

Parkwood

Residents Association Newsletter, Fall 2019

The Fall meeting of the PRA will be held on Monday, October 21, 2019 at 7:30
All-Purpose Room of the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

Because of reports of incidents over the past several months, we will revisit the issue of **safety** – in our homes, on our streets, and in our parks. We will also have an update on **Kensington Villages** and on **current development projects**.

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*Do you know where this lovely spot is?
See page 4 for the answer*

FALL MEETING PROGRAM

Kira Lueders, President

We are fortunate to live in one of the safest neighborhoods in Montgomery County, as we were informed by Community Liaison Police Officer Dana Stroman two years ago at our Fall 2017 PRA meeting. However, incidents that concern us still keep happening, and it is useful to periodically revisit the issue of *safety*, which we will do at the next PRA meeting on October 21st.

Thefts *from cars, thefts of cars, and attempted burglaries* have been reported on the list serve. A group of residents got together in the last year to consider ways we can improve *safety in Parkwood* and what each of us can do to *minimize such crimes of opportunity*. They will present their ideas at the October meeting. See page 3 for their report to the association. Members include Paul Ferrari, Jill Lipton, Angela Long, and Gabrielle Prandoni.

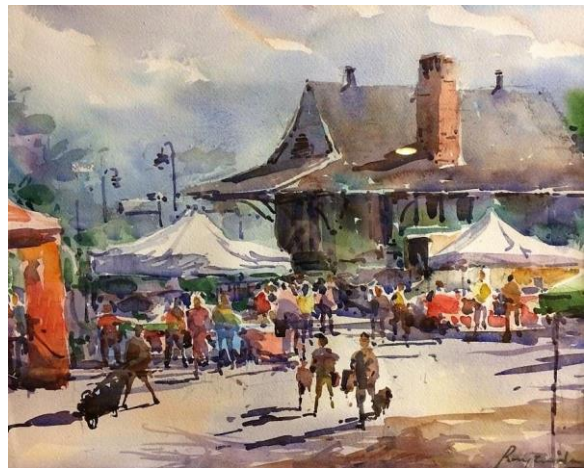
We also invite residents to *share home safety strategies* they may have implemented. Tell us what you have done, and how well it has worked. Gerald Sharp will lead the discussion and share his experience with his inexpensive *monitoring system* that gives him photos of key points inside his house and takes videos and notifies his phone when motion is detected, or the temperature falls too far.

Recently there were many e-mails on the list serve about *women being approached by a young man as they were walking/jogging in Rock Creek Park* in a way that made them uncomfortable. I've sifted through the messages, and there seem to have been 6 instances. Only one, which occurred August 2018 involved physical contact. Fortunately, the other five more recent ones have not, but were disturbing and have made us feel unsafe. A common theme seems to be his

bicycle and complimenting women on their clothing. Park Police were to increase patrols, and Montgomery County Police advised that residents approached by him should call 911. Still, it seems as if the actions of one individual, perhaps unaware how inappropriate they are, have changed how we approach walks in the Park. One person told me it was helpful to talk about her experience in the Park, so come share your thoughts at the meeting.

The *Villages of Kensington*, an important organization *helping residents safely age in place*, gave a presentation at a PRA meeting when Parkwood joined. We will hear from the membership coordinator, Jen Gaegler, who will give us an update on the organization and how we can contribute to and/or benefit from, the work of the group.

Finally, our PRA Development Committee will provide the *latest information on the development projects* that will affect us in Parkwood, taking particular note of those that affect *pedestrian safety*.



Kensington Farmers Market by Rajendra KC was the winner of the en plein air event at the annual Montgomery County Art Association exhibition held at the Kensington Town Hall over the Labor Day weekend. See the [MCAA website](#) for winners of other categories.

REPORT FROM THE PARKWOOD SAFETY COMMITTEE

This past winter and spring there were several late-night incidents in the Parkwood Neighborhood involving car break ins, some home burglaries, and a car theft. A group of concerned citizens met on June 24th to discuss possible interventions with Officer Dana Stroman, Community Services Officer with the Montgomery County Police Department.

Here are some preventative measures Parkwood Residents should take to protect their property:

- Thefts from vehicles is a problem across the county. It is important to make sure the doors on your vehicles are locked and take all valuables inside your home.
- Leave your outside lights on at night. Install motion sensitive lighting in areas that may allow someone easy access: doors, porches, stairwells.
- Lock all doors and windows, even when you are home.
- If you are up at night, look out the window to see if there is any unusual activity. If there is, call the police (301-279-8000).
- Never open the door to anyone you do not know. Speak through the door so they know someone is home (You can say "No Thank You").
- People use legitimate reasons to be in the neighborhood: tree trimming, window/roof repair, insect abatement. Individuals that are soliciting door to door in Montgomery County need to have a permit from the Department of Permitting services. If they do not have a permit report them to the police using the non-emergency number: 301-279-8000.
- After a contractor is finished working in your home check, all doors and windows to make sure they are locked.
- Never leave outgoing mail in your mailbox. It is better to take it to the Post

Office or use one of the new secure mailboxes like one found on the corner of Wildwood and Franklin.

- Be alert when out walking. Notice who is in the neighborhood. Be aware of your surroundings.
- Request a Home Security Survey conducted by MCPD. To schedule an appointment, contact the Community Service Officer for District 2 at 301-240-6700.
- If you are away from home, make the house look like someone is there by using timed lighting or leaving a radio or television on a timer.
 - Notify a trusted neighbor that you are going to be gone.
 - Have someone pick up the paper, mail or packages if you do not have them stopped.
- Make a home inventory of valuables. Take pictures of jewelry while wearing it. Keep the list in a secure location.

If you are the victim of a crime it is important to do the following:

- **If the crime is in progress call 911.** You live in District 2 of the Montgomery County Police Department.
 - Note the location of the crime, type of vehicle, suspect information: race, gender, age, hair color, height, weight, clothing type and color, and other noticeable characteristics.
- If the crime has already occurred call the **non-emergency MCPD number 301-279-8000.**

Report all crimes. The data is important to provide additional resources for the community and can help with crime prevention.

There are several brochures that MCPD has published to inform citizens: Don't Be Afraid to Call the Police, Home Security,

Reporting Suspicious Activities, Make the Right Call. These brochures are available at the following local merchants: CVS, Safeway, and Strosnider's Hardware. A digital copy is also posted on the PRA website.

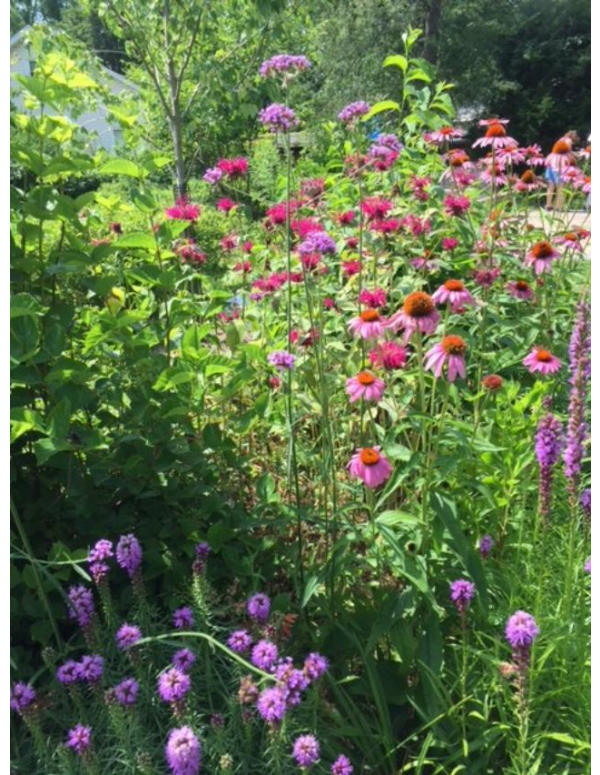
Remember it takes all of us to make Parkwood a safe community. **Be alert. IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING.**

Committee Members: Paul Ferrari, Jill Lipton, Angela Long, Gabrielle Prandoni.

PHOTO GALLERY: Dedication of a Literary Garden



The Friends of the Library-Kensington Park held a dedication party to celebrate the completion of their Literary Garden, referred to as "There's No Place Like Home." This area is designed both as a literary reference to the Wizard of Oz and to reflect the native species of plants, animals, birds, insects and other critters who have moved in to share this home space. The plants have grown to fit the garden [see photo top right] and something is blooming all through the growing season. The garden is ADA accessible from the handicap parking spaces in front of the library. And there was entertainment at the party – a real steel band.



SAFETY 10 YEARS AGO – From the Fall 2009 Newsletter

[Editor's note. In light of our program for the Fall 2019 meeting, it is informative to look back at our newsletters from 10 years ago and see some of the same concerns being raised.]

Lieutenant Denise Gill, community liaison to Kensington for the 2nd District Police Station, made a presentation on trends in crime in Parkwood and surrounding communities. Lt. Gill emphasized that the best remedy to deterring crime is for neighbors to pay attention to their surroundings. She noted that neighborhood listserves are a huge tool but expressed the caveat that they sometimes can raise fear levels beyond what is warranted. Lt. Gill gave the following statistics on the Parkwood neighborhood:

Thefts from autos: Parkwood had 59 break-ins from 3/08 through 3/09. While there were 28 break-ins in 2008, there already have been 29 break-ins year-to-date (ytd) in 2009, so clearly this is a crime that is rising dramatically. Presence of electronic gadgets, especially GPS devices, has made break-ins much more appealing. Car thefts are crimes of opportunity; therefore, remove opportunity by removing anything of value from your car. Of 28 thefts in 2008, 20 were from unlocked cars and 16 had property stolen. In 2009 ytd, 20 of 29 cars broken into had property stolen, and 19 of the cars, or 66%, were unlocked. Police locked up 3 persons in February for car thefts in Parkwood; one person from Germantown, one from Gaithersburg and one from Wheaton. Lt. Gill encouraged neighbors to not leave anything in their cars.

Residential break-ins: Parkwood had nine break-ins from 3/08 through 3/09; three were attempts; three were forced entry; one

was a storage shed, one a garage, and one a vacant home. Of the homes entered, two were ransacked. One home was unsecured. Two juveniles from Washington DC have been ID'ed for break-ins and had been posing as magazine sellers. Lt. Gill warned to beware of magazine sellers, who are recruited from all over to canvass neighborhoods with possible criminal intent.

Lt. Gill stated that despite these crime statistics, Parkwood is considered pretty safe. She suggested knowing your neighbors' habits, picking up newspapers and mail for neighbors who are out of town, and paying attention to your gut reactions, as it is human nature to ignore negative thoughts. Re: GPS devices, Lt. Gill suggests entering your home address as a saved location so that police can return retrieved equipment to you. Record the make, model and serial number so that police can identify devices that are recovered.

Lt. Gill also suggested contacting her directly with any community concerns at (301) 657-0962. A member asked about illegal parking by parents when dropping off and picking up children at KPES. Lt. Gill stated this is a problem at every school and is difficult for police to monitor. A member asked if Rock Creek Park was safe. Lt. Gill suggested that residents exercise caution, but that it was "not that bad". She suggested not confronting suspicious persons but contacting police instead. There was another question about speed cameras, and some discussion that a temporary one might be needed to deter speeding at key locations.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR

Peter Mansbach

He is an astrophysicist with a wry sense of humor. Who else would put up a sign by his front door that reads: "On this site in 1897



nothing happened"? He once rigged his doorbell to a very large speaker inside the house that made the sound of barking dogs. Then he put a sign by the doorbell that read "Ask not for whom the dog barks. It barks for thee." Meet Peter Mansbach, a long-standing member of the Parkwood Residents Association and a multi-talented Renaissance man now on his fifth career.

Peter's parents were refugees from Nazi Germany. His mother immigrated to the U.S. in 1937. His dad immigrated to England in 1935 and was in the U.S. on

business when war broke out in 1939.

England said he was a German citizen and would not let him return. His parents met in New York City, and were married in 1942. His mother's parents escaped Germany at the last minute, and essentially followed the route described in the movie "Casablanca". His mother counted ten cousins who perished in the Holocaust, and one who was hidden in an attic, like Anne Frank, but survived.

Peter was born in New York City. His family lived at W.149th St., an area that was becoming crime-ridden. He can remember playing tennis on the lot depicted in the movie West Side Story in the scene where the gang war took place. When he was 7 they moved to "the country". As he says, any place outside the city was "the country". In this case it was Maplewood, NJ, a suburb of NYC. He had a back yard with grass and trees, which he much preferred to the concrete of the city. He went to local public schools, including Columbia High School. Peter then went on to Harvard College, majoring in physics, and graduated summa cum laude.

His first career began while working on his doctorate in astrophysics from Brandeis University where he studied Einstein's general theory of relativity and black holes in particular – although the term "black holes" hadn't even been coined yet. In his spare time he took modern dance classes. During his time in grad school in Massachusetts, Peter bought a 40-acre forest in Maine as a weekend destination. It was located on Wilson Pond Road in North Monmouth, about halfway between Lewiston and Augusta. Peter describes it as "lovely country, rolling hills, some lakes, some nearby dairy farms...The land was about a mile from Wilson Pond, which is a six-mile long lake."

He and his fiancée built a small cabin on the land. Because there was no electricity, they had to build it entirely with hand tools, along with some friends who lent some of *their* hands as well. It took the whole summer. “Oh, and I didn't have a car, so we drove up and back on a motorcycle.” The lumber store dropped the building materials on the road at the start of the path that led to his cabin; from there Peter had to haul it all in by foot, piece by piece, for 200 yards -- in the snow.



Since he was studying astrophysics, he had to have something that let him continue to study the stars, so he bought a small reflecting telescope with a 6" mirror. Then he built a tiny observatory to protect it from the weather during the weekend (he took the telescope with him when he went back to Boston at the end of each weekend). It had a roof that was hinged at both ends, and just touching at the top (with flashing over the



seam), so the roof could be opened to use the telescope. He painted the walls to match the roof of the cabin. After he moved to Bethesda, he did not get up to Maine as often, and because the taxes kept going up, he sold the land and the cabin in 1996.

One of the challenges of studying general relativity is that there are not many people interested in the intricacies of the theory, and it can be difficult to find friends who even understand what you are talking about. So Peter eventually took up his second career: airborne acoustics, which is about community noise – think the beltway, not submarines.

He began with a private company where he did some work advising on aircraft noise and later worked on the Richard Montgomery High School auditorium, advising on the wall treatments to enhance the quality of sound. Eventually he joined the then National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In the mid-70s he volunteered to be on the county's Noise Control Advisory Board (NCAB), writing the original regulations for measuring noise at the property line. These covered everything from the racket your neighbors or their contractors might be making to whether a lawn mower is impinging on your peace of mind. At the

county's NCAB they were dealing with plans for Metro, particularly the noise that it would cause when trains exited the tunnel after Medical Center and came above ground. "We said they should tunnel under the beltway, and they said that would cost \$15M, and they were not going to do it. They said they had the latest in rubber sound-deadening wheels. I said wait 10 years – you are not going to maintain the rubber, and it will become noisy again."

Peter moved on to his third career when the head of EPA announced that "noise does not kill people" and closed down the whole airborne acoustics program at NBS. So he switched into robotics programming at NBS, which he did for eight years, focusing mainly on robot vision. This led to doing more and more programming of computers. It is quite possible that some of his work informed the development of self-driving vehicles of today.

From programming for robot vision, it was a natural transition to his fourth career, which was computer programming for a variety of purposes. And as he says, "that's where the jobs were." He did this for a private company that had contracts with several different corporations, including Hughes Network Systems, where he did work on satellite communications, Symbol Corp., a company that developed radio frequency identification (RFID) technology for things such as airline baggage, and for five years at AOL (originally America Online), where he worked on a variety of projects. Eventually his programming company went out of business. Peter was then 67 and decided that this would be a good time to retire from paying work so that he could move on to his next career.

Peter's fifth career is president of the Circadian Sleep Disorders Network (CSD-N). Circadian



sleep disorders are neurological disorders in which the sleep-wake cycle is out of sync with the day-night cycle. People with delayed sleep phase disorder, or DSPD, cannot fall asleep until very late and must sleep late into the next day or they become chronically sleep deprived. Others may have non-24-hour sleep-wake disorder (Non-24), which means that they have more than 24 hours in their daily cycle. They fall asleep later and later each day, cycling around the clock over several weeks. The key to these disorders is that sleep times are not simply preferences. People with DSPD or Non-24 are *unable* to sleep, except at certain times, as dictated by their own internal clocks. Current estimates are that they affect 1 in every 600 people, which, for the purpose of comparison, is about three times the prevalence of the more widely known disorder of narcolepsy.

Peter recognized that circadian sleep disorders were not well understood by the general public or even by many in the medical community. People with DSPD and Non-24 are often misdiagnosed because the sleep deprivation that results from these disorders can mimic depression, ADHD, fibromyalgia, and other disorders. At the time, even the National Institutes of Health (NIH), which has an advisory board that included patient representatives of four other types of sleep disorders, did not include circadian sleep disorders on this board.

Peter decided there was a need for an organization that would raise awareness and encourage research into its causes and treatments; currently there are some treatments, but they do not work for everyone. Fortunately, this was occurring at the time the internet was growing, and he was able to be in touch online with others with this disorder. They agreed to form the organization, and “since I am retired, I had the time to organize it. I am now the president of the Circadian Sleep Disorders Network.”

CSD-N has approximately 500 dues paying members, and through Facebook groups, listserve emails, and Twitter accounts, close to 8,000 others follow the work of CSD-N. One of the reasons there are not more dues paying members is that people with these sleep disorders have challenges finding and holding jobs, so many cannot afford the dues.

This is currently Peter’s full-time work. In addition to raising awareness, the organization has established a patient registry with individually volunteered data that the group hopes will interest researchers in doing more work on these disorders. Peter also made the case for getting Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorders listed and documented on the NIH website for sleep disorders. His arguments were well received, and just this month [CSD-N information](#) has been added to the NIH site.

Peter came to Parkwood in 1972. His then wife (since divorced) was studying piano and the sound apparently disturbed the neighbors of their apartment, so they had to look for another place to live. Parkwood was the winner. Since he moved here, he has contributed significantly to the Parkwood community, which he describes as a “...lovely community with friendly

neighbors.” Beginning in 2000 he served on the board of the PRA and was the association’s webmaster for over a dozen years.

Peter and his girlfriend enjoy hiking in the mid-Atlantic area almost every week, as well as international folk dancing. He is an avid traveler and amateur photographer with a keen eye for nature. You can see many of his photos on his website at

www.pmansbach.com

Throughout his multifaceted career, his love of the stars has remained strong, as seen in this ode below that is posted on his website. And it is not just the stars that he has written about; he has wonderful poems on many other subjects posted there as well.



An astrophysicist, a poet, a photographer, a civic-minded leader, and a hiker with a wry sense of humor. A true Renaissance person.

The Stars in Maine
by Peter Mansbach

I used to go to Maine,
To my land in Maine,
My forty acres of trees and brush.
I had cleared some space,
Cut down trees and some of the brush,
And built a platform
From which to see the stars.

It was quiet at night in Maine,
And peaceful being there alone.
It was dark at night in Maine.
The trees and brush merged with the black
sky,
And nothing at all could be seen except the
stars.

I looked at the stars.
I knew their names, then,
Castor and Pollux, Altair, Deneb,
And even the ancient Arabic names,
Zubenelgenubi and Zubeneshamali.
These bright stars shone steady,
Familiar, and easy to recognize.

But on top of them,
Covering the sky in all directions,
Were millions of faint stars,
Visible and sparkling.
And even these faint stars made contrast
With the dark, still blackness of the sky.

I could also see the Milky Way,
A lighter band of sky, sprinkled with stars,
Meandering across the blackness
Like a canyon carved by rivers in the sky--
And always still.
This I remember most about the Milky Way,
That it was so still, so steady.
I gazed at it for hours, unchanging.
My soul was then both here on earth
And there, eons away,
In the star-filled reaches of the galaxy.
I remember still that sensing
Of the quiet of the earth,
And of the vast deep stillness of space.

And I remember my dreams,
Those dreams that shed their bonds to the
earth
To soar among the multitudes of stars--
Those stars were my dreams.
My soul remains behind there still,
There, on my land in Maine,
And there, eons away, among the stars.

PHOTO GALLERY: A Night at the Opera

The second annual Opera in the Park, organized by the Friends of Warner Circle and supported by the Town of Kensington and Montgomery Parks, took place on September 22. A good crowd came out to hear the performers, including the gentleman below, sing a number of arias, duets, and quartets. The group was led by conductor Giovanni Reggioli.



ENVIRONMENTALIST CORNER

The Youth Climate Strike, by Bailey Condrey

On Friday, March 20, Montgomery County's youth participated in a global event, the first international "school strike" to focus attention on the unprecedented changes to the world's climate that greenhouse gases are producing and the need for federal politicians to enact meaningful policy to stave off the worst of the coming disasters, which the citizens of the U.S. and other nations already face.

I had been asked to participate by groups supporting the school strike, and groups supporting solutions-based public policy to address climate change, to hand out flyers at the Bethesda Metro Station during the morning commute, and to be on hand for remarks delivered by the student speaker, Rosie, a sixth grade student at Pyle Middle School. She delivered her comments flanked by Nicholas and Andrew, fellow middle schoolers.



Rosie delivers for MC students.

According to www.350.org, the protests were the beginning of a week of nearly 5,800 actions to take place in 163 countries. [Nearly 4 million people globally participated in climate actions on Friday and Saturday.](#)

Rosie had this to say:

Hi, my name is Rosie C-C. Thank you for coming to the Climate Strike! I'm proud of every one of you for being here.

The fires in California and the floods in the Midwest and the hurricanes in Texas and Puerto Rico and the Bahamas are waking people up to climate change.

Our oceans are filled with trash, and the sixth mass extinction will destroy life as we know it.

The earth has warmed by 2 degrees in the last century. And the greatest impact will be on the people who are the most vulnerable – poor people, indigenous people, people of color and children.

The government does almost nothing – the schools don't teach us – our parents are silent – and the people in charge are part of the problem.

But scientists say that we only have 11 years to avoid a climate catastrophe. They say we have to have zero carbon emissions by 2030. If we don't get to zero emissions in 11 years, scientists say we will have started an uncontrollable chain reaction that will lead to the end of our civilization as we know it.

So we are here to strike! We have a long history of striking in this country and we won't stop now. Strikes show our power through unity.

Our strike is in solidarity with the kids of Flint, Michigan, dealing with polluted water, and the Dakota Oil Pipeline protestors at Standing Rock, and the striking auto workers who want good paying jobs. Because any fight for justice is our fight too.

Today, we are asking you to fight for the future of children here and around the world.

I want to make sure that everyone here has signed our student petition to limit MCPS carbon emissions and teach kids the science of climate change. Come and find me and I'll show you the petition. We need everyone's voice.

And join me next Friday, 9/27 at 4:30 p.m. at the flagpole at MCPS's Carver Center when we present our petition demands to the Board of Education.

***Fight for children by demanding that we get to zero carbon emissions by 2030.
Fight for children by listening to the voices that usually get ignored.***

Fight for children by joining your local climate change groups.

LET THE CLIMATE STRIKE BEGIN!

Youth and adults participating in the climate strike then boarded the subway to Judiciary Square where thousands of young people assembled before they marched to the United States Capital to present their demands. Some of the most thought provoking messages of the day were penned to the myriad creatively composed and blunt protest banners and signs that the youth carried. Those messages included the following:

- “You’ll die of old age. I’ll die of climate change.”
- “If you had done your job, we’d be in school.”
- “I’m studying for a future that’s currently being destroyed.”
- “Science is not a liberal conspiracy.”

There were lots of moving parts to this event and I was impressed by how smoothly it all ran, but being a working stiff I had to leave the protest at Judiciary Square and return to my job.

Make no mistake, the oldest of the youth participants will soon be voters and they intend to target all politicians who have denied that climate change poses a threat and have worked to prevent meaningful legislation and public policy from being enacted to reduce future downside risks. In the simplest of terms it becomes a moral question: Do you care about the future quality of life of your nation’s own children? The Trump administration and its allies have provided ample proof that they do not care about the lives of children from other nations, but what about our own?

America’s youth have now placed both feet squarely in the cauldron of climate change and they intend to turn up the heat in the crucible of public policy debate to drive solutions. “May the Force be with Them!”



Stumps and Trees

Stump removal by the County takes approximately four years to complete from the time of initial reporting. When the County marks a tree for removal, it leaves a written notice for residents with information about the activities planned at the address. There are also instructions on how to request a new tree. At sites where space in the right-of-way is limited, as it is in Parkwood, a stump will occasionally be removed to clear the site so a new tree can be planted. The queue for replacement trees [1.5-2 years] is significantly shorter than the queue for stump removal. Residents can call 311 to request a permit to remove a tree stump from the right-of-way or to request a tree be planted in the right-of-way. See also [the County website for requesting a tree](#).

In 2017, Bailey Condrey and your editor surveyed the stumps in Parkwood and sent the list to Erik Bergmann, the county arborist responsible for coordinating stump removal. Mr. Bergmann identified the stumps in Parkwood that were on the County's list and gave the estimated date for removal. This spring and fall I re-surveyed the stumps in Parkwood and was able to confirm that all the stumps scheduled for 2019 had, in fact, been removed.

Below is the list of stumps scheduled for removal from 2020-2023. Please send corrections to the editor [jeff@jandjgriffith.com]

NBR	STREET	EST REMOVE
4711	Edgefield	2020
4613	Franklin	2020
SE corner KPES	Franklin	2020
4408	Glenridge Parkwood	2020
10115	Terrace	2020

9909	Thornwood	2020
10110	Thornwood	2020
4505	Westbrook	2020
10102	Wildwood	2020
10125	Crestwood	2021
4622	Edgefield	2021
4506	Everett	2021
SE corner KPES	Franklin	2021
4520	Roxbury	2021
4605	Saul	2021
4609	Saul	2021
NE corner KPES	Saul Road	2021
10107	Thornwood	2021
4510	Westbrook	2021
10002	Wildwood	2021
10117	Wildwood	2021
4523	Amherst	2022
4617	Edgefield	2022
4810	Edgefield	2022
4411	Franklin	2022
4501	Franklin	2022
4504	Franklin	2022
4715	Franklin	2022
4715	Franklin	2022
	Parkwood	
10112	Drive	2022
	Parkwood	
10245	Drive	2022
4611	Roxbury	2022
4402	Westbrook	2022
4404	Westbrook	2022
4409	Woodfield	2022
4411	Woodfield	2022
4501	Edgefield	2023
4406	Glenridge	2023
10206	Oldfield	2023

PHOTO GALLERY: KIDS BIKE PARADE, JULY 4.
(You can make up your own captions)



SCHOOL NOTES

Kensington Parkwood Elementary School (KPES).

Students at KPES continue to do well as assessed by Montgomery County Public Schools' [MCPS] own metrics and external data measures. KPES Principal Candace Ross reported the following results at the close of last year:

- Kindergarten: 95% literacy success and 92% in math
- 1st grade: 92% literacy success and 80% in math
- 2nd grade: 94% literacy success and in 86% math
- 3rd grade: 90% literacy success and 88% in math
- 4th grade: 93% literacy success and 91% in math
- 5th grade: 88% literacy success and 88% in math.

Ms Ross commented that “These data points reflect student performance in the classroom, on district tests, and external assessments such as MAP-R and M. This high level of performance reflects the skill of our teachers as well as the preparedness with which you support your children. It is a combined effort that should be commended.”

MCPS Boundary Study

In January 2019 the Montgomery County Board of Education [BoE] approved a proposal made by the student member of the board to conduct a study of current school boundaries. Students who live in the Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School district are currently assigned to attend North Bethesda Middle School and Walter Johnson High School. Walter Johnson High School draws students from two middle schools (North Bethesda and Tilden) and six elementary schools (Ashburton, Farmland, Garrett Park, Kensington-Parkwood,

Luxmanor, and Wyngate). The study will not make specific recommendations for boundary changes, although changes to current boundaries could be proposed once the study is completed.

One of the purposes of the study, as stated by the student member who proposed it, is to better understand the extent of diversity in schools that result from the current boundaries. The final report is due in the summer of 2020.

Overcrowding of Walter Johnson High School

Walter Johnson High School currently has a capacity of 2,321 students, but an unofficial count of enrollment at WJHS for the 2019-2020 school year has the school 425 students over capacity (WJHS is now the second-largest public high school by enrollment in Maryland, just behind Montgomery Blair HS). Based on the number of students currently enrolled in the elementary and middle schools that feed into Walter Johnson High School, Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) very conservative estimates project Walter Johnson High School will be over 3,000 students in five years (by the 2024-2025 school year).

The County has committed to re-opening the nearby Woodward High School building, which currently houses the Tilden Middle School, as a second high school in the district to relieve overcrowding. At a future time, MCPS will be making decisions about funding for specialized programming to be housed at Woodward, and what athletic and other amenities will be made available on site at Woodward. The school system is raising the question of whether it is reasonable to continue to provide each and every high school in the county with an athletic stadium, track, baseball and softball

fields, and tennis courts. The cluster representatives, which include representatives of KPES, are concerned that Woodward might end up being the only school without those comprehensive sports amenities. We will continue to track this issue and report on it in the newsletter and listserv.

School enrollment

At the end of September 2019, the county's 207 public schools had approximately 165,200 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, up from an enrollment of 162,680 students in the 2018-2019 school year. MCPS enrollment has grown by more than 11,000 students since 2010, solidifying the school district as one of the largest in the country. Students speak more than 150 different languages, according to the MCPS website.

POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

State Delegate meeting

The Montgomery County Delegation to Annapolis will hold its Joint Priorities Hearing on Wednesday, November 20th at 7pm. The hearing is an opportunity for interested residents to present issues of concern to the legislators. More information about testifying will be available soon. The meeting will be held at the County Council Office Building (100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville).

There will also be two nights of bill hearings on local bills (those that only affect Montgomery County) on Monday, December 2nd and Monday December 9th. The hearings begin at 7pm and will be held at the County Council Office Building (100 Maryland Ave. in Rockville).

MINUTES FROM PARKWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING/PICNIC, JUNE 2, 2019

A neighborhood gathering with food and music took the place of a formal PRA meeting in June of this year. PRA members and friends gathered by the "Maypole" on the Wildwood Road island to chat with neighbors, meet new friends, snack on goodies, and enjoy music. About 25 persons attended, some with children and a couple of small dogs.

Lively music was provided by Parkwood resident Rob Howe and the Wildwood Combo.

The weather was cool and pleasant—until a few raindrops started to fall. Fortunately, the musicians had the foresight to perform under a shelter. We covered the food and stayed conversing beneath the trees until rumbles of thunder convinced us that it was time to disperse.

Submitted by Judith Dighe, secretary



PHOTO GALLERY: The Kensington Train Show

September 7 and 8 were great days for kids and train enthusiasts. The show, held at the Kensington Town Hall, benefits the Noyes Children's Library Foundation, and the Kensington Historical Society. They do this every year. Put it on your calendar.



DEVELOPMENTS PROJECTS THAT WILL AFFECT PARKWOOD

This section provides updates on several proposed development projects that are of importance to Parkwood residents. The updates are intended to be objective and balanced. The PRA Development Committee will continue to track these and other proposed projects with the goal of keeping residents informed. Individuals are encouraged to express their opinions to the appropriate organizations.

Summary of Projects

This summary identifies the main points for each project. For more details, see the updates on each individual project that follow this summary.

I-495 and I-270. *The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) is studying six alternatives for relieving traffic on I-495 and I-270. The Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) is scheduled to be published for public review and comment in Winter 2020. While the DEIS is underway MDOT will move forward with requesting and evaluating proposals to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain improvements on both I-495 and I-270. Once the environmental process is complete, and if a build alternative is selected, implementation agreements will be submitted to BPW for approval.*

Warner Circle. *Montgomery Parks and Planning Commission will [probably] approve a proposal to develop the mansion at Warner Circle into 12 condominiums.*

Knowles Manor. *The decision by the Planning Board to approve this moderately-priced senior housing apartment and condo complex across from Strosniders Hardware Store has been appealed by a group called*

Neighbors for an Improved Kensington. If negotiations to reach a settlement with the developer are not successful, the appeal will be heard in Montgomery County Circuit Court in January.

Storage Facility at Connecticut and Pliers Mill. *The developer has appealed the decision by the Planning Board to disapprove the project. A decision is expected soon.*

Summit Avenue Lane Reduction. *Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has rejected the Town of Kensington request to eliminate the right-turn-only lane from Summit onto Knowles eastbound. MCDOT will install a hybrid pedestrian beacon (HAWK) along Summit Avenue near Brookfield Drive.*

Lauraner Knowles Estate. *This proposal to build townhouses at the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue is on hold because of the County moratorium on building in districts where the schools are already overcrowded.*

Pedestrian Master Plan. *The Planning Board has officially approved a Pedestrian Master Plan. The purpose of the plan, as described in the scope of work statement, is “...to enhance the pedestrian experience in Montgomery County.”*

Dog Park. *The Town of Kensington is planning to create a dog park opposite the Kensington Train Station. It will be open to the public.*

Detailed Updates of Projects

I-495 and I-270

[Editor’s note: The following summary draws primarily from the Maryland Department of Transportation [website on the](#)

[495/270 project](#) and its [September newsletter](#). It contains the most recent publicly available factual information about the state government's proposal to address traffic congestion on I-495 and I-270.

For a description of the options currently being studied, see the list of [Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study](#) [a term of art referred to by the acronym ARDS]. For the impact of each of the alternatives, see the [SHA interactive map](#).

PRA members are welcome to express their views on the various alternatives at the Oct 21 PRA meeting or in emails to the editor (jeff@jandgriffith.com)]

The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA) I-495 & I-270 Public-Private Partnership (P3) Program continues working to relieve the National Capital Region's traffic congestion. Maryland's Board of Public Works (BPW) designated the program as a P3 in June. The program is progressing with multiple efforts since its designation as a P3.

First, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study continues to coordinate with stakeholders and analyze the Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study developed to address the congestion travelers experience daily on I-495 and I-270.

Second, preliminary planning activities are underway for I-270 from I-370 in Gaithersburg to I-70 in Frederick.

Third, while the two environmental studies advance, the P3 designation allows the program to move forward with requesting and evaluating proposals to design, build,

finance, operate, and maintain improvements on both I-495 and I-270. Once the NEPA study process is complete, and if a build alternative is selected, future P3 agreements will be submitted to BPW for approval.

Finally, a Managed Lanes Transit Work Group has been established with regional and local transit providers and will consider ways that transit programs could take advantage of managed lanes on I-495 and I-270.

ONGOING WORK

With the Spring 2019 workshops and comment period completed, MDOT SHA is conducting detailed traffic, engineering, financial, and environmental analyses of the ARDS presented at those sessions. MDOT SHA also is evaluating a proposal to utilize the Intercounty Connector (ICC) as an alternative route to the topside of I-495, coupled with various transportation system and demand management solutions. The results of the detailed traffic, environmental, engineering, and financial analyses will be used to identify a Preferred Alternative for the Study and will be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

During the remainder of 2019, MDOT SHA will be developing the Managed Lanes Study's DEIS which will include:

- Detailed traffic, engineering, financial, and environmental analyses;
- Identification of the Preferred Alternative;
- Environmental impact avoidance and minimization measures, as well as mitigation for unavoidable environmental impacts;
- Summary of agency and public coordination and outreach; and

- Ongoing field work along the corridor, including on both public and private property.

The DEIS is scheduled to be published for public review and comment in Winter 2020. The document will be made available on the P3 Program website and various other public locations throughout Montgomery, Prince George's, and Frederick counties, including in county libraries. To formally gather public comments, on findings in the DEIS, Public Hearings will be scheduled for Spring 2020.

Other key events and dates:

- Nov 4 — MDOT officials will take questions from Montgomery County delegation to Annapolis on the 495 project and other priorities, 7 pm, at the County Council Chamber (3rd floor, 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville)
- Nov 20 — The same delegation will hold a public hearing on legislative priorities. Same location.

Other key points from the website of [Citizens Against Beltway Expansion](#)

- The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission [MNCPPC] has non-concurred with MDOT's six different tollway proposals based on MDOT's failure to develop alternative plans to avoid or minimize environmental impact, as required under the National Environmental Policy Act. The state went straight to mitigation.
- On Oct 16 an interagency meeting expects to find out if MDOT will add to its six current Alternatives Retained for Detailed Study a MoCo proposal to avoid widening I-495 by

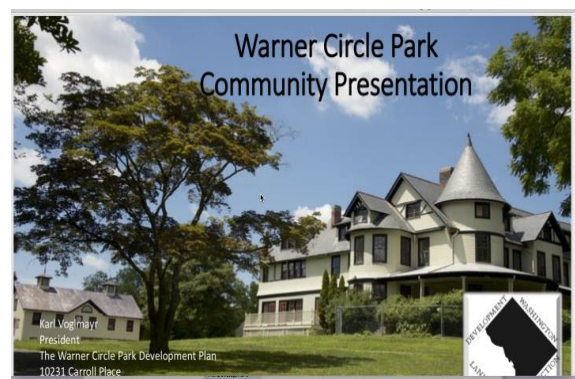
diverting more I-95 through traffic across the ICC and down new reversible lanes on I-270. If MDOT does, then MNCPPC will likely withdraw its non-concurrence. If MDOT doesn't, the National Capital Planning Commission is expected to add its non-concurrence to MNCPPC's.

- MDOT needs land that MNCPPC cannot convey for purposes other than recreation or parkland per MNCPPC's agreement with the federal government.
- MNCPPC has said it currently does not intend to give MDOT the land for Beltway expansion because of political pressure from Montgomery County and Prince George's County.

For information from citizens in favor of expanding I-495 and I-270 see the website of [Citizens for Traffic Relief](#).

Warner Circle Park

Warner Circle Special Park is a 4.5-acre property located at 10231 Carroll Place in the heart of the Kensington Historic District. Montgomery Parks and Planning



Commission will [probably] approve a proposal to develop the mansion at Warner Circle into 12 condominiums. The Town of Kensington Council approved a resolution of support.

Summary of presentation by Montgomery Parks representation and the subsequent discussion at the Kensington Town meeting September 9, 2019.

- Efforts by the county to find a viable use and funding for the mansion and park have been unsuccessful.
- Estimate is \$5-6M for county to develop and \$70K/year to maintain
- In 2018 commission received a proposal from Washington Landmark Construction [WLC] to develop 12 residential units [condos].
 - WLC is experienced in historic preservation for commercial purposes; did the [Washington Seminary Project](#)
 - Will be ADA compliant with assumption that residents can “age in place”
- Commission retains the land so it remains a public park
- Commission believes this is a good proposal
 - Preserves historic buildings
 - Maintains public space that can be used for public purposes
 - Carriage house? Probably will support some public events.
- Proposal supported by
 - Friends of Warner Circle
 - Kensington Historical Society
 - District 18 delegation
- Parking will be provided for residents and public

An addition will be put on the back of the house to accommodate the number of condos; must be approved by the historic preservation groups.

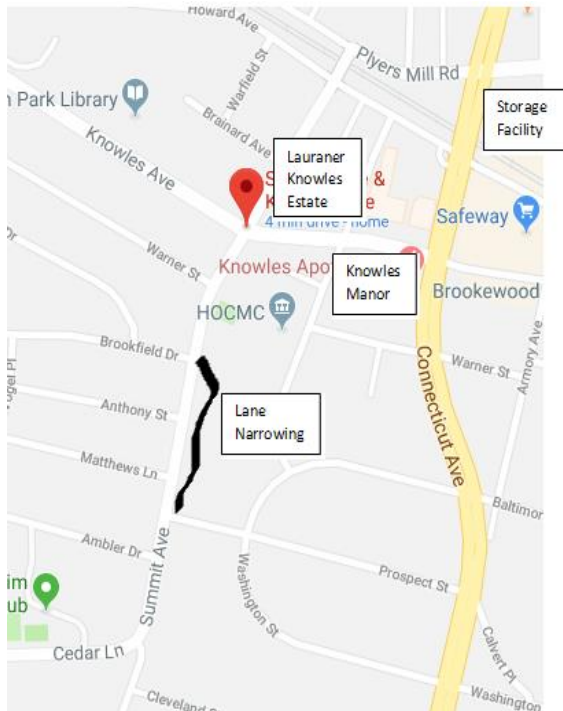
Knowles Manor

This is a proposed moderately-priced senior housing apartment and condo complex across from Strosniders Hardware Store. The Planning Board approved the proposal in July 2019. However, this decision has been appealed by a group called Neighbors for an Improved Kensington. Their concerns are summarized in the following statement:

Our concerns are mainly about traffic and safety issues and parking issues caused by the siting and design of the property. None of our concerns are new. They were expressed at all stages of the project but were not fully addressed. We have been in friendly negotiations with the developer and are willing to withdraw the appeal if we can reach an agreement. In some cases, we are asking for assurances that promises made to the community by the developer will be kept. We want to minimize traffic flow and safety problems that could potentially occur on that congested stretch of Knowles. For example, planning staff wanted the developer to tweak the design of the layby lane to improve pedestrian safety and traffic flow, but the planning board sided with the developer and rejected the better design so as not to slow down the start of construction. We have asked for the staff's proposal to be adopted. As you know, the adjacent building at 10400 Connecticut was approved with no loading/delivery capability resulting in the frequent blocking of the curb lane on SB Connecticut. We want to try to avoid a situation like that from occurring on EB Knowles. We welcome donations to help defray the cost of retaining an attorney. If we are unable to reach a settlement with the developer, we will appear in Montgomery County Circuit Court in January to argue the case.

Summit Avenue Lanes and Pedestrian Safety

The Town of Kensington asked the County Department of Transportation MCDOT to consider closing the right-hand lane on



Summit Avenue between Prospect Street and Brookfield Drive. The Town's major concern is pedestrian safety. The sidewalk along this portion of Summit Avenue is very narrow and in places tends to slant into the traffic lane. Cars using the right-hand lane to turn right onto Knowles Avenue often pass close by pedestrians because there is no buffer such as that provided by the parking lane further south on Summit and Cedar. In addition, the crosswalk at Brookfield is heavily used, especially by children crossing into the park on the east side of Summit.

MCDOT has decided not to close the current right-turn-only lane of Summit Avenue, but it will install a hybrid pedestrian beacon (HAWK) along Summit Avenue near Brookfield Drive.

Lauraner Knowles Estate

This is a proposal to build townhouses at the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue. However, because of the overcrowding of schools in our cluster, there is now a moratorium on new developments that would potentially add additional children to the system. The moratorium is effective July 2019 and will last at least one year.

Storage Facility

This is a proposal to build a storage facility at the southeast corner of Connecticut Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. The Kensington Town Council voted against the proposal and Planning Board turned it down this summer. The developer appealed and a hearing was held Aug 26. The Kensington Town Mayor reported that the hearing went well from the town's perspective and believes that the decision of the Planning Board is likely to be upheld. All parties had until Sept 26 to submit final arguments to the appeals board [\[technically the Office of Administrative and Zoning Hearings\]](#). A decision is expected soon.

Pedestrian Master Plan for Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Planning Board has officially approved a [Pedestrian Master Plan](#). The purpose of the plan, as described in the [scope of work statement](#), is "...to enhance the pedestrian experience in Montgomery County. Walking should be the preferred means of travel for all trips within a short distance, and accessibility for persons with disabilities must be paramount. Walking and rolling on a mobility scooter or wheelchair should be comfortable, convenient, safe and direct. The plan will strengthen the existing culture of walking and expand it in the years ahead by prioritizing pedestrian infrastructure and

recommending updates to County policies, operational practices, and design standards.”

The Pedestrian Master Plan is a two-year effort that will include an extensive outreach program, including public meetings, a community advisory group, email newsletters and other community events.

Two upcoming public meetings will be held in nearby locations on October 16 and October 21:

Wednesday, October 16, 2019 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m

Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814

Monday, October 21, 2019 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m

Montgomery County Planning Department, 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dog Park

Last but not least for many in Parkwood: the Town of Kensington is planning a fenced dog park that will be *open to the public*. It will be located on the other side of the railroad tracks across from the Kensington Station. More info will be posted on the listserv when we have it. And thank you, Town of Kensington.

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