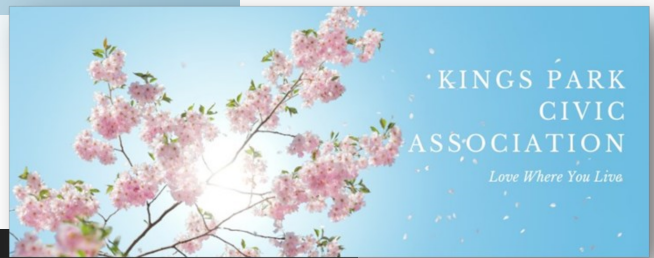




Kings Park Gazette



Kings Park - Love where you Live

KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION...
DID YOU KNOW?

Join/Renew for \$30/year*, and help support much of what makes our neighborhood so special!

- + Social events such as the 4th of July Parade, National Night Out, Oktoberfest, Holiday Christmas Party, and Decorating Competitions
- + Neighborhood grounds maintenance
- + Neighborhood Watch
- + Quarterly Gazette

Questions? kingsparkcivicassociation@gmail.com
 Website: <https://kings-park.org/>
 Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kpcava>

*Senior Memberships are \$25/year

About the Gazette

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

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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, Eric DeTurk
908-616-8508
eric.deturk@gmail.com

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

VP of Membership,
Leeann Alberts
lawleeann@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

KPCA income since August 1 is **\$1,315** and expenses are **\$6,648**. During this time of year our income from membership is low and many administrative expenses are paid. The biggest expense was \$2,700 for lawn care and beautification. The KPCA sponsored Oktoberfest, a Halloween Decorating Contest and Trunk or Treat. There was a charge for attending Oktoberfest, which offset most of the expense. Thank you to all who have joined KPCA and supported these events and to all

residents who help make this a great place to live.



The KPCA Board wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season

Membership Committee Update

VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

Our Kings Park subdivision consists of 1,130 single family homes. As of December 2, 2022, **392** families have paid their 2022 KPCA dues. **Let's try to do much better in 2023!**

KPCA sponsors many wonderful events and activities! Currently, some of these events are for KPCA members only, while others are for anyone who lives in Kings Park. Some of the most popular events include: the 4th of July Parade & Band Concert, Summer Food Trucks, the KPCA sponsored Ice Cream Appreciation Day, Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, Home Decorating contests, the Kid's Holiday Party, Kings Park Park Clean up, and the quarterly KPCA Gazette. In addition, KPCA provides important local government organization representation and more.

per calendar year (\$25 for seniors).

To submit your membership for 2023, complete the membership insert from this January Gazette, include either cash or check and place in the mail. You may also complete the 2023 Membership Form online at www.kings-park.org and submit your payment electronically via PayPal. BillPay is also available as a payment vehicle.

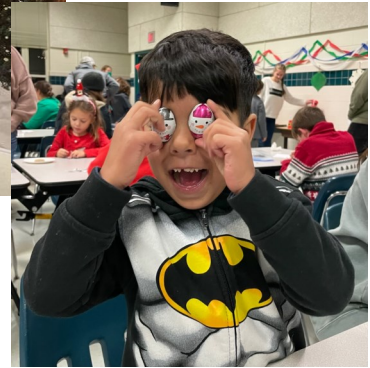
Let's show our neighborhood pride and continue to uphold Kings Park's standing as the desirable and thriving community that it has been since the 1960's.

Membership in the KPCA is only \$30





Pictures from the 2022 KPCA Holiday Party



Meet your KPCA Board: Eric DeTurk Secretary

Eric recently joined the KPCA Board as the Secretary in 2022. He and his wonderful family (pictured) moved to Kings Park in December 2018 and reside on Kings Park Drive. Eric is a New Jersey native and an Air Force Veteran who currently works for the Federal government. He also serves as the Kings Park Park, Park Volunteer Team leader coordinating park clean up events and liaising with the Fairfax County Park Authority. Besides spending time with his wife Lauren, two girls Maddie and Isla, and their two small pups Jax and Jillie, Eric enjoys traveling to the beach, baking cheesecakes and DIY projects. When asked what he enjoys most about Kings Park, Eric said “the sense of community where neighbors are willing to go the extra mile to help each other out...and of course the amazing events hosted by the KPCA!”





Build a Bamboo Mason Bee House By Beverly Boschert

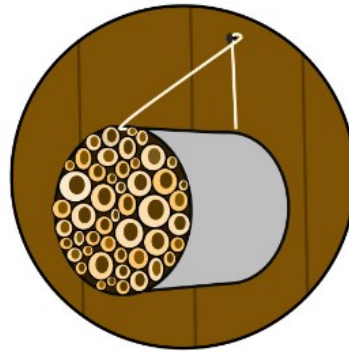
Although bamboo can be a nuisance growing in your yard, it can be useful for garden stakes and creating a border for flowerbeds. It is also a versatile material for crafts. One simple craft that utilizes excess bamboo and supports pollinators is a mason bee house. Mason bees are prolific pollinators who construct their nests in naturally occurring gaps, including hollow stems or holes in wood.

To make a mason bee house, you'll need:

- One empty tin or coffee can, label removed and washed
- Clean, dry, hollow bamboo stalks
- Nail and hammer
- Twine to hang the bee house

Directions:

1. Trim your bamboo stalks to fit into the can.
2. Using a nail and hammer, punch a hole in the bottom of the can to thread the twine through.
3. Thread the twine through the hole and knot it.
4. Pack the bamboo lengths into the can as tightly as possible.
5. Hang your mason bee house against a flat surface where it will be protected from wind, facing south or southeast for maximum sun exposure.



Kings Park Neighborhood Watch Needs You!! By Beverly Boschert

Kings Park Neighborhood Watch volunteers schedule other volunteers to patrol the streets in Kings Park on non-holiday workdays. Our driving volunteer group needs additional people. It is a great opportunity for teenagers to help the neighborhood while fulfilling their hours required during their learner's permit.

It is also a great opportunity for new residents to learn about Kings Park. Every resident of Kings Park who can drive or ride in a vehicle is welcome and encouraged to help. The neighborhood drive takes

about 1.5 hours, day or night depending on your schedule. If you can patrol once a month that is great, if less often is your choice we still welcome your help.

Please contact terry.boschert@verizon.net for complete information and to receive the SignUpGenius invitation each month.

Thanks to our existing Volunteers!



Upcoming and Recent 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 21st 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 \$25 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. 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 6th 8am-12pm*, a great way to start clearing out your house, garage, carport, shed, etc. in preparation. The yard sale will be well advertised and we are putting balloons at each participating house to make them easier to spot and publishing a neighborhood map with all participating houses marked. This map will be included with all ads as well as given out to buyers as they come into the neighborhood. Questions? Comments? Or to have your house included on the map and balloon list, contact Susan Metcalf at Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net (and make sure I have your address so I can add you to the list)

Food Truck Thursdays will be returning this summer. Know of a truck you would like to see join us, email: susan.metcalf@verizon.net

Summer Movies in the Park, your KPCA is planning to host summer movies/activities in the park. More details in the next Gazette.

First Annual National Night Out in the Park, August 1. Your KPCA will be planning a community wide event at Kings Park Park. More details in the next Gazette.

~*~

Recent events:

KPCA Annual Children's Holiday Party was a great success with holiday music by the Kings Park Band, Arts and Crafts, a Cupcake Walk, and an appearance by the man in red, Santa Claus. This event has been held each year since the beginning of the neighborhood. Thanks to Brandi Campbell and Lisa Anderson for spearheading this year's event!

Our Annual KPCA Halloween Decoration Contest with our contest winners – the Demas family, 8713 Cromwell Drive, the Desmond/Barkhouse family, 5220 Kings Park Drive and the Lightner family, 5631 Eastbourne Drive. There were so many awesome decorations in Kings Park this year that the KPCA is looking forward to next years contest. Thanks also to our fa-boo-lous judges!

Kings Park Annual Trunk or Treat, always a fun time with all the kids dressed up in costumes and the cars decorated. To spice things up, look for a Trunk Decorating contest next year.

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.



Safe Holiday Decorating!

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa

It's too late to publish an in-depth article on decorating for Christmas. (*Also, it would take up an entire issue of the Gazette.*) However, here are some guidelines to ensure that what you've already put up is safe.

Trees

If you have a live tree, check the water supply every day. A live tree is full of needles and sap, which smell wonderful but are highly flammable. Keep the tree out of the way and away from drafts or vents. If your tree leans, use guy wires to anchor it. If you have an artificial tree, make sure it's labeled fire resistant. If you're lucky, your artificial tree comes with lights and a timer. If it needs lights, use the lighting guidelines below. For ornaments, consider using unbreakable ones on the lower branches and put those antique glass treasures safely out of reach of pets, children, and clumsy adults.

Lights, Indoor and Outdoor

A big part of Christmas decorating is the lovely lights. To keep your display safe as well as beautiful, check your light cords for fraying or cracks and don't link

more than 3 strands together. Keep the lights on for a limited time every night and turn them off when you go to bed. If you've got old lights that heat up, replace them with new LED lights. They last 25 times longer, don't heat up, and use 75% less electricity. Safer and cheaper! Win Win!

Holiday Plants and Greenery

I'll bet you already guessed that many of our treasured holiday plants are poisonous or irritating to the skin. Keep poinsettias out of the reach of children and pets. Amaryllis and cyclamen are sold as holiday plants but are poisonous. Holly berries look edible, but are poisonous, too. Also, those swags of greenery that look so lovely draped over the fireplace are not poisonous but are as flammable as Christmas trees. Either remove the garlands or don't use the fireplace. On the plus side, Christmas cacti are very pretty, bloom at Christmas and are perfectly safe!

And don't even dream about lighting candles near anything or leaving them unattended!

Park Volunteer Team Hosts First Annual Fall Cleanup Event

Secretary, Eric DeTurk

There is no doubt one of the best features of living in Kings Park is our amazing park. Whether taking your pet on a leisurely trail walk, playing a pickup game of basketball or tennis, cheering on a baseball game, or watching your children on the playground, Kings Park really has it all. Recently, one group recognized the need to help maintain our wonderful park during the First Annual Fall Cleanup event held this past November. A team of over 15 volunteers joined forces, canvassed the entire park over the course of several hours and collected five bags of trash. The event was hosted by the newly established Park Volunteer Team (PVT) in coordination with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). A huge thanks to all those that volunteered, and the PVT anticipates hosting a Spring Cleanup event as well...stay tuned!

What is a PVT anyway?

"PVTs create park programs, provide park maintenance, or support other operational needs. They also create volunteer opportunities for county residents who love their parks", according to the FCPA. This volunteer-led group, headed by PVT lead Eric DeTurk and co-lead Joseph DiPietro works under the umbrella of the FCPA and liaises with Kings Park residents to continue to make our amazing park great. If you have any suggestions on how to make our park even better or would like to participate as a member of the PVT please contact our park's PVT lead, Eric DeTurk at eric.deturk@gmail.com.



Compliance Corner: Parking in Kings Park Secretary, Eric DeTurk

Kings Park is one of the largest communities in Fairfax County and with over 1100 homes we are all aware of the vehicular traffic that transits our neighborhood daily. Fairfax County has established traffic and parking codes to help continue to keep our residents and roads safe. These codes are enforced by the Fairfax County Police Department who can be contacted on their non-emergency line at (703) 691-2131 if you would like to report a violation. If parking is creating a problem, please contact the Northern Virginia VDOT office at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (367-7623). Remember:

Don't Park

- within 15 feet of a fire hydrant
- within 30 feet from stop sign
- within 20 feet of intersection
- within 20 feet designated cross walk
- within 10 feet of driveway
- on sidewalks
- facing the opposite direction of the travel lane



- within 60 feet on approach side bus stop and 10 feet on departure side
- commercial vehicles, trailers, or semi-trailers on or adjacent to roads (exception: one registered/licensed taxicab or limousine per dwelling and temporary activity)
- dumpsters or other containers, including a storage PODs on the public right-of-way
- vehicles without a valid safety inspection sticker (if required by state of registration) or current license plate on front and back

Parking of boats/trailers/RVs and vehicles undergoing minor emergency repairs on public roads in Kings Park (unless otherwise restricted) is allowed as is commuter parking on public roads. Additionally, parking on both sides of a narrow road is permitted, however if parking is creating a sight problem, please contact VDOT.

Source: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/parking/parking-restrictions-and-related-issues>



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| <p>Office: 703.569.4505 Cell: 703.967.2939</p> |  |



What's happening at Parliament Pool and what it means for you!

By Colin Wiemer, Editor of the Parliament Press

It's hard to believe it's December, and 2023 is right around the corner. There is a lot going on behind the scenes at Parliament Pool, and your volunteer board is hard at work. If you have been by the pool lately, you are probably aware that we are spending a great deal of time in the off-season to make improvements to the facility. These improvements include new flooring, pump house and restroom maintenance, landscaping and drainage upgrades, gallons and gallons of paint, and much, much more. We will be sharing updates on these improvements over the course of the off-season via Facebook, so make sure you follow along.

You may have also noticed that we launched a new website and membership platform. We want to make it as easy as possible for our members and guests to renew their memberships, reserve lap lanes or facilities, purchase guest passes and concessions, and keep track of all their engagements with our pool. One big change from previous years is registration for next summer will open on January 1st! In early January, past members and SSP's will receive an electronic invoice which will enable you to renew your membership for the 2023 season, either through PayPal, credit card, or by check—you will even have an option to pay by installment. New and prospective members and SSPs can also register directly on the new website linked in the QR Code below. As usual, we are offering an early bird discount until March 31st. Reach out to Charlotte Hannagan at jarlot@gmail.com if you have any questions or concerns.

In preparation for the 2023 summer season, our most exciting off-season project is the renovation of the pool's play area. We recognized the value in providing this other-than-swimming activity for our younger members and determined there was a strong need to improve our playscape to an adequately sized, structurally-safe, and of course, FUN, facility. In November 2022, we completed Phase 1 of the project—leveling the area and adding a square 35-foot mulch pit surround—and we are now moving into Phase 2. The new playground will comply with current playground safety standards and will be manufactured in the USA. It is also modular, and can be expanded in the future.

At this time, we are reaching out to our families and community businesses and asking for your financial support. The goal is to raise \$20,000. Our Swim and Dive Team has generously donated \$7,000 and has offered to match each donation up to an additional \$3,000 to help complete the construction of this project! We have plans that include different playsets depending on the amount raised, and any unused or additional funds collected will be used to purchase additional items for the play area such as picnic tables or modular expansions in the future.

To show appreciation for your support, Bronze and Silver level donations will be recognized in the Parliament Press newsletter. Gold, Platinum, and Diamond donors will receive permanent recognition on signage next to the new play area.

To donate to the playground fund, please visit the 'Donate' tab of the pool's website (parliament-pool.com/Shop/) or scan the QR Code below. Also, we encourage you to share the link to this Donate page with friends, family, or business contacts. We will track and report progress of the fundraising via email and on the Donate page. Thank you in advance for your support!

If you have any questions regarding the playground, would like to help, or are interested in donating via cash or check, please contact Colin Wiemer at wiemerc@gmail.com.

Wishing all of our members and neighbors a safe and happy holiday season!



Register Here



Donate Here



LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings’ Park resident since 1999

‘allo, Love. We normally tour the KP’s neighborhood, finding the British origins of its street’s names. But today will be different. With much sadness and mournin’ that I bring you on this tour, to focus and honor our longest serving Monarch of 70 years: “Elizabeth the 2nd, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland & of her other Realms & Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.” She had no last name; she needed none with THAT title. Let us share a few fun facts:

- Her birthplace was her grandparents’ London townhouse in 1926, it is now a Chinese restaurant
- She didn’t need or ever had a license to drive, she was sovereign
- She owned over 30 corgis (a breed of dog)
- During WWII, she trained to be a driver and car/truck mechanic
- She was home-schooled all her life. Mastering French, German, constitutional history & law

- The day of her wedding, her tiara snapped in two and had to be welded together in under two hours before the ceremony
- Since 1324 a statute deems, she owns all the birds, fish, dolphins, and whales in the UK’s waters
- She has an ATM in her house, Buckingham Place; she doesn’t need to pay taxes but does
- To celebrate 70 years on the throne, Mattel created a Queen Elizabeth Barbie doll of her
- She made her first broadcast, as princess, when she was 14 years old at the beginning of WWII to encourage British children to be brave.

Long live, King Charles Philip Arthur George, her son & heir!!! Cheers, Love



Pictures from the 2022 KPCA Trunk or Treat Event:





Real Estate Corner

Active/Coming Soon Listings

| Style | Address | List Price |
|--------|---------------------|------------|
| Duke | 8424 Thames St | \$665,000 |
| King | 5314 Weymouth Dr | \$644,900 |
| King | 5537 Eastbourne Dr | \$704,000 |
| Prince | 5513 Southampton Dr | \$675,000 |

Under Contract Listings

| Style | Address | List Price |
|----------|------------------|------------|
| King | 8937 Victoria Rd | \$710,000 |
| Princess | 5411 Weymouth Dr | \$649,900 |



| Sold | | List | Sold | Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer) | Final Sold Price | Final Price Reduction/ Increase | Date Closed |
|----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|---|------------------------|--|----------------|
| Style | Address | Price | Price | | Price | | |
| Duchess | 8434 Thames St | \$650,000 | \$635,000 | | \$635,000 | -\$15,000 | 09/29/22 |
| King | 8705 Clydesdale Rd | \$759,000 | \$775,000 | | \$775,000 | \$16,000 | 09/16/22 |
| King | 8475 Thames St | \$698,000 | \$689,000 | | \$689,000 | -\$9,000 | 09/29/22 |
| Prince | 8414 Derby Ct | \$674,900 | \$650,000 | \$11,000 | \$639,000 | -\$35,900 | 12/01/22 |
| Princess | 8722 Clydesdale Rd | \$649,000 | \$630,000 | \$10,000 | \$620,000 | -\$29,000 | 10/10/22 |
| Queen | 8432 Thames St | \$719,000 | \$715,000 | | \$715,000 | -\$4,000 | 09/09/22 |
| Queen | 5515 Ventnor Ln | \$685,000 | \$660,000 | | \$660,000 | -\$25,000 | 09/30/22 |

Provided by Susan Metcalf, Avery Hess Realtors

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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!

This is a paid advertisement.



Whimsy Corner By Terry Boschert

25,000 years ago, Europe. A dozen hunters sat around the fire; uneasy, alert, eyes constantly scanning the darkness, well aware that only the fire and their spears held back the terrors of the night. One of the hunters spotted a pair of glowing eyes just at the limit of the light cast by the crackling fire. The wolf had returned; closer than ever. The hunter idly tossed some meat to the wolf. The wolf approached, closer, closer, and gratefully devoured the offering. That night, the wolf stayed with them near the fire, ever vigilant. With better senses and strong fangs, the hunters realized that they now had a third barrier against the night, the formidable wolf. That is the human explanation as to how they domesticated the dog, but, as we know, the reality was far, far different.

Same time and place, our view. Gwen the wolf allowed herself a small woof of annoyance. The Canine Council had selected her to establish a beta test partnership between humans and canine to prevent these humans from fading into history as other species of humans had done. She had followed this group of humans for days, edging closer, but they continued to warily ignore her. Finally, Gwen allowed herself to be seen in the firelight. Wait, what is this? A chunk of burnt meat and fat tossed her way? She sighed. Humans! Well, time to exercise her diplomatic skills; she eased forward, delicately ate the dirt-encrusted, unseasoned, and overly-cooked protein; she put on her grateful face look. The rise of human civilization had begun.

11,000 years ago, Europe, mid-fall season. Albert spent a tiring day herding wild goats into the grass-filled valley where his humans relaxed from their hunter/gatherer efforts. He barked (No civilized speech; humans just weren't

ready for talking canines) to get their attention. Seeing so many goats docilely munching on grass excited the humans, as Albert knew it would. The humans decided to winter-over in the valley, gather more goat, and harvest wild plants to help them through the cold season. The following spring, Albert dug holes and spit seeds into them. When the humans saw edible plants sprout several days later, they too dug holes and spit seeds into them. Albert rolled his eyes and sighed. But at least the Human Agricultural Age had begun.

Today. So there you have the true story of the rise of human civilization. Agriculture, trade, cities, exploration, industry, technology, veterinarians, all canine-inspired. Humans never suspected that throughout their history, we, the modest, magnanimous, and ever-wise canine, guided humankind to increasingly greater achievements. We drop hints from time-to-time about our role in their lives but the poor things never seem to catch on. Not even Charles Darwin, on his voyage of discovery (finally) of the origin of species, ever wonder why his ship was named the HMS Beagle! Perhaps someday, we can reveal ourselves to humans, but for now they are not ready for such a humbling revelation.

Warning: Keep this article away from all humans. And cats, especially cats; their laughter can be so insufferable.

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