

Gazette

MAY/JUNE 2018



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Senior Luncheon

The Kings Park Civic Association will host its annual luncheon for seniors at Hunan West Restaurant in the Kings Park Shopping Center on Wednesday, May 2 at 1:00.

Please note that all Kings Park Seniors are welcome but that the lunch is free of charge only for current members of the Civic Association. If you are not sure your dues are paid please contact Marie at mcullerton42@mac.com or 703-426-4904.

Please email Marie at mcullerton42@mac.com if you will be attending. Please provide your email address, home address and phone number or call Marie at 703-426-4904 with the information.

Since not all members are on Next-door please let your neighbors know about the Senior Lunch. Marie will get in touch with those who plan on attending. Thank you to Alan at Hunan West for keeping this event affordable and convenient for so many years.



KPCA Calendar of Events

- May 2** KPCA Senior Luncheon 1:00pm Hunan West
- May 3** KPCA Board Meeting 7:00-9:00pm
- May 5** KPCA Clean-up Day - This is for large item pickup. Contact Roy Warner for Pickup or to Volunteer - 703-250-5328
- May 10** KPCA Community Meeting and Elections 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary
- July 4** 4th of July Parade and Concert in the Park - Parade Starts at Kings Park Elementary School at 11:00am

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

From the President

We have had some very *unusual* weather so far this year. We did have the dry and mild winter the Farmer's Almanac correctly predicted, but Spring and Winter couldn't decide on a proper transition. Now the forecast is for a cool and wet summer.

The annual *Gene Mercer* Seniors Luncheon (May 2) and Clean-up Day (May 5) are taking place within this week. Hopefully all goes well as we continue to host some of the long standing KPCA traditions.

The next big event is the annual KPCA 4th of July parade and picnic. Being on a Wednesday this year it is going to be difficult to estimate attendance and participation, but regardless we will hope for good weather. 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.

On a more serious note. I want to make Community Emergency Preparedness one of the top concerns for Kings Park residents in the coming months. After the recent windstorm caused a lot of property damage, and power outages for several days, there should be a greater concern in knowing what to do, who to contact, and where to go when an emergency occurs. It doesn't take a lot of effort to have a basic plan for your family and assemble what is called a "72-hour emergency kit". The goal will be to provide a basic emergency guide and checklist for you to fill-in some additional information (e.g., insurance company) and other personal contacts.

I am in the process of preparing a Community Emergency Response Plan for Kings Park. It will identify several Rally Points (all within walking distance) where you can go to report an emergency, get immediate assistance, and offer your help should the power go out and communications lines (and cellphones) aren't working, and residents are unsure what is happening.

Each year our KPCA membership form asks residents if they would need assistance in an emergency and/or if they would be able to help a neighbor. We are hoping to actually have a plan and mechanism where we can utilize this data to make sure the right connections are made and special needs are taken care of should the need arise. If you are interested in being an active part of this effort please contact me.

Another subject that continues to concern me is the misuse of social media. NextDoor is a valuable asset and a unique way of getting important information to the community. I believe the original purpose was that of a 'hotline' to allow timely passing of emergency and time sensitive information among neighbors. It has now become another facebook and open forum for complaints, comments, and 'commercials'.

Fairfax County government has the capability of providing one-way postings on NextDoor. What I am seeing now is what may become an overuse of a valuable communications asset. I now see that the County External Communications Office (Public Affairs) is using it as a weekly newsletter. I disagree with that direction.

Initially the Police Department was granted exclusive access to NextDoor in order to 'broadcast' timely alerts and critical information. They are still holding to that purpose, but with the other County agencies getting involved

Committee Chairs

Community Potluck	Susan Metcalf	703-503-0176
	<i>Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net</i>	
Emergency Preparedness	Sher Plunkett	703-503-0277
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Membership/	Marie Cullerton	703-426-4904
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	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
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Social - Kids	Liz Rivera	703-978-3034
Youth Community Services	Susan Metcalf	703-503-0176
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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 cont'd

the messages that are truly important and critical will be lost in the clutter.

KPCA dues offset the extra costs involved in offering all the hosted community events -- Clean-Up Day, Entrance Beautification, grounds maintenance, Senior Luncheon, July 4th Picnic and, 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.

In closing - The Kings Park Civic Association is here to represent the consensus of the Kings Park residents. Without your input and awareness of YOUR concerns the Board has to act on what information we have available. Many people are not aware that as a Civic Association we do not have covenants nor the authority to monitor zoning rules and traffic regulations. We are able to direct comments and concerns to the proper authorities when it affects the community at large. The residents of the County have a responsibility to report things that concern them (e.g., if you see something say something!) directly to the County offices and agencies, VDOT, without fear of "getting involved".

Enjoy your spring (whenever it finally arrives and settles in) – looking forward to summer!

Jim Sobecke

Neighbors Helping 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.

Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

Carlyle, Illinois, 80 years ago. My great-grandfather, Henry Cavin, farmed the flat, sandy areas of Sand Ridge; that area was once a shoreline, millions of years ago, of a sea now gone. He grew summer crops in the sandy soil just east of the town, perfect for melons, and plowed with the horse instead of the tractor. My uncle, Charles Sanders, helped him farm and would also pick up pottery shards, stone arrowheads, and stone plow blades as the now steel plow disturbed the soil. I walked around Sand Ridge decades later as a teenager and could still find those same type of Indian artifacts in those same, now unplowed, fields. Before Carlyle Lake filled, archeologists from Southern Illinois University uncovered several burial sites and I think (not sure) some settlements as well. They kept everything hush-hush to prevent looting and damage. The archeologists later related that it was the largest Native American find they had ever discovered; turned out to be the peoples of the Illini.

What a revelation to me; humans had lived in and around my small town of Carlyle for thousands of years! The ground that I walked on they had as well! That observation inspired me to write this article.

Fairfax County, 13,000 years ago. The most recent ice age, which had lasted for roughly 100,000 years, begins to ebb. The ice age still had around 2,000 more years to influence the landscape, flora, and fauna, of Fairfax County. The group of hunters did not know that; they followed the large game animals now migrating, south and north, as the ice sheet pulled back from Pennsylvania and New York. The weather was cooler than now; Virginia still hosted a healthy array of plants and animals. Pine and spruce trees grew in Fairfax County, more numerous than at present. Large animals roamed our landscape; American Mastodon (7 to 9 feet tall at the shoulder and weighing 10,000 to 16,000 pounds) and Woolly Mammoth (8 to 12 feet tall at the shoulder and weighing 10,000 to 26,000 pounds), Giant Short-Faced Bear (12 feet high standing on two legs, 6 feet high at the shoulder, and weighing 1,500 pounds), the Giant Ground Sloth (10 feet long and weighing 2,200 pounds).

The hunters tread carefully and carried their bone-tipped spears at the ready. They knew they faced large animals and small odds that all of them would survive the encounter uninjured. Suddenly they heard what they had both hunted and dreaded. Heavy steps and noisy huffing; a lone Mastodon! Their hearts beat more loudly, so loudly that more than one hunter grew concerned that their prey would hear them from their heartbeats alone. But the Mastodon stayed focused on

the twigs, cones, leaves, and pine needles of the coniferous trees that formed its diet. The hunters carefully approached and encircled their prey. As one, they rushed forward with their bone-tipped spears. The animal, confused at first, became enraged and charged its tormentors. The hunters thrust most of the spears into the Mastodon in that moment of confusion, then ran for their lives as the enraged Mastodon chased them as it bled out. As they expected, two of their number were injured; broken bones; the most experienced of their group and his nephew who rescued him from worse harm. They honored the Mastodon, then hastily butchered it before other predators claimed the free meal. The hunters, carrying their wounded and hard-won supply of meat, returned to their people in the temporary camp located within what will one day be Kings Park.

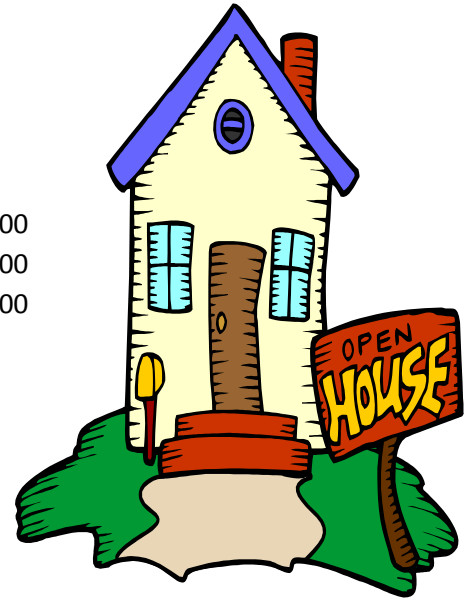
Fairfax County, present day. This is just a story. But it could have happened, if not in Kings Park, then elsewhere in Fairfax County. The point is that when you read this story (I'm an optimist) be aware that humans have walked through or inhabited Fairfax County for over 13,000 years. Think about that. When you retrieve your morning paper from the drive way, walk around Kings Park, or go to a Fairfax County school or church, tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, of people have also walked in those spaces. Groups of nomadic hunters, Algonquin (Powhatan) Native Americans, North American colonists, Americans, all were here before you. You may even stand in the same spot one of them once stood. And they were just like us; they laughed, felt joyous at the birth of a child, mourned when loved ones died, worried about how to support their families, perhaps grumbled at their growing "to-do" lists. We are just the latest edition of folks to live in Fairfax County and the Kings Park subdivision. Only time, not distance, separates us from them.



Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUKE	5307 WEYMOUTH DR	\$529,000
PRINCESS	8606 VICTORIA RD	\$521,900
PRINCE	8645 VICTORIA RD	\$539,900



Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
KING	5415 WEYMOUTH DR	\$615,000
PRINCE	5525 EASTBOURNE DR	\$549,000

Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
DUCHESS	8416 THAMES ST	\$549,888	\$555,000	\$0	\$555,000	\$5,112	03/19/18
KING	5527 EASTBOURNE DR	\$509,000	\$509,000	\$3,200	\$505,800	-\$3,200	04/12/18
PRINCE	8615 CLYDESDALE RD	\$445,000	\$445,000	\$0	\$445,000	\$0	04/09/18
PRINCESS	8601 CROMWELL DR	\$415,000	\$405,000	\$0	\$405,000	-\$10,000	04/09/18
QUEEN	5200 KINGS PARK DR	\$449,500	\$430,000	\$0	\$430,000	-\$19,500	03/16/18
QUEEN	8919 BURKE LAKE RD	\$619,000	\$599,000	\$10,000	\$589,000	-\$30,000	03/09/18

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!

The Almost Burke Airport

by Judy Baldwin

Piggybacking on Terry Boschert's extremely interesting piece in the March/April issue of the Gazette on the once planned Burke Airport, here is more on the effect of the airport's removal to the Chantilly area.

Countless old houses and barns and the small town of Willard were torn down when the airport was built. Among the homes slated for destruction was Sully, built by Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee, in 1794. The owners of Sully, Frederick and Lindsay Nolting, were in Paris where he was Alternate Permanent Representative to NATO, so a neighbor, Eddie Wagstaff, moved into the house to protect it from vandals until the Noltings could remove their furnishings. The story is that Wagstaff slept with a shotgun under his pillow in case the bulldozers came in the middle of the night.

Historic preservation wasn't big in 1958 but there were people who cared about preserving Sully. Besides Wagstaff and other local residents, the Society of the Lees of Virginia, descendants of all the Lees prominent in the early U.S., got involved with Eleanor Lee Templeman leading the charge. Congressman Joel Broyhill, whose district included both Burke and the Chantilly area, had been involved in advocating for construction of the airport out in Chantilly ("where there's nothing but cows") and away from Burke, found himself being confronted by constituents who wanted to save Sully. He introduced a bill in Congress in 1958 which would have saved both Sully and Leeton, a nearby and also very old house, but it failed. That's when the bulldozers got closer.

A year later, he tried again but included only Sully in the second bill which passed. Sully was literally saved by an Act of Congress. But, at that time, a bill was deemed vetoed if the President did not sign it within 10 days and President Eisenhower was in Europe. So, the bill was flown to Paris but by the time it arrived, Eisenhower had moved on to London. Frederick Nolting personally carried the bill to London for the presidential signature and in doing so, lost his family's home but preserved it for history.

The house and the remaining out buildings were deeded to Fairfax County for as long as they were to be used for historic purposes. Fairfax County then had to create a historic resources division within the Park Authority to manage the property. Meanwhile, the airport still owned the land.

Today Fairfax County manages five restored historic properties including Sully and the Colvin Run Mill and manages seven historic properties which may be rented for meetings or weddings. The county leases about 35 acres of land where Sully and its out buildings stand and purchased additional acreage to make a good sized park and to preserve Sully's privacy. However, the house is in a landing pattern for Dulles Airport so modern jets swoop in low over the 224 year old house.

The name "Sully Plantation" was a misnomer given to the property when it was restored to its 1794 appearance during the 1970's. Richard Bland Lee referred to it as a farm. Today it is known as the Sully Historic Site. Guided tours of the house are offered every day except Tuesday and a "Forgotten Road Tour" through the out buildings with emphasis on the enslaved African Americans is given at 2 p.m. every day except Tuesday.

Helping Ourselves

by Terry Boschert

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!"

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
-

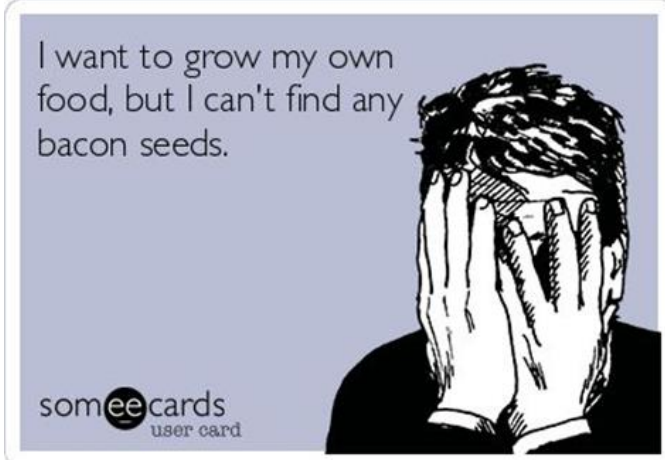
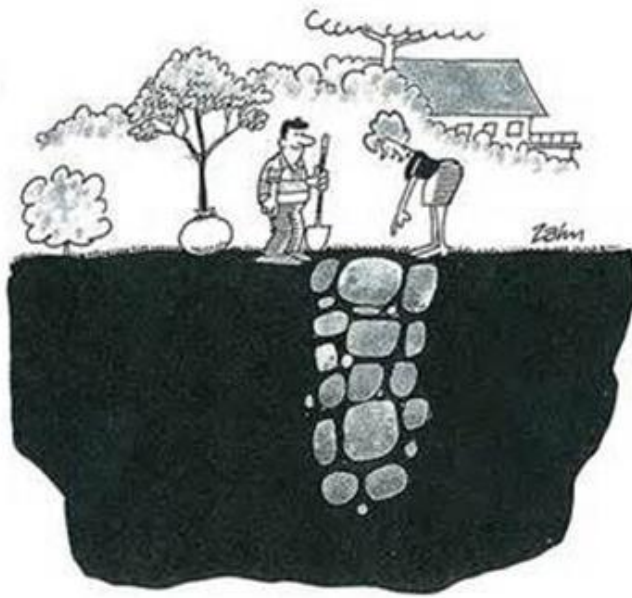


**Join us at
Parliament Pool this
summer!**

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!

The Neighbors

by Terry Boschert



Retro Kings Park

From the January 1990 edition of the Kings Park Gazette

Association Officers:

President: Nancy Irber
1st Vice President: Ken Malmberg
2nd Vice President: Gene Mercer
Treasurer: Donna Harris
Recording Secretary: Pat Thigpen
Corresponding Secretary: Marion Beavers
Past President: Vacant

Traffic Committee News: On March 20, 1990, at 7:30 PM in the Massey Building, VDOT and the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing. Comments on the implementation of proposed remedies for cut-through traffic in Kings Park will be heard. Please plan to attend!

Neighborhood Watch: Statistics show that Kings Park, which has had an active Neighborhood Watch since 1981, has one of the lowest crime rates in Fairfax County. Police sources attribute this to Neighborhood Watch and members who give their time can be very proud that they are making a direct and significant contribution to our community.

Real Estate: King average \$189,750. Queen average \$201,000. Prince average \$183,325. Princess currently none for sale. Duke average \$192,867. Duchess currently none for sale.

For Your Information: If you haven't done so, please remove the gypsy moth egg masses from your trees and yard. Indications are that the infestation in Kings Park this year is worse than last year, as it is in Fairfax County.

Kings Park Classified: Word Processing\Typing. Resumes, SF 171s, letters, manuscripts, proposals, thesis, etc. Will assist in formatting and editing.

King's Park True Value Hardware, King's Park Shopping Center.

Kilroys Only in America. Baby Back Ribs Full Rack \$8.95, Half Rack \$6.95. Monday Night All You Can Eat Ribs \$10.95. 10 OZ. Full Cut USDA Choice Prime Rib \$7.95

Major Appliance Repair: Service call in Kings Park only \$10