

# KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 19, Issue 4 • October 2013

## An Important Notice to Residents of Kenwood Park

Because of declining enrollment for the security patrol, the KPCA Board of Directors recently met to discuss whether to discontinue the service, even though our police community relations officer (District 2) recently expressed the opinion that our visible patrol does deter criminals from their activities in Kenwood Park. The security patrol is by far the largest cost component in operating the KPCA. The Board prefers not to discontinue the service.

Either a great many more residents need to enroll or the patrol will be stopped. The annual cost is modest and it will continue the safety and security we have enjoyed for many years. An enrollment form appears elsewhere in this edition of the News.

If you do not want to support the KPCA and the patrol, the KPCA Board members would very much

like to have your reason(s) why you do not think there is sufficient value to the patrol. Please send your comments to [news@kpcaonline.org](mailto:news@kpcaonline.org) or contact the president at 301-263-0452.

The Board's decision will be made in the next two or three months. This time frame will promise that enough funds will be available to return the prorated portion of the dues to those who paid to support the patrol for the whole year.

If the security patrol is discontinued, the current thinking is that the other activities of the association, such as the Newsletter, website, list-serve, potluck, holiday festivities for children, and support of the many clubs in Kenwood Park would continue.

Come Kick-Off Trick-or-Treating at the

## Kenwood Park Kids' Halloween Party

Thursday, October 31st, 4-6 pm

on Marbury Court

**Games and Prizes for All!**

If you can assist in planning the party, please contact Meg O'Leary at 301-320-3884 or [megoleary4@gmail.com](mailto:megoleary4@gmail.com)

Ken Rubinson, *President* (301) 263-0452 [pres@KPCAonline.org](mailto:pres@KPCAonline.org)  
MSS Office: (301) 384-7777 (Hrs: M-F, 9-5) Patrol car: (240) 793-6255  
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kpcaonline.org>

## KPCA GARDEN CLUB

### Kids' Tree Ghost Decorations For the New Durbin Rd. Triangle Neighborhood Garden

In September, Kenwood Park neighbors: Stephen Miller, Ajit Thyagarajan, Naren Roy, Chevanniese Smith, Krishna Collie and Sinaly Roy, under the guidance of Shannon Russell from **New Leaf Garden Designs** completed phase one of the New Durbin Road Triangle Neighborhood Garden. The participants learned ecologically friendly techniques in the preparation of a new bed and installed new plants for all to enjoy.

We would like to celebrate by decorating trees around the garden with tree ghosts for the Halloween Season.

**KIDS:** Design your own tree ghost. (All you need is about a square foot of white cloth/or plastic. A ball or crumpled piece of glossy paper to make a head. Cover the head with the cloth and tie a string securely around the neck. Design a face with waterproof markers). Don't Be Afraid to be Creative!

Drop off your tree ghost in the box at 5724 Durbin Rd. (across the street from the garden) any time before Oct. 30th. We'll begin hanging them in the trees 2 weeks before Halloween.

Check out: <http://www.squidoo.com/how-to-make-easy-ghost-halloween-tree-ornaments>

For more information, contact: Sinaly Roy at 301-229-3459 or [Sinalymroy@gmail.com](mailto:Sinalymroy@gmail.com)

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## Email Notifications

The KPCA is now sending out neighborhood information by email about four times a year and also if there is a warning needed about safety issues in the neighborhood. These include if a theft occurs, the presence of aggressive solicitations being made house to house, and if a child has been made uncomfortable by interaction with a stranger in the area.

Since all our neighbors do not have email or are not registered, we ask that the safety information be relayed by those who do receive the messages to their unconnected neighbors. If you wish to join in and have these messages delivered to you, we will encourage you to join our website.

# Kenwood Park Citizens Association

**Please renew your membership today (or join for the first time).**

*July 1, 2013, to June 30, 2014*

- Security patrol contribution and KPCA membership together: \$338.
- KPCA membership only: \$100.

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: First \_\_\_\_\_ Last (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks out to KPCA (or to the Kenwood Park Citizens Association)

Please mail to: Austin King  
KPCA Treasurer  
6604 Millwood Rd.  
Bethesda, MD 20817

Questions?: [pres@kpcaonline.org](mailto:pres@kpcaonline.org)

## **Clara Barton Community Center 7th Annual Haunted House October 27**

The Clara Barton Community Center will hold its seventh annual Haunted House on Sunday, October 27, from 4 to 6 pm at 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John. Once again, the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, will create a very scary experience the Sunday before Halloween!

Although all ages are welcome, children up to age 12 will probably find it most rewarding. Parents, please accompany the young ones. No charge for entry. Refreshments will be served, and small gift items will be handed out to kids. For adults, we will have a small, separate section that will feature frightening things—trust us on this! Hope you will visit and be very frightened.

For more information about the location of the event, contact the Center at 240-777-4910, or visit the website at:

<http://www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org/event.html>

## Shutdown...and More

What a topsy turvy real estate environment it has been! With the shutdown and fears of the housing market here in the DC area coming to a complete standstill and the real lack of inventory, buyers and sellers have been bounced around between fear and excitement. Worried that they would be in default because their tax returns and employment couldn't be verified with the IRS and federal agencies closed, buyers feared losing their deposits, being sued for damages or being without housing in worst case scenarios. Sellers fears of not being able to make the next move due to lack of closing funds have caused tremendous anxiety. And the lenders, although coming up with "work around" temporary solutions, have been worrying about not being able to sell unverified bundled mortgages on the secondary market which would put a freeze on their ability to lend at all.

Even if you receive this newsletter and the shutdown is resolved, there will certainly be a backlog in verification time frames, which may well set back some settlements. But closings will happen and homes will be sold! And certainly an all cash buyer avoids these issues!

However, we are approaching the holiday season, which is historically the slowest time of the year for home sales. Given the lack of inventory and predictions that this situation is not going to change in the near future, anyone who puts their home on the market now will still likely see a quick sale, as long as the home is priced appropriately. The interest rates took a dip again this week and although we are not at the recent all time lows, we are still in a historically low range. There are only 38 detached homes actively for sale in 20817 between \$600,000 and \$1,200,000. And there are NONE for sale in Kenwood Park at this time!

*Contributed by Linda Chaletzky  
lchaletzky@eversco.com*

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\*Statistics are taken from the Metropolitan Regional Information System for three areas: Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church in Virginia.

## Computer Classes at Jewish Council for the Aging

BECOME COMPUTER SAVVY! Sign up for computer classes with Jewish Council for the Aging's Senior Tech. Classes are taught by dedicated expert instructors and are designed to introduce, refresh or advance computer skills. Classes are held in Rockville, Gaithersburg and Northern Virginia and are ongoing throughout the year. Fees range from \$15-\$80 and range from 1 week to 6 week sessions. Computer classes are small in size and there are free assisted practice times available at all locations. Call now and get started on your way to becoming computer savvy.

**For more information visit: [www.accessjca.org](http://www.accessjca.org) to view the current course catalog**

**or call (240) 395-0916**

## 2 Bills to Protect and Maintain Trees Approved

The Montgomery County Council on July 23 approved Bill 35-12 and Bill 41-12 that will protect roadside trees that are targeted to be trimmed, cut down or otherwise damaged, and will require owners of infill development properties to plant trees to bolster the County's "tree canopy."

Bill 35-12, which was approved unanimously, would require property owners who apply for a sediment control permit to plant trees even if they did not take down trees as part of their development. Sediment control permits are required if more than 5,000 square feet of property would be disturbed.

The bill is intended to help the canopy of shade trees that benefit the County in numerous ways. The bill would not apply to major developments, which have a different set of tree protection mitigation requirements.

Bill 35-12 requires property owners to plant three shade trees on a smaller lot and a greater number of trees on larger lots. Property owners have the option of paying into a fund for tree canopy conservation projects. The bill would require 400 square feet of open space per shade tree planted onsite.

The bill also would require the County's Department of Environmental Protection to develop a comprehensive County-wide shade tree planting plan.

Bill 41-12, which was sponsored by Councilmembers Roger Berliner and Marc Elrich, was approved 7-2. Council President Nancy Navarro, Vice President Craig Rice and Councilmembers Berliner, Elrich, Phil Andrews, Valerie Ervin and Hans Riemer voted to support the bill. Councilmembers Nancy Floreen and George Leventhal were opposed.

"Today is a big day for everyone who loves trees," said Councilmember Berliner. "The Council has passed two major pieces of legislation that together protect trees in our County rights of way and preserve our tree canopy. The bills reflect the extraordinary importance of trees to our residents, and the environmental, aesthetic and economic value they add to our quality of life in Montgomery County."

Councilmember Elrich said: "I am proud that we passed two important environmental bills today. I started work on the tree issue when I first was elected to the Council. A bill to strengthen the Forest Conservation Law was my first major legislative initiative. This has been a long, six-year process and today it culminated in the passage of two bills: one to better maintain our road side trees and a second that fosters the protection and preservation of our tree canopy. I want to thank Councilmember Berliner who, working with the County Executive Leggett's staff from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation and the Department of Permitting Services, worked hard and long to address the concerns of the various stakeholders and to shape bills that have a meaningful and positive outcome for the environment and for the residents of our County."

Bill 41-12 primarily addresses County-owned trees that are in County right-of-ways. In many instances, trees that a property owner considers to be their trees actually are in County right-of-ways and Bill 41-12 would apply in those cases. In some cases, property owners want to cut down trees they believe to be unsafe, but when a property owner wants to cut down a roadside tree for other reasons, they would have to get a State tree care permit and a County right-of-way permit.

The bill authorizes the Department of Transportation to create a tree replacement fund to pay for needed roadside trees. An applicant who wants to cut down or trim a roadside tree will be required to get a County right-of-way permit from the Department of Permitting Services. That application will be required to include a site-specific tree protection plan.

The bill also requires a permittee who removes a roadside tree both to plant another tree, from a County recommended tree list, at or near the site, and also to pay into a tree replacement fund that will allow the County to plant two more trees in a right of way.

The effective date of both bills will be March 1, 2014.

## Blinkers

Our dark winter nights start early and make driving in the presence of pedestrians dangerous for both drivers and walkers. Strangely, the winter D.C. dress code of all black clothes seems all too often to be the choice of walkers. We encourage everyone walking to wear at least some white or bright color somewhere. However, to increase the safety of everyone, the KPCA has in stock some bright orange flashers that can be worn when out in the dark such as when walking to the school bus stop in the morning. These are available to KPCA members only with the number limited to the number we already have on hand. If you have them from last fall, please use them before requesting new ones.

Each member home can request a number of blinkers equal to the number of children plus two. These will be dropped off at your home. To get blinkers, please send an email to [pres@kpcaonline.org](mailto:pres@kpcaonline.org) with the header "Blinkers." In the body of the note, mention how many are needed and the address.

## An October workshop for parents of high school students with learning challenges

My colleague, Margi Kramer, and I have been developing an exciting and informative two night seminar for parents of high school students with learning challenges. It is called *Navigate The Accommodations Journey*, and is designed to educate parents about student advocacy skills, the process of standardized testing, and school accommodations.

Margi and I feel we can provide a particular level of expertise as we both served as Learning Specialists in High Schools for many years. Most importantly, this interactive workshop should serve as a forum for parents of like-concerns to share ideas as well as gain information.

The two evening workshop Oct. 16 and 23 - consecutive Wednesdays - will take place at La Madeline in Bethesda, and is very affordable - \$60

Judy Lorber, M.Ed. ([judylrbr@gmail.com](mailto:judylrbr@gmail.com), (301) 461-8461), Educational Consultant, Learning/Attention/Executive Functioning Issues at the H.S. Level.

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## Request for Vacation Coverage from the Security Service

The security service operates through the evening, night and morning.

If you want to make a specific request for vacation coverage or other specific service, call M-F between 9 AM and 5 PM before you leave town. Phone **301-384-7777**. A phone number of a local contact with a spare key is most helpful.

For an evening emergency call **240-793-6255** (the patrol car). If there is any problem getting in contact immediately, call 301-384-7777 and ask for the supervisor of the Kenwood Park patrol service.

This service is available to members of KPCA. Non-members can easily sign up by contacting Ken Rubinson by phone or email, [pres@KPCAonline.org](mailto:pres@KPCAonline.org).

## Bridge

Interested in playing bridge or starting a bridge club in Kenwood Park? Please call KP residents Gloria Fitchett at (301) 229-8400 or Christina Lobo at (301) 229-3490. We could start playing soon.

## Traffic Cones

The KPCA has a number of orange traffic cones available for neighborhood events. If anyone in Kenwood Park needs to borrow them, contact [pres@kpcasonline.org](mailto:pres@kpcasonline.org).

## Advertise in the KPCA News

Size	Dimensions		Price
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Half-Page Horiz.	5" h x 7 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> " w	30 x 45	Contact: Edward Elson <a href="mailto:news@kpcasonline.org">news@kpcasonline.org</a> (301) 320-2837
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## Neighborhood Services Available

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J. Flaherty	(301) 229-2602
C. Goldman	(301) 320-1582
Michelle Dressner	(301) 652-5453
Olivia Barber	(301) 760-7535
Katie Choppin (certified)	(301) 229-9139
Anne Charpentier (certified)	(301) 320-4310
Bailey and Hannah (sisters, H.S. students, both CPR cert., Children's Hospital, babysitting cert.)	(301) 312-8606

### Leaf Rakers, Snowshovelers, Odd Jobs

Isaac Bacon (Whitman HS student)	(240) 507-8075
<i>IsaacBacon43@gmail.com</i>	
Shafi Noss	(301) 325-8360
Amber White	(301) 588-6474
<i>(apamberpower@gmail.com) (loving and reliable dog walker)</i>	
Alex (10th grader at French Int'l School)	<i>acpiot@gmail.com</i>
Ray Shao (DIY handyman/lawn mowing)	(240) 421-5095
Chris Fowler (lawns, water plants, pet care, move heavy objects)	<i>chris.fowler419@gmail.com</i> (301) 455-8187

### GET LISTED HERE FREE:

Leave name and phone number with Editor, Edward Elson, at (301) 320-2837 or email [news@kpcasonline.org](mailto:news@kpcasonline.org)



## Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park Book Club is reading Neil Gaiman's *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* and we'll meet next on

October 30. Contact [sgust@msn.com](mailto:sgust@msn.com) for more info.

## One-Stop All County Government Information at 311

MC311 is Montgomery County's simple, three-digit, one stop phone number for customers to call (3-1-1) or site to visit ([www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311)) to obtain non-emergency County information and services and to enter service requests or send emails.

The system continues to grow and expand. As county residents become more familiar with it and the relative ease of reaching County services by simply dialing 311, the county expects call volume to continue to rise.

A recent survey of hundreds of 311 users showed about 75 percent of users satisfied with the time it took to reach a Customer Service Representative. Seventy-two percent were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the handling of their call. The survey showed 75 percent satisfied or extremely satisfied with their overall 311 experience.

MC311 has proved a valuable resource making more efficient the way the County delivers non-emergency customer service.

# KPCA News

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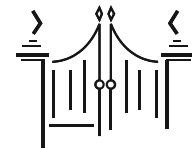
### *Massage Therapist*

My Daughter, Clio Berney is a Licensed Massage Therapist with further certification in:

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- Pregnancy Massage**
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Richard Berney



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Edward Elson, *Editor*