

Gazette

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018



Oktoberfest 2018!!

by Susan Metcalf

Please join your community for some family fun at our Annual Kings Park Oktoberfest September 22nd from noon—2:00pm in the Parliament Pool parking lot. This event is only open to 2018 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 20th 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.

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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 28th 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>

KPCA Calendar of Events

- September 20** KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary
- September 22** Oktoberfest 12:00pm Parliament Pool Parking Lot
- October 3** KPCA Board Meeting 7:30-9:00pm
- October 28** Trunk or Treat 3:00-4:00pm
- November 7** KPCA Board Meeting 7:30-9:00pm
- November 15** KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary
- December 7** 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

The long, HOT, and stormy summer is behind us! This year's July 4th festivities got us back on track enjoying community activities for the whole family. However the KPCA membership is still at its lowest in a long time. We did see many new sign-ups at the Picnic but the overall membership response is still disappointing.

We want to know – why aren't residents joining the KPCA? We are not a Home Owners Association (HOA) nor do we have any covenants. We are a Civic Association with the official goal of improving our neighborhood through volunteer work by its members. We have no paid staff, and thus rely on (voluntary) membership dues and donations (including time) to maintain common grounds and give back to the members with events and programs.

At the September 20st KPCA community meeting, we will present the KPCA budget for the next year. Membership in the KPCA is only \$25 per year (\$20 for seniors) and that goes to support the common grounds maintenance, Neighborhood Watch, and the bigger community events such as 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. With the sizable reduction in the number of members' the income from dues (and donations) requires a cut-back in support provide to the community. Way less than half of the residents in Kings Park support the KPCA with their dues.

Thankfully many of our new residents (still a very small number) have stepped forward and joined the KPCA- they see the worth of community spirit and activities. What is more surprising are the number of longtime residents that have stopped renewing their annual membership.

The July 4th Parade and Picnic is just one of the many events that have been sponsored by the KPCA for over 40 years. This year we discovered that we had to hire a police officer for traffic control in order to secure a VDOT road use permit. That was an unexpected expense! There will have to be changes next year in order to stay within budget.

For years Kings Park residents have benefitted from the many hours of volunteer time your neighbors provide in organizing and supporting the Community Events that are intended to cover all ages and interests. Did you know that the care and maintenance of the entrances to Kings Park at Southampton and Kings Park Drive are the responsibility of the KPCA? You expect a professional and well-kept appearance – that requires a contractor to mow, fertilize, rake leaves, and care for the planted areas. In past years the

Committee Chairs

Community Potluck
Susan Metcalf 703-503-0176
Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net

Emergency Preparedness
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Open Position

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KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151

www.kings-park.org

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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

planting area at the entrances and at the nubs along Southampton were carefully pampered to provide a high level of visual impact for our residents and visitors. That was all done by the KPCA members on the Beautification Committee. Now it is hard to find willing workers to supplement the 'long time' committee members with new and younger hands! As a result, the KPCA has begun to rely more on professional support to provide minimum essential care and upkeep.

It is not surprising that we still have a small number of our residents (KPCA members) that continue to be community oriented, by volunteering their time and personal skills to help maintain a beautiful Kings Park so that it can be appreciate everyone.

It bears repeating that as a Civic Association, KPCA does 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.

Now on a happier note. The next community event will be the 6th Annual KPCA Oktoberfest (Saturday, September 22nd). 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.

The next event for the younger kids is the Trunk-or-Treat party in the Parliament Pool parking lot on Sunday, October 28th. 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.

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

Bananas

by Susan Malmberg

Today bananas are so common they are hardly given a second thought. However, when they first became available in America in the 1800s they were considered a luxury. A combination of improved transportation, refrigeration, the plantation growing method and low cost made the banana a popular food by 1900. It was also a fruit, rare at that time, which could be eaten fresh year-round. The nutritious fruit has remained popular through the years.

Around the same time the germ theory of disease transmission was introduced and led to increased interest in sanitary living conditions. In 1895 New York City led the way in city sanitation and many American cities followed. Dedicated street cleaners were employed, litter cans were placed along sidewalks and the public was educated about the benefits of sanitary streets. Banana peels were one of the targets of this sanitation movement. In St. Louis any place selling fruit had to post a sign stating that throwing fruit on the sidewalk was forbidden.

Now, 100 years later, we live in a very clean community. We still have some litter, especially of the plastic variety, that causes environmental problems that were not envisioned in 1900. Even though litter cans are being removed for security reasons, most people dispose of trash responsibly and a banana peel on the sidewalk is not a common sight. However, in the median on Southampton at Rolling Road, we do have the old problem of banana peels being thrown on the street. Thank you to those neighbors who take the time and initiative to periodically clean up the eyesore.

Source: Bananas An American History by Virginia Scott Jenkins

Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

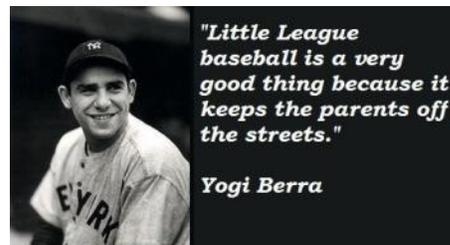
St. Louis Cardinals Baseball. Ah, the thrill of listening to the game on KMOX radio with my grandfather; the announcers; Harry Caray, Jack Buck, Joe Buck, Joe Garagiola, all golden voices to the ears of a youngster. And the Cardinal players announced by these golden voices; Stan Musial, Julian Javier, Lou Brock, Tim McCarver, Lew Burdette, Curt Flood, Bill White, Ken Boyer, Dick Groat, Bob Gibson, Kurt Simmons, Ray Sadecki, Red Schoendienst, and let us not forget, Robert George (Bob, yes that Bob) Uecker; many are in the Baseball or Sportscasters Hall of Fame. Bob went on to a movie career I think.

Washington Nationals. A new experience. I could actually attend games; in person even! No more radio as my main source media to a game. I joined a Season Tickets' group in 2005. The magic of sitting in our seats to watch live baseball. And in the first season, the Nationals were competitive! We finished in last place with an 81-81 won-loss record but only 9 games out! Wait until next year! The next year, 2006, last place again, 71-91 record. 2007? 4th place, 73-89. In 2008 a 102-loss season. I felt as if we were in 6th place in a 5-team division. I adopted a new mantra: losses are just a consequence of arithmetic.

And in 2009, we saw baseball in a new stadium. No more losing track of flyballs sitting behind home plate at RFK because our sightline was blocked by a steel girder; no more enduring the odor of nearby cooking half-smokes when the breeze was in the wrong direction! And we won 59 games that year out of a 162-game schedule! You do the arithmetic.

Little did I anticipate a team turnaround. More wins each season. And we haven't had a losing season since 2011! Those winning seasons raised our expectations. Didn't make the playoffs!!!! Didn't get out of the first round of playoffs!!!! Boo, fire the manager! So that is what the owners did. Two of the three managers fired were National League managers of the year and won two Eastern Division titles (2012 and 2014), the third manager fired won two National League Eastern Division Titles in each of the two years he managed (2016-2017). This year, we may not even have a winning record.

But despite the hard times, I can see baseball live! Ryan Zimmerman, Max Scherzer, Bryce Harper, Steven Strasburg, Trey Turner, Anthony Rendon, and the emerging star, 19-year old Juan Soto, and many others. I saw Jordon Zimmermann's no-hitter live! The feeling in the stadium from the 7th inning on was, well, words can't describe it. The entire stadium buzzed with excitement and electricity. I now can see how magnetic personalities can wow a crowd. And the aura of the ballpark is just amazing. Good restaurant, better concessions than the RFK days, great seats, friendly folks to talk to, banter with opposing team's fans. But I still miss listening to the game with Gramps.



Retro Kings Park

From the September 1983 edition of the Kings Park Gazette

Association Officers:

President: Judy Brosee
 1st Vice President: Tom Gladstone
 2nd Vice President: Joe Melchiorre
 Treasurer: Mike Brosee
 Secretary: Pat Canby
 Past President: Bob Coolbaugh

A LETTER TO THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CHIEF OF POLICE:

Dear Colonel Buracker;

It is a pleasure to congratulate you, the members of the Fairfax County Police Department and the citizens of

Fairfax County for the outstanding growth and success of your Neighborhood Watch program. Because it encourages community and individual involvement in crime prevention, it is instrumental in bringing police and citizens closer together by creating an awareness of common goals and promoting cooperative efforts.

(last paragraph); You have my continued support and appreciation for a job well done! You have established this program as an excellent example to be emulated in all communities throughout the nation. May you enjoy continued success.

Sincerely,
 signed
 Ronald Reagan, the White House – Washington, April 1983.

Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
KING	8510 DURHAM CT	\$500,000
PRINCE	8650 VICTORIA RD	\$549,000
PRINCE	8903 CROMWELL DR	\$579,900
PRINCESS	8601 CROMWELL DR	\$559,900

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUCHESS	8434 THAMES ST	\$599,900
PRINCE	8803 TRAFALGAR CT	\$549,000
PRINCESS	8813 VICTORIA RD	\$549,000
QUEEN	8470 THAMES ST	\$539,000
QUEEN	8461 THAMES ST	\$559,900



Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
PRINCE	8645 VICTORIA RD	\$539,900	\$544,900	\$10,000	\$534,900	(\$5,000)	07/10/18
KING	5506 AVON CT	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$14,000	\$546,000	(\$14,000)	07/25/18
KING	5528 KINGS PARK DR	\$575,000	\$576,000	\$0	\$576,000	\$1,000	07/20/18
PRINCESS	8911 VICTORIA RD	\$505,000	\$505,000	\$3,000	\$502,000	(\$3,000)	07/13/18
QUEEN	8605 CROMWELL DR	\$579,000	\$579,000	\$8,200	\$570,800	(\$8,200)	07/13/18
QUEEN	8927 CROMWELL DR	\$595,000	\$585,000	\$0	\$585,000	(\$10,000)	08/06/18

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!

Recent Events in Kings Park

Always Fun at the July 4th Parade and Picnic in the Park!

Photo Credit: Bill Mindak Photography, Haiping Luo



National Night Out



Record turnout of 52 neighbors at the 8th Annual Eastbourne/Ramsey National Night Out. Special thanks to Angel & Gar for hosting a wonderful affair. There was talk about doing another get together in October. :-))

Photo Credit: Joe Camacho, Haiping Luo

Parliament Drive also hosted a NNO Get Together



A good time was had by all on Aug. 7 when neighbors on Piccadilly Place celebrated National Night Out with Fairfax County Police.

More than 40 friends attended, bringing their best pot luck dishes and homemade baked goods to share, as well as gobbling grilled hot dogs and cold drinks. It was a steamy evening, with the faint sound of thunder in the far distance, but weather held out so folks of all ages could enjoy the evening.

Attending were original owners, other neighbors who'd lived here for some years, young adults who'd grown up on the block, and younger couples with children, newer to Kings Park.

Special guests were three police officers who visited, chatting with the crowd, enjoying the food and handing out safety information and small gifts. The highlight of the night was letting the children experience lights and siren of the patrol car. Besides "par-tay," the byword of the evening was "Kings Park, lock your cars."

Photo Credit: Harriet Passarelli



Electronics Recycling

by Beverly Boschert

Definition: Computers and peripherals (i.e., printers, scanners, ZIP drives, keyboards), phones, cameras, televisions, fax machines, portable gaming devices, video equipment, audio equipment, etc.

Donation and Recycling Locations, Specific Types of Electronics:

- Computers and Televisions
- Rechargeable Batteries
- Cell Phones - Cell phones are also accepted at various government office drop-off locations.

Before Donating or Recycling Your Used Electronics:

- Delete all personal information from your electronic device before recycling it.
- Remove any batteries from your electronics as they may need to be recycled separately.
- Rather than buying a brand new computer or laptop, consider upgrading the hardware or software on your existing device instead.

E-WASTE HOURS OF OPERATION

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.

Why are proper recycling and/or disposal of electronics important?

Products are made from metal, plastics, and glass -- all of which require energy to mine and manufacture. Reusing and recycling these materials conserves natural resources. In addition, many electronics contain lead, mercury, beryllium and cadmium. If improperly disposed of, these contaminants may be released into the environment.

What happens to the electronics after they are collected?

When possible, electronics are refurbished and/or resold. In some cases, electronics are disassembled, sorted by material (metals, plastics, glass, etc.) and sold on the recyclables market. Hazardous components, such as leaded glass in certain computer monitors or TVs, are removed and sent for proper recovery and recycling in a permitted hazardous waste facility. Source: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/electronics

The Neighbors

by Terry Boschert



**Don't forget to
 join Kings Park
 Civic
 Association!
 Pay online at:
 Kings-Park.org**



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!



Neighborhood Watch

Kings Park Neighborhood Watch currently has 41 active patrol volunteer pairs. At the recommendation of the Fairfax County Police, we schedule patrols for non-holiday workdays. Some patrols are scheduled during the day others during the evening depending on the availability of the volunteers. Three volunteers also schedule the volunteers who patrol. Some volunteers patrol every month on a regular schedule while others patrol 4 or more times a year as they are available. Some volunteers patrol on bikes. Thanks to all our KPNW volunteers.

During the period from January through August 2018 patrols were scheduled for 98% of the non-holiday workdays and patrols were actually driven 93% of those days.

New volunteers are always welcome and needed. It is a great way for new drivers to fulfill driving hours for a driver's license. It is also an easy way for students to complete volunteer hours for community service. A regular monthly patrol is especially helpful for the schedulers.