

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 16, Issue 4 • October 2010

President's Corner

Although the weather has been somewhat too dry recently, the warm, sunny days and cool nights are a bounty that we get to experience each late spring and early fall. The change in weather means that we will soon be having a Kenwood Park potluck dinner, to which everyone in Kenwood Park is invited. We have wonderfully diverse and international neighbors in Kenwood Park, which is reflected in the food that we get at the potluck. Hope to see you all there. Details are shown elsewhere in this issue of the KPCA News.

Halloween and trick or treat arrives this year on the weekend of October 30-31. The KPCA sponsors the children's Halloween party, but we need volunteers to organize and run it. The volunteers have great latitude to plan the party. Please volunteer by email to pres@kpcasonline.org or call at 301-263-0452, and please do so soon.

As we all notice around now, the nights are lengthening, and walkers are out and about in the dark either for recreating or going to or coming from school. The KPCA has light blinkers that can be attached to clothing and be seen many blocks away. They are free to KPCA members only, and each member home can obtain a number of flashers equal to the number of children in the house plus two. Please do not ask for more just yet if you got some last year. You can request flashers by email at pres@kpcasonline.org with a header of flashers or blinkers. They also will be available at the potluck dinner.

We have seen an increasing number of theft and burglaries in Bethesda, and our security patrol acts as a deterrent in our immediate neighborhood. Please join the KPCA and subscribe to the security patrol. This benefits the entire neighborhood, and everyone should take on their share. A form is included in this issue of the News, and letters requesting the same will be sent soon to those who have not yet subscribed.

Ken Rubinson
KPCA President

KPCA Calendar

Potluck Dinner

Sunday, November 7, 2010

6:30 to 8:30PM

Concord St. Andrew's United Methodist Church

See further 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

Crime Notes

Guns stolen from Kenwood home

A man forced his way into an occupied home Tuesday, September 7th in Kenwood. Police said the robber knocked on the back door of a house in the 5200 block of Dorset Avenue, pushed his way inside, and locked a housekeeper in the basement. Two men were also home at the time. None of the occupants was injured.

The robber took only handguns and apparently fled on foot toward the Capital Crescent Trail. The man was described as black, 45 to 50 years old, six feet to six feet two, and between 200 and 220 pounds. He wore a black or dark blue baseball cap, a gray tee shirt, and black or blue long pants, the police said.

(Continued on page 4)

Ken Rubinson, President (301) 263-0452 pres@KPCAonline.org
MSS Office: (301) 384-7777 (Hrs: M-F, 9-5) Patrol car: (240) 793-6255
Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kenwoodparkweb.net>

The Real Estate Corner

Little on the Market in Kenwood Park

Remember that every action has a reaction, and the First Time Homebuyers' Tax Credit that created a bullish month in April of this year also caused the reaction of a slowdown in sales in July and August. Lawrence Yun, the chief economist for the National Association of Realtors predicted this slowdown and he also predicted that the market would regain its strength in the fall. We hope he's right again.

In the close-in Metro area the average price was up over last year by 5.11% and the months' supply of product was a healthy, low 4.7 months. However, consumer confidence still needs a boost even though interest rates should have buyers flocking to move up.

In 20817 there are 124 detached homes for sale, priced between \$475,000 and \$8,999,000. 27 are between \$700,000 and \$999,000 and 38 are between 1 and 2 million. There are 48 homes under contract. They were on the market an average of 58 days before they received a ratified contract and the average list price was \$1,240,572.

But in Kenwood Park there are only two homes on the market and one is the large new home on Goldsboro at Millwood. Since June there have been 15 homes that have gone to closing in our neighborhood, with sold prices ranging between \$800,000 and \$1,100,000. The average days on the market, however, was only 26, indicating that we remain a highly desirable community. And we all know that, which may be why there's so little for sale in Kenwood Park!

*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.

Our Web Site

Please join our 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 our President, Ken Rubinson at pres@KPCAonline.org

A Local Ordinance One Should be Familiar With

It is not lawful to park in the opposite direction of travel. The law states that the vehicle shall be parked parallel to the right hand curb or edge of the roadway with its right hand wheels within 12 inches of that curb or edge of the roadway.

For Non-Native English Speakers—Practice Your English

Practice speaking English in a friendly group. Everyone is welcome. Come as often as you like. Registration is not required. Volunteers lead the session at the Bethesda Public Library, Wednesdays: 2-4 PM and Thursdays: 1-3 PM, 8 September 2010 – 15 June 2011.

Tel: 240-777-0970, or email: Bethesda@folmc.org. Sessions are sponsored by Friends of the Library, Bethesda chapter.

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.



Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park Book Club will meet next on Monday, October 18, and we are reading the novel *Cutting for Stone* by Abraham Verghese.

Contact sgust@msn.com for more information.

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, 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.

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
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 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

Chris John (mowing)	(301) 229-2648
Shafi Noss	(301) 325-8360
Amber White	(301) 588-6474
<i>(apamberpower@gmail.com (loving and reliable dog walker)</i>	

GET LISTED HERE FREE:

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

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.

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

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.

Crime Notes

(Continued from Page 1)

Money stolen from a car on Millwood

One of our neighbors reported that a substantial sum of money was stolen from a wallet left in an unlocked car in their driveway. The wallet with driver's license and credit cards was left in the car.

Incident Report

On September 15th, about 2 A.M., the police received a call from a citizen for an attempted burglary (not confirmed) in the 5600 block of Brite Dr. An alert was received for three males each wearing grey hooded sweatshirts and dark pants. An officer noticed a vehicle occupied by three people matching this description and attempted to stop it. The suspects jumped out of the car, and the officer pursued them and tackled two of the three as they went down a deep embankment at River Road and Goldsboro. One of the two got away from the officer, but a second, an eighteen year old male was detained. The officer was injured from falling down the embankment, was treated at Suburban Hospital, and released.

The vehicle the suspects were in was stolen from the 7000 block of Radnor Rd. A key had been

found in the vehicle. A GPS was recovered and is believed to have been stolen from a vehicle in the 7000 block of Clarendon. The suspects are believed to have been stealing from vehicles in these areas.

Anyone with information about these incidents is requested to contact the Bethesda Investigative Section at 301-657-0112.

If you believe your vehicle was broken into, please report the incident to the police non-emergency number 301-279-8000.

Please note

The KPCA board has been informed that many of the robberies that are occurring in the area are done by minors who, when caught, are often released after a short time. Unlocked cars have been stolen from Kenwood Park usually with a key left in it. Most if not all of the thefts from cars that have occurred in the neighborhood have been from those that are **NOT LOCKED**.

Teenagers Behaving Badly

One of our residents on Millwood reported that in July eight police cars showed up at a house on Millwood Rd. There was some discussion on our website about the possible cause. The police report mentioned a break-in.

The facts are much more interesting. It turns out that a group of teenage kids found out that the residents were on vacation and house was empty. They broke in and used the house for several nights. One of the neighbors saw some empty beer bottles/cans in the back yard a couple of days in a row and alerted the police.

The residents did not subscribe to the KPCA Security Patrol and so were not entitled to its nightly house-check service.

Volunteers Needed for Halloween Party

Halloween is on the weekend of October 30-31. We need volunteers to organize and run the Kenwood Park Halloween party. Please volunteer by email to Pres@kpcaonline.org or call at 301-263-0452.

Light Sentinels to Protect Night Time Walkers

The KPCA has light blinkers that can be attached to clothing and be seen many blocks away. You can request flashers by email at pres@kpcaonline.org with a header of flashers or blinkers. They also will be available at the potluck dinner.

**KPCA
POT
LUCK
DINNER**

Sunday

November 7, 2010

6:30 to 8:30PM

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

Last name starting with:

A –K: Main Course

L – P: Salad/Side Dishes

Q – Z: Fruit/Dessert

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

RSVP: Lucia Gregori (301) 263 0678

lgregori@verizon.net or potluck@kpcaonline.org

Real Estate Advice

How High Tech is Your Current (or Future) Home?

Whether you continue to live in your current home with thoughts of potential future renovation or considering a new home, it's wise to review a "checklist" for your technology needs as an owner or potential buyer.

1. Are there enough jacks in every room for cable TV, high speed Internet hookups, ability to place a satellite dish and receive good reception?
2. Are there telephone extensions in appropriate rooms for phone land lines or will you need a fax landline if everyone in your house uses a cell phone? And what would you do in the event there is an emergency or there is an extended period of no electricity?
3. Does the home have a local area network (LAN) and wireless access for standalone and/or laptop computers? Or a digital subscriber line (DSL) for high speed Internet?
4. Dollars for energy consumption is an ever increasing percentage of a homeowners' paycheck. Do you have multi-zoned heating and cooling controls? How about programmable thermostats?
5. What about installing energy efficient light-bulbs, task lighting or under-cabinet kitchen lighting?
6. If you like to entertain or enjoy music or listening to the radio, do you have audio access/speakers in the interior walls and ceilings and even outdoors? What about home theatres?
7. Is the home wired with in-wall wiring that supports reconfigurations as technology changes or is upgrade-able?
8. What about "flip the switch" access to skylight openings, window coverings, etc.?
9. Security systems - do they exist? Are they updated? Who does the system "call" or notify in the event of an emergency? Can you be reached at your cell number or by text message?

*Submitted by Kathleen Ryan
kathleen.ryan@longandfoster.com*



ABOVE: Children in a sack race during the Kenhill block party this summer.

BELOW: Checking out the Chevy Chase Rescue Squad Truck



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 who have subscribed to the security patrol. Non-members can easily sign up by contacting Ken Rubinson by phone or email, pres@KPCAonline.org.

Kenwood Park Citizens Association

On behalf of the Kenwood Park community, the KPCA board would like to thank all the members of our community who have joined the KPCA in the past. Please renew your membership today. We urge others, including those who rent their homes, to begin their subscriptions this year. Your memberships fund the potluck dinners, the KPCA Newsletter, the neighborhood beautification activities, our website www.kenwood-parkweb.net, the children's Halloween party, the Garden Club, the Book Club, and liaisons with other citizens' organizations in Montgomery County. The KPCA also is a collective voice for our neighborhood with the county government on issues of concern.

In addition to the regular membership, we encourage everyone in the community to subscribe to the security patrol. The additional fee is modest in view of the benefits to our whole neighborhood. If more neighbors participate than in the past, we could have daytime service. Because of last year's response, we have been able to hold the fee the same for the third year.

- ◆ Our security patrol is present every night throughout the year and can respond more quickly than the county police since the patrol car is within a few blocks of your home.
- ◆ Upon advance notification of a vacation, the security officer will check a subscriber's home multiple times a night and will keep alternative phone numbers to contact you or a neighbor if necessary. They will place newspapers and packages out of view.
- ◆ If you have an alarm system, the alarm company can call the patrol if the alarm goes off and there is no response at the residence. The patrol can check the house and call the county police. The secondary responder can be the county police. This will prevent false alarms to the county, which imposes a charge beginning with the 2nd false alarm. Again, this service is for subscribers only.

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

This is our current information. Please make any corrections for our records and the new phonebook.

July 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011

Security patrol and KPCA membership together: \$282.

KPCA membership only: \$75.

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

KPCA News

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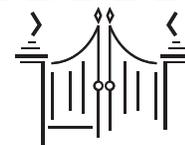
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Edward Elson, *Editor*