

Parkwood

Residents Association - Fall 2011 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 27th, 7:30 at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School (Media Center, Main Level)

Letter from the President

Bailey Condrey, PRA President

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Moving into fall of 2011 there is much to report on the neighborhood and regional scenes. I will try to be as brief as possible. Remember that school is back in session, so please reduce your speed and yield the right-of-way to people in crosswalks. I trust everyone had an eventful summer.

Next PRA Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 27, 2011, at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, in the Media Center on the main floor. This is a change from our regular venue, so please make a note of it.

Parkwood Drive Sidewalks

The meeting with residents of Parkwood to discuss the construction of sidewalks along this thoroughfare has been postponed.

PRA Bylaws

The Executive Committee of the PRA revised the PRA Bylaws this summer. They had been in place since 1987, and we felt that it was time to revise them for the 21st Century, and make them more relevant for the organization and the situations that arise. A great deal of the work was undertaken by Peter Mansbach and he's to be commended. Look for the bylaws on the neighborhood web site at www.parkwoodresidents.org. They will also be

circulated to the neighborhood via the list serv, parkwoodresidents@yahoo.com.

The bylaws were recommended to the membership by a unanimous vote of the Executive Committee on August 31, 2011. The membership will vote their preference for the revised Bylaws at the PRA meeting on September 27.

The National Naval Military Medical Center in Bethesda

On August 22, I attended a briefing at Bethesda Naval where the military leadership made a presentation on where the construction stands and the Navy's preparations to move to a full complement of staff and patients. Full staffing was achieved on August 29, and all patients will arrive on September 29.

All new construction on the base meets the Silver Level for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design – LEED.

The presentation also provided an update on infrastructure improvements around the base, which unfortunately lag well behind the influx of people that the region will begin to see shortly. Two of five gates serving the base are complete, including the main gate at the Medical Center Metro and the North Woods Gate near Cedar Lane. The following are additional highlights:

The tunnel to connect the Medical Center Metro station to the base under Rockville Pike will not be completed until 2015, at the earliest. Construction is slated to begin in 2013. The necessary funds to complete this project are still millions of dollars short.

The Office of Economic Adjustment within the Department of Defense must analyze the request for the additional \$150 million slated for improving intersections around the base.

As all of the base construction over the last three years nears completion, the Navy is submitting a draft environmental impact statement to undertake new construction, which is part of the base master plan. This new phase will demolish five existing buildings and create a new five-story complex that will house the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences and allow the base to go to single occupancy rooms for all wounded veterans being treated on base. The EIS will be posted on the PRA web site and circulated on the list serve.

While this next phase is ambitious, recent news reports indicate that the power needs of the base have already maxed out the grid's ability to meet supply. Members of the Coalition of Military Medical Center Neighbors and the BRAC Implementation Committee were assured early in the process that excess capacity existed for the needs of the base. The DOD must now find another \$36.6 million to retrofit the base grid. Additionally, the military leadership has done very little to utilize sustainable energy technologies on the base, short of minimal use of solar panels. The full article can be found here: <http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/2011/08/power-problems-stall-expansion-bethesda-military-hospital>

The agenda for the upcoming meeting will include a discussion on the revised bylaws, an update on criminal activity in our neighborhood, placement of traffic calming measures along Cedar Lane and Beach Drive, and additional items. I will update the community on the web site and list serve in coming days. I may schedule a guest speaker, but want to see first how robust a discussion occurs on the list serve around the bylaws.

Hope to see you at the meeting on September 27 at KPE in the media room.

Parkwood Residents Association Officers

President	Bailey Condrey	301-564-5692	blcon350@verizon.net
Vice Pres.	Matt Murton	301-461-4201	Matt@MattMurton.com
Secretary	Susan St George	301-530-0142	Stgeorgewaterart@aol.com
Treasurer	Gerald Sharp	301-332-9887	gbs2001@yahoo.com

Beautification Committee

Gail Dalferes Condrey, Chair, Beautification Committee

Have you had occasion to tour the Wildwood garden lately? It looks fabulous! The lantana have finally gotten their oomph and are covered with blooms. The tiny little purple ageratum plants around the edge have spread like crazy and are also blooming their little hearts out. The little coreopsis and columbine transplanted from the Saul Island have also made it, and the coreopsis are even blooming. The pink cleome got knocked over by the winds of the Irene, but will hopefully straighten out and reseed next year. Even the plants across Saul that were covered by the grass cuttings earlier this summer seem to have survived for the most part. All five of the community gardens have done well this year, but Wildwood has matured particularly well. We can all look forward to the blooming of the fall mums that survived from last year at both Saul and Wildwood. The Beautification Committee appreciates your donations and Johnson bucks that help make the new plantings possible. Enjoy!

New Bylaws Proposed

The PRA Board of Directors has determined that we need new bylaws (see below). These have been drafted initially by Peter Mansbach, and modified by numerous suggestions of the current board members. The board is expected to adopt these shortly. They will then be posted on the web site (www.parkwoodresidents.org) and the listserv, and voted on at the September PRA meeting.

Why do we need new bylaws?

The old bylaws have not been followed, and are not reflective of current practice.

For example, the old bylaws specified a fiscal year from July 1 to June 30, but we've been using calendar year for at least a decade.

We have conducted official business and passed motions without considering whether a quorum was present. Further, the quorum was not well-defined, since membership was by household, but people voted as individuals, and attendance counts were reported as number of individuals.

The old bylaws had a board of directors, which was not really specified, since board members could be added by the board itself. It allowed for an executive committee, which could only consist of board members. The officers of the PRA were to be chosen by the board, rather than the full membership, once a year (we've been electing them by the membership, for two year terms). The officers were not in general members of the board. Neither were committee chairpersons.

The language was archaic and difficult to follow.

What has changed?

The old Board of Directors has been replaced by an Executive Committee composed of the officers, standing committee chairpersons, and past presidents. The listserv administrator, webmaster, and Coalition of Kensington Communities representative have been added to the standing committees. The Executive Committee may conduct business by email if 2/3 of its members agree. Officers are elected by the membership for two years. The fiscal year runs from Jan 1 through Dec 31.

Meetings are to be run in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Some highlights appear in an Appendix to the bylaws. Duties of the officers are specified. Membership is by household, as before, but all individuals residing in a member household may vote and be counted in the quorum.

For further details, see the new bylaws posted on the web.

The PRA Listserv

By Chris Dewey, PRA Listserv Administrator

The listserv is going strong as a communications resource to the community. We currently have over 700 members, averaging 350 messages a month so far this year. As a reminder for listserv members concerned about receiving too many individual messages, you can always switch your membership to digest mode, and receive just one consolidated message a

day (neatly indexed and linked for convenient reading). Members with a Yahoo login may also search and read the listserve archives (this is encouraged!). The Yahoo login must be linked to your listserve subscription to gain access. More information about the listserve is always available at groups.yahoo.com/group/parkwoodresidents or parkwoodresidents.org. You can also email the listserve administrator at cdpwd@yahoo.com if you have any questions.

PRA Membership Drive 2011

By Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer

As of August 31, 2011, a total of 253 Parkwood residents paid their \$10 membership fee for this year. This compares to 265 residents at this time last year. So far receipts for the year total \$2530 from membership dues and almost as much from the optional beautification donations, a total of \$2195 (total income for the year so far: \$4725). Beautification donations this year range from \$2 to a particularly generous \$150. A little more than half of PRA members renewing their memberships make beautification donations (54%), and the average donation is \$16.

2011 Parkwood Residents Association Membership/Renewal

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____

Enclosed: _____ \$10 annual dues (Checks payable to PRA)

\$ _____ donation to Beautification Committee (optional)

**Send to: Kitty Stone,
4313 Clearbrook Ln
Kensington, MD 20895**