

Parkwood

Residents Association - Spring 2014 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 10th, at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, at 7:30 pm

Letter from the President

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The June 10th Parkwood Residents Association meeting should be very informative as Roger Berliner, our representative on the County Council, will be the guest speaker. We've asked Roger to discuss some of the bills he recently introduced; provide insight on how the community can affect the Rock Creek path realignment; and recap his efforts to get tree stumps ground along county right-of-ways. He'll also take questions from the residents.

Before he arrives, however, we will need a quorum to conduct the neighborhood's business, including officer elections. We failed to have a quorum at the March meeting so please try to make it. This will be my last meeting as president. I've been acting as interim president since the March meeting so it is imperative that PRA members attend and vote for new leadership.

The following agenda items will also be discussed at the meeting:

- Whether the membership wishes to solicit bids for the landscaping work done throughout the neighborhood a) on the list serve, b) in the newsletter, and/or c) by contacting specific companies. Bids will be reviewed by the Beautification Committee and the Treasurer.
- Whether the membership would like to have a members-only list serve that would be limited to PRA business (in addition to the current list serve)
- Welcoming committee packets
- A proposed new Executive Committee position to address the need to interact with other community and civic groups. This Civic Liaison would chair a group of volunteers tasked with attending meetings and keeping the PRA informed of public policy affecting Parkwood.

- Tree Stump Grinding
- Treasurer's Report
- Beautification Report

We will also be giving all members who come to the meeting a free reusable shopping bag with the PRA tagline as seen on the PRA website.

See you at the meeting on June 10th.
Bailey Condrey

Beautification Report

Finally, gardening weather is here! In our last PRA meeting, there were not enough PRA members in attendance to vote on business, so the PRA Executive Committee approved the 2014 PRA budget including the Beautification Committee budget at \$5,000 for the year. The increase over the prior year's budget will cover replacing perennials lost to the cold, routine purchases of annuals for added color, and landscaping fees for major spring and fall gardening work at each of the 6 gardens. In past years, the BC has requested bids from landscapers without success - they have either not responded, or wanted to enter into expensive weekly/regular schedules that provided more service than needed. This resulted in volunteers completing all of the work - in 2013 my husband, PRA President Bailey Condrey, and I were the ones doing the bulk of the garden care (8+ weekend days).

As reported in the past, relying exclusively on volunteer work is not sustainable, and the funds donated by many community members for beautification efforts are much appreciated. In 2014, we have begun to spend those funds on labor. The Executive Committee met following the last PRA meeting to plan to complete the much-needed 2014 spring gardening given the lack of volunteers, lack of landscaper bids, and lack of Executive Committee time to donate to gardening or to soliciting more bids.

The 3 community entrances as well as the 3 other community gardens were weeded, edged and mulched in April. This work was performed by immediate past PRA President Bailey Condrey's company, Eclipse Solutions, as a contractor rather than as a volunteer. Bailey completed the work at a savings to the community in a number of ways. He used a combination of free wood chips (from healthy trees felled in the neighborhood) and bagged mulch purchased at cost without the usual markup; and did additional work at no charge such as rebuilding the curbs at the Saul/Parkwood park entrance, re-staking the fig tree at Parkwood Terrace and trimming trees and bushes. Importantly, Bailey got the job done without injuring the existing plants. The Executive Committee has approved a contract with Bailey to complete the remaining work on the gardens in the fall. I am seeking volunteers to assist in planting annuals by mid-June.

The Beautification Committee will send out another request for proposals to area landscapers this summer to award the 2015 contract. Please join us at the June 10th meeting to learn more about the details, to approve the process and learn about the remaining volunteer work planned for 2014. One of the reasons I volunteered for the Beautification Committee chair position more than 6 years ago was to have an opportunity to meet fellow gardeners in our neighborhood. I have met a dozen and remain optimistic that more of you are out there and that one of the times we schedule for the volunteer work will fit into your own schedule. It really is gratifying and fun - it should just take fewer hours from more people rather than so many volunteer hours from so few.

Gail Dalferes
Beautification Committee Chair

Cedar Lane headache closure

Lara Akinbami

The State Highway Administration has announced the closure of Cedar Lane between Elmhirst Pkwy and MD 355 starting June 6th. The road will be closed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week while a new entrance is built for the Stone Ridge School, a new traffic signal is installed, and aging pipes are replaced underneath Cedar Lane. Reopening is anticipated no later than Friday, August 22nd, weather permitting.

Questions? Contact Christopher Bishop, SHA Community Liaison at 301-513-7405 or at cbishop@sha.state.md.us. Bailey Condry spoke with Barb Solberg of the SHA and Dan Sanayi of Montgomery County at the SHA informational meeting on May 18 to request additional signs to reduce cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, the only signs they can provide are off-the-shelf detour signs. The law prevents them from restricting access to neighborhood streets. Variable LED signage will be placed along the detour route to inform motorists two weeks prior to the closure.

Rock Creek Trail Renovation Project

Lara Akinbami

The Montgomery County Department of Parks is undertaking a project to improve conditions along a 7-mile stretch of the Rock Creek Trail. The current site plan is a 2-mile stretch of path most in need of repair between Franklin St. and Barroll Ln. just beyond Connecticut Ave. Flood-prone stretches of the path will be relocated to improve conditions and reduce maintenance costs.

Along the section of trail between Franklin St. and Cedar La., there are 2 major proposed realignments away from the creek and wetland areas to a path more adjacent to Beach Dr. There will either be a 5 foot buffer with plantings, or a guardrail between the path and traffic on Beach Dr. A third area of major realignment is near Connecticut Ave. where the path would be brought adjacent to Beach Dr. and Connecticut Ave. and presumably retain the current underground crossing at

Connecticut Ave. via the existing tunnel.

Preliminary trail renovation drawings can be viewed at: http://www.montgomeryparks.org/pdd/cjp/rockcreek_trl_facility_plan.shtm under the "Calendar and Meeting Notes" section at the bottom. Note that the project is behind schedule and dates posted on the website are not accurate. Currently, there is a topographic survey crew documenting the grades and locations of existing trees to confirm the viability of the proposed trail renovation.

The PRA has invited the Project Manager, Lucas Bonney (lucas.Bonney@MontgomeryParks.org) to the fall meeting to discuss the status of the plan. Between now and that time, there is likely to be a Planning Board Meeting where public testimony will be heard. Notice of the meeting will be posted on the Parkwood list serve.

Kensington Parkwood Elementary Eagle

Jen Cope

Do you know from whence the eagle in the case outside the All Purpose Room came? Did you know that the eagle was hand-crafted by KPES alumnus and naturalist artist Diane Ford resident of Parkwood?

She used papier mâché and 8 feet of wire armature to make the bird's life size frame. Using recycled newsprint and 15 feet of plaster wrap, she let it dry for almost 2 weeks. After the 'celluclay' papier mâché was applied and then dried, it was sanded and primed for acrylic paint. Ms. Ford actually went to the National Zoo to sketch the live eagles there. She has her 4th grade KPES teacher, Mrs. Ottenad from 1974 to thank



for getting her into birds. The display case was hand built by local wood worker and former KPES parent Pieter Boogaerts in his Fine Cabinetry shop on Howard Avenue. Look for the plaque inside. Both artisans donated their time to create this beautiful display.

Well, here's how the story began..... The eagle was created for the annual Kensington Labor Day Parade during the summer of 2005 and rode in the back of a pick-up truck that September in the parade. The eagle was first housed in the former KP building on Saul then spent some time at the artist's house until the school moved to Grosvenor Lane. It then took up residence in Mr. K's closet off of the APR/gym. When students moved back into the new KP building in January 2006, it was placed in the foyer by the front office. (see photo) Later the case was moved to its current place of honor in the lower hallway at the Franklin Street entrance where all walkers are greeted daily by our KP Eagle.

The eagle has come a long way and we hope to see it remain a part of KP for years to come - next time you walk by the eagle, watch while he tracks you with his eyes..... Soar on!

PRA Welcoming Committee

Greetings Neighbors,

During our last PRA meeting, I was selected as acting Welcoming Committee chair. The PRA would like to extend a warm welcome to any new neighbors who have moved into Parkwood from Jan 2013 to the present. These neighbors will be contacted and a welcome packet will be delivered to them encased in the new PRA bags. Your assistance in identifying those new neighbors would be appreciated, so please either PRIVATELY email me their contact information (name, address, phone number, email, etc.) or ask them to contact me directly. Reminder, if you have not yet paid the 2014 dues, please do so as soon as you are able. Annual dues are only \$10/year! Information on how to join and pay your membership dues are available at: <http://parkwoodresidents.org/>

Best, Randa Mostehy