

Gazette

MAY/JUNE 2017



May KPCA Meeting

by Beverly Boschert

The next Kings Park Civic Association Community meeting will be May 18 in Kings Glen Elementary School Cafeteria at 7:30pm. David Marsden, the Virginia Senator for District 37 (most of Kings Park) will attend the meeting to discuss the 2017 legislative session. Senator Marsden is on the Transportation Committee for the Virginia Senate and he will remain at our Community meeting to hear the update and discussion of the current Braddock Road Multimodal Study. The election for the KPCA Board will also take place at this meeting and refreshments will be available.

Please add the May 18 KPCA meeting to you schedule. Have your questions answered and keep yourself updated on the State legislature and the Braddock Road Study.



Your Dues are Due Now

by Marie Cullerton

Your Kings Park Civic Association dues for the 2016 calendar year are now payable. Many of you have already paid your dues and also made contributions to the beautification program. For this we thank you. But many more of you have not yet paid. Your dues are what keep our association viable.

As mentioned in the letter mailed to each of you this year along with a membership form, the money obtained from the dues helps to maintain the unique character of Kings Park. The dues pay for events such as the Potluck Dinner, Octoberfest, Senior Lunch, Fourth of July Parade and Picnic, and the holiday party for the children. These events, plus the printing of the Gazette, paying for insurance, maintaining the entrances and donations to various charities that contribute to the friendliness of the community and the KPCA's commitment to maintain a positive quality of life. The Civic Association is a volunteer organization of neighbors who try, through positive action and hard work to maintain our suburban "sweet spot".

If you have any questions please contact Marie Cullerton. Please consider paying your dues and help us maintain what was started over six decades ago.

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KPCA Calendar of Events

- May 18 **KPCA Community Meeting/Elections** 7:30-9:00pm Kings Glen Elementary School Cafeteria
- June 1 **KPCA Board Meeting** 7:00-9:00pm
- July 4 **4th of July Parade and Concert in the Park** - Parade Starts at Kings Park Elementary School at 11:00am
- July 6 **KPCA Board Meeting** 7:00-9:00pm

For a complete calendar of KPCA events go to www.Kings-Park.org

From the President

From the President:

We have had some unusual weather so far, this year. We did have the dry and mild winter the Farmer's Almanac correctly predicted. Now they forecast a cool and wet summer. We have had some rain problems with the annual KPCA 4th of July parade and picnic for the past several year so our hopes are high for great weather this year.

The KPCA sponsored Community Clean-up day was Saturday May 6th. This, KPCA sponsored event was an opportunity for Kings Park residents to do some Spring cleaning and get many of those unwanted items taken to the County disposal facility for them. The KPCA rented the trucks and provided volunteers to pick-up items.

The Braddock Road Widening Study effort is coming to a conclusion real soon. There has not been much community interest, even after the 3rd Community Meeting held on February 6th at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The County presented the task force study results to date, and the recommendation regarding Braddock Road traffic improvements that will go forward to the Board of Supervisors by Fall.

The last part of the study deals with the separate proposal for a Multi-modal Transit Center. There are five options being considered: no-build, a Transit Center at the Kings Park Shopping Center (two versions), a Transit Center at the old State Training Site on Braddock Road, and a (new option) Park-And-Ride facility at the Kings Park Shopping Center. All these options are on the table and are to be individually rated at the next Task Force meeting early in May. The Task Force decision and recommendation regarding the Transit Center will be presented at the Community Meeting scheduled for mid-June at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

If all of this Braddock Road Widening Study is new to you and you want to know all the details, they are easy to find. The Braddock Road Widening Study is well documented on the Braddock District Supervisor's web site (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockroad.htm>) to include the materials from the latest Community Meeting and Task Force meetings..

Social media comments and rumors notwithstanding, everything you need to know is available on-line, discussed at our KPCA Website, and discussed at our KPCA Community meetings. The new proposal for a "Park-and-Ride" option at the Kings Park Shopping Center will be discussed at the next KPCA Community Meeting on May 18.

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

President:	Jim Sobecke	703-978-2035	<i>jsobecke@verizon.net</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

The front entrances at Kings Park Drive and Southampton Drive, and the nubs on Southampton are now being maintained by our Grounds Maintenance contractor, since becoming a major challenge to our volunteer Beautification Committee. We would welcome some 'younger' volunteers to help us maintain the Kings Park common area and assist in any way they can. Other communities around us make community care a family affair. If there is some interest in this approach I am sure we could make the effort worthwhile and a little festive! Send us an e-mail if you are interested or want more information.

The KPCA's annual *Gene Mercer* Seniors Luncheon was held on April 27, and again a great success due to the efforts of Marie and her assistants. We thank the owner of Hunan West for continuing to hosting this event for the past 26 years and thank Allen for his continued generosity to the KPCA.

The annual July 4th Parade and Picnic is coming up real soon. Last year we were forced to cancel the Picnic but we hope this year the weather will cooperate. The awarding of commemorative July 4th medals will continue, since this seems to get the greatest response from the younger participants.

The picnic in the park will have the Kings Park Concert Band performing for two hours. This picnic requires a lot of volunteer time to prepare and execute. Each year we are seeing fewer and fewer 'helping hands' yet more attendance from the community. The cost of the hot dogs, drinks and chips is offset by your KPCA dues. Although this is a KPCA event, it is open to all your guests and friends to enjoy.

KPCA dues offset the extra costs involved in offering all these community events -- Clean-Up Day, Entrance Beautification, grounds maintenance, Senior Luncheon, July 4th Picnic, Oktoberfest, Trunk-or-Treat, and the Children's Holiday Party. With the decline in annual membership renewal we have found it necessary to conduct many of these events for 'KPCA members only' and cut back on general expenses. It would be great if more of your neighbors would pay for membership (\$25 a year - \$20 for seniors) and everyone donate a little of their time to assist in putting these events together.

The Kings Park Shopping Center and the new Giant Food Store are very popular with our residents but many have found that accessibility and parking has become a challenge at times. The future Braddock Road improvements and its impact on commuter parking may not be seen for several years. I would encourage you to attend the KPCA Community Meetings (the next one is May 18th) to see what options are being considered, express your concerns, and hear some suggestions on how to make the situation better.

In closing - I am the member of the Braddock Road Citizens Task Force representing the Kings Park Civic Association. The Task Force Committee is directly involved in the project as it progresses through the concept, issues, comments, proposal and decision processes. I represent the consensus of the Kings Park residents. Without your input and concerns expressed now there will be no recourse once the changes are implemented.

Enjoy your spring – looking forward to summer!

Jim Sobecke

Board Elections

by Beverly Boschert

The Kings Park neighbors who are candidates willing to serve on the Kings Park Civic Association Board of Directors for the 2017-2018 year are:

President: Jim Sobecke

1st Vice President: Ken Comer

2nd Vice President: Terry Boschert

3rd Vice President: Susan Metcalf

Secretary: Eric Werlinger

Treasurer: Susan Malmberg

Election of this new board will be held at the Kings Park Civic Association Community meeting on May 18, 2017 in the Kings Glen Elementary School cafeteria. Please join your neighbors at our last community meeting for the 2016-2017 session and support those people who are willing to work for our community

Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

1:00 AM; a home in Kings Park. Lucy the Beagle, member of the Canine Council, padded to her human's computer. One of them was writing still another (sigh) Whimsy Corner article. After his revelation of the Dog, and, yes, to be fair, the Cat, impact on Humans and their civilization, her human was on a council watch list. Fortunately, the few humans who read his articles never take them seriously. In fact, the council considered it unlikely he would ever write anything profound, but members remembered the near catastrophe caused by the "1000 monkeys at 1000 computers" written article about the real nature of UFOs as a warning to always be in a caretaker mode. "So, let's see what he has written thus far", she thought.

Time. Time surrounds us; and because most of us measure time with clocks, watches, and calendars, we see time as a straight-line progression from past to present to future. But is that perception genuine? For that matter, does time even exist?

We believe reality is what we observe with our senses as augmented by our tools, our experiences, and our beliefs. One person's unusual cloud formation is another person's UFO. Not surprisingly, our attempt to understand time must also fit within these constraints. One person's personal calendar entry on a blank space is another person's observation that time cannot exist without space. Because we have such differing views of time, we attempt to define time from several perspectives, all of which overlap in some regard: everyday life, scientific methods and models, religious faith, and philosophical wonderings. Examples of our time views based upon these perspectives include: the common clock; Plank time units; time began with the creation of the universe; wheel of time; arrow of time; repeated cycles of creation, destruction, and rebirth; one where the future can influence the present; and even one example where time does not exist but all possible events do exist; we humans perceive only a few of these events and arrange them as a straight-line flow.

OK, humans can really make a complex mess when we try to understand everyday activities. I am not sure if this is because we think such deep, superior thoughts or that our observational skills are so limited. But what do our animal neighbors on this planet think of time? They have senses, experiences, and memories. Perhaps their views are closer to the capture of time as a reality than ours. So, let's briefly explore an animal's view of time.

The most acute dog sense is the sense of smell. That sense probably biases its view of the world. The

freshness or staleness of a scent, therefore, also frames a dog's view of time. If a fresh scent is more likely to be followed to a successful conclusion than a stale scent, then dogs probably see time as a linear flow. If its human puts on certain shoes, then that dog, based upon experience, projects that a walk is in its future.

Now consider the common house fly. Why do you usually miss when you swat at the fly? The fly experiences the flow of time differently than you; from a fly's viewpoint, you move in slow motion and can be evaded. Those flies whose flow of time perception was nearer to yours died out; thus, the perception of time-flow is an evolutionary advantage for flies.

The same time-flow perception is found in many small bodied animals according to a study of 30 different animal species. Study co-author and Trinity College zoologist Andrew Jackson says in a statement. "Our results suggest that time perception offers an unstudied dimension along which animals can specialize. ... We are beginning to understand that there is a whole world of detail out there that only some animals can perceive, and it's fascinating to think of how they might perceive the world differently to us."

1:03 AM, a house in Kings Park. "Well, that didn't take long, as always", Lucy thought, "no fact-based insights here as to what time really is, just simplistic speculation based on woefully inappropriate two-dimensional time models."

"Hmmm, I must snuffle my way to my next mission. I wonder if I should check in with current Lucy and say hi, just to be polite?" she asked herself, "No, this version is getting on in years, I should let her sleep. We can always visit when she envisions as a younger self." And with that, she sniffed out the path that leads to the 11th century on a personal errand to convince William the Conqueror to bring the Talbot Hound, the beagle ancestor, from France to England.



Real Estate Corner



Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUCHESS	8608 THAMES ST	\$520,000
DUKE	8904 CROMWELL DR	\$499,900
KING	5607 ROLLING RD	\$465,000
KING	8702 CLYDESDALE RD	\$515,000
KING	5411 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$639,900
PRINCE	8611 CLYDESDALE RD	\$585,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUKE	8806 VICTORIA RD	\$429,900
DUKE	8942 VICTORIA RD	\$549,000
DUKE	5618 EASTBOURNE DR	\$569,001
KING	8937 VICTORIA RD	\$569,000
KING	8700 CROMWELL DR	\$579,900
PRINCE	8715 CROMWELL DR	\$525,000
QUEEN	5609 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$439,900
QUEEN	8627 VICTORIA RD	\$449,999
QUEEN	8927 BURKE LAKE RD	\$519,001
QUEEN	5505 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$549,999
QUEEN	5304 WEYMOUTH DR	\$559,000
QUEEN	5520 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$559,900
QUEEN	8609 LONDON CT	\$595,000

Sold	Style	Address	Subsidy		Final		Date	
			List Price	Sold Price	(Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price		Final Price Reduction/Increase
	DUKE	5608 VENTNOR LN	\$499,000	\$499,000	\$6,000	\$493,000	(\$6,000)	04/28/17
	PRINCE	5508 KEMPTON DR	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$3,000	\$522,000	(\$3,000)	04/04/17
	QUEEN	5601 ROLLING RD	\$475,000	\$475,000	\$9,000	\$466,000	(\$9,000)	04/17/17
	QUEEN	8718 VICTORIA RD	\$520,000	\$520,000	\$14,000	\$506,000	(\$14,000)	04/21/17
	QUEEN	8609 VICTORIA RD	\$525,000	\$527,000	\$2,918	\$524,082	(\$918)	03/31/17
	QUEEN	5536 CALLANDER DR	\$535,000	\$535,000	\$0	\$535,000	\$0	03/10/17
	QUEEN	8530 PARLIAMENT DR	\$579,900	\$557,500	\$5,000	\$552,500	(\$27,400)	04/28/17

Provided by Susan Metcalf, Avery Hess 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
Coordinator, Kings Park Neighborhood Watch

Friendly Reminder

Please remember to Scoop Your Pet's Poop!! Even if it is in your neighbor's yard. We are getting complaints from residents who are constantly finding a lot of dog poop in their yard and on the sidewalks. Not only is considerate to do this, but it's the law!



Parliament, Your Community Pool

by Erica Hosken

Do you know Kings Park has its very own swimming pool? It's in a secluded spot at the end of a cul de sac on the east side of the subdivision, just off Southampton Drive. The address is 8510 Parliament Drive. **Parliament pool is a non-profit community pool.** Efforts are underway now to prepare the facility for opening day. If you have never visited the pool, you should stop by and take a look once the facility opens Memorial Day weekend. Any of our friendly staff members would be glad to give you a tour and answer any questions you may have. Or if you can't wait until then, feel free to check out our website at www.parliament-pool.com for information or questions.

At Parliament Pool we offer members a relaxing oasis tucked away in the heart of the Kings Park neighborhood. The pool sits in a perfect spot, with a balance of shade trees and open space. So whether you want to catch some rays or curl up in the shade with a good book, there's a spot just for you. With terrific activities for kids and adults alike, you can **get away from it all without ever leaving town.**

Parliament Pool's Swim and Dive Team, the Panthers, is gearing up for another action-packed summer! This summer we are excited to again offer **evening practices for swimmers and divers** to accommodate varying work and camp schedules. Visit parliament-pool.com and look under the Teams tab to learn more details and download registration information.

Swim Team: The excitement of swim team season begins after Memorial Day with afterschool practices and events. Come join old friends and make new friends, ages 5-18, from Kings Park and nearby neighborhoods. It's a fun filled summer, complete with team social activities and daily coached swim practices and meets. Discover the meaning of swim team comradery and friendly competition with other neighborhood teams. Your swimmer will stay active with fun social activities every week including "Fun Fridays," pep rallies, local team outings, and special events for the 13 and older crowd. Can't make the summer morning practices? We are excited to again offer evening practices for those swimmers unable to make morning practices. Any paid Parliament Pool member can come give the first week a try and see what the fun is about.

Dive Team: The dive team is looking forward to another fun year and looking for new divers to join the team. There are five dive meets during the season and all kids' ages 8 to 18 are welcome to join. No prior experience is necessary. Learn to dive from experienced coaches and have fun with friends. Flexible practice schedules with a couple evenings practices each week to accommodate different schedules. Not sure your son/daughter will enjoy diving? New dive team members can come experience a dive camp for the first week of practice.

Swim Lessons: Parliament Pool will offer group swim lessons to children ages 4-10 during July. Lessons are held every day Monday through Friday for 2-week sessions. Visit our web site for more information.

Your pool board has set a goal of **growing our membership** by 15 this summer. *Can you help us achieve this goal?* Invite a friend or a neighbor to join the pool today, every member makes a difference!

Neighborhood pools are part of vibrant and caring communities. Whether you're looking for:

- A place for your child to learn how to swim
- Swim and/or Dive teams
- Lap lanes for exercise
- Fun filled raft nights
- Adult socials
- Community Connections
- Free Wifi



**Join us at Parliament
Pool this summer!**

And so much more...Parliament has it all and is waiting for you to join the fun. **If you value the sense of community the pool helps build and want to ensure that it continues to thrive in Kings Park for years to come, join Parliament this summer and start making memories to last a lifetime.**

For more information, visit our web site at www.Parliament-Pool.com or share your favorite Parliament memories on our Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/ParliamentPool. We'd love to hear from you and look forward to meeting you at the pool this summer!

Beyond Earth Day

by Susan Malmberg

The day after Earth Day and the Science March, I finally got around to mowing my lawn for the first time this spring. I noticed that the weeds have really enjoyed this weather and are flourishing. I started thinking about how I could get rid of at least some of the weeds. I am pretty tolerant of other plants in my lawn because I know maintaining a grass monoculture is pretty hard on the environment, but sometimes there are just too many other plants in the lawn. So what are some earth friendly ways to keep the lawn looking acceptable? Many people use glyphosate (Roundup) which the EPA deems safe when used according to instructions. However, California has recently required a cancer warning to be placed on glyphosate, so homeowners might not want to use it so much.

Here are a few earth-friendly ways to deal with weeds:

- Eat them. Assuming other chemicals have not been used, some of the local weeds that can be eaten are Dandelion, purslane, clover and chickweed. I have not tried this.
- Dig them out. If you get the root out this is effective but time consuming.
- Pour boiling water on them. I have tried this and it works, but carrying a teakettle of boiling water out to the weeds is somewhat perilous. It might be best for weeds in sidewalk cracks, as any surrounding plants will also be killed if hit with the boiling water.
- White vinegar. I have used this and it works. Again, it will kill other plants it gets on, so you have to be careful in pouring or spraying it on.
- An internet search will yield a few more earth friendly methods. If you try some of these other ways, let me know how they work!

STORM DRAIN CLEAN-UP

by Beverly Boschert

April 22, 2017 was the 47th celebration of Earth Day. You can make every day Earth Day by remembering to clean the street gutters around your home. If there is a storm drain on your curb, please clean keep it clean all year. Clean up starts at home; the more we can keep out of the storm drains in Kings Park the less we contribute to pollution in Accotink, Potomac, Chesapeake, and all the nearby waterways.

About Organic Food

by Beverly Boschert

When you choose organic food you are helping more than yourself. You're supporting farmers and producers who work hard to meet the organic label standards because they believe in good health, quality and sustainability.

Organic Standards in Brief

- No toxic or persistent pesticides of herbicides
- No sewer sledge or synthetic fertilizers
- No genetically modified organisms (GMOs)
- No synthetic growth hormones
- No antibiotics
- No irradiation

Meat, eggs and dairy products with the organic label must come from animals fed organic, given fresh air and outdoor access and raised without antibiotics or added growth hormones.

Full article: http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/organic?os_ehash=wfm:3E858814-53D2-4DEB-83D8-36312D116E9A&utm_source=wfm_promotion&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=04_22_2017_Global_Promotion_Earth_Day&utm_content=subhero1_whyorganic_img



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>