

PARKWOOD

Residents Association Newsletter Winter 2020

The Winter meeting of the Parkwood Residents Association will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, All -Purpose Room
The topic will be the major legislative and policy issues that the county and state face in 2020. Our speaker will be At-Large Councilmember Hans Riemer. We will also vote on the PRA 2020 budget.

And a reminder: It is time to join or renew your membership in the PRA for 2020. Please send in the form attached to this newsletter to our Membership Chair this month. Thank you.

President's Letter

Kira Lueders

Thirteen years ago, Jan Thomas a local realtor, published the Parkwood Neighborhood Directory which she distributed to all residents. It listed residents by street numbers, and included a phone number, and e-mail address for those who opted in. The cover photo showed a bird nestled among spring flowers and was chosen by a group of neighbors as representing Parkwood, which they felt was a cozy place nestled near the woods of Rock Creek Park. That sentiment is what has made Parkwood a special place for me for the nearly 53 years I've lived here. It has provided a sense of stability that was missing early in my life.

I was born in Estonia, the northernmost of the Baltic countries, just as World War II was coming to that part of the world. I left Estonia with my mother, traveled across Europe with the war going on and ended up in a displaced persons camp in Germany, where we spent six years before coming to the US. We arrived on a decommissioned troop ship in New Orleans, so no Statue of Liberty greeted us. In 2018 I took a cruise that ended in New Orleans, and visited the memorial to immigrants, and thought about how good my life is. I take many trips now that I'm retired, enjoy every one, but I'm also happy to come home again to Parkwood.

When we do introductions at PRA meetings, many residents who attend must feel the same about living



See the story about our neighbors on page 6.



Kira has created a certified Wildlife Habitat on her property. This is a picture of another one in Parkwood. Do you know where it is? See the story on page 11.

in Parkwood because there are a lot of you who have lived here for 20 to over 50 years. We do have some newer residents, but most of you who come to meetings seem to have been here a long time. Many houses have been rebuilt much larger than the original ones, the area is plagued by traffic that makes it hard to leave the neighborhood at times, but we're still nestled near the Park.

The 13-year-old directory also listed the 33 volunteers who delivered the PRA newsletter to all residents four times a year. That was what PRA did until just a few years ago. Now that our listserv is so much larger, only one newsletter issue is hand delivered, with the other issues distributed electronically. Amazingly over half of those 33 are still doing the delivery, so my thanks to all these intrepid residents who not only do this delivery but do it in the winter! My thanks also to the members of the Parkwood Executive Committee, whose dedication and hard work are the reasons it has been possible for me to serve multiple terms as president and enjoy doing it.

If you feel about Parkwood as I do, ***please renew your membership or join us now by completing the form at the end of this newsletter.***

Thank you.
Kira

Editor's Note:

- The winter edition of the newsletter is delivered to every home in Parkwood. For reasons of cost, it is limited to 12 pages with color on pages 1 and 12 only. All newsletters [Winter, Spring, and Fall] are also delivered by email to members and posted on the [PRA website](#).
- This edition includes articles about ***legislative and policy issues*** that will affect Parkwood in 2020; the latest *report from the recently formed PRA Safety Committee*; a "Meet Your Neighbors" article on ***Kensington Estates***; the 2019 Treasurer's Report and the ***proposed budget for 2020***; ***Minutes of the Fall 2019 meeting***; and an article about the ***KPES Green Team***.
- What other ***issues, stories, ideas, photos*** would you like to see in the newsletter? Tell the editor: Jeff Griffith, email: jeff@jandjgriffith.com, or leave a message at 301-633-4512. Better yet, write it on your membership form [attached].
- In the spring look for ***800 daffodils*** planted this winter by members of the Executive Committee in the Parkwood Drive / Terrace triangle and the Roxbury/Parkwood Drive triangle.

COUNTY AND STATE ISSUES THAT WILL AFFECT US ALL

The winter and early spring months are busy times politically. Among many important matters, the [County Council](#) must review and pass an annual operating budget by June 1.

The [Maryland General Assembly](#) is normally in session only into April and must pass the budget for the State by April 1. Bills must be introduced by the first week in February.

Below are some of the major issues that our County and State legislatures will be addressing in the next few months in the areas of transportation, education, county budgets and job growth, housing and development, and 5G wireless technology. For a more complete list see also the Montgomery County Civic Federation [January newsletter](#).

Transportation: Expansion of I-495 and I-270

In early January the Maryland Board of Public Works agreed by a vote of 2-1 to move forward with an amended version of the governor's proposed solutions to reduce congestion on the Capital Beltway and I-270. The revised plan will:

- Add four new express toll lanes to the American Legion Bridge over the Potomac River. Construction could begin in May 2021. This will be funded jointly by Maryland and Virginia.
- Limit the first phase of construction to the Beltway between the Virginia side of the American Legion Bridge and the Interstate 270 spur, and to the lower part of I-270 between the Beltway and Interstate 370.
- Postpone until later a decision on the most controversial Beltway section — between I-270 and I-95, where widening would mean taking homes and public parkland.
- Delay adding toll lanes on the northern part of I-270 between I-370 and Frederick, because the environmental study for that portion is incomplete.
- Plan to commit 10% of toll revenue toward regional transit agencies in Montgomery and Prince George's counties and conduct a

feasibility study for a monorail. The latest proposal would also allow public transit buses to use the planned toll lanes for free.

Peter Franchot, state Comptroller, joined the governor in voting in favor of the plan, but Nancy Kopp, state Treasurer, voted against it. Franchot said that he has heard concerns from environmentalists and supports calls for more mass transit but said that the state still needs more capacity on the Beltway. “We simply have to do it,” said Franchot, who plans to run for governor in 2022. “Right now traffic congestion is damaging our economy — not just the regional economy but the whole reputation of the state. . . . It’s becoming unacceptable to just stand still and not do anything”.

Nancy Kopp said Maryland transportation officials still had not provided enough details, such as why a public-private partnership would be the best approach for the state. “I share folks’ feeling that we should see more data,” Kopp said. She agreed that the Beltway, and particularly the American Legion Bridge, needs traffic relief but questioned how expanding highways would help the state meet its greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Councilmember Andrew Friedson, who represents county District 1, which includes Parkwood, stated in a recent newsletter that “The traffic congestion here is not just a quality of life issue. It threatens to hold back our County’s economic growth, which is critical to funding core everyday services. I’ve maintained throughout this process that any proposal from the State must not take private property, park land, or school property, must include a substantial transit component to actually reduce traffic rather than simply rearranging it, and must not require expensive toll rates that make the managed lanes unaffordable for many of our residents. The Board of Public Works compromise guarantees improvements in some of these areas — especially when it comes to transit and a stronger commitment from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) to work with County officials going forward to mitigate impacts. It’s a good start and a major improvement from the plan that state officials originally proposed.”

Education: MCPS boundary study. Last year, at the initiative of its student member, the Montgomery County Board of Education [BoE] agreed to contract for a boundary study that would look particularly at the issue of diversity and integration in MCPS schools. The student school board member who proposed the study said explicitly that she hoped schools in the county would become more diverse and less segregated. The study could also provide the BoE with options in addition to building new schools or enlarging existing ones in areas where some schools were already overcrowded while other nearby schools were underutilized.

This has become a polarizing issue for many in the county. There has been at least one acrimonious public information meeting that was disrupted by some residents who are strongly against any redrawing of current boundaries. Those opposed are especially concerned that their children will be bussed out of their neighborhood school districts and assigned to schools that they regard as less desirable. Even some citizens who do not have children in the school system are opposed to the study because they believe that changes in boundaries could cause a drop in property values, possibly affecting their retirement funds. This has resulted in pushback from those who think more integration is a good thing both for the county and for students. Each group has organized around websites and listservs that espouse their point of view. There are reports that the “opposed” group is already planning to support/run candidates for the BoE who are also “opposed”.

An interim report from the contractors conducting the study is due in a few weeks [end of January or early February]. The final report is due this spring.

Education. \$4B in state funding to improve education in MD. The new Speaker of the House of Delegates, Adrienne Jones, and the new Senate Majority Leader, Bill Ferguson, are reported to be focused on a sweeping education reform package endorsed by the Kirwan Commission that aims to end disparities and elevate Maryland schools to become the ...”envy of the world”.

The proposals contained in the Kirwan Commission carry an eventual \$4 billion annual price tag. Debate will center on how quickly the reforms can be implemented and — especially — how to pay for them. Both presiding officers of the Maryland legislature have pledged not to raise income, property or sales tax rates this session to cover the costs and floated the idea of taxing internet commerce to generate some of the roughly \$325 million needed for the first phase of the plan. Lawmakers may also consider asking voters to legalize sports betting to help pay for the proposals, and they'll debate whether to restrict sports betting to the state's existing casinos. The governor has expressed skepticism of the plan because of its cost.

County budgets and lack of job growth.

Estimates in late 2019 were that state funding to the county will be \$100M less than planned [hoped for]. The negative impact on the county budget is compounded by the fact that job growth in the county has been anemic for several years. We have the lowest job growth of any of our regional neighbors [the District and the VA counties]. At the same time the county population is growing; the number of students in the school system is growing, and revenues are declining. This situation is projected to last for several years. The county council and the BoE will face some very difficult budget challenges in the future, starting this year.

Housing and development. The county faces a severe shortage in affordable housing. There is little land left for development; in-fill development will be a growing response - think of Knowles Manor and the proposed development of six townhouses at the SE corner of Summit and Knowles. Our area is an attractive one and the cost of housing will continue to rise in Parkwood and our surrounding community neighbors – Chevy Chase View, Kensington Estates, Town of Kensington, etc. In Parkwood, we will want to consider what we like and don't like in terms of proposed developments. The Planning Board will consider our opinions, but if the development is in the Town of Kensington itself, the Town will have priority in making decisions.

5-G. Most of our cell phones and other wireless devices currently operate on radio frequencies (RF) called 3G or 4G. The telecommunications industry has now developed the newest version of this technology, referred to as 5G, and it promises to improve connectivity through wider coverage and more bandwidth that will allow faster browsing and such things as integrated e-health applications, driverless cars, and real-life connectivity across the "internet of things."

The industry is asking local governments to allow them to disseminate 5G in their communities by allowing the installation of 5G cell towers. The power and frequency of 5G are different from 3G and 4G and require cell towers to be located within approximately 500 feet of each other. This will mean many more 5G cell towers within each community where they are authorized.

Last year the Montgomery County Council passed a zoning amendment that allows 5G cell towers to be installed in commercial and non-residential zones with a 10-foot setback. This is in addition to permitting antennas on existing structures in residential zones with a 60-foot setback and new poles in residential zones with a 300-foot setback, which can be substantially reduced by the Hearing Examiner. The Council is now considering an amendment that would allow 5G cell towers in residential-only areas with a setback of 60 feet, which a Hearing Examiner can reduce to 30 feet.

The Montgomery County Civic Federation [Parkwood is a member] has noted a [number of important issues](#) raised by this amendment. In addition, there are unanswered questions regarding the possible health impact of RF exposure, including 5G. In a [recent article summarizing](#) a number of research studies, and taking into account the current position of institutions such as the World Health Organization, the authors conclude that:

“...the short answer is, no one really knows, yet. Writing in *Frontiers in Public Health*, ...a group of international scientists commenting on the potential risks of 5G technology concluded that ‘The range and magnitude of potential impacts of 5G

technologies are under-researched, although important biological outcomes have been reported with millimeter-wavelength exposure. The team made several recommendations, including conducting more rigorous testing and collecting data to identify links between RF-EMF exposure and health outcomes, sharing health risk information with users, and limiting exposure in those under age 16. The last point on their list states the following: ‘Cell towers should be distanced from homes, daycare centers, [and schools]...’ ”

Reasons for Not Securing Our Property (Or the myths we live with)

*Parkwood Residents Association Safety Committee
Jill Lipton, Angela Long, Paul Ferrari, Gabrielle Prandoni*

So why is it that we make mistakes regarding our home security and property? Is it because we are too busy with the tasks of daily life? Is it because we are fatigued from the grind of daily life and commitments? Or do we feel so secure where we live that we think there is no need to lock up our possessions?

While our reasons for not securing our homes and cars are understandable from a psychological perspective (we all want to feel a sense of safety), the facts do not support them. Crime unfortunately does happen in nice, lovely neighborhoods. Criminals are looking for individuals that are distracted and property that is not secure. Most thefts and break-ins are crimes of opportunity. Thieves want what you have for their own personal use or for the items’ monetary value.

We can achieve that desired sense of safety by taking a few simple precautions:

➡ Lock your doors to your home and cars even when you are home.

The police have told us that criminals drive by and try to open car doors from their moving cars. If they find an unlocked door, they jump out to rummage through the car looking for money and items of value. Once out of the car these “midnight

ramblers” will scope the property for other items they can turn into cash. Set up a protocol to make sure you lock all your doors and windows before you leave your home or retire for the evening.

➡ Secure your property so that it is not visible from the street.

If they can’t see it, they don’t know it’s there. Make sure you draw the drapes at night, so that criminals cannot see what you have inside or scope out any weak points in your home security.

➡ Check doors and windows after you have had a person working in your home.

Although, according to the FBI, the number of crime incidents declined in the U.S. from 1993 to 2018, the rate of solved crimes remains under 50%. Thus, the likelihood of your stolen items being returned is limited.

The police offer a free, in-service evaluation of your home security. Please give yourself a free gift and contact Officer Dana Stroman: Parkwood’s Community Services Officer for the 2nd District. The number is 240-773-6070.

We need to work together to make sure that criminals do not see Parkwood as easy pickings.

The Safety Committee is reporting incidents that were reported to the police to make us aware of what is happening in our neighborhood. The incidents below occurred from January 1-21, 2020:

1/17/20 - Other Offense - 4700 block Saul Road (this is the KPES property. No more information was available about this incident.)

1/11/20 - Motor Vehicle Theft - 4500 block Dresden

Officer Stroman reported that thefts from vehicles significantly declined from January 12-18, 2020. This is excellent news. Please keep locking your vehicles’ doors and making sure all car keys are secure inside your home.

The more we secure our possessions, the safer and more secure Parkwood becomes. It is up to us to make sure that Parkwood remains a safe and secure place by reducing the opportunities for thefts in our neighborhood.

MEET OUR NEIGHBORS

Kensington Estates

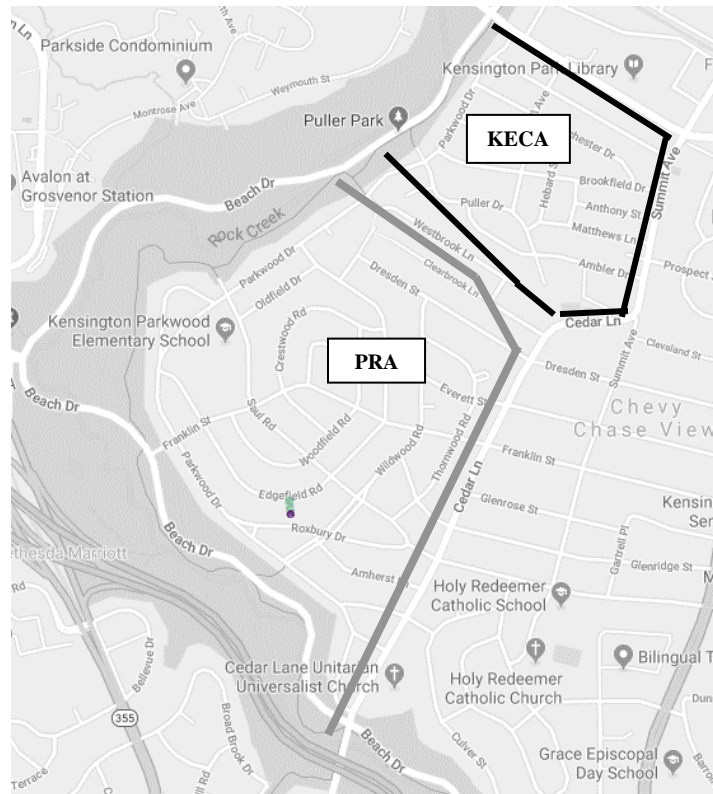
Over 200,000 of Montgomery County's more than 1,000,000 residents live in its 19 incorporated cities, towns, and villages. The rest live in almost 400 designated neighborhoods, like Parkwood. In addition to the towns of Kensington and Chevy Chase View, our community is bordered by several neighborhoods. Immediately north of us, beginning on Puller and Ambler are our neighbors in Kensington Estates. We share Cedar Lane/Summit Avenue and Parkwood Drive as our mutual east/west boundaries; Parkwood ends at Westbrook Lane while Kensington Estates extends north to Knowles Avenue.

We share many other things with our neighbors in Kensington Estates.

Kensington Parkwood is their local elementary school, and Kensington Park Library is their local branch library. There is the Cedarbrook pool [more precisely, the Cedarbrook Swim and Tennis Club, which also has a basketball court]. And, of course, there is Rock Creek Park. They too have a listserv, which, like ours, contains messages about things for sale or available for free, requests for advice about people or companies doing various home repairs, etc.

We are so similar demographically that one [real estate website](#) combines Parkwood and Kensington Estates together as a single housing market. The website notes a number of attractive features for buyers including the high level of education among residents. According to their report, "46.0% [of adults] have earned an advanced degree" compared to just 8.4% for the average neighborhood in America.

We both have residents' associations; theirs is the Kensington Estates Civic Association (KECA). Like many civic associations, they become most engaged when something affects their community, for example, their strong opposition to the County's plan to install storm water management gardens and swales in the county right-of-way on homeowners' property. According to the KECA president, Tamara Kucik, many residents felt that this was being done to them without their consent, adequate consultation, and a long term, effective management and maintenance plan. Their collective objections played a part in the County's cancelling the plan.



Equally importantly, we share some of the same concerns about issues that affect both of our communities and our larger neighborhood. For example, we have reported regularly in the Parkwood newsletter on a number of development projects proposed for the Kensington area that would impact both neighborhoods.

Knowles Manor, the proposed senior housing project to be constructed across

from Strosniders is a case in point. Kira Lueders, PRA President, and Liz Brennan testified as private citizens at a 2019 Planning Board hearing on this project, stating that while they supported more affordable housing for seniors, both the construction phase and the impact of the building once the project was completed would potentially have a serious adverse effect on traffic at the county designated "failed intersection" of Knowles Avenue and Connecticut Avenue. They also testified that the project could adversely affect pedestrian safety,

an especially important issue because of the increased number of seniors who would reside in the building. When the Planning Board approved the project, some residents of Kensington Estates exercised their right to take the developers to county court with the hope of negotiating more effective solutions to the problems of traffic, parking, and pedestrian safety. This is not likely to stop the project, but if they are successful, and there are some indications that they will achieve at least some of their goals, the result will illustrate the power of citizen engagement.

The Knowles Manor project illustrates a condition that affects both the PRA and KECA, namely the challenge of having a constructive effect on proposed developments or other county actions that affect our neighborhoods. The Town of Kensington has the most influence on proposed development projects that lie within the town's boundaries, because the town is a legally incorporated entity with certain legal and political rights that developers must adhere to. If the Town council votes to reject a developer's proposal, the Planning Board can only approve it with a super majority [4-1] vote. KECA and PRA do not have that power.

However, it is important to note that the Planning Board does take formal cognizance of the testimony of citizens regarding proposed projects. If enough citizens raise objections to a project, the Board is likely to take those objections into account when considering a project, possibly by adding certain mitigating conditions. And the fact that residents in Kensington Estates exercised their right to appeal the Planning Board decision regarding Knowles Manor in court, as noted above, is an example of the community engagement that we hope will be effective.

We have also had some success in the past working collaboratively with other associations. The most recent example was when the PRA worked together with the town of Chevy Chase View, our neighbors on the other side of Cedar Lane, to get the County's Department of Transportation to reengineer the traffic calming islands installed after WSSC had completed its rehab of the aging water mains under

Cedar. Many found these islands to be more hazardous than the problems they were intended to solve, and the county agreed to move the islands from the sides of Cedar Lane to the middle.

In an earlier example, PRA president Kira Lueders worked closely with the NIH Community Liaison Committee and a number of other residents associations to ensure that the proposed bio-hazard research center at NIH had more adequate safeguards to minimize the possible harm from an accident at the center.

Another collaborative effort, initiated by past PRA president Liz Brennan, resulted in representatives from 11 residents associations joining together with representatives from the towns of Kensington and Chevy Chase View, to help develop the Kensington Sector Plan, which laid out goals and guidelines for the larger Kensington community. One of the lessons learned from the experience of working on the Sector Plan was that it can be challenging to influence the final decisions on proposed development projects when the land is privately owned rather than county owned. Nevertheless, we can see that collaborative efforts have been effective in the past and will continue to be so, especially when we are prepared to work with other associations.

So, at a minimum, exchanging information with our neighboring associations will be helpful. And working together on common concerns when we are in agreement can be beneficial to both our communities. Through their president, we have invited residents of Kensington Estates to join us at our winter meeting on February 24. We will also stay in personal touch with each other through our respective executive committees as the need and opportunity arises. And as always, we will keep members of the association informed about development projects and opportunities for collaboration with KECA and other associations.

PRA Executive Committee

Officers

President	Kira Lueders
Vice President	Jeff Griffith
Secretary	Judith Dighe
Treasurer	Gerald Sharp

Committee Chairs

Beautification	Gail Condrey
Block Captain	Kira Lueders
Development	Jeff Griffith
Membership	Paula Flicker
Safety	Jill Lipton
	Gabrielle Prandoni
Welcoming	Vacant

Other EC Members

Listserv Admins	Chris Dewey
	Alex Clark
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Griffith
Webmaster	Alex Clark
MCCF Delegates	Kira Lueders
	Jeff Griffith
	Gail Condrey
Past President	Bailey Condrey

Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, October 21, 2019

Kira Lueders, PRA President, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thirty-eight members were present. They introduced themselves.

Villages of Kensington

Kira introduced Jennifer Gaegler, Membership Coordinator for the Villages of Kensington (VoK), an organization whose mission is building a supportive, diverse, and intergenerational network of neighbors helping neighbors. Persons who wish to age in place are supported as they remain in their homes and engage in the community. Members of the Villages of Kensington provide help and social networking for residents of Kensington and the Bethesda Parkwood community. Volunteer services may include running errands, providing transportation, and helping with technology, light yard work, or shopping. Volunteers also make friendly visits to ward off loneliness, and they may provide meals, childcare or pet walking. The Villages vets all volunteers. A sliding membership fee is based on age and circumstances. Membership is free to those over 90 years of age.

Anyone wanting more information can call Margaret at 301-509-0191 or visit the VoK website at www.VillagesofKensington.org.

Safety in the Neighborhood

Four Parkwood residents, Jill Lipton, Gabrielle Prandoni, Paul Ferrari, and Angela Long volunteered to form a safety committee for Parkwood. The newly-formed safety committee was made an official PRA committee; co-chairs Jill and Gabrielle will become members of the PRA executive committee as a result.

The safety committee met with Community Liaison Police Officer Dana Stroman and presented a report on that meeting. According to Officer Stroman, the best way to prevent crime is to make the neighborhood unappealing to criminals. By far the most common crime in Parkwood and neighboring communities is thefts from unlocked cars. Officer Stroman's first piece of advice: Lock your Car Doors.

The safety committee repeated Officer Stroman's advice: Ask to see a permit of any solicitor who comes to your door. Do not hesitate to call police if you are concerned. The police want to be called; the more calls police get from a neighborhood, the more resources they get.

The safety committee also reminded Parkwood residents that they can request a Home Security Survey from the MCPD. The police can suggest needed security modifications, often requiring minor expenditures.

The presenters recommended that residents scan their property during the day and again at night, noting what can be seen inside your home, which would be different in daylight and after dark. Other suggestions include: leave a light on outside at night or install motion sensitive lights. Secure sliding glass doors. If you have an alarm system—use it. Call police if you hear or see something suspicious. Make plans for package delivery pick-up. Holiday packages are prime targets of “porch pirates.”

Bailey Condrey presented a number of low-cost security ideas, some of which were in slides prepared by Gerald Sharp. These included installing deadbolt locks on all doors leading into the house. A brass plate installed behind the lock makes it more secure. Consider the need for improved lighting around your home. A number of high- and low-tech security devices such as doorbell cameras connected to a cell phone, and motion-sensitive lights, (including motion-sensitive LED light bulbs available at Strosniders) were suggested. One easy safety device is the car alarm on your car keys. If the keys are kept nearby, you can activate the car alarm if you hear something suspicious. Signs warning of surveillance can also be an effective deterrence to thieves. Additional safety measures are listed in the current fall newsletter.

MCPD safety brochures and a Home Security Survey are available on the PRA website.

Montgomery County Government Activities

Clare Murphy reported that the county is addressing the issue of overcrowding in schools. It will impose a moratorium on residential building if the high school serving the area is 120% over capacity. Walter Johnson HS meets that overcrowding criteria as do Albert Einstein and Montgomery Blair High Schools.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judith Dighe, PRA secretary

2019 Treasurers Report and 2020

Proposed Budget

Gerald B. Sharp, PRA Treasurer

December 31, 2019

A total of 338 residents paid membership dues in 2019, a number slightly lower than last year's record membership level of 342 members. Income in 2019 included \$3350 for dues, \$3670 for donations, and \$18.52 in earned interest, a total of \$7039 that was lower than last year's record high income of \$7674 (Table 1). A number of PRA members kindly increased their donations in 2018, anticipating that the Saul Island renovation would put us into the red, which it did. A total of 73 members (22% of paying members) used PayPal in 2019 to send in their dues and optional donations using credit cards instead of the US mail.

Table 2 details 2019 PRA expenses by category. Administrative costs at \$570 were similar to those of past years. Newsletter costs were lower this year because we were able to negotiate a better price for printing the winter newsletter, which is distributed by volunteers to all 930 houses in Parkwood; the other newsletters are electronic, although we do spend a small amount of money to print and mail electronic newsletters to members without email addresses. That printed, hand-delivered newsletter also includes a membership renewal form and envelope addressed to Paula Flicker, PRA Membership Chair, and this is our major way to either encourage new Parkwood residents to join our organization or current members to renew.

Meeting room expenses were similar to those of prior years, but we did substitute a garden party in the spring for our usual meeting, paying for refreshments instead of the usual room at the elementary school. As shown in Table 3, Beautification expenses were higher in 2019 than in prior years with the exception of 2018 when we paid for Saul Island garden renovation.

In 2019 our special beautification project was to plant 500 daffodil bulbs in the median near the intersection of Parkwood Dr. and Parkwood Terr., and we purchased another 300 bulbs planted in the Roxbury/Parkwood triangle. This increase in beautification spending was the primary reason that the PRA is in the red again for 2019 with a deficit of \$711 for the year.

Because of our frugality in spending and the strong support of Parkwood residents who pay the annual \$10 PRA dues and make generous donations to the beautification fund, our organization has been able to function without raising the very modest \$10 annual fee for the last 20 years or so. In spite of our deficit spending again this year, we do not plan to increase the annual dues amount. PRA bank balances at the end of 2019 totaled \$13,341.35.

The 2020 PRA budget will be discussed at the next meeting of the PRA in February. Table 2 includes suggested amounts for some of the budget categories based on past spending patterns; the Beautification budget for 2020 and other budget items will be decided at this meeting.

Table 1: 2018 & 2019 Receipts

Type of Income		Income 2018 (\$)		Total 2018 (\$)	Income 2019 (\$)		Total 2019 (\$)
		Dues	Donations		Dues	Donations	
Total dues & donations		3420	4235	7655	3350	3670	7020.00
PayPal Payments		(1580)			(73 persons @ \$1315)		
		Interest: Well Fargo Checking & Savings @ 0.02% (\$0.17); Capital One 360 @ 0.4% (\$18.35)					18.52
		TOTAL INCOME 2019					7038.52

Table 2: 2018-2019 Budgeted & Actual Expenses, 2020 Budget

Category	Actual Expenses 2018 (\$)	Actual Expenses 2019 (\$)	Budgeted Amounts 2019 / 2020 (\$)
Administration			
Membership expenses (envelopes, membership forms, and address labels)	87.19	233.47	
Wells Fargo Bank fees	3.00	14.00	
PayPal fees	69.29	60.07	
Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) fees	125.00	65.00	
Website domain fee	27.87	27.87	
Misc. admin expenses	165.06	170.06	
Administration Total	477.41	570.47	500 / 500?
Newsletters			
Printing costs	1444.45	881.25	
Newsletter distribution expenses (stamps, envelopes, labels, etc.)	40.20	128.20	
Total for Newsletters	1484.65	1009.45	1500 / 1500?
Beautification			
Special projects: Saul Island Garden / Daffodils	3456.00	429.71	
Landscaping costs (labor)	2740.19	5124.63	
Mulch, fertilizer, supplies, plants and other expenses	754.81		
Doggy potty bags	507.93	474.36	
PRA resource maintenance (signs, bench, etc.)	63.54		
Little library dedication (music and refreshments)	401.88		
Beautification Total	7924.35	6028.70	5500 / 4700?
Meeting Expenses			
Meeting room rental	92.50	92.50	
Projector expenses, handouts, garden party	423.36	48.64	
Meeting total	515.86	141.14	300 / 300?
Totals	10,402.27	7749.76	7800 / 7000?

Table 3: Past PRA Income and Expenses

Year	Member dues	Beaut. Donations	Interest	Total Income	Admin costs / Meeting costs	Newsletter	Beaut. Costs	Total Costs	Income - expenses
2015	2440	3804	42	6286	360 / 110	971	4636	6077	209
2016	3300	3689	18	7008*	389 / 0	1354	4761	6504	504
2017	3360	3262	18	6640*	405 / 335	690	4739	6169	471
2018	3420	4235	19	7674*	477 / 516	1485	7924	10,402	-2729
2019	3350	3670	19	7039	570 / 141	1009	6029	7750	-711

KPES GROWING GREEN

Scott Lynch, Parent Volunteer and KPES Green Team Chair

Kensington Parkwood students are rising up and leading a green revival at their elementary school. In the last few years, over several hundred student hours, dozens of trash bags, hundreds of native plants, and a whole lot of birdseed filled the wagons of the KPES Green Team. Our Team aims to increase environmental literacy while enhancing environmental sustainability and stewardship. A major initiative is to provide hands-on student-driven citizen science and green lessons for all grade levels. It is high time for young minds to experience nature and focus on sustainability.

We are grateful for the amazing teachers, staff, and PTA members who support our Green Team. In addition, our community partners, like the Audubon Naturalist Society's GreenKids Program, helped by offering naturalists, lessons, supplies, grant money, and training to KPES for 2 years. As a certified Maryland Green School (2018) and registered National Wildlife Federation Eco-School (2019), KPES's green initiatives are guided by Pathways to Sustainability, such as Schoolyard Habitats, Healthy Living, Watersheds, Learning About Forests, Sustainable Food, and Consumption & Waste. Each specific action plan details the students' work and evaluates change with regular monitoring.

Although students stay busy most of the school year, a few Green Eco-School projects rise to the top each year. This past Fall, students cleared and explored the roughly half acre of native mature hardwood trees which cradle the lower KPES schoolyard. Nature study, habitat restoration, trail use, outdoor play and exploration are just a few of the experiences students enjoy in the Schoolyard Habitat. Almost every Monday, a group of 12-25 5th graders dedicate their lunch and recess to working on KPES Green Team projects. For a 3rd grade Social Studies Common Good lesson, teachers brought the entire grade outside for 3 hours to remove invasive vines and weeds, clean bird baths and feeders, mulch an outdoor classroom, stain 4 picnic tables, and pick up 6 bags of trash

from the schoolyard. This activity culminated in a flash mob of over 100 loud and proud voices screaming "We will, we will, rock you TRASH!"

This Spring, the 4th graders will assess the physical, biological, and chemical parameters of Rock Creek. The 2nd grade class is currently monitoring birds at feeders with Cornell's Project Feederwatch and will grow salad greens for about 6 weeks in preparation for an end-of-year Salad Party. They will also spend a day attending a huge Maryland Green Schools Youth Summit showcasing over 100 environmental exhibits from around the region.

Spearheaded by Principal Ross, KPES will host its first school-wide Earth Day Celebration in April when students will work, play, and celebrate their positive efforts at helping our environment. Also in April, we always enjoy seeing neighbors out at the Annual Rock Creek Extreme Cleanup at this site on Beach Dr. and Franklin St. Our green culture at KPES continues to grow with school and community support through our sustainable schoolyard projects and green lessons.

We use a teaching strategy that puts the work in the hands of the students. This develops a sense of pride and accomplishment in the students while they serve and care for a greater cause-- Environmentalism. Empowering students to take helpful actions, no matter how big or small, builds their self-confidence by showing that we can all make a difference. It brings great joy to hear a student run up and share having seen a cool bird or about the lettuce that is growing so well. After finishing a new pollinator garden by the main door, one student was passing by and shared her feelings. "It's so beautiful to walk into school," she said.

We are most grateful for the network of support from KPES staff, teachers, parents, UMD Master Naturalists/Gardeners, community & civic groups, resident associations, County Rainscapes & Parks, local small businesses and environmental organizations. Additional support is always greatly appreciated, especially in the form of wood chips, benches for our outdoor classroom, or native trees, and can be directed at kpgreenteam@gmail.com.



**The KPES
kids are at it
doing good
works for the
environment.**



From the top from left to right: Stream Study (4th Gr.); Project FeederWatch (2nd Gr.); Invasive Plant Control (5th Gr.); Certified Wildlife Habitat (5th Gr.); Schoolyard Cleanup (1st Gr.); Salad Science (2nd Gr.); Milkweed-Monarchs Waystation (2nd Gr.)