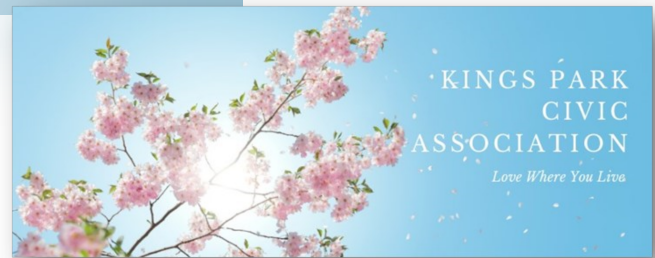




# Kings Park Gazette

## President's Note

Charlotte Hannagan



I blinked, and suddenly we're nearly a quarter of the way through 2024. As you'll see in this gazette, the KPCA is actively planning the rest of the year. **If you haven't joined yet, remember to do so.** It's easy and helps support many of our free activities that make Kings Park so special.

We are lucky to have an involved and engaged KPCA board. We are an active participant in the "Fairfax Families for Safe Streets" group (<https://novasafeststreets.org/ffxfs/>). We also joined forces with the Bren Mar HOA and other associations to urge the Board of Supervisors to change data center development zoning ordinance (<https://sites.google.com/view/savebrenmar/home>). Last year, we were an active participant in the Task Force on the Future of Lake Accotink (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/lake-accotink-task-force>), which has ultimately led to the Board of Supervisors unanimously approving a motion to preserve the lake. The KPCA is also involved in the Braddock Road Multimodal Improvement Project (<https://www.vdot.virginia.gov/projects/northern-virginia-district/braddock-road-multimodal-improvements-in-fairfax-county/>), and stays abreast of issues at the forefront of the district as a whole. In Kings Park itself, the KPCA sponsors Parliament Pool, Kings Park and Kings Glen Elementary Schools, neighborhood cub and girl scouts, and more. It's not just the board itself though, the whole neighborhood enjoys a wonderful community spirit and neighborhood camaraderie. Whenever someone posts on Facebook or NextDoor, residents always respond with advice or help. It's a wonderful place to live.

As the weather continues to warm up, I look forward to seeing more neighbors out and about, whether at KPCA events, at the pool, or just walking/running/biking around the area. If you need anything, you know how to reach me and the rest of the board (our information is on the next page). Please reach out if you have any ideas or suggestions of initiatives you'd like for us to consider, or you'd like to lead.

See you soon!

**KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

**VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BRUNCH**

Music! Kid's Activities

We invite the entire Kings Park Community to come celebrate the amazing efforts of all our Kings Park neighborhood volunteers.

**SATURDAY APRIL 20, 2024**  
**10AM - NOON**  
**(RECOGNITION CEREMONY @11AM)**  
Kings Park Park - Basketball Courts  
(Kings Park Dr & Trafalgar Ct)

Food Provided by **PROVISION KITCHEN**

This event is provided to the community free of charge thanks to our current KPCA member dues. Not a member? JOIN TODAY!

**RAIN DATE: April 27, 2024 10AM - Noon**

## 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](mailto: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](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

### Board of Directors

President, Charlotte Hannagan  
484-431-6448

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VP of Social Outreach,  
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VP of Community Safety,  
Susan Cappa  
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VP of Events, Susan Metcalf  
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Secretary, VACANT

VP of Finance,  
Susan Malmberg  
703-425-1478  
[Susan.malmberg@gmail.com](mailto:Susan.malmberg@gmail.com)

VP of Membership,  
Leeann Alberts  
[lawleeann@gmail.com](mailto:lawleeann@gmail.com)

Call Charlotte at 484-431-6448  
with membership questions

## Treasurer's Report

### VP of Finance, Susan Malmberg

Since the start of the KPCA fiscal year our income is **\$10,312**. This increase since the January report is made up of membership dues (\$6,292), donations (\$2,095) and advertising revenue (\$400).

Our expenses for this time period are **\$7,761**. The increase since January includes Gazette printing (\$664), lawn care (\$1,040), holiday party (\$373) and administrative expenses (\$458).

Thank you to all who have joined for the new year and thank you to all who have donated extra to help keep this a wonderful neighborhood.

Scan here to join the KPCA



## Membership Committee Update

### VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of March 1, 2024, **236** families were official members of the Kings Park Civic Association. At this point in 2023, 216 families had already paid the KPCA dues, in 2022, 209 families had become part of our ranks, and in 2021, 336 families had joined KPCA. *Is your street represented in our street competition?* Show your KPCA pride and close the gap between the 2021 membership numbers and today's total!

Thanks to all of the KPCA families who have joined!

We need to keep the momentum of incoming 2024 membership joins and renewals in order to sustain all of the wonderful events and services provided by the KPCA! Payment of your dues will ensure your participation in the members-only as well as the free to all events that KPCA sponsors throughout the year.

Your membership 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, and affiliation with local government organizations.

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 2024, complete the membership insert from the January 2024 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 2024 Membership Form online at [www.kingspark.org](http://www.kingspark.org) and then 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!).

*Please note that if you have signed up for Bill Pay in the past you must adjust the amount to account for the small dues increase that took effect in 2023.*

Finally, we have included the QR code on this page that you can scan for the membership process. We look forward to another great year with KPCA!





## Volunteer Appreciation Day

By Susan Cappa and Eric DeTurk

Last December, at the Childrens' Christmas Party; helpers from West Springfield High School assisted at the membership table (service hours). They didn't live in Kings Park, and were amazed at the volunteer spirit in our community (the cupcakes didn't hurt, either). They had never seen anything like it! And they were so right. To honor our special community volunteer spirit, we're having our first, but not our last, **Volunteer Appreciation Day celebration on Saturday, April 20 (rain date April 27).**

In order to make the best use of our precious weekend time, we will be honoring the volunteers with a Brunch. It will be held in Kings Park Park, from 10am till noon. Food will be served by Provision Kitchen, the organization that did a wonderful job serving dinner at our National Night Out celebration last summer. There will also be coffee, water, and juice. All we ask is that you bring your own chair. Weather permitting, the snow cone machine may make an appearance, too.

After the volunteers have been fed, but before they doze off, we'll have a low-key recognition ceremony. It's scheduled to start at 11am and will celebrate the incredible community volunteer spirit that makes Kings Park so special.

Look for further announcements on our KPCA Facebook Page and look for a flyer that will be distributed closer to the celebration date.

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**703-321-5335**







JOIN YOUR FRIENDS THIS SUMMER!

[WWW.PARLIAMENT-POOL.COM](http://WWW.PARLIAMENT-POOL.COM)

# Parliament Pool

8510 Parliament Drive, Springfield VA 22151



## Contact Info

Pool Email:  
[info@parliament-pool.com](mailto:info@parliament-pool.com)

Swim & Dive  
Email:  
[parliamentswim@gmail.com](mailto:parliamentswim@gmail.com)



Register Here

## Join the Pool

Open May 24-  
September 2,  
11am-9pm



## Join Swim & Dive Team

All ages and skill  
levels welcome.  
Registration opens  
April 1.

## Registration Open Now!

- NVSL Swim and Dive Teams
- 6-Lane Pool & Kids Wading Pool
- Lap Lane & Facility Reservations
- Planned Weekly Social Events
- 2 Diving Boards
- Club House w/ Foosball & Air Hockey
- New Deck Furniture
- Full Kitchen
- New Playground
- BBQ Area w/ Grills
- Picnic Area w/ Gazebo
- Free WiFi

1

### FRIENDS

Make friends for life  
with families from Lake  
Braddock School  
Pyramid

2

### LOCATION

Can walk or bike from  
Signal Hill, Kings Park,  
and surrounding  
neighborhoods

3

### COACHES

- Swim Team Coach is  
Club Coach/LB Teacher  
- Dive Team Coach has  
30+ years experience





## Thoughts on Fire Safety

By Susan Cappa, VP of Community Safety

Our Houses are beautiful and well-built, but they are old. Mine was built in 1963. Therefore, our houses don't have many safety features or the electrical capacity that are standard in newer homes. Tripping your circuit breakers is a clue that you may need more electrical capacity. If you haven't already, call a licensed electrician for an inspection of your home's electrical system. You may need to replace worn out wiring, add outlets or circuits, increase the amount of electricity that comes into your home, or replace the main electrical panel. Failure to take care of your electrical system can lead to a costly, or deadly, fire.

In addition to getting your home's electrical system in shape, there are other safety measures that you can take to ensure that your home is safe from accidental fires.

- Smoke alarms. Install at least one smoke alarm on each floor. If the alarms are battery-operated, change batteries annually. If you have a smoker in your house, install a smoke alarm in their bedroom.
- Get the whole family involved in fire safety. Teach your young children about smoke alarms, review what they need to do when a smoke alarm goes off. Develop an evacuation plan in case of fire and review it with the whole family. Discuss what to do if they find hazardous materials, such as matches, smoldering cigarettes, fireworks, or fire starters.
- Cook Carefully. Clean your stovetop before and after cooking, to lessen the possibility of grease fires. If you have a grease fire, put a lid on it and take the pot off the flame. Cook with pot handles inward, to keep pots on the stove. Don't wear flowing garments when cooking. Keep the cooking area child-free to ensure their (and your) safety. Don't leave cooking pots unattended. If you have an induction cooktop, there are special safety requirements. Read up on the safety features and follow them.
- Protect Major Appliances; Add surge protectors to your computer systems and HVAC systems to protect them from electrical surges and lessen the risk of fire.
- Fireplace safety. If you have a fireplace and use it, have the chimney cleaned regularly. Use firescreens to keep cinders in the fireplace and clean the hearth regularly.
- Give Space Heaters Space. Only plug space heaters into wall outlets, do not plug them into extension cords. Keep heaters 3 feet away from drapes, cushions, or other flammable materials. Don't go to sleep, or leave your house, with a space heater on.
- Lithium Battery Safety. If you have a cell phone, a laptop, an electric car or scooter; then you've got a lithium battery. Since lithium batteries store a lot of energy in a small space, if defective or improperly stored, they can catch fire or explode. Store and charge them away from your bed, at room temperature, away from flammable items. If batteries are warm, leaking, or making noises; discontinue use and call 911.



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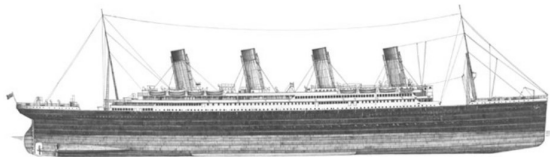


## “LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings’ Park resident since 1999

‘allo, chaps. ‘ow are ya? Doin’ alright, ‘opefully. We’re back on the tour in our neighborhood discovering the origins of the names of our streets here in Kings’ Park. Today our tour will be on one of our longest streets: Southampton Drive. Let’s get right on the bus and go right to Southampton, England, a seaside town that is 69 miles south of London. What’s so special about Southampton, you ask. Let’s uncover ten notables of its history:

#1 – The birthplace of the ship the Titanic. It was built and departed here on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1912, only to be sunk on April 15<sup>th</sup>, 5 days later. 1,514 lives perished aboard with only 706 survivors.



#2 – Author Jane Austen lived here for 2 years, had her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday here and wrote *Sense and Sensibility* while living here.

#3 – The Normans arrived here first in 1066. This is also comedian Benny Hill’s birthplace in 1924.

#4 – Southampton University is listed in the Top 100 Universities in the world.

#5 – Approximately 450 cruise ships dock here yearly.

#6 – Clarence Birdseye, American inventor/entrepreneur, tested and marketed his original frozen Fish Fingers (we call them fish sticks) here in 1953.



#7 – The Mayflower ship set sail for America from here in 1620 with our pilgrim forefathers aboard.

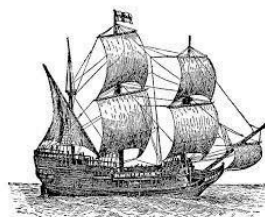
#8 – Southampton applied for city status in 1929 but King George V rejected it. Finally, it became a legitimate city in 1964.

#9 – In 1180 A.D., a wall was built around this medieval town and became its entrance. A portion of the wall is called the Bargate and still stands in the center of town on High Street.

#10 – It is considered the sunniest and warmest city in the UK. It once reached 96 degrees in 1976.

Thanks for being with us on our delightful discovery of the city of Southampton. Til next tour.

Cheers, Love!







## Kings Park Social Events

By Susan Metcalf, VP of Events

**Your Kings Park Civic Association is sponsoring the following Spring events:**

**KPCA Kings Park Park Spring Clean-up:** March 30<sup>th</sup> 9am-11am. Meet at the Trafalgar Court park entrance.

**KPCA Volunteer Recognition Day:** Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm (volunteer recognition will take place at 11am). Rain date April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Kings Park Community Yard Sale:** Kings Park Yard Sale, at everyone's own yard Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

**Kings Park Junk Removal Day:** May 4. In conjunction with the yard sale, the KPCA is sponsoring a junk removal day by teaming up with Out Junk Out for KPCA members only. This was very well successful last year, so you don't want to miss out! For a KPCA discounted rate, you can make an appointment with Out Junk Out to come and remove unwanted items from your house. Please visit [www.outjunkout.com/](http://www.outjunkout.com/) to sign up and to receive our discounted rate, please mention KPCA Clean-up Day. Eddy Claros will be happy to take care of you.

**KPCA July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Concert in the Park,** more details for this annual KPCA event will be in the next Gazette.

**Summer Movies in the Park,** your KPCA is planning to host summer movies/activities in the park. More details on the KPCA Facebook Page and in the July Gazette.

**National Night out,** August 6. While the KPCA will be unable to host a community wide event at Kings Park Park this year, we encourage blocks/streets to register for this community event. Registration will open soon online. We hope to resume the event in 2025!



Traffic calming in Kings Park



# Real Estate Corner

## Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Duchess	5524 EASTBOURNE DR	\$849,900

## Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
None		



Sold				Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Price	Final Price Reduction/ Increase	Date Closed
Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price		Sold Price		
King	8614 LONDON CT	\$769,999	\$788,100		\$788,100	\$18,101	02/16/24
King	8451 THAMES ST	\$699,900	\$758,033		\$758,033	\$58,133	03/08/24
King	8802 KENILWORTH DR	\$769,000	\$800,000		\$800,000	\$31,000	03/11/24
Queen	5303 ROLLING RD	\$699,900	\$665,000		\$665,000	(\$34,900)	01/24/24

*Provided by Susan Metcalf, McEneaney Associates*

**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!

This is a paid advertisement.





#### 2024 Native Seedling Sale

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/native-seedling-sale>

Begins Thursday, March 14, 2024.  
Order on the website.

#### Recycle or Trash—what goes where?

To find out where to put items no longer useful,  
check this site:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials>



## Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)

### FLAP Monthly 2024 Lake Accotink Park Clean-up

DATE: 2nd Sunday of every month

TIME: 9am-12pm

LOCATION: Lake Accotink Marina (at the sign-in tent)

Pick up gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps, and more. You will be loaned a FLAP safety vest.

Volunteer 4 times and receive your very OWN safety vest to personalize

ACTIVITIES: Pick-up trash bags and find debris carelessly dumped, dropped, or forgotten. Refill dog waste bag stations if they are empty or near-empty. Clip vines and more

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

QUESTIONS: [contact@flapaccotink.org](mailto:contact@flapaccotink.org)

### Caring for the Pollinator Garden

DATE: 2nd Sunday of every month

TIME: 10:30am-12pm

WHERE: Lake Accotink Park, Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden (next to the sign-in tent / near the restrooms)

ACTIVITIES: Work alongside our experts as they care for the pollinator plants, watering, and clean-up. We provide tools and gloves or you can bring your own

REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/caring-for-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-602959567297>

### Exploring the Pollinator Garden

DATE: 2nd Sunday of every month

TIME: 10:30am-12pm

WHERE: Lake Accotink Park, Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden (next to the sign-in tent / near the restrooms)

ACTIVITIES: Our experts will guide you through the pollinators and pollinator plans, starting and maintaining your own (any size) pollinator garden

REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/exploring-the-pollinator-garden-at-lake-accotink-park-tickets-602955284487>



### 2024 FLAP General Membership Meetings

DATE: March 27, May 22, August 28, November 20

TIME: 6:30-7:30pm

WHERE: The meetings are either in Ravensworth Farm (Community of Christ Church, 5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield) or in the large pavilion at the Park. Check the website for more information: <https://flapaccotink.org/>

### FLAP First Annual Friends of Lake Accotink Park 1040—5k Walk-Run

DATE: Saturday, 13 April 2024

TIME: Packet pick-up at 9am; Race starts at 10:40 for runners; 10:50 for walkers; Awards at 12pm

WHERE: Lake Accotink Park

MORE INFORMATION: <https://flapaccotink.org/>

### FCPA Earth Day

DATE: Saturday, April 20 2024

TIME: 10am-4pm (rain or shine)

LOCATION: Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly

Save the date—more information to come!

### 2nd Beaver Boogie 5K Walk Run

DATE: Saturday, 30th November 2024

TIME: 9am-12pm

LOCATION: Lake Accotink Park

REGISTRATION: <https://flapaccotink.org/> (events tab)

Gift bags and more; 100% of proceeds go to FLAP projects and programs at Lake Accotink Park. More information to come!





## Whimsey Corner

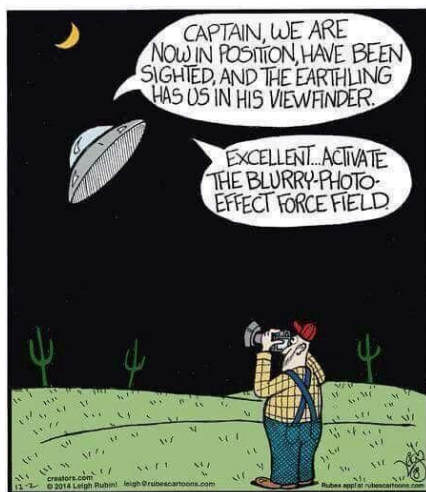
### By Terry Boschert

An **Unidentified Flying Object (UFO)** or an **Unidentified Anomalous Phenomenon (UAP)**, is any perceived phenomenon that cannot be at once identified or explained. With this definition, I can answer the question, "Do UFOs exist?" with a resounding YES. Humans and our machines see unexplained phenomena all over our world, in the air, in the sea, in space around Earth. So, what are they?

Carl Sagan proposed a criterion – **"Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence"** – which is known as the Sagan standard. Have we collected such evidence?

First a little background perspective. The Milky Way holds between 100 and 400 billion stars and at least that number of planets. In November 2013, astronomers reported, based on Kepler space mission data, that there could be as many as 40 billion Earth-sized planets orbiting in the habitable zones of Sun-like stars and red dwarfs within the Milky Way. That number represents forty billion chances that life arose elsewhere in our galaxy. Latest estimates place intelligent life skilled in technology at this moment at around thirty planets in the Milky Way. Thus, a civilization capable of reaching us is a rare but not zero possibility.

Fuzzy photographs or videos, blips on radar, crop circles, and first-person abduction stories, are not the extraordinary proof needed to claim intelligent operation of vessels, either from another planet or from an Earth in another universe or timeline. Such evidence is one-dimensional. The evidence shows no actual aliens or consists of unverifiable stories.



What is extraordinary evidence? Physical remains of a craft, heavy metals that do not exist on Earth, photos of the inside of an alien craft, material with bizarre tendencies, anything that scientists could leisurely examine. Occupants of an alien craft that lands on the White House grounds to say hello would also seem to lend credence to the fact that aliens exist. None of the possibilities have happened thus far (February 26, 2024, 6:11 PM, just in case it happens after I send this article).

What do I believe? I think alien piloted craft do exist and have visited our Earth in the past. I should add that spouse, son, dog, cat, and neighbors consider me to be a "little off." This extraordinary claim does have extraordinary evidence. Sigh!

[milky way galaxy - Search \(bing.com\)](#)

[Carl Sagan on Alien Abduction | NOVA | PBS](#)

### 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](mailto:terry.boschert@verizon.net) to volunteer!



# ***Susan Metcalf ... delivers***

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**Susan Metcalf**  
**703-472-6512**

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**BEST**  
**WASHINGTONIAN**  
**2023**



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**[www.SusanMetcalf.com](http://www.SusanMetcalf.com)**