

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 1 • January 2010

President's Corner

That was quite some snow storm! I notice how much "in shape" everyone seems to be from shoveling those drifts and chopping the ice off. Maybe somewhat sore too, though.

However, before the storm, over seventy of our neighbors attended our potluck dinner. The international foods were excellent, and the conversation lively. We had the wrong phone number listed on the signs, and the person—who is not from Kenwood Park—was so understanding, he was invited to the dinner, came, and seemed to enjoy it as much as we did.

Next time, we will save him the trouble and get the correct phone number. And thank you, Lucia Gregori, for organizing the event.

The Halloween party was enjoyed by about 25 children and grandchildren. No poll was taken of the adults, but we expect they did so as well. I would like to thank Carlos Callejon and Antonio Alvarez-Couceiro for stepping in and doing such a great job of making all the arrangements.

Everyone should know that a complaint has been made to the County to try to close down the Farmers' Market that opens each Wednesday at Goldsboro and River Roads. The KPCA board has sent an email letter to Roger Berliner of the County Council with extremely strong support of the market's continued presence. The fact of the complaint was sent out to our email list, and a number of individuals sent in their own letters of support. I appreciated the effort and also getting copied on the communication.

Some good news was brought to us by Linda Strauss. The county has proposed to install a bikeway/sidewalk along Bradley Blvd. between Goldsboro and Wilson. Two documents are especially interesting. One shows possible layouts of the path in cross section, and another shows a photograph marked with the path plan. These can be accessed at this long URL: www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-DTE/Common/Projects.aspx?id=509337-18&DatabaseType=SQL§ion=Facility%20Plan

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KPCA Calendar

KPCA Potluck

Sunday, April 18, 6:30-8:30PM
Concord St. Andrews Church
See details inside

KPCA Board Meeting

Contact pres@KPCAonline.org
The "Careers" room, ground floor
Walt Whitman High School

Garden Club

Meeting/event not yet determined.
See inside for contact information

Book Club

See inside for information

Proposal to Erect a Cell Phone Tower at Walt Whitman H.S.

T-Mobile has proposed a cell phone tower 120 feet in height on the Walt Whitman High School property to be sited between the baseball field and football field. Ten other Montgomery County Schools have such towers already. Such an installation would present a source of income to the county and the school system. Other cell phone providers would have access to the tower as well. As part of the review process, a meeting of the Whitman PTSA will be held on February 16 at 7:30 PM in the Whitman Media Center. This meeting is open to all residents of Kenwood Park. Already, a number of Kenwood Park residents have expressed concerns through the KPCA list/serve.

Although some mild concerns of visual pollution have been expressed, there is a greater concern about the health impacts of the radio-frequency emissions. One of our concerned residents has done some

Cell Phone Tower continued on page 2

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MSS Office: (301) 384-7777 (Hrs: M-F, 9-5) **Patrol car:** (240) 793-6255
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kenwoodparkweb.net>

President's Corner (continued)

ning. At that URL, the marked up map is labeled as Alternate+3-EnhancedMasterPlan.pdf and the cross section is 02_typical_sections.pdf. Both files are large. The KPCA has sent a letter to the project manager supporting the bikeway installation and suggesting that a pedestrian crossing with brief button-triggered stoplight be installed near Durbin and coinciding with a pair of bus stops.

The KPCA is planning a new phone directory. A listing of the entries is now available on the KPCA web site (www.kenwoodparkweb.net) and listed under publications. As you know, only Kenwood Park residents have access to this site after they register and are verified. No one outside of Kenwood Park (except an absent owner of a KP home) can access our pages. The phone listings are preliminary, and the information is the most up-to-date that the KPCA possesses. This preliminary listing will be on the web site until the end of February for checking by anyone who wishes to validate their information or change the listing. The pages cannot be modified nor can any of the files be downloaded from the site. If corrections are needed, please send the correct data to info@kpcaonline.org. In March, the corrected files will be sent to the printer and hard copies of the phone directory will be sent to each home in Kenwood Park. At that time, the preliminary files will be removed from the site.

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. I 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 yellow 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. 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 with the header "Blinkers." In the body of the note, tell me how many are needed and the address.

And finally, I think we all noticed that the KPCA sign at the Millwood entrance can be seen again after being overgrown during the summer. Whoever took the time to do this trimming, thank you.

That's about all for now. I am looking forward to the longer days and eventual arrival of spring and our cherry tree blooms. You may be too.

Ken Rubinson
KPCA President

Cell Phone Tower (continued)

reviewing of the health and safety issue and reports that, although several non-governmental safety-standard-setting organizations have weighed in with recommended standards, there are no government-mandated standards, and scientific research, which has been continuing for several decades, has not absolutely exonerated such emissions, although most studies to date have not found an adverse effect on health at the low energy levels emitted by such radio-frequency energy sources. The voluntary standards now extant would certify the emissions from the numerous cell phone towers in our environment as within safe limits.

Our concerned resident points out, however, that the US Federal Communications Commission has stated that "in general, while the possibility of 'non-thermal' biological effects may exist, whether or not such effects might indicate a human health hazard is not presently known. Further research is needed." Our resident urges those with concerns to attend the upcoming PTSA meeting at Walt Whitman High School.

Update on Millwood Road Ambush

Montgomery County police obtained an arrest warrant for a former economist at the International Monetary Fund who flew to China a month after they believe he ambushed a supervisor who is a Millwood Road resident. The suspect was identified as Mohau Mercy Mathibe. On October 8 our Kenwood Park resident Ashoka Mody, a well-respected IMF economist, had just pulled his minivan into his garage when he was shot. Mr. Mody was hospitalized and is recovering at his home, police said. Police are uncertain about the present whereabouts of the suspect.

Crime Reports Online

County residents can now track crime reports online, using www.crimereports.com. Small icons representing types of crime appear on a Google map. Users can set the parameters for a search, including a specific time period.

Crime reports are automatically uploaded to the site daily. Each incident identified on the site will have a report number that residents can use to obtain the actual police report at a station.

A County Police spokesperson informed us that another website, www.Connectedcommunities.us, is a very good source of crime statistics. This site focuses entirely on Montgomery County.

Police Continue to Seek Public's Help to Identify Suspect(s) for Daytime Burglaries in Potomac

Detectives from the Montgomery County Police 1st District Investigative Section continue to investigate recent daytime residential burglaries that have occurred in the Potomac and Darnestown areas.

Since November 18 of last year, there have been residential burglaries in several Potomac and Darnestown neighborhoods that are believed to be related. Most of the burglaries have occurred on weekdays during the daylight hours. In all of the burglaries, force was used to gain entry into the house either through a window or a door. In each burglary, jewelry has been the target of the suspect(s).

Residents are reminded to lock their doors and windows and make sure that their garage doors are secure when they are not at home. Residents are also asked to notify their neighbors, and encouraged to have a caretaker stop by the house when they are away for extended periods of time. In addition, residents are encouraged to use timers on their lights, radios, and televisions, and to hold their mail and news subscriptions while they are away. We ask that all residents report any and all alarm calls immediately when alerted of alarm activations at their residence. Officers will immediately be dispatched to check the residence.

Residents should promptly report suspicious activity, vehicles, and individuals to the police by calling the non-emergency number at 301-279-8000. A detailed description of the suspicious person or vehicle is extremely helpful to the responding officers. Descriptors may include race, gender, clothing-type, and hair

color. Obtaining the vehicle's color, make, model, tag number, and direction of travel will also assist responding officers.

Anyone who may have information about these residential burglaries and/or the involved suspect(s) is asked to call the 1st District Investigative Section at 240-773-6084.

Report on the Bradley Blvd. Bikeway

Our neighbor Linda Strauss attended a meeting on January 14 about the Bradley Blvd. bikeway and sent in this report. The County seeks to increase bike and pedestrian safety since accidents involving bikes and pedestrians are higher than state-wide averages on this stretch of Bradley between Goldsboro and Wilson. In addition, the project would increase pedestrian and bike access to downtown Bethesda. Construction would not begin until 2017 if approved by the County Council. The KPCA board communicated its support for the project this past November.

At the meeting, Kenwood Park residents raised the issue that crossing Bradley Boulevard is very intimidating for residents, old and young alike, and that this issue needs to be addressed sooner than the overall Projects timeframe. Many residents utilize the path to downtown at the end of Cornish Road and a pedestrian-activated light located at Durbin or Brite would increase safety for walkers and bikers crossing Bradley. The KPCA plans to address this issue separately with the county.

Our Web Site

Please join our new website: www.kenwoodparkweb.net. Upon arriving there you will observe a site serving all of Montgomery County, providing a large variety of business and community services. Our local neighborhood site can be accessed by clicking on "My Community." If you are using the site for the first time click on "Register" and follow the directions. The only essential information we need is your name and either address or phone number. Our webmaster can then follow up and ascertain whether or not you are a Kenwood Park resident. We are restricting the Kenwood Park part of the web site to Kenwood Park residents.

You can elect whether or not to join a community listserv, which is a list of e-mail addresses enabling you to send or receive emails to or from other members of the list. On the other hand, you do not have to submit an email address.

We will be increasingly using the web site to announce community events and describe issues of community interest. Back issues of the newsletter will be placed in the site. The site will be especially useful to communicate matters of community interest more rapidly than the newsletter can.

If you are perplexed or uncertain about some aspects of the registration, please feel free to query info@KPCAonline.org.

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www.Connectedcommunities.us

is a very good source of crime statistics. This site focuses entirely on Montgomery County.



Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park Book Club will meet next on January 25. We are currently reading a novel, *The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton. For more information, contact sgust@msn.com.

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.

The Neighbor to Neighbor Concept

The Kenwood Park Neighbor-to-Neighbor initiative is coming into focus now. The KPCA board has decided to begin this voluntary help system with these three areas of aid:

1. Occasional help with odd jobs such as replacing light bulbs
2. Driving to essential appointments or for necessary tasks
3. Help with taking trash out on trash day

We are feeling our way how to proceed to register people who wish to volunteer as well as become acquainted with those of us who might need help. We are working on figuring out how to have this all done securely both for those who use the internet and those who do not. (We do not want unknown people to be able to get into someone's home by feigning being a volunteer neighbor who has not yet been introduced.)

We are fortunate to have one of our neighbors, Gloria Cole, to act as our information nexus on this initiative. She will collect information from potential volunteers, from those who might need help, and from neighbors with suggestions on how to fill in this outline of organization to make the initiative come to life and function robustly.

So for those of you who fall into any of these three categories, please contact Gloria by email at glaston1@verizon.net or by phone at 301-229-6789. We look forward to hearing from you.

Proposed Change in Bus Service

For budgetary reasons Montgomery County Ride / Ride On is proposing a number of service reductions. The route serving Kenwood Park, the number 29 bus is proposed for discontinuation of Saturday and Sunday service. A public hearing will held on February 1, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.. Further information is available from Division of Transit Services, 101 Monroe Street, 5th Floor, Rockville, MD 20850, (240) 777-5800 or mcdot.rideonpublicforums@montgomerycountymd.gov.

KPCA POT LUCK DINNER

Sunday, April 18, 2010

6:30 to 8:30PM

Concord St. Andrew's United Methodist Church
(Corner of Goldsboro and River Road)

Last name starting with:

A – L: Appetizer

M – R: Fruit/Dessert

S – Z: Main Course

Please bring enough for 8 to 10 people. Drinks will be provided.

RSVP: Lucia Gregori (301) 263 0678

lgregori@verizon.net or *potluck@kpcaonline.org*

☞ IN A POTLUCK, BY DEFINITION, EVERYONE BRINGS A DISH ☞

Email Notification

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. However, only such serious problems will be reported. For example, we will not report lost pets in such emails. 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, please enroll on our web site: www.kenwoodparkweb.net and click on "My Community" at the top left. If you prefer typing, use www.kenwoodparkweb.net/association/cahome.cfm

To sign up, click on "register" at the top of the column at the left side.

Bridge

Interested in playing bridge or starting a bridge club in Kenwood Park? Please call KP residents Gloria Fitchett at (301) 229-8480 or Christina Lobo at (301) 229-3490. This is just to start the ball rolling, we could start playing in the Fall.

The Garden Club

The Garden Club Co-Chairs, Michael Berg and Carol Logun, welcome ideas for projects and events, and volunteers. Contact Michael Berg at mdberg@verizon.net, or Carol Logun at jclogun@earthlink.net.

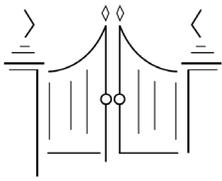
Our "Stats"

We presently have 252 residents subscribing to the security service and 41 social memberships. This newsletter goes to 640 homes in Kenwood Park.

KPCA News

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Bethesda, MD 20817

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Acknowledgements

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Edward Elson, *Editor*

Neighborhood Services Available

Baby Sitters

Jill Sorcher (Certified) (301) 229-2328
J. Peyser (Certified) (301) 320-2558
J. Flaherty (301) 229-2602
C. Goldman (301) 320-1582
Michelle Dressner (301) 652-5453
Casey Thevenot (301) 263-0999
Kendall Eisenberg (301) 263-9169

(and odd jobs, mother's helper)

Leigh Fishman (301) 229-3650
Alexandra (Allie) Fishman (301) 437-1025
(certified sitter and first aid provider)

Olivia Barber (301) 760-7535
Anna Moulton (301) 229-1661

(pet sitter, dog walker)

Katie Chopping (certified) (301) 229-9139
Anne Charpentier (certified) (301) 320-4310

Leaf Rakers, Snowshovelers, Odd Jobs

Chris John (mowing) (301) 229-2648
Shafi Noss (301) 325-8360
Amber White (301) 588-6474

(apamberpower@gmail.com) (loving and reliable dog walker)

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at (301) 320-2837 or email news@kpcaonline.org