

Gazette

MAY/JUNE 2020



Join us and like us on Facebook!

The KPCA now has its own official Facebook page that is run by the Kings Park Civic Association board. We will be posting announcements about community events and everything related to Kings Park. The intent of this group is for neighbors to connect, share community information, ask questions, and support each other.

Join us and like us at Kings Park Civic Association, Springfield, Va.



Food Truck Fridays

by Susan Metcalf

In the spirit of encouraging community involvement and helping small businesses, the KPCA will be bringing different food trucks to Kings Park. We will be lining up different cuisines and even some dessert food trucks to appeal to everyone's tastes. The KPCA will be hosting the food trucks on scheduled Fridays at the Kings Park Park entrance at Kings Park Drive and Trafalgar Court. When the social distancing restrictions are lifted, join your neighbors and eat in the park. However, for now, please observe social distancing protocol.

The first food truck experience, Uncle Fred's BBQ Friday, was very well received and the food delicious. We are already looking forward to the next one.

Future food truck schedules will be posted on the Kings Park Civic Association Facebook page, on Nextdoor, and in the July/August Gazette.

We hope to see you at all of them.

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Congratulations to all our 2020 graduates!



From the President

Neighbors,

Keep your spirits high. At least the birds are chirping, flowers blooming, and weather uncertainty hasn't changed during the "situation" we now endure.

Everyone has been impacted by the government directed changes in our lives. But along with the bad comes good. We are in the midst of significant impact to what we considered a normal family life. More people are out walking, running, and bike riding. Traffic is calm and cut-through traffic is almost non-existent or unrecognizable.

The KPCA recognized the potential impact of the corona-19 in late March. The first decision was the cancellation of the Pot Luck Dinner planned for March 28th. When the County Parks Authority closed all the parks and Public Safety services were redirected to mission essential duties the planned Public Safety Day scheduled for April 25th was likewise cancelled.

With these cancellations came the realization that future events such as the Senior's Luncheon and the Annual July 4th Parade and Picnic were in jeopardy, and the Board needed to look for alternative community activities to keep the spirit alive during these times of uncertainty.

As I stated above along with the bad comes some good! A Board member proposed that the KPCA sponsor an Ice Cream Day for the community residents. The concept was easily approved and planning began. A local ice cream vendor was approached and supported the proposal. The subsequent planning was expedited and a suitable date and implementation plan was approved. The costs were to be paid by the KPCA.

Needless to say, the first (annual?) KPCA Ice Cream Day was a huge success. We under estimated the response and community support, but did not run out of product. Using social media was a key to success –identifying routes ahead of time and announcing progress and expected arrival times added to the excitement of the event. Will we do it again? What do you think?

Still on the horizon is the Annual July 4th Parade and Picnic. With a great deal of uncertainty as to what social distancing and personal protective measures may still be in place the KPCA is continuing to plan for both events and making adjustments as necessary. A decision might be made in early June, but we will hold off any cancellation announcement until there is some certainty.

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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

In the event that the July 4th Picnic may not be possible there are some alternatives being looked at by the Board. Possible changes to the July 4th Parade form and function are being developed.

Our membership count had a significant increase after the Ice Cream Day event. However, it is still not at a level that reflects support from the 1150 homes in Kings Park.

Just another reminder that the KPCA dues offset the costs involved in offering all these community events.

Enjoy your spring – looking forward to summer – and the return to ‘abnormal’!

Jim Sobecke

Membership

by Beverly Boschert

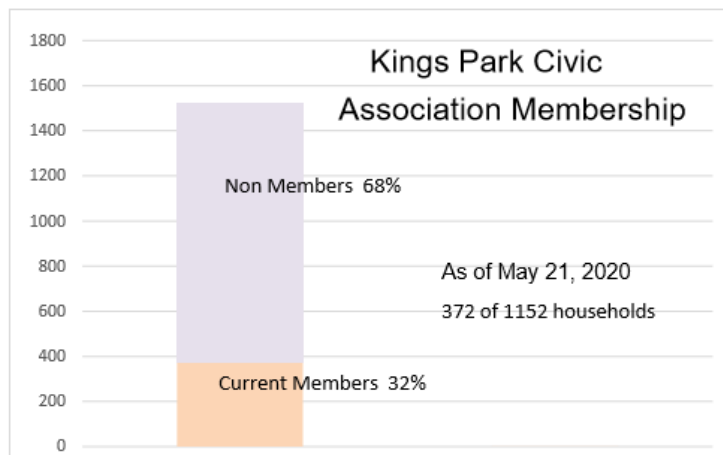
How membership in KPCA benefits you:

- ◆ July 4th Parade and Picnic
- ◆ Oktoberfest
- ◆ Trunk-or-Treat
- ◆ Children’s Holiday Party
- ◆ Senior Luncheon
- ◆ KP Community Meetings
- ◆ KP Entrance, Median and Nub Maintenance
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness
- ◆ Environmental Awareness
- ◆ Government Affairs
- ◆ Public Safety and Neighborhood Watch
- ◆ Kings Park Gazette

Pass the Word to Join the KPCA, also Volunteer to Help Both You and Your Neighbors!

Dues are \$25 per household, \$20 per household for seniors. There are four very easy ways to pay:

- **VENMO** - User Name is KPCA-Springfield Virginia. In the line “What’s it for?”, put your email address, home address, and “2020 KPCA Dues”. In the bottom right hand corner click on Public and select **Private** for the transaction so others on VENMO do not see your home address and email address. We need your email and home address so we can mark you as paid - especially important for member only events!
- **PayPal** - Access this through the KPCA website under Membership.
- **Check** - Print the membership form on the website and return it along with a check payable to the KPCA and mail to KPCA, P.O. Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151
- **Bill Pay** - Set up KPCA on your bill pay option and have your bank mail the check to KPCA, P.O. Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151 (Hint: making this an annual recurring transaction ensures you never forget to pay your dues!)



We will never share your information, we use it only for KPCA related events.

Thank you for paying your dues and helping to keep the KPCA strong.

Bottled Water - By the Numbers

Compiled by Beverly Boschert

You can fill a 20-ounce water bottle every single day for 10 years for the same cost as buying one 20-ounce bottled water for \$1.25. (fairfaxwater.org)

- Tap water costs, on average, two 1,000ths of a penny per gallon.
- In a survey by the NRDC, 47% of people drink bottled water because they are worried about health and safety.
- 25% of the brands of water tested by the NRDC in 1999 had enough bacteria or chemicals in them to break state rules.
- 20% of the brands tested contained man-made chemicals like the ones in plastic.
- About 75% of empty plastic water bottles end up in the trash instead of being recycled.

Source: foodandwaterwatch.org/bottledwater

Family Tree by Signe Wilkinson



Signe Wilkinson, United Features Syndicate. Used with permission of artist.

Keeping Your Landscape Strong

Keep your greenery growing strong by following a few simple guidelines contained in this excerpt from the Water Wise Guide!

Mow During the summer, never cut more than one-third of the height of your grass. Not sure? Set your mower to its highest setting. Taller grass cools the soil, encourages deep roots, and reduces stress. If you mow your grass too short, root growth slows down, making the grass more susceptible to heat and drought. Also, leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients to the earth and encourage growth.

Weed Control Weeds are thieves. They steal nutrients and water from your grass and other plants. Keep weeds under control by weeding early in the year and consistently throughout the growing season.

Test Your Soil Healthy soil has the proper balance of plant nutrients and pH. Contact your local Virginia Cooperative Extension Office or nurseries in your area for soil testing services. It can make a real difference in the health of your soil. The Virginia Cooperative Extension Office can be reached at: <https://ext.vt.edu/offices.html>

Top Dressing Adding a light top dressing of compost or organic fertilizer does wonders. It reduces thatch buildup on lawns, improves soil texture, and increases root mass and surface area. Top dress your lawn and plant areas early in the year when conditions are wet.

Source: https://www.fairfaxwater.org/sites/default/files/newsletters/Spring_2020.pdf

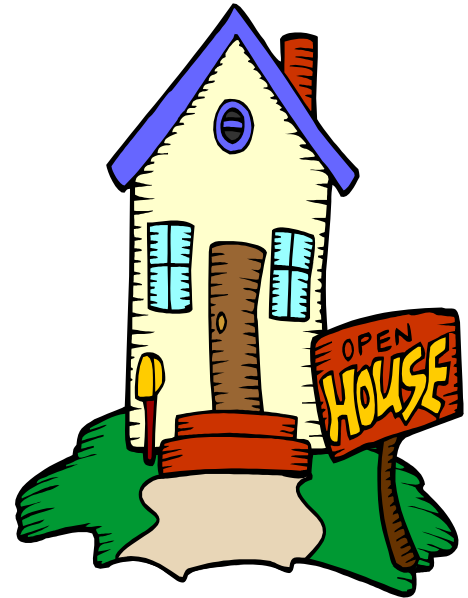
Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Prince	5627 ROLLING RD	\$520,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
King	8941 VICTORIA RD	\$597,888
King	8520 SALISBURY CT	\$660,000
Prince	5506 KINGS PARK DR	\$589,000
Queen	5300 WEYMOUTH DR	\$589,000



Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duke	8820 TRAFALGAR CT	\$627,000	\$627,000		\$627,000	\$0	05/11/20
Duke	5610 EASTBOURNE DR	\$600,000	\$600,000		\$600,000	\$0	05/12/20
Duke	8940 VICTORIA RD	\$529,000	\$529,000		\$529,000	\$0	05/05/20
Duke	8811 TRAFALGAR CT	\$620,000	\$625,000	\$11,200	\$613,800	-\$6,200	04/02/20
Duke	8605 PARLIAMENT DR	\$589,000	\$595,000		\$595,000	\$6,000	03/27/20
King	8705 CROMWELL DR	\$535,000	\$531,000		\$531,000	-\$4,000	03/09/20
King	5320 WEYMOUTH DR	\$610,000	\$610,000	\$2,500	\$607,500	-\$2,500	03/12/20
Prince	5519 EASTBOURNE DR	\$595,000	\$624,000	\$3,500	\$620,500	\$25,500	04/09/20
Prince	8659 CROMWELL DR	\$525,000	\$528,000		\$528,000	\$3,000	03/12/20
Queen	5503 AVON CT	\$599,900	\$600,000	\$15,000	\$585,000	-\$14,900	04/21/20
Queen	5522 VENTNOR LN	\$600,000	\$621,000		\$621,000	\$21,000	04/27/20

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!

Whimsy Corner

by Terry Boschert

Present Day. A Home in Kings Park, 65 days into self-isolation. Thought I would cover our experiences thus far during the Covid-19 age. We, as you the reader, have never found ourselves in a quarantine situation as adults. I do remember attempts to inflict me with a virus or two from my 5-year-old sister. Didn't work; my folks were so disappointed; hope my luck holds.

Anyway, we had a steep learning curve early in our isolation ordeal. On the second day I cleared my throat; Beverly sprayed me with Lysol. I quickly made a run for it with Beverly giving chase. Fortunately, the can was almost empty, giving me time to convince her it was just sinus drip. Nonetheless, she kept a full can of spray near her for next few days. I now understand that, after 53 years, a six-foot separation (two arm lengths will give me a head start) could be a blessing to our marriage.

Recommend you consider the contents of movies you stream. "The Shining" is not, perhaps, the wisest choice to watch during isolated living. Although I did enjoy saying "He-e-e-r's Johnny" through a closed door, *payback for the Lysol!* I didn't break down the door because then it would show up on my To-Do list. Also, Ground Hog's Day; just what day is it and will the day ever end?

Grocery stores; 6AM for Giant and 7AM for Whole Foods. I prefer Whole Foods; not for the groceries but because I needed to show my ID to prove I am at least 65! A moment of joy before the lack of toilet paper, milk, eggs, paper towels, spices, chili without beans, Adkins Lemon Bars, and others became apparent. Should have suspected that when I saw these shoppers. I turned and ran.

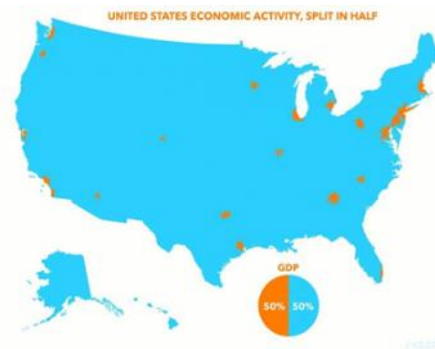


And what is it with toilet paper hoarding? Maybe a barter economy? Not to mention orders over the internet from multiple sources.

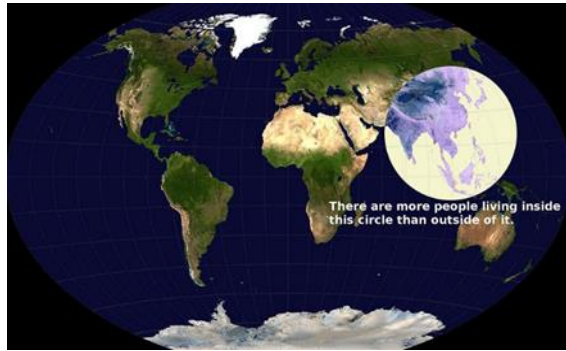
Oh, one more piece of advice. In 2019, husbands got 2 hours before they are considered annoying. Now, 2 minutes tops. Front yard or backyard can help here. Beverly gave me my choice. And why is the correct spelling "backyard" but "frontyard" isn't? Why does round pizza come in a square box? Hmmm. Mental stimulus needed!! Doesn't portend well for rest of article.

To fill time, I search the net for "interesting" things

Gross National Product Regions within US



Whimsy Corner cont'd



World Population by Geographic Area



Virginia 1788 from Atlantic to Mississippi

MOST COMMON CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS	
SYMPTOMS	% OF SYMPTOMS IN PATIENTS
FEVER	87.9% PATIENTS
DRY COUGH	67.7% PATIENTS
FATIGUE	38.1% PATIENTS
SHORTNESS OF BREATH	18.6% PATIENTS
SORE THROAT	13.9% PATIENTS
HEADACHE	13.6% PATIENTS

#IndiaFightsBackCoronavirus

And have you thought about life after self-isolation? Perhaps we shouldn't just yet....



Extra Time Right Now? HELP WANTED

New volunteers for Kings Park Neighborhood Watch are always needed and welcome. You can remain socially distanced in your car with a family member. Hours are flexible You receive great community service rewards. Student drivers can earn driving hours.

Requirements: ability to drive or ride in private vehicle. To help, email terry.boschert@verizon.net to volunteer!



Treasurer's Report

by Susan Malmberg, KPCA Treasurer

Since January 1, 2020, KPCA has received \$6,920 in dues and \$1,645 in donations. Residents who would like to pay their dues can pay by using PayPal or VENMO as well as sending in a check.

Paying for mowing the Braddock Road sign areas, Kings Park Drive medians, and tending the circles and nubs will be our major expense for the next few months.

Thank you to all the residents who made a donation in addition to paying dues!



Kings Park Neighbors Supporting Each Other

by Susan Metcalf

With Covid shut downs occurring and nerves running high, how did Kings Park neighborhood react to the Pandemic? Residents came together and encouraged each other. From bear hunts, signs on the houses, sidewalk chalk, fairies in the park, painted rocks, holiday lights, and pallets, our residents showed their compassion and their creative sides.

Not knowing that she would start a trend, one of our residents, Nina Hodges, saw a pile of 5 pallets dumped at the side of the road on Southampton Drive and decided to take a pile of trash and turn it into encouraging artwork. She and her son, Calum, grabbed some paint brushes and paint and left a Smile and We Love You behind. Immediately people started commenting on them on Facebook and Nextdoor saying the signs lifted their spirits. So Nina took the remaining 3 pallets, painted them and started a trend that would be followed by other neighborhood residents. The signs were placed anonymously by Nina, who was now dubbed the Pallet Princess.

As Kings Park residents and others driving through the neighborhood started posting about the pallets, people in other communities, even in other states, loved the idea and started doing the same. Other Kings Park residents were inspired and started making their own pallets and signs and placing them around. Some of them are Theresa Wills and her kids, Carlynn DePolo, Waters family, Michelle Stanley, Rhea Rossi, Trish Porth, Linda and Joe Camacho, Susan Brionez, Mary Craig, and plenty of others.

Our pallets were so popular, WJLA Channel 7 did a segment about Kings Park, the signs and our encouraging spirit. A link can be found on our Facebook page, Kings Park Civic Association, Springfield, VA or on our webpage Kings-Park.org. Keep up the good work Kings Park!



Nina Hodges, Pallet Princess



Signs Around the Neighborhood and Some of the Artists





WJLA Channel 7 Interviewing the Wills Family for the news segment



Candy Herzo Decorated Her Garage



Wendy Beverage's Sidewalk Hopscotch



Some of the Bears and Stuffed Animals Waiting for Neighborhood Walkers to Find



Ann Bailey Lipsett Planted Fairies for park visitors to find

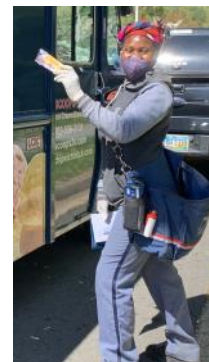


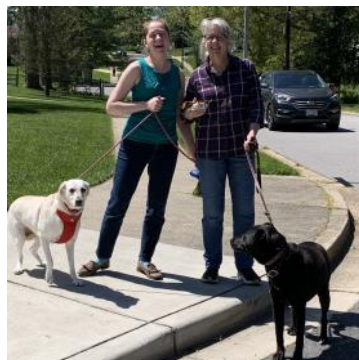
Mary Craige, Elizabeth Rivera, and Zahra Safavian painted and placed some of the many painted rocks around Kings Park

Kings Park Civic Association Ice Cream Day

by Susan Metcalf

Who doesn't love ice cream?? To provide a respite from the isolation and cheer up our residents, the KPCA sponsored Ice Cream Day with ice cream for all our residents. With a plan and route in place, the Ice Cream Parade started at 2:00pm on April 22 and served ice cream to everyone who came out as we passed by. While safely practicing social distancing, original owners, new residents, family pets, people in their sweats, pajamas and bunny slippers, kids doing their homework while waiting, and even one of our mail carriers all excitedly participated. Everyone loved Ice Cream Day!! (Who wouldn't?!?) Some photos here, but more ice cream excitement can be seen on the KPCA website.





Retro Kings Park

by Terry Boschert

From the March/April 2008 edition of the Kings Park Gazette

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 Gene Mercer, 3rd Vice President
 Donna Stecker, Secretary
 Luis Garcia, Treasurer
 Marcus Dunn, Immediate Past President

KPCA ANNOUNCES COMMUNITY POTLUCK/NEW NEIGHBOR WELCOME

The Kings Park Civic Association is pleased to announce its 1st Annual Community Pot-Luck and New Neighbors Welcome Dinner. The dinner is an opportunity for the neighborhood to socialize together and is also an event to welcome those who have moved here over the preceding year. The dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 5th, 2008 from 6-8 PM in the Lake Braddock Secondary School Cafeteria. There will be plenty of activities for kids and lots of food.

Teens Plan Cleanup and Planting Projects for Kings Park

Members of the Kings Park Youth Community Service Committee have scheduled their annual cleanup day for Sunday April 13. If you are interested in helping to clean up the park and creek areas, please join the teens at the parking lot next to the tennis and basketball courts at 1 p.m. that day.

The committee includes Carl Cilke, Eric Chirtel, Laura Dodson, Molly Ludden, Carolyn Metcalf, Katie Metcalf, Will Peabody, Stephanie Ramsey, Marion Day, David Smith and Evan Vahouny, plus Javier Morales, and Alex Chipani, our newest members.

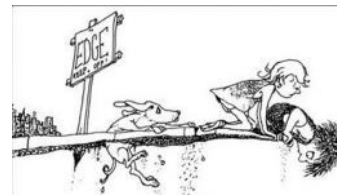
Real Estate Corner - Sold

DUKE	5206 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$418,000	\$418,000
KING	5503 ROLLING RD	\$459,000	\$438,000
QUEEN	8432 THAMES ST	\$416,500	\$405,000
QUEEN	8612 LONDON CT	\$419,000	\$426,000

SEE YOU IN THE POST COVID-19 WORLD

Our Sidewalks

Our sidewalks take us to wondrous places. Through them, we can walk to the library and appreciate the marvels of the earth and expand the edges of our imagination. We can increase our understanding and awe of the universe around us when the sidewalk leads us to school. Family, friends both old and new, fun, contented dogs, all await us. All we need do is stroll a sidewalk and they are there. So please keep these golden paths free of overhead, sideways, and underfoot obstructions.

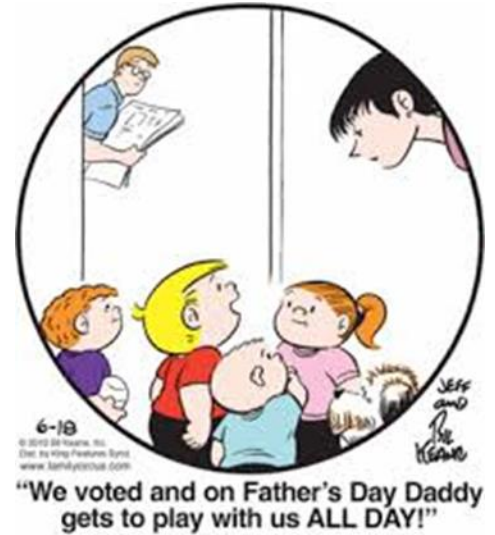
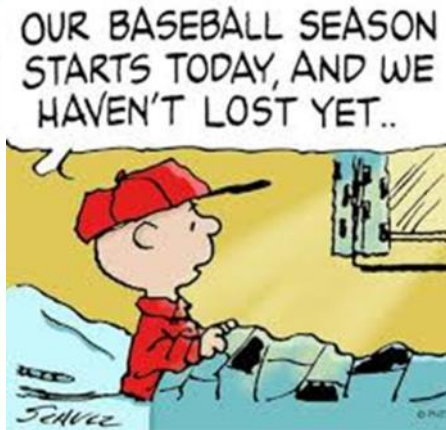
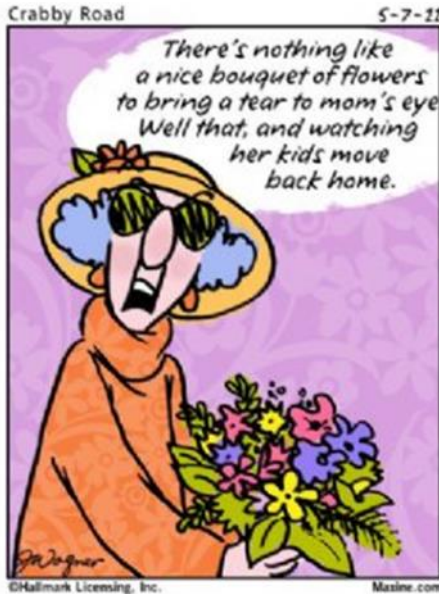


Sketch by Shel Silverstein

Please trim overhanging tree branches and exuberant bushes on your property. As for repairing sidewalks, you may qualify for State maintenance. Sidewalks in the [public street right-of-way](#) (i.e., alongside public roads, and most of the roads in Kings Park are public roads) generally are maintained either by the [Virginia Department of Transportation](#) (1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623), TTY 711) or the county [Maintenance & Stormwater Management Division](#) (703-877-2800, TTY 711).

The Neighbors Spring 2020

Compiled by Terry Boschert



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