



Kings Park Gazette



Upcoming Events in Kings Park

By Susan Metcalf, VP of Events

Oktoberfest 2023!! Kings Park Oktoberfest September 16th from noon—2:00pm in the parking lot of Parliament Pool. This event is only open to 2023 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 and a traditional German feast of Bratwurst (homemade by sausage-meister, Don Metcalf), German Potato Salad, Sauerkraut, Apple and Cherry Strudel, and sodas for \$10 per plate. For the kids, we will have hot dogs for \$5 per plate. For everyone, we'll have lawn games available—bring some down to the pool if you have any! Please bring a chair to sit in.

Please **RSVP** to let us know to throw a brat on the grill for you and so we don't run out of delicious potato salad and strudel! 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.

Halloween Decoration Contest Back by Popular Demand, the KPCA Halloween Decoration Contest, Saturday October 28 (Raindate October 29). Our panel of judges will judge during the day and again during the night and pick their three favorites. Each winning house will receive bragging rights and a coveted sign in their front yard. To ensure that your house is on the judges "not to be missed" list, please pre-register with Susan Metcalf at Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net. You do not need to be pre-registered to be judged as our panel of judges drive around. Please have your lights on at dusk and leave them on until at least 9:30pm.

Trunk or Treat Families and neighbors, children of all ages, please join us for the 10th annual Trunk or Treat on **Sunday**, October 29th 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 vehicles 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. This event is perfect for any child who may be too young to stay up late on Halloween and/or children who would love an extra opportunity to dress up! Adults without small children are welcome to join the group; the children love being admired and getting goodies! *This event is open to all.*

Scavenger Hunt Our November activity will be a scavenger hunt through the neighborhood for our residents. On November 11th at 9:00am,

we will release our list of approximately 25 items/QR codes to be found in the neighborhood. The list and rules will be posted on the Kings Park Civic Association Facebook page or by email if you pre-register. Everyone who lives in Kings Park is welcome to scavenge through the neighborhood to find the items listed on the KPCA Facebook page or in your email and deliver photographic evidence of your finds by 3:00pm Sunday November 15th. You can make your team up as individuals, families, or neighborhood group. Register your team with Susan Metcalf by Friday November 13th to receive an email with the list. *This event is open to all.*

Kids Holiday Party Please join us for the KPCA's annual Children's Holiday Party on Friday, December 1st. in the cafeteria at Kings **Park** 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 have not paid your dues please do so, so you can attend. If you would like to volunteer at the event, contact Brandi Campbell (brandi.nathan@gmail.com / 202-494-6920) or Lisa Anderson (lisa.r.anderson@gmail.com). Any students needing service hours are welcome to help; 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. Brandi or Lisa can pick up any baked goods from you if you are not able to attend the party.

Holiday Lights/Decoration Contest The KPCA will be running its annual Holiday Decorating Competition on 12/18 in the evening. You may pre-register by emailing Susan Metcalf at Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net so our esteemed judges know to look out for your house (and can give you a head's-up as to when the judges are heading over). Note that pre-registration is not required.

We will be nominating 5 winners! As well as recognition on social media and in our quarterly gazette, you will receive bragging rights, and the coveted sign in your front yard. Please have your lights on at dusk and leave them on until at least 9:30pm.

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.





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with membership questions

Treasurer's Report

VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

KPCA fiscal year ended July 31. Revenue during the year was **\$12,677**, made up mostly by: membership dues-\$8,968, donations -\$2,403, Oktoberfest payments-\$830, and Gazette advertising-\$400. Expenses for the year were **\$15,700**, consisting of Gazette printing-\$2,621, All community events-\$5,748, grounds upkeep and beautification-\$4,200, contributions -\$1,000, and administrative costs-

\$2,146. We spent **\$3,023** of our reserve funds to cover expenses. We will be presenting the 2023-24 Budget for approval at the community meeting on September 19. Thank you to all who have joined.

Please consider volunteering to help with community events or beautification or in any other way to improve Kings Park.

Stay tuned for an "Adopt-a-Highway" Cleanup coming later this fall/early winter!

Scan here to join the KPCA



Membership Committee Update

VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of September 1, 2023, **326** families have paid their 2023 KPCA dues. Membership in the KPCA is only \$30 per calendar year (\$25 for seniors).

Our historical membership stats show that in 2022; 357 families had joined by September 1st, in 2021: 439 families had joined by this time and in 2020, 415 families had paid their civic association dues. We have room for improvement in 2023.

KPCA plans to round out 2023 by hosting several events including: the Kings Park Park Clean-up, Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, both the Halloween and Holiday Decorating Contests, KPCA Scavenger Hunt, and

the Kid's Holiday Party.

We need your membership dues to host these traditional events and to fund additional activities in 2024.

To submit your membership for 2023, complete the 2023 Membership Form online at www.kings-park.org and either mail your check to the KPCA post office box or submit your payment electronically via PayPal or Bill-pay. You can also scan the QR code on this page!

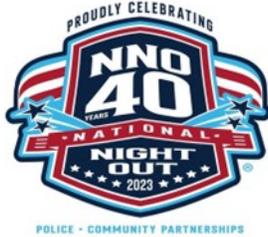
Let's uphold the Kings Park tradition as the wonderful, desirable neighborhood that it has been since the 1960's!





Kings Park Celebrates 40 Year of National Night Out

By Eric DeTurk, VP of Social Outreach



August 1st marked the 40th annual National Night Out (NNO) across America. Kings Park observed this historic event with its first annual community-wide event at the Kings Park Park. Over 150

community members joined the KPCA, local first responders, civic leaders, and community organizations to celebrate community-building and promote police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. This event was truly a testament of our amazing Kings Park community!

During NNO, the KPCA hosted complimentary outdoor activities such as facepainting, arts and crafts, temporary tattoos, balloon art, music, and snow cones! Our local resident Provision Kitchen served up a delicious meal of grilled chicken with cilantro lime crema, grilled corn, and black bean salad...*So good!*

The event was supported by the Virginia State Police, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Sheriff's Office, Burke

Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team, Braddock District Supervisor's Office, Fairfax Families for Streets, Scout Pack #1965, and Kings Park Neighborhood Watch.

A special thanks goes out to all those who volunteered and made this inaugural event a resounding success. Can't wait to see you next year! Interested in volunteering to help organize NNO 2024, please contact Eric DeTurk at eric.deturk@gmail.com.





Safe Christmas Decorating

By Susan Cappa, VP of Community Safety

Lights, Indoor and Outdoor

A big part of holiday 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. Make sure that your lights, your extension cords, and your timers are rated for outdoor use. 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!

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 above. 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. Side note: we displayed our fully decorated tree in a playpen for years. It was safe from children and later from our dog, Honey.

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!





Planting, Clean-Up, Design, Retaining Walls & Patios

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Halloween Safety Tips

By Susan Cappa, VP of Community Safety

Halloween is exciting! Whether you're a trick or treater or a decorator, here are guidelines to ensure that it's safe, too.

Ladder and Lighting Tips

- Choose a ladder that's tall enough to extend three feet beyond your roofline.
- Place the ladder on a flat, firm location.
- Check your ladder for safety. Wooden ladders can break; metal ladders can bend or rust.
- Fasten ladders to prevent them from falling over, or have a helper hold the ladder.
- Use a tool belt to carry items up the ladder and take your time climbing up and down.
- Wear slip-resistant shoes and decorate on a sunny day.
- Climb off the ladder each time you need to move it.
- Use lights, timers, extension cords and other electrical supplies that have been tested for outdoor safety – look for a certification mark from a recognized laboratory.
- When plugging in your scary indoor decorations, do not overload electrical outlets.
- Never staple, nail through or fasten electrical wires or extension cords in any way that might damage the wire or insulation. This could cause electrical shock or fire.

Decorating Tips

- Set up decorations with trick or treaters in mind. Place them to prevent tipping over, blowing away or becoming a tripping hazard.
- Avoid any kind of open flame. Use battery-



operated candles or LED lighting as safe alternatives to candles.

- Do not drape costumes or other fabrics over light bulbs. Also, don't put dried flowers, cornstalks and crêpe paper anywhere near light bulbs or heaters because they are highly combustible.
- Before the big night, walk your yard. Is it well-lit and clear of debris and cords? Can it be walked safely by trick or treaters?
- Keep your pets crated or in another part of the house. Halloween is prime escape-time!

Costumes and Safe Trick or Treating Tips

- Stick reflective tape onto costumes and trick or treat bags to make your child more visible. Also have your child carry a flashlight with fresh batteries.
- Make sure costumes and shoes are the correct size to prevent tripping. If possible, use face paint and leave the mask at home since masks can obstruct vision.
- Carry a cell phone for quick communication. Stay in a group, and always accompany young children.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never cut across yards or cross between parked cars or out of driveways
- Don't assume that motorists can see you. Be extra careful and walk, don't run!





Thanks for a great season at Parliament Pool!

By Colin Wiemer, Editor of the Parliament Press

The 2023 summer season has come and gone and Parliament Pool shone as the focal point of the neighborhood and community.

Parliament Pool had something to offer everyone this summer. The most obvious offering was our brand new play structure, brought to the pool entirely by donations of Members, the Swim and Dive Team, and local companies. Keep your eyes peeled, as when we open back up next year, it may even be bigger and better (if that's possible). Our Parliament Panthers Swim and Dive Team had a blast, and kids and their parents enjoyed the camaraderie and friendships they made with other families from around the neighborhood that will certainly last a lifetime. We were thrilled to host Swim Divisionals for the first time in many years - and we hope you were able to come and enjoy it - maybe bringing back memories from years gone? Talking about memories, we enjoyed seeing current and former members at our 60th anniversary celebration in July. It was fantastic to reminisce about how far Parliament Pool has come, look at old pictures and hear stories - the rainy weather only helped strengthen the sense of community!

Our members - mostly from Kings Park and close neighborhoods - also enjoyed new lap lanes, new pool deck, a refreshed gazebo, a new water fountain, newly redone floors, freshly manicured landscaping and hillside complete with retaining

walls, and more. Whatever the case, young or old, large family or small, Parliament Pool was the place to be in 2023. It is only the beginning, however, and we have every intention of making the summer of 2024 at Parliament Pool bigger and better. The main improvement to be on the lookout for is a brand new filter. The current one has served us well for decades, but it's time to upgrade. We are also working on other, longer-term projects to be implemented over the next 4-5 years that include more deck and drainage replacement and plaster work. A special shout-out to the Guards, Managers, Volunteers, and Members--we couldn't do it without you. Parliament Pool continues to be a true gem in Kings Park, and we cannot wait to see how it improves in the future.

Registration will open up in early January for next summer's season. If you can't wait that long and want to stay involved and engaged - we have volunteer spots that need to be filled (including an Operations Chair and Committee), and are always open to ideas and suggestions. You can reach us at board@parliament-pool.com





September is National Preparedness Month

By Eric DeTurk, VP of Social Outreach

September is designated as National Preparedness Month (NPM) to highlight the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen anytime. Sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), NPM’s theme this year is “Take Control 1,2,3”. According to the FEMA website, “this theme empowers everyone, especially older adults, to 1) assess their needs, 2) make a plan and 3) engage their support network to stay safe when disaster strikes.” This year there is a special focus on preparing and educating older adults for disasters.

Kings Park residents can join a special KPCA sponsored Emergency Preparedness virtual presentation that will include speakers from the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management and Security on September 19th at 7:30. For more information on this event

please visit the KPCA Facebook or NextDoor pages or email KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com

The KPCA is also hosting an Emergency Preparedness Kit/Go Bag Contest through September 18th. KPCA members can submit pictures of their emergency preparedness kits/go bags and contents on the KPCA Facebook page and be entered to win an emergency radio/charger/flashlight! Visit our KPCA Facebook page for more information or contact eric.deturk@gmail.com.

For more information on National Preparedness Month, visit <https://www.ready.gov/september>



Meet your KPCA Board: Charlotte Hannagan President

My name is Charlotte and I am your KPCA President. My family and I have lived in Kings Park on and off since the fall of 2014. I grew up in Europe, went to Haverford College (in PA), and then moved to Washington, DC for a job and never left the area. We love the neighborhood—from the fantastic schools, the wonderful Parliament Pool community, the great opportunities and outlets for both kids and adults, we are never short of anything to do!

I work full-time at a trade association downtown, and when I’m not spending time with my husband Alex, three girls Claire, Keira, and Katelyn, and our two dogs Daisy and Lucky, I enjoy walking and reading (often together!) and relaxing with friends. This neighborhood and area have so much to offer, and I love to give back, serving on the KPCA Board, KG/KG PTA Board, Parliament Pool Board, Braddock District Council, and the Fairfax Federation as their webmaster.

I’m on the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink, and encourage you to follow along the work; more information can be found here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/lake-accotink-task-force>. I’m also staying involved in the development of the Braddock Road Multimodal Improvement Project (<https://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northern-virginia/braddockmultimodal.asp>) and urge you to stay informed as this will have significant impacts on our beloved Kings Park.

Reach out if you ever need anything. My email is xarlot@gmail.com and my cell is 484-431-6448.





“LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings’ Park resident since 1999

Oi, I say, welcome back, mates. Hope ya summer was bloody well good. We are exploring the reasons for the names of streets in our neighborhood. But let me remind you, that we are called “Kings’ Park.” So let us give honor to Britain’s new King: His Majesty, Charles the Third, by the grace of God, King of Antigua & Barbuda and His other Realms & Territories, Head of Commonwealth. I’m gonna tell you some fun facts about our new King, who people sometimes call Charlie, Chuckles and Jug Ears.

- Charles was born November 14th, 1948. He became prince at age nine when his grandfather King George VI died in 1952. He is the longest serving heir apparent ever: 70 years and 214 days.
- Charles is the first monarch to have gone to school. All others before him were home-schooled by tutors. He also was the first monarch to receive a university degree. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cambridge University in 1970 and a degree in history from Trinity College.
- Charles is said to be an exceptionally good painter of watercolors; plays three musical instruments (piano, cello & trumpet); he also has his certification as an airplane pilot and deep-sea diver.
- Charles wrote a children’s book when he was 32 years old – “The Old Man of Lochnager.”
- Charles can speak Welsh.

- King Charles had a species of frog named after him: *Hyloscirtus Princecharlesi*, or, Prince Charles stream tree frog.
- He is the only United Kingdom person that can drive without a license or even carry a passport.
- Charles has founded more than twenty foundations and charities.
- In 1990, Charles founded his own organic food brand: “Duchy Originals,” using organic produce from his own farm. It is now the UK’s largest organic food brand.
- He does not eat lunch.



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Well, that’s all the time we ‘ave for this tour; come back next time. Long live, King Charles!

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RECYCLING THOUGHTS

By Beverly Boschert

Please consider ways to quench our thirst sustainably and reduce beverage container waste.

- Keep your family hydrated by encouraging the use of reusable water bottles.
- Consider a “Soda Stream” or other at-home carbonation machine to replace bottles.
- Choose a coffee shop or convenience store that provides/uses refillable cups for your favorite beverage. This helps to eliminate the use of disposable cups and bottles.



The Flag Day holiday, observed on June 14, celebrates the American flag and the values it has come to represent. Flag Day can also be a good day to remember the importance of proper disposal for worn-out

flags. While burning is the traditional method of flag disposal, another appropriate option is to recycle old flags instead. It’s a great way to reduce waste and arguably shows even more respect for our flag. The Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) is one of many organizations that offer appropriate flag disposal programs year-round. Staff from SWMP will collect worn-out flags and properly dispose of them.

E-cycle electronics: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/i-66-transfer-station>

More recycling tips: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/sites/publicworks/files/assets/documents/pdf/publications/fairfaxrecycleslatestissue.pdf>

Advice from Zoe

Dog

Dear Zoe:

My hooman let me pee on a neighbor’s flower bed yesterday and the lady came to the door and yelled. “What to do?”

Sad, guilty pup

Dear Sad and Guilty,

Try going on the VERGE (the grassy spot between the street and the sidewalk.) VDOT owns that. Of course, your hooman has to clean up, but you won’t get in trouble any more!

Dear Zoe:

I had an unexpected accident while walking the other day, and my hooman didn’t have a bag. He picked it up with a tissue, but ewwwww. What should he do to avoid ewwwwwww?

Grossed out Doggo

Dear Grossed out,

My hooman ties an extra plastic bag on the leash strap. So if I make an extra “surprise”, she is prepared. One time my hooman didn’t have a bag, and she left me alone (!) on a second walk to go pick it up!

Dear Silly Zoe:

YOU STINK!!! CATS RULE, DOGS DROOL.

Super Cat

Dear Stinky Cat:

I will not dignify that with an answer.

Dear Zoe:

What do you think of retractable leashes?

Unsure of the best leash??

Dear Unsure: Retractable are barking bad. Lots of injuries to dogs and hoomans. Use them on Stinky Cat (HAHA, doggo humor, don’t use on cats either)

Till next time, happy squirrel chasing!

Love,

Zoe, the dog





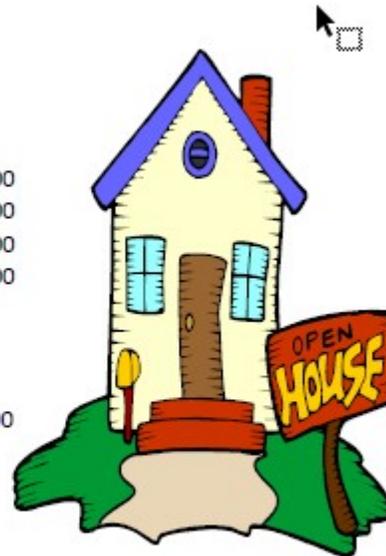
Real Estate Corner

Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Prince	8621 Cromwell Dr	\$745,000
Prince	5606 Ventnor Ln	\$755,000
Princess	8905 Victoria Rd	\$659,000
Queen	5306 Weymouth Dr	\$739,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duchess	5624 Eastbourne Dr	\$675,000



Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duke	5505 Eastbourne Dr	\$725,000	\$725,000	\$7,250	\$717,750	-\$7,250	6/29/2023
King	8802 Parliament Dr	\$729,000	\$760,000		\$760,000	\$31,000	6/2/2023
King	8807 Cromwell Dr	\$720,000	\$745,000		\$745,000	\$25,000	6/13/2023
Prince	8621 Cromwell Dr	\$635,000	\$592,000		\$592,000	-\$43,000	6/29/2023
Prince	8800 Parliament Dr	\$749,000	\$785,000		\$785,000	\$36,000	7/6/2023
Prince	8723 Victoria Rd	\$649,000	\$635,000		\$635,000	-\$14,000	7/10/2023
Prince	5318 Weymouth Dr	\$750,000	\$745,000		\$745,000	-\$5,000	8/11/2023
Princess	8722 Parliament Dr	\$729,000	\$780,000		\$780,000	\$51,000	6/5/2023
Queen	8801 Trafalgar Ct	\$725,000	\$680,000		\$680,000	-\$45,000	8/15/2023

Provided by Susan Metcalf, Avery Hess Realtors

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Whimsey Corner By Terry Boschert

Artificial intelligence (AI) is the intelligence of machines or software, as opposed to the intelligence of human beings or animals. AI applications include advanced web search engines (e.g., Google Search), recommendation systems (used by YouTube, Amazon, and Netflix), understanding human speech (such as Siri and Alexa), self-driving cars (e.g., Waymo), generative or creative tools (ChatGPT and AI art), and competing at the highest level in strategic games (such as chess and Go). (*Wikipedia*)

AI provides scientists with another tool with which to explore our Universe. As telescopes have continued to improve, the sheer number of celestial objects humans can see and the **amount of data** astronomers gather have both grown exponentially. AI can help understand this vast amount of data. (*Chris Impey, The Conversation*)



Physicians also face an exponential growth of medical data. A newly trained physician in 1950 would go their entire practice before medical knowledge doubled. Today, it's doubling every 72

days. So even the best, smartest physicians are having a hard time keeping up with all that information to help them make the right decisions. AI has great opportunity when it comes to helping tame that data explosion. (*Tom Lawry, managing director, Second Century Tech, LLC*)

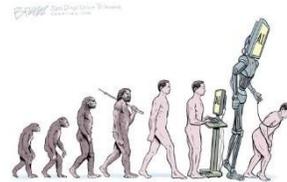
A dark side exists with AI, the manipulation of human behavior.

One of the most significant risks associated with AI is the creation of deepfakes. Deepfakes are manipulated videos or images that use AI algorithms to create **fake but convincing content**. This type of content can be used to spread disinformation, defame individuals, influence public opinion and launch phishing attacks. (*Enio Moraes CIO | CISO | Big Data | AI | Blockchain | Advisor São Paulo, Brazil*)

Another risk associated with AI is the development of **automated hacking tools**. AI algorithms can scan

networks and systems for vulnerabilities and then launch targeted attacks with a high degree of precision. (*Enio Moraes CIO | CISO | Big Data | AI | Blockchain | Advisor São Paulo, Brazil*)

What can you do to **protect yourself** in this beginning age of AI? Businesses see the advantage (one trillion dollars minimum) of AI protective services/applications. As this type of AI protection becomes more available, effective home protection becomes less expensive. Keep informed about both good and harmful AI news. Use your head. If something is too good to be true (e.g., 95% off price of a product), it probably is. Stay alert.



KINGS PARK PATROL By Beverly Boschert

Kings Park Neighborhood Watch schedules patrols of the KP neighborhood on non-holiday workdays.

As a volunteer for Neighborhood Watch, you have your choice of day and time of day to help. We have a suggested route to follow on the patrol. There is a sign to display on the vehicle during a patrol. A patrol takes about 1 ½ hours. Preferably two people drive a patrol together. We also welcome solo drivers.

We need new volunteers to help patrol. This is a great opportunity for any resident wanting to get to know Kings Park better or for student needing driving hours or community service hours. Help by driving a patrol once a month or once a quarter. All are welcome!

Email terry.boschert@verizon.net to volunteer!



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Park Resident**



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