings Park – entrances at Kings Park Drive and Southampton, median strip on Kings Park Drive, the two traffic circles, and the traffic calming nubs (bump outs) along Southampton. These are costs that are borne by membership dues. With a decline in membership we have to do more belt tightening. The upkeep of the plantings at the entrances and the nubs was previously is done by the volunteers of the Beautification committee. They need more help! Our few longtime volunteers are finding it more difficult to do it alone – we need more individuals and families to step forward and help. We want everyone to take pride in the beauty of our community.

KPCA community meetings are now scheduled for September, October, December, January, March, and May. We realize that you have a busy schedule but we encourage you to attend whenever you can. Your time should be rewarded so if there is some topic of community interest or a guest speaker you would like to hear let us know. We are looking for opportunities to keep our residents informed and provide opportunities to know their neighbors and what is available to make your lives more enjoyable.

This is your community and we want you to be an active participant in any way you can.  
Jim Sobecke

## July 4th Schedule of Events

### July 4<sup>th</sup> Schedule

**10:30 AM - 11:00 AM**

Line up for the parade at Kings Park Elementary School

**11:00 AM - 11:30 AM**

Parade leaves KPES, proceeds west on Clydesdale Road, turns right at Kings Park Drive, and ends on Kings Park Drive at the Trafalgar Court entrance to the park.

**11:30 AM - 1:30 PM**

As we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July amidst family and friends with food, speeches, parades, fireworks, patriotic music, remembrances of our veterans, and salutes to our flag, let us remember what the colors of our flag symbolize: Red-hardiness and valor; White-purity and innocence; Blue-vigilance, perseverance, and justice. These are traits we Americans should honor and practice all of our lives.



# Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

Air Travel. Some scary and upsetting stories recently about less than polite and adult behavior on the parts of passengers, flight crews, and ground personnel. However, air travel can have another side. I came across this little article and was so pleased that I will just use it. My comments are in italics.

Source: <http://www.geekfill.com/?s=exchanges+between+pilots+and+passengers>

On a Continental Flight with a very “senior” Flight Attendant crew, the Pilot said, “Ladies and gentlemen, we’ve reached cruising altitude and will be turning down the cabin lights. This is for your comfort and to enhance the appearance of your Flight Attendants.” *I wonder if that flight arrived with one less soul-on-board?*

A Flight Attendant’s comment on a less than perfect landing. “We ask you to remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal.”

Flight Attendant announcement: “There may be 50 ways to leave your lover, but there are only 4 ways out of this airplane.”

“Thank you for flying Delta Business Express. We hope you enjoyed giving us the business as much as we enjoyed taking you for a ride.”

After a particularly hard landing during a thunderstorm in Memphis, a Flight Attendant on a Northwest flight announced, “Please take care when opening the overhead compartments because, after a landing like that, sure as hell everything has shifted.”

“Welcome aboard Southwest Flight 245 to Tampa. To operate your seat belt, insert the metal tab into the buckle, and pull tight. It works just like every other seat belt; and, if you don’t know how to operate one, you probably shouldn’t be out in public unsupervised.”

“In the event of a sudden loss of cabin pressure, masks will descend from the ceiling. Stop screaming, grab the mask, and pull it over your face. If you have a small child traveling with you, secure your mask before assisting with theirs. If you are traveling with more than one small child, pick your favorite.”

After a particularly hard landing, the Captain opened the cockpit door just as a little old lady walked by to depart the aircraft. She asked the pilot, “Tell me young man, did we land, or were we shot down?”

“Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and take them with our compliments.”

“As you exit the plane, make sure to gather all of your belongings. Anything left behind will be distributed evenly among the flight attendants. Please do not leave children or spouses.”

After a real crusher of a landing in Phoenix, the attendant came on with, “Ladies and Gentlemen, please remain in your seats until Capt. Crash and the crew have brought the aircraft to a screeching halt against the gate. And, once the tire smoke has cleared and the warning bells are silenced, we’ll open the door and you can pick your way through the wreckage of the terminal.”

And from a Pilot during his welcome message: “Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best Flight Attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight.” *Another souls-on-board count please.*

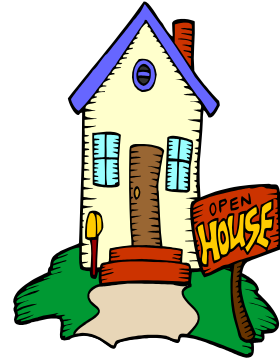
OK, so now, before you take a flight in today’s air travel environment, bring this article with you to relieve your stress before boarding. Recommend you do not read the segments about hard landings when you are aboard the plane.



“There is an art, or rather a knack, to flying. The knack lies in learning how to throw yourself at the ground and miss.”

— Douglas Adams, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

# Real Estate Corner



### Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUKE	8426 THAMES ST	\$529,988
KING	5607 ROLLING RD	\$465,000
KING	5411 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$609,000
KING	8616 CLYDESDALE RD	\$609,000
PRINCE	5307 ROLLING RD	\$485,000
PRINCE	8611 CLYDESDALE RD	\$549,900
PRINCESS	8403 THAMES ST	\$609,000
QUEEN	8927 BURKE LAKE RD	\$499,001
QUEEN	5507 CALLANDER DR	\$515,000

### Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUKE	8904 CROMWELL DR	\$489,900
KING	5405 ROLLING RD	\$480,000
PRINCE	8708 CROMWELL DR	\$515,000
PRINCE	5402 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$534,900
PRINCESS	8462 THAMES ST	\$489,000
QUEEN	8649 VICTORIA RD	\$524,888
QUEEN	8467 THAMES ST	\$560,000

### Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
DUCHESS	8608 THAMES ST	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$10,000	\$510,000	-\$10,000	6/15/2017
DUKE	8806 VICTORIA RD	\$429,900	\$440,000	\$2,000	\$438,000	\$8,100	5/15/2017
DUKE	8942 VICTORIA RD	\$549,000	\$535,000	\$0	\$535,000	-\$14,000	5/26/2017
DUKE	5618 EASTBOURNE DR	\$569,001	\$569,000	\$4,000	\$565,000	-\$4,001	6/2/2017
KING	8702 CLYDESDALE RD	\$499,000	\$480,000	\$0	\$480,000	-\$19,000	6/14/2017
KING	8937 VICTORIA RD	\$569,000	\$570,000	\$7,560	\$562,440	-\$6,560	5/23/2017
KING	8700 CROMWELL DR	\$579,900	\$585,000	\$0	\$585,000	\$5,100	5/30/2017
QUEEN	8627 VICTORIA RD	\$449,999	\$450,000	\$0	\$450,000	\$1	5/10/2017
QUEEN	5609 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$439,900	\$453,000	\$0	\$453,000	\$13,100	5/31/2017
QUEEN	5304 WEYMOUTH DR	\$559,000	\$545,000	\$0	\$545,000	-\$14,000	6/7/2017
QUEEN	5505 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$549,999	\$555,000	\$5,840	\$549,160	-\$839	6/22/2017
QUEEN	5520 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$559,900	\$560,000	\$2,500	\$557,500	-\$2,400	5/12/2017
QUEEN	8609 LONDON CT	\$595,000	\$590,000	\$0	\$590,000	-\$5,000	5/26/2017

*Provided by Susan Metcalf, AveryHess Realtors*

**703-472-6512**

If you're considering buying, selling, or renting real estate, if you know anyone who is, or if you have any questions, please give me a call!

# Kings Park Neighborhood Watch

## Helping Our Neighbors

**Neighborhood Watch is a volunteer citizen program** of mutual assistance among neighbors aimed at reducing crime in Kings Park at the grass roots level. It involves neighbors getting to know neighbors, staying alert to the potential for crime, and willing to look out for each other's interest.

## The Information Police need when you contact them:

- What happened
- When
- Where (address or street names, e.g. Victoria between Grantham and Kings Park)
- Is anyone hurt
- License numbers and vehicle descriptions
- Direction of travel
- Description(s) of suspect(s)
- If there were weapons involved

**Please gather this information without endangering yourself or others**

## Police contacts:

**Emergency number 911** for crimes in progress, life-threatening events, or crime immediately resulting in property damage;

**Non-emergency number (703) 691-2131** for crimes already committed, suspect no longer in the area, or observed suspicious activity.

**URL Address:** <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/stations/westspringfield/>

**Contact police** as you observe a crime in progress or suspicious activity. Do not assume someone else will

make the call. The police will not consider you a bother.

Neighborhood Watch is designed to observe, detect, and report crime or suspicious activity.

## Enforcement Action is Always Left to the Police Department.

## And Helping Ourselves

When you see **damaged traffic control signs** (Virginia) or **street signs** (Fairfax County), **potholes** (Virginia), or **darkened street lights** (Dominion Virginia Power), please notify the appropriate agency. Neighbors who live in the vicinity of such problems are the best means we have to keep our neighborhoods safe. The following website contains all the contact information you need to start a solution for the above problems:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/complaints/>



"Uh oh. Ok, back to the boat!"

Terry Boschert, [terry.boschert@verizon.net](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net)  
Coordinator, Kings Park Neighborhood Watch



No more waiting for special electronics recycling events! Fairfax County residents can e-cycle old or unwanted electronics any day of the week at both the I-66 Transfer Station and the I-95 Landfill Complex. Acceptable materials include computers (and related equipment), televisions, gaming systems, stereos and other household electronic devices and cables. There are no fees associated with this service; however customers may be required to show proof of residency.

**I-66 Transfer Station**  
4618 West Ox Road  
Fairfax, VA 22035

**Hours:**  
Monday - Saturday:  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sunday: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**I-95 Landfill Complex**  
9850 Furnace Road  
Lorton, VA 22079

**Hours:**  
Monday - Friday:  
7 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday - Sunday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

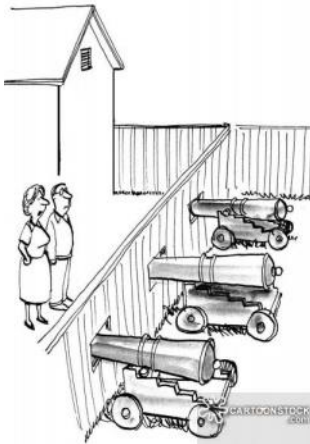
For additional collection details, please contact the Solid Waste Management Program at 703-324-5230 TTY 711. For **Facility Layout** see:  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm>

# The Neighbors

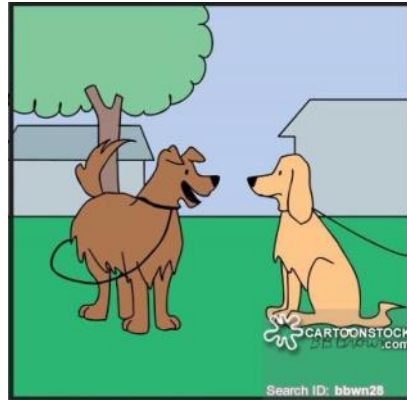
by Terry Boschert

“And good neighbors make a huge difference in the quality of life. I agree.”

Robert Fulghum



“Did we do something to upset the neighbors?”



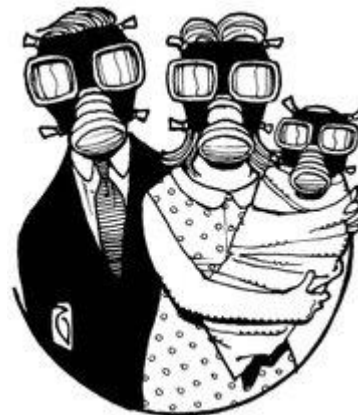
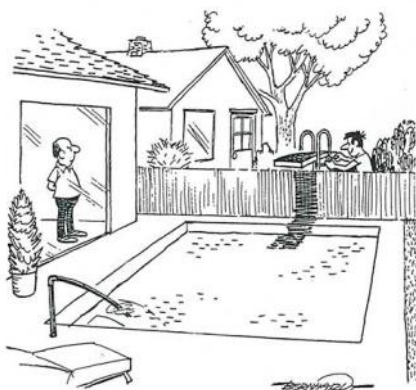
“I bark and bark non-stop, and then they come home. It works everytime.”



“IT WAS A NICE NEIGHBORHOOD UNTIL THEY GOT INTO THE WASTE-MANAGEMENT BUSINESS.”



“We’re with the Neighborhood Coordinated Clothing Watch.”



The neighbor’s firepit

# Interesting Things About the 4th of July

by Heather Sanders on July 4, 2013

1. Initially adopted by Congress on July 2, 1776, the revised version of the Declaration of Independence was not adopted until two days later.
2. The oldest, continuous Independence Day celebration in the United States is the 4th of July Parade in Bristol, Rhode Island; it began in 1785.
3. The Declaration of Independence was penned by Thomas Jefferson and signed by 56 men representing 13 colonies.
4. One of the United States' patriotic songs, "Yankee Doodle" was originally sung by British military officers prior to the Revolution as a means to mock the disorganized American colonists who fought alongside them during the French and Indian Wars.
5. The "Star Spangled Banner" was written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812 and not decreed the official national anthem of the United States until 1931.
6. Three U.S. Presidents, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe, died on July 4th; Adams and Jefferson died within hours of each other in 1826 while Monroe died in 1831.
7. The Pennsylvania Evening Post was the first newspaper to print the Declaration of Independence.
8. The country's 30th president, Calvin Coolidge, was born on Independence Day in 1872.
9. Americans consume about 155 million hot dogs on Independence Day alone; it is the biggest hot dog holiday of the year.
10. Americans began observing the Fourth of July as early as 1777, when the first-ever major celebration in Philadelphia included a parade and a thirteen-shot cannon salute and fireworks.
11. To avoid cracking it, the Liberty Bell has not been rung since 1846. To mark the quintessential day, every fourth of July it is symbolically tapped 13 times.

12. The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) estimates that more than 14,000 professional firework displays light up the skies in the United States each 4th of July.

13. The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at age 70, and Edward Rutledge was the youngest at age 26.

Abbreviated from: <http://thepioneerwoman.com/fun-and-learning/twenty-interesting-things-about4th-of-july/>

## The Search for Groundcover

by Susan Malmberg

After removing English ivy (*Hedera helix*) from our wooded backyard, I wanted to find a low-growing groundcover for the area that did not need to be mowed.

Before I knew anything about invasive plants, I tried periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*), and bugleweed (*Ajuga reptans*). These plants are all considered invasive in Virginia and should not be planted. Luckily, none of these have taken over the yard – yet.

Moss seemed like a good solution since it was already growing in places. It has spread, but it does not block out weeds so the taller weeds have to be pulled or mowed.

Another plant that I have tried is dwarf mondo grass (*Ophiopogon japonicus*) which looks like a clump of grass and grows 2 to 3 inches high. It is not a native plant, but so far has not been declared to be invasive. It makes a nice border and does not spread too fast.

The best groundcover I have found is a native plant called partridgeberry (*Mitchella repens*). It is low-growing, crowds out most of the taller weeds, is green year-round and has white flowers and red berries that add interest and provide for wildlife. This plant just appeared in the yard one year and has been slowly spreading ever since. If you want to try this plant, the Virginia Native Plant Society could tell you which native plant nurseries would carry it.

[Native Plants for Northern Virginia](#), a full-color booklet from Plant NoVA Natives, and [Non-Native Invasive ID and Control](#), a Fairfax County publication, are two resources I have used as I try to change the backyard into a lower-maintenance natural area.