

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 19, Issue 5 • December 2013

President's Corner

With much delay, I, on behalf of the KPCA, would like to thank all those people who made the kids' Halloween party such a success, under the guidance of Meg O'Leary. They are Evan Smith, Seth Goldman, Nancy Rubino, Grace O'Leary and friends, Betsey Kane, Mike O'Leary, and Jim Campbell. The circle at Marbury Ct. was filled with families having fun with games, treats, and the moon bounce along with Halloween music.

Thanks, folks.

Also at the beginning of a new year, the KPCA board would like to invite you to volunteer some time for your neighborhood. Particularly, with so many events for kids, some parents with young children could help.

In addition, we need a new treasurer since Austin King, who has been filling the position, is moving away soon. Also, it is time for us to let someone new become president of the KPCA.

Expressions of desire to volunteer for or questions about board positions should be sent to pres@kpcasonline.org. None of them requires that many hours a month.

Finally, I wish you a stellar new year filled with family and friends and great, new experiences.

Ken Rubinson
KPCA President

Our District Police Commander Says:

A theft occurred in the 6100 block of Shady Oak Lane in Bethesda sometime between Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 11 and 12. Property was taken from outside the residence.

Although the year-to-date crime numbers continue to look good overall for 2013, there have been several recent serious crimes in the 2nd District which I wanted to share some information on so **you can continue to be our eyes and ears**. Most importantly, I want to thank an alert resident yesterday whose 911 call led to a pursuit and arrest of two suspects responsible for a string of thefts of copper

(Continued on page 2)

KPCA Calendar

The Garden Club

See Inside

The Kennel Club

See Inside

Book Club

See Inside

New Security Service and Changes in Requests for Vacation Coverage

The security security service that we had in Kenwood Park was bought out, and its quality deteriorated significantly. As a result, as of December 1st, it was replaced with Alpha Security. As before, the security service operates on a variable schedule: either 8 P.M. to 4 A.M. or 9 P.M. to 5 A.M. on a random basis.

New telephone numbers will be used. The phone at the office of the service at **301-292-3000** is manned 24/7, although part of the time it is an answering service.

For an evening emergency when the patrol car is on duty in Kenwood Park, it can be reached at **240-210-6580**.

The emergency service is for the **whole community**, although far too few homes are supporting the patrol. Do your part and help the KPCA pay for the patrol. We all benefit from its presence.

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.

Ken Rubinson, *President* (301) 263-0452 pres@KPCAonline.org
NEW → Alpha Security: (301) 292-3000 (24/7) Patrol car: (240) 210-6580 ← **NEW**
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kpcasonline.org>

gutters and downspouts. This resident observed a suspicious white male knocking on his door asking to clean his gutters. The suspect appeared disheveled and was thought to be casing the area. 911 was called with a description of the suspect and the van he was driving, and when spotted by one of the responding officers, the van fled and eventually crashed where the suspects were arrested and van full of copper gutters was recovered.

On November 4th, some homes in the area of Saul Rd. were burglarized by two black male suspects. At least two separate residents observed these suspects and knew that they were acting suspiciously (knocking on doors, never been in the neighborhood before, and carrying a suitcase with them), yet no one thought to call 911 to report their observations. **One simple call would have allowed us to respond and make an arrest or at least identify the two suspects before they could commit any crimes.**

On November 9th, a resident of Potomac used Craigslist to sell his car. After a test drive, the resident went into his house to retrieve a spare set of keys and the suspect took off in the car. The resident took another car to search for the stolen car and spotted both the car and an officer that was on his way to work. After a short pursuit, the suspect crashed into a bus stop and was arrested. **Please use extreme caution when using sites such as Craigslist to buy/sell items, and consider whether the savings is worth the effort and potential hazard.**

On November 16th, officers were following a suspect that has been involved in several previous crimes. He was observed going to a residence and looking in several obvious hiding spots for a hide-a-key. He then went to the rear of the home and came running out moments later. A traffic stop was made and property from the residence was recovered. Because this arrest violated his probation for a recent conviction, he will be in jail for some time. **Please remember that burglars will often try to gain access to a home by entering an unlocked door or window, or finding a spare key left outside.**

On November 25th, a home invasion was committed by two black males in a neighborhood near the Wildwood Shopping Center. The suspects took the victim's car which was recovered nearby a short time later by responding officers. The suspects had already made their get-away. Similar to the November 4th burglary above, a neighborhood canvass revealed that several residents observed these suspects earlier in the day walking through the neighborhood. No one had ever seen them before and told us that they thought the pair was suspicious. **One call to us may have prevented this family from becoming victims of this very serious crime.**

LOCK YOUR CARS! 96 thefts from cars in November which is a 2013 monthly high - 74 of the 96 were unlocked! When you shop, hide your items in the trunk and take them im-



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mediately into your home. This is a crime prevalent this time of year, and thieves will generally ignore a locked car with nothing worth stealing visible and move on to the unlocked one.

COUNTY POLICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NON-EMERGENCY 301-279-8000

EMERGENCY 911

NEW NUMBER FOR THE 2ND DISTRICT is 240-773-6700

Captain David Falcinelli
Commander – 2nd District
301-652-9200

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

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Tel: 301-718-1088 Blog: bethesdapcrepair.wordpress.com

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.

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Todd Wood
Real Estate

Year End Real Estate Report for Kenwood Park

2013 was a relatively quiet year for Kenwood Park in terms of volume. Only 12 homes sold and currently there are none on the market. Prices have remained steady, with a median price of \$937,000 and an average of \$1,000,167. The average number of days on the market was almost halved from the year before at 18.

This year the least expensive home to sell in Kenwood Park was \$810,000 and the most expensive was new construction at \$1,795,000.

Interestingly, fully one third of this year's sales were for "tear downs". Although Kenwood Park was at one time considered too expensive for that kind of redevelopment, our neighborhood is no longer off limits because builders have been able to sell new construction at particularly high prices. They are still looking for a "good deal", however, so they focus on homes that have not been renovated or are in poor condition but on a good lot.

In terms of the future, it is important to note that interest rates are up 1% from where they were last spring. That means that the same amount of money will buy that much less of a house since prices are stable. Between that and the sequester and shut-down, buyers are still wary about making large purchases. There is still competi-

tion for homes, but the escalation clauses that caused the market to be on fire in 2006/7 are more conservative now, with buyers much less willing to go far out on a limb.

Because it has been a sellers' market I often hear owners saying they don't want/need to do much to prepare their homes for sale. These days that is somewhat true but not to the extent some sellers feel. The buyers are looking for homes that do not look neglected. They will not buy something because they are frustrated at the lack of selection. Although it may not be necessary to install new granite countertops to lure in a buyer, your Formica better not have burn marks on it and your vinyl floor should not be torn.

Hopefully 2014 will bring a robust real estate market, with good selection, serious buyers and everyone reaching their goals!

*Contributed by Linda Chaletzky
lchaletzky@eversco.com*

*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.

Pet Care Tips for Cold Weather

Keep your pets inside as much as you can when the mercury drops. If you have to take them out, stay outside with them. When you're cold enough to go inside, they probably are too. If you absolutely must leave them outside for a significant time try leaving out a hot water bottle, wrapped in a towel.

Check your furnace for carbon monoxide leakage before you turn it on, both for your pets' health and your own. Pets generally are more vulnerable to monoxide poisoning than the rest of the family.

Pets that go outside can pick up rock salt, ice, and chemical ice melts in their foot pads. To keep your pet's pads from getting chapped and raw, wipe their feet with a washcloth when they come inside. This will also keep them from licking the salt off their feet, which could cause an inflammation of their digestive tract.

Put a sweater on your pet. Pets lose most of their body heat from the pads of their feet, their ears, and their respiratory tract. The best way to guard your animals against the cold is keeping a close eye on them to make sure they're comfortable.

Before you turn your engine on, check beneath the car or make a lot of noise by honking the horn or rapping on the hood to ensure there are no pets curling up under your car or on the car engine.

If you light a fire or plug in a space heater to keep your home toasty warm, keep an eye out to make sure that no tails or paws come in contact with flames, heating coils, or hot surfaces, while snuggling with your pet.

Be gentle with elderly and arthritic pets during the winter. The cold can leave their joints extremely stiff and tender.

When you're outside with your pets during the winter, you can watch them for signs of discomfort with the cold. If they whine, shiver, seem anxious, slow down or stop moving, or start to look for warm places to burrow, they're saying they want to get back someplace warm.

Wishing you and your pet a beautiful winter and fabulous time taking in the icicles, the snow banks, and the warm, glowing fire at the end of the day.

From Your Friends at KP Kennel Club

New Bike Paths are Coming

While Goldsboro Road was being repaved last month, surveyors were working on a new bike path that will run along Goldsboro from Bradley across River and down to Clara Barton.

Information on this project can be found at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/projects/goldsboro/index.html>

Meanwhile, the plans for the bike path along Bradley has been sitting on the county web site since about 2010. A large file with information on that path will automatically download at the following URL www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dot-dte/resources/files/BradleyBlvdProspectusBody05182011.pdf

The two projects seem to be completely independent even though they will meet up at Goldsboro and Bradley. If you want to put a word of support for both projects, send a note to Greg Hwang, Project Manager, Division of Transportation Engineering (Greg.Hwang@montgomerycountymd.gov). Phone: 240-777-7279

Both paths will be beneficial to the bikers of Kenwood Park.

KPCA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

So what does the garden club do? We get together to meet neighbors, share gardening ideas, beautify our neighborhood public spaces, and teach our kids about the joy and satisfaction of working with nature and making things grow.

Plans for 2014, will include a coffee hour Q & A on the use of native plants for low maintenance gardens, with the wonderful garden designers from "New Leaf Designs" and a neighborhood social at the Durbin Rd. Triangle.

Please Contact: sinalymroy@gmail.com or 301-229-3459 to be included in our email list and make sure you are updated on all our events.

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.

Neighborhood Services Available

Baby Sitters

L. Sorcher (Certified)	(301) 229-2328
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)</i> (loving and reliable dog walker)	
Alex (10th grader at French Int'l School)	<i>acpiot@gmail.com</i>
Ray Shao (DIY handyperson/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@kpcaonline.org



Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park book club will meet next on January 6, 2014 and we are reading the novel *Norwegian by Night* by Derek Miller. For more information, please contact sjgust@msn.com.

information, please contact sjgust@msn.com.

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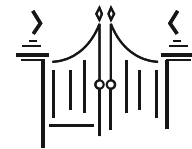
Massage Therapist

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

- Active Isolated Stretching Massage**
- Pregnancy Massage**
- Hot Stones Massage**

She has an office in our home on Millwood Road. For an appointment please call her at 301-905-2721.

Richard Berney



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Edward Elson, *Editor*