

Parkwood

Residents Association Newsletter, Fall 2017

The next meeting of the PRA will be held on Monday, October 16 at 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Media Center
Topic: Keeping Our Homes and Neighborhood Safe

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What's this? A whimsical picture of the Noyes Children's Library. See the article on page 4.

Fall Meeting Program: PRA President Kira Lueders

The next PRA meeting will be on October 16th (a Monday) at 7:30 pm in the Media room at Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School. **The topic is keeping our homes and our neighborhood safe.**

We have a new Community Services Police Officer replacing Officer Oliver Janney, who helped us find out who was setting off fireworks in Parkwood at odd times last summer. Her name is **Dana Stroman** and she will be our speaker. Some of the issues that can be discussed with her are crime statistics, car break-ins, traffic cutting through the neighborhood at high speeds and ignoring stop signs, and the recent report of how thieves can steal your car by capturing a signal from your remote.

Please send me issues of particular concern that you would like her to address, and I will let her know when I meet with her before our meeting. (Ed. note: See Kira's contact information on page 17.)

We will also have good **news about the Cedar Lane traffic islands and signal changes at the Cedar Lane/355 intersection** although not right-turn-only...yet. Finally, we will discuss the problem raised recently on the listserv regarding the loss of **parking spaces at Grosvenor** and possible remedies.

I hope to see you at the meeting.

Kira

Feature Articles: Our Libraries-Kensington Park and Noyes Children's Library

Kensington Park Library: A New Branch Manager and More Hours

People, books, and technology – a great combination and you can find them all at the Kensington Park Library.

First, there are *the people*. The always helpful staff is led by our new branch manager, Karen Miller, who arrived earlier this year from the Germantown Library. Karen describes the staff as wonderful, experienced, team players. She says being at Kensington Park is a bit of a homecoming for her – she worked here 37 years ago and says the community is just as friendly and welcoming now as it was then.

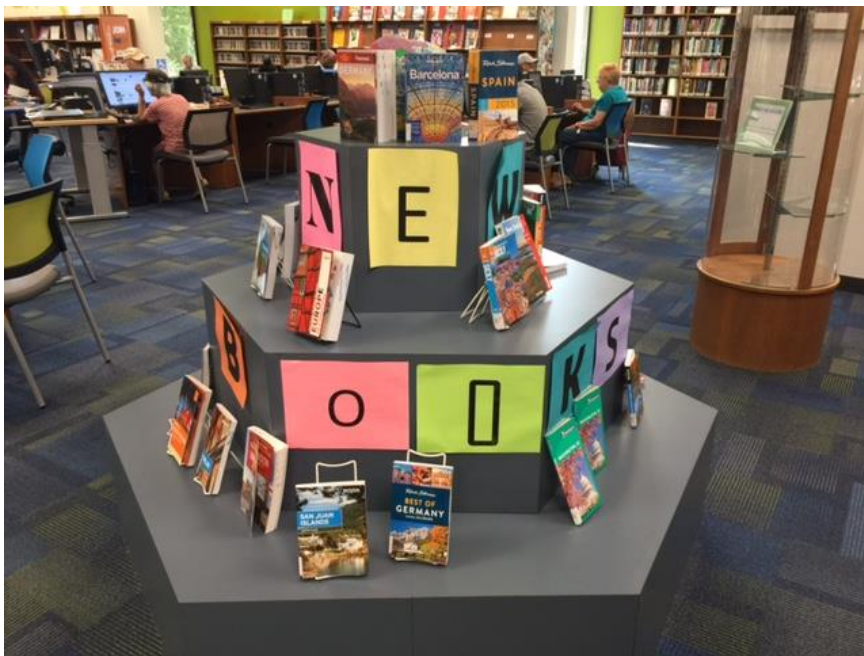
The people also include the readers, borrowers, and users of the branch's many services, as well as the library's invaluable supporting groups, such as the Friends of the Library, who have made possible many of the improvements in the library's facilities, like gardens, furniture to create outdoor reading areas, and literary stairs and wall murals. In addition, there is the Library Advisory Group, volunteers who meet with Karen one hour every other month in the evening. Their mission is to represent the needs of our community to her and to the county Library Board. Karen welcomes anyone who wants to be on the Advisory Group, saying that although the time commitment is minimal, the contribution of the members is essential for maintaining a high-quality library.

Second, there are *the books*. Kensington Park is a relatively small branch, but it is our gateway to any book or article in the Montgomery County public library system, and beyond that to any book in a public library in the state of Maryland. And if that is not enough, the KP branch will connect you to an *international* interlibrary loan system that can give you access to many of the resources in over 10,000 libraries in 56 countries!

But back to Kensington. The KP branch maintains a book shelf of works by local authors. Here you will find books by writers who live in our area ("local" is broadly defined); you will surely find at least one book whose author makes you say, "I didn't know she lived here!" And if you are just browsing, looking for a good read,

KP Library has shelves of current best sellers and shelves of books recommended by the staff. Be careful if you walk by those shelves, however. You are likely to sit down with one and find you have just spent an hour in pleasurable reading. Might as well check it out for three weeks. And there is often a display of newly received books.

Of course, books (and magazines) are no longer just bound volumes on paper. They come in a variety of forms, including audio books, e-books, and e-magazines, all of which you can "borrow", i.e., download, from the library for a set period of time. When the item is "due back" it simply disappears from whatever device you were reading it on, so you never have



any late fees!

Interested in music? Checkout the [free download services](#) that provide access to over 3,000,000 recordings on Sony and other independent record labels, unlimited access from beginning through advanced self-paced video

lessons for instruments and voice; and various streaming services for many different types of music, including classical, jazz, American, and contemporary global. And check out the [MCPL website](#) for useful databases such as world language learning, early literacy tips, consumer information, magazine articles, e- and audio- books, e-magazines and more. And it is all free.

And for kids, in addition to the newly refurbished, bright, inviting children's reading room filled with books, there are Little Explorers Go! Kits. These are backpacks, funded by the Friends of the Library and developed by the county for children in two age groups, 3-6 and 7-12, to get them excited about science and math. The kits are designed to encourage parents, caregivers, and kids to actively explore the world around them. Each kit contains several books, science tools, and activities; some also contain an educational DVD. Kits can be borrowed for two weeks, a great advantage for parents who may have less time to come to the library and for grandparents who want to have some educational activities for grandchildren who may be about to descend on them.

Third, there is *the technology*. Under the leadership of Parker Hamilton, the recently retired Director of Public Libraries, the county has been committed to ensuring that all its libraries are 21st century institutions. At the Kensington Park branch, this means that patrons have access to any of its 12 personal computers, including one for kids, 2 large screen PCs compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and an Assisted Technology workstation. There are also 10 laptops, which can be used anywhere in the building, including in the meeting and collaboration rooms. Or you can connect your own computer or smart phone to the library's high-speed wireless network. Is your Internet connection at home too slow sometimes? Come to the KP Library. Also, there are charging stations for digital devices and copier/printers that can make black and white or color copies for a fee.



1 of the 2 collaboration rooms where 2-4 people can work together

For the kids, there are *Early Literacy* and *After School Edge Stations*, special computers preloaded with child-tested software that helps make learning science, math, geography and reading more fun for young children. And the Go Kits mentioned above now include a Playaway Launchpad with recommended apps. These are educational tablets especially designed for kids with preloaded educational software.

And finally, did you know that the library has two 3-D printers on order? 3D printing is the process of making a 3-dimensional object from a digital design file. Check out the technical details and information about how to use it at the county's [website](#).

Put all this together – the people, the books and other materials, and the technology -- combine it with good leadership and quality services provided by Karen and the staff and you have a community hub where people big and little can come to read, to study, to learn new things and even to work together. This happens because the staff work hard to make all these resources useful and readily accessible to us. In addition to all the books and magazines and computers, there is a meeting room that anyone in the county can use to present a program and have a discussion. There are talks by authors, storytimes for toddlers and preschoolers, video production classes and writing clubs for teens, family gaming nights, English conversation sessions, open mic music nights, presentations on home renovations and native plants, a knitters guild...the list just goes on. And if you need a

place for 2-4 people to meet have a work session, or just a quiet place for yourself, there are two collaboration rooms that can be reserved for up to two hours at a time.

Go to the Kensington Park library sometime this fall. Starting Oct 17, additional hours will be added on Thursday mornings and Monday and Wednesday evenings, so the library will be open Monday-Thursday 10-8, and Friday/Saturday 10-6. It is a quiet, active, thoughtful, “happenin” place. And when you go in, don’t miss the shelves of books for sale maintained by the Friends of the Library. You could be surprised at what you find there, both fiction (Scott Turow’s *Burden of Proof*, Robert Waller’s *The Bridges of Madison County*, Sara Gruen’s *Water for Elephants*, Arthur Golden’s *Memoirs of a Geisha*) and non-fiction (Mitch Albom’s *Tuesday’s with Morrie*, Bob Woodward’s *The War within a War*, Walter Isaacson’s *The Innovators*). Adult hardbacks are \$2.00; paperbacks are \$1.00; children’s hardbacks are \$1.00; paperbacks are \$.50. You can’t beat those prices and all proceeds are used to support the library.



The Noyes Children’s Library

It is a magical *looking* place, one that surely houses a few fairies and pixies, maybe even a goblin or two. But the real magic is in the children who love it, the parents who bring their kids to it, the people who staff it, and the friends and community who have supported it throughout its almost 125 years. It is the Noyes Children’s Library at 10237 Carroll Place in Kensington, a couple of blocks behind Safeway. Its official name is the Noyes Library for Young Children, but most people call it the Noyes Children’s Library. Adults are welcome, of course, as long as a child accompanies them.

Noyes Library has an intriguing history, a tale of crises and commitment. It was founded in 1893 by Brainard Warner, a Washington, D.C. real estate developer and founder of the Town of Kensington, and by Crosby Noyes, editor and publisher of the Washington Evening Star. Noyes believed that the foundation of his newspaper career was laid when he was a poor boy in Maine and had access to a small collection of books in his town's shoemaker's shop.

Noyes Library was intended to serve as an intellectual and social center for the entire community and for residents of all ages. It was a place where children could do their homework, adults could read and check out books, and the town could hold meetings. It is the oldest public library building in the

Washington D.C. area, pre-dating the Jefferson building of the Library Congress by four years. At one time, it was a subscription library (\$1.00 per year), and books could be taken out for 10 cents a month.



Noyes Library a long time ago

The Library operated through its subscriptions, private donations, and, eventually, support from the Town of Kensington until the early 1950's. At that time small local libraries were given the option to join the newly formed Montgomery County Department of Public Libraries. Recognizing the advantages of being part of the county system, the Noyes Library Association, the governing body, decided to transition from being a community library under a private board of trustees, to becoming one of nine libraries that joined to create the Montgomery County Public Library (MCPL) system.

Unfortunately, the county decided to close Noyes in the late 1960s. Fortunately, the Association and the community would not hear of it and rallied to its support, both politically and financially. Noyes was re-opened in 1972, this time with a new name, The *Noyes Children's Library*, with a specific mission: to develop child-focused programs that can be adopted by other county libraries, to work regularly with special needs children, to reach out to children who cannot easily attend the usual library branch programs, and to work with groups of parents and other adults involved in services to children.



The *new* library for children perked along contentedly with books and story hours for kids and creative penny theatre productions of classic children's stories until 1991, when the dreaded county budget crisis returned and once again threatened its existence. So its supporters banded together again, this time as the Noyes Library Foundation, to meet the latest challenge. The Foundation formed a public-private partnership with the Montgomery County Council and raised half the library's operating budget. They did this in a very short time through personal donations and various fundraising events including a gala called "The Stars Come Out For Noyes", for which dozens of Hollywood stars

autographed and donated their favorite children's books, which were then auctioned off. For the next decade, the Foundation held an every-other-year gala, each of which had a special theme that helped to make many of the auction items very attractive. For example, for the "Time to Make Noyes" gala many local artists and artisans created unique clocks for the auction. In between galas the Foundation held other fund-raising activities. Finally, by the start of the new millennium, the county's finances had improved to the point where it could again fund Noyes completely, and its supporters could take a well-deserved respite.

But as always, new challenges arose. The recession that started in 2008 again threatened the library's funding. And in 2010 the building was declared to be out of compliance with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). So once again Noyes supporters, through the Foundation, came together, this time raising enough money to support staff salaries for two years until the county's budget returned to previous levels.

However, solving the ADA challenge has been more difficult. The initial solution proposed was to do the minimum needed to reach compliance, but Noyes has been designated an historic building, and nearly everyone who sees



it recognizes its intrinsic appeal – to all ages. Doing the minimum to meet ADA requirements would have seriously affected its attractiveness and would not have enabled it to make effective use of its existing space, such as the currently inaccessible third floor, which is needed to support its early literacy programs. At the same time, whatever changes are made must be approved by the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and by the Maryland Historic Trust (MHT).

Ever creative, the members of the foundation have put forward innovative solutions to many of the ADA problems. For example, rather than installing an inside elevator, which would have reduced space, pierced the roof, (and been ugly), an architect on the foundation board has proposed an external elevator, possibly even with a whimsical design that evokes the image of a fairy tale tower. The county's historic commission agrees with this solution, but to date, the Foundation is still awaiting approval of its plans from the Maryland Historic Trust.

Throughout all of this, the foundation and the county have been pressing forward with their shared vision to make Noyes a leader in both the county and the state in fostering early childhood literacy. In July 2016, MCPL announced that Noyes will house the Jan Jablonski Early Literacy Training Center, to create, model and export best-practice early literacy training for librarians and library science students, early childhood educators, daycare providers and, of course, parents. In March of this year, the Center was formally opened by County Executive Ike Leggett.

For now, the Center will be comprised of a growing collection of early literacy resources to be housed at Noyes and made available through the trained children's librarians there. As the Foundation and the county's department of public libraries continue to design the expanded library being planned through the Make MORE Noyes Campaign, the Center will take shape as a space within Noyes, a mission based at Noyes, and an important and valuable opportunity to improve early literacy.

The center is named in honor of Jan Jablonski, who served as the foundation's co-president up until her death in July 2016 from ALS, the debilitating neurodegenerative disease. Despite having no use of her arms and legs over the last few years and having to rely on a ventilator for breathing, Jan was the driving force behind the creation of the center and its commitment to early literacy. She often had to communicate by typing her thoughts out, or by having someone sitting close to her at foundation meetings announce what she said to others in the room. In March 2016, after the county finished work on a new wheelchair ramp at Noyes, she was able to enter the building for the first time since becoming a quadriplegic.



With supporters like Jan Jablonski, the foundation, and the county, the Noyes Library for Children will continue to thrive, perhaps into the next millennium, despite whatever challenges it will face, guided by its founding vision, its love of children, and its unwavering support by our community.

Meet Your Neighbors: Sandy Cepaitas and her husband Gerry Cepaitas

As we have noted, Parkwood is a friendly community where we greet each other cordially and often help each other out as best we can. However, we often don't get to know many of our neighbors more extensively. The goal of this column, the latest in the series, is to introduce some of the many interesting people in Parkwood. If you know someone whom you think we would all like to know better, tell the editor by email (jeff@jandjgriffith.com) or phone message (301-530-0897).



Artist, wife, retired teacher, mother, long-time member of the Montgomery Art Association, grandmother, and Parkwood resident for more than 40 years: meet Sandy Cepaitas (pronounced “se pie tis”). Sandy came to Parkwood from Pittsburgh with her husband, Gerry, in 1973. At the time, he was an engineer with Bechtel, the company that managed the construction of the Metro subway system, and he came here to help them build it. Sandy had been teaching school outside of Pittsburgh, but when she and Gerry moved here, she stayed at home with her young son and daughter until they began to attend Kensington Parkwood Elementary School. Then she resumed teaching again, first at The Primary Day School in Bethesda, and later, for 16 years, at Beauvoir, the elementary school of the National Cathedral. Sandy taught the littlest

ones, pre-K and Kindergarten. “They were fun and I loved it,” she said.

It happened that Gerry's aunt and uncle lived across the street on Dresden, and when they found out that Sandy and Gerry were engaged and coming to this area, they told them about a neighbor's house that was about to go on the market. They bought it – a two-bedroom bungalow with a breezeway and a garage. Over the years, they modified their bungalow, as is typical for our neighborhood, by enlarging the living room, creating a dining room, and adding an entire second floor. “We did have contractors for the two major additions” she said, “But we did quite a bit of work together on the second story addition to economize on costs. We put duct work together and ran it. Gerry pulled the wiring, and I learned to wire receptacles, and then an electrician would check the work. We also installed insulation, did dry wall work...and did the painting. I look back and wonder how we did it, with both of us working full time. Guess we were younger! It was definitely a labor of love.” And, of course, they created a beautiful garden in the back and a lovely front yard that has two very tall evergreen trees.



Sandy had always had an interest in art but had never had the time to pursue it. After she retired from teaching full-time, she decided to take a water color class that was mentioned in a county brochure. It was a large class and most of the students already had some experience with water colors. But the teacher was understanding and made a point of giving her and two to three other beginners some extra instruction. Sandy was hooked, and fourteen years later she is still taking classes with this same teacher and still painting, primarily florals and landscapes. Often using a photo she has taken rather than working en plein air, she does her painting at home and in her class. (Ed note: The pictures in this article are all by Sandy.).

Because of her painting, Sandy became involved with the Montgomery Art Association (MAA), which for several years had a gallery in the Westfield mall. She volunteered at the gallery, which gave her a chance to talk to other artists and exchange ideas with them. When the economy began to recover from the 2008 recession, the mall received a commercial contract for the space, so the Gallery closed. But the work of the association has continued; it held one of its biggest exhibitions, as it has been doing for several years, at the Kensington town hall this past Labor Day weekend. Sandy had several original works in the show as well as a bin with her prints and also her cards. A requirement to be in the show is that the artist has to include at least one work about Kensington. After several years of painting Kensington houses (“Do I really want to do another one?”), she decided to paint the skateboarders who use the playground area in the back of the former Kensington Elementary School on Detrick Ave precursor to KPES. [See the next story about the Montgomery Art Association.]

Gerry retired after working about 30 years for Metro. He stays busy with their garden and house, with friends, and with travel. On a trip last fall, Gerry went to Cambodia and returned to Vietnam where he had been an engineer in the army during the war in Vietnam. Gerry and his company built a bridge across a river there, and Gerry wanted to see if it was still standing. Not only is it still there, but it is now surrounded by a town that has become so big and so busy that he did not even recognize the bridge when he first went across it. (It is about the size of the bridge on Cedar Lane that crosses Rock Creek just south of Beach Drive.)

The couple has seen many changes over their 40 years living in Parkwood, noting the increased traffic and large number of renovated bungalows. Sandy thinks it can be disconcerting to see some of the larger places



alongside some of the smaller bungalows that were predominant when they moved here. She does admit, however, that most of the renovations have been tasteful and are often attractive to her artist's eye.

Sandy and Gerry still love living in Parkwood. The local public schools, which both their kids liked very much; the neighbors and friends; and the houses all make it a great place for them. Their son and daughter both live nearby, in Rockville and Brookeville, and Sandy still babysits for her youngest grandson one day a week. And she has been one of the block-captains for distributing PRA newsletters to the 45 homes on Dresden St. for many years.

When their kids were growing up many of their friendships evolved through their children. Sandy recalls a babysitting co-op that helped keep down the costs of going out to dinner as neighbors took turns looking after each other's kids. A volunteer secretary kept the record of who sat for whom and when. “It was great”, she said. “We went into each other's homes and got to know the kids and the parents.” When the kids got older and moved out of the house, an “empty nesters club” filled the social void of the no-longer-needed babysitters co-op; but over time that faded as well. So as Sandy and Gerry are able to travel more often in their retirement,

some of their newest friends live in other cities. They are able to see each other by traveling together or taking vacations in the same places. “We are blessed with a lot of nice friends.”

Sandy and Gerry still try to keep up with their neighbors in Parkwood. Every year they and their immediate neighbors plan a pot luck and provide the hot dogs and hamburgers for a picnic with the other residents on Dresden. So even though they are now among the “elders” of the community, they work to make sure it continues to be a welcoming place.

When Gerry’s job with the Bechtel company to build the Metro was nearing completion, the company started talking to him about his next assignment, which could have been anywhere in the world. As they talked about it, Sandy and Gerry decided that they liked living right here so much that they did not want to leave. Fortunately, Gerry was offered a job with Metro, which now needed its own staff of professional engineers. So when Bechtel told him that his next assignment would be overseas, they decided to turn it down and stay here in Parkwood. That was a good decision for them and for us.



Art at the Kensington Town Hall

And speaking of artists, the Montgomery Art Association (MAA) held its annual art exhibition in the Kensington Town Hall over the three-day Labor Day weekend. Over 100 artists displayed hundreds of original works, prints, and cards, many of exceptional quality. The MAA was established in 1954 and supports the visual arts in the Washington Metropolitan area. Members of the organization are artists working in a variety of media and styles and include both beginning and experienced artists and both amateurs and professionals. The MAA sponsors regular lectures and artist demonstrations, member exhibits, museum field trips, and an online Members display and sales Gallery. The MAA also conducts community outreach through their children’s art activities and college scholarship program.

The judge of the Labor Day show was Walt Bartman, Director and founder of the Yellow Barn in Glen Echo, and co-founder of the Griffin Art Center, Frederick, MD. His statement about judging art: *“The most important element that I look for in a work of art is the ‘poetry of vision’. It is also called the essence of the idea and goes beyond the literal. The works chosen as award winners reflect what Pissarro said when he advised his student to be ‘honest’ and paint their temperaments.”*



Baklava Couture by Jennifer Barlow – First Place for works reflecting Kensington and the winner of the Bertha Clum Award. Source: [the artist's website](#).

First, second, third, and honorable mention awards were given in four general categories: *Landscape*; *Portrait, People, and Animals*; *Still Life*; and *Abstract*. There was also a fifth category for pieces reflecting the scenery or spirit of the Town of Kensington. First place in the Kensington category and a special award called the Bertha Clum Award, went to Jennifer Barlow for her work entitled *Baklava Couture*. This award is named after the person who donated the Clum-Kennedy Park on Kensington Parkway. It was particularly enjoyable (for your editor) to learn that the actual Baklava Couture store is just around the corner on Metropolitan Avenue. Jennifer Barlow's picture does justice to some of the delicious items one can purchase there.

While all the categories had a number of beautiful paintings, it was especially interesting to see the many works about Kensington through the eyes of the artists. A number of these works will be on display in the Town Hall throughout the year. With apologies to the artists for the poor quality of the editor's photographs taken at the show, here are pictures of the second place winner – *Prestige Auto, Metropolitan Auto* by Patrick Sieg and third place winner- *Moonlight* by LiPing Zhu.



Prestige Auto, Metropolitan Auto by Patrick Sieg



Moonlight by LiPing Zhu

Honorable Mention Awards in the Kensington category went to:

Claudia Everitt for *Timeless*,
David Sommers for *Kensington Economy at Sunset*
Debbie Miller for *Fresh Fruits and Flowers*
Diana Medina for *Kensington*
Lisa Mathias for *A view from Flinn Park*

Political Notes

This is a brief and non-partisan report on some of the developments that may affect Parkwood residents. It will appear periodically in the newsletter as events warrant. Comments from readers are welcome.

2018 will be a big year for elections at the national, state, and local levels. The PRA Newsletter will take note of activities at the *local level* that could be of interest to Parkwood residents. In this issue, the focus is on the County Council and County Executive.

The primary election will take place on June 26, 2018 with early voting June 14-21. The general election will be held November 6, 2018 with early voting October 25 to November 1.

2018 Election – County Council and County Executive

In 2016, Montgomery voters approved a referendum that limited the members of the county council and the county executive to three terms. The result is that four of the current nine council members are term-limited and cannot run for reelection to the council. This includes Roger Berliner, who represents the Parkwood part of District 1, and At-Large members Nancy Floreen, Marc Elrich, and George Leventhal. To date, three of these – Councilmembers Berliner, Elrich, and Leventhal have declared their candidacy for the Democratic Party nomination for County Executive. Robin Ficker has declared for the Republican nomination.

To date, four candidates have declared their candidacy for the District 1 Council seat, and fourteen have declared for the four At-large seats. It is likely that other candidates will declare for these offices. The deadline for candidates to file for election is 9 p.m. Tuesday, February 27. The official list of candidates for Montgomery County Executive and Council is maintained by the Maryland State Board of Elections on its [Local Candidates List](#). The complete list of all candidates for all state and local offices can be found on the Board's [website](#). These lists are updated daily.

Environmentalism's Corner

Other than through our votes and our donations, most of us do not have the opportunity to influence international or national environmental policies and practices. But we can always do things locally, especially at the personal level to make a difference. Two ideas that your editor learned about recently, one through the listserv and one from a realtor's newsletter, seemed well worth considering. They are repeated here because it is useful to share good ideas when you find them.

Solar Cooperative

Source: Gary and Diana Ditto's Newsletter

A group of environmentally concerned neighbors in North Chevy Chase and Kensington have formed a nonprofit organization to take advantage of Maryland's new 'Community Solar' pilot program, authorized in 2015. For a variety of reasons (for example, trees shading our roofs), many of us cannot generate our own solar power. Maryland's new program aims to expand access to local renewable energy. The pilot program relies on multi-user solar panel arrays placed locally, but not necessarily in the community itself, or even in the same county.

Al Bartlett of the new non-profit volunteer Chevy Chase Kensington Community Solar (CCKCS) explains, "The panels need to be somewhere in Pepco's territory – not in our backyards. But they are close enough that the solar power does not have to travel long distances, which is much more efficient than buying power generated by the wind farms in Pennsylvania or Indiana." He adds that the "...process of rolling out Community Solar is ... slower than we hoped and expected...but it is actually happening."

CCKCS is currently negotiating with Community Solar project development companies to get the best cost and conditions for participating households. Once the best supplier is identified, residents will sign their own individual contracts with that organization.

Through the Community Solar program, a resident's share of the solar power generated is delivered by Pepco, but billed separately. Regardless, Pepco still delivers whatever power residents still need from the grid.

To express interest in the CCKCS group, fill out the form at [this address](#). No individual commitment is needed at this point.

Composting

Source: Posted on the listserv by Audrey on Westbrook Lane. And your editor can attest to the fact that it works – we are using it.

To introduce easy composting to our neighborhood at a low cost, members of the Parkwood neighborhood have the opportunity to join with The Compost Crew PILOT COMPOSTING PROGRAM and begin simple, clean, and convenient composting as a community. The Compost Crew, run by a Whitman grad, Ryan Walter and friends, will provide the tools (compost containers and bags) and weekly at-home curbside pick-up services.

HOW WILL IT WORK? The Compost Crew will provide each participating household with a collection bin and compostable bags. Each household only needs to separate out organic waste, just as we already do with our plastics and paper, and to leave the composting bin at the curb on the designated day of the week. Your food scraps and other compostable items will be processed at a composting facility in Maryland. Twice a year, in the Spring and Fall, each household is eligible to receive rich, finished compost if desired or they can simply donate it.

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED and WHY? As a rule of thumb, anything that grows or is made from the Earth can go in the bin. This includes meat, dairy, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea and tea bags, egg shells, breads and other grains, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, dryer lint, etc. A comprehensive list is located here: [The List](#). By diverting the compostable portion of our solid waste away from the landfill and returning nutrients to our soil and food system, we significantly reduce our carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions, while conserving valuable nutrients and improving the health of our local soil.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Compost Crew is offering Parkwood a community rate of \$21/month, a reduction from the usual rate of \$32/month, because a Kensington family had a successful pilot run in town. No long-term commitment is required. Save more and promote

composting at the same time by sharing your referral link/code after you sign up!

WHO MAY JOIN? Anyone in the Parkwood neighborhood! Just click on Just click on the compostcrew.com/parkwood and signup.

Schools Update

This update was prepared by Emily Beckman, the Kensington Parkwood PTA Cluster Representative.

Construction at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School

As I'm sure many of you have noticed, construction is well underway on the Kensington-Parkwood addition. The planned addition slightly enlarges the cafeteria/all purpose room, creates two additional Kindergarten classrooms, and adds many classrooms in the new portion of the building. This addition will increase the capacity of Kensington Parkwood to 746 students and should allow the County to remove the portable classrooms which have been housing the 4th grade classes for quite some time now. While the lower entrance to the school now feels a bit like walking through a construction zone, it has re-opened and been designed to allow our students to enter and exit the building safely.

The KPES addition is planned to be completed in time for the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Impact of White Flint Development Plan

Along with KP's addition, the County has planned construction projects that will take all the elementary schools in the Walter Johnson cluster (Ashburton, Farmland, Garrett Park, KP, Luxmanor and Wyngate) to a capacity of about 750 students. Current County guidelines recommend that elementary schools have a capacity of 450-750 students. If we don't want our schools to be pushed over the 750-student threshold by development in our cluster, we will need to be advocating for new elementary schools. This means both securing land for the school or schools and pushing the Board of Education and County Council to make opening a seventh elementary school in our cluster a priority. The PTAs at the Walter Johnson cluster

schools are working together to do just this type of advocacy.

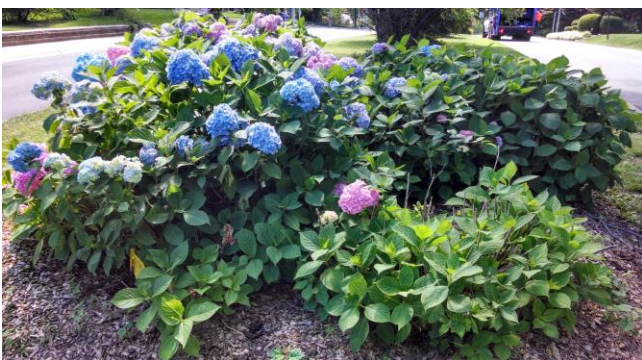
The Cluster Group testified at the County Council meeting on September 19, 2017 when the Council considered the White Flint development plan, a meeting at which the Planning Board decided not to recommend dedication of land for schools.

The KPES PTA and the WJ Cluster group welcome continued help and input from residents of Parkwood, a neighborhood that would be affected by schools such as KPES being built even bigger to accommodate the growing student population.

[Editor's note: At its winter meeting, the PRA voted to approve support for the WJ Cluster's position on school planning. Jeff Griffith, PRA VP prepared a statement consistent with this vote for the council meeting.]

Walter Johnson Overcrowding and Re-opening of Woodward High School

Finally, our cluster is also working hard on plans for the possible re-opening of Woodward High School. Walter Johnson High School is anticipated to be about 500 students over-capacity within the next six years. The current freshman class at WJ clocked in at just under 700 students. Each class currently at WJ is larger than the one before, and we know from our elementary school student numbers that the classes will continue to increase in size. ***If you would like to know more about the process for re-opening Woodward High School, please feel free to reach out to me (Emily Backman) at kpes.clusterreps@gmail.com.***



*Hydrangeas on Saul Road community garden
Clare Murphy*

Traffic Update Cedar Lane Islands

Background. In 2012, the MCDOT installed three side islands to “calm traffic”, that is, slow down the speeds of the increasing number of cars that had begun to use Cedar as a commuter route to Wisconsin Avenue, NIH, and the Naval Medical Center, which had been enlarged to accommodate the relocation of Walter Reed Army Hospital. Many residents have found these islands actually made travel less safe because they narrowed the roadway and pushed oncoming vehicles toward each other. In addition, the islands are difficult to see and vehicles turning onto Cedar from our side roads are often forced closer to oncoming traffic. There was considerable discussion on the listserv about the hazards the islands posed. After a fatal head-on accident at one set of the islands, the PRA

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) **has agreed to the request of our Parkwood Residents Association to remove the side islands at three intersections on Cedar Lane:** Glenridge, Franklin, and Dresden. This a great example of the effectiveness of our association to bring about positive changes for our neighborhood.

invited Kyle Liang, an MCDOT traffic engineer, to our Fall 2016 meeting to hear about the problems residents had experienced and to discuss options. At its Winter 2017 meeting, the PRA voted to request that MCDOT remove the islands, citing the difficulties that residents had encountered and the increased risks that the islands created. Kira Lueders, President of the PRA communicated this request with supporting analysis to MCDOT.

Finding a Solution. With the help of Aaron Kraut of Councilmember Berliner's office, three PRA officers (Kira Lueders, Bailey Condrey, and Jeff Griffith) met with staff from the county Department of Transportation (MCDOT) on August 17 to look at the three sets of side islands on Cedar Lane. We were joined by Ron Sherrow, a member of the Chevy Chase View Council. After watching traffic navigate these islands for a while, the

MCDOT staff saw that cars approaching the side islands were, in fact, moving closer to the center of the road and to opposing traffic. They agreed with our assessment that they were hazardous and with our request for a different solution. The engineers went back to their “drawing board” to come up with a safer design. Because there is still a need to slow traffic on Cedar, the county’s solution is to remove the side islands and replace them with center islands, similar to the island at Cedar and Delmont Lane. This will slow oncoming vehicles as they approach the islands without pushing them toward each other. These islands will also be easier to see when turning onto Cedar from side streets. Finally, they will create a safer place for pedestrians when crossing Cedar.

MCDOT further informed us that they will attempt to coordinate this change with the repaving of Cedar being carried out by WSSC.

There will be additional information about this issue presented at the October 16 PRA meeting.

Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike (MD355)

The MD State Highway Administration (SHA) has not yet agreed to our request, as voted on at our winter meeting, to change the far-right hand lane at this intersection to a “Right Turn Only”. However, there is some indication that they will continue to look at this issue, and we are preparing additional information for them to consider.

SHA has agreed, however, to change the red arrow on southbound 355 so that cars may turn left onto Cedar when traffic permits. This change is estimated to take about a month to implement.



PRA Garden at Saul & Wildwood, north side, Sept. 2017

Summit Avenue Extension

Through the efforts of our state and county representatives, the MCDOT held a second public information meeting on September 14 regarding the proposed extension of Summit Avenue. The purposes of this project, according to MCDOT, are to 1) improve mobility on Connecticut Ave and University Boulevard 2) provide an alternative route for Southwest-Northeast travel which would reduce some of the traffic travelling through Kensington on Connecticut Avenue, and 3) maintain and enhance community character. The project’s public documentation, including maps, data, and diagrams are available on the [MCDOT website](#). The period for receiving public comment has been extended to October 16.

MCDOT encourages and welcomes public comments on this project. These can be sent by email, phone, or regular mail **by October 16**.

E-mail:

John.Thomas@montgomerycountymd.gov

Phone: 240-777-7240

Postal Address:

John B. "JT" Thomas, Planning Manager
Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Division of Transportation Engineering
100 Edison Park Drive, 4th Floor
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

Those attending the meeting raised a number of questions about the project. Of particular interest to some was whether the extension of Summit would lead to more traffic on Cedar. The planners said that the majority of traffic that would use the Summit Avenue extension would turn right on Knowles and continue westward. They agreed, however, that this would need to be studied further.

Looking ahead, planners projected traffic out to 2040. They estimate that by that year, travel time on Connecticut Avenue between Denfield Avenue and Washington Avenue would be 7.0 minutes with the current road pattern (up from 4.9 today), and 5.2 minutes if the extension is built using alternative 1, a savings of approximately 2 minutes. Estimates presented for travel time along University Avenue from Saint Paul Street to Washington Avenue or to

Summit Avenue, however, will need to be re-assessed because, as the footnotes in the documentation indicated, they "...may be too optimistic and require further evaluation."

The project is still at phase 1 and has not yet been approved for funding. Estimated costs range \$18-22 million plus design and construction management fees.

Other Useful/Important Information Sources About Traffic

Future newsletters will have more about the sources below, but for those interested, they are well worth looking at now, especially the interactive maps, which are excellent.

Bicycle Master Plan – more bike paths may be coming to Montgomery County

Master Plan of Highways and Transitways – a comprehensive look at roads, streets, and transit routes in the county (but keep in mind that the county does not control state highways or National Park roads.)

Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting

[Although all minutes of the PRA meetings are available on the website, the most recent minutes are published in the newsletter for the convenience of the members.]

Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, June 5, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Kira Lueders, President. Thirty-five persons were present. Participants introduced themselves.

Landscaping with Native Plants, Presentation by Pat Newman

Kira launched the evening's topic by sharing her love for "messy gardening" to provide a happy place for nature and lots of critters. She then introduced Pat Newman, a certified landscaper and resident of Parkwood.

Pat, who said that she is "passionate about pruning and beautiful functional landscapes," spoke about how gardening exclusively with native plants has evolved toward combining both native and carefully chosen, environmentally-friendly non-native plants in gardens. She showed slides of many lovely gardens using this technique.

She also detailed reasons for using native plants. The prevalence of deer in our suburban neighborhood has effected some changes. "Deer will eat anything," Pat stated. There was a realization following the Earth Day celebrations in the 70s to move away from large lawns and give space back to nature, for example by planting milkweed for Monarch butterflies and Spice Bush for Swallowtail butterflies. Pat also highlighted oak leaf hydrangeas and native trees such as the tulip, sassafras, and redbud trees.

Landscaping principles include:

- the right plant in the right place
- unified, not piecemeal plantings, with some repetition
- variety of shapes, sizes, and textures, as well as leaf and flower colors
- massing--lots of the same plants together
- layering—graduated sizes, bigger plants in back
- Four-season interest—flowers, leaves, bark, and berries (not just 2 weeks of azaleas)
- Sequential interest—something standing out at any particular time.

When thinking about landscaping, be creative; add statuary, rocks, or "whimsy."

Adding some non-native plants to the mix will give a sturdier composition. They do not have the same co-evolved relationship as the native plants, but carefully chosen non-invasive plants can change the eco-system in a positive way.

Pat showed a number of slides of landscaped terrains with native and non-native mixes. Sedum is often used in combination with other plants. She recommends a visit to the National Arboretum where they have developed incredible plants, suited to the environment and pest and disease resistant.

The National Wildlife Federation requires the following for a certified wildlife habitat: water source, nesting boxes, food source for various types of creatures, cover for wildlife to hide or raise young, sustainable natural planting and maintenance practices.

Booklets "Landscaping with Native Plants" by the Maryland Native Plant Society were distributed.

Updates

Stump Removal. Jeff Griffith reported that the county will remove stumps of trees in the county right-of-way near roads...but it may take four years. Notify Jeff if you know the location of a stump to be removed. Jeff will give a list of stumps and their locations to the county office.

Traffic Management Recommendations. Kira reported that we are still waiting for a response re: the traffic recommendations, voted on by the PRA. She reported these by letter to county or state officials, as appropriate. She said that “we will not give up until we get an answer, yes or no.”

Beautification Committee. Gail Dalferes provided updates re: Parkwood gardens and beautification. Maintenance work has been ongoing throughout the spring. The committee maintains community gardens at the Parkwood entrance at Saul and Cedar (this is divided into three gardens), the two gardens at Wildwood and Saul (on either side of Saul Rd.), and entrances to our community: Franklin and Beach and Cedar Lane and Parkwood, as well as Parkwood Terrace. The Beautification Committee, with PRA dues and donations, also provides paid maintenance in spring and fall and pays for mowing in areas where the county is not responsible. Residents can call 311 to report an area in need of mowing or for tree branch pick-up in county areas. Two new doggie bag dispensers have been installed near entrances to the park. If anyone has unneeded “Johnson Bucks,” send them to Gail. Also call her if interested in helping with the community gardens.

Discussion: Proposed Summit Avenue Extension

Gail reported that an extension of Summit Avenue from Plyers Mill Rd. to merge with University and Connecticut Avenues has been proposed as a part of the community sector plan. The concern is that this extension will channel more traffic onto Cedar Lane. A meeting to address this issue will be held June 13, 7:00-9:00 p.m., at the Kensington Town Hall.

Discussion: “Little Library”

Liz Brennan reminded participants of our discussion of “Little Libraries” at the February PRA meeting. No vote was taken at that time. Little Libraries are small “house like” structures attached to a post, inviting persons to leave a book for others, or take a book that someone has left. Liz proposed that the PRA allocate up to \$500 for the “house” and installation, and that it be installed in the Wildwood/Saul garden near the bench. This was approved.

Question re: “Nextdoor Parkwood.”

Two attendees asked for information regarding “Nextdoor Parkwood.” PRA board members clarified that this is not the PRA list-serve which is with Yahoo groups

Minutes from the February PRA Meeting were approved, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Dighe, PRA Secretary



The entire Montgomery County Police force in 1924. Given our meeting topic and our speaker, your editor could not resist this photo from the Kensington Historical Society hanging in Kensington Town Hall

PRA Treasurer's Report 2017, *Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer*

Membership Update

As of the middle of September, 322 Parkwood residents had paid the \$10 annual membership fee for 2017, slightly fewer than the 325 paid-up members for all of last year. Receipts are \$3,190 in dues payments and \$3,072 in beautification donations, a total of \$6,262 received so far this year. This compares to \$6,286 collected in 2015 and \$6,884 collected in 2016. Forty-nine members paid via PayPal, accounting for \$790 of the revenue. A total of 178 members (55%) also made donations to the beautification fund; the most frequent donation was \$10, and the range was \$2 to \$200. Fifty-one members asked that their name not be included on the list of paid-up members we send out on the listserv.

We have email addresses for 291 members, about 90% of paid-up members, and we plan to send a copy of this newsletter, which will be digital, to these addresses. We also will mail a paper version of this newsletter to the seven members who do not have email addresses and who are not on the listserv. This newsletter and future ones will also be available on the PRA listserv and website.

Thanks to everyone who sent in their checks or went on PayPal to pay this year's dues. If you have not done so yet and wish to do so, the membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter. Directions on how to pay are also available on the PRA website which also includes a link to the PRA PayPal site.

PRA Executive Committee: *Officers and Committee Chairs*

President	Kira Lueders	301-564-0263	kklarl@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeffrey Griffith	301-633-4512	jeff@jandjgriffith.com
Secretary	Judith Dighe	301-493-8867	judithdighe@verizon.net
Treasurer	Gerald Sharp	301-332-9887	gbs2001@yahoo.com
Beautification	Gail Condrey	301-564-5692	gaildalferes@yahoo.com
Block Captain	Kira Lueders	301-564-0263	kklarl@yahoo.com
Membership	Paula Flicker	301-897-3869	pftoo@mindspring.com
Welcoming			
Listserv Admin	Chris Dewey		cdpwd@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Alex Clark		aclark@aclark.net
Civic Liaison	Bailey Condrey	301-564-5692	condreybailey@gmail.com
Past President	Bailey Condrey	301-564-5692	condreybailey@gmail.com



Parkwood Community Garden, Cedar Saul and Wildwood, south side, Sept 2017

**THIS FORM IS INCLUDED FOR THOSE WHO HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE
TO PAY THEIR DUES YET. IF YOU HAVE, THANK YOU.**

Parkwood Residents Association – 2017 Membership/Renewal Application

This year the PRA plans to make available on our listserv a list of PRA members who have paid their dues. In past years, some members have forgotten if they paid or not, and this will give people a way to look it up. We will list names, street addresses, and email addresses. This list will only be distributed on the listserv; also, it will be in PDF format to make it difficult for anyone to use it as an email distribution list.

If you do not want your name on this list of paid-up members, please check below, and we will list you as anonymous.

_____ Yes, please list me as anonymous in the list of paid up members

Please print contact information for your household here:

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Are you a member of the PRA email listserv (circle one): _____ Yes _____ No

Information on how to join is available here: www.parkwoodresidents.org

The winter issue of the PRA newsletter is distributed to all Parkwood residences. The other copies during the year are delivered to members by email. We also will post all newsletters on the PRA website and distribute them on our listserv. If you cannot receive a copy electronically and would like a printed copy, please check “yes” below, and we will mail you printed copies of the electronic newsletters.

_____ Yes, please mail me a copy of each newsletter (*newsletter mailing is restricted to members who do not have email addresses who are also not on the listserv*)

Enclosed

\$ _____ Annual membership dues \$10 per household; \$ _____ Donation to Beautification Committee (optional)

Please make your check payable to: PRA or Parkwood Residents Association and mail it to this address:

**Paula Flicker
PRA Membership Secretary
10225 Parkwood Ct.
Kensington, MD 20895**

You can also pay using our Paypal account at <http://parkwoodresidents.org/>

The PRA is also on Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/parkwood.residents.association](https://www.facebook.com/groups/parkwood.residents.association)