

# Gazette

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



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## Kids Holiday Party

by Liz Rivera

Please join us for the KPCA's annual Children's Holiday Party on Friday, December 7th. in the cafeteria at Kings Park Elementary School. The festivities run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and include Holiday music by our beloved Kings Park Band, arts and crafts, face painting, a Cupcake Walk, and an appearance by the famous man in red, Santa Claus! Please bring your own camera to take photos with the famous "man in red."

All **KPCA Paid Members** are welcome to bring their children/ grandchildren to this KPCA sponsored event. If you have not paid your dues please do so you can attend. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Liz Rivera at 703-978-3034 or [edaileyrivera@yahoo.com](mailto:edaileyrivera@yahoo.com). Any students needing service hours are welcome to help. Please bring your service hours forms if you need them signed.



If you like to bake, please bake cupcakes as a prize for the Cupcake Walk. Liz can pick up

## Holiday Lights Concert

by The Kings Park Band

The Kings Park Concert Band is pleased to announce its 2nd annual Braddock Lights Holiday Concert to be held at the Lake Braddock Secondary School Auditorium on Sunday, December 16 at 3PM. This is a free concert open to the community.

Lake Braddock Secondary School Auditorium  
9200 Burke Lake Road  
Burke, VA 22015

## KPCA Calendar of Events

<b>November 15</b>	<b>KPCA Community Meeting</b> 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary
<b>December 7</b>	<b>KPCA Kid's Holiday Party</b> 6:30-8:00pm Kings Park Elementary
<b>January 17</b>	<b>KPCA Community Meeting</b> 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary

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

## From the President

Neighbors -

We hope the KPCA members that attended the 6th Annual Oktoberfest enjoyed the great event. Fortunately, the weather was great (sunny and mild) so everyone could really enjoy the food and entertainment by the Kings Park German Band. We are always open for suggestions on how to make it more festive. This tradition began as an alternative for a rained out 4th of July Picnic, but we now see Oktoberfest to be another opportunity for KPCA members to get together and have fun as a community.

The annual Trunk or Treat (October 28th) is another KPCA tradition that we hope you all enjoyed. The last KPCA sponsored event for the year is Children's Holiday Party on December 7th at the Kings Park Elementary School. We have had a great response in the past and welcome the many new families to join the KPCA community.

I have heard that apparently, many residents in the community don't see the relevance of the Kings Park Civic Association. Otherwise our membership numbers would be much higher than it 37 per cent (the lowest it has been for years). Just a historical note that in 1967 there were 1350 recoded members of the KPCA.

Let us take a look at what the KPCA does for you as a community member (property owner or renter) and neighbor. Some examples are:

- Neighborhood Watch
- Maintenance of the Common Grounds and entrances
- Liaison with the Braddock District Supervisor's Office
- Representation on citizen task forces (e.g., Braddock Road Widening)
- Representation at community councils (e.g., Police Citizens Advisory Council)
- Community newsletter (Gazette)
- Next Door moderator
- Community events host and organization (i.e., July 4th, Oktoberfest, etc.)
- Neighbors helping Neighbors (emergency preparedness)

Kings Park is a residential subdivision build by Richmarr Construction Company in the 1960's. In 1964 Richmarr subdivided and sold individual parcels (land and

## Committee Chairs

### Community Potluck

Susan Metcalf 703-503-0176

[Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net](mailto:Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net)

### Emergency Preparedness

Sher Plunkett 703-503-0277

[sherplunkett@gmail.com](mailto:sherplunkett@gmail.com)

### Environmental Awareness

Beverly Boschert 703-425-3478

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### Government Affairs

Ken Malmberg 703-425-1478

[ken.malmberg@gmail.com](mailto:ken.malmberg@gmail.com)

### Membership/

Leeann Alberts

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### Public Safety and Neighborhood Watch

Terry Boschert 703-425-3478

[terry.boschert@verizon.net](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net)

### Social - Kids

Liz Rivera 703-978-3034

### Youth Community Services

Susan Metcalf 703-503-0176

[Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net](mailto:Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net)

## KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

*P.O. Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151*

### Board of Directors

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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](mailto: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](http://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

structure) to buyers, and also set aside land for public streets and easements (utilities). The property deed indicated that there were certain covenants and restrictions binding on all purchasers, mortgagees, owners, and holders until July 20th, 1989. As far as I can determine none of those covenants or restrictions were extended or renewed.

Covenants are generally agreements between the property owner and Fairfax County to do or not do something specific. I have to assume that the covenants were probably very specific and addressed concerns of the times (i.e., limit on the number of live chickens; identifying property lines and fencing, etc.). Since that time Fairfax County has enacted certain zoning laws ordinances that now require adherence to federal and state Building Codes with along with enforcement power. I believe the KPCA was organized in 1962 at the time of stay-at-home wives/moms, baby-sitting clubs, carpools and single-car families. In 1967 when the last of the Kings park homes were constructed the KPCA assumed responsibility for mowing and maintenance of the entranceways and Kings Park Drive's median.

During its early years the KPCA efforts were directed toward the provision of facilities and services necessary for quality suburban life and influencing land use decisions in the Braddock Road and Burke areas. Since that time Kings Park is no longer considered a suburban community, but the quality of life and what is happening in the surrounding neighborhoods and communities is still of great concern.

Why am I telling you this? For three reasons. The history of Kings Park will soon be forgotten if the residents don't care about their surroundings and maintaining the highest qualities of life. (Note: the majority of the Board was born before the founding of Kings Park). The KPCA provides community activities and representation that is far more than some of our neighboring communities and Home Owner Associations (HOA). The \$25 annual KPCA membership dues (\$20 for seniors) is one of the lowest per capita in the area – and is stretched further than you can imagine. KPCA hosts the July 4th Parade and Picnic (for over 50 years now), Oktoberfest, Spring Clean-up support, Children's events, Senior's Luncheon, and five Community Meetings every year. And there are also the background activities you don't visualize like Neighborhood Watch, Grounds Maintenance, and emergency preparedness

In previous Gazette's I talked about having to 'cut back' on activities in the future, but fortunately the impact will be minimal at least for the next year. All of the above mentioned events will be continued. The July 4th Parade tradition may have a little adjustment in the road use process. We are looking at "members only" and "non-members" privileges more closely. The volunteers that make up the Kings Park Civic Association Board, and its many committees, are here to represent your interests, provide a sounding board for your concerns and suggestions, and provide a voice in matters that may affect your ability to enjoy the community ambiance and tranquility. WE are your neighbors, also property owners, taxpayers, and many are also longtime members of the KPCA.

We are looking for your ideas for future community events. There is interest in activating the Community Potluck Dinner and specific activities for younger adults and children of all ages. The KPCA Community Meetings are lacking an audience beyond the dozen or more 'regulars'.

What would be high on your list of 'must attend' events? It doesn't have to be a speaker on a particular subject that is near and dear to your heart, or to consume two hours of your valuable time. How about a demonstration, a short talk about lawn and/or garden care {on the schedule before Spring}, or using walking trails and bike paths in the area.

There is nothing beholding to weekday evening meetings. We could arrange to offer some activity twice so it can fit YOUR SCHEDULE. Weekends are possible. Even an afternoon or before school is out can be opportunities worthy of consideration. Please don't look at the negative side of what I have had to say in the past. KPCA – we are here for you! Your interest, comments, and help are always appreciated. Social media 'communications' accepted, but not a true replacement for face-to-face expressions of thanks and appreciation for all that we try to do for you!

Now the Farmer's Almanac prediction - a "very long and snow-filled winter" – and that after the long stormy and wet summer. Plan accordingly – what is your snow emergency plan?

We cordially welcome all in the community to join us in offering best wishes and holiday cheer to old friends and neighbors. Make this holiday season an opportunity to meet the many new families that have made Kings Park their home. We are see-

# Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

Monday, October 9, 1848. Dawn. The Cavin farm. Ezekial Abram Cavin sat in his warm, inviting kitchen. Zeke, his preferred name, always enjoyed a hearty breakfast, today coarse, dark bread, scrambled eggs, bacon, kidneys, cold turkey, some venison from last night's supper, and coffee. "Breakfast got you started right", Zeke thought, "especially today." Today, after a year of hard, back-breaking work, he would drive his herd to market. Zeke turned his head to the left to gaze out the kitchen door. The sun's upper edge was just visible in the eastern sky, its rays lighting the tops of trees with red and gold light, but not yet touching the grounds around the house. The sun's light caught the fall leaf colors of the red oaks, hickory, maple, and birch in breath-catching brilliance. He saw a nearly cloudless deep blue sky, and thought, "We should have a good first day's drive". At least he hoped so. For the last 5 years delays just seemed to pile up during the drive. "No accounting for it", he mused. The sound of the herd as it awoke from its night's slumber interrupted Zeke's thoughts. It was time. He turned away from the door, pushed back his chair, which scraped loudly on the wood plank floor, and stood. His family and hired drovers ceased their talk and looked towards him. Zeke picked up and adjusted his rucksack, grabbed his richly hued, gnarled, oak walking stick, and cleared his throat. Just as he had for the last 23 years, Zeke said the words to start Drive Day, "People, let us get these turkeys to market!"

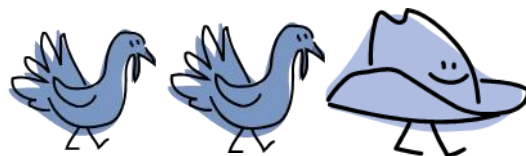
From the late 1700s to the early 1850s, Vermonters drove and cajoled live turkeys from their farms to the markets of Boston. They faced a journey of up to 300 miles at 10-12 miles per day over rough roads, at times just a trail. The children would lead the turkeys by spreading corn in front of the huge flock. The adults watched the sides and rear of the flock, on the lookout for predators, both human and animal, and escaping turkeys. The flock could consist of as many as 10,000 turkeys. As a group, the flock could weigh as much as 240,000 pounds. Village citizens were entertained as the turkeys passed along their streets. The townsfolk were perhaps less entertained when they saw what gifts the turkeys left behind them. Nor were turkey calling cards the only problem with such large herds. When the light dims, a turkey will roost, period. It doesn't matter the time of day or roosting spot: a tree, a slow moving surrey and horse, a schoolhouse, or a covered bridge. When thousands of turkeys weighing hundreds of thousands of pounds seek a roosting spot, trees shatter,

panicked drivers whip horses into a gallop, and school-houses collapse. Turkey drovers sometimes needed up to 2 days to cross a covered bridge. They would pick up each individual turkey roosting inside the bridge and move it into the sunlight on the far side of the bridge. By the mid-1850s, steamboats and railroads contributed to the decline of turkey drives and helped keep roads and trails clean in and around the small villages of Vermont and Massachusetts.

<http://digital.vpr.net/post/thanksgiving-travel-vermont-turkeys-used-walk-boston>

Monday, October 9, 1848. Just after dawn. The Cavin farm. Tom Elder Gobbler, or Old Bird, his preferred name, always enjoyed pecking at his hearty breakfast of corn, wheat, and acorns. After breakfast, he usually took several hours to stalk tasty insects, fruits, and green plants. "But today", he thought, "I need to pass along some travel tips to all these youngins as they pass by me on the start of their long trip." As the turkeys trooped by, he gobbled his advice, just as he had for the last 5 years, "Cause delays on the trip; try to arrive after Thanksgiving! That will really cut down on your dinner invitations and greatly extend your social calendar. Watch the turkeys around you. Pick your team so that if you make a break into the woods you will have confidence that you are the fastest of the group. And finally, and this is really important, if you arrive at your destination before Thanksgiving, do not ever go near any gleaming metal objects or fires!" After the last stragglers passed him, Old Bird turned to stalk his secret to turkey longevity—skunk cabbage.

Wednesday, November 16, 1848. Dawn. Outskirts of Boston. Most of the flock made it to market. A few groups tried to bolt, but Zeke's drovers caught most of the runaway turkeys. "Funny how one or two turkeys in each break-away group always seem faster than the others and escape" he reflected. He shrugged that contemplation aside as his ears caught a wild commotion of gobbling and shouts which seemed to arise from markets all-over Boston. "Well, not my affair", he thought. Zeke turned to his family and hired drovers. "We have enough coin to make for a prosperous new year. Good job! Let us go home."



group turned towards the west and set out for home, slipping occasionally on some

And with those words, the north-

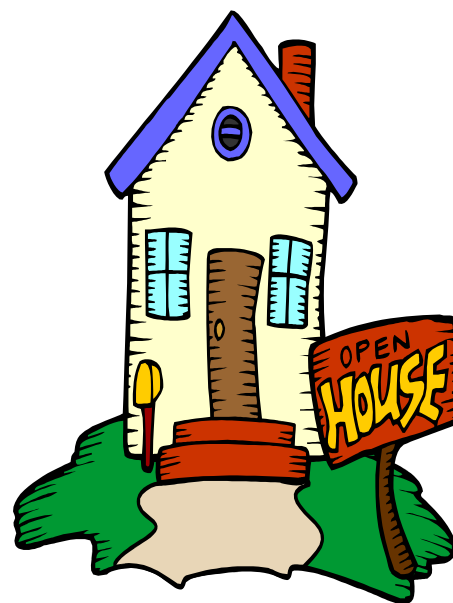
# Real Estate Corner

## Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUCHESS	5303 Weymouth	\$539,500
DUKE	5217 Kings Park	\$534,900
PRINCE	8650 Victoria	\$529,000
PRINCE	8903 Cromwell	\$535,000
QUEEN	5200 Kings Park	\$650,000

## Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
PRINCESS	8601 Cromwell	\$554,900
QUEEN	8461 Thames	\$559,900



Sold				Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/ Increase	Date Closed
Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price				
PRINCE	8803 Trafalgar	\$549,000	\$549,000	\$5,000	\$544,000	(\$5,000)	10/10/2018
PRINCESS	8813 Victoria	\$549,000	\$542,000	\$0	\$542,000	(\$7,000)	10/5/2018
QUEEN	8470 Thames	\$539,000	\$539,000	\$8,097	\$530,903	(\$8,097)	9/28/2018
QUEEN	8627 Victoria	\$565,000	\$565,350	\$0	\$565,350	\$350	10/26/2018

***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!



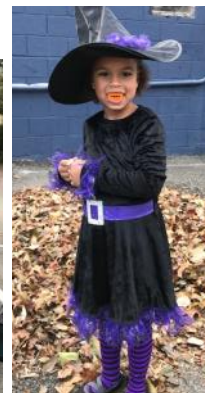
# Recent KPCA Member Events in Kings Park

**Good Bratwursts, Food, and Music at Oktoberfest!**

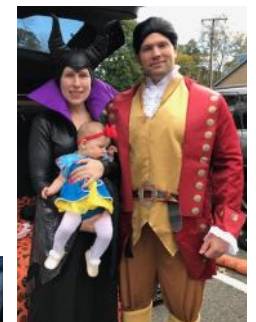
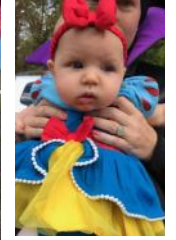


*Photo Credit: Susan Metcalf*

**Always A Fun Time at Trunk or Treat!**









# Fall Lawn Care

by Beverly Boschert

Fall is often associated with cool weather and pumpkin-flavored goodies. But it's also the best time of year to fertilize your yard and give it the best chance to thrive next spring and summer.

Here are some tips from the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/>

**Why Now?** Timing is everything when you apply fertilizer.

**Fall is the best time. It's when the roots that will sustain the plants through the following summer** are actively growing. Sooner is better. Effective lawn feeding after Thanksgiving often is hampered by wintry conditions, when precipitation will wash the fertilizer into local streams, contributing to waterway pollution.

**Spring fertilizing is not particularly helpful for your lawn. It encourages leaf growth at the expense of root development.** It also feeds weed species and can lead to disease and insect problems later in the season. In addition, you will have to mow the lawn more frequently. If you must fertilize in the spring, limit it to a light feeding (0 phosphorus) after the initial flush of growth has subsided in May.

**Never fertilize in the summer.** Most lawn grasses in our area are cool season species, which go dormant during the heat of the summer.

Before you fertilize, **test your soil** to learn what, if anything, it needs. **The most common need in this area is lime** because most soils in Northern Virginia are acidic and lime helps to neutralize the acidity. A balanced pH will improve the absorption of nutrients, encourage thatch decomposition and benefit soil microorganisms, all of which are essential to the soil's health and fertility.

Lime can be applied to your lawn area any time of the year. However, because **it takes several months to be fully incorporated into the soil, it is best to apply it in the fall.** For turf, pelletized limestone is preferable to pulverized limestone. The pellets spread more evenly with less dust.

**For just \$10, the Virginia Cooperative Extension will analyze your soil sample and return the results to you.** Pick up a soil test kit at any Fairfax County Public Library or at the Virginia Cooperative Extension on the 10th floor of the Pennino Building. Another resource is [Home Turf: A Healthy Virginia Lawns program](#).

## **Mowing Your Yard**

One common mistake with lawn care is mowing your grass too short. It is best to **set your blades for a mowing height that will remove only the top one-third of the grass blade.** Higher settings allow the grass to compete effectively with lower-growing weed species. Higher growth also shades the ground from the sun, reducing moisture requirements. If you have a small lawn, consider using a manual-reel mower. It saves energy, reduces pollution and burns calories, too!

Also be sure to **keep your mower blades sharp** to produce a cleaner cut that slices through grass rather than pulling it by the roots. A sharp blade will give your lawn a more uniform appearance. In addition, sharp blades help extend the life of your mower because the engine will not have to work as hard to produce the same results.

After you cut the grass, **let the turf clippings lie on the yard** since they are mostly composed of the grass's leaf tissue and reduce decompose rapidly. **Clippings left on the lawn will contribute a substantial amount of nitrogen and other nutrients to the soil** and reduce fertilizer requirements.

Supplement your mowing by using healthy lawn care practices. **If you use pesticides, apply only to the area that is affected** by the pest.



Thanks to the members of Kings Park Civic Association for providing our neighborhood with our 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, Oktoberfest and Trunk or Treat. Enjoyable times were had by all!

The upcoming Childrens Holiday Party is also provided by KPCA members, thanks KPCA.

## 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.

