



Kings Park Gazette

Fall 2021



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

VP of Events, Susan Metcalf

Oktoberfest 2021!! Please join your community for some family fun at our Annual Kings Park Oktoberfest **Saturday September 25th** from noon—2:00pm at Parliament Pool. This event is only open to 2021 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 \$7 per plate. For the kids, we will have hot dogs for \$4 per plate. This is a bargain you can't refuse; please pay by cash or check (exact amount appreciated) - virtual payment is not an option. Please bring a chair to sit in.

Please RSVP by Thursday September 23rd. 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.

Trunk or Treat!! Families and neighbors, children of all ages, please join us for the 8th annual Trunk or Treat on **Saturday, October 30th** 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 vehi-

cles 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. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Rivera at edaileyrivera@yahoo.com.

Kids Holiday Party!! Please join us for the KPCA's annual Children's Holiday Party on **Friday, December 3rd** in the gym and staff lounge at Kings Glen 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 would like to volunteer at the event, please contact Liz Rivera at 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 any baked goods from you if you are not able to attend the party.

About the Gazette

The Gazette is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Suggestions and submissions should be sent to Charlotte Hannagan, KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com. The KPCA reserves the right to not publish any material it deems inappropriate.





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Treasurer's Report

VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

The Kings Park Civic Association's fiscal year ended July 31, 2021. We ended the year with revenue of \$14,367.29 and expenses of \$16,170.10. Our biggest expenses were for grounds upkeep and beautification, community events such as the ice cream truck, holiday decoration contest and other smaller events and printing the Gazette. The excess of expenses over revenue was covered by the cash on hand that has built up over the years.

KPCA ListServ

The KPCA is starting to create an email listserv to occasionally distribute relevant information to residents. Such use case scenarios could include upcoming meeting and event information, soft-copy gazette distribution (hard copies will continue to be delivered to all households), and emergency messages. Your information may be uploaded into a marketing platform but will never be sold or sent to anyone outside of the KPCA Board. **Scan the QR Code above to join the ListServ or navigate to <https://forms.gle/zL4tgHnMdG9BumEU6>**



Membership Committee Update

VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of August 27, 2021, 440 families have paid their 2021 KPCA dues. Membership in the KPCA is only \$25 per calendar year (\$20 for seniors).

KPCA plans to round out 2021 by hosting several events including: the Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat and the Kid's Holiday Party.

We need your membership dues to host these traditional events and to fund additional activities in 2022.

To submit your membership for 2021, complete the membership insert from the January 2021 Gazette, include either cash or check and place the pre-addressed envelope in the mail. You may also complete the 2021 Membership Form online at www.kings-park.org and submit your payment electronically via PayPal.

Let's uphold Kings Park's standing as the wonderful neighborhood that it has been since the 1960's!





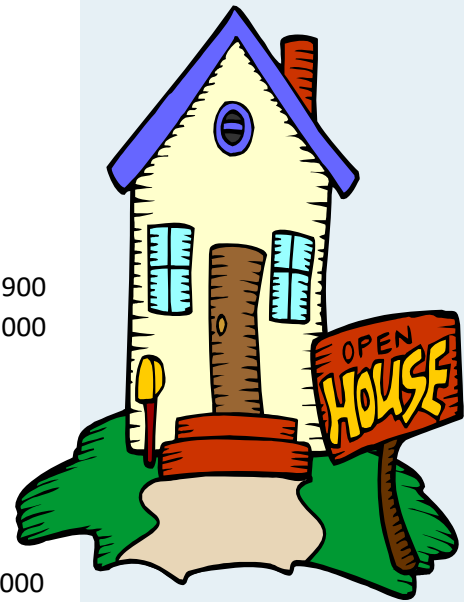
Real Estate Corner

Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duchess	8529 PARLIAMENT DR	\$649,900
Queen	8807 VICTORIA RD	\$769,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
King	8808 TRAFALGAR CT	\$689,000
Princess	5253 ROLLING RD	\$569,000
Princess	8524 PARLIAMENT DR	\$629,000
Princess	8808 CROMWELL DR	\$659,000
Queen	5301 ROLLING RD	\$525,000



Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duchess	8515 DURHAM CT	\$650,000	\$675,000		\$675,000	\$25,000	07/15/21
Duchess	5200 SOUTHAMPTON	\$678,000	\$678,000	\$500	\$677,500	(\$500)	07/23/21
Duchess	8512 THAMES ST	\$659,000	\$684,000		\$684,000	\$25,000	08/06/21
Duke	5619 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$625,000	\$680,000		\$680,000	\$55,000	07/02/21
Duke	8804 TRAFALGAR CT	\$669,000	\$705,000		\$705,000	\$36,000	08/06/21
Prince	8704 CLYDESDALE RD	\$599,000	\$650,000		\$650,000	\$51,000	08/20/21

**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!



Tree Safety

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa



If you subscribe to the Fairfax County Traffic Alerts, you'll notice that during storms most of the alerts are due to fallen trees. They block roads, hit wires or transformers and cause power outages, and, of course, damage property. Beautiful trees are one of the glories of Kings Park. We are fortunate to have old growth trees, that were here

before the subdivision was built, and ornamentals planted by homeowners throughout the years. However, these trees need homeowner care to keep them thriving and upright!

After reading articles by arborists and agricultural extension services, I found some common, and common-sense, guidelines for tree care.

- Check the health of your trees now. Summer is ideal for this, because you can gauge the health of the trees by the leaves and the bark. Warning signs are dead or cracked branches, leaning trunk, sparse leaves, rotting bark, cavities or splits in the trunk, and mushrooms growing at the base of the tree. Consult a tree specialist to devise a treatment plan.

- Remove dead trees. Dead trees are dangerous year round. They can fall during summer storms and during winter ice and snow.
- If tree branches interfere with above ground wires, have them trimmed. For aesthetic reasons, it's better to have the branches trimmed by a professional, rather than the power company. They'll look much better. As a bonus, if you raise the canopy of your tree, you will get more sunlight on your lawn or garden.

It's also important to know what trees are on your property. Identify them by leaves, height, bark. Either go online to find the variety, or take leaves or photos to a Master Gardener (at the farmers' markets), or to an arborist. Be careful if you have the following trees, because they have soft or brittle wood, or roots that are too shallow or too big: Silver maple, Bradford pear, weeping willow, Norway maple, mimosa, Leyland cypress, white birch, and sweet gum. Of course, when planting new trees, avoid these varieties, too. Also, keep the new trees away from the power lines!

Join
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/kpcava/>
 for regular updates, neighborhood information, and community discussions.



Bylaw Edits

By the time this Gazette is printed, we will hopefully have voted to edit our Bylaws. The last time this was done was in 2006. This time, the amendments include adding a fourth Vice President of Membership, clarifying that Kings Park renters can be KPCA members, and allowing Annual Meetings to be held at a more flexible date than what is currently prescribed. The edits can be found here: [https://kings-park.org/.../2021/09/KPCA ByLaws 2021.pdf](https://kings-park.org/.../2021/09/KPCA%20ByLaws%202021.pdf)

Keep checking our website and social media to see the final amended Bylaws and reach out if you have any questions: KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com

Congratulations to our very own Leeann Alberts on being this year's Lady Fairfax honoree from Braddock District!

A note from Supervisor James Walkinshaw Fairfax County Board of Supervisors / Braddock District

Braddock District residents donated 44,320 pounds of food during our last three Stuff the Bus food drives. The \$73,000 worth of food donations is a tangible demonstration of our community's generosity and spirit. But now we need to do it again!

According to the Feeding America [Impact of Coronavirus on Food Insecurity](#) projections (published March 29, 2021), the food insecurity rate in Fairfax County is 7.4%, up from 5.8% in 2019. That means about 86,716 don't have access to sufficient food because of limited financial resources. Together, we can make sure that families in our community have warm and nutritious meals tonight.

Our next Stuff the Bus Food Drive will take place on **Saturday, October 9**, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Braddock District office (9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke, Virginia 22015), the Oaks Community Center (5708 Oak

Leather Dr., Burke, VA 22015, and 19 additional locations throughout Fairfax County. By donating, you can help fight hunger and feed hope here in our community. I hope to see you there!

For updates, including donation locations, most requested food items, and more, sign up for the Braddock District Email List by visiting <https://conta.cc/2XqjBMm> or by emailing my office at Braddock@Fairfaxcounty.gov. Make sure to follow me:

on Facebook @SupervisorJamesWalkinshaw;
on Twitter @JrWalkinshaw;
and on Instagram
@SupervisorJamesWalkinshaw
to get updates



Recycling Reminders

By Beverly Boschert

E-cycling is the Law:

Virginia law requires any manufacturer that sells (or offers for sale) more than 500 units of computer equipment in the state to provide an opportunity for customers to return or recycle their equipment at no charge.

Available to Fairfax County Residents ONLY (NO COMMERCIAL DROP-OFF):

Please note that there is a MAXIMUM limit of ten large items per residential drop-off (Example: TVs, Printers, Scanners, Computers, etc.)



Specific Types of Electronics:

- Computers and Televisions - These materials are accepted at the e-cycling stations at the [I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex](#).
- Rechargeable Batteries - Accepted at the Household Hazardous Waste disposal sites at both the [I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex](#) and at various government office drop-off locations.
- Cell Phones - Cell phones are accepted at the e-cycling stations at both the [I-66 Transfer Station and I-95 Landfill Complex](#). Cell phones are also accepted at various government office drop-off locations.
- Cassette and VHS tapes - VHS cassette

tapes and magnetic recording tape are accepted at electronics recycling area. Customers must remove the tapes from their plastic outer case (i.e., leaving just the cassette or reel of tape), which can be disposed of as trash.

Glass Recycling

The Purple Can closest to Kings Park is in the parking lot behind the West Springfield Police station. Residents should reuse glass containers when possible or bring them to purple, glass-only recycling containers.



Yard Waste

Grass clippings can be left on the lawn to add nutrients to the soil or can be composted. Large limbs can be cut to a max of 4 foot length and included in curb side yard waste.

PLEASE DON'T PLACE PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING BINS



The KPCA is proud to be sponsoring Kings Park/Kings Glen PTA's annual Fun Run. This fundraiser gathers donations for school and PTA projects, such as water filling stations and classroom technology enhancements!



Kids Corner

The place in the Gazette where kids RULE!!

Welcome kids of all ages! This is **Allie McKenzie**, a fellow kid!

Kings Park Fun Events!

The Halloween season is almost here! Remember that Trunk or Treat is on **October 30** and the Halloween Party is too.

The kids holiday party is on **December 3**. Here are a few fun and budget-friendly costume ideas:

1. Harry Potter: Black shirt/sweatshirt + red and yellow accents
2. Orange Tabby: Orange outfit + cat headband
3. Burger: Brown or yellow pants + green shirt + red hat
4. Candy Corn: Orange pants + yellow shirt + white hat

Appreciating Fall Leaves

To really enjoy the beauty of fall, head outside! Maybe you and your family can take a nature walk around your neighborhood. You could even go for a hike around Lake Accotink or Burke Lake. Burke Lake has an amazing 18-hole Frisbee golf course that winds through the woods. In the fall, that would be beautiful to see. This activity is a great way to have fun with your family, while exercising and enjoying the beautiful fall scenery! Have fun!

The Burke Nursery Fall Festival & Pumpkin Playground

The Burke Nursery Fall Fest is coming up! The Fall Festival is a fun festival where there are fun fall-themed activities. There are usually games, hayrides, and food. Most schools in the past have

ways to sign-up. This year might be different, but that doesn't mean it will be any less fun! I recommend the apple cider!

Thanksgiving Activities

Here are some fun Thanksgiving activities you can do before the feast:

1. Make table settings for everyone with yellow, orange, or brown
2. Make a poster listing all the things you are thankful for and during dinner, ask your family to add to it.
3. Make a Thanksgiving-themed garland.
4. Make turkeys out of pinecones.
5. Invent a Thanksgiving board games.
6. Help out with the cooking!

Babysitting by Allie

Certified babysitter through the Red Cross
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 So, who's ready for a date night, parents?
 Scan to visit the Babysitting by Allie website:





“LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings’ Park resident since 1999

Top of the mornin’ to ya. Thank you for joining us on this tour of discovering why Kings’ Park streets are named thus. Today we are visitin’ two streets that cross over each other AND more importantly were featured on bloody (very) brilliant tv shows on Masterpiece Theater: “Victoria” Road and Grantham Street (“Downton Abbey”). So, step right this way, don’t be away with the fairies (daydreaming) and let’s have a butchers (look) at our great neighborhood. Don’t worry if you’re skint (broke with no money) you don’t need no quid, bobs or dosh (dollars or coins)it’s all foy (free). So, get a line (cue up) and larn (learn).

Hopefully everyone knows that Victoria is referring to Queen Victoria. Here are 10 trivia facts:



#1: Her name was really *Alexandrina Victoria*, born on May 24, 1819 but went by Victoria or “Drina.” #2: Victoria was barely five feet tall. #3: Victoria became queen at 18 when her uncle King William IV died of a heart attack. #4: Victoria had numerous assassination attempts on her life in 1840 age 21; then 1842 age

23; again 1849 at 30 and finally in 1882 at 63. Phew! Glad she made it, dying of natural causes at 81, as the majority of the UK adored her. #5: Victoria proposed marriage to her first cousin Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg in 1840. Theirs was a true love-match. #6: Victoria began the present day trend of a bride wearing white and prohibiting guests from the same color. She wore an 18 foot embroidered train, white satin shoes, Turkish diamond earrings and over her veil a wreath of myrtle and orange blossoms. #7: Victoria was eventually a mother to nine children and forty-two grandchildren, some of which she raised herself. #8: Victoria had a blood disease called *hemophilia*, passing it down to one child, who died at 30 and two grandsons. #9: Victoria was the first monarch to ride a train in 1842. She said “ ‘ it was delightful...the motion was slight...easier than a carriage [ride]...no dust or great heat.’ ” #10: Victoria is the second longest reigning monarch: 63 years; the present Queen Elizabeth II is first with a reign of 69 years so far.

Grantham appears first in 1086. The first part “Grant” may be a personal name or the Old English form of “grand” meaning gravel. The Old English “ham” means homestead. So the name of this town, 99 miles away from London, refers to either “Grant’s homestead” or “gravel homestead.” In the show, *Downton*

Abbey is the castle or manor home where the beloved Earl of Grantham, Robert Crawley and family resides. Though this was an actual title used by Henry de Nassau d’Auverquerque (1675-1754), when his sons passed away the title became extinct, i.e., ripe for the use in the fictional *Downton Abbey*. Some Grantham notables are: #1 - former Prime Minister (1979-1990) Margaret Thatcher’s (the Iron Lady) birthplace. #2 - Mathematician/Physicist/Astronomer Sir Isaac Newton (law of gravity discoverer) went to Kings’ Grammar School for Boys here. #3 - In 1740 a baker, William Eggleston, mistook one ingredient for another, adding ginger to his biscuit (cookie) batch and the Grantham gingerbread (cookie) was born. He would hand them out to coach drivers as they waited for a change of horses. They were a hit! #4 - the invention of the UK’s first running diesel engine (1892) and the first diesel traction motor or tractor (1896) #5 - lastly, the UK’s first female police officer Miss Edith Smith in 1914 with full powers to arrest. The police force recognized how useful women were in dealing with female victims and juveniles.

Well, that’s all for this tour of the UK and its influences on the Kings’ Park neighborhood.

Cheers, Luv.



Pictures from our KPCA July 4th parade



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Did you Know?

If Insurance is Being Difficult, There is Help For You

By Deb Discenza, a neighbor

So there I was in September 2003, my daughter Becky born ten weeks early and in the middle of her 38 day stay in the Inova Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). So when “Inova” popped up on our caller ID one morning, we freaked out assuming the worst. It turned out to be the NICU doctor’s group calling to alert us that they were fighting the bills with our insurance company and they would continue to do so. What? We had a top of the line health plan that I had picked out and put in place myself for the company I managed. Grrrr. As if we didn’t have enough on our minds, right?

Well Becky came home on medical equipment, medications, visiting nurses, a team of specialists and with two seriously stressed out and exhausted but elated parents. But the last thing I wanted to do was fight an insurance company as I cared for my child with special needs. Unfortunately that is exactly what I had to do for a solid year in between work, medical and therapeutic appointments and just plain life. So I worked diligently with the NICU doctor’s group and they were very helpful as they were used to these issues. The insurance plan not so much. It got so ridiculous that I called the insurance company about the same issue with different representatives on the same day and got *different answers*. Confused, I started a log of each call to keep it all straight. I did this until a fellow Premie Mom heard about my tale of woe told me to contact her as she worked in the insurance industry. On the call she said, “Call your state’s Bureau of Insurance *now* and file a complaint.” So I followed her advice and filled out the forms online.

The confirmation page noted that a case manager would be in touch with me by phone. The next business day, the lady who called from the Bureau of Insurance was knowl-

edgeable and respectful. I explained what was occurring and the steps I had taken to try and rectify the situation. We spent a solid amount on that call. Toward the end I asked her if my call log might be of help with the situation along with the other insurance company documentation. After a stunned silence she said, “Absolutely!” So I sent *everything* I had in a large binding folder. And I emailed her the entire call log. Apparently they use these complaints and proof to regulate the insurance companies and abuses and when appropriate, imposes penalties.

The outcome? Within 6 months the insurance company started reprocessing everything in network and while we should have owed 10% the insurance company paid the entire bill. Talk about relief! If I ever have an issue with an insurance company of any type, I would reach out to them again without hesitation.

Some tips if you need to reach out to the Bureau of Insurance.

- **Have your paperwork in order by date.** That would include paperwork from the insurance company, vendors and definitely any letters that you sent and were replied to. In this day and age it also includes emails, faxes and vendor live chats.
- **Create a Call Log.** When you sense an issue is going to be difficult early on in the situation. This can be as simple as a note on your smartphone’s notes application or even a note in the phone’s address book where you list the company’s name, phone number, etc. I used the Address Book for my notes so they were in the same place.

Continued on the next page...



Did you Know? *Continued...*

- **A Call Log is more than just some notes.** My call log included the date I called and even the time called. I also asked for the representatives name and then detailed notes on what I called about and what I was told in return.
- **When doing a Live Chat on the company's website, make sure to keep a copy.** If the company cannot provide you with a transcript of your conversation after the call, make sure to "select all" and copy and paste the information into your notes. That way you have it all right there.
- **If you didn't have a Call Log early on, try to fill in the blanks where possible with as much as you can recall.** Providing a complete record is fantastic, even if it is

only partially a full log of details. The BOI can simply show that you have recorded enough details to prove that the insurance company is not doing right by its customers.

While this may all seem like a lot of work, I can assure you that it can save you thousands, if not tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars. In our case it was on the higher end and well worth the extra time and effort. And the more complaints we provide to the state BOI only helps others positively in the future.



The KPCA was happy to once again sponsor the Parliament Pool Association this summer. The community pool is an integral part of our neighborhood, and we are proud to support its continued success.



KINGS PARK - LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE

VOLUNTEER TO UPKEEP SOME COMMON AREAS

We need help maintaining some of the neighborhood garden beds and entrance signs

Reach out to
KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com
for more information!



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