

# KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Volume 18, Issue 1 • January 2012

## President's Corner

By all accounts, the KPCA Halloween party was a great success. I heard that one young lady whom I saw bouncing in the castle had been doing so continuously for more than an hour before I saw her. Her excitement was obvious as was that of all the kids. Meg O'Leary was the organizer of the party, and I personally and on behalf of the KPCA would like to thank her for her hard work. In addition, thanks go to her helpers Kendra Fletcher, Grace O'Leary, Madi Warner, Allie Lerner, Lauren Baker, Claire Ryan, Liam O'Leary, Matthew Ryan, Carson Wine, Ashton Garafalo, Betsy Kane, Jim Campbell , Phil Savage, and Mike O'Leary.

Another person who deserves thanks and has not been recognized enough for what he does for the neighborhood is Ken Chaletzky. He is the printer of our KPCA News and all the letters that go out from the KPCA as well as the phone book. But as a neighbor he goes out of his way to help and advise the best ways to communicate and does the designing of the communications. Thanks for so much help over the years, Ken.

Now we are near the shortest day of the year, and I have noticed that too many walkers are dressed in dark clothing and walking almost invisibly on the streets with their dogs, for recreation, or going to or coming from school. For a few years now, the KPCA has been giving out light blinkers that can be attached to clothing and be seen many blocks away. They are free to KPCA members. If you do not yet have some, you can request flashers by email at pres@kpcaconline.org with a header of flashers or blinkers. Each member household can obtain a number of flashers equal to the number of children in the house plus two. I hope to see every pedestrian with a flasher attached when out at night.

Finally, the KPCA and I hope that you all had a great holiday season.

**Ken Robinson**  
KPCA President

## KPCA Calendar

### **KPCA Board Meeting**

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

### **Book Club**

See inside for information

## **What Would You Do in an Emergency?**

Would you be able to feed your family and pets with the non-perishable food in your pantry?

If the water system was interrupted would you have enough drinking, bathing, and flushing water for a week?

If your family had to leave your home at a moment's notice, could you do so safely?

*Where would you go?*

These are questions we should be asking ourselves. Montgomery County recommends each family have a plan that answers the questions posed above. We should know where to meet our family members, in an emergency -in a location away from home, how to contact them, and we should be self-sufficient for at least one week.

I recently took a series of classes to become a certified CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) member. I learned how to be a first responder in disaster and emergency situations in our community and elsewhere, but what I want to share today are the simple things each family can do to help themselves.

*(Continued on page 2)*

Ken Robinson, 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>

# Neighbor to Neighbor and Bethesda Help

The fledgling Kenwood Park Neighbor to Neighbor program would like to begin by gathering names of residents who would be available to help drive one of their neighbors to a medical appointment in the event that a neighbor is in need of such help. If you are willing to drive or if you may need a ride, please call Linda Chaletzky at 301 320-0871.

Bethesda Help is an all volunteer organization offering food to those who may be in need, help with utility payments or rent in the event of a cutoff or eviction notice, help with prescriptions for those whose finances make obtaining their medications prohibitive and rides to medical appointments for those unable to afford a taxi or who don't have other means of transportation. If you know of anyone who may find themselves in such circumstances, they should call 301 365-2022 and leave a message. A volunteer will call them back.

## What To Do in an Emergency **(continued from page 1)**

**Have a family plan.** Know where to meet each other if there is an emergency and you can't meet at home. Maybe you can meet in the front yard of the house across the street, at a friend's house three blocks away or at a nearby school. If the local phone systems are down, often you can call long distance. Have a contact person out of town.

**Collect emergency rations.** It is recommended that each family have one week's worth of non-perishable food, and one gallon of water per person and pet per day.

**Put together a "go" pack** –If you had to leave home within ten minutes or less, what emergency supplies would you have ready? You should be able to grab a pack with a change of clothes, medicines, (copies of prescriptions), food, water, flashlights, batteries, first aid kit, blankets, vital records etc. If you have pets

Starting a new business?  
Buying or selling a franchise?  
Considering a merger or acquisition?

Whether you're just getting off the ground, established and looking to grow, or ready to retire or sell, Kenwood Park resident and small business attorney Dave Hotes can help. Leveraging experience gained at large downtown firms, Dave formed Bethesda Law Group – a local firm that understands and supports entrepreneurs, as well as small- and medium-sized businesses. We offer expertise in entity formation, contract drafting and negotiation, as well as taxation and transactions.



4520 East West Hwy, Suite 700, Bethesda, MD 20814  
301.469-3352 • [dave@bethesdalawgroup.com](mailto:dave@bethesdalawgroup.com)  
[www.bethesdalawgroup.com](http://www.bethesdalawgroup.com)

tuck in a leash, collar, and vaccination and other medical records...

Put a pack containing most of these items in a closet or the garage, so you can grab it and go. I learned in class that many folks put together a package of important papers (deeds, birth certificates, insurance info, health records, etc) and mail it to a relative out of town. If a disaster occurs you then have the vital documents you need to help you recover from the damage.

The list of precautions can go on and on. Each family has differing needs. Yet, if you take a few planning steps you can be prepared to mitigate your family's distress and discomfort in an emergency.

Contributed by Austin King



The Newsletter editor especially wants to thank Kendra Fletcher who took the great photographs reproduced here. There is a photo album of 30 color photos which might be available by contacting Kendra at [vtkendra@hotmail.com](mailto:vtkendra@hotmail.com).

## 2011 Real Estate in Kenwood Park – A Slow Down?

The real estate market is traditionally quieter in November and December every year, both nationally and in our area. We know it will improve in 2012 but we don't know by how much. This will depend on a wide range of economic factors, yet unknown, as well as the buying public's confidence that real estate is again a good investment. What we do know, however, is that 2011 was a much less active year for Kenwood Park than 2010. In 2010 there were 22 homes in Kenwood Park that went to closing. Only 8 homes went to closing in 2011. That is 64% of the 2010 closings. Inventory was down throughout the area, to be sure, but not to this extent. The reasons for this decline remain a mystery. Perhaps the economy's uncertainty has made potential sellers reluctant to make changes. Perhaps people feel that there is a lack of appropriate housing alternatives. Or perhaps this is simply a normal cycle that we are experiencing.

Whatever the reasons, however, the experience of Realtors continues to be that if homes are priced too high, even by a small amount, or if they show poorly, buyers are reluctant to make even a very low offer. Instead they reject the home out of hand. Even if the price is later reduced, those same buyers who walked away when it was a higher price generally won't return as they cling to the reasons why the home was initially unsuitable.

Currently there are two homes on the market in Kenwood Park – 6112 Shady Oak Lane at \$1,149,000 and 5880 Marbury Road at \$872,000. (It was previously listed at \$972,000.) One home went to closing in November on Marbury Road and it will be torn down and reconstructed for a price likely to be in the low \$2-million range, depending upon customization. There are four other homes under contract listing at \$579,000, \$900,000, \$995,000 and the new construction on Millwood Road which listed at \$1,998,500.

*Contributed by Linda Chaletzky  
lchaletzky@eversco.com*

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\*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.

### 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, we will encourage you to join our website. Our website is presently down, but we hope to have it up and running in the near future.

### 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. We could start playing in the Spring.

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# 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](http://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.

## Dickens 1812-2012 Book Club

Starts Tuesday, January 17 at 7:00 pm

Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Rd, Bethesda, MD

**FREE**

**Dickens All the Year Round  
Read one or read them all!**

Join Michael Bevel, sensational facilitator of Bethesda Library's long-running Victorian Literature reading group, in reading and discussing:

### **"The Pickwick Papers"**

by *Charles Dickens*

The Dickens 1812-2012 Book Club is brought to you by the Friends of Library, Bethesda Chapter, on the third Tuesday of the months in 2012.

Website: <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library>  
Email Mike at [mbevel2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mbevel2002@yahoo.com)

**Price FREE (parking is free too after 7 PM)**

To request ADA program accommodation, contact:  
The Bethesda Library, 7400  
Arlington Road, Bethesda MD 20814  
240-777-0970; TTY 301-657-0840  
five working days in advance.

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## Neighborhood Services Available

### Baby Sitters

L. Sorcher (Certified)	(301) 229-2328
J. Flaherty	(301) 229-2602
C. Goldman	(301) 320-1582
Michelle Dressner	(301) 652-5453
Kendall Eisenberg	(301) 263-9169
(certified babysitter, odd jobs, and mother's helper)	
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
Abby Lederman	(301) 263-0432

### 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))	

### GET LISTED HERE FREE:

Leave name and phone number with Editor, Edward Elson, at (301) 320-2837 or email [news@kpcaconline.org](mailto:news@kpcaconline.org)



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## 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 Robinson by phone or email, [pres@KPCAonline.org](mailto:pres@KPCAonline.org).



## Kenwood Park Book Group

The Kenwood Park Book Club will meet next on January 2, 2012 and is reading *Enemies of the People: My Family's Journey to America*, by Kati Marton. Contact [sgust@msn.com](mailto:sgust@msn.com) for more information.

## Our Web Site

As many of you know our website is down at this time. As President Ken Robinson has noted, an effort is underway to reactivate the website.

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# **MONTGOMERY COUNTY POLICE ADVISORY**

2nd District / Bethesda  
Officer Denise Gill  
October 14, 2011

## **RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY SUSPICIOUS PERSONS & VEHICLES**

We are currently investigating a number of residential burglaries that are occurring in our District.

In concert with our efforts to identify and apprehend those individuals responsible for these crimes, we are seeking your help.

**Three basic “leads” most frequently help to solve a burglary:**

**Witnesses**  
**Physical evidence/stolen property**  
**Follow up investigation**

### **WHAT CAN YOU DO?**

You are the “eyes and ears” of your neighborhood. You know what would be normal activity on your street. Most communities have many strangers in them every day. Some are doing lawn work, construction work, or domestic work. They usually are perfectly legitimate. But when you see a stranger, take a moment to observe their behavior. If it appears suspicious, call us.

**NON EMERGENCY NUMBER 301 279-8000**

This accomplishes several things. You get a marked police vehicle in your neighborhood and we have a chance to determine whether a stranger may be involved in criminal activity.

Remember, theft is a crime of opportunity.

#### **What about unfamiliar vehicles?**

How about jotting down that tag number and vehicle description? This kind of information is absolutely critical. Some burglars use a “lookout” and they may be waiting in a vehicle nearby.

Is your home secure? Is your personal property secure? Do you keep your valuables in your master bedroom? Might you considered storing your irreplaceable valuables in a safe deposit box? Have you recorded the serial numbers/model numbers for all of your electronic devices? If you have an alarm do you use it? Do you lock your doors and windows? Can your home be seen from the road? Can someone hide behind shrubbery to gain access to your doors or windows? Have you removed your garage door opener from your vehicle? Is your vehicle locked?

**Can we see your house numbers?**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP**  
2nd District Police / Bethesda

**In Emergencies always dial 911**

# KPCA News

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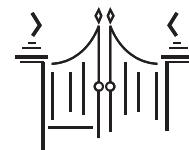
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Edward Elson, *Editor*