

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Promoting and enhancing the Kenwood Park neighborhood

Volume 25, Issue 3 • December 2019

From The KPCA Board Of Directors

We wish all of our residents Happy Holidays and a blessed New Year. Our Association has operated with two missions: providing for neighborhood safety, and offering social events to promote community cohesion and, hopefully, enjoyable events.

To start the New Year, we are having a social event/ Board meeting on Sunday, January 12, from 2 to 4 PM at the Connie Morella Library on Arlington Road. We had this very event last January, with a large attendance, including our revered Connie Morella. It was much more social than a staid Board meeting, and had some great discussions.

We have two guest speakers planned. One is Sara Love, our delegate in the Maryland Legislature, representing our 16th district in the House of Delegates. The other is Colette Beyer, the brand new Field Operations Manager for Urban Alarm, our security service. She will briefly describe operations and answer questions about the service. Refreshments will be served. We hope you can come and mingle with and meet your neighbors.

As part of the first mission, the security service has always been a “balancing act,” trying to provide a desirable service against the cost that subscribers will bear. Approximately one third of residents have accepted the balance and subscribed. Virtually every Board meeting tries to re-balance cost versus “product” in order to attract more residents, but we have observed very little change in the percentage of subscribers over the last few years. Many residents have questioned the need for the service in view of advances in surveillance technology, and we certainly concur that it is a reasonable assessment. Those who have used the service over the years, and have gone on travel for

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The winner of the Funniest/Scariest house decoration is this front lawn on Tanglewood Drive

UPDATE: Struggle For Quiet Skies In Maryland

As a consequence of a significant surge in complaints, the diligent work of the many volunteers in the Montgomery County Quiet Skies Coalition, meetings with the FAA and the airport authority and the efforts of local government, Maryland has taken several steps to address the issues, including litigation and an initial hearing that was held November 14, 2019 in federal court in DC. In addition, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen and others joined Senator Cardin in introducing the Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act (S. 2837) bill. <https://www.cardin.senate.gov/newsroom/press/release/cardin-legislation-would-accelerate-development-of-quieter-airplanes>.

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Foroud Arsanjani, Acting President vp@KPCAonline.org
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kpcaonline.org> for the latest news and events

UPDATE ON THE LIST SERVE

Thank you to all who tried to join our KPCA list serve on our web site, kpcaonline.org. Unfortunately, we didn't realize that the software program we were using had a limit of only 50 entries, so most of you were bounced back. We are rectifying this problem by contracting with a new list serve and web services provider. As soon as we have this set up, we will let you know via the current privately held Kenwood Park list serve, kenwoodpark@groups.io (which replaced the Yahoo group), as well as this newsletter. We will also update our web site with the information, so stay tuned.

Message from the Garden Club

by Sinaly Roy

This Fall, KPCA worked with Montgomery County to arrange for a group of street trees to be planted in the spring for KPCA residents. Street trees provide shade, cool the surrounding area, and absorb carbon dioxide (not to mention the charm and beauty that add value and appeal to our neighborhood).

Many of the cherry trees that line our streets are reaching the end of their life. If you have a dying tree on your property, you can contact Montgomery County directly at (240)777-0311 to have it removed, for free, or go to their website at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Tree/TreeRemove.html>.

You can also individually request a free street tree to be planted in the right way at <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Tree/TreePlant.html>

Garden Club plans for this spring will include our traditional Plant Swap. We will also be looking for volunteers and plant donations to continue to beautify the traffic circle at Lenox and Millwood.

Please contact : Sinaly Roy at garden@kpcaonline.org, if you have any suggestions or project ideas.

We Can Help You Shine!

As the days get shorter, our streets get darker sooner, yet speeding cars won't slow down!



To help keep you safe we are asking all our walkers, runners and pet walkers to wear reflective vests to help drivers see you in the dark. Please make sure you have your reflective item on when you walk your dog or go for a walk. Every year we have discussed this in our community meet-

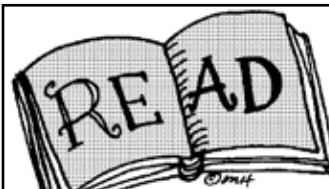
ings. This year we are offering to help you buy one.

Here is a link from Amazon where you can buy your vest for as low as \$1.99:

Hosaire Reflective Vest for Running Cycling Jogging Motorcycle Dog Walking High Visibility Safety Gear for Men and Women Yellow:

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B074K322J3/ref=cm_sw_r_cp_api_i_cDW7Db3QJNAEG

If you don't have access to the internet, KP Kennel Club can order it for you for the same price. Please email us at KP Kennel Club at kpkenneel@kpcaonline.org.



Book Club

The Kenwood Park Book Club will meet again shortly. For information please contact Sandy Gust at sjgust@uwalumni.com.

Acknowledgments

The Editor wishes to thank the contributors to this issue and Ken Chaletzky of Copy General for his contribution to the preparation of the issue. Thanks go also to Hannah Elson for valuable suggestions and editing skills.

Edward Elson news@kpcaonline.org

GOINGS ON IN OUR COMMUNITY

contributed by Jo Ann Harrison

Greening Kenwood Park

KPCA encourages residents to support the county's Tree Cover initiative by replacing dead trees in Kenwood Park. See garden club chair Sinaly Roy's article in this issue for more information.

KPCA also supports Montgomery County's new pesticide law. The Board urges residents to use only products certified for organic gardening on lawns and playgrounds to protect the residents' health. For more information see: MontgomeryCountyMD.gov/Lawns

Gas Repairs in Kenwood Park

Washington Gas has completed all its main installation and service connections in Kenwood Park. The process of disconnecting the old main will resume shortly after the first of the year, weather permitting; the paving will follow. Unfortunately, it's hard to provide a timeline for the paving restoration this time of year.

Fatal Traffic Accident in Kenwood Park

Many of you have by now heard about the horrific accident that occurred in Kenwood Park on Thursday, December 12th. A 9-year-old girl was struck by a school bus near the intersection of Tanglewood Drive and Millwood Road. She has not been identified publicly by police, so we will respect the family's privacy. She was a fourth-grade student at Bradley Hills Elementary School. Police received the initial call for the crash at 3:49 p.m. after the bus driver called 911. According to the Washington Post, the bus video camera showed that the girl, who had been let off with other students, walked back to the bus as it was pulling away, and somehow got tangled in the side door. She died of her injuries at the hospital later that night.

We as a community are grieving and devastated. The KPCA board and our community stand ready to help in any way we can. Neighbors who know the family were asked by the girl's cousin to send sympathy cards, not phone calls, and some are providing meals. The care and concern expressed by the community is sincerely appreciated by the family.

MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis

The MCPS Districtwide Boundary Analysis is an initiative designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of Montgomery County Public School boundaries. As part of this assessment, a series of regional public meetings will be held in six locations around the county in December and January. All residents of Montgomery County are invited to attend to learn more about the Boundary Analysis process and give feedback. The dates and locations of the meetings are as follows: December 4 at Gaithersburg High School, December 11 at Julius West Middle School, December 14 at White Oak Middle Oak, January 7 at Walter Johnson High School, January 11 at Montgomery Blair High School, and January 14 at Northwest High School.

The Year in Crime

2019 saw a few crimes in Kenwood Park, but fewer than in nearby neighborhoods. We had one burglary/ breaking and entering incident on Whittier Blvd, in October. We had several thefts from parked cars around the neighborhood. Theft from cars accounts for a third of all the larcenies in the county. We had a few other incidents the police labeled larcenies, and crime against property, and one postal larceny. We are not counting all the crimes in the high school. Be sure to lock your car door or your garage door, and support our security patrol so we can have more patrol hours.



Adults had fun at the Fall Festival, too!

Change Is In The Wind

In case you haven't been following the local news, the Board of Education for Montgomery County has undertaken a countywide school boundary analysis. This study will not require changes but will analyze issues such as demographics, travel time, and overcrowding. It has been decades since an analysis has been undertaken and the county has seen exponential growth. Although not recommending or requiring changes, many see this as a first step toward school redistricting. In an attempt to equalize demographics, including socioeconomic, bussing has been discussed as a possible option.

Of course, this entire issue has led to some heated exchanges and discussions, cries of elitism and racism. Frequently the topic of home values comes up, particularly when people think about not having neighborhood schools. In Kenwood Park many and maybe most of the residents have considered the school district one of the key factors in why they selected the homes they live in. The reputation of the schools and the "walkability" to Pyle and Whitman have been crucial for some. It has prompted them to pay more for a home here than for a similar one in another school district.

Fear of declining home values, when verbalized, have led to comments about privilege and status. Now there is talk of forbidding Realtors from mentioning/advertising which school district coincides with each listing. Many Realtors are already voluntarily not including this information in marketing materials, with an eye towards preventing a charge of misrepresentation should boundaries change. Buyers can always access the school boundary site for that information. There have been some heated public

hearings on this issue already and three additional hearings are scheduled: January 7 at 7 pm at Walter Johnson High, January 11 at 10 at Montgomery Blair High and January 14 at 7 pm at Northwest High. It's hard to imagine that this study was undertaken with no thought to changing the boundaries. The questions will be what will be proposed, is there any way to have input and what will the consequences be for our children and for us.

On a related note, about thirty or so years ago it was proposed that many of the children in Kenwood Park be reassigned to BCC for high school. After a huge outcry, those proposals were never adopted. So perhaps there is hope that the populace can influence the ultimate decisions so that they are fair for all.

Let's talk Kenwood Park: Since the last newsletter in September, four homes have sold and three are currently active. The sold homes were all older construction, from \$800,000 to \$1,290,000. The two of the active properties are new construction at \$2,135,000 and \$2,197,000. The other was built in 2003 at 5800 Midhill for \$4,000,000. There are currently two homes for rent at \$3890 and \$4500 and three have rented for \$3500-\$4100.

I wish you all a healthy, peaceful and meaningful holiday season and much joy in the new year.

*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.

Bridge Club

The Kenwood Park Bridge Club meets on weekday mornings or afternoons in neighbors' homes. We are looking for more singles and couples interested in playing at the intermediate level. Please join us! If you are interested in learning more, call Christina Lobo (301) 229-3490 or Gloria Fitchett (301) 229-8480, or dfitchett@msn.com.

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NOTES FROM THE KENNEL CLUB

Picking up after your dog is not only a courtesy, it can help protect the environment and more importantly it's a law in Montgomery county MD (with a fine). Please be a good neighbor and make your dog proud of having responsible owners 😊 while on walks.

- ◆ Please Carry disposable bags and pick up after your pet when out on walks. If you hire a dog walker to walk your dog, please make sure they too pick up after your pet when out on their daily walk.
- ◆ Properly dispose of pet waste by bagging the waste and deposit it in your trash can (not a neighbor's can). Some neighborhoods have pet waste receptacles provided by the county, and we are looking into those.
- ◆ If walking your dog in the woods, please also be responsible and pick up after your pet. The toxins in the waste can seep into the aquifers. When you pick up after your dog while walking in the woods, please do not toss bagged poop into the woods.
- ◆ Please do not throw bagged pet waste in storm drains, toss it in the woods or leave it on the ground.



Tip: Reuse bags that would have ended in the trash for your pet waste. Ask your coworkers/neighbors/friends to collect plastic bags from bread, newspaper, bagel, or produce for you. Not only will you be reusing bags, you are also saving money by not having to buy pet waste bags or paying the 5 cent fee for bags at grocery stores.

PLUMBING PROBLEMS

Kenwood Park has many homes over 50 years old. Old pipes are narrowed by deposits and easily blocked, causing backups and overflows. Cleaning or replacing carpeting, wallboards, and flooring can be costly. Simple, common sense guidelines can keep plumbing costs down.

Flush only toilet tissue – no sanitary or baby wipes. So-called “flushable” wipes will clog drains. If you have an older toilet, hold down the lever until all the water has flowed out of the bowl.

Prevent kitchen pipe clogs. Discard oil and grease into the trash, not down the sink. Use a sink strainer to prevent food waste from going down the drain. Periodically pour a half cup of liquid Dawn dish soap followed by a pot of boiling water down the drain. Harsh chemical liquid drain cleaners are frowned upon because of the damage they can do to pipes and joints.

Message from the Board—Continued from Page 1

periods of time, have been pleased with the checking by officers and reporting in real time to residents away who have requested the surveillance. As with everything, it comes down to a personal judgment of cost versus benefit.

An occasional complaint is that one doesn't see the officers. With present constraints and limited subscribership, the officers are present only several hours a day. The times are randomly changed from day to day, with surveillance runs in the morning or afternoon or middle of the night to prevent any "gaming" of the system by erstwhile efforts to victimize the neighborhood.

The second mission, to provide social events, has reflected itself in promoting and publicizing the Garden Club, the Book Club, the Bridge Club, and the Kennel Club. Garden Club and Kennel Club members have published informative commentaries in the Newsletter. The Garden Club, in particular, has made our residents aware of services provided by the county concerning our population of dying cherry trees. That species of tree has been a source of pride and pleasure for many residents.

In addition to such "adult" concerns, we have had events directed at our children, including the 4th of July parade with a fire truck, and the October Halloween/Fall festival, held on a neighborhood street. We have co-sponsored other get-togethers including a back-to-school ice cream social, and "Front yard Fridays."

Yet another mission is to represent our residents on civic issues, such as concerns about traffic, speed bumps, efforts to fix the view obstruction when driving from Millwood onto Goldsboro, air plane noise (more about that in this issue), and monitoring of crime in the general area. We attend all meetings of the Bethesda District Police Commander, which allow citizen input and keep us apprised of patterns of crime. Any resident can use the KPCA "clout" to pursue issues with the county.

Again, we hope you will join us at the Connie Morella library on Sunday, January 12.

Quiet Skies—Continued from Page 1

For additional perspective on the plane noise and flight path disruption facing communities, please see the NY times article "GPS for Air Travel Came With Big Downsides: Noise, Then Lawsuits" <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/18/business/planes-noise-flight-paths.html>. Please consider attending the meetings of the coalition and provide any support. www.MoCoQuietSkies.org.

Neighborhood Services Available

Julia Choppin (Whitman junior, certified safe and experienced babysitter) I'm available evenings and weekends and I love kids of all ages! 301-229-9139

Esmee Najafi (Senior at Whitman available for babysitting; lots of experience) 202-730-5363 or esnajafi999@gmail.co

Annabelle Piot (at French International School; babysitting, pet sitting, housesitting) 202-413-0557 or annabellep03@gmail.com

GET LISTED HERE FREE:

Email our Communications Chair at news@kpcaonline.org

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NEIGHBORHOOD FALL FESTIVAL WAS GREAT FUN!

Our fourth annual Fall Festival, held on October 20, 2019, was again loads of fun. The children focused on the moon bounce, a sack race, and the costume parade, while the parents enjoyed the camaraderie of their neighbors and the warmth of a fire pit set up in a driveway by one thoughtful resident. There was a fresh popcorn machine, and freshly grilled hot dogs, hot cider, and pizza, with vegetarian options too. Many thanks to Elizabeth Haile for setting this up so beautifully for us, as she always has. Once again, thank you to Linda Chaletzky for sponsoring this neighborhood event.



Best Costume Winners: Laura Hempel (judge), Meena Seshamani (criminal), Ambika Seshamani Mullaney (little cop), Arjun Seshamani Mullaney (bigger cop)

Some participants at the KPCA
Halloween/Fall Festival



KPCA News

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See You at the

KPCA Community Meeting

The Connie Morella Library
7400 Arlington Road

Sunday, January 12th, 2 - 4 pm

Refreshments will be served