



Kings Park Gazette

A PUBLICATION OF KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

MARCH/APRIL 2010

You Are Invited To The Biggest Event of the Year

What: 3rd Annual Community Potluck Dinner
When: March 20, 2010
Time: 5:00 to 9:00 PM
Where: Lake Braddock Secondary School

Put Pot Luck Picture Here

RSVP: by March 14, 2010 to
marie@cullerton.com or 703-426-4904.

As an added incentive, double door prize tickets will be given to those who RSVP by March 14.

This is the event we have all been waiting for, so please don't be left out!

When you reply, please give Marie the first names of everyone in your party. We also need the ages of the children so we can buy age appropriate gifts and prizes.

Only Kings Park Civic Association Members will receive door prizes, so please join your Civic Association. Many of you have already joined the Civic Association this year and we appreciate your

support and community involvement. As a member you are automatically eligible for door prizes drawings at the potluck dinner.

We ask every family to bring a dish to share. The dish should feed your family plus eight additional people. We will supply appetizers, desserts and drinks, so please bring an entree, salad or side dish to share.

As in previous years, the Potluck Dinner is sponsored by local businesses who donate cash and door prizes to this event. See the included flyer for a list of the sponsors we have to date.

Hope to see you on March 20.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 18 – KPCA Meeting at Kings Park Elementary School 7:30pm
- March 20 – 3rd Annual Kings Park Community Potluck Dinner - Lake Braddock Secondary School
- April 15 – KPCA Meeting at Kings Park Elementary School 7:30pm
- April 17 – Storm Drain Clean-up Trafalgar entrance Kings Park Park 10:00am
- April 22 – Community Clean-Up Day 8:00am-12:00pm
- April 18 – KPINES at Tau Tau 1:15pm
- May 1 and 8 – Community Yard Sale 9:00am -12:00pm
- May 15 – Dog Day in the Park 10:00am- 1:00pm
- May 20 – KPCA Meeting and Elections at Kings Park Elementary School 7:30pm

From the President:**Grant Approval and President's Challenge**

In January, the KPCA was chosen by Fairfax County to receive a Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP) award of \$5,000. The NEPP funding opportunity by the County of Fairfax is to enhance the quality of life in neighborhoods by supporting projects and initiatives that assist in the county's vision elements. Our project was one of 32 projects chosen for an award this year. The goals of NEPP were to promote healthier, cleaner and safer neighborhoods; enhance neighborhood appearance; encourage or create a culture of engagement, including facilitating communication and connections in neighborhoods between individuals, youths and families; and build or nurture community leadership within a neighborhood.

The four Kings Park brick entrance signs on Braddock Road are over 40 years old and are crumbling. The grant money will be used to restore the brick signs by replacing the bad bricks, as well as reinforcing and stabilizing the overall signs. New letters will be installed. Another task of this project will be the placement of benches at two of the most used bus stops in Kings Park, providing a comfortable place for residents to sit while waiting for the bus or walking in the neighborhood. New perennials and trees will be added to the entrance signs, and the traffic nubs will be spruced up.

In order for us to keep the award money, the KPCA must surpass the total of the grant money through a combination of raised funds and 25% volunteer hours (at a value of \$20.25/hr) devoted to the projects listed above. We have budgeted \$550 from membership dues, and figure 200 volunteer hours. We need to raise \$2,000 from residents in order to match the eligibility requirements. We have raised to date approximately \$600 in funds through generous donations from 2010 members. I am issuing a President's Challenge to those who will help enhance our neighborhood with a \$50 donation. Donors will be listed in the next Gazette (unless you wish to maintain anonymity.) Please send your check to KPCA PO Box 1243 Springfield VA 22151, donate online at our website or feel free to contact a board member. It was with the kind generosity of many residents from last year that we have brand new message boards with landscaping. Our Braddock Road entrances are our first impression to all who drive by. Let's show our pride in our community!

Owens

Beth E.

Annual Election of the Kings Park Civic Association Board

Election for the Board of Directors will be held on May 20th. We are currently in search of residents willing to run this year to fill all the positions of the Board, except Immediate Past President. The positions include President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, 3rd Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Kathy Cameron has agreed to run again for the position of Secretary and Henry Cullerton for Treasurer. Kayleen Fitzgerald is heading up the nominating committee. Please contact Kayleen at briankayleen@aol.com or 703.282.5110. All 2010 KPCA members in good standing (that means dues have been paid for this year) may vote. Please attend the meeting and vote!

Just Another Bump in the Road....

The number to report potholes is 703.383.8368. You can also go to the VDOT website to file a report: <http://www.virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp>. This website is also useful if a plow or car wiped out any signs when the roads were bad, drainage issues or dead animals.

KINGS PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 1243

Springfield, Virginia 22151

Website: www.Kings-Park.org Email: Board@Kings-Park.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Beth Owens, President and Director of Block Captains

bethelise60@hotmail.com

703-426-2990

Evelyn Cohn, 1st Vice President

recohn@verizon.net

703-426-8570

Deb Discenza, 2nd Vice President and Recreation Chair

ddiscenza@gmail.com

703-764-3808

Joe Camacho, 3rd Vice President

lindajoecamacho@verizon.net

703-425-8906

Kathy Young, Secretary

kathleenacameron@verizon.net

703-425-8633

Henry Cullerton, Treasurer

henry@cullerton.com

703-426-4904

Lucy Daris, Immediate Past President

dariscl@aol.com

703-978-1072

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership: Donna Stecker

dojsteck@msn.com

703-323-5773

Public Safety and Security: Eldon Christensen

ejcbdb@yahoo.com

703-425-6155

Government Affairs: Ken Malmberg

ken.malmberg@gmail.com

Communications: Susan Metcalf

Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net

703-503-0176

Beautification and Landscaping:

Cheron Rhodes cmjr@cox.net

Rita Faudale ricciola@verizon.net

Youth Community Services: Susan Metcalf

and Ann Dodson:

Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net

703-503-0176

adodson828@gmail.com

703-425-1604

Traffic: Steve Araps

703-503-5669

saraps@erols.com

Emergency Preparedness:

Sher Plunkett sherplunkett@gmail.com

703-503-0277

Animal Lost & Found: Marguerite Westin 703-978-6229

and Joan Richards

703-978-1296

Environmental Awareness: Beverly Boschert

terry.boschert@verizon.net

Seniors: Gene Mercer

703-978-8705

Social and 4th of July: Rita Botting

Rita.Botting@gmail.com

Community Potluck Chair: Marie Cullerton

mcullerton42@mac.com

703-426-4904

ABOUT THE GAZETTE:

The Gazette is published every other month. A directory is published once a year. The next directory will be distributed in during the month of March 2010. Gazette suggestions and submissions can be sent via e-mail to Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net. The KPCA reserves the right not to publish any material it deems inappropriate. To advertise in the Gazette, please see the Advertising form at www.Kings-Park.org or contact Susan Metcalf. If

you are moving and want to continue receiving the Gazette, you can still be a member of KPCA. Just join and let us know that you need your Gazette mailed to you at your new address.

Snow Removal

With record-setting snowfall totals making the history books this winter, we all suffered from immobility on a scale never seen before. As I wrote in a previous Gazette, a natural or man-made disaster could potentially leave you and your family on your own for at least 3 days without help from the authorities. In the case of clearing the roads, VDOT was totally overwhelmed and days turned into weeks. The Northern Virginia area is not equipped to deal with just one snowfall of the magnitude we experienced, much less a series of back-to-back storms which literally paralyzed us. Our daytime temperatures never reached their norms of 40 degrees or higher which always assists in melting a large snowfall the next day. The State of Virginia (which owns all the roads in Fairfax County) does not budget money or own equipment on the scale of New York State, where just a few years ago Buffalo had 7 feet of snow on Christmas Day. If you would like the State to purchase more equipment and hire more employees for snow removal, you have a voice! However, the snowfall *totals* for the past 5 years have been 8.0, 6.5, 14.7, 13.8 and 17.3 inches, respectively. The first snowfall in December caught everyone off-guard. Some streets were plowed of only 3 or so inches off the top of 20+ inches, and I can personally report my section of Cromwell never saw a plow. I've been told an ambulance was unable to reach a resident in time to save them. Our deepest condolences go out to the family. By the time the 3rd snowstorm dropped more snow, VDOT (with prodding from our County Board of Supervisors) got with the program and brought in bobcats and earth-movers and small trucks with plows and blanketed our neighborhood. A bobcat worked on my small section of street till 2 am, when the driver (even with my steady supply of hot coffee) could not keep his eyes open any longer. The streets still had horribly rutted and icy areas and at that point, it was up to warm weather to melt the hard-packed material since plows aren't able to scrape ice.

With the snow removal process came frustration. Lots of it. And I as President of the KPCA heard about it. I even had 3 threats. Folks, the KPCA is NOT an arm of the government, nor are we associated with the government. We are not even a Home Owner's Association- just a Civic Association. Our main mission is to keep the neighborhood informed by publishing the Gazette on pertinent or helpful topics. We run the Neighborhood Watch to improve the safety of our community. And we run social events in order to bring our community together. VDOT is the state agency dedicated to removing snow and complaints should be made to their main line 703-383-VDOT or email novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Braddock District Supervisor Cook's office was also fielding phone calls to be passed onto VDOT (703-425-9300). During the last series of snow events the Supervisor's office as well as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Bulova's office were sending out emails detailing road conditions and actions being taken, as well as handy phone numbers for utilities and services. If you wish, you may sign up for these email bulletins at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/ and chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov. Please also consider signing up for the Community Emergency Alert Network: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/>.

With the past snow crisis fresh in mind, this is the perfect time for residents to fill out the emergency preparedness form and send it in (it's also online at our website www.kings-park.org.) A very pleasant woman from Eastbourne Drive called asking if we had a phone tree to get out the news of aiding in shoveling our elementary schools. We do not, due to a poor response for a completed emergency preparedness form. With the snowfall totals we received, some DC areas were experiencing roof collapses. We were fortunate not to have any major structural damage, at least to

our knowledge. But in case of widespread emergencies, we cannot rely on the authorities to assist each of us affected in a quick fashion. We must rely upon ourselves to help each other out. Please take a few minutes to fill out the form.

And we did help our fellow residents out! It was wonderful to see neighbors helping neighbors digging out our driveways and keeping our sidewalks clear. Folks helped push stuck cars out of snow banks and ran to the store for those who could not get out. Supervisor’s Cook office had a list of folks with 4-wheel drive vehicles willing to drive those in need of medical attention or doctor’s appointments. Sidewalks and bus stops were sufficiently cleared for our kids to get to school as safely as possible. We came together in a time of need. I salute everyone who aided another during these difficult times.

There are a few ideas about how to handle extreme snowstorms that we may have to weather in the future. One is to have everyone park on the even-numbered sides of our streets affording more room for snow plows to clear larger lanes. Residents can also park in the Kings Park Shopping Center or one of the elementary schools until plows pass by and then retrieve your cars. Keeping cars off the streets allows VDOT to clear your street as best as possible. Secondly, I’ve heard of 10 families on a street getting together and purchasing a snow-blower for \$50 a family and storing it in someone’s shed. Most folks are charged a minimum of \$50 to be cleared out just once. Third is to keep ahead of the snowfall. Many folks attacked their walkways and driveways every so many inches of snow so that it was not back-breaking work when the storm was finished. Pre-arrange with a teenager who would like to make a little money shoveling snow before the storm hits if you can’t shovel your own property. They can tackle it as well in segments. An idea has also been tossed around about hiring private contractors with plows, and not waiting for VDOT to plow us out. This however would require almost complete agreement amongst all residents. If there is significant interest in doing so, please feel free to contact us at board@kings-park.org. If all 1,152 homes were to pay \$20, I’m sure we could locate a contractor for a whole winter. On a smaller scale, if residents on a street were to all agree to it, they could independently hire a contractor.

Let’s hope our record-breaking winter stops now! Who hired that groundhog anyway??

Ice Damming on King Models (Cape Cods)

Many Cape Cods suffered ice damming during the month of February before the weather significantly warmed up. With the steep slope of the roofs, the abundant snow packed downwards onto the gutters, effectively creating mini-glaciers from the pressure of the weight of the snow. This ice blocked the flow of water through the gutter system. As the snow on the roofs up high began to melt either due to escape of warm air through ridge vents (intended purpose), lack of insulation in the attic, direct sunlight or above-freezing temperatures, the resulting water running down the roof had no place to go but back up under the shingles and into the homes due to the ice. Water leaked out around the trim to the front windows and/or the front door frame. Protect your home by monitoring the amount of snow piling up on your roof and have a contractor come remove the snow on the gutter and about 4 feet above. The ice-damming should resolve itself within a few days. In extreme circumstances, hot water may be used to open up the gutters. Do not try to rip the ice out of the gutters by yanking on the icicles-you might pull down the gutters. Placing old pantyhose filled with ice melt and laying these in the gutters has been suggested to help remove existing ice and prevent new ice formation.

Everyone has a flue...

Please be aware that with the massive snowfall totals many chimneys were seen to be blocked with snow. Your furnace vents to the chimney and if blocked, can lead to serious health issues, including death, if your furnace isn't functioning properly. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous, odorless gas, and even carbon dioxide in high levels causes problems. Please make sure you have a carbon monoxide (CO) detector to use when your gas furnace is on. It is recommended to put one on every floor. The chimneys with cages around the tops seemed most susceptible to snow blockage. After a significantly large snowstorm, please take a peek at your chimney to make sure it is unblocked.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors in Kings Park

Has someone in Kings Park done something nice for you and you are looking for a sufficient way to thank him or her? Consider a public thank you in the *Kings Park Gazette*! Just send your note by e-mail to board@kings-park.org and please remember to keep the statement simple and to the point. Here are some we've heard of already.....

This Person is Grateful . . .

Residents of Piccadilly Place
The Gearys & The Discenzas

Lucy Daris

Shirley Verdi

Deb Discenza

Anita Brand

Beth Owens

Beth, again...

. . . to This Wonderful Samaritan

Paul Groover for keeping us shoveled out!!

Joe Camacho for snow-blowing their front walks during all of the season's crazy snow storms

Bill Seifer and family for helping shovel out her yard over the winter.

Michael Ahern, Lloyd Johnston and Gaye Stone for going above and beyond the call of duty with shoveling and snow-blowing.

A huge thank you to Joe Camacho, Jeff Geary & Mark Queener and the Langleys for the helping her get shoveled out numerous times while her husband was away on business.

Matt Norris with helping the residents on Ramsey Ct in the absence of snow plows. Matt used his truck to compact the snow leading up to their driveways that allowed them to enter and exit their driveways to their cul-de-sac.

Virginia Maxwell, Deb Discenza, Joan Bowersox, Bobby Jones, Lucy Daris, Kathy Cameron, Marie & Henry/Hank Cullerton, Susan Metcalf, Donna Stecker, Amy Henry, Liz Rivera and especially Evelyn Cohn for help in all sorts of ways during my recovery from surgery.

Evelyn, Robert, Matt and Rachel Cohn; Joe Aiello and Barry Midway for helping my son keep my walk and drive clear of snow and ice so I could make doctor's appointments.

Thanks to Henry Cullerton for this fabulous column idea!

Call for Email Addresses

It has been the standard practice of the KPCA over the years to offer special emails to only KPCA members who supply their email address. With the snow emergency information circulated by the Board of Supervisors, and immediate attention for King model residents about potential ice damming, the need for folks to help shovel out our neighborhood schools, it seems irresponsible not to open an additional line of communication for all those in Kings Park. To join the KPCA email list, email Beth at bethelise60@hotmail.com with “email address” in the subject line and we will add your name to the list. We limit the number of emails sent, but do send out notices of KPCA events as well as other immediate news of importance. You may, of course, remove yourself from the list at any time.

Through Rain, Through Snow.....

Although not a true pledge of the U.S. Postal Service, our mail carriers have been working like crazy to get your mail to your home at least every other day (and night.) Please be patient as they are working into the evening hours (mine came by flashlight at 8:10 pm last night) and are exhausted. I have been assured they will try to deliver daily any medicines from a mail order house if they hear the familiar rattle of pills. Hug your mail carrier!!

Kings Park Community Spring Food Drive

The Kings Park Community Spring Food Drive will be held again in conjunction with the Potluck Dinner on Saturday, March 20th. Local community food banks are suffering severe shortages with greater requests than ever with the bad economy. Donations dwindle after the Holidays are over, but families still need to eat all year long. Please help support those less fortunate. With the strength of our numbers here in the community, if everyone could donate just one canned or boxed good per household imagine how we can help stock the shelves of a local food bank!! The food bank of St. Stephen’s Methodist Church on Braddock Road will be the recipient. Donations will be accepted the night of the Community Potluck Dinner, or will be picked up the morning of March 20th. Please leave the canned or boxed goods in a bag in a visible location on your porch or steps by 10 am in the morning. If this is not convenient, please contact Beth at 703-426-2990 or bethelise60@hotmail.com to arrange a special pick-up anytime before March 20th. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Annual Community Clean-up Day

We are attempting to set-up a clean-up day with Fairfax County on Saturday April 17 from 8am-12pm. KPCA members have a chance to have large items and other trash removed by a team of hard-working residents. Place items by the curbside for pick-up or bring them to Trafalgar at the park entrance for disposal in trash dumpsters. Roy Warner will again be generously coordinating clean-up day and can be reached at either roy.c.warner@verizon.net or 703-250-5328. Special arrangements may be arranged for larger items you can’t get to the curb by yourself. You must contact Roy to be put on the list for pick-up. Please check back with the May/June Gazette or our message boards and website in early May to confirm the date. The KPCA is in desperate need of strong, young men willing to help Roy out—do you have the muscles necessary? We need volunteers!

Kings Park is FaceBooking and Tweeting on Twitter!

We are excited to announce that Kings Park has a FaceBook page: [Kings Park VA](#) and a Twitter page: [Kings Park](#). Look for regular updates on each page regarding local news, events and much, much more!

Annual Community Yard Sale

This year's annual community yard sale is set for both Saturday, May 1st and Saturday, May 8th from 9 AM -12 PM. This year the KPCA is advertising the 2 weekend dates in order to compensate for potential bad weather, plans for other activities and folks who could use 2 separate days to unload items to a greater number of shoppers. Advertising has been arranged through the Washington Post, Craig's List, a local paper TBD as well as signs posted out on Braddock and Rolling Roads. In order to increase traffic through the neighborhood and ensure all yard sales are noticed, we are asking for residents who are planning to hold a yard sale to register in advance with the KPCA so that we might generate a list of participating households. This list of addresses will be available at each registered Kings Park household and can be handed out to those patronizing our yard sales. Please register your address (and which date or dates you will be participating) by April 28th by emailing Beth at bethelise60@Hotmail.com or calling 703.426.2990. Residents registering by the 28th will receive on Friday, April 30th a packet of flyers with the list of the participants on one side and our community map on the reverse.

Note: Pre-owned husbands for sale are not allowed to be placed with the other yard sale items unless they are provided a food and water source and kept in the shade.

Ask For Solicitor's Permit

All business solicitors in Fairfax County are required by law to have a solicitor's license. (This law doesn't apply to things like school fund-raising or Boy/Girl Scouts or political surveyors.) The front of the license contains a photo and other identifying information. The back contains the employer name, phone number, date of issue and date of expiration. The solicitor is required by law to have the license in their possession; show it to a purchaser upon request; only solicit between 9:00 am and 8:00 pm

If you do deal with solicitors, request to see their solicitor's permit (See example next page.) If they DO NOT have a valid one: politely refuse to do business with them and let them leave; note how many, approx. age, race, dress, location and direction of travel. If they are working out of a car, try to get the car description including the license plate number; and call the non emergency number at 703-691-2131 and report it.

Excuses like "I'm new and I've applied for the license but these things take time" or "I don't have it on me, but my boss has one" are NOT legitimate – they just demonstrate non-compliance with the law. To obtain a license, one simply has to make an appointment, come in with 3 photos, and pay about \$20.


Please help keep dishonest folks out of the neighborhood. Reporting unlicensed solicitors helps send a message to scam artists and non-reputable businessmen to avoid preying on our residents.

Neighborhood Watch is Looking for YOU

Please volunteer to be a driver or run shotgun for the Neighborhood Watch Program. A few hours for a circuit around our neighborhood is all it takes to help maintain the safe community we live in. There were no crime reports for Kings Park in January or February!! Please contact Eldon Christensen at ejcbdb@yahoo.com or 703-425-6155. And, of course, a heartfelt thanks for those who already volunteer.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SOLICITOR'S LICENSE

Solicitor **MUST** have a similar license in their possession and display it on request

	NAME Alvin Leon Goode			
	ADDRESS 103 Ash Tree Lane, Washington, VA 22747			
HEIGHT 5'7"	WEIGHT 180	EYES Green	HAIR Black	
DOB 1/24/1962		SOC/SEC# 000-00-0000		

IT IS AGAINST THE LAW

1. To not have this license in your possession when peddling/soliciting.
2. To refuse to show this license to a purchaser or a police officer.
3. To peddle/solicit before 9:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m.
4. To peddle/solicit upon property where signs prohibit such activity.
5. To peddle/solicit from a state highway right-of-way.
6. To violate the provisions of the Virginia Consumer Protection Act or the Home Solicitation Sales Act.

FAIRFAX COUNTY DOES NOT, BY ISSUING THIS LICENSE, ENDORSE EITHER THE LICENSEE, BUSINESS OR PRODUCT.

Cecil C. Calver
Director, Consumer Protection Division
Dept. of Cable Comm. and Consumer Protection
CA-136

FRONT

BACK

TYPE OF GOODS Mattress Cleaning & Sanitizing		NO. S05-046
EMPLOYER AllergenPro		PHONE 703-730-0733
EMPLOYER'S ADDRESS PO Box 2331, Woodbridge, VA 22195		
ISSUED (DATE) 7/1/2002	EXPIRES (DATE) 7/1/2003	
LEFT THUMB PRINT	RIGHT THUMB PRINT	

KPINES Choices for March and April

Please note that we do not plan to have a brunch outing on Sunday March 21, 2010. This is the morning after the Kings Park Community Potluck Dinner and many of the committee members and volunteers will need their rest. Besides, everyone will be so stuffed from all the good food our neighbors bring to the dinner that we may not need to eat for a week. As a reminder, please RSVP for the potluck dinner, if you have not yet done so.

On April 18, we will head out to Tau Tau Chinese Restaurant. The restaurant has a buffet and is located at 6413 Shiplett Boulevard, Burke, VA at the Rolling Valley Mall. The price for the buffet is \$6.95 for adults and \$4.25 for children under age 10 and includes tea. Please note that we have changed the time for this particular brunch to 1:15 PM. This later than usual time was chosen in an attempt to increase attendance. Some people told us that they sleep-in or attend religious services on Sunday mornings. Hopefully, a later start will enable more of our Kings Park neighbors to attend.

Please RSVP to Susan Metcalf by the Friday before each brunch at 703-503-0176 or Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net. If you would like to be placed on an email list to be reminded a few days before a scheduled lunch/brunch, please email Susan Metcalf at Susan.Metcalf@verizon.net with "KPINES" in the subject line.

Call for Door Prizes for Potluck Dinner

If you are a resident that provides a service or owns a business and would like to advertise among your community, please consider donating a door prize for our annual potluck. Please contact Marie at marie@cullerton.com or 703-426-4904 to donate a door prize.

Dog Day in the Park Rescheduled

Unfortunately, the previously scheduled canine event was “dogged” by bad weather and had to be cancelled. But never fear, the dogs of Kings Park shall try to unite once again! Saturday May 15th. 2010 10 am -1pm. Be there or be feline! Some of our previously invited guests have already agreed to come back that day- the Village Veterinary Clinic and Dr. John Lonam; Sara Riddle, pet photographer; and Lee Trimble, Bark Busters. Lee has offered to present a seminar for anyone- dog owner or not- who would prefer never to be bitten by a dog ever again. “Sniff” out a pencil and “mark” your calendar for this tail-wagging event. Sunday the 16th is the rain date.

Book Club

The next book club meeting will be Tuesday, March 23rd at 7:30 PM at Lucy Daris’ home. The new book being discussed is “Dune” by Frank Herbert. Please feel free to drop by and listen or read the book and join in the discussion-all are welcome! Call 703-978-1072 for details. Future meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of every month- same bat time, same bat channel! The upcoming reading schedule for following months are: April: “The Lost Symbol” by Dan Brown and May: “The Help” by Amy Einhorn.

Annual Senior Luncheon

The annual senior luncheon sponsored by the KPCA for senior members will be held at the Hunan West Restaurant in the Kings Park Shopping Center on Tuesday, May 25th at 1:30 PM. Please RSVP to Gene Mercer at 703.978.8705. A snowball fight will be held immediately afterwards in the parking lot with all the leftover snow from the winter storms. Chopsticks optional!

The Stork has Arrived Again- Twice! In One Location!

Double congratulations to Valerie Sinkovits and John Cook on the arrival of their twin sons born on December 30th: Andrew John (6 lbs, 5 oz) and Steven McRael (6 lbs, 2 oz). Twice the diapers would be how many--hmmmm? Egads! Best wishes to the entire family.

Celebrate Earth Day: Kings Park Storm Drain Cleanup

Please join us for the 2nd Annual Kings Park Storm Drain Cleanup on Saturday, April 17. Please meet at the Trafalgar entrance to Kings Park Park at 10:00 AM. Wear work clothes and gloves. Bring your own clean up tools, bags for pickup will be provided. Clean up “starts at home”-- the more we can keep out of the storm drains in Kings Park the less we contribute to pollution in Lake Accotink, the Potomac River, the Chesapeake Bay and all the nearby waterways. The 2009 cleanup prevented 9 bags of trash and recyclables and 21 bags of leaves and dirt from entering the storm drains in Kings Park streets. This event is organized by the Environmental Awareness Committee. See you on Saturday, April 17. Rain date: Saturday, April 24. Please contact Beverly Boschert by email terry.boschert@verizon.net or phone

Commission on Aging (COA)

The purpose of the COA is to identify and promote better understanding of the problems of the aging, and to plan, promote and conduct activities to contribute to their well-being. Each District is represented, and we meet monthly to discuss activities and actions to recommend to the Fairfax Board of Supervisors (BOS).

This year we started off with a proclamation declaring 2010 the Year of the Older Adult in Fairfax County. Throughout the year we expect to develop activities and actions that will draw attention to the older community in a positive and developmental way. We have divided up responsibilities taken from the BOS 50+ plan for 2010. Part of my responsibility is to address affordability of housing for the older segment of the population having limited resources. A part of that is developing affordable workforce housing for direct care workers serving older adults in new housing initiatives, so they can live in the County and not have to commute from elsewhere. Some other 50+ topics being worked on by the Commission include building aging friendly communities, transportation, care-giving, technology use and safety/security.

I am also interested in infrastructure improvements for the older population that will improve their quality of life, including improving walking and sidewalk availability, and farmer's markets. Pieces on County initiatives in these 2 areas are found elsewhere in this issue of the Gazette.

Please keep me informed of any issues you think are appropriate in my role as Commissioner at ken.malmberg@gmail.com or 703-425-1478. A useful website is www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm.

Respectfully, Dr. Ken Malmberg

Enjoy Fairfax County's Farmer Markets

As spring approaches, so does the opening of the Fairfax County Farmer Markets. Sponsored through Green Spring Park, and coordinated by volunteer market masters, these markets run from the beginning of May until the end of October or later depending on the market. The markets offer a wonderful range of delicious fresh produce grown on local farms and orchards within a 125 mile radius of Fairfax County. Other products offered include bread and other bakery items, meat and eggs, ice cream, cheese, salsa, honey, plants and flowers, all produced by local vendors. Markets within the Braddock district include the Wakefield and Burke Markets. Others on the edge of the Braddock District include the Fairfax, Vienna/Oakton and Annandale Markets. Details on the locations, dates and times of these markets can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farm-mkt.htm. We will publish the hours and days in the next issue of the Gazette.

Community Reinvigoration of Trails and Sidewalks

Our community sidewalks and trails are a key ingredient in maintaining and improving the quality of life in Kings Park. Keeping our sidewalks and trails clear and accessible helps to maintain a safe environment for children to bike and play, for neighbors to socialize and residents to commute to work, school and nearby shopping centers. Conditions which inhibit the full enjoyment of our neighborhood trails and sidewalks include:

cont'd page 12

cont'd from page 11

- Narrowing of sidewalks and trails due to overgrowth of grass and weeds;
- Restriction of access due to overgrowth of bushes into a walkway. Sidewalks are designed with a one foot clearance on either side;
- Low overhanging trees that interfere with both biking or walking. Sidewalks are designed with a ten foot vertical clearance;
- In addition, for safety reasons, county zoning requires that visibility around a corner include an unobstructed view between 3 and 10 feet in height to a line approximately 15 to 20 feet back from the corner along each side.

Frequently, bushes and trees that were planted without recognition of future growth have resulted in generation of unusable sidewalks and unsafe corner conditions for both pedestrians and vehicles. The county asks that all residents look critically at the conditions of their sidewalks and nearby trails to help maintain and improve the overall accessibility and quality of life within Kings Park this spring and throughout the year.

Emergency Preparedness Reminder

By the time you read this, Kings Park has endured a record snowfall, with all its problems and dangers. By now, also, you've perhaps experienced your own problems with your home, sidewalks, trees, water, power, medical and health issues, food supplies, children's needs -- including entertainment and school --, pets..... and on and on.

So now is the time to take note of recent lessons learned, and revise -- or make up -- your family and home Emergency Plan and to list what you and your family need for your own Emergency Kit. You're the best judge of your needs and situation, but here's an Internet link to a site that can provide you with ideas and help you get started: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/#>

There are many more such sources of information and supplies to be found on the Internet. If you have a specific question or to receive a copy of the Emergency Preparedness Form, please send me an email at sherplunkett@hotmail.com or call 703-503-0277 and I will try to help. Also, please remember that Kings Park's safety and security, and our ability to respond to emergencies, is grounded in your awareness, preparedness, and participation with your neighbors to meet local needs. Please respond to the KPCA emergency preparedness survey, and consider improving your emergency preparedness skills through CERT or other emergency training available in Fairfax County.

KPCA Community Meeting Topics for January & February

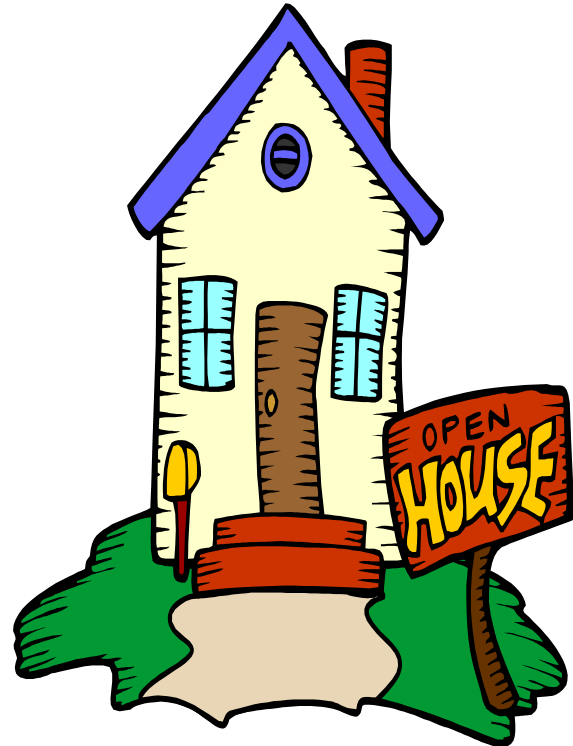
Steven Ruiz of BeeryRio will be our guest speaker on March 18, 2010 at our 7:30pm KPCA meeting at Kings Park Elementary School. Steve is the Executive Vice President of the award-winning architectural firm, BeeryRio and he will present a case study in how to renovate your home now using Universal Design, with the future goal of living there as you age to accommodate possible physical limitations.

Kari Osborn of Quality Moving and Storage will be our guest speaker on April 15, 2010 at our 7:30 KPCA meeting. Kari will be talking about getting ready for a move.

Real Estate Corner

Active Listings

Style	Address	List Price
Kings	5405 ROLLING RD	\$389,900
Prince	8520 SALISBURY CT	\$375,000
Duke	8904 VICTORIA RD	\$389,000
Duke	5628 EASTBOURNE DR	\$409,900



Under Contract

Style	Address	List Price
Duchess	8720 PARLIAMENT DR	\$325,000
Duke	5615 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$279,900
Duke	5520 EASTBOURNE DR	\$315,000
Duke	8939 BURKE LAKE RD	\$340,000
Duke	8636 CROMWELL DR	\$395,000
King	8809 KENILWORTH DR	\$369,900
King	8803 PARLIAMENT DR	\$435,000
King	5526 KEMPTON DR	\$435,000
Prince	5506 KINGS PARK DR	\$300,000
Prince	5507 EASTBOURNE DR	\$320,000
Prince	5302 KINGS PARK DR	\$369,000
Queen	8605 KENILWORTH DR	\$350,000
Queen	5204 SOUTHAMPTON DR	\$469,900

Sold

Style	Address	List Price	Sold Price	(Seller's Credit to Buyer)	Final Sold Price	Price Reduction/Increase	Date Closed
Duke	5528 EASTBOURNE DR	\$449,900	\$440,000	\$5,000	\$435,000	\$14,900	1/13/2010
King	5500 KEMPTON DR	\$389,000	\$382,000	\$5,000	\$377,000	\$12,000	1/27/2010
King	8606 CLYDESDALE RD	\$420,000	\$420,000	\$10,000	\$410,000	\$10,000	2/20/2010
Prince	8648 CROMWELL DR	\$425,000	\$409,000	\$7,000	\$402,000	\$23,000	1/5/2010

***Provided by Susan Metcalf, Avery Hess Realtors
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

Golf or Bowling, Anyone?

Burke Lake Golf Course has a wonderful deal for their well-groomed 18 hole, par-3 course for seniors and juniors. Golf carts are available, lessons are available- and you can even rent the clubs for the day! Bobby Jones would love to especially get a group of seniors together during weekdays (of course when the greens are really green, not white) and will also help set up a junior program (did you know universities offer golf scholarships, Mom and Dad?) Bowl America on Guinea Road will also set up teams for anyone as well. Please contact Bobby at 703.978.0199 and she will get things rolling and flying. Level of experience not a concern. Get out and get some exercise!

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/burkegolf/>

76 Trombones Led the Big Parade....

Summer is only 4 months away... Can you feel the heat and humidity already? Please don't forget we need folks (or groups) to march or ride or drive in the 4th of July parade! We need clowns to walk the parade route and hand out candy to the kids, and volunteers for all sorts of activities. Please contact Rita Botting, head clown, at rita.botting@gmail.com or 703-425-1293. Volunteering can be done in segments of 15 minutes so we don't intrude on your holiday fun. We need many volunteers to make these events work, from grilling hot dogs, to selling snow cones, to manning the moon bounce, helping set up the parade at the school, setting up the morning of. Whatever your skills, your time preference, or your schedule, we can fit you in! Please contact Rita now so she can get some sleep before late June. There is nothing more terrifying than the feeling you are on your own with 800 guests coming! If you will be viewing the parade or live close to the parade route and would help us keep the parade safe by playing monitor to keep the cars behind the police barriers, please give Rita a holler as well. Happy 234th USA!! (You don't look a day over 200.)

Braddock District Council Report

Thanks to Randy Crabtree Jr. and Ken Malmberg for attending meetings of the Braddock District Council (BDC). Randy reports the BDC now has a website that is up and running at www.bdcfx.org. The past few meetings have been heavily focused on the issue of cutting grass in the median strips on major roads which have been reduced from 5 mowings to 3 per year due to budget cuts. Three options were put up for a vote:

A. BDC raise funds to hire Contractor(s) for grass mowing

B. BDC organize Braddock Associations for grass mowing

This Option would create and train work parties of Association members, rent or buy mowing and safety equipment, and coordinate mowing dates and locations with VDOT. .

C. BDC advocate for State and County Policy and Revenue Changes in mowing

The results of the vote will be announced at the March 9th meeting.

Also discussed: a parking ordinance for King's Park West was recently progressing toward approval; due to funding shortfalls at VDOT, there is a good chance there will be no repaving this year, but the County is looking at utilizing County funds for major issues; no major changes on the proposed Danbury Forest Dog Park, but the association exploring the dog park will be looking for dog owners from other associations to assist in the maintenance of the dog park once FCPA approves the site.