

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 17, Issue 2 • April 2011

President's Corner

The weather is trying to be springtime, but apparently with only intermittent success. Nevertheless, we will be having our spring potluck dinner on Sunday April 17th. Everyone is invited and especially new residents, and, of course, children are most welcome. We have a wonderfully international neighborhood, and everyone who comes seems to have a good time with a LOT of conversation.

In Kenwood Park, our cherry trees are trying to bloom in spite of an April that feels more like early March. The last few winters' heavy snows have been brutal to the trees, and soon the KPCA will be announcing an initiative where we will have negotiated to get a good value for homeowners for new Kwanzan cherry trees along the streets (or anywhere you prefer). Look for an announcement in the next KPCA News and online.

Speaking of online, we have both the necessity and opportunity to change our web site. Our web system was unexpectedly and without prior notification shut down. We are in the process of setting up a new web site with the web address www.KPCAonline.org This is the same address as our email. It should be much easier to navigate and especially easier to find where to sign up for our email list. We will still be careful to preserve our privacy, and to be careful about screening applicants who wish access beyond the "welcome-to-the-neighborhood content." The signup will continue to be vetted by our webmaster. We will have much more control of the content and layout, and suggestions are welcome at info@kpc-online.org. When the site is ready, we will send out an announcement to those on our listserve and also note it in the KPCA News subsequent to that.

Finally, I have noticed that our Kenwood Park signs on Millwood have been cleaned up and trimmed by someone. Please accept the neighborhood's thanks for that anonymous service.

I hope to see you all at the potluck.

Ken Rubinson
KPCA President

KPCA Calendar

Potluck Dinner

Sunday, April 17, 2011

6:30 to 8:30PM

Concord St. Andrews 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

The Montgomery County Police Citizens Academy

The Montgomery County Police Department is currently accepting applications for future sessions of the Citizens Academy. The program is free. Participants must be 18 years of age or older and either live or work in Montgomery County. Participants attend up to 16 classes followed by a graduation ceremony. Some of the topics covered include: Maryland Traffic Law, Major Crimes investigations, drug identification, scams and frauds, firearm safety, canine demonstration, DWI/underage drinking and the procedures of the Emergency Response Team. Academy members have the option of touring the Montgomery County Corrections Facility, participating in a ride along with a police officer, and attending Cardio-Pulmonary Re-

(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>

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.

Bridge

Interested in playing bridge or starting a bridge club in Kenwood Park? Please call KP residents Gloria Fitchett at (301) 229-8400 or Christina Lobo at (301) 229-3490. This is just to start the ball rolling, we could start playing in the Spring.

Considering a Custom Build?



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Neighborhood Services Available

Baby Sitters

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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
Claire and Elise Mytelka (pet sitters)	(301) 365-4056

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



Kenwood Park Book Group

In April, the Kenwood Park Book Club is reading *The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime*

Washington, by Jennet Conant. Contact sgjust@msn for more info.

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.

**KPCA
POT
LUCK
DINNER**

***Sunday
April 17, 2011***

6:30 to 8:30PM

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

Last name starting with:

A – D: Salad/Side Dishes

E – K: Fruit/Dessert

L – Z: Main Course

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

RSVP: Lucia Gregori (301) 263 0678

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

Comments from the last Police Citizens Advisory Board Meeting

On March 28, 2011 the Bethesda District Police Commander, Russ Hamill, conducted an advisory board meeting, which is open to interested citizens and meets approximately every two months, except in the summer, at District Headquarters in downtown Bethesda. He observed that car break-ins and car thefts continue to be aided and abetted, in many cases, by owners who leave cars unlocked, often with portable electronic devices lying in plain sight. He has, as on other occasions, asked owners to exercise prudence in this matter. It is pre-eminently a crime of opportunity with thieves moving through neighborhoods looking for easy pickings.

The Commander also encouraged citizens who are unsure that they are observing suspicious activity or behavior to resolve their doubt in favor of calling police. One should not worry that one is "bothering" the police. They want to respond in order to resolve doubt, even though such activities might turn out to be innocent.

**KPCA
Pot Luck Dinner
Sunday, April 17
(see page 3)**

Citizens Academy (continued)

suscitation (CPR) classes. A spring session is upcoming. Those interested in learning more about the Citizen Academy and applying for a future session may contact Officer Michele Smith at 301-840-2771 or michele.smith@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Editor's Note: The editor attended the just completed winter course and found it to be a very enlightening (and fun) experience. Highpoints for the editor were the demonstrations from the Canine Unit, the simulated tracking down and arrest of a fleeing "bad guy", the taser demonstration, the firearms course, the major crimes session, the demonstration of making DUI stops, the swat team session, the corrections facility tour, and the ride-along in a patrol unit. Every session was fascinating. The editor highly recommends this course which meets once a week in the evening.

Another Piece of Chicanery to Ponder

The following piece was submitted by one of our residents. The Editor has not independently verified the reality of the situation described and is submitting it out of general interest.

How to Lock Your Car and Why

I locked my car. As I walked away I heard my car door unlock. I went back and locked my car again three times. Each time, as soon as I started to walk away, I would hear it unlock again!! Naturally alarmed, I looked around and there were two guys sitting in a car in the fire lane next to the store. They were obviously watching me intently, and there was no doubt they were somehow involved in this very weird situation. I quickly chucked the errand I was on, jumped in my car and sped away. I went straight to the police station, told them what had happened, and found out I was part of a new, and very successful, scheme being used to gain entry into cars. Two weeks later, my friend's son had a similar happening....

While traveling, my friend's son stopped at a roadside rest to use the bathroom. When he came out to his car less than 4-5 minutes later, someone had gotten into his car and stolen his cell phone, laptop computer, GPS navigator, briefcase.....you name it. He called the police and since there were no signs of his car being broken into, the police told him he had been a victim of the latest robbery tactic -- there is a device that robbers are using now to clone your security code when you lock your doors on your car using your key-chain locking device..

They sit a distance away and watch for their next victim. They know you are going inside of the store, restaurant, or bathroom and that they now have a few minutes to steal and run. The police officer said to manually lock your car door-by hitting the lock button inside the car -- that way if there is someone sitting in a parking lot watching for their next victim, it will not be you.

When you hit the lock button on your car upon exiting, it does not send the security code, but if you walk away and use the door lock on your key chain, it sends the code through the airwaves where it can be instantly stolen.

This is very real.

The Market is on the Rise!

If robins are the harbinger of Spring, then the Washington area real estate market is the harbinger of recovery. Although the Case Schiller report, which came out last week, speaks depressingly of a continuingly moribund real estate environment throughout the country, it is two months behind in data but it also speaks positively about the Washington area market which has seen significant growth. The average price in the close-in Metro area rose for the 10th consecutive month over last year. Dollar volume of sales, which had declined with the slowdown that occurred last fall is up again for the 3rd month in a row. And consumer confidence is up in the Metro area and across the nation.

Contrary to expectations, interest rates are still at a historic low, though trending upwards slowly. With continued low rates and improving consumer confidence there is every indication that this Spring will be an even stronger period in our area than previously thought. Local lenders are still waving the inflation flag, however. They admit rates are lower than they thought they would be this time last year. But they continue to say that they won't go lower and that increasing inflations will take its toll on the mortgage market as well.

We were off to a slow start in terms of inventory reaching the market in February. There was little to sell! But March and now April are making up for lost time. More homes come on the market every week and the open houses are proving that there are plenty of buyers out there. The old cliché about location, location, locations still holds true, but has been amended to include: If it shows well, and is priced right, it will sell!

Currently in Kenwood Park, we still have the large home on Goldsboro Road for sale. There is one home currently for sale by owner on Durbin Road and one under contract on Lenox Road. One house sold on Millwood as a tear-down for \$800,000. Two more homes will be coming on the market in the next month. And at the request of one of our neighbors that I include rentals, one home on Whittier with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 baths rented for \$3500. The rental market is still tight, with little sign of loosening.

So it all looks good right now!

*Contributed by Linda Chaletzky
lchaletzky@eversco.com*

One-Stop All County Government Information at 311

MC311 is Montgomery County's simple, three-digit, one stop phone number for customers to call (3-1-1) or site to visit (www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311) to obtain non-emergency County information and services and to enter service requests or send emails.

The system continues to grow and expand. As county residents become more familiar with it and the relative ease of reaching County services by simply dialing 311, the county expects call volume to continue to rise.

A recent survey of hundreds of 311 users showed about 75 percent of users satisfied with the time it took to reach a Customer Service Representative. Seventy-two percent were satisfied or extremely satisfied with the handling of their call. The survey showed 75 percent satisfied or extremely satisfied with their overall 311 experience.

MC311 has proved a valuable resource making more efficient the way the County delivers non-emergency customer service.

When Grocery Shopping is Difficult, Local Nonprofit Delivers

Anyone who finds it hard to grocery shop or who is struggling to care for a relative while managing other responsibilities will find a caring solution when they call local nonprofit, Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries.

Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries (Top Banana) was founded 29 years ago because there was no dependable grocery delivery to help the elderly get food and supplies when they lost the strength and stamina to shop for themselves.

Today, Top Banana delivers its supportive, essential service to help people of all ages and incomes throughout much of the metro area. Service remains personalized and easy to use.

- Talk to a real person! Orders are taken by telephone or fax.
- Choose from the full variety of name-brand items, fresh dairy, meats and vegetables, frozen foods, household/ personal/pet items, and fresh-cooked foods.
- Have the drivers deliver to your front door or kitchen. If needed, they will even unpack the bags, loosen jar lids, change a light bulb or other small task.
- Pay fair market prices for top-quality groceries. The low service fee (\$15 or less) is based on ability to pay. Credit and debit cards, cash, checks and food stamps (SNAP) are all accepted.

All of Top Banana's staff and volunteers are dedicated people who are motivated by the part they play in helping people maintain healthy and independent lives in the community for as long as possible. Top Banana has twice been recognized for excellence by the Catalogue for Philanthropy.

To order, get information or arrange for a speaker: Please call 301-372-FOOD(3663). Learn more about this program at www.topbananagroceries.org or email info@topbananagroceries.org.

(Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries is partially funded by Montgomery County, DHHS.

Volunteers Needed

The Senior Connection urgently needs Volunteers to help their frail and elderly Montgomery County neighbors live as independently as possible by:

- Providing escorted transportation to scheduled medical appointments
- Helping with grocery shopping and running errands
- Paying a friendly visit or making a phone call to share companionship

Generally a volunteer driver will provide one trip a week for one person. The typical trip is during non-rush hour, is less than 5 miles from home and takes 2-3 hours at a date and time convenient to the volunteer.

Volunteers have a feeling of great satisfaction knowing that they are giving back to their community when they help seniors remain independent in their own homes. They have expressed gratitude for the emotional lift they feel while serving to make a senior's life a little happier.

By volunteering you will strengthen your community and be rewarded by making new friends. Your time commitment and schedule will be flexible. You will be provided with life skills training and recognition events. The Senior Connection also provides volunteer liability insurance coverage. All of these factors make volunteering with The Senior Connection a very appealing opportunity to serve your community.

For more information, please contact:

Marcia Custer
Director of Community Development
301 962 0820 x 14
Marcia.custer@seniorconnection.org
www.seniorconnectionmc.org

KPCA
Pot Luck Dinner
Food, Food, Food
Friends, Friends, Friends
(see page 3)

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

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.

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.

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if you don't have time to clean your house, call me!

rose's cleaning services

304 sunny brook terrace, apto 723
gaithersburg md

301 603 9212

rosemeyredias@hotmail.com

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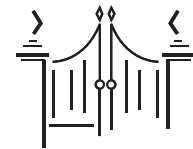


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Edward Elson, *Editor*