

Gazette

JULY/AUGUST 2019



Join Us for the Annual KPCA 4th of July Parade and Picnic!

by Ali Maruca

Don your very best red, white and blue and join us for the annual Kings Park Civic Association 4th of July parade and picnic! The parade will be at 10:00am (one hour earlier than previous years) starting at the Kings Park Elementary parking lot and ending up at the entrance to the park just across from Trafalgar Court and the picnic will begin at Kings Park Park once the parade concludes. Join us at the park for festive games for children, a concert provided by the Kings Park Band, and yummy treats. We'll be offering a combo meal of one hot dog, chips and a drink for \$5. Treats will also be for sale in case you have a sweet tooth! All items will be available for purchase via cash.

Additionally, if you're not already a KPCA member, we'll have membership sign-ups ongoing throughout the picnic. Payment can be made via Paypal, cash or check. We look forward to another excellent year for our neighborhood and can't wait to celebrate the United States' 243rd birthday in style!

If you'd like to volunteer to help make the parade and picnic a success, please contact Alison Maruca 484-269-7229 or alisonmaruca84@gmail.com.



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KPCA Calendar of Events

July 4	KPCA 4th of July Parade and Concert in the Park - Parade Starts at Kings Park Elementary School at 10:00am
September 19	KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary
September 28	KPCA Oktoberfest Parliament Pool Parking Lot 12:00-2:00pm
November 21	KPCA Community Meeting 7:30-9:00pm Kings Park Elementary

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

From the President

Neighbors,

As I now continue into my ninth year as the Civic Association President, I again want to sincerely thank the board, committees, and community members for the outstanding support and encouragement they have given me. My special thanks to our newest Board members, Alison Maruca and Shauneen Werlinger, who have stepped forward to help continue the work of the KPCA with new and exciting opportunities for the community. This should be a better year for the KPCA as we try some new community activities and attract more members.

The 2019 Kings Park July 4th Parade and Picnic (our 55th) will begin at 10:00am, *one hour earlier*, this year. We have made some adjustments to ensure the continuation of the traditional street parade and picnic in the park. The KPCA will again cover the cost of hiring a police officer to provide traffic control and protect the parade participants for this year's parade. The 2019 July 4th parade medals for 2019 will be given to the children participating at the start of the parade at Kings Park Elementary School.

The July 4th Picnic in the Park will start immediately after the parade at 11:00am. The Kings Park Band will entertain with Patriotic music and the KPCA will have our traditional hot dogs, chips, and drink for sale (\$5). This year, the KPCA is adding kids activities and a bake sale to the program this year. We will continue to welcome EVERYONE to the picnic and hope that we can encourage more membership in the KPCA.

There is going to be more effort by your KPCA volunteers to encourage more attendees to enjoy the benefits of membership by joining the KPCA. The dues are only \$25 (\$20 for seniors) per family/household. Each year we have to rely on the same residents to volunteer their time and energy supporting these events for EVERYONE in the community. We hope you will meet and greet the KPCA Board and Committee members that make the picnic happen. They will be wearing KPCA lanyards. We will have extra lanyards if you would like to volunteer some of your time!

Many residents don't realize that the KPCA is responsible for the upkeep of the common areas of Kings Park – entrances at Kings Park Drive and Southampton, median strip on Kings Park Drive, the two traffic circles, and the traffic calming nubs (bump outs) along Southampton. These are costs that are borne by membership dues.

Committee Chairs

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

Emergency Preparedness
Sher Plunkett 703-503-0277
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Environmental Awareness
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kennedy45TJ@aol.com

Public Safety and Neighborhood Watch
Terry Boschert 703-425-3478
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Social - Kids
Liz Rivera 703-978-3034

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Susan Metcalf 703-503-0176
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KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

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www.kings-park.org

Board of Directors

President:	Jim Sobecke	703-978-2035	jsobecke@gmail.com
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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 upkeep of the plantings at the entrances and the nubs was previously done by the volunteers of the Beautification committee. Those few longtime volunteers are now finding it more difficult to do it alone so we have now had to contract out some of the harder work. We need more individuals and families to step forward and help keep our community appearance beautiful and welcoming. We want everyone to take pride in the beauty of our community.

The number of volunteers that perform Neighborhood Watch is declining. We have lost many of our active volunteers and would like to see more involvement from our residents. A typical neighborhood Watch patrol is a great chance to experience the sights of Kings Park and see for yourself what community spirit means. Do you realize what positive impact a Neighborhood Watch program has on the community's safety and security?

The recent Senior's Luncheon gave me an opportunity to talk with our seasoned residents and answer their questions. Any opportunity for face-to-face discussions and information sharing is what builds a community. Knowing what really is happening and why you should be concerned and/or supportive is far more productive than 'hearing part of the story' on Next-Door.

By the way, the Next-Door social media initiative was started here in Kings Park by a KPCA Board member. Do you know that the majority of those that post on Next Door are NOT KPCA members? I point this out because many of the discussions that I read there are erroneous but the questions and opinions could be of greater benefit to the community if the poster(s) were 'in the know' and had access to valid sources. I personally hesitate to post corrections, because often it is too late or might be taken in the wrong way.

KPCA community meetings are now scheduled for September, November, January, March, and May. We realize that you have a busy schedule but we encourage you to attend whenever you can. Your time should be rewarded so if there is some topic of community interest or a guest speaker you would like to hear let us know. We are looking for opportunities to keep our residents informed and provide opportunities to know their neighbors and what is available to make your lives more enjoyable.

This is your community and we want you to be an active participant in any way you can. Often many of our longtime residents forget to rejoin each year and have to be reminded. Talk to your neighbors about joining (or rejoining) the KPCA.

And in closing – the Kings Park Civic Association Membership Drive is now full speed ahead. Survival of the Kings Park community is in the hands of the residents. Being a KPCA member means that you are concerned about your community, neighbors, the continued great appearance of our community (and property values), and you are willing and able to be a 'neighbor helping neighbors'.

Respectfully,

Jim Sobecke

Save the Date!
National Night Out
Tuesday, August 6th

A variety of events and activities will be ongoing throughout the Kings Park neighborhood. As we get closer to the event, be sure to check Nextdoor and the Kings Park Facebook group for more information!



Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

The History of Ice Cream. Last year, I wrote about the history of hot dogs. Turns out that hot dog processing is not very appetizing, so this year's topic is ice cream.

People ate Ice Cream, more of a sherbet really, as far back as 500 BC. The inhabitants of the Persian Empire poured grape juice concentrate over snow for that summertime treat. Eventually, royalty demanded something that wasn't so mundane and every-day; in 400 BC, some lucky chef added rose water, vermicelli, saffron, fruits and other sweets to snow. Royalty loved it, except in the Winter season, of course.

The Roman Emperor Nero loved honey and sweet concoctions over snow as a base. I heard tell that the story about Nero fiddling merrily away while Rome burned in 64 AD is totally false. His fingers were much too sticky with honey to have held the bow. Well, that is what I heard!

Historians credit the ancient Chinese with the invention of modern ice cream around 200 AD. They packed snow with a mixture of rice and milk; centuries passed before someone invented a flavor other than rice.

Marco Polo, Marco Polo. All hail the name. He returned to Italy, carrying with him the tale and recipe for ice cream. Italy loves Ice Cream. Ice Cream even kick-started the Age of the Renaissance; how could the timing have been a coincidence?!

In 1533, Catherine de'Medici and Henry II of France married and introduced Ice Cream to all of Europe. Marie Antoinette's famous phrase of "Let them eat cake" occurred only because the Palace chef had run out of Ice Cream that day. Well, that is what I heard!

And now a sad note in history. The chef of Charles I of England circulated his Ice Cream recipe to the masses despite an oath to King Charles that he would never reveal the recipe. Thus, in the summer of 1649, the English masses discovered the Ice Cream headache; the chef lost his.

Finally, after over 1200 years, the recipe made its way to North America in the 18th century. American ingenuity found a way to keep Ice Cream frozen and commercial sales begin. In 1846, Nancy Johnson invented the hand cranked portable freezer so families could enjoy their family-secret recipes on Sundays and Holidays, again Winter holidays excluded. But for

some reason, historians write that chocolate poured over Ice Cream didn't occur until 1934! What! How could the chocolate advantage go unrecognized by humankind for so long? Turns out a multi-generational conspiracy of greedy and powerful humans held the secret for centuries! Only the brave investigative reporting of one of my ancestors exposed the group and uncovered the truth. Well, that is what I heard at family get-togethers.

Ice Cream, in all its glorious flavors, enjoys a wide-spread and well-deserved reputation as a remarkable flavor treat. Taste for yourself; attend the 2019 KPCA 4th of July picnic and enjoy the Ice Cream!



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<http://www.icecreamhistory.net/frozen-dessert-history/ice-cream-timeline/>

National Night Out

Mark your calendar and contact your neighbors to plan a gathering for NNO on August 6. This is a great time to make new friends and to greet all of your neighbors. It can be as simple as cookies and lemonade or a cookout. You decide.

Kings Park as a neighborhood is registered with the National Night Out Committee, however each individual gathering needs to register their event with the West Springfield District Station. Just fill in the form and you will be registered. Please add a location other than just Kings Park neighborhood. Enter a location that is easily identifiable such as *Kings Park - Eastbourne Drive* with the house address if you have one.

This is always a fun evening with visits from the police and firemen.

<https://form.jotform.com/81555236797166>

If you have any questions contact Marie Cullerton at mcullerton42@mac.com.



Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duke	5311 Weymouth Dr	\$530,000
Queen	5405 Southampton Dr	\$459,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Prince	8705 Parliament Dr	\$525,000
Princess	8808 Cromwell Dr	\$549,900
Queen	5508 Yorkshire St	\$540,000
Queen	5205 Southampton Dr	\$584,888



Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duchess	5303 Weymouth Dr	\$535,000	\$529,000	\$0	\$529,000	-\$6,000	6/4/2019
Duke	5408 Yorkshire St	\$475,000	\$490,000	\$0	\$490,000	\$15,000	5/28/2019
Duke	8936 Victoria Rd	\$519,000	\$519,000	\$0	\$519,000	\$0	5/8/2019
Duke	8715 Victoria Rd	\$530,000	\$535,000	\$0	\$535,000	\$5,000	5/17/2019
Duke	5508 Eastbourne Dr	\$549,000	\$542,000	\$0	\$542,000	-\$7,000	4/25/2019
King	8921 Victoria Rd	\$534,999	\$534,999	\$10,000	\$524,999	-\$10,000	5/18/2019
King	8805 Cromwell Dr	\$539,000	\$539,000	\$5,000	\$534,000	-\$5,000	4/23/2019
King	5502 Southampton Dr	\$590,000	\$590,000	\$12,000	\$578,000	-\$12,000	4/19/2019
Prince	8511 Parliament Dr	\$544,900	\$559,800	\$0	\$559,800	\$14,900	4/18/2019
Prince	8650 Victoria Rd	\$549,000	\$550,000	\$0	\$550,000	\$1,000	4/1/2019
Prince	5515 Margate St	\$549,000	\$555,000	\$0	\$555,000	\$6,000	4/15/2019
Princess	8720 Parliament Dr	\$525,000	\$525,000	\$4,000	\$521,000	-\$4,000	6/14/2019
Princess	8716 Piccadilly Pl	\$619,950	\$660,000	\$1,800	\$658,200	\$38,250	4/8/2019
Queen	8609 Parliament Dr	\$559,000	\$559,000	\$2,000	\$557,000	-\$2,000	5/17/2019
Queen	8900 Cromwell Dr	\$564,888	\$577,100	\$0	\$577,100	\$12,212	4/25/2019
Queen	5406 Weymouth Dr	\$590,000	\$595,000	\$5,000	\$590,000	\$0	4/10/2019

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!

Fun Facts about the 4th of July/Independence Day

By Beverly Boschert

- In May, 1776, after nearly a year of trying to resolve their differences with England, the colonies sent delegates to the Second Continental Congress. Finally, in June, admitting that their efforts were hopeless; a committee was formed to compose the formal Declaration of Independence. Headed by Thomas Jefferson, the committee also included John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Philip Livingston and Roger Sherman. On June 28, 1776, Thomas Jefferson presented the first draft of the declaration to Congress.
- Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. All the others signed later. The Declaration of Independence was signed by 56 men from 13 colonies. The average age of the signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. The youngest was Thomas Lynch, Jr (27) of South Carolina. The oldest delegate was Benjamin Franklin (70) of Pennsylvania. The lead author of The Declaration, Thomas Jefferson, was 33.
- The names of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were withheld from the public for more than six months to protect the signers. If independence had not been achieved, the treasonable act of the signers would have, by law, resulted in their deaths.
- The only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States were John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.



- The stars on the original American flag were in a circle so all the Colonies would appear equal.
- Betsy Ross, according to legend, sewed the first American flag in May

or June 1776, as commissioned by the Congressional Committee.

- The first Independence Day celebration took place in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776. The Liberty Bell sounded from the tower of Independence Hall, summoning citizens to gather for the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence by Colonel



John Nixon. Every 4th of July the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia is tapped (not actually rung) thirteen times in honor of the original thirteen colonies.

- In 1941, Congress declared 4th of July a federal holiday. It is one of the few federal holidays that have not been moved to the nearest Friday or Monday. In 1781, several months before the key American victory at Yorktown, Massachusetts became the first state to make July 4th an official state holiday.
- Independence Day acquired its unofficial theme song on July 4, 1897, at the Manhattan Beach Music Hall on the eastern end of Coney Island. On that Sunday afternoon, sometime after 4 p.m., John Philip Sousa lifted his baton and cued his band to launch into their latest hit, "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Sousa had not composed it specifically for the holiday, but it has been a marching-band staple on every Fourth of July since 1897.
- Traditions place the origins of "Yankee Doodle" as a pre-Revolutionary War song originally sung by British military officers to mock the disheveled, disorganized colonial "Yankees" with whom they served in the French and Indian War. It is believed that the tune comes from the nursery rhyme Lucy Locket. One version of the Yankee Doodle lyrics is "generally attributed" to Doctor Richard Shuckburgh, a British Army surgeon. According to one story, Shuckburgh wrote the song after seeing the appearance of Colonial troops under Colonel Thomas Fitch, V, the son of Connecticut Governor Thomas Fitch.
- President John Adams, Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe all died on the Fourth. Adams and Jefferson (both signed the Declaration) died on the same day within hours of each other in 1826.
- Benjamin Franklin proposed the turkey as the national bird but was overruled by John Adams and Thomas Jefferson, who recommended the bald eagle.
- Barbecue is big on Independence Day. Approximately 150 million hot dogs and 700 million pounds of chicken are consumed on this day.

Source: <https://partyide-as.purpletrail.com/4th-of-july-history-trivia-and-facts/>; <https://acei-global.blog/2013/07/03/20-fun-facts-about-the-4th-of-julyindependence-day/>

The Neighbors

by Terry Boschert



“Oh, come on! Nobody brought a pen?”



“Top floor, please.”



Parliament Pool: Building Community for Decades

Parliament Pool, located in our Kings Park community, has been an important summertime gathering-place for many years. The pool features a diving well with two one-meter springboards, lap lanes, and a large wading/baby pool. Not just for swimmers, the pool is a wonderful place to meet and socialize with your neighbors. Grills and tables are available for families interested in cooking out on beautiful summer nights, and groups may choose to reserve space for larger gatherings. We sponsor swim and dive teams that compete in the Northern Virginia Swimming League, a fun and healthy activity for all young persons through age 18.



The pool is maintained and operated by a volunteer Board, and seeks to build community by hiring neighborhood teenagers, as well facilitating numerous events and activities throughout the summer designed to build a strong community within our neighborhood.

We have many fun events planned for this season, including Raft Nights at 7pm every Thursday, Taco Nights, food trucks, movies at the pool, adult night out, potluck brunches, and more. **This summer, the pool is offering swim lessons for both members and nonmembers.**

Please visit our website at www.parliament-pool.com or our Facebook page @parliamentpool for the most up-to-date information regarding events and activities. Also feel free to contact us with any questions at board@parliament-pool.com.



Retro Kings Park

by Terry Boschert

From the September 1988 Edition of the Kings Park Gazette

Association Officers:

President: Terry Matlaga

1st Vice President: Charles Daris

2nd Vice President: Ken Malmberg

Treasurer: Leigh Hoge

Recording Secretary: Marion Beavers

Corresponding Secretary: Helen Tate

Excerpt from the President's Message – We will be working very earnestly to minimize cut-through traffic and other traffic problems, working on our neighborhood and security programs, working in attempting to rid our area of the gypsy moth, and other issues.

Gypsy Moth Information – The caterpillar feeds on leaves. The preferred hosts are oak, apple, alder, aspen, basswood, hawthorn, willow, and gray and river birch. The insects also attack beech, cherry, black gum, hemlock, hickory, hornbeam, larch, maple pine, sassafras, and spruce. **Search-Scrape-Destroy**

Real Estate Corner – Prices really jumped last spring.

King	\$174,000
Duke	\$182,000
Prince	\$175,000
Queen	\$188,500
Duchess	\$173,500
Princess	\$162,000

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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.

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.

Native Plants

by Beverly Boschert

If you need to add to the plantings in your yard please consider Native Plants. A guide is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B25LXUJQvd_6YlBhd1ByTzY2ZW8/edit?pli=1

It is difficult to find Kings Park residents if your house number is not visible on the home or street.



Come for a workout! Walk away with a Mom-Village!

Have you ever walked through a park, mall or other public place and seen a group of women with strollers, doing exercises and singing songs? It's most likely a Fit4Mom Stroller Strides class, which boasts a great workout for mom, bonding time with baby and an opportunity to connect with other mommas in a similar season of life. This spring, Fit4Mom Loton/Springfield/Burke/Kingstowne launched a Stroller Strides class in Kings Park Park! Fit4Mom is the nation's leading prenatal and postnatal fitness program, providing fitness classes and a network of moms to support every stage of motherhood. From pregnancy, through postpartum and beyond, our fitness and wellness programs help make moms strong in body, mind, and spirit. If you're home during the day with little ones and are looking for an avenue to get out of the house, meet other moms and get in a great workout, come out and join us every Monday and Thursday at 9:45am. The first class is free! Find out more on the website or Facebook page. Hope to see you there!

<https://lortonspringfield.fit4mom.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/fit4momLSBWKNova/>

Please -
Clean up
after your
dog!

