



# Kings Park Gazette



## Upcoming Neighborhood Events VP of Events, Susan Metcalf

### Upcoming:

**KPCA Holiday Lights Contest:** Kings Park is already getting into the holiday spirit and looking very festive. Judging for the Annual KPCA Holiday Lights Contest will occur December 17 from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Five winners will be chosen by our esteemed judges and announced on the KPCA Facebook Page with a prize of \$50 for each KPCA Member winner. All decorated houses will be included in the judging, but if you want to make sure your house is viewed by the judges, email: [susan.metcalf@verizon.net](mailto:susan.metcalf@verizon.net) or sign up at <https://forms.gle/ae3yg6ZUYzGnxHdN6>. If you won last year, please still decorate, but you will not be eligible for a prize.

**Kings Park Yard Sale,** at everyone's own yard: Saturday May 7 8am-1pm—start clearing out your house, garage, carport, shed, etc. in preparation.

### Recent events:

**KPCA Annual Children’s Holiday Party** was a great success with holiday music by the Kings Park Band, Arts and Crafts, a Cookie Walk, and an appearance by the man in red, Santa Claus. This event has been held each year since the beginning of the neighborhood.

Our first ever KPCA Halloween Decoration

Contest with our contest winners - Jessica and Justin Monetti 8433 Thames St; Declan Campbell 8702 Cromwell Dr; Janet and TJ Granito 8501 Thames Street. There were so many awesome decorations in Kings Park this year that the KPCA is making this an annual event. Thanks also to our fa-boo-lous judges!

**Kings Park Trunk or Treat,** always a fun time with all the kids dressed up in costumes and the cars decorated.

**Oktoberfest** – Everyone had a fun time with KPCA German Band playing, Homemade Brats (by our Kings Park Sausage meister Don Metcalf), Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, and Strudel.

Check out the pictures of recent events sprinkled throughout the gazette!



## About the Gazette

*The Gazette is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Suggestions and submissions should be sent to Charlotte Hannagan, [kingsparkcivicasociation@gmail.com](mailto:kingsparkcivicasociation@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 Charlotte Hannagan. 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.*





## **Kings Park Civic Association**

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

Since August 1, KPCA had income of about **\$1,140** (most from Oktoberfest) and expenses of about **\$8,500**. The largest expense categories were lawn care and community events. The events that KPCA supported were Oktoberfest, Halloween Decorating Contest and Trunk or Treat. Many administrative costs are due at this time of year, such as insurance, web hosting and Zoom hosting. We also printed the Gazette and paid to have the brick entrance signs cleaned

and the message boards repaired. Again, we have enough cash on hand to cover the excess of expenses over income. Starting in January with the new membership dues coming in, our income should be closer to covering expenses.

Please let us know what community events you would like to see in the coming months. This is your community and we welcome your ideas and your volunteering to help bring them about.

## **Membership Committee Update** VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of December 1, 2021, 454 families have paid their 2021 KPCA dues. **Membership in the KPCA is only \$25 per calendar year (\$20 for seniors).**

As we look forward to a more normal schedule for 2022, KPCA plans to sponsor many wonderful events and activities including: the Senior Luncheon, Safety Day, the 4th of July Parade and Band Concert, Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, the Kid's Holiday Party, Halloween and Holiday Decoration contests, Neighborhood Watch, Summertime Food Truck events, KPCA sponsored Ice Cream Appreciation Day, Nub/Entrance Maintenance, Community Meetings, KPCA Gazette, local government organization representation and more. Some of these events are for the entire Kings Park community, while others are for KPCA members only.

We need your volunteer support and your dues to sustain all of these events and to fund additional activities as time goes on!

To submit your membership for 2022, complete the membership insert found in this edition of the Gazette, include either cash or check and mail to: **Kings Park Civic Association, P.O. Box 1243, Springfield, VA 22151-1243**

You may also complete the 2022 Membership Form online at [www.kings-park.org](http://www.kings-park.org) and submit your payment electronically via PayPal.

Finally, you have the option to set up KPCA on your bill pay option and have your bank mail the check to KPCA. (Hint: making this an annual recurring transaction ensures you never forget to pay your dues!)





## Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) Announcements

### MONTHLY FLAP LAKE ACCOTINK PARK CLEAN-UP

WHEN: (2nd Sunday of every month)

TIMES: 9:00am-12:00am

WHERE: Sign in at one location - Lake Accotink Marina

Pick up your gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps and more. You will also be loaned a FLAP Safety Vest. Volunteer 4 times and received Your very OWN Safety Vest to personalize!

ACTIVITIES: Pick-up trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped and forgotten. Dog waste stations (refill & check stations), vine clipping and more.

**REGISTER:** [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization\\_details/71653](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/organization_details/71653)

### CARING FOR THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

WHEN: (2nd Sunday of every month)

TIME: 10:30am

WHERE: Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - Adjacent to the Marina

ACTIVITIES: Work alongside our experts as they care for the Pollinator Plants, Watering and Clean-up. We'll provide the tools and gloves or you can bring your own.

**REGISTER:**

- [https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp\\_details/186905](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/#/opp_details/186905)
- <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-158892889911>

### EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

WHEN: (2nd Sun of every Month)

TIME: 10:30am

WHERE: Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden - Adjacent to the Marina.

ACTIVITY: Our experts will guide you through the Pollinators and Pollinator Plants, Starting and maintaining your own (any size) Pollinator Garden.

**REGISTER:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-158891973169>

### FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

Board & Committee positions are open- It Is YOUR LAKE ACCOTINK PARK help make a difference for a few hours a month! Accepting candidates. Send an email to [Contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:Contact@flapaccotink.org) for more information.

### DONATE TO FRIENDS OF LAKE ACCOTINK PARK

On-line: [www.flapaccotink.org](http://www.flapaccotink.org)

Mail: FLAP P.O. Box 1203 Springfield VA 22151







## Storm Drains: Keep them Clean

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa

**Only Rain down the Drain!** Yes, you can prevent or lessen pollution of our local streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay by limiting what goes down your storm drain. Every time it rains, or snow melts, pollutants such as litter, oil, grit, chemicals and bacteria flow off streets, sidewalks and drive-ways and are carried by runoff into storm drains.

Common sources of water pollution from residential sources are shown in the graphic below:

- swimming pool discharges
- vehicle washing and maintenance
- animal waste
- yard waste disposal
- unsecured garbage / trash
- improper pesticide application
- construction materials and paint

Some of the sources of pollution were a surprise to me, so I reached out to the Stormwater Planning Division in the Fairfax County Department of Public Works for clarification, specifically on what was the most environmentally friendly way to wash your car. They provided the following guidelines:

- Wash vehicles on a grassy surface so the water goes into the ground, not into the storm drain.
- Limit the amount of soap that you use and use mild detergents, especially those that are phosphate-free;
- Use as little water as

possible. Turn off the hose while soaping up the vehicle and rinse quickly;

- Try waterless car washing soap, many of which are biodegradable.

In addition to the details on washing your car, there are other specifics that can help keep our water supply clean. Do not rake or dump grass clippings or leaves into the storm drain. Never dump treated swimming pool water, pet waste, used motor oil, paint, chemicals or other substances into a storm drain. Secure garbage on collection days to avoid trash reaching the storm drain.

For more information regarding the Fairfax County storm sewer system (MS4), visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/storm-drainage-system> and for more information regarding different types of illicit discharges to the MS4, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/illicit-discharge-and-improper-disposal-idid-program>

As homeowners, we can all help to prevent pollutants from reaching the county's waterways.

Remember – ***only rain down the drain!***





## Recycling Right

By Beverly Boschert

The curbside recycling bin program is designed to collect specific materials. Keep items loose, clean and dry – never in plastic bags. Placing wet, sticky item in the bin reduces the recyclability of other material. If you are unsure if something is recyclable in the bin, “When in doubt, throw it out.”

### *Items to Always Place in the Curbside Recycling Bin:*

- Plastic Bottles and Jugs (dry with lids on)
- Metal Food and Beverage Cans (rinsed and dry)
- Cartons (rinsed and dry)
- Mixed Paper and Cardboard (flat)

### *Items to Never Place in the Curbside Recycling Bin:*

- Plastic Bags, Film and Pillow Packaging (return to grocery store)
- Food Bags and Wrappers (trash)
- Glass (take to purple bin)
- Shredded Paper (put in compost)
- Diapers (trash)

- Mixed Packaging (cardboard with plastic, etc, trash)
- Clothing (donate)
- Batteries (alkaline in trash, lithium to FxCo e-cycle)
- Foam & Plastic Takeout Cups and Containers (trash)

Reduce waste by purchasing fewer single-use products.

### **Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.**

Source: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash>

Most Americans believe strongly in the importance of recycling. Yet out of 37.4 million tons of materials that could be picked up in curbside recycling from American homes, 20 million tons are thrown in the trash. We can – and should – do better!

Source: [RecyclingPartnership.org](http://RecyclingPartnership.org)



**Plant NOVA Trees** promotes Native Trees in Northern Virginia. Information on their winter activities is at <https://www.plantnovatrees.org/calendar>

The NVSWCD has a Native Seedling Sale each spring, orders usually begin in February and the bare root seedlings are available to pick

up in April. The available trees and shrubs vary each year in the Super Shrub and Tiny Tree groups. The packages are inexpensive and orders usually sell out quickly. Information is available at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>





# Kings Park Girl Scout News

By Judy Baldwin

As you drove down Victoria Road on a Thursday evening during the early Fall, you may have seen a group of little girls dancing or making outdoor art in Angela Leese's front yard. These are the Brownies of **Troop 54098** led by Angela and Sarah Craft. They love crafts. They made monsters out of felt, multi-color field corn using beads and pipe cleaners, and Fall decorations from leftover materials (using resources wisely as the Girl Scout Law says.)

Troop 54098 is holding a donation drive for ECHO in December. To get a list of the most commonly requested items and to arrange to donate, contact them at [troop54098leads@gmail.com](mailto:troop54098leads@gmail.com).

Brownie **Troop 54090** also has taken advantage of the beautiful Fall weather. They spent a day at Girl Scout Camp Crowell in Oakton learning how to build a fire, cook over the fire, raise a tent, hike, build a bird feeder and more. These Kindergarten through 3rd grade girls have learned leadership skills by planning and presenting badges to their fellow troop mates. They have searched for letter boxes, learned about Girl Scout traditions, created games, researched women inventors and math in nature. They even learned how to use slingshots.

They will soon be taking orders for Girl Scout cookies, planning to give back to their community while earning their

philanthropy badge. Troop leaders are Theresa Wills and Chrissy Prat-Moore.

Girl Scouts will begin taking orders for cookies December 10. Booth sales will begin in early February.

For more information about Girl Scouts at Kings Park and Kings Glen schools, contact Carleen Aubee [GSKPKG@gmail.com](mailto:GSKPKG@gmail.com)







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**703-321-5335**

Dear Kings Park Neighbors,

I am collecting non-perishable food items again for the Capital Area Food Bank. All items can be placed in the pre-marked plastic bin in front of our house at [5302 Kings Park Drive](https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/) starting **Sunday, December 12**. If it is easier to make a monetary donation instead please see the link <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/>. The most in need items can be selected from the flyer attached to the right. Many thanks again for your consideration.

Your neighbor,

**Jess Young**

KPCA is collecting **Toys for Tots**, we have a growing pile already. Drop toys off with Susan Metcalf, 5523 Eastbourne Drive. Deadline for Toys for Tots is **December 12**. Any toys received after that will be donated to ECHO.

You can also donate online at <https://tinyurl.com/2fk89phf>

**Most Wanted Items**  
High Fiber, Low Sugar, Low Sodium



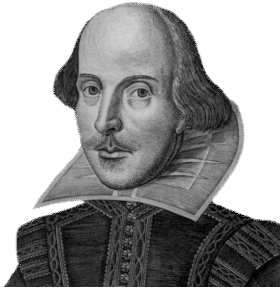
The Capital Area Food Bank is creating access to good, healthy food in every community, and we couldn't do it without you!

By donating food, you're helping to get meals to children, seniors, and families who need them. And by choosing items on this "most wanted" list, you're contributing to the health and wellness of the 540,000 neighbors we serve. Thank you!

- Canned or Dry Beans**
- Canned Vegetables**  
low sodium, no salt added
- Grains**  
brown & white rice, pasta, macaroni & cheese
- Hot and Cold Cereal**  
oatmeal, cheerios, corn-flakes, raisin bran
- Canned Tuna, Salmon, or Chicken**
- Healthy Snacks**  
raisins, granola bars
- 100% Juice**  
all sizes, including juice boxes
- Canned Fruits**  
in light syrup or its own juices
- Peanut Butter**



William Shakespeare



*The river Thames that by our door doth pass, His first beginning is but small and shallow; Yet, keeping on his course, grows to a sea.*

— The Life and Death of The Lord Cromwell. Act I. scene II.



## “LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings’ Park resident since 1999

‘Allo, Lads and Birds [guys & girls], let’s *crack on* [get started] with another *Lit’l Bit O’ Brit* tour discovering the origins of our neighborhood street’s names. Get right on the bus; now, now, there’s plenty a room, don’t be *throwin’ a wobbly* [tantrum] and *bein’ a berk* [unpleasant person]. Today we have for ya two street names that have to do with w’er. Yes, w’er. W.A.T.E.R. Like I said - w’er.

Speakin’ of w’er, no *bevvys* [beverages] on this tour ‘cept for w’er bottles. Now, where was I? Oh, yeah, w’er. Today we are touring Thames Street (pronounced “Tims”) & Avon Court, respectively, both rivers.

Let’s play “Did ya know that?”  
Did ya know that the river Thames...

- is 215 miles long, its widest part being 18 miles across; narrowest width is 59’ 1”; the deepest depth is 66’ with 214 bridges along the flow; 184 miles of foot path along its side and 45 islands along the way
- formerly hosted “Frost Fairs” from 1608-1814. Used as a fairground where street vendors and tradesmen would place their wares, games and products out on the frozen river for purchase and sport
- in 1858 the stench was so bad from the filth that parliament was suspended (being nearby) which forced it to develop the city’s

[London] first sewage system and now it’s where 2/3 of London gets their (treated) water from it

- its name is derived from Latin: ‘tamesis’ meaning dark because of the sediment at the bottom
- in 2006 Lewis Pugh once swam the length of it and it has over 200 rowing clubs [row boats] using it yearly
- had a polar bear swim in it? Given to King Henry III in 1251, kept in the Tower of London; summer time, in it went.

Much smaller than the Thames is the river Avon, only 83 miles long. It takes its name from the ancient Celtic word ‘*a fon,*’ meaning river. So it’s the River River. We is Brits...we do that. The most famous part is the town of Stratford-upon-Avon, 91 miles NW of London near the edge of the Cotswolds. It is a popular tourist attraction (2.5-3 million yearly) as being its hometown hero’s - William Shakespeare - birthplace (1564) and grave site (1616). Before 1639, the only way to reach Stratford town was by treacherous roads. By adding locks and weirs to the Avon, connecting the canals, it became the dominant mode where “great trade of sugar, oil, wine, tobacco, iron and lead are carried by [the Avon],” stated the author of Robinson Crusoe, Daniel DeFoe.

Ya been lovely today, mates. Come out again on the next the tour. Cheers, Luv





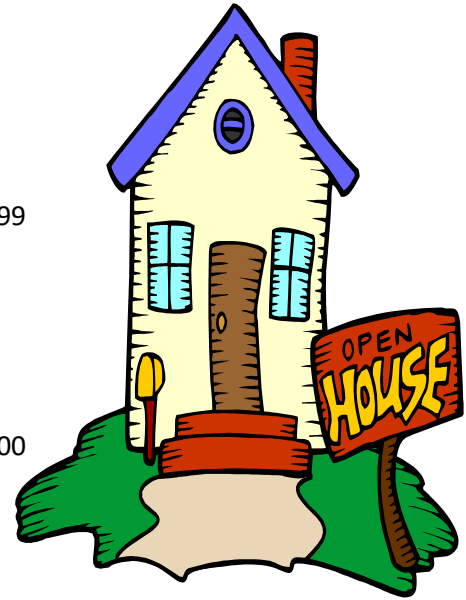
# Real Estate Corner

## Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duke	5613 EASTBOURNE DR	\$719,999

## Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Queen	5617 EASTBOURNE DR	\$550,000



Sold	Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
	Duke	8626 VICTORIA RD	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$15,000	\$535,000	(\$15,000)	10/04/21
	King	8808 TRAFALGAR CT	\$689,000	\$750,001	\$15,000	\$735,001	\$46,001	10/21/21
	King	8616 CLYDESDALE RD	\$699,999	\$800,000	\$15,000	\$785,000	\$85,001	11/26/21
	Princess	5253 ROLLING RD	\$569,000	\$569,000	\$15,000	\$554,000	(\$15,000)	09/16/21
	Princess	8808 CROMWELL DR	\$659,000	\$702,000	\$15,000	\$687,000	\$28,000	09/17/21
	Princess	8524 PARLIAMENT DR	\$629,000	\$625,000	\$15,000	\$610,000	(\$19,000)	09/27/21
	Queen	5301 ROLLING RD	\$525,000	\$550,000	\$15,000	\$535,000	\$10,000	09/16/21

**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!



## Kids Corner

The place in the Gazette where kids RULE!!

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

### Holiday Decorating Contest

Does your family always love to decorate? You should enter the Holiday Decorating Contest! All you have to do is decorate your house and/or lawn and have your parents fill out a Google Form found on the KPCA Facebook. To enter, you need to be decorated by **December 17th**. Good luck!

### Make Your Own Pine Cone Bird Feeder

Making your own bird feeder is easy! All you need is a pine cone, some sort of nut butter, yarn, and birdseed. Take the pine cone and a butter knife and coat the pine cone in the nut butter. After that, roll it in the birdseed.

Then, tie the yarn around the pine cone and hang it in your backyard!

### 10 Fun Facts About Snow

1. Snowflakes always have 6 sides
2. Chionophobia is the fear of snow
3. Monkeys love the snow
4. The largest snowflake ever was 15 inches in diameter
5. It's never too cold to snow
6. Once, in Italy, 100.8 inches of snow fell in 24 hours
7. There are snowstorms that can produce lightning and thunder. These are called thundersnow
8. Snow is naturally clear, not white
9. Snow reflects sound
10. The reflection of sunlight off of snow is actually dangerous.

### Babysitting by Allie

Certified babysitter through the Red Cross  
 Certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED through Red Cross  
 Friendly, Fun, and Responsible  
 Takes care of kids from infancy through 9 years old  
 Fully vaccinated  
 Reasonable Pricing  
 Call or text: 240-625-288  
 E-mail: alliecat.mckenzie@gmail.com  
 Who's ready for a date night, parents?  
 Scan this QR code to visit the Babysitting by Allie website!







## Whimsy Corner By Terry Boschert

A Home in Kings Park with New Pets. Since both Lucy the Beagle (a member of the Canine Council) and Sally the Cat (a member of the Feline Clowder) crossed the Rainbow Bridge, we found the silence in our home deafening. So, after a period where we decided we do indeed want more pets, we began the hunt for a dog. We soon realized the impact of Covid-ness when all homeless pet sites ran out of dogs we could adopt. We searched all sites within drivable distance; puppy or young dog; nothing. We even discovered that sites that sell pets had increased their prices considerably. We have always had rescue dogs, so “pure bred dogs for sale” did not appeal to us, just curious about availability in that realm.

Nonetheless, we got our dog. How, with the acute shortage of adoptable dogs, did we “endeavor to persevere” (a phrase that appears in a western without good results). Go back

several years to a time when a non-domesticated feline (understatement!!) gave birth to 4 kittens while under our shed. I spent hours seated by the shed to get all 5 to get to know the sound of my voice; helped when I came with extra cat food. We called upon a cat rescue group, Alley Cats, for help. Back to the present: So, we reached out to the group for help to find an adoptable dog; they came through. We named her Lyra (like the constellation). With new technology, she is Chihuahua, Border Terrier, Miniature Pinscher, and some unnamed mixed breeds going back to Great Grand Parents. What did you say, testing your dog’s DNA is odd? Well, I think I have proven my mental state through years of writing Whimsy Corner.

We found our cat Smoky very easily. Someone else’s four-month-old kitten advertised in Next Door; became our four-month-old kitten the same day I

read the item. Decided to not DNA Smoky; would reveal a short haired domestic cat going back for centuries.

Now that I introduced our pets to you, you will hear more about them in future articles. I especially wonder if Lyra is a member of the Canine Council and if Smoky a member of the Feline Clowder; both assigned to keep tabs of my writings in Whimsy Corner. Lucy and Sally were such representatives. I will let you know--as a work of fiction of course! I don’t want to be taken away! May occur anyway.



**HELP WANTED**

New volunteers needed for Kings Park Neighborhood Watch. Flexible hours, great community service rewards. Requirements: ability to drive or ride in private vehicle. Email [terry.boschert@verizon.net](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net) to volunteer!



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