

Kings Park Gazette



President's Corner By Charlotte Hannagan

my cell at 484-431-6448.

As the 2024 calendar year comes to a close, I wanted to take time to thank our amazing KPCA board who go above and beyond throughout the year to help foster a wonderful sense of community in Kings Park. Running this association takes a lot of support, and we couldn't do it without them—please thank Eric DeTurk, Susan Cappa, Susan Metcalf, Susan Malmberg, and Leeann Alberts if you see them around the neighborhood! Thank you also to everyone who has contributed, and continues to engage with us. Please let us know how the Kings Park Civic Association can be of help—our email is KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com and you can reach me on

As you'll see in this winter edition of the gazette, a lot of the articles revolve around taking care of our planet, including a new section called "Climate Corner", an article on how to lower your carbon footprint, and resources on tracking progress towards a greener future. With a new year starts a new membership campaign for the KPCA. Please remember to join on an annual basis. The \$30 dues (\$25 for seniors) help support our many initiatives. The easiest way to join is online at www.kings-park.org. A hard-copy membership insert is also included and can be mailed back. On the back, you will find a survey with questions concerning the ongoing printing of the gazette. Please fill it out and let us know your thoughts, and if you're willing to support the in-person delivery to every single home in Kings Park. It takes a lot of volunteer hours to successfully complete, and with fewer members and fewer

volunteers we may not be able to continue printing and delivering the gazette going forward. To be clear, we will continue to put together and publish the gazette electronically and distribute it by email and online, but are gathering community feedback on the physical mailbox delivery.

Please let us know your thoughts at KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com or call me at 484-431-6448 or fill out and return the survey on the membership form insert.

We are always eager to hear from you, and look forward to seeing you around the community. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. Stay warm, and see you around the neighborhood!



About the Gazette

The Gazette is issued 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.







Kings Park Civic Association

Board of Directors

President, Charlotte Hannagan 484-431-6448

> KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com

VP of Social Outreach, Eric DeTurk 908-616-8508 eric.deturk@gmail.com

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa 703-424-8475 sicappa@gmail.com

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

Secretary, VACANT

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

> VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts 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 on August 1, 2024, our income is \$1,070. This is made up of Oktoberfest revenue \$705, membership \$255, and donations \$110.

The expenses for this period are \$4,908. The payments were for Grounds maintenance \$1,790, Oktoberfest \$1,182, Gazette printing \$692, Police, Fire Dept. and school donations \$550, Administrative costs \$368, and Community events \$326.

Thank you to all who are members, and please join KPCA again in January for 2025. Please volunteer and participate in our community events to keep this a vibrant neighborhood. We welcome ideas to improve our community.

The KPCA Board wishes all the Kings Park residents and their friends and family a wonderful holiday season!

Membership Update VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

There are approximately 1,100 homes in our wonderful neighborhood of Kings Park Virginia. As of December 1, 2024, only **351** families have paid their 2024 KPCA dues. Membership in the KPCA is only \$30 per calendar year (\$25 for seniors).

KPCA sponsors many wonderful events and activities including: the 4th of July Parade and Band Concert, Oktoberfest, Trunk or Treat, the Kid's Holiday Party, Halloween and Holiday Decoration contests, Neighborhood Watch, Nub/Entrance Maintenance, Community Meetings, KPCA Gazette, local government organization representation and more.

Some of these events are for the entire Kings Park community, while others are for KPCA members only.

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

To submit your membership for 2025, complete the membership insert from the this edition of the Gazette, include either cash or check and mail to:

Kings Park Civic Association P.O. Box 1243 Springfield, VA 22151-1243

You may also complete the 2025 Membership Form online at www.kings-park.org and submit your payment electronically via PayPal or billpay. A direct hyperlink to join can be found below.

Scan here to join the KPCA





Kings Park Social Events VP of Events, Susan Metcalf

Congratulations to our 2024 Halloween Decoration Contest winners: 8505 Clydesdale Rd; 8719 Clydesdale Rd; 8433 Thames St; 8608 Parliament Dr; 5504 Eastbourne Dr

Holiday Lights/Decoration Contest

The KPCA will be running its annual Holiday Decorating Competition on **12/21** 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, 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.

2025 Events

Check out our 2025 schedule on the right! Stay tuned for more information and more updates in the next gazettes!

Kings Park Royal Resident The story of the traveling flag

As you may recall, the KPCA board has started a new initiative to honor residents going above and beyond to better the community. Nominations for Royal Flag recipients can be sent to KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com for consideration.

Since our fall edition of the gazette, the Royal Flag has made its way to two wonderful long-term Kings Park residents.

The sixth recipients of the flag were **Jean and Tom Kennedy**. Jean and Tom deliver at least a couple hundred gazettes every quarter, if not more, and are always willing to lend a hand when needed. We are grateful to have them in our community!

The seventh recipients of the flag were **Terry and Beverly Boschert.** Terry and Beverly have been involved in the community for many many (many) years. They continue to lead the Neighborhood Watch, volunteer at events, and contribute many useful articles to the KPCA quarterly gazettes. We are extremely grateful of their ongoing engagement which makes Kings Park such a wonderful place to live!

KPCA EVENTS

	2025 SCHEDULE ————
MAY 03	YARD SALE AND JUNK REMOVAL DAY
04	4TH OF JULY PARADE & BAND CONCERT
O5	NATIONAL NIGHT OUT
2 7	OKTOBERFEST (MEMBERS ONLY)
26	TRUNK OR TREAT
28	HALLOWEEN DECORATION CONTEST
05	KIDS' HOLIDAY PARTY (MEMBERS ONLY)
18	HOLIDAY DECORATION CONTEST

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...AND SO MUCH MORE!

WWW.KINGS-PARK.ORG



Climate Corner: New Hope for Climate Initiatives By Karen Vahouny

"Tomorrow becomes never. No matter how small the task, take the first step now!"

This quote by author and entrepreneur <u>Tim Ferriss</u> describes how our family began a journey to make some small, positive changes to the environment.

What we discovered

- No step is too small.
- Some of our actions led to other benefits like 1)
 reducing meat consumption and eating more plantbased foods and 2) taking reuse/recycling steps that
 save money. Earth-, heart- and wallet-healthy: a
 winning combination!
- We don't all live in the Northern Va. area. We've found that monthly dates to "eco-connect" have brought us closer together.

Why we got started

- In a nutshell, we decided that having a shared commitment and talking about it just wasn't enough. If we institutionalized an "eco-team," we could move the needle from talk to action.
- Our team represents about a dozen extended family members ranging in age from 20-somethings to 60s and 70s. That represents about one-quarter of our nearly 50 family members (including spouses and significant others).
- My husband, Dan Mondloch, comes from a large family with a long history of community service and voluntarism. His father played an instrumental role in the creation of the first homeless shelter in Fairfax County, named Mondloch House after his death in 1978. This was the start of the development of other shelters, housing programs, and services that are now part of New Hope Housing.
- Our family's more recent path into climate initiatives stems from this legacy of volunteer activism.

How we kicked it off

- We set a goal: to identify positive environmental steps we could take, share ideas and how-tos, and encourage even more participation and action.
- Branding ourselves the Mondloch Climate Collective (or MCC) added further reinforcement.
- Meeting monthly on a set day and time (the first Wednesday at 7 p.m.) helps generate higher

- attendance.
- A chairperson sends out a reminder and agenda prior to each meeting. Now that we're out of "launch phase," our MCC chair emails brief updates to the entire family. We hope that will be a low-key, nonpushy way to stimulate others to replicate some of our actions (and perhaps share some of their own).
- We use Google Docs (a free application available for Apple and Android) so everyone can update the agenda, add meeting discussion topics, give activity updates, and post new ideas.



Eric Vahouny worked with Clean Fairfax for supplies and kicked off our first cleanup day.

As one family member said, "The Collective is definitely keeping the topic front of mind and giving me ideas."

A "Top 10" list

Here are some of our initial ideas, and everyone has taken at least some of these steps. What we've tried to do is encourage (but not pressure) our family members to take some initial, fairly easy-to-do steps.

- Replaced plastic water bottles with refillable, reusable containers. Bought large liquid soap and shampoo containers, and refilled the smaller ones in our homes. (money-savers, too!)
- Substituted walks and bike rides for short car trips, cutting energy use (not to mention the aerobic benefit).
 The additional walking has resulted in another positive: beautification. When walking, we try to pick up litter (and a lot of it happens to be recyclable).



Climate Corner: continued

- 3. Reprogrammed the thermostat to use less energy, with different settings for day and night.
- 4. Set up indoor cans for trash-only and recycling. We've discovered our recycling volume has dramatically increased, with very little trash.
- 5. Created a separate trash container for glass (if your trash service doesn't recycle it). In our area, the glass dumpster at either the West Springfield Government Center or the Audrey Moore Recreation Center are convenient drop-off spots that can be combined with other errands.
- Bought fruit and vegetables at area farmers' markets, whenever possible. This reduces the energy use associated with transporting produce from various locations and also supports local growers.
- 7. Composted vegetable/fruit matter. You don't need a compost heap, either! A <u>non-smelly alternative</u> can be put right on the counter. Where to take compost: The Fairfax County farmers' markets, which run from April through November, collect compost every week (Audrey Moore and Burke are the closest.) During the winter, compost can be taken to either the <u>I-95 Landfill or I-66 station</u>.
- Joined the <u>Citizens Climate Lobby</u>. It's free, takes about 60 seconds to join, and you have access to useful info and volunteer opportunities. After you join, if you want to send a letter to your members of Congress, the site makes it super-easy (and you can add additional content to make it more personal).
- Made a commitment to reduce beef consumption.
 Although sources differ on the amount of greenhouse gases produced by cattle, our view was eating less meat and adopting a more plant-based diet would be a great goal. We've also instituted "Meatless Mondays."
- 10. Organized a cleanup day. Located a spot with a huge

amount of trash, worked with <u>Clean Fairfax</u> to get free trash bags/plastic gloves, and recruited family members and some Kings Park neighbors participate. Our group collected 40 large trash bags.

We're also taking photos, when we can and when our efforts are more "visual." One of our younger Collective members will be sharing photos on her social media platforms. We think this will be another way to encourage environmental activism among friends and followers.

None of these steps are "biggies" or earth-shattering, but they're a start. And they're paying dividends already in the form of actions and positive reinforcement.

Did you know ...

...that there are 1,100 homes in Kings Park? That's a lot of potential power in making some small changes that could produce big results. I hope some of these ideas – from a family climate team to the activities we've started – have been helpful.

Questions

- Would you like the KPCA newsletter to include a regular or occasional forum for sharing environmental, energy and sustainability ideas?
- Do you have any steps you've taken (ideas/ suggestions?) that you can share? If so, we can feature these in a future article.
- Any feedback on this article?

Please share your thoughts with Charlotte Hannagan at kingsparkcivicassociation@gmail.com.



A Meatless Monday poke bowl: easy to make, plant-based, and inexpensive -- and tasty!

JOIN YOUR FRIENDS THIS SUMMER!

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- Lap Lane & Facility Reservations
- Planned Weekly Social Events
- 2 Diving Boards
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- Renovated Kitchen
- New Playground
- BBQ Area w/ Grills
- Picnic Area w/ Gazebo
- Free WiFi

Contact Info Pool Email:

Pool Email: info@parliamentpool.com

Swim & Dive Email: parliamentswim@ gmail.com





Join the PoolOpen May 23September 1,
11am-9pm



Join Swim & Dive Team

All ages and skill levels welcome.

Registration opens

April 1.



EARLY BIRD

\$25 Early Bird discount for registrations by March 15



REFER NEW MEMBER

- Existing Member gets\$50 Account Credit
- New Member gets 10 Guest Passes



4 RAFFLES

All members registered by Feb 1, Mar 1, Apr 1 & May 1 entered to win \$50 Account Credit

Advice from Zoe the 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.

Dear Stupid 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: Retractables 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

Steps you can take to lower your carbon footprint By Beverly Boschert

Greenhouse-gas levels are at the highest levels in human history. Small changes which are worthwhile.

- Create less food waste: More greenhouse-gas emissions come from agriculture than from the airline industry. About 37% of food waste occurs in homes.
- Shop sustainably: Buy less. New stuff requires land, water and fossil fuels to produce. Plant a tree that will help remove carbon from the air. Trade a gas car for a hybrid or electric vehicle.
- Weatherize your home: Seal leakage points to maintain heat and cool inside your home. Consider solar to light, heat and cool your home.
- End Plastic Pollution: Use reusable water containers, not plastic bottles/containers. Use paper or reusable shopping bags. Avoid all single use plastics. The United States is the world's leading contributor of plastic waste.

Source:https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2024/11/25/global-plastics-treaty-pollution-waste/.https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-solutions/2022/02/22/climate-change-actions-carbon-footprint/

Please clear leaves from the street gutters. Remember, only rain down the drain!



Real Estate Corner

Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style Address

QUEEN 5515 EASTBOURNE DR

Under Contract Listings

StyleAddressDUKE8615 KENILWORTH DRKING8517 PARLIAMENT DRKING5418 EASTBOURNE DRQUEEN8715 KENILWORTH DR



Sold				Subsidy		Final	
				(Seller's	Final	Price	
		List	Sold	Credit to	Sold	Reduction/	Date
Style	Address	Price	Price	Buyer)	Price	Increase	Closed
PRINCE	5529 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$740,000	\$765,000	\$1,913	\$763,087	\$23,087	9/16/2024
QUEEN	8604 CLYDESDALE RD	\$775,000	\$810,000		\$810,000	\$35,000	9/19/2024
QUEEN	5631 EASTBOURNE DR	\$810,000	\$810,000		\$810,000	\$0	9/19/2024
DUKE	5523 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$739,900	\$730,000		\$730,000	(\$9,900)	9/27/2024
DUKE	5508 CALLANDER DR	\$725,000	\$720,000	\$15,000	\$705,000	(\$20,000)	10/31/2024
DUKE	5527 YORKSHIRE ST	\$774,900	\$765,000		\$765,000	(\$9,900)	11/13/2024
DUKE	5505 VENTNOR LN	\$745,900	\$730,000		\$730,000	(\$15,900)	11/25/2024

Provided by Susan Metcalf, Corcoran McEnearney 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!

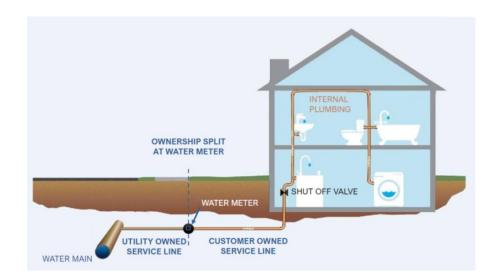
How's your water? Find Out By Susan Cappa

Of course, Fairfax County tap water is very good and exceeds EPA standards. However, the county has no control over the internal water supply in your house. That's why they are asking all residents who received a letter (titled Lead Free Fairfax) to send them information on what type of water pipes are inside your house, via a short survey. I learned a lot completing this exercise, and I'll bet you will too. When lead gets into the water supply, it can cause health problems for all ages. So, it's important to know if you have lead and to take steps to get it out, if you do.

You and the county need to know what your pipes are made of from the water meter through the house (see the diagram below). Since most of the houses were built in the 1960's, and lead pipes were not outlawed in construction until 1979, we could have lead in the pipes in our house. If QR codes and online forms are too technical for you, call 703 698 5800 to request a paper copy. Both online and paper surveys are available in English and Spanish.

Once you've got your form, fill out the identifying

information and find your water shut off valve. (Don't shut off your water; that's going too far.) Use the instructions to determine what kinds of pipes go into the shut off valve and out of the valve. Choices are plastic, copper, lead, or galvanized steel. Take a picture with your phone and attach it to the survey. If you have lead pipes, or have steel pipes that could have been soldered with lead, you can request a lead test kit by calling 703 698 5800. It



costs \$79 and takes 6 to 8 weeks for results.



"LITT'L BIT O' BRIT" TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings' Park resident since 1999

Oi. G'vernor. Worcha? [Hello, there. What have you been up to?] Me? Nowt. [nothing]. Hope you and yours haven't had the lurgy [flu] this time 'round. The medical 'stablishment says the RSV's going 'round. Well, they know their onions [they are knowledgeable about it]. Let's move forward with our neighborhood tour to find out who and what the streets are named for. Get on, will ya? Today we are talking about Derby Court, the British town that was originally pronounced "Darby" in northeastern England. It has some famous roots and interesting history, it does. But we are only going to focus on this one small story of this place. Come on!

In 1778, Edward Smith-Stanley, the 12th Earl of Darby had a dinner party at his estate. The discussion was about establishing a yearly horse race. They flipped a coin between Darby and Sir Charles Bunbury. Darby won and named the race The Darby Stakes. In the very first year of the race, 1780, Darby won with his filly, Bridget. In the second year Bunbury won with his stallion, Diomed. Then the name changed to Epsom Downs. The name Darby or Derby, as it has morphed to, has a varied reasoning for name change: 1) Just the way British folks pronounce their center vowels, 2) someone once asked an old pirate what he was looking for in the town, he answered, "Dar be treasure." It stuck, and 3) the older Old

Norse spelling and pronunciation of "djur" (deer), "byr" (village) or deoraby meaning "village of deer."

Being its most prestigious race since the 1780s, Colonel Merriwether Lewis Clark, Jr., grandson to the famous explorer Merriwether Lewis, visited England in 1872, experiencing the race and wanted to bring this to United States. He came home, founded the Louisville Jockey Club and The Kentucky Derby which has been running ever since 1875. The original land was leased from Clark's uncles, John and Henry Churchill, which is why he named his racecourse, Churchill Downs.

There you have it, Love. Now on your marks, get set, go...and the race is on!!!! Cheers.



Interactive Map Tracks Progress Toward a Greener Future By Beverly Boschert

The Climate Action Viewer from the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ environment-energy-coordination/) is a tool that helps track progress as a community toward a greener future. The Climate Action Viewer is an interactive map tool that pinpoints sustainable actions like green buildings, solar installations, EV charging infrastructure, recycling centers and tree canopies throughout the County.

Use the map to find opportunities for climate action near you including where to bring compostable waste, recycle glass and charge your electric vehicle. Explore the Climate Action Viewer and to read more, visit: Interactive Map Tracks Progress Toward a Greener Future | News Center (fairfaxcounty.gov) (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/ interactive-map-tracks-progress-toward-greener-future)

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Whimsey Corner By Terry Boschert

The Lowly Earthworm, or perhaps not.

The earthworm lives under our feet. It goes about its life not disturbing anyone above the surface and we not disturbing it below the surface, well, except for our gardening or fishing, building structures, plowing, wars, and so forth. They live in moist environments. And the Sandworm is fictional, I hope!

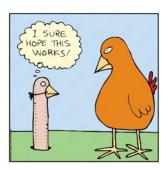
The earthworm's lifespan can be up to 20 years. Its length varies by species of earthworm. Some are a mere .02 inches in length, others attain a length of 21 feet (watch out Moby Dick). The 21-foot earthworm was found in South Africa and is called Dave. Dave, and its more than 7000 species' members, consume plant matter. The earthworm is the diet of most creatures on Earth including humans. Its speed is "very slow". The earthworm evolved over the last 500 million years.

The earthworm can breathe underwater. So why would it surface? Worm scientists, also called *vermeologists*, hypothesize that the worm finds it easier to travel above ground during rainy weather, others speculate that raindrops sound like below ground predators and the Earthworm heads for the surface to escape. Escape does not necessarily exist. Birds have learned to mimic the sound of raindrops with their feet and wait for the earthworm to surface. Turns out the knowledgeable bird catches the worm.

The earthworm is one of the most important creatures on earth and one that engineers the very foundations of the ecology we live in. Earthworms produce fertile soil from their back ends! Their role in the ecosystem is critical. And

our gardens benefit from, how shall I put this, ah, earthworm digested material. And why so many species? Continental drift separated populations of the earthworm and this separation forced the earthworm to adapt to new environments.

So, there you have the tale. Without the "perhaps not lowly Earthworm", our planet may have looked entirely different. But do not worry. We humans seem able to negate the earthworm's efforts to improve our environment. Yeah us!



Vermeology - Wikipedia

14 Earthworm Facts That Will Blow Your Mind - Fact Animal

Evolution of Earthworms - NYK Daily

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 $1\,\%$ 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!

Susan Metcalf ... delivers Satisfaction Guaranteed 100% Satisfaction or My Commission Back



Susan Metcalf 703-472-6512

100% Satisfaction

30 Years & Current Kings Park Resident

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