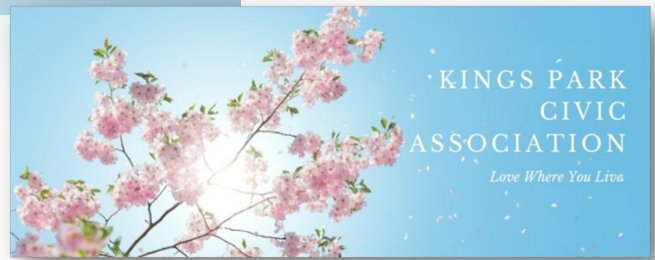




Kings Park Gazette



Letter from the President

Jim Sobecke

Looks like we may have survived an unusual winter. Unusual changes week to week. Spring is just around the corner!

Hopefully, we can start getting our lives back on track after the pandemic. The biggest news is that the **July 4th Parade and Picnic** will return with patriotic fanfare to rekindle our spirits. The Picnic will offer the traditional Kings Park Band concert while you enjoy the hot dog food sale.

The first 125 younger children who arrive at KPES and participate in the parade will be given the July 4th commemorative medal and lanyard for 2022.

July 4th being on Monday, we are going to plan for the usual attendance at the picnic and more activities for the children. The parade will continue as in past years, beginning at Kings Park Elementary School at 11:00am and ending on Kings Park Drive at the Trafalgar Court entrance to the Park. The picnic begins immediately after the parade at the upper level parking area and playground.

Before we get to July 4th the much-awaited return of the Ice Cream truck, sponsored by the KPCA, will take place on Saturday June 11th at selected stops across the community.

Unfortunately, we aren't able to schedule the return of Seniors Luncheon or the revival of the Community

Pot Luck Dinner this year. We are however still on track for having the Oktoberfest event and the Children's Holiday party later in Fall/Winter.

We are always in need of many more to volunteer to help coordinate these community events. There are many small tasks that you can volunteer to help with and still participate in the event with your family and friends. A little of your valuable time and energy goes a long way to make every event a success and a rewarding return on investing in the community.

As a tribute to Sher Plunkett, our Emergency Preparedness coordinator, I am planning to arrange for a demonstration of Hands-Only CPR and a Public Safety Day program sometime this year. This would be hosted by Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and the CERT Program.

If you are interested in supporting, or just want more information about what KPCA is doing for you, please email me or contact any member of the KPCA Board. At this time, we are specifically looking for a new secretary, whose primary duties include maintaining our records and taking the minutes of our meetings.

Stay safe

Jim Sobecke

About the Gazette

The Gazette is published quarterly: January, April, July, and October. Suggestions and submissions should be sent to Charlotte Hannagan, charlot@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 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

Board of Directors

President, Jim Sobecke
703-978-2035
jsobecke@gmail.com

VP of Social Outreach,
Charlotte Hannagan
484-431-6448
xarlot@gmail.com

VP of Community Safety,
Susan Cappa
703-323-9683
sjcappa@gmail.com

VP of Events, Susan Metcalf
703-472-6512
Susan.metcalf@verizon.net

Secretary, Christine Franklin
626-278-3401
chsquaredii@gmail.com

VP of Finance,
Susan Malmberg
703-425-1478
Susan.malmberg@gmail.com

VP of Membership,
Leeann Alberts
703-314-6932
lawleeann@gmail.com

Membership Committee Update

VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of March 1, 2022, 207 homes were official members of the Kings Park Civic Association. At this point in 2021, 336 families had paid their dues. We need to increase our 2022 membership in order to sustain all of the wonderful events and services provided by the KPCA!

As we end the first quarter of 2022, 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.

Your dues, involvement, and volunteerism to support KPCA help to keep Kings Park one of the most highly desired

neighborhoods in the Northern Virginia area.

To submit your membership for 2022, complete the membership insert from the January 2022 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 and submit your payment electronically via PayPal or via Bill Pay by setting up KPCA on your bank's bill pay option and have your bank mail the check! (Hint: making this an annual recurring transaction ensures that you never forget to pay your dues!).

All members who pay their 2022 dues by April 15, 2022 will be entered to win gift cards to local businesses.

Treasurer's Report

VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

Since the last report KPCA received income of about **\$6,882** from membership dues (\$3,867), donations (\$1,095) and advertising (\$1,920). During that same time period we had expenses of about \$1,803, mostly for Gazette printing and leaf clean-up. Thank you to all who have joined and thank you to all who have made donations. As always, we welcome your participation in KPCA. Please let us know what activities you would like to see sponsored and please volunteer to serve on the KPCA Board and committees!





Upcoming Neighborhood Events

VP of Events, Susan Metcalf

KPCA Ice Cream Day Saturday June 11 12pm-5pm

This was so popular the KPCA voted to do it again this year! Your Kings Park Civic Association has arranged for Scoops2U ice cream mobile to drive through Kings Park with complimentary treats from the KPCA for Kings Park neighbors.

Starting at noon on June 11, the ice cream parade will start at the corner of Kenilworth and Kings Park Drive. In order to ensure the timeliness of the vehicles, cul-de-sacs and the majority of Southampton Drive will NOT be serviced due to tight maneuvering space and traffic. We will post a map of the route on the Facebook group closer to the date showing where the truck will be stopping. We will do live updates on the truck's progress on the KPCA Facebook group.

Kings Park Community Yard Sale: May 7

The yard sale will be well advertised so start clearing out your house, garage, carport, shed, etc in preparation. We are publishing a neighborhood map with all participating houses marked. This map will be given out to buyers as they come into the neighborhood. We will be putting balloons at each participating house to make them easier to spot. Questions? Comments? To have your house included on the map and the list for balloons, contact Susan Metcalf at Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net.

National Night Out— Tuesday August 2nd

We encourage Kings Park residents to register for the National Night Out Campaign at <https://natw.org/> - let the KPCA know how we can help!



Want to serve on the KPCA Board? Reach out to KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com for more information!!



Bicycle Safety

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa

As the days get warmer and daylight is longer, more bicycles will be on the streets of Kings Park. Here are some tips for adults and children to keep you safe when you're bicycling.

1. Wear a helmet

A properly fitted bicycle helmet can reduce the risk of a serious injury by 70 percent. In Fairfax County, helmets are required for bicyclers age 15 and under.

Check your helmets for proper fit each year and replace them if you've been in a bicycle accident.

2. Check Your Equipment Before You Ride

Bicycle equipment malfunctions contribute to a significant number of crashes. You can reduce the risk of an equipment-related accident by checking your bike, helmet, and gear (water bottle holder, basket etc.) before you hit the road in the spring.

Make sure your tires are properly inflated. Check your reflectors and lights to make sure that they're working. Working lights and reflectors are required between sunset and sunrise in Fairfax County. Inspect your chain and gears for any defects, fractures, or other issues and have them repaired before you hit the road.

3. Be Visible at Night

Avoid riding after sunset, or if you must ride after dark, make sure drivers can see you and your bicycle. If drivers can't see you, they can't avoid you. Wear reflective clothing at night; white or light colors is not good enough. Equip your bicycle with both a headlight, and a red (steady or flashing) taillight after dark. In Fairfax county, these lights are required at night on streets posted at 35 mph, or more.

4. Pay Attention

Give bicycling your full attention. Keeping both hands on the handlebars enables you to react

faster and control your bike better. Stash electronics in your bag or pocket. If you need to drink, get a water bottle that's easy to operate with one hand, or pull over for a sip. Keeping your eyes on the road and tuning into your surroundings will help to keep you safe.

5. Ride As If You're Driving a Car

Traffic laws apply equally to both cars and bicycles and following the laws will help bicyclers stay safe. Studies show that drivers are used to the patterns and behaviors of vehicles on the road. Cars don't weave in and out of traffic, ignore traffic signals, ride against the flow of traffic, or cut across multiple lanes at once. When you ride a bike, it's easier to do these things. However, you're more likely to catch a driver by surprise or limit your visibility when you do. Keep yourself safe by riding predictably.

6. Adults Bicyclers: Stay Off the Sidewalks

Sidewalks may seem like a safe alternative when you're riding alongside larger vehicles and sidewalk cycling is recommended by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for children 10 and younger. However, adults should ride in the street. Sidewalk biking has its own set of challenges. First, sidewalks belong to pedestrians. You're more likely to crash into a pedestrian or lose control when the sidewalks are crowded with people or their pets (remember dogs have leashes). Second, sidewalk pavement is more likely to be uneven than asphalt on the road. You can hit a crack or bump in the sidewalk and go flying. Finally, cars don't expect to see a bicyclist enter the road from a sidewalk, so enter the street at a corner, not between parked cars.

Enjoy your bicycle trips in and around Kings Park and stay safe.



Kings Park Real Estate Corner

Due to the current quick moving market and low inventory, there are no current For Sale or Under Contract Properties to report as of publication date. 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!



Sold		List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price	Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duke	5613 EASTBOURNE DR	\$719,999	\$700,000		\$700,000		-\$19,999	02/17/22
King	5502 YORKSHIRE ST	\$717,000	\$755,500		\$755,500		\$38,500	02/17/22
Duke	8619 CLYDESDALE RD	\$675,000	\$710,000		\$710,000		\$35,000	02/04/22
Queen	5617 EASTBOURNE DR	\$550,000	\$550,000		\$550,000		\$0	12/16/21
Queen	8807 VICTORIA RD	\$730,000	\$695,000		\$695,000		-\$35,000	11/30/21
Queen	8807 VICTORIA RD	\$730,000	\$695,000	\$17,000	\$678,000		(\$52,000)	11/30/21
King	8616 CLYDESDALE RD	\$699,999	\$800,000		\$800,000		\$100,001	11/26/21
King	8808 TRAFALGAR CT	\$689,000	\$750,001		\$750,001		\$61,001	10/21/21
Duke	8626 VICTORIA RD	\$550,000	\$550,000		\$550,000		\$0	10/04/21
Princess	8524 PARLIAMENT DR	\$629,000	\$625,000		\$625,000		(\$4,000)	09/27/21
Princess	8808 CROMWELL DR	\$659,000	\$702,000		\$702,000		\$43,000	09/17/21
Princess	5253 ROLLING RD	\$569,000	\$569,000	\$15,000	\$554,000		(\$15,000)	09/16/21
Queen	5301 ROLLING RD	\$525,000	\$550,000		\$550,000		\$25,000	09/16/21
Prince	8704 CLYDESDALE RD	\$599,000	\$650,000		\$650,000		\$51,000	08/20/21
Duchess	8512 THAMES ST	\$659,000	\$684,000		\$684,000		\$25,000	08/06/21
Duke	8804 TRAFALGAR CT	\$669,000	\$705,000		\$705,000		\$36,000	08/06/21
Duchess	5200 SOUTHAMPTON	\$678,000	\$678,000	\$500	\$677,500		(\$500)	07/23/21
Duchess	8515 DURHAM CT	\$650,000	\$675,000		\$675,000		\$25,000	07/15/21
Duke	5619 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$625,000	\$680,000		\$680,000		\$55,000	07/02/21
Duke	5513 YORKSHIRE ST	\$669,000	\$705,000		\$705,000		\$36,000	06/21/21
Prince	8945 VICTORIA RD	\$699,900	\$720,000		\$720,000		\$20,100	06/14/21
Duke	8649 VICTORIA RD	\$650,000	\$680,000		\$680,000		\$30,000	06/09/21
Duchess	5504 CALLANDER DR	\$674,888	\$725,000		\$725,000		\$50,112	06/07/21
Duke	8818 VICTORIA RD	\$649,900	\$675,000		\$675,000		\$25,100	06/04/21

Provided by Susan Metcalf, AveryHess Realtors
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This is a paid advertisement.



Using Mulch in the Garden

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa

What Is Mulch?

Mulch is any type of matter that was once living. It includes things like wood chips, bark and straw. All organic mulches break down and improve your soil. Mulch does many good things for your soil and plants. Mulch can:

Suppress weeds

Organic mulch keeps the soil underneath it shaded. This prevents most weed seeds from germinating because they typically need light to germinate. And since mulch keeps the soil loose and moist, pulling the few weeds that pop up is a lot easier.

Help Soil

As organic mulches decay, they add organic matter to your soil. When your soil's micro- and macro-organisms come up to the surface for a snack, they pull that organic matter back down with them when they travel back into your soil.

Reverse or prevent soil compaction

A thick layer of mulch helps disburse your weight as you walk through your gardens, which helps to prevent compaction. As large soil organisms like earth-worms and pill bugs pull the decaying mulch into your soil, they help glue your soil particles together, which creates air pockets that help to reverse soil compaction.

Reduce your water bill

Water evaporates slower when an organic mulch covers your soil. That means you'll water less, and your plants will have a steadier stream of water available to them.

What to Look for in Mulch

Because undyed wood mulch tends to turn gray and dull within 45 days of being laid down, consider using dyed, black mulch for your beds. If you choose to use dyed mulch, ask questions about the dye used to ensure that it's organic dye, which is not harmful to the environment. Also, ask if the mulch is from wood cuttings in our area and ask if the mulch has been aged for at least 3 months to kill off insects and weed seeds. Do not use mulch made from pallets because it contains chemicals.

Mulch can both benefit and beautify your garden and give it a finished look all year long.

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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

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://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-158892889911>

DOG WASTE DISPENSERS

Refill the dog waste bag stations and remove any overgrowth and fallen branches around them.
REGISTER: <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/>

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 for more information.

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On-line: www.flapaccotink.org
 Mail: FLAP P.O. Box 1203 Springfield VA 22151



Spotted Lanternfly Threat to Gardens

By Beverly Boschert

If you see a spotted lanternfly in any of the stages shown above, it should be killed immediately, as they can cause serious damage to home and commercial gardens.

For complete information see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/spot-the-spotted-lanternfly>



\$7.14 Dominion Virginia Statements!

By Beverly Boschert

We had Solar panels installed on our home in 2020 and our Dominion VA Power statements were \$7.14 for 10 months in 2021. This was a monthly average of \$33 rather than the \$122/month average in 2020. You might also consider Solar to use renewable energy and save money.

Incentives for Solar Energy:

- The federal government offers a 26% income tax credit (<https://www.energy.gov/eere/solar/homeowners-guide-federal-tax-credit-solar-photovoltaics>) for qualified solar installations through 2022; that tax credit is reduced to 22% in 2023 and expires December 31, 2023. The state currently offers no incentives.

- Fairfax County waives the permit fee for solar permit applications, and the Department of Tax Administration provides a real estate solar tax exemption on residential and commercial property for qualifying equipment for five years. Details and application materials are here (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/real-estate-solar-equipment>).

Find more information at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/using-solar> and <https://solarizenova.org/solarize-fairfax-county> You can check the solar potential of you home, the range of instillation costs and sign up for the 2022 information coming this Spring.

We are thrilled to announce that Wayne V. Hall of WALL Photography and Design—a long-time Kings Park resident and former editor of the Kings Park Gazette—has earned state recognition by being awarded a Virginia Professional Photographers Association (VPPA) “Service to Photography” degree and medalion. Congratulations!

A Note from Parliament Pool—Summer is Coming!

We are excited to welcome everyone back to Parliament Pool for the 2022 swim season.

Upcoming Dates

April 1 - Last Day for Early Bird Registration

April 23 - Clean-Up Day at 9 a.m. (Volunteer)

May 7 - Painting Day at 9 a.m. (Volunteer)

May 27 - Pool opens at 4 p.m.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.parliament-pool.com/>



Kids Corner

The place in the Gazette where kids RULE!!

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

Kindness Rocks

It's springtime! To celebrate, you can hold a rock painting party! Invite your friends over and ask them to bring a couple small and smooth stones. Go to a craft store and buy paints. You and your friends can spend time painting these kindness rocks and hide them around a park. Write a note on the back saying "Take and rehide me somewhere else!" Have fun!!!!

Grow an Herb Garden

You can plant your own garden! If you want a fun activity to do with your family, you should try this. Here is a list of herbs you could grow:

1. Basil
2. Mint
3. Rosemary
4. Oregano
5. Sage
6. Catnip
7. Lavender
8. Thyme
9. Chives
10. Lemongrass

Find a sunny place and make it ready for your herbs. Enjoy having fresh herbs for cooking and being able to take care of your very own garden!

Fun Spring Desserts

Do you love baking? Do you want to whip up some yummy treats for your friends and family? Try finding recipes for these classic springtime desserts:

1. Lemon tart
2. Strawberry sorbet
3. Edible cookie dough
4. Lemonade cake
5. Raspberry pie
6. Mint chocolate chip ice cream
7. Snickerdoodle cookies
8. Red velvet cupcakes
9. Cookie pizza
10. Fruit salad

Goodbye!

This summer, I will be moving to Germany and, sadly, I won't be able to continue writing the Kid's Corner. Thank you all so much for reading, and remember to have fun always!!!♥

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

At the February 22nd Board of Supervisors meeting, we got a first glimpse of the County Executive's proposed FY 2023 Budget. You can watch the full presentation on the County website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/. As I do every year, I will spend the next several months listening to your thoughts, ideas, and feedback before the final budget is adopted.

To that end, I will be hosting **the Braddock District Budget Town Hall with School Board Member Megan McLaughlin at 7:00 p.m. on March 15**. The County CFO, Christina Jackson, will be joining the Town Hall. You can watch on Channel 16 or Facebook live. To submit a question in advance, email BraddockTownHall@fairfaxcounty.gov. The proposed budget fully funds the Fairfax County Public Schools budget request, includes market rate and longevity increases for County employees, and makes investments in areas such as opioid abuse prevention and affordable housing.

It holds the real estate tax rate steady at \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value, but due to

skyrocketing assessments caused by a strong real estate market, the average tax bill would increase by \$666. Even with the expanded tax relief program we recently approved, an increase of that size would be a burden on many Fairfax families. I know that is something the Board will be taking into consideration as we begin this process.

New Dog Park, Pocket Park, and Public Art Approved. Also at the February 22 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved my motion to rezone the northwest corner of Lee Highway and Waples Mill Road. For more than two years, we've been working on a plan that would allow Public Storage to modernize its facility and make a series of improvements that will benefit the community. Along with the construction of a LEED-certified modern self-storage building constructed to look like an office building, they will remove the service drive and abandoned house, clean up the corner with new sidewalks and plantings, add public art, and build and maintain a dog park that will be open to the entire community.

In Memoriam: Hugh (Sher) Plunkett

It is with much sadness that we bring you news of the recent passing of one of our Kings Park residents and community volunteer, Hugh Plunkett, known to most of you as Sher. He passed away on December 25. At this time, memorial services will be planned for the Spring and we will bring you updates at that time.

As you will recall, Sher was a cheery, familiar face to so many of us. He was an active volunteer at all our community events, in particular the July 4th parade and picnics and Neighborhood Watch. Sher was the KPCA Emergency Preparedness coordinator. Sher participated in the Fairfax County CERT Program and was the team lead for the 22151 zip code. Oftentimes, he and wife, Peggy, served together. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to his family for his life of service.





Whimsy Corner By Terry Boschert

Look at your hands; first with palm side down; then with palm side up. What do you see? Smooth, wrinkled, dry, young, whatever condition, you see the hands of a survivor. Your parents are survivors otherwise you would not be here. Your grandparents, great grandparents; all survivors. Your entire line of ancestors, back hundreds, thousands, ten of thousands of years; all survivors.

The challenges your ancestors faced were harrowing. Pestilences, natural disasters, war, starvation, reading my Whimsy Corner articles, all whittled down the number of your ancestors. In fact, we humans almost went extinct.

In 1987, a group of geneticists published a surprising study in the journal Nature. The researchers examined the **mitochondrial DNA** (mtDNA) taken from 147 people across all of today's major racial groups. These researchers found that the lineage of all people alive today falls on one of two branches in humanity's family tree. One of these branches consists of nothing but African lineage, the other contains all other groups, including some African lineage.

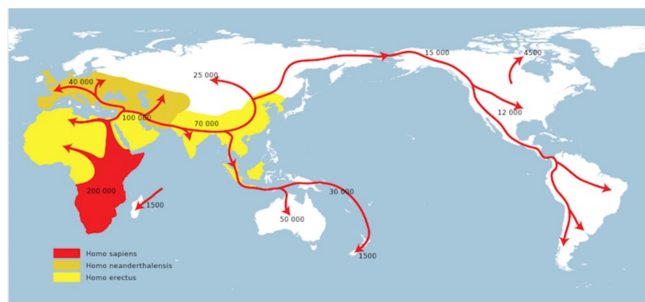
Even more impressive, the geneticists concluded that every person on Earth right now can trace his or her lineage back to a single common female ancestor who lived around 200,000 years ago. Because one entire branch of human lineage is of African origin and the other contains African lineage as well, the study's authors concluded Africa is the place where this woman lived. The scientists named this common female ancestor Mitochondrial Eve.

So, whether 200,000 or 70,000 years ago (as some studies suggest), how DID we humans almost die out? What formed this evolutionary bottleneck? Well, not coincidentally, Mount Toba, a super volcano in Sumatra, erupted

during the human die-off. Total amount of ejecta from Mount Toba is estimated at 28,000 cubic kilometers. Mt St Helens was estimated at 1 cubic kilometer. Our Earth experienced a really quick Climate Change after the Mount Toba eruption occurred. That eruption brought with it a drastic lowering of temperatures around the globe; some areas changed as much as 20 degrees lower than average for that time. Animals and plants that humans depended upon could not adapt that quickly and died off, and an ice-age one thousand years long inflicted our ancestors with many challenges just to survive. Most humans died. 15,000, yes only 15,000 of us, survived.

You are indeed survivors ... for now. But beware, another evolutionary bottle neck will happen, not if but when! On our doorstep lies still another super volcano that can inflict world-wide damage and could very well bring on an ice age just like Mount Toba; that super volcano is ... Yellowstone. (Dramatic music here). The last 3 eruptions of Yellowstone ranged from 700 to 6000 times that of Mount St Helens.

One general viewpoint to leave with you. Fossil records show that the average mammalian species duration is 1,000,000 years. So, if we humans survive future cataclysms, wars, pestilences, and my articles in the Gazette, humans will be extinct in any case by 800,000 AD.





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www.SusanMetcalf.com