



# Kings Park Gazette

Winter Edition

January 2021

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## KPCA Fall/Winter Events Recap

By: Susan Metcalf, VP of Events

**Scavenger Hunt** - In November, to promote community spirit and provide an activity that could be fun while providing the proper social distancing, the KPCA held the first of what we hope will become another KPCA annual event. We had 30 teams sign up to participate in the Scavenger Hunt. November 14th at 9:00am, the criteria was released to everyone by email and on the KPCA Facebook Group and participants roamed Kings Park looking for the items on the list. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. It was wonderful to see everyone out and about looking for clues and enjoying themselves. The Grand Prize winner was Team Rusch who won a private movie rental at University Mall courtesy of the KPCA. The Second Prize winner was Team Moeller and Third Prize winner was Team Blakenship. Both won a dinner gift certificate courtesy of the KPCA. Thanks to all the teams who participated!

**Holiday Light Contest** - The KPCA brought back the annual holiday decorating contest this December. The neighborhood looked so fantastic and festive for the holidays. The judges had so many houses in the neighborhood to choose from. Our panel of judges thoroughly loved all the decorations as they drove around. We have such talent in our neighborhood. At one house, they were serenaded with a wonderful three song cello concert by two of our talented elementary aged residents. The decorations of one of the houses participating in the contest was completely designed, set up, and owned by its seven-year-old resident.

Thank you very much to everyone who participated in the KPCA Holiday Lights Contest and a special thanks to our panel of judges: Nicole and Andy Frantz, Marsha and Vic Martin, Carolyn and Dan Joseph. The Grand Prize winners of the \$300 prize in each category are:

Most Decorated - Hoang Family 8810 Kenilworth Dr.  
Most Creative - Herzo Family 8808 Cromwell Dr.  
Best Theme - Stansbery/Poinke Family 8811 Cromwell Dr.

Runners Up:

Most Decorated - 5513 Kempton Dr., 8509 Thames Street  
Most Creative - 5505 Kempton Dr., 5528 Ventnor Lane, 8623 Kenilworth Dr.  
Best Theme - 8705 Kenilworth Dr., 5520 Callander Dr., 5531 Ventnor Lane



*Kings Park Civic Association*

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[www.kings-park.org](http://www.kings-park.org)





## **Kings Park Civic Association**

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## **President's Letter**

Neighbors,

Hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to a better New Year.

Every year we make resolutions, and we vow to keep them. This year however is going to be another challenge in our lifetime. When and how we will return to the 'abnormal' life we enjoyed in the past? My only resolution is to savor the experience and make the best of what comes our way.

The KPCA board has been hard at work developing new activities to replace the community events that have been cancelled due to the COVID pandemic. Planning continues should we be able to resume the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Picnic tradition, for example. Restarting the Community Potluck this year may not be possible, but there are ideas for welcoming Spring with new initiatives.

Have a happy and prosperous New Year.

Jim Sobecke

### **About the Gazette**

*The Gazette is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Suggestions and submissions should be sent to Ali Maruca, [alisonmaruca84@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmaruca84@gmail.com).*

*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 Ali Maruca.*

*If you are moving and want to continue to receive the Gazette, join the KPCA and let us know that you need the Gazette mailed to you at your new address.*



# Board Reports

## **KPCA 2021 Membership: Love Where You Live** **VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts**

*At the close of 2020, 413 homes were official members of the Kings Park Civic Association. As we start 2021, the goal of KPCA is to grow our membership to 75 percent of the 1,120 homes in the neighborhood. This will ensure that more Kings Park neighbors will be able to take part in the benefits that the KPCA offers, such as: social events, neighborhood camaraderie, grounds maintenance, Neighborhood Watch, affiliation with local government organizations, and more. While many of our beloved annual events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19, the KPCA Board will continue to work to bring fun, safe, and socially distant activities to the neighborhood. Your dues, involvement, and volunteerism to support KPCA help keep Kings Park one of the most highly desired neighborhoods in the Northern Virginia area. To submit your membership for 2021, complete the membership insert and include either cash or check and place the pre-addressed envelope in the mail. You can also complete the 2021 Membership Form online at [www.kings-park.org](http://www.kings-park.org) and submit your payment electronically via PayPal. All members who pay their 2021 dues by March.31, 2021 will be entered to win gift cards to local businesses.*

### **2021 Neighborhood Events** **VP of Events, Susan Metcalf**

#### **February: Heart Hunt**

February 12 –15. Decorate your house with hearts of your choosing, as elaborate and as many as you want. Then take a walk around the neighborhood to see how many other hearts you can find. Post your hearts of the KPCA Facebook Group.

#### **March: Chalk the Walk**

March 26- 28. Decorate the sidewalk in front of your house with the artwork of your choice. It can be themed, inspiring, educational, artistic...the sky's the limit!

**April/May:** If there is enough interest, we will hold a neighborhood yard sale.

### **Neighborhood Watch: A Two-Way Street** **VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa**

Of course, you **live** in Kings Park. But how well do you **know** Kings Park? If you're like most people, you drive to and from your home. Maybe you can find Kings Park Elementary School or Parliament Pool. Becoming a regular Neighborhood Watch patroller is a great way to learn the area while you serve the community and help keep it safe. Neighborhood Watch patrols are also excellent ways for student drivers to fulfill their supervised driving requirements. Night patrols count towards the night driving requirement, too. Even if you're not a student driver, Neighborhood watch patrols are a good way to keep your driving skills sharp.

Sign up for Neighborhood Watch when you join the Kings Park Civic Association, or you can call Terry or Beverly Boschert at 703 425-3478 or [terry.boschert@verizon.net](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net).



## 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.

### 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/>

Neighborhood Watch is designed to observe, detect, and report crime or suspicious activity.

When you see **damaged traffic control signs** (Virginia) or **street signs** (Fairfax County), **potholes** (Virginia), or **darkened streetlights** (Dominion Virginia Power), please notify the appropriate agency. The following website contains all the contact information you need to start a solution for the above problems:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/complaints/>

### **Kings Park Neighborhood Watch**

Susan Cappa, [sjcappa@gmail.com](mailto:sjcappa@gmail.com)

Terry Boschert,

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

## KPCA Gives Back

During the holiday season, Kings Park friends and neighbors donated time, money, and items to support local holiday drives to give back to the community. See the statistics below!

10 bags of non-perishable food donated to the Capital Area Food Bank.

The Kings Park Toys for Tots Team donated \$1002.49 to the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. This exceeded the \$1,000 goal and helps to distribute Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the local community.

KPCA Board Members donated toys to the Burke Volunteer Fire Department in support of their Toys for Tots drive.

Over 100 blankets and a dozen gift cards were collected to support the Blanket Drive for Bryant Alternative High School.

# EXPERT TREE



# SOLUTIONS



# GET READY, STAY READY

**By: Sher Plunkett**  
**KPCA Emergency Preparedness Committee**

As the saying goes, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step". And making sure you, your family, your neighbors, and your colleagues are prepared for emergencies before they happen begins with what you do to start the process.

I just participated in a Zoom conference sponsored by the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management, highlighting a simple on-line program that can help anyone to start their individually oriented preparedness journey. It looks like a pretty good idea so I thought I would pass it on to my Kings Park neighbors. It's on the Web at:  
<https://do1thing.com/>

I suggest you take a moment to check out the website and see if it might be useful for you. If someone in your household is looking for a "project" during this Winter season, this might be interesting for them as well.

Please enjoy Winter in Kings Park, make your emergency plan and keep it up to date, share ideas with your neighbors and friends, and stay safe.

# Calling Volunteers!

*Do you want to get involved with the KPCA but are unsure how or what to do? Check out the opportunities below and contact Ali Maruca for more information!*

**Gazette Production:** Calling all writers, designers, and editors! Be part of the team that brings the neighborhood news, info, and fun to your mailbox. Email [alisonmaruca84@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmaruca84@gmail.com) for more info.

**Gazette Delivery:** We are seeking volunteers to help deliver the quarterly newsletter to the following streets: Burke Lake Rd., Thames St., Victoria Rd., London Ct., Derby Ct., Lancashire Dr., Yorkshire St., Southampton Dr., Salisbury Ct. Email [alisonmaruca84@gmail.com](mailto:alisonmaruca84@gmail.com) for more info.

**Neighborhood Watch:** Be part of the effort to keep our neighborhood safe! Call Terry or Beverly Boschert at 703 425-3478 or [terry.boschert@verizon.net](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net).

## Treasurer's Report VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

The Budget for fiscal year August 1, 2020 to July 31, 2021 was adopted at a virtual community meeting in November. The biggest change from previous budgets is an increase in the allocation for community outreach events of \$5000. Since August the biggest expenses were about \$2500 for grounds maintenance and about \$1600 for social events. Our income for this period was about \$650. Most of our income will come in the next few months when membership dues are paid for the new year.

### R & M Cleaning Services

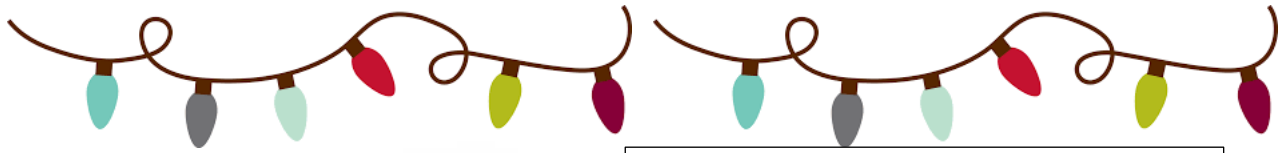
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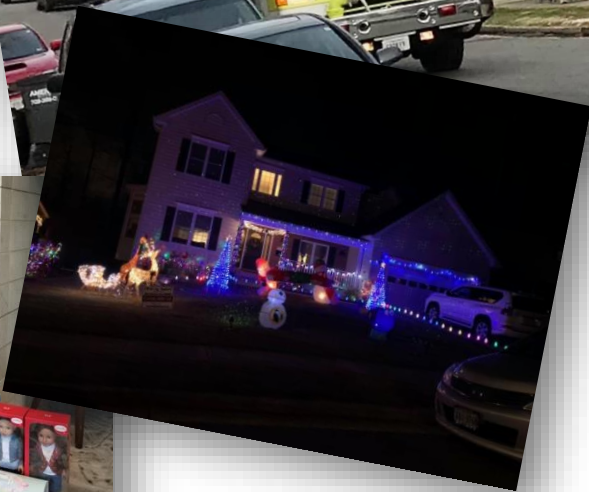
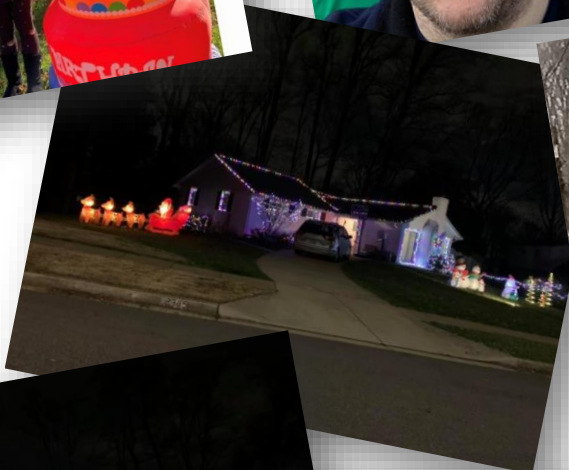


**Photos from the KPCA Scavenger Hunt and Holiday Decorating Contest November/December 2020**





3. Everyone loves cake! Find and take a selfie of your team in front of the large blowup birthday cake.





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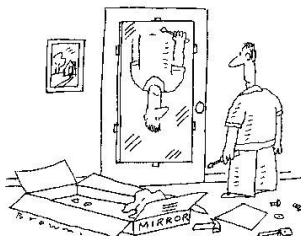
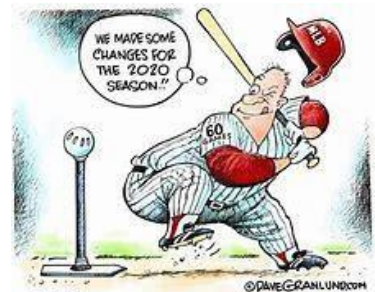


## WHIMSY CORNER

By: Terry Boschert

A home somewhere on Victoria Road. So how have you adjusted from the state of semi-isolation to downright quarantine and back to isolation since March 2020? Seems this question would be a good topic for a dissertation once one is allowed the chance to “objectify” the startling events of 2020. Anyway, here is how we coped.

Non-vacations. Our March 2020 started with a trip to Florida to see the Nationals in Spring Training, well sort of. We decided to not make the trip the day before we were to leave. The information we read and heard seemed disquieting but not definitive; but a lot of news about various topics fell into that category in 2020. We avoided a seafood filled and possibly infectious week in Florida.



A BOTCHED HOME IMPROVEMENT JOB

Reprinted from Funny Times / PO Box 18530 / Cleveland Hts. OH 44118  
phone: 216.371.8600 / email: ft@funnytimes.com

Home Improvement. With an abundance of the 4<sup>th</sup> dimension on our hands, we did fall prey to the attraction of home improvement projects; solar panels, attic insulation, donate or throw away unneeded things. Fortunately, my name was not in the home-improvement list and especially not in the things that had outlived their usefulness. We also upgraded our Queen bed to a California King bed. Explanation follows.

New Furnishings. Lucy, our Beagle family member for over 14 years, crossed the Rainbow Bridge in early Spring of 2020. I wrote about Lucy, while she lived, in several Whimsy Corner articles. In them, she could speak English, was a senior member of the Canine Council which is responsible for guiding humans towards civilization and could time travel. Took us a while to commit to adopt another dog, but we did. Lyra joined the family in late Spring. Energetic, playful, stubborn; earned the title Princess in front of her name. Anyway, why the bigger bed? Well, Lyra spent nights in our Queen bed. Perish the thought that we would make her sleep in her own bed!!!

Budget Vacations. Just a few of our vacations this year; apple orchards, Shenandoah National Park, The Kings Park Civic Association food trucks, our son’s house several miles away, gasoline stations, post office, doctor’s office, covid-19 test lines, off quarantine to just self-isolation with a negative covid-19 test result (by the way, six-foot distancing worked well for our marriage (see next topic), and Fairfax County electronic recycling.



We also celebrated our 53<sup>rd</sup> Wedding Anniversary. So, there you have it. We dealt with 2020. Thankfully, I am done writing. Once again, no Pulitzer! Sigh!



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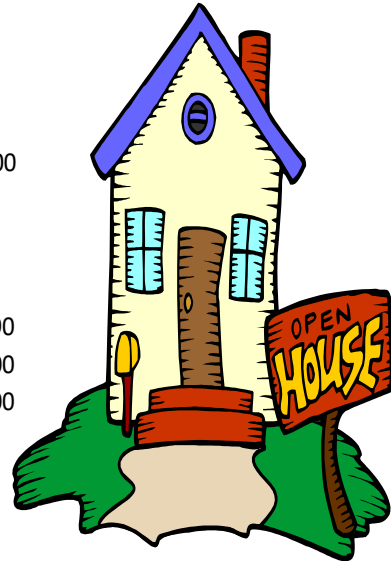
# Kings Park Real Estate Corner

### Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Queen Remodeled	8714 KENILWORTH DR	\$834,900

### Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duke	5403 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$609,990
Duke	8426 THAMES ST	\$610,000
King	5513 KINGS PARK DR	\$600,000



Sold	Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final	Final	Date Closed
						Price	Price	
	Craftsman	5631 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$1,187,000	\$1,182,000		\$1,182,000	(\$5,000)	11/12/20
	Duchess	8414 THAMES ST	\$589,000	\$589,000		\$589,000	\$0	11/06/20
	Duke	5406 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$615,000	\$619,000		\$619,000	\$4,000	11/23/20
	King	8616 CLYDESDALE RD	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$6,000	\$644,000	(\$6,000)	10/19/20
	Prince	5400 KINGS PARK DR	\$699,900	\$710,000		\$710,000	\$10,100	11/09/20
	Prince	8817 TRAFALGAR CT	\$599,000	\$631,000		\$631,000	\$32,000	12/18/20
	Queen	8430 THAMES ST	\$639,000	\$639,000	\$2,000	\$637,000	(\$2,000)	10/26/20
	Queen	5510 VENTNOR LN	\$609,900	\$610,000		\$610,000	\$100	11/30/20

*Provided by Susan Metcalf, Avery Hess Realtors*

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***Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net***

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!

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