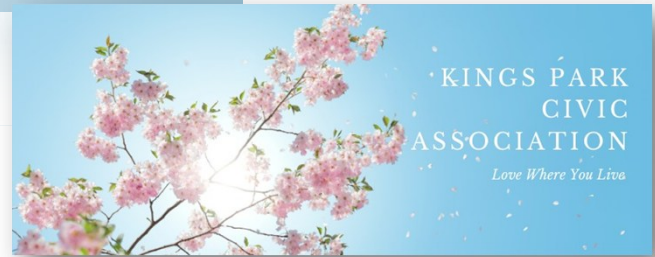




Kings Park Gazette

President's Corner

By Charlotte Hannagan



The leaves are starting to turn and the days will soon start getting shorter and colder. My eldest's favorite season is the fall—she enjoys the changing colors, the firepit gatherings, the festivals, and the fall sports. I'll always be extremely partial to the summer, but she does have a point. Whatever your preference, I hope you're able to get out and enjoy the neighborhood and everything the area has to offer.

In this edition of the Gazette you'll find information about the KPCA's upcoming events, happenings at the Kings Park library, a new article from the always popular "Litt'l bit o' Brit" tour" series, an update on the Fairfax Tree Commission dissolving, and so much more. We hope you'll find the content interesting and look forward to your feedback and comments.

As we start the new KPCA fiscal year, the board will be focusing this year on our budget. As part of that exercise, we'll be looking at ways to increase revenue, including expanding our membership numbers. If you have any suggestions or ideas on membership recruitment, please reach out to KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com. At \$30/year (\$25 for seniors), the cost is not prohibitive for the value. It's not too late to join for the year if you haven't done so yet. You can join on our website at

www.kings-park.org. We are also happy to check if you've renewed for 2026!

The KPCA will continue its advocacy efforts this fall, coming off the success of its engagement with VDOT on the repaving project. We are also continuing to beautify the neighborhood, with the "nubs" being replanted by our contracted landscaper. It'll take a few years to finish, but should make a big difference in how Kings Park looks to all residents and those driving on our streets.

The KPCA holiday ornaments will once again be for sale starting in late October. Stay tuned for the form and payment information.

I hope to see you around the neighborhood and at some of our events.

Take care,

~Charlotte
484-431-6448



Kings Park Royal Resident

The story of the traveling flag

As you may recall, the KPCA honors residents who have gone above and beyond to better our community. **Nominations for Royal Flag recipients can be sent to KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com for consideration.**

Since July, the Royal Flag made its way to a few wonderful Kings Park residents.

The 20th recipient of the Royal Resident flag was **Jan Pryl**! We stuck with the "Little Free Library" theme for this one, and recognized Jan's beautiful little libraries at the corner of Parliament and Southampton! It's such a great location (bus stops, kids walking to the school and the pool, etc.) and we are so grateful to Jan for the upkeep and dedication in keeping the libraries stocked! Let us know what book you've picked up or dropped off,

or if you've met someone new or old at the Kings Park little libraries!

The 21st recipient of the Royal Resident flag is **Brian Alberts**. Those who nominated him highlighted his involvement in CERT and his willingness to always step-up and help during all the KPCA and other community events. His support during our July 4th parade, clean-ups, and everywhere else he's involved is such a huge asset! We are lucky to have someone like Brian in our neighborhood who is always willing to step up and volunteer for initiatives and lend a hand where it's needed.

Where will the flag show up next?

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
sjcappa@gmail.com

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

Secretary, VACANT

**VP of Finance,
Charlie Gray**

KPCAVaTreasurer@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, Charlie Gray

Hi neighbors, I'm humbled to serve as your new treasurer for our amazing community alongside some equally amazing board members. Thank you to Susan Malmberg, our outgoing treasurer, who maintained this post diligently and thoroughly for fifteen years. She set a great standard and has been so helpful in the transition.

Our fiscal year closed on July 31, 2026. We had total revenue of **\$13,143** compared to total expenses of **\$14,006**.

Our largest income line items were:

- Membership dues: \$5,777
- KP ornament sales: \$3,020 (there are still ornaments available for this year!)
- Donations: \$1635

Our largest expenses were:

- Mowing / Grounds upkeep and

beautification: \$6,355

- KP Ornaments to sell: \$3,200
- Community Events: \$1,105
- Gazette Printing: \$995

While I was aware of some of the major events (4th of July parade, Trunk or Treat, Egg Hunt, etc.) that KPCA supports in our community, after becoming a board member I was truly surprised to see the scope of events, projects (landscaping upkeep!), and groups (KP & KG PTAs! Parliament Pool!) we support.

We can only keep it going with your membership and donations! Thank you to our members, and if you haven't joined yet, please consider doing so – your \$30 can really do a lot for our neighborhood.

*The KPCA was proud to support the Kings Park
Kings Glen PTA in their annual Booster Fun Run!*

Membership Update VP of Membership, Leeann Alberts

As of September 1, 2026, 192 families were official members of the Kings Park Civic Association. At this point in June of 2020, 381 families had joined KPCA. We can do better!

Thanks to all of the KPCA families who have joined! However, we need to increase our 2026 membership in order to sustain all of the wonderful events and services provided by the KPCA!

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, affiliation with local government organizations, and more.

Your dues, involvement, and volunteerism to support KPCA help to keep Kings Park one of the most highly desired neighborhoods in the Northern Virginia area.

We are also still recruiting for the KPCA Board position of Secretary. Please join us! We

welcome your new ideas and civic involvement!

If you wish to receive your Gazette in paper form in addition to online, please let me know (lawleeann@gmail.com) and I will add you to the Hard Copy Gazette list for 2026.

You may complete the 2026 Membership Form online at www.kings-park.org (see the QR code elsewhere on this page) 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!).

Scan here to join the KPCA





Kings Park: A Traffic Calming Success Story

VP of Community Safety, Susan Cappa

This is a thank you note that is 40 years too late, and we can't even blame the Postal Service. It's to thank the residents of Kings Park in the 1990's for doing the hard work to get traffic calming devices (speed bumps, circles, nubs) installed in our community. I was not aware of how difficult such requests are to implement until I attended the Fairfax Safe Streets Coalition meeting a few months ago. There was a lot of discussion about RTAP (Residential Traffic Administration Program) and how onerous the steps were to get any traffic mitigation procedures enacted. I wasn't particularly interested in these struggles, because they didn't apply to Kings Park. Then, I realized that they didn't apply to Kings Park because **we already had all the traffic calming measures in place** and they had been in place for 30/40 years! I decided that I needed more information.

Back in the 1980's, when my husband and I bought our house, the one drawback was the congestion to get out of the subdivision. One time, we timed it and it took as long to get out of Kings Park as it took to get to our workplace at the GAO Building in downtown DC. I sometimes took the bus to work and had time to count the cars that turned onto Southampton Drive from Rolling Road. More cars were using Southampton to get to Braddock Road than were using Burke Lake Road (hence the long wait times to get out of Kings Park). However, we had some influential (and determined) residents and responsive representatives. Also, I think the Kings Park traffic calming initiatives were undertaken as a test case. I'm not sure what the process was in the 1990's to get the traffic calming initiatives implemented, but in 2026, this is what communities must do to get

the RTAP process going:

- Contact your County Supervisor;
- Have a traffic count to determine if there is a problem;
- Develop a plan, with representatives from the community and VDOT participating,
- Hold community meetings and have a vote where over 50% of the residents approve the plan.
- Obtain the Board of Supervisors endorsement to go ahead with the project
- Implement the project

In the July FSS meeting, attendees stressed how much time and effort each step took, including community mailings, task forces, marketing challenges, convincing property owners, and becoming familiar with the strict voting and balloting process. They also were eloquent about why they were doing so much work: because cars speed down their main streets at 75 mph. and children and walkers are not safe on their own streets. It was a real eye-opener for me!

So I'd like to thank the residents of Kings Park in the 1990's who navigated these uncharted waters to get our streets safer. Because of your tenacity, Kings Park is a better and safer place to live.

Cub Scout Pack 1965 Invites you to Join us on an Adventure

By Christine Franklin, Pack 1965 Recruitment Chair

Cub Scout Pack 1965 is now recruiting new members of all ages, especially Kindergarteners (Lions) and 1st graders (Tigers). We are a co-ed family scouting unit dedicated to helping students in grades K-5 learn new skills, enjoy outdoor adventures, and become good citizens. Please join us at a den meeting or our Raingutter Regatta, stop by our table at the KP/KG PTA Ice Cream Social, visit our website (www.pack1965.com), or send us an email (pack1965burke@gmail.com) to learn more. We look forward to meeting you!

Here's what some of our scouts had to say about their experiences last year and why you should join!

"I'm excited to join Cub Scouts and make new friends this year." - Lucas, Lion (Kindergarten)

"I loved the campouts! In the spring, we played ninjas vs. leafy attacks in the woods and had a campfire." -Henry, Tiger (1st grade)

"I liked making paper airplanes! You should join Cub Scouts because you learn something every year and then your learning keeps getting bigger and bigger." -Jacob, Tiger (1st grade)

"I liked archery at summer camp! I got to keep a playing card that I shot with an arrow. I recommend scouting because I get to see my friends every week and we make s'mores at our campouts." -Charlie, Wolf (3rd grade)

"Last year, we completed the whittling adventure and learned how to use a pocketknife safely. You should join because you learn new skills you've never even thought of, and you get to spend time with your friends." -Jackson, WEBELOS (4th grade)

"I loved playing a fishing game during a den meeting. Cub Scouts is really fun and you learn a BUNCH of skills." -Jude, WEBELOS (4th grade)





Our Kings Park Library: News and Updates

Free Tech Help Clinics This Fall

Want to learn more about using your iPhone? Need help with navigating Facebook? Build your knowledge of the Microsoft Office suite? These and many other tech questions can be answered by joining a drop-in Tech Help Clinic. The clinics are held on periodic Thursdays and are open to adults in Fairfax County. Registration isn't required; you can just drop in anytime between 1 and 3 p.m.

Library volunteers are available to answer technology related questions during these sessions. Stop by anytime during the session to meet with a volunteer. You'll be able to learn more about Microsoft Office, tablets, computer basics, phone navigation, Internet searches, and email.

Please bring any personal devices you may need assistance with, along with relevant usernames/passwords to access your device or related apps.

Upcoming Tech Help Clinics: **September 24, October 8, November 12, and December 10**

Lifelong Learning Events

The library's Lifelong Learning Events continue to cover a wide range of topics. Space is limited, so remember to register in advance. Find the event you're interested in on the [calendar](#) and then click on the green registration box.

September 29: How Older Investors Can Protect Their Money

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission will provide a financial literacy webinar offering tips on how older investors can reduce their chances of being victims of investment scams. You can join in person at Kings Park Library or live via webinar format on Zoom.

Tom Manganello from the SEC's Office of Investor Education and Assistance will share a brief overview of the mission of the SEC and some of the free resources that can help you build wealth and avoid scams. His talk will address the impact of investment scams and some of the tactics fraudsters use to exploit investors.

You will also learn about common fraud techniques like imposter scams and relationship investment scams that can begin with seemingly accidental texts or social media contacts and can lead to devastating losses and repeat victimization. The briefing will include concrete steps you can take to protect your money and online identity.

In-person space is limited, so be sure to sign up [here](#):

October 27: Overview of the Fairfax County Department of Aging Services

A representative from the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and Caregiver Support will discuss the county's Aging Services, including long-term care options and caregiver resources.

KP Book Fair

There are three opportunities to join the annual fall book sale at the Kings Park Library:

Thursday, October 22: 10 am to 7 pm

Friday, October 23: 10 am to 6 pm

Saturday, October 24: 10 am to 5 pm



September is Library Card Sign-Up Month

Interested in a free goodie bag or to be eligible for a raffle prize? Just sign up for a library card!

Dive in and discover how a library card can open up new learning adventures. Yes, a library card lets you check out books and other materials, but it also connects communities to information and inspiration. Today's library card offers entry to free classes and job resources, homework help, streaming media, and cultural events, among other activities and events.

National Library Card Sign-Up Month, an initiative of the American Library Association, has been held every September since 1987. It marks the beginning of the school year and is a visible way to combat illiteracy and encourages communities everywhere to explore all the offerings that a library card unlocks. Today, thousands of public libraries and schools nationwide participate in the month-long celebration each fall.

This year's theme, "A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes," is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone—regardless of age, background, or goals. Whether you're checking out a classic story or trying something new, there's always a seat in the front row at the library for you, and your library card is the ticket.

If you sign up for a library card at Kings Park Library during the month of September, you'll receive a goodie bag and will be eligible for a raffle to win a copy of *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. Patrons are also invited to check out our related book display, with music recommendations paired with each title. This September, B sharp and sign up for a library card!

Where: The KP Library's Meeting Room



Our Kings Park Library: News and Updates— *continued*

More Upcoming Events

Civics Programs

This fall's civics programs focus on the theme, Getting to Know Government: The Basics of Our Federal System:

September 26: What Does the Federal Government Do?

November 7: How Does the Federal Government Limit Its Own Power?

December 5: How Do Ideas Become Laws?

Author Talk: **September 28**

Award-winning author David O. Stewart discusses his latest book: *The Democracy We Must Keep: Seven Founders, Nine Documents, and the Ideas That Shaped America*. Stewart examines the impact of seven Founding Fathers as they shaped the United States and

explores the lasting importance of nine documents that were instrumental in forming our new democratic government and their relevance today.

You're encouraged to [register](#) for the event, although walk-ins are also welcome.

Copies of the book also will be available for purchase.

In conclusion, here's one of the many displays that reflects the library's diversity of services and opportunities for learning.



Upcoming Events in Kings Park VP of Events, Susan Metcalf

Halloween Decoration Contest (Tuesday, October 22nd)

Back by Popular Demand, the KPCA Halloween Decoration Contest, Tuesday, October 22nd (rain date October 23). 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.

KPCA Trunk or Treat (Sunday, October 25th from 3-4PM @ the pool)

Families and neighbors, children of all ages, please join us for the 13th annual Trunk or Treat on **Sunday**, October 25th 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. We will have our Third Annual Trunk Decorating Contest! Please plan on decorating your trunk and participating. The fabulous trophy will be presented to this year's winners the Bruss and the Paquette families who won the coveted trophy last year with their Woodland Fairy theme. If you are decorating your trunk and 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!

Kids' Holiday Party (Friday, December 6th at 6:30PM at Kings Park ES)

Please join us for the KPCA's annual Children's Holiday Party on Friday, December 6th. 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 you can attend. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please contact KingsParkCivicAssociation@gmail.com. Any students needing service hours are welcome to help, please 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. Volunteers can pick up any baked goods from you if you are not able to attend the party.

Holiday Lights/Decoration Contest (Thursday, December 17th)

The KPCA will be running its annual Holiday Decorating Competition on December 17th 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.



“LITT’L BIT O’ BRIT” TOUR

By Sandy Kester, Kings Park resident since 1999

‘alo, Matey. You ‘ere for the bus tour? We’re going about our neighborhood, figuring out the origins of our street names. Well, this time, let’s take a proper gander [look] at Ramsey Court. Ramsey is a litt’l market town in Cambridgeshire Fens [marsh]. Now, you might ‘be thinking it’s just another spot in the country, but you’d be having a bubble [dream] because this place is packed with history!

#1: Back in 969 AD, Ramsey Abbey was built until Old King ‘enry VIII smashed it up during Dissolution. In around 1536-1541 Old ‘enry smashed up all the monasteries in England, Wales and Ireland to confiscate the lands and to increase the Crown’s funds. Today you can still clock [look at] the Abbey Gatehouse and if you want to get your plates of meat [legs] moving. There’s plenty of stunning fenland scenery to clear your loaf of bread [head] after a ‘ectic week. There’s plenty of proper [good] community vibe too with scattered litt’l pubs where you can grab a pint of wallop and tuck [beer and food]. You can spend your time wandering the historic streets, checking out the church of St. Thomas a’ Becket, afterwards you’ll feel right as rain.

#2: Let’s have a deeper dive into another bloke – the famous Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay- the absolute mastermind behind the Dunkirk evacuation. Back in 1940 this legendary naval geezer truly saved the nation’s bacon, as they say. When the British troops totally were cornered by the enemy on the French coast, Old Bertram sat down in the tunnels beneath Dover Castle and devised “**Operation**

Dynamo.” He mobilized every boat he could find from fancy yachts to paddle boats and managed to bring 338,000 allied soldiers back across the ditch [the English channel] to safety. This bloke didn’t stop with that either; he was the dog’s balls [brilliant] and planned and commanded the naval side of things for invasions in North Africa and Sicily before commanding the biggest job of his life: the naval commander of the D-Day landings in 1944. Old Bertram was the quiet and meticulous sort of fella who expected everyone to pay attention to detail and ‘is loaf of bread [head/mind] is what saved millions of lives during the war. So, whether you’re raising a glass of wallop [beer] to the naval mastermind of Sir Bertram Ramsay or to the famous Old Ramsey Abbey, know that the name Ramsey/Ramsay is etched in British ‘istory. Cheers, Love!!



Sir Bertram Ramsay

Ramsey Abbey Gatehouse

Ryan's
LANDSCAPING
Planting, Clean-Up, Design, Retaining Walls & Patios

Ryan Minton

ryan@ryans-landscaping.com
www.ryans-landscaping.com
<https://www.facebook.com/RyansLandscaping.NOVA>

P.O. Box 5504
Springfield, VA 22150

Office: 703.569.4505
Cell: 703.967.2939





It's More About How We Get There

What Fairfax's Tree Commission hearing revealed about change, communication, and public trust

By Rob Nellis, Kings Park Resident

Organizational change affects more than an organizational chart. It affects whether people feel their work was valued, whether they still see a place for themselves, and whether they remain motivated to contribute.

That matters especially in local government, where boards and commissions depend heavily on residents volunteering their time, expertise, relationships, and enthusiasm.

I was reminded of that while watching roughly 75 minutes of public testimony and Board discussion at the August 25 Fairfax County Board of Supervisors meeting. The issue was whether to dissolve the county's Tree Commission and restructure the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, or EQAC, into a new Environmental Commission. Six people testified publicly, while the Clerk's office received 19 written statements on the item. The written record included opposition or requests for deferral from individual residents, the Tree Commission itself, and civic organizations representing several parts of Fairfax County. The volume and breadth of that engagement showed that the change had generated meaningful public concern.

What made the hearing striking was that the people involved largely agreed on what they wanted: healthy tree canopy, strong environmental expertise, meaningful public participation, and better environmental decision-making. Yet the discussion was long, passionate, and at times defensive.

Several Board members appeared to take criticism of the process or county staff personally. Even if some testimony felt unfair, that reaction concerned me. When longtime volunteers are already questioning whether their expertise and contributions will carry forward, defensiveness can reinforce the feeling that their concerns are being pushed aside rather than heard. So how did people who largely agree on the outcome become so divided over the path?

To me, the hearing became as much a lesson in how change is communicated and handled as a debate about environmental policy.

The county did conduct outreach. Staff met with the Tree Commission and EQAC, circulated proposed bylaws, gathered feedback, and made revisions. But by the time of the hearing, many of the people most invested in these organizations still lacked confidence about what would be preserved, how their roles would change, and why the restructuring needed to move forward when it did.

Those concerns carried additional weight because these were longstanding institutions. EQAC dates to 1972, while the Tree Commission was created in 1973 and has spent more than 50 years advising Fairfax County on its urban forest.

The lesson is not that institutions with long histories should never change. Fairfax has reorganized environmental advisory bodies before, and progress sometimes requires trying something new before every consequence is known. The challenge is preserving

what made the old structure valuable while bringing the people affected by the change along with it.

Supporters of consolidation made a reasonable case. Environmental issues overlap, and bringing different expertise into one commission may reduce silos and improve coordination. Braddock District Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer drew on her School Board experience to explain how separate advisory groups can miss issues that cross between their areas of focus. She concluded that the new model was "worth a try."

Many opponents were not arguing against change itself. They were focused on what might be lost in the transition. Tree Commission Chair Barbara Ryan raised concerns about dedicated tree expertise, public outreach, specific advisory responsibilities, and the Commission's role in monitoring the county's tree ordinance. Supervisor Walter Alcorn, the only Board member to vote against dissolving the Tree Commission, summarized the structural concern simply: "Going from 15 people dedicated to trees to two. That's a change."

Both perspectives can be true at the same time. The challenge is capturing the benefits of integration without losing what made the specialized bodies valuable.

Supervisor Dalia Palchik captured much of the hearing when she said, "We agree on so much of what was said in the outcomes. It's more about the how we get there."

The Board ultimately voted 9-1 to dissolve the Tree Commission and then unanimously approved the restructuring of EQAC. That decision is now made. The more useful question is what happens next.

Board members said the new Environmental Commission can continue many Tree Commission functions, create focused committees or work groups, and evolve as shortcomings emerge. The real measure of success will be whether the new structure actually preserves meaningful expertise and public participation while delivering the improved coordination its supporters expect.

And there is a broader lesson worth carrying forward. Change does not have to be risk-free before it moves ahead. But the more uncertainty a change involves, the more important communication, trust, continuity, and the experience of the people affected by it become.

For anyone interested in seeing the discussion firsthand, Fairfax County's recording of the August 25 meeting is available here: https://video.fairfaxcounty.gov/player/clip/4227?meta_id=98337

Author's note: I used AI tools to assist with research, organization, and editing for this article. I independently reviewed the hearing and source materials, and the views and conclusions expressed here are my own.



A Q&A with Dave Littere, the founder of Future Acres Urban Farming

By Karen Vahouny

Author's note: Dave is now Kings Park's official compost collector; he's also had growing success in expanding his special "breed" of composting throughout Fairfax County. I thought you might be interested in learning more about his innovative composting system that uses ... believe it or not ... black soldier fly larvae!

Q: Tell us what prompted you to launch Future Acres?

A: Initially, I looked into vertical farming as a way to make good food more accessible and because of the health benefits. The concept of repurposing shipping containers was very appealing to me. We started by growing microgreens, and then branched into composting.

Q: Where are you located?

A: Right next to Burke Nursery. I knew the owner, who had some unused adjacent land, and this worked out to be a win-win for both of us.

Q: Why should people compost?

A: A lot of food scraps and other organic material, like grass clippings, leaves, and paper, are thrown in the trash. An alternative is to collect these materials and compost them, which greatly reduces the amount of organic material that goes into landfills.

Composting has several benefits: It reduces greenhouse gases associated with landfills; the composted material can be added to soil, improving its quality; and it fends off pests without requiring chemical-based pesticides.

Q: Why do you use the larvae of black soldier flies in your composting system?

A: In a nutshell: speed and space. Basically, this is a type of vertical farming. I use a 20-foot shipping container, and inside there are multiple trays containing tiny black soldier fly larvae. Each tray contains about 10,000 one-day-old larvae. Within 10 days, the larvae grow into their full size and basically eat through the compost materials. What they produce is frass (aka the excrement from the fly larvae). It looks a lot like sawdust, and is a great soil enhancer.

Q: How much food waste can you process using fly larvae?

A: One shipping container can process about 12 tons of food waste every month.

Q: Why did you launch the compost collection program in Kings Park? You're charging our residents significantly less in comparison to your residential pickup customers.

A: Two reasons. First, I go right through KP every Wednesday after I pick up the compost material that county residents bring to our Urban Acres booth at the Wakefield farmers market. It's convenient for me to swing by a central location – Kings Park – on my way from Wakefield to my farm site. Second, very simply, it's one more easy step I can take to encourage composting.

Q: What are your goals for the future?

A: I'd like to continue to expand our organic recycling operations within Fairfax County. This could include:

- Adding more residential curbside pickup clients
- Building upon our more recent success in adding larger residential clients, such as apartment buildings and HOAs
- Signing up restaurants and grocery stores.
- Adding more Fairfax County public schools as clients
- Forming our first composting relationship with a large waste management organization.

Update: Dave has won a grant from the state of Virginia to add two more "mobile compost commands," which will triple his food waste processing capacity. He continues to actively promote his black soldier fly composting service because, in short, he can always use more food waste!

For more information, you can check out [Dave's website](#).





Real Estate Corner



Active/Coming Soon Listings

Style	Address	List Price
DUKE	8926 CROMWELL DR	\$774,900
DUKE	8622 KENILWORTH DR	\$804,900
KING	5510 KINGS PARK DR	\$819,000
KING	8923 CROMWELL	\$850,000
KING	8710 PICCADILLY PL	\$899,900
PRINCE	5506 VENTNOR LN	\$799,000
QUEEN	8447 THAMES ST	\$749,000
QUEEN	5502 KINGS PARK DR	\$819,000
QUEEN	5520 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$925,000

Under Contract Listings

Style	Address	List Price
KING	8624 PARLIAMENT DR	\$824,900

Sold				Subsidy (Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Final Price Reduction/ Increase	Date Closed
Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price				
DUKE	5502 KEMPTON DRIVE	\$740,000	\$742,000	\$0	\$742,000	\$2,000	6/30/2026
DUKE	8803 KENILWORTH DR	\$699,000	\$699,000	\$3,000	\$696,000	(\$3,000)	7/1/2026
DUKE	5313 WEYMOUTH DR	\$775,000	\$790,000	\$6,500	\$783,500	\$8,500	9/10/2026
KING	8441 THAMES ST	\$829,000	\$829,000	\$0	\$829,000	\$0	6/15/2026
KING	8640 VICTORIA RD	\$849,000	\$849,000	\$0	\$849,000	\$0	7/15/2026
PRINCE	8712 PICCADILLY PL	\$725,000	\$745,000	\$5,000	\$740,000	\$15,000	6/16/2026
PRINCE	8909 VICTORIA RD	\$799,000	\$790,000	\$500	\$789,500	(\$9,500)	7/27/2026
QUEEN	5510 EASTBOURNE DR	\$815,000	\$815,000	\$0	\$815,000	\$0	6/15/2026

Provided by Susan Metcalf, Corcoran McEneaney

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.

**BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2024**





Climate Corner

By Karen Vahouny

This column will take a different approach from past Climate Corners. I hope you'll enjoy the roundup of short updates and eco-friendly tips.

But first, here's a summary of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' recent meeting and decision about our county's Tree Commission, along with some tips on what each of us can do be good "tree caretakers." Thanks to Rob Nellis, a member of our Kings Park "Climate Corner Committee," who authored this wonderful recap!

Keeping an Eye on Fairfax County's Trees

On August 25, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to dissolve the long-standing Tree Commission and restructure EQAC into a new Environmental Commission. The new body is intended to bring different areas of environmental expertise together, but residents and longtime volunteers raised concerns about preserving the Tree Commission's specialized knowledge, outreach, and public role. With the vote now complete, the next step is to watch how the new Environmental Commission takes shape, including who is appointed, whether tree-focused committees or work groups are created, and whether the Tree Commission's key functions continue in practice. Residents can stay involved by following future meetings and public-comment opportunities, while also continuing hands-on stewardship of the trees in our own yards and neighborhoods.

Here are some simple ways we can help protect local trees:

- Check regularly for invasive vines. English ivy and other invasive vines can weaken trees over time. Cut vines near the ground rather than pulling established vines out of the canopy, which can damage the tree. Continue monitoring for regrowth.
- Watch for invasive plants and trees nearby. Species such as tree-of-heaven can spread aggressively and may require specific treatment methods. Identify the plant before cutting or removing it, since some invasive species respond to cutting by resprouting. And as always, be mindful of the Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) that runs through some properties before modifying existing plant life.
- Look for signs of pests or disease. Sudden leaf loss, dieback, unusual bark damage, boring insects, or other noticeable changes may be signs of stress, pests, or disease. Catching problems early can make treatment easier.
- Reduce unnecessary stress on trees. Proper watering, mulching, pruning, and avoiding damage to trunks and roots can help trees better withstand pests, disease, heat, and drought.
- Call a certified arborist when needed. Professional help is especially valuable for large trees, hazardous limbs, unexplained decline, pruning high in the canopy, or possible pest and disease problems.

Fairfax County's [Urban and Community Forestry Division](#) is also available as a local resource for residents with tree-care questions.

A Roundup of Eco-Focused News and Tips

Lake Accotink plans

Fairfax County hosted an open house on June 6 at Kings Glen Elementary School to update the community on the Smaller Lake Accotink Preservation Feasibility Study.

The well-attended event included a variety of booths and activities for adults and children, as well as a display of drawings and plans about the potential options for preserving the lake. Current plans address the potential of a 20- to 40-acre lake (smaller than its current size) with a 4- to 8-foot depth.

Stay tuned for more updates.



The Fairfax County's Lake Accotink open house attracted a number of residents, including Congressman James Walkinshaw, pictured here, with Dr. Turgay Dabak, the Lake Accotink project manager.

Farmers markets continue in full swing

The county offers 10 farmers markets, each offered weekly and featuring a variety of produce, breads, baked goods, and other goodies. The one closest to Kings Park is at Wakefield Park, near the Audrey Moore Rec Center off Braddock Road. The Wakefield market is open every Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m.



The produce I bought at a recent Wakefield market was so fresh and good!

Interested in composting but don't want a compost heap in your yard?

Consider joining the growing number of Kings Parkers who signed up for a special composting program offered only to KP residents. Dave Littere of the Burke-based Future Acres Urban Farming has the contract with Fairfax County to collect all compost at the 10 area Farmers Markets and has also launched composting contracts with several schools and HOAs.



Climate Corner—*continued*

By Karen Vahouny

Under our program, Dave picks up our KP residents' compost at a nearby, convenient central location (less than a mile away) and offers us a significant discount. The cost is only \$6/month. He's given us this discount to encourage Kings Park participation and to help generate even more composting interest throughout the county. If you're interested in learning more or signing up, just email him at dave@futureacresfarm.com.

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) lauded for sustainability leadership

The FCPA's commitment to sustainability and energy efficiency generated interest and recognition within the nation and our state. Its modernization of the Franconia Rec Center won the 2026 Department of Energy Better Buildings & Better Plants Award. The Spring Hill Rec Center's sustainability upgrades, including geothermal HVAC system and solar energy improvements, received the 2026 Virginia Governor's Environmental Excellence Award; the 2025 Department of Energy Better Buildings and Better Plants Award; and the 2025 Virginia Energy Efficiency Leadership Award from the Va. Energy Efficiency Council.

These projects are part of FCPA's effort to reduce energy consumption and support the county's environmental goals. In fact, the Park Authority reached its county energy goal – 25% reduction in energy use by 2030 -- five years ahead of schedule.

Solar power hits new milestone

Solar power has been making headlines lately, with *The Washington Post* noting it as "thriving" in a June article. In fact, solar remains the leading source of new power in the U.S. In May, solar supplied more of the U.S. electricity than coal, according to data from Ember, a global energy think tank; the Solar Energy Industries Association; and Wood Mackenzie, an analytics company.

Feedback on the Climate Corner? Idea for an article?

I hope you'll email me (kvahouny@gmail.com).

R & M Cleaning Services
We are licensed and insured!

- *RELIABLE
- *EXPERIENCED
- *GOOD REFERENCES
- *FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING
- *REASONABLE RATES

WE BRING OUR OWN EQUIPMENT
Free-in-home Estimate
Weekly/Bi-weekly/Monthly Or Occasional
Move-in or Move-out
Call Maryen or Raul at
703-321-5335



Parliament Pool Swim & Dive—Thank you Kings Park!

Michelle Stanley, Panther President

Thank you to the Kings Park community for your continued support of the Parliament Panthers Swim and Dive team. With multiple home meets on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays, we know it impacts the community. And this year our biggest event was hosting our swim Division 12 Divisionals where we hosted 5 other pools for a final swim meet. It was a huge success and that was in large part due to the communities support. So again thank you Kings Park!



Fall Edition

October 2026

corcoran

MCENEARNEY



Susan Metcalf, Realtor®

30+ YEARS SERVING KINGS PARK & PROUD RESIDENT

My unmatched expertise speaks for itself. No pressure, just honest advice and proven results. Your satisfaction is my top priority and 100% guaranteed, or my commission back!

Susan Metcalf

Realtor® Licensed in VA

703.472.6512 | susan.metcalf@corcoranmce.com

BEST
WASHINGTONIAN
2024



1320 Old Chain Bridge Road McLean, VA 22101 | 703.790.9090 | Corcoran® and the Corcoran Logo are registered service marks owned by Corcoran Group LLC. Corcoran Group LLC fully supports the principles of the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Opportunity Act. Each office is independently owned and operated. Not intended to solicit the listings of other brokers.

KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION—PO BOX 1243, SPRINGFIELD, VA 22151—WWW.KINGS-PARK.ORG