

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 21, Issue 3 • October 2015

President's Corner

Dear Kenwood Park Residents,

The mission of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association is to serve as the voice of the community before local government and business organizations, as well as to provide information and services to foster the development of supportive, friendly, and safe neighborhoods.

To address safety in our neighborhood, I am pleased to announce that we were able to form a new body to provide a forum for our residents to express their views on traffic-related issues in Kenwood Park - the KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee. The committee is comprised of residents from Kenwood Park from the following streets: Millwood, Marbury, Plainview, and Tanglewood. This is especially important now that school is open and with Wood Acres temporarily located at the Radnor School. I urge all residents to be mindful of children who are walking home or playing in our neighborhood. We encourage participation from the entire neighborhood, so please let the Committee Chair Katherine Kerxton know if you would like to participate.

The KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee has been working for several months to address traffic and safety issues in our neighborhood. Our top priorities are to put in place traffic calming measures on those streets where speeding traffic seems to be an issue. We are greatly concerned for the safety of our children and all of our Kenwood Park residents when they walk and bike within the neighborhood. We welcome your thoughts and ideas. Please feel free to contact the KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee Chair, Katherine Kerxton at kkerxton@gmail.com. There will also be a survey posted on the KP website and on the KP Yahoo group board about the traffic safety issues in our community. I encourage our residents to complete the survey. For the walkers and joggers in our neighborhood, KPCA does provide small wearable nighttime reflector lights for residents who walk/jog at night; please contact me (preskpc@gmail.com) if you would like a light.

Continued on Page 2

KPCA Calendar

Halloween Party

October 31- See Inside

Book Club

November 4- See Inside

Garden Club

See Inside

Kennel Club

See Inside

CRIME IN OUR AREA

The good news is that in 2015 we have seen very few crimes in Kenwood Park, except at the local High School, where there were many incidents. We had thefts on Marbury Road (garden planter) and Robinwood Road, and a theft from a vehicle on Clearwood Road.

Many residential burglaries occurred in neighborhoods near us. The streets involved were Pyle Road, Brite Drive, Burdette Road, Oldchester Road, Burning Tree Road, Bradley Blvd, Fernwood Road, Whitman Drive, Maple Ridge Road, Glenbrook Rd, Lambeth Road, and Hampden Lane.

Cars were stolen on Brite Drive, Wyngate Drive, and Winterberry Lane. Thefts from vehicles occurred on Burdette Road, Greentree Road, Winterberry Lane, Bradley Blvd, Maiden Lane, Hampden Lane, Marywood Road, Fernwood Road, Wyngate Drive, Darby Road, and Heathwood Court.

Vandalism occurred on Oldchester Road, Beech Ave, Bradley Blvd, Exeter Road, and Battery Lane.

The Kenwood Park citizens got together to hire a security patrol as a result of a rash of armed robberies in 1982. Two men with guns tied people up and made them tell where they hid their valuables. We now get occasional crime activity, but thanks to the patrol, it is relatively safe here. The Urban Alarm Company cars circulate through our streets at different hours every day so that no one can plan a crime when they are not here.

**Krishna Collie, President (301) 320-4150 pres@KPCAonline.org
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kpcaonline.org>**

President's Corner, Continued from Page 1

Another important contributor to the safety of Kenwood Park is our private security service provided by Urban Alarm. Last year roughly 1/3 of our community participated in the service. Please do consider joining the service as everyone in our community benefits from it. We are seeing a drop off in community participation. If this trend continues we will need to cut back on hours or even a few days. The cost of this service is less than a dollar a day and Urban Alarm is a very responsive and professional company that has received great reviews from current members for their service to the community. There will be a marketing campaign to attract new members, so please be on the lookout for the material.

To provide information for the community and to support interaction between residents at the various events we sponsor we will be revamping the KP website (kpcaonline.org). An online directory will be available for KPCA members. This will be in a secure area for members to download. This new site will serve the residents of Kenwood Park by providing information about community and events that take place in the community. We will still have a newsletter that is not going away. As much as I like the internet news sites, I still like to read the newspaper, so we will continue to publish the newsletter.

Our 4th of July was rained out this year. However, we had our first ever back to school event, and this was a fun time and we will continue this event next year. I want to thank Evan (our neighborhood disc jockey), Katherine Kerxton and Elizabeth Haile for coordinating such a fun event. Our Halloween event will be held on Marbury Court this year from 4pm-6pm for all the children and adults in the community – we encourage costumes, especially for the adults! I look forward to seeing you there.

Krishna Collie
KPCA President

Halloween Party



October 31
Marbury Court
4-6 PM

Neighborhood Services Available

Baby Sitters

- L. Sorcher (Certified) (301) 229-2328
- C. Goldman (301) 320-1582
- Michelle Dressner (301) 652-5453
- Katie Choppin (certified) (301) 229-9139
- Carly Choppin (certified) (301) 229-9139
- Anne Charpentier (certified) (301) 320 4310
- Bailey and Hannah (sisters, high school students)
both CPR certified, Children's Hospital,
baby sitting certificate (301) 312 8606
- Ally (Alexandra) Turco (CPR cert.
Amer. Red Cross First Aid cert. (240) 620-5775
- Dana Vazquez (senior at Whitman) (301) 910-3262
Red Cross First Aid and CPR cert.
Native Spanish speaker from Argentina
prefers Whitman area

Leaf Rakers, Snow Shovelers, Odd Jobs

- Isaac Bacon (Whitman HS student) is offering to do
snow shoveling, firewood delivery, and any other odd job
IsaacBacon43@gmail.com (240) 507-8075
- Amber White (301) 588-6474
apamberpower@gmail.com (loving and reliable dog walker)
- Alex (10th grader at French Int'l School)
(202) 413-1193 or *acpiot@gmail.com*
- Chris Fowler (responsible boy in the neighborhood): cut
your grass while you're away-water your plants while you're
on vacation—take care of your pets, house while you're on
vacation-move heavy objects. Call Chris who lives on Mar-
bury Road @ 301-455-8187-Email: *chris.fowler419@gmail.com*.
References available upon request for pet and house
sitting!
- Julian Vazques (Whitman Senior student) is offering as lov-
ing and reliable pet sitter and dog walker. (301) 910 3013
or *julianvazquez06@hotmail.com*.
- Hector Gobet, lives on Lenox Road, 202-770-5950, or *hec-
torgobet@gmail.com*.

GET LISTED HERE FREE:

Leave name and phone number with Editor, Edward Elson,
at (301) 320-2837 or email *news@kpcaonline.org*

KPCA Wants YOU!!

If you've already joined - thank you!
If you haven't, now is the time!

What do we offer?

FOR SOCIAL MEMBERS:

Book Club
Garden Club
Kennel Club
Halloween Party for Kids
July 4th Party for Kids
Great Website with lots of information
Neighborhood Newsletter
Neighborhood Voice on County issues

In addition to the above, SECURITY MEMBERS get:

THE SECURITY PATROL

Our Security Patrol keeps crime down in our neighborhood. Even our basically safe neighborhood must be on alert against vandalism against cars, assaults, and drug dealings near the high school.

The patrol is an important Crime Deterrent!

URBAN ALARM, our new provider, is getting Rave Reviews!

- ◆ They respond faster than the police and will call the police if there is trouble
- ◆ You can have your home alarm programmed to call them first, reducing false alarms and keeping you from being fined
- ◆ They will move your packages out of sight if you're away
- ◆ They can call you if your garage door is open late at night

But only Security Patrol Members receive these services

Currently the patrol is on duty about 6 hours a day. More hours would be better.
Please do your part for your neighborhood.

SIGN UP TODAY!! Feel Safer Tomorrow.
(Membership form on page 7)

Real Estate Update for Kenwood Park-October 2015

The financial crisis of 8 or so years ago spawned a lot of new lending guidelines and it looks like we're not done yet. New rules went into effect October 1 that require lenders to provide buyers with good faith estimates three days following loan application and a closing disclosure three days prior to settlement. And there are now circumstances that will delay closings for three days if there are issues that come up that increase costs beyond a certain amount for the buyer. In addition, the HUD1, which has been the closing document that outlines all the fees for both buyer and seller, and which shows how the buyer is paying and what the seller is receiving, is no longer being used. There is now a new document that replaces the HUD1. So if you are thinking of buying and selling from now forward, know that the process will be a little bit different.

Regarding the market, DC continues to be hot while Bethesda is a bit more enigmatic. New construction abounds and is selling well. But homes that are dated inside, no matter the style, are taking longer and longer. Often I will hear sellers say that the new owners can make the home their own, but today there are few buyers with the time, the vision and the money to take on projects. And millennials, who are today's hot demographic, need to be lured into the suburbs by renovations and sparkling interiors because their priority is to live within walking distance of restaurants, shops and entertainment.

For the four month period between June 1 and October 1 last year, six homes went to closing and 10 rented. The

average sales price was \$1,117,150 and the average rental price was \$4806. For the same time period this year seven homes sold for an average price of \$1,408,206 and ten rented for an average price of \$4,555. It is important to keep in mind the average sales price includes new construction as well as resales. The average days on the market for sales was 35 days compared to 13 for the same period last year and the average days on the market for rentals was 40 compared to 53 last year.

Two homes are under contract for an average price of \$1,309,500 and two are for sale – one for \$1,544,650 and one for \$1,185,000.

Four homes are for rent ranging in price from \$3500 to \$4600.

If you are interested in receiving my newsletter which contains information such as what to remember to do for your home before winter, top home improvement projects, what you should know about fire insurance as well as local events, let me know. I am happy to add you to the distribution list. lchaletzky@eversco.com or 301 938-2630.

*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.

MESSAGE FROM URBAN ALARM ON HOW TO SCHEDULE VACATION CHECKS

Hello All — there have been some concerns regarding the contact method for scheduling our vacation watch service. To clarify, the following methods are available to patrol members:

1. The quickest way to schedule a vacation watch is by filling out our vacation watch form, link below. The link is mobile friendly through a browser and the data received is encrypted. Once the form is complete and submitted I will

confirm the submission with the customer. The form can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/kpca-safe>

2. Members can simply send me an email, andy@urbanalarm.com, containing all of the information and I will confirm it with them.

3. Members may still call my office extension, 202-265-2700, ext.120. However, I am out in the field the majority of the time and there will be a delay in confirming it with them.

Members **should not** call the patrol hotline (202-684-2500) to schedule a vacation watch. The patrol service is not 24 hours and there are times where we are not manning the patrol phone and, if contact with that number is attempted, it would not be tended to until the next officer arrives for duty. In most cases, this is not until overnight and, in that case, it will be handled the next business day. If anyone has any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Remember, please provide 24 hours notice if possible.

Peter Dressner - PC Repair Specialist

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SUPPORT THE SAFETY OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Many people say they have a personal security alarm system in their home, so why do they need to have a security patrol? What about the safety of our streets? If you peruse the crime reports in Bethesda, there are thefts from cars, assaults, and vandalism against cars and homes. Around Walt Whitman, our patrol car has chased off loiterers on corners, possibly selling drugs. Casual walkers, joggers, or residents just putting out the trash can feel safer knowing that it is less likely that assailants are casing our neighborhood. Also, solicitors walking door to door can be brought to the patrol's attention, and their credentials will be checked. With the patrol acting as a deterrent, it is less likely that our neighborhood will be targeted by Travelers or Gypsies.

Urban Alarm even offers personal house alarms, or can take over existing systems, and for security patrol members, the first six months of monitoring service is free. Our patrol can be the contact number for the alarm company, and provides a quicker response than the police. It can also prevent those pesky false alarm fees.

Last year we had 33% of the homes in the neighborhood paying for the security patrol. Let's make it 100%! The patrol provides us with peace of mind, knowing that we live in a safer neighborhood.

Kenwood Park Kennel Club

For information about the Kennel Club, please contact Neda, Kpkennel@kpcaonline.org.



Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park Book Club will meet next on Wednesday, November 4, and is reading Scott Simon's *Unforgettable*.

Contact sgust@msn.com for more information.

KPCA GARDEN CLUB NEWS

- **Annual plant swap** in June was very successful. We look forward to another plant swap next spring. Don't forget that the fall is an excellent time to plant new trees and shrubs and divide some old perennials.
- **Volunteers Needed** to help maintain the plant beds, at the entrance to Millwood on Goldsboro Rd., a couple of times a year. Adults and kids welcome (SSL hours available with pre-approval).
- **Bethesda Green: Sustainability Series** will be holding a lecture on **Organic Lawn Care** on **Oct. 26th, at 7PM** on Cordell Ave. Learn how to maintain a beautiful lawn without hurting our environment. The cost is \$20, including refreshments. Registration is online at <http://bethesdagreen.org/index.php/eventspage/bethesda-green-sustainability-series/> or simply go to the Bethesdagreen.org website and look under events.

If you have questions about volunteering or attending the Organic Lawn Care lecture,

Contact: Sinaly Roy at Sinalymroy@gmail.com or 301-229-3459

**Join as a
Security Patrol
Member
Today!
Feel Safer
Tomorrow!!**

Autumn Leaves

The County has two leaf collections in late autumn or you can ask your private yard service to haul your leaves to the County recycling center at Shady Grove Road and Route 355. Judging from the piles of



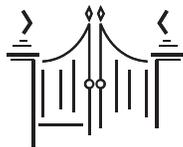
leaves in our streets every autumn, most residents and their yardmen do not know that **it is against the law to put any trash, including leaves, in the street.**

Last year we even got fliers from the Highway Department that said **the fine for doing this has gone up to \$1000!**

Why avoid putting piles of leaves in the street?

The police say that there are always a few car fires due to the hot catalytic converters of cars igniting dry leaves. The leaves slow down emergency vehicles, and can hide small children. Rain drives the leaves down the storm drains, which get clogged, and basements can get flooded. If you don't want

to pay for private hauling, it is best to have them raked to the edge of the street just before the collections, which are announced on red signs on the utility poles.



Linda Chaletzky
Licensed in MD, DC & VA

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Halloween Party



**October 31
Marbury Court
4-6 PM**

Kenwood Park Citizens Association

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

September 15, 2015 to September 14, 2016

Security patrol contribution and KPCA membership together: \$295.

Social KPCA membership only: \$85.

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Spouse's Last Name: _____

Spouse's First Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____ @ _____

Emergency Contact: (Someone we can call if you are out of town or are disabled, even in the evening):

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

Please mail to:

KPCA Treasurer
P.O. Box 127
Gen Echo, MD 20812

Prefer to pay online? Go to: **www.brightdoc.com/kpca**

If you are paying the security patrol dues, and the patrol sees your garage door open, do you want to be phoned after 11 PM?

Yes No

KPCA News

Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 127
Glen Echo, MD 20812

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CAR-RT SORT
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Halloween Party

October 31
Marbury Court
4-6 PM

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Edward Elson, *Editor*