

KPCA News

Newsletter of the Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.

Promoting and enhancing the Kenwood Park neighborhood

Volume 26, Issue 2 • December 2020

From The KPCA Board Of Directors

We send our best wishes to all of our residents during these trying times of the pandemic. As we go to press one or more vaccines have been approved and vaccinations of the American people are in high gear. We are deeply appreciative of the heroic efforts of all of our health care providers. It may be possible to resume events we have sponsored in the past, including the 4th of July parade, the Fall Festival, the back-to-school ice cream social, and "Front Yard Fridays." We will follow events and guidance from the county and state. Updates will appear on our KPCA list serve, KPCA website, and Constant Contact, our brand-new news bulletin, all of which are available to all residents of Kenwood Park, regardless of membership in KPCA.

This issue features articles on our KPCA general meeting January 10th, all members invited, updates on the security service, the popularity of our KPCA list serve which is open only to residents of Kenwood Park, our brand-new virtual news service "Constant Contact," as well as other topics of concern to residents.

UPDATE ON CRIME REPORT FOR KENWOOD PARK

by Hannah Elson

After an unusually high number of car break-ins this past summer and fall, a crime report was published on our KPCA community list serve on October 11th. The numbers were high across Montgomery County, but we had an unusually high number for our neighborhood. We urged everyone to keep their cars locked, stepped up the nighttime patrols by Urban Alarm, and the car break-ins stopped. Some of these break-ins may have been caused by teenagers, as the home surveillance cameras have

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Save the Date for the Annual KPCA New Year Virtual Meeting

Please plan on attending the annual KPCA New Year virtual meeting on Zoom on

**Sunday, January 10
3:00 - 4:15 pm.**

Agenda items include:

- ◆ Remarks and discussion with Montgomery County Council Member, Andrew Friedson
- ◆ Update and discussion of activities and priorities of the KPCA for 2021
- ◆ Kenwood Park Trivia and prize

The meeting hyperlink will be sent to those on the KPCA list serve before the meeting.

Zoom Meeting ID: **819 6042 8563**

Passcode: **251702**

Phone: **301-715-8592,,,enter 819 6042 8563#,,,,,enter 0#,,,enter 251702#**

Pets and COVID-19

by Neda Arsanjani

A new study published by University of South Australia researchers points to the lifesaving role that pets have played in 2020. Pets have a crucial role to play in an era where human-human contact can be life endangering. People have now started adopting pets more, as

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Foroud Arsanjani, President pres@KPCAonline.org

Visit the KPCA web site: <http://www.kpcaonline.org> for the latest news and events

KPCA NEW LOGO CONTEST

(THIS IS A GREAT WINTER PROJECT FOR KIDS AND TEENS)

KENWOOD PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION is looking for a New Look as an official logo.

The contest is open to all Kenwood Park residents under 25 years old.

The Design should be simple and include:

1. The Letters: KPCA and
2. Convey an attribute of the community feeling for our neighborhood, i.e. cherry trees, houses, people, etc.

All Submissions are due March 1st and will be considered, and finalists and winner will be announced in our next Newsletter

Please email all submissions, preferably in the form of a PDF document, with the name and age of the designer to:

garden@kpcasonline.org

or mail to KPCA, PO Box 127, Glen Echo, MD, 20812



KPCA Garden Club News

by Sinaly Roy

For the last few months the Corona Virus has put a damper on many of our community activities. We look forward to reviving the **Garden Club this spring with a socially distanced plant swap on the Durbin Triangle in April.**

Please look for announcements in the KPCA list-serve. Whether you are an experienced gardener or just interested in developing a green thumb, we hope you will join us and welcome your ideas and suggestions or requests for club activities.

We are also looking for residents interested in helping to plan for the continued **beautification of our public spaces** and the replenishment of curbside trees in the neighborhood in 2021.

Please let us know if you would like to help in the efforts to enhance the appearance of Kenwood Park's Landscaping and Trees.

We look forward to hearing from you at garden@kpcasonline.org



RIOT OF MARIGOLDS

Did you see this riot of marigolds in the Millwood circle this summer and fall? It was beautiful!

Thank you to the resident volunteer who planted it.



Halloween in Kenwood Park

We did not have our annual Halloween Party and Fall Festival this year because of Covid-19, but our residents still showed the holiday spirit by decorating their houses. We collected some pictures, which will be published on our web site, kpcasonline.org, and in Constant Contact. Above is one great example that should make you smile, at 6824 Granby Street.

KPCA is forming an ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

To Plan and Run Events and Programs for 2021

We invite members to join this fun committee. We will plan events and programs such as Front Yard Fridays, 4th of July events, Zoom programs and more!

We will have a first Zoom meeting
January 10th!

Sign up by Jan 9, 2021

To join contact:

Jo-Ann Harrison
community@kpcasonline.org or
joanharr@gmail.com

WHEN YOU GO ON VACATION, BURGLARS GO TO WORK.

To help safeguard your home, trust Urban Alarm, providing peace of mind for residential communities since 2003. Our employees live where we work. Monitoring rates **starting at as low as 22.95 a month** to secure your home.

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We lower the crime rate in all communities that we **Patrol and Protect**.

MOBILE COMMUNITY PATROL MEMBERSHIP

Providing an added layer of security for Kenwood Park residential customers
To Help the Mobile patrol service maintain its success in lowering crime in the Kenwood Park neighborhood, we need to increase our memberships for the Patrol services. Brand new residents can enroll for a prorated fee. Please contact treasurer@kpcasonline.org. Existing residents who have not previously been security members may pay a prorated fee plus the cost of the following full year. **2 week vacation watch annually**

Our Membership includes:

- Day and night mobile surveillance of your home and property.
- Residential protection promotion on ALARM/VIDEO, AND SMART HOME SYSTEMS. **Special pricing for all Kenwood Park homeowners.**
- 5 Diamond certified call center for Burglar, Video, and Fire alarm monitoring for additional fee **starting at 22.95 a month**



A DIVISION OF KASTLE SYSTEMS

FOR ADDED MEMBERSHIP: PLEASE CONTACT treasurer@kpcasonline.org
CALL OR EMAIL TO SPEAK WITH A HOME SECURITY CONSULTANT TODAY.
202.265.2700 | kpcasecurity@urbanalarm.com

Crime Update—Continued from Page 1

seen groups of teens walking at night, and there is ample evidence of their drinking alcohol from the bottles found on the grass. These kids could seize the opportunity to rifle through a car that was left open. Some incidents were more serious, such as the theft of two cars. However, other neighborhoods experienced other serious incidents such as stolen catalytic convertors and air bags, which are

the kinds of crimes from outside that a security patrol deters. Below is a list of crimes in our neighborhood, Kenwood Park, reported in social media and the Washington Post. If you have more information about these incidents or others, please let our security committee know at security@kpcasonline.org. Also, please support the security patrol, so we can increase their hours. Thank you.

Recent Crimes in Kenwood Park		
Date	Location	Reported Problem
July 2020	6100 block Robinwood	Unlocked side garage door entered. Van's rear window broken.
7/2/2020	5825 Marbury	Car rifled through
7/24/2020	5909 Plainview	Car stolen from driveway
7/25/2020	Millwood	Car break-in
9/14/2020	Whittier	Car rifled through
9/14/2020	5709 Tanglewood	Car break-in
9/15/2020	7211 Radnor	Car break-in
9/15/2020	5820 Durbin Rd	Car break-in
9/15/2020	6800 block Marbury	Not known
9/16/2020	7300 block Radnor	Not known
9/21/2020	5700 block Tanglewood	Not known
9/22/2020	6100 block Robinwood	Car window smashed; items taken
9/26/2020	5836 Lenox	Car stolen from driveway. Recovered from southeast DC with different license tag on it
10/4/2020	7100 block Whittier	Theft from car
10/10/2020	6701 Whittier	Halloween balloon stolen from front yard: 8' high dinosaur balloon
12/4/2020	6200 block Clearwood	Not known
12/13/2020	6104 Highboro Drive	Attempted car break-in. Car cover taken. Car door was locked.
12/14/2020	6213 Robinwood	Vase taken from front stoop

Acknowledgments

The Editor wishes to thank the contributors to this newsletter and Hannah Elson for editorial assistance. Special thanks goes to Ken Chaletzky of Copy General for preparation of this issue. .

Edward Elson news@kpcasonline.org

Neighborhood Services

Because of the uncertainties caused by Covid-19 we are not listing our usual neighborhood services. However, if you would like to offer services that have minimal contact, such as SNOW SHOVELING, please send an email to our KPCA List Serve at kpca@list-serve.com.

Here is one snow shoveler we know about:

Tom Robey, 240-381-7131, or c_rhind@yahoo.com

Pets and COVID-19—Continued from Page 1

pets seem to be particularly important when people are socially isolated or excluded, providing comfort, companionship, and a sense of self-worth.

In the era of COVID-19, social distancing, and sudden lockdowns, our pets may be the only living beings that many people are able to touch and draw comfort from. Therefore, it is tempting to give someone a pet as a gift. However, pets are living and sensitive beings. While culturally, animals are not seen as human, they are still seen as individuals with likes and dislikes. Studies show that pets who are received as gifts have a higher rate of turnover to shelters. Pets are loving creatures who deserve to be cherished all their lifetimes. All too often, acquiring a pet when the timing is not quite right can result in their abandonment or destruction. Pets are not disposable objects. That cute and cuddly Christmas puppy or kitten needs lots of time and energy to make certain it matures into a healthy, well-behaved pet. Holidays are not really the best time for more commitments when there are so many other things that require our time and consideration.

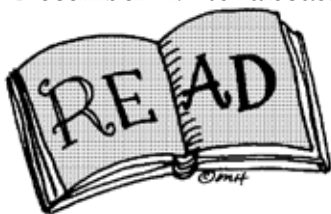
Please think about whether a pet will be truly valued and loved for its lifetime before considering giving someone a pet as a gift.

December 01, 2020 From: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-12-pets-covid-furry-friends-lifesavers.html>

KP Kennel Club
kpkennel@kpcaonline.org

Book Club

The Kenwood Park Book Club met on Zoom on December 17 to discuss two books, James Patterson's and Bill Clinton's The President is Missing, and Dani Shapiro's memoir Inheritance. We will meet again on Zoom on Thursday, January 28 to discuss John le Carre's Agent Running in the Field and Liane Moriarty's Nine Perfect Strangers. New members are welcome and can inquire at book@kpcaonline.org.



Front Yard Fridays

We will have to play it by ear, and see if Covid-19 dies down by this Spring, or maybe this Fall, before organizing these again. These gatherings of neighbors have been so much fun, occurring on Fridays from 5 to 7 pm, when there is nice weather. The host puts a table and a few chairs out on the lawn, some snacks and non-alcoholic drinks, and invites the neighborhood through our web site, kpcaonline.org, and our community listserve. Nearby neighbors are most likely to show up, since it is just an easy stroll to the party. New residents are especially encouraged to come, to meet others and ask questions. The host can remind people by distributing a flyer to the houses on the block. Guests can of course bring their favorite TGIF drinks. 😊

Streetlight out in Your Neighborhood?

Go here to get a crew out to fix it:
<https://pepco.streetlightoutages.com/public/default.html>

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Update on the KPCA Community List Serve

Our KPCA community list serve, which allows us to send emails to each other in our own neighborhood, is restricted to residents of Kenwood Park, whether a member of KPCA or not. Useful information is posted there, including local updates on Covid-19, community issues, and reminders of trash collection slide days. The list serve is helping neighbors to get to know each other. Items for sale can be posted for local pickup, instead of having to ship them, by just sending an email to kpca@listserve.com. The site has had interesting exchanges of information on diverse topics, including the sighting of a coyote by one neighbor, which provoked comments from other residents about observation of other animals including foxes.

To join, go to the Kenwood Park web site, KPCAonline.org, and either on the lower right corner, or on the left side of the page (KP Email Sign Up), you can sign up for the free list serve.

Safety Tip: Nearest Neighbor Watch

You probably know at least one of your nearest neighbors, if not all of them. We (the KPCA Board of Directors) propose that you each find out who your four nearest neighbors are: the ones on the right, the ones on the left, the ones across the street, and the ones in the house behind you (if the house is visible).

You can form a Nearest-Neighbor Watch grouping, which means letting each other know when you will be away, and that they should watch for any suspicious noise or activity at your house. Have each other's phone number and email address.

Maybe they would pick up your mail and packages and hold them for you. Yes, Urban Alarm can do some of these things for you, but they cannot be there all the time. Our security patrol provides a deterrent to keep organized or outside criminals from targeting our neighborhood, as well as watching over our homes and streets.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AT BLIND CORNERS

The KPCA Traffic and Safety Committee succeeded in having Montgomery County solve safety issues at the corner of:

1. **Marbury Road and Landon Lane.** There were stop signs on Marbury Road, and not Landon Lane. The visibility down Landon Lane extends only half a block. Pickup trucks would be racing up Landon and be



halfway through the intersection before oncoming Marbury traffic could see them and remain stopped. Montgomery County added two stop signs to make it a four-way stop.

2. **Millwood Road and Goldsboro Road.** Cars pulling out of Millwood and onto Goldsboro could not see oncoming traffic on the left because of a thick stand of Italian Cypress trees. The county thinned the lower sections of the trees out, improving the visibility, as can be seen in this photo.

Real Estate at the End of 2020

Let's not belabor the obvious horrible year it's been. Let's focus instead on the wild ride real estate has been. I am frequently asked, often with this forlorn look, how the real estate market is, the assumption being it must be pretty rotten without real open houses and people afraid to go out. And I smile and ask how long an answer the questioner would like. Because it has been one wild ride!

Take our own Kenwood Park. In a usual year we have 16-18 houses pass from one owner to another. This year we have had 7. Just 7! This is representative of the entire Metro area. There is, and has been over the last few years, historically low inventory. Of course this year the pandemic has had something to do with this.

So why haven't owners been listing? Some don't want strangers traipsing through their homes who might be virus carriers. Seniors who might have considered a more communal setting, such as an over 55 adult community are steering clear of those residences during the pandemic. And many are now having their children and grandchildren staying with them for weeks or months at a time so they can be together. In other words, they have found added value in their homes.

Coupled with historically low interest rates, this creates something of a feeding frenzy. There are scores of buyers with nothing to buy! So the listings, particularly those under \$1.5M are swamped with showings and have multiple offers with final prices registering over the list price. Of course, the better a house shows and the more realistic the list price, just as in normal times, the more apt this is to happen. But a house

in good condition, that is staged and priced properly, will generate a huge amount of interest.

But if an owner has a plan that will work in terms of moving, the time couldn't be better to sell. With extremely low rates buyers can purchase more home for the money and are eager to do so. This makes Kenwood Park's bigger homes on big lots very appealing. Many people want more space to work at home, and it looks like that's a trend that will continue. And folks with small children are feeling the walls moving in on them. Those in densely populated areas want more outdoor space and so now, bucking the trend of the last 15 or so years, the suburbs are looking really good to them. Close in suburbs like Kenwood Park now look even better than before!

There is currently one new home on the market for \$2.595M, and one under contract and still under construction listed at \$2.195M. Of the homes sold this year, there were two sales in the \$1.1M-1.70M range with the 5 others being newer construction, the highest \$2.73M. There have been 15 rentals from \$4000/mo. to \$8850/mo., most in the \$4000-\$5000 range.

I wish each and every one of you a HEALTHY, peaceful and less stressful new year! May we all emerge from this better in some small way than before it began so it will not have been for naught. And may community be a source of support and kindness for us all.

*contributed by Linda Chaletzky
lchaletzky@eversco.com*

*Statistics are taken from the Bright MLS system for these areas: Washington, D.C., Montgomery County, Maryland, and Fairfax County, Arlington, Alexandria, and Falls Church in Virginia.

Bridge Club

The Kenwood Park Bridge Club normally 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! Because of Covid-19 our meetings are suspended indefinitely at this time. For more information call Gloria Fitchett (301) 229-8480, or dfitchett@msn.com.

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Kenwood Park Citizens Association, Inc.
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Sunday, January 10th, 3:00 - 4:15 pm

Andrew Friedson

Featuring Montgomery County Council Member

**KPCA NEW YEAR MEETING
on Zoom**

"See" You at the