

Gazette

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017



Oktoberfest 2017!!

by Susan Metcalf

Please join your community for some family fun at our Annual Kings Park Oktoberfest September 23rd from noon—2:00pm in the Parliament Pool parking lot. This event is only open to 2017 KPCA members. If you are not a current member, we will have a membership table at the Oktoberfest so you can pay your dues. We will have the popular Kings Park German Band again this year. We will have a traditional German feast of Bratwurst (homemade by sausage-meister, Don Metcalf), German Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, Apple and Cherry Strudel, and sodas for \$6 per plate. For the kids, we will have hot dogs for \$3 per plate. This is a bargain you can't refuse. If you would like some stronger libations, please feel free to bring your own. Bring a chair to sit in.

Please RSVP by Thursday September 21st to let us know to throw a brat on the grill for you and so we don't run out of delicious potato salad and strudel! If you have German attire, we would love to see you dressed in it! Email Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net or call at 703-472-6512. Let Susan know if you have a pop-up tent we can borrow for shade.



Trunk or Treat

by Liz Rivera

Families and neighbors, children of all ages, please join us for the 6th annual Trunk or Treat on **Sunday**, October 29th from 3 to 4 pm in the parking lot of Parliament Pool. Children in costumes will walk from car to car to gather small prizes and treats from adults who have decorated their vehicles and parked them in a semi-circle. If you would like to participate by giving out candy, please arrive by 2:45 pm to set up and prepare for the children to arrive at 3 pm. Please do not bring treats containing peanuts as some children have significant allergies.



This event is perfect for any child who may be too young to stay up late on Halloween and/or children who would love an extra opportunity to dress up! Adults without small children are welcome to join the group; the children love being admired and getting goodies!

If you have any questions, please contact Liz Rivera at <mailto:edaileyrivera@yahoo.com>

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KPCA Calendar of Events

September 21	KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm
September 23	Oktoberfest 12:00pm Parliament Pool Parking Lot
October 4	KPCA Board Meeting 7:00-9:00pm
October 19	KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm Kings Glen Elementary
October 29	Trunk or Treat 3:00-4:00pm
November 1	KPCA Board Meeting 7:00-9:00pm
December 1	KPCA Kid's Holiday Party 6:30-8:00pm Kings Park Elementary

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

From the President

From the President

The long HOT summer is behind us! This year's July 4th festivities got us back on track enjoying community activities for the whole family – without all that rain for the previous three years.

Now a new weather pattern is affecting us. As I write this HARVEY, IRMA, and JOSE are in the news. We could be facing some serious weather ourselves as the Hurricane seasons gets off to a disastrous start. The theme for KPCA's Community meeting (Thursday, September 21 at KPES) is Emergency Preparedness. A very timely and important subject.

Kings Park does have an Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and we need more of you to be aware of what they and you can do in the event of a local emergency. This meeting can be thought of as a workshop and a great source of information that you can use to prepare yourselves, your family, home and pets in case a serious storm, power outage, or a manmade event affects our community.

The September 21st KPCA meeting will also present the KPCA budget for the next year. Membership in the KPCA is only \$25 per year (\$20 for seniors) that goes to supporting the common grounds maintenance, Neighborhood Watch, and the bigger community events like July 4th and Trunk-or-Treat. The KPCA Board's concern is that we have obligations to the *community* to maintain a high level of upkeep, security, and safety. As a Civic Association, we do not have covenants to enforce or mandatory fees like an HOA. The KPCA represents your interest in maintaining property values and ensuring we all have a safe and secure place to live and enjoy the community facilities. We are having to tighten the budget each year as we continue to see a decline in membership. Less than half of the residents in Kings Park support the KPCA with their dues. Thankfully many of our new residents are joining the KPCA and seeing the worth of community spirit and activities. What is more surprising are the number of longtime residents that have stopped renewing their annual membership.

Ponder this – several of the *commenters* on NextDoor are not KPCA members, while some of their opinions (and complaints) indicate they have little interest in being neighborly or supporting the community.

The September KPCA Community meeting agenda includes a short discussion of the final Braddock Road Study Recommendation (The Community Task Force is no longer active). Now that the communities have indicated that the

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@gmail.com</i>
1st VP:	Ken Comer	703-425-5655	<i>kwc5@cornell.edu</i>
2nd VP:	Terry Boschert	703-425-3478	<i>terry.boschert@verizon.net</i>
3rd VP/Communications:	Susan Metcalf	703-472-6512	<i>susan.metcalf@verizon.net</i>
Secretary:	Eric Werlinger	979-450-1399	<i>eric.werlinger@gmail.com</i>
Treasurer:	Susan Malmberg	703-425-1478	<i>susan.malmberg@gmail.com</i>
Immediate Past President:	Kayleen Fitzgerald	703-282-5110	<i>briankayleen@aol.com</i>
Historian:	Lucy Daris	703-978-1072	<i>dariscl@aol.com</i>

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

residents do not favor a Park-and-Ride, the next community action is to follow the details of the proposed road and bikeway/trail improvements and traffic pattern changes. The details of two of the intersection changes (Burke Lake Road and Kings Park Drive) are going to be addressed in October.

Now on a happier note. The next community event will be the 6th Annual KPCA Oktoberfest (Saturday, September 23rd). This has become a keystone event for KPCA members. The Kings Park German Band will be playing while everyone enjoys the festival food prepared by our own charcuterie chef Don Metcalf and hostess Susan Metcalf. This is a KPCA members-only event, so please RSVP as soon as possible, Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net.

The next event for the younger kids is the Trunk-or-Treat party in the Parliament Pool parking lot on Sunday, October 29th. This has been such a success in the past that its gets bigger every year so KPCA is making this another tradition. Vehicles should arrive after 2:30pm so they can be staged to make it safer and easier for the treaters. The parking lot will then be closed from 3:00pm- 4:00pm for the festivities.

September is National Preparedness month. The Farmer’s Almanac is predicting “colder than normal” temperatures and “above normal” precipitation. Although Virginia is on the border between that prediction and a “mild winter” for the Southern USA I would place my concern for a lesser degree of “terrible winter” in the form of ‘winter chill with wet and white’ through February.

Closing remarks: Remember what Harvey and Irma have done in terms of forever affecting people’s lives. **Be prepared.** Even two or three days of warning are not enough to make life saving decisions and commitments. Take the time NOW to gain a working knowledge of Emergency Preparedness. It is a simple and easy task to assemble a “72-hour emergency kit” from things you already have on hand, and only takes a few minutes to consider what is necessary for a “family communications plan”. The September 21st KPCA Community Meeting will give you the tools and knowledge to be prepared in case of flooding, blocked roads, power outages, and loss of communications.

I receive a lot of calls and emails from residents of Kings Park asking for assistance and calling attention to things that are bothering them – the remarkable thing is that 90% are from ‘long time residents’ that are not members of the KPCA. I will still provide answers and direction as best I can, but I have to wonder why they are not supporting the community themselves.

If you have any questions for me, the Board, or general comments, you will find our telephone numbers and e-mail addresses on the KPCA Website.

Respectfully,

Jim Sobecke

Kings Park Directories

by Beverly Boschert

Thanks to Kings Park volunteers who delivered the Kings Park Directory.

Making deliveries were: Marion Beavers, Janet Bergan, Beverly & Terry Boschert, Joe Camacho, Diane Hoffman, Ken & Susan Malmberg, Theresa Wills.



Special thanks to Jean and Tom Kennedy for doing an enormous share of the deliveries!

The Kings Park Civic Association provides the directory as a KPCA member benefit. Join and get your own Kings Park directory!

Charming Fixer Upper



Walk across the street. Can you see and read your house number? If not, add your address to house siding or street curb and avoid cold pizza or emergency services delays.

Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

November 1967, San Antonio Texas, Lackland AFB, Officer Training School. Well, there I was, enjoying the leisurely, no stress environment the Air Force called military training. My USAF brother-in-law called and said if we needed a ride from Texas to Illinois once I pinned on my gold bars, he had a VW Van that he left behind in Abilene when the Air Force transferred he and his family to Westover Air Force Base in Massachusetts. The van hadn't sold; would we mind driving it to Illinois; his wife would pick it up later that year. We enthusiastically agreed. Turned out to be the last enthusiastic thing we ever said about THAT VAN!

I am sure that gremlins lived in THAT VAN; we got invitations to their cookout parties; they even had mail delivered! The van would not exceed 50 mph, downhill, less uphill; real fun on 70-80 mph interstates; it stalled whenever it felt like it. At first, we thought the gas gauge didn't work, so we pulled into a gas station; the van died just a couple of feet from where the gas hose could reach; I had to push it to the pump; spent 15 cents for gas. Gas gauge works!

The van used forced air heat, no fan, which means if stopped, no heat. Going through East St Louis at night in the depth of a cold snap in a van that could stall at any time, extensive traffic light outages, as well as blocks of darkened streets and abandoned homes, was very chilling and adrenaline-packed. Beverly's parents were surprised at my enthusiastic greeting when we arrived at their farm near DuQuoin, Illinois for the Thanksgiving holiday. They were even more surprised when Beverly got out of the van and backed slowly away from it.

December 1967, Rural Illinois. My sister-in-law's ordeal started that Christmas. Beverly's Dad worked on the van and had it running. Little did he know that the van had a timely sense, stealthily hidden, of when to not run. My sister-in-law, pregnant and with two young toddlers in tow, dropped by the DuQuoin-locale farm to drive the accursed van to her home in Massachusetts. It almost made it to Vandalia Illinois, just short of 60 miles from the farm. My sister-in-law had family in Vandalia; they rescued her.

April 1968, Urbana Illinois. Now, in hindsight, the van should have been exorcised at the side of the road and then cut up for scrap, but somehow it eventually made its way to Urbana Illinois. It is now Spring, 1968. My brother-in-law's middle sister, not fully aware of the van's dark history, innocently advertised the van as free transport for college students heading to Massachusetts on Spring break; just drop the van off at my brother-in-law's house at the end of the trip. The

van bided its time; it allowed the students to make it to Washington DC for a stop but not for a start. The students were rescued and the van found its way to Massachusetts. I am not quite clear on how.

1968 to 1970, Massachusetts. While my brother-in-law deployed multiple times overseas, his wife drove the van. On the way to dinner with the kids as passengers, the oldest remarked that she saw smoke pouring out of the rear vents. My sister-in-law was skeptical until smoke poured out of the front vents as well. Once again, the van rested on the side of the road while she and her kids (now three) trudged to a filling station to call for a ride. On the way, her oldest daughter heard her mom mutter, "Bursting into flames". She still doesn't know if her mother was motivated by fear or by hope.

My brother-in-law attempted further repairs upon his returns stateside, but eventually gave up on the engine and replaced it with a VW Bug engine purchased in Kennebunkport, ME. He later sold the van with the VW Bug engine in the engine compartment and the Van engine in the passenger compartment.

September 2017. End of story? Well, not quite. I worry THAT THE VAN wanders the backroads of New England to this day picking up unsuspecting passengers while chuckling to itself; a sound easily mistaken for a running engine! Steven King, take note!



Are we there yet? Are we there yet? Are we...Oh!

Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
KING	8612 CROMWELL DR	\$519,900
QUEEN	5623 ROLLING RD	\$525,999

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
KING	5411 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$603,900
PRINCE	8715 CROMWELL DR	\$485,000
PRINCE	8805 PARLIAMENT DR	\$515,000
PRINCESS	8403 THAMES ST	\$595,000
QUEEN	8941 BURKE LAKE RD	\$539,900



Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
DUKE	8904 CROMWELL DR	\$489,900	\$485,000	\$0	\$485,000	(\$4,900)	7/10/2017
DUKE	8426 THAMES ST	\$529,988	\$529,988	\$9,000	\$520,988	(\$9,000)	8/1/2017
DUKE	8622 THAMES ST	\$499,900	\$503,000	\$0	\$503,000	\$3,100	8/25/2017
KING	5607 ROLLING RD	\$465,000	\$460,000	\$13,000	\$447,000	(\$18,000)	7/13/2017
KING	8627 THAMES ST	\$430,000	\$420,000	\$0	\$420,000	(\$10,000)	7/20/2017
KING	5405 ROLLING RD	\$480,000	\$480,000	\$750	\$479,250	(\$750)	7/31/2017
KING	8616 CLYDESDALE RD	\$609,000	\$597,500	\$0	\$597,500	(\$11,500)	8/14/2017
PRINCE	8708 CROMWELL DR	\$515,000	\$515,000	\$1,500	\$513,500	(\$1,500)	7/7/2017
PRINCE	5402 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$534,900	\$534,900	\$7,500	\$527,400	(\$7,500)	8/9/2017
PRINCE	8506 PARLIAMENT DR	\$529,000	\$515,000	\$7,000	\$508,000	(\$21,000)	8/14/2017
PRINCE	8634 VICTORIA RD	\$529,900	\$515,000	\$0	\$515,000	(\$14,900)	8/25/2017
PRINCE	8611 CLYDESDALE RD	\$539,900	\$531,000	\$950	\$530,050	(\$9,850)	8/28/2017
PRINCE	5307 ROLLING RD	\$469,000	\$470,000	\$5,000	\$465,000	(\$4,000)	8/28/2017
PRINCESS	8462 THAMES ST	\$489,000	\$489,000	\$6,500	\$482,500	(\$6,500)	7/28/2017
PRINCESS	8416 THAMES ST	\$450,000	\$400,000	\$0	\$400,000	(\$50,000)	8/18/2017
QUEEN	8467 THAMES ST	\$560,000	\$565,000	\$0	\$565,000	\$5,000	7/12/2017
QUEEN	8649 VICTORIA RD	\$524,888	\$525,000	\$7,875	\$517,125	(\$7,763)	7/28/2017
QUEEN	8927 BURKE LAKE RD	\$499,001	\$480,000	\$5,000	\$475,000	(\$24,001)	8/14/2017
QUEEN	8605 CLYDESDALE RD	\$465,000	\$475,000	\$10,000	\$465,000	\$0	8/14/2017
QUEEN	5507 CALLANDER DR	\$500,000	\$490,000	\$5,000	\$485,000	(\$15,000)	8/31/2017

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!

Retro Kings Park

by Terry Boschert

From the March 1, 1966 edition of the Kings Park Newsletter, Volume 1, Number 6.

Association Officers.

President: John F. Pearson
 Vice-President: Robert G. Hunt
 Treasurer: Raymond Pugh
 Secretary: Joan Fenimore

KPCA Annual Dues \$1 per member.

The Public Forum.

I have watched with great interest the development of the Kings Park Shopping Center and have been pleased that the design and placement of the buildings presents a harmonious appearance and a welcome departure from the block-like commercialism of most such areas. It was with surprise and distinct disappointment, therefore, that I read in the last newsletter that the landscaping plans called for limiting planting to the addition of evergreens to the meager trees remaining in the buffer area and low evergreen shrubs in the narrow divider strips. I feel Richmarr Company is missing a wonderful opportunity to go a step further and make their shopping complex a truly inviting and hospitable center in our community. A few tall-growing shade trees in the narrow divider islands and some flowering trees in the buffer areas would bring greatly increased grace and beauty to the center. It would give shade to break the large open parking areas in the summer, and would carry out the woodland environment which originally attracted many homeowners to this area.

From the May 1, 1966 edition of the Kings Park Newsletter, Volume 2, Number 1.

Association Officers.

President: Robert Hunt
 Vice-President: Herbert Persil
 Treasurer: Raymond Pugh
 Secretary: Joan Fenimore

Attempts to get Braddock Road Widened.

Robert Hunt & Robert Morris appeared at the Public Road Hearing March 30, representing the Civic Associations in the area (Kings Park, Ravensworth, Red Fox, Canterbury Woods, and Little River Estates). They presented a statement asking the State Highway Department to give serious immediate attention to the feasibility of constructing two lanes of the ultimate four-lane development on Braddock Road within Fiscal year 1967.

They also requested that the Southern Railroad Bridge on Rolling be replaced before Kings Park children have to be bused to West Springfield High School via that route and a walk light installed at Grantham St. & Burke Lake Road.

After the presentation, Lewis Brett, the resident engineer, indicated that the bridge replacement would have first priority after which improvements on Braddock Road would be considered.

FYI: Lake Braddock opened in 1973 as a school without walls; named after the reservoir located nearby.

Simple Things You Can Do to Help the Earth!

submitted by Beverly Boschert

Go for seconds. Recycling doesn't mean only separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second (or third) time.

Paper nor plastic. Bring your bags with you! By taking reusable bags to the grocery store, you can cut down on the 350 bags the average American uses each year and reduce needless deaths of marine life caused by plastic bags that end up in streams, rivers and oceans.

BYOB. Last year Americans went through about 50 billion plastic water bottles. Fill up a reusable water bottle at home and bring it with you.

Get off. Catalogs are great when they're from companies you like to order from. But if you're getting catalogs from companies you don't buy from, call or go online to tell them to take you off their list.

Source: World Wildlife Fund

The Neighbors

by Terry Boschert

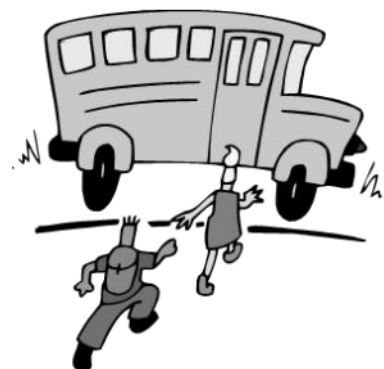
“Autumn is like a second Spring where every leaf is a flower.” Yeah, I didn’t fall for that either!



Keep a Watch Over Our Children

by Terry Boschert

As the 2017-2018 school year approaches, please be cautious while driving our streets, especially when our children travel to and from school. Fairfax County Public Schools start on August 28, 2017. Parochial and Private Schools may start before or after that date. School start and end times for Public Schools are: *Elementary 8:00 to 9:20 AM and 2:45 to 4:05 PM, Middle 7:30 AM and 2:15 PM, High 8:00 to 8:10 AM and 2:45 to 2:55 PM, and 5 PM (for late runs).* You can expect some children to walk to their school as well. So please stop for walkers crossing streets and stop for school buses when picking up or dropping off our students. Remember, children don't always look both ways before they cross a street or your driveway. Also please obey school zone speed limits whenever the lights on the sign are flashing. Do our kids and yourself a big service, be their guardian angel and watch over them while you drive. Thanks.



Little Free Library in Kings Park

"A library is not a luxury but one of the necessities of life." - Henry Ward Beecher

Not content to have a home that doubles as a library, Julie Lang wanted one more thing: a Little Free Library. That dream came true when her husband, Doug, built one for her birthday. Kings Park residents have enjoyed the Lang Little Free Library since 2015. Founded in 2009 in Wisconsin, Little Free Libraries have spread across the globe. The "Take a book, leave a book" boxes are designed to promote reading within the community. The number of libraries has grown exponentially in the past few years. In 2015, the Lang's first LFL was registered as #27923. Their upcoming "Littler, Freer Library" was recently registered as #53624.

The LLFL is stocked with all sorts of books. Many come from neighbors, and the Langs contribute books from their indoor library and trips to thrift stores. The Littler Freer Library, which will be smaller and shorter than the original, is geared towards children. The Langs have three children, ages 18, 17, and 15, who

were raised as bibliophiles. They want to share their love for books with others.

The original LLFL was also an exercise in learning. When novice carpenter Doug Lang realized that the first LLFL he built was not working out, he learned from his mistakes and is building a newer, sturdier Library. Books can help you learn and grow. The LLFL is a testament to that.

Kings Park residents have been enthusiastic users of the LLFL. Neither rain nor snow can keep them away. During the blizzard in early 2016, someone was spotted climbing through the drifts to get their reading fix in. Without this kind of enthusiasm, the LLFL would just be a box. Instead, it's a way for KP residents to share their love for reading.

Since the installation of the original LLFL, other Little Free Libraries have popped up in Kings Park. The Langs couldn't be happier about this - now they have other neighborhood libraries to explore.