

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. Members include Paul Ferrari, Jill Lipton, Angela Long, 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**.