

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Promoting and enhancing the Kenwood Park neighborhood

Volume 22, Issue 4 • December 2016

President's Corner

Dear Residents,

A special shout out to the residents of Shady Oak Lane who were gracious hosts for the Fall Festival, especially those neighbors who pitched in at the end to clean up after an unexpected rain storm made its way through the party. It was the best attended event that I have been to since I moved to the neighborhood and we are planning on it again next year.

I want to emphasize to our residents to join the Kenwood Park yahoo group listserv as this is how we communicate in real time. We have about half of the community signed up and our goal is 75%. Visit the listserv's home page <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/KenwoodPark> and click "Join this Group" or send an email to kenwoodpark-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with the block you live on and our moderator will add you. Remember to check our website for all the latest news as well www.kpcaonline.org/.

We have received new security signs and poles so if any resident wishes to get a new sign, please drop me a note and I will either leave the signs for you to pick up at my house or will personally drop them off.

Krishna Collie

Walkers — A Heads-Up

We are now in the time of year when it gets dark earlier and it is difficult for drivers to see people walking in the street. We have many walkers, runners and dog-walkers in our neighborhood, who for their own security and that of others, should wear reflective clothing of some kind. Dogs might ideally wear reflective collars or leashes.

KPCA has about 20 clip-on reflectors to give out on a first-come, first-serve basis. For your own safety, please be vigilant and choose some type of reflective clothing or flashing light to wear when you go out in the evening or early morning. Contact Katherine Kerxton, traffic@kpcaonline.org, to pickup a free reflector and BE SAFE!

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Season's Greetings

What's going on at River and Whittier?

Kenwood Park residents who live off Whittier know that on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights there is a lot of traffic and cars parked on our streets. The River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 6301 River Road has several services on Sundays. On Wednesday nights, attendees from all over the DC metro area come to RRUUC for meetings of the Insight Meditation Society of Washington. While this organization rents its space from RRUUC, staff at the Congregation can help if visitors are illegally parking in front of your driveway or otherwise parking unsafely. In addition to calling the police, KP residents having continued problems should contact

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

Community Issues Update

Members of the Kenwood Park listserv may have seen messages circulating regarding the increase in airplane traffic over our neighborhood. Starting in 2015, the NextGen program, which uses satellite-based navigation to assign planes to direct routes to save fuel and time, was implemented in the DC area, compressing the flight paths of all 800 flights out of Washington Reagan National. They are no longer dispersed over wide swaths of territory after climbing the Potomac River, but now concentrated over narrow bands, exposing fewer homes to more frequent noise. A further shift is being considered, called Lazir-B, which would have an even greater impact. The changes affect certain neighborhoods in DC, VA, and west Bethesda, including Kenwood Park.

The FAA has created a working group to deal with complaints about the changes. Chris Van Hollen's office, as well as Montgomery County Executive Ike Leggett, and Montgomery County Council member Roger Berliner, have been involved in meetings and advocating on behalf of residents. A petition has also been started to send to the FAA and we encourage all to sign. <https://www.change.org/p/federal-aviation-administration-stop-the-shift-of-flight-paths-to-reagan-national-airport-the-new-lazir-b-proposal>

A representative from Kenwood Park attended a November 2 cross-community meeting to discuss how neighborhood organizations can work together to address the changes in flight paths, increased plane traffic, and lower altitudes. Representatives from 12 Bethesda communities attended and agreed to form an association of Montgomery County communities impacted by airplane noise. This association will partner with DC Fair Skies and other coalitions across the country to advocate for common goals and objectives while reserving the right to address impacts and concerns shared within our communities but perhaps not by others outside of Montgomery County. The association will work closely with elected representatives to identify administrative, legal, legislative, and environmental actions that all levels of government can take. A lawsuit has been filed by other organizations, and many bodies are working on the issue.

KPCA will continue to keep our residents informed via newsletters and the listserv. If you are interested in getting involved on this issue, please contact Joann Harrison at joannharr@gmail.com for more information. You can also view some background documents on the KP yahoo listserve.

Whittier & River—Continued from Page 1

Congregational Administrator, Ana Lim, at 301-229-0400 x101 or alim@rruuc.org. Ana will remind their renters and congregants through posted notes and announcements to obey parking signs and be respectful of the neighborhood.

RRUUC also invites the Kenwood Park neighborhood to take advantage of its many events open to the community. Its Fine Arts Committee regularly shows local artists' work in Fellowship Hall, which is open to the public for viewing and purchases. The gardens behind the buildings are also open to residents to use for reflection and walking. Residents are invited to take part in RRUUC's many Social Justice and Lifelong Learning activities, which are posted here <https://www.rruuc.org/>. Activity groups are also listed there, which includes daytime speakers and "Creationists" groups where crafters gather to work together. The next speaker is Astronomer Nancy Grace Roman, who will talk about "Unexpected Discoveries in Astronomy," Thursday, December 8, 1:30-3 p.m.

If you'd like to learn more about any of these events, contact Sheri Blanchette at sblanchette@rruuc.org.

Also be on the lookout for RRUUC's annual Bazaar, December 3, from 8 am – 3 p.m., which tends to draw a lot of traffic.



Entrance to River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Traffic and Safety Update

The KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee continues to work to implement measures to address traffic and safety issues in our neighborhood. In October, KPCA requested the Montgomery County Department of Transportation to place a S.M.A.R.T unit (Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer) on portions of Tanglewood and Lenox Roads where our residents had reported speeding. MCDOT placed these electronic speed monitoring signs during the week of October 10. The units flash driving speeds to drivers and should serve as an immediate deterrent to speeders.



A thank you to neighbors Stephen Miller and Patrick Waring for helping to coordinate the unit placement and allowing us to place the units in front of their property. Also, thank you to the adjacent neighbors who kept their cars parked off the streets for the week. Some neighbors described a significant decrease in speeding due to the S.M.A.R.T. units.

MCDOT also conducted several speed studies within the neighborhood during the past year which tracked speed rates during different times of the day. Based on the information DOT gathered, there were not enough speeders, nor enough volume, to qualify these streets for additional studies or traffic calming measures.

In the coming year, the Traffic and Safety Committee will continue to ask for assistance from MCDOT and MCPD but we also **need your help** by educating family members and neighbors on safe driving/biking and pedestrian rules.

We welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Contact the KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee Chair, Katherine Kerxton, at traffic@kpcaonline.org.

Security Patrol Update

KPCA is accepting membership in our community's security patrol, valid now through June 30, 2017. Members have reported excellent service from the Urban Alarm company. Their vehicles patrol our streets at various hours throughout the day and night, deterring vandalism and burglaries. For those on vacation, Urban Alarm will walk around the home and remove telltale newspapers and packages (redelivering them when you return). On request, they will send a daily email with photos of your house during their checks.

Our vacation watch form can be found at www.urbanalarm.com/watch This time of the year is particularly busy, so if at all possible please notify at least 1 business day in advance of travel.

Please note, the number of patrol hours provided depends on how many of our neighbors subscribe to the security patrol. Additional support will increase the number of patrols throughout the neighborhood and additional services available to Kenwood Park residents. Currently, if there are too many house checks to do in the allotted time, Urban Alarm may be able to only complete a visual check from the front of the property on alternate nights. KPCA will be considering a system where those using house checks will be charged more for their membership depending on how often they use the vacation check.

If you have any questions or would like to enroll, please contact our Security Patrol Chair, Cameron Groves, at security@kpcaonline.org.

TOP SAFETY REMINDERS for ALL KPCA NEIGHBORS

- ① When walking/running at night always wear reflective clothing. Even if you can see the drivers, they can't see you!
- ② No hand-held cell phone use while driving – it's the law!
- ③ Drive cautiously and make complete stops at a stop sign.
- ④ When walking or running, walk against traffic; when biking, bike with traffic.
- ⑤ Teach your children the rules of the road as pedestrians and drivers!

Great Fun in the Neighborhood This Year!

Kenwood Park families gathered at Whittier Woods playground on Sunday, August 28 to celebrate the last day of summer vacation and the beginning of a new school year. Parents caught up with each other, sharing their summer stories. Children made the most of the hot summer day playing with bubbles and hanging out in the shade with pizza and ice-cream sponsored by KPCA. Thank you Katherine Kerxton for organizing this fun event. If anyone would like to help set up next year's "Back to School Ice Cream Social" contact Katherine at kkerxton@gmail.com.

On Sunday, October 30th, KPCA hosted a new event on Shady Oak Lane: a block party for all of Kenwood Park. Lasagna, hot dogs, cider and beer were provided by KPCA and neighbors brought sides and desserts to share. A moonbounce and games were also provided by KPCA, while Evan Smith added great music. It was wonderful to see so many residents of all ages come out to meet and mingle with neighbors.

Many adults and children came in wonderful costumes and a costume contest was held just before downpours started. Thanks to the quick efforts of many neighbors working together, everything was packed up in minutes. All were disappointed that the festivities ended early this year, but there's always next year! Thank you to all the volunteers who shared folding chairs, tables, grills, and their time and enthusiasm. A big thank you to Mariam Lamech, Sarah Najafi, and Elizabeth Haile for organizing the event, and to the many others who helped advertise and with set-up and clean-up.



We hope more of you will be able to make these and other events in 2017. Contact Elizabeth Haile at news@kpcaonline.org, or Sarah Najafi at events@kpcaonline.org, if you are interested in helping to plan future events.



STOP THIEF!

During this holiday shopping season, Urban Alarm would like to remind us all:

- Loading up on gifts is a sign of progress in the holiday shopping. But if those packages are left out in the open after they're in the car, your car has become a likely target for thieves. Keep all items out of sight in your car
- Always lock your vehicle and store all items out of sight. Breaking into an empty car isn't worth a thief's time. However, anything left in plain view—from your holiday gifts to spare change, sunglasses, GPS devices, cell phones or briefcases—may tempt a thief.
- And although it's cold, never leave your vehicle running while you run inside your home or a store—even if for only a minute or two.

Real Estate in 2017 – How Will it Shake Out?

Predicting the 2017 housing market in the DC area, or our neighborhood, is like taking aim blindfolded. With the results of the election we are all shooting in the dark because we don't know what the economic future holds. The stock market shot up post election but will it move forward or reverse? The Fed is looking more likely to hike rates. Will that lead to inflation? Will there be a rush to buy lest rates continue to climb? Will President Elect Trump actually "drain the swamp" and cut the jobs of federal employees? No one really knows.

While buyers are usually focused on the price of each property, the price of borrowed money often has a greater impact on the total cost of the purchase. The portent of more expensive money and the competitive spring market actually make this holiday season an excellent time to buy. This is also a good time for sellers to move forward. When the cost of money is higher, buyers can purchase less house. As the rates go up, the prices generally decrease to accommodate.

We continue to have demand for infill lots. And schools continue to be a major draw. The buyers are out there but they are demanding. Generally they are less interested in homes that need work. They have neither the time nor the cash to undertake projects. Sellers who do a little

work generally see a greater demand for and a far better price for their home.

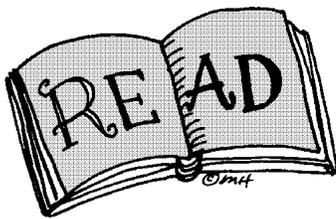
If you are considering a purchase or sale in 2017 now is the time to lay the groundwork. If you contemplate being a buyer, talking to a lender to become preapproved for a loan will allow you to jump for the right property. Sellers should be thinking about where they want to go and consult with a Realtor® about what needs to be done to prepare the house for market. Being prepared will mean being successful!

In Kenwood Park there are currently 5 homes for sale, 3 of which are on Whittier Blvd. ranging in price from \$1,295,000 at 6701 Whittier to \$2,395,000 at 5876 Marbury Road. One house is under contract on Durbin Rd and 4 houses have gone to closing, selling for \$750,000 to \$2,285,021. Three homes are for rent between \$3900 and \$4500.

*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.

Book Club



The Kenwood Park Book club last discussed the Jodi Picoult novel, *Lone Wolf*. We are now reading Paul Kalanithi's memoir *When Breath Becomes Air*, and will next meet

December 7. For more information, please contact Sandy Gust at book@kpcaonline.org. We meet once a month and welcome new members!

Bridge Club

Kenwood Park has a Social Bridge Club that 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.

Kenwood Park Kennel Club



The Kenwood Park Kennel Club is collecting donations which will be used by the Montgomery County animal shelter. They are in great need of any unopened dog or cat food or treats, food and water bowls, new or used pet toys, blankets, and towels. If you have anything to donate during this holiday season, please drop them off near the front door of 7005 Marbury Road between **December 10-11 and 17-18**, and Neda will bring them to the shelter. Contact Neda at kennel@kpcaonline.org with questions.

Volunteer and Get to Know Your Neighbors

Our KPCA Welcoming Committee, Special Events Committee, and Membership Committee are seeking more volunteers.

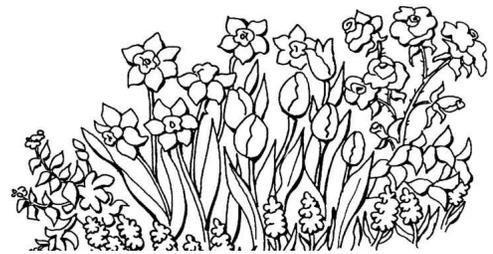
The Membership Committee works to identify Block Captains so neighbors can get connected in times of need and to forward information from KPCA. Call or email our head of membership, Mariam Lamech, 301-229-3158, membership@kpcaonline.org to find out more.

The Welcoming Committee would like to get in touch with new residents with a welcome and information on the neighborhood, as well as plan periodic get-togethers for newcomers to meet their neighbors. If you would like to volunteer for this committee, contact Chair Sarah Najafi at events@kpcaonline.org.

KPCA puts on wonderful annual parties such as the July 4 family bike parade, Halloween party, and back-to-school ice cream social. Would you like to help with one of these or have ideas for other events? Contact Chair Sarah Najafi at events@kpcaonline.org.

End Hate Speech

There is widespread interest in our area on working together to counter hate speech and promote unity and tolerance in our neighborhoods. A special interest group is being formed for Kenwood Park and we plan to join with neighbors throughout 20817. If you are interested in participating or learning more, contact resident JoAnn Harrison joanharr@gmail.com. We will be holding our first meeting on December 12, 7 - 9 p.m.

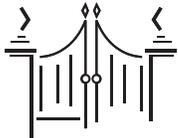


Garden Club

Last month soil preparation for the Millwood Circle (on Lenox Rd.) butterfly garden was completed by coordinators Sarah Najafi and Sinaly Roy. Thank you to those that donated newspapers and offered support. In the spring, we will be onto phase two of planting the garden with “drought resistant” butterfly and bee friendly plants. We will be looking for plant donations and volunteers to help with this project.

Please look for announcements in the KPCA spring newsletter and on the KP listserv. Contact Sinaly Roy with any questions or suggestions at 301-229-3459 or garden@kpcaonline.org.





Linda Chaletzky
Licensed in MD, DC & VA

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KENWOOD PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

KPCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Partial year to align patrol year with our fiscal year)

September 15, 2016 to June 30, 2017

- Security Patrol and Resident membership together: \$235** (Pro-rata dues for 9.5 months and membership begins September 15, 2016 to June 30, 2017.)
- Resident membership only: \$60** (Pro-rata dues for 9.5 months and membership begins September 15, 2016 to June 30, 2017.)

LAST NAME _____ FIRST NAME: _____

SPOUSE'S LAST NAME: _____ SPOUSE'S FIRST NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Would you like to be sent an invitation to be added to the Kenwood Park Yahooogroup listserv?

Yes ___ No ___ (If yes, please ensure you have noted your email address above)

Would you like your contact information to be included in an online directory, available only to KPCA members?

Yes ___ No ___ (If yes, please ensure you have noted your email address above)

KPCA is working on adding street captains for each block. Would you like to receive emails from your street block captains? Yes ___ No ___

Would you like to be a street captain for your block? Yes ___ No ___

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

SECURITY MEMBERS ONLY: In the event the patrolling security officer notices your garage door is open and it is after 11 pm, would you like to receive a call about your garage door being open? (Please note the patrol car drives around the neighborhood at varied times during the day or night, and has your phone number only if you are a security patrol member.)

Yes _____ No _____

You may pay online at <http://kpcasonline.org/join> or mail a check payable to Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc. (or KPCA) and your form to:

**KPCA Treasurer
PO Box 127
Glen Echo, MD 20812**

KPCA News

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- ② No hand-held cell phone use while driving – it's the law!
- ③ Drive cautiously and make complete stops at a stop sign.
- ④ When walking or running, walk against traffic; when biking, bike with traffic.
- ⑤ Teach your children the rules of the road as pedestrians and drivers!

**Look inside for all
KPCA is doing
for YOUR neighborhood
Join or Renew Your Membership
<http://kpcaonline.org/join>
and be a part of it!**

**There's Only One Way to Reach the Nearly 650 Kenwood Park Residents
*Advertise in the KPCA News and on www.kpcaonline.org***