

Parkwood

Residents Association - Fall/Winter 2014 Newsletter

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 9th, at Kensington Parkwood Elementary School, at 7:30 pm

Letter from the President

For six years, PRA was led by Bailey Condrey, our very capable and active president, who has kept us informed of not only what is happening in Parkwood but also surrounding neighborhoods and the County in general. I was elected in June after Bailey stepped down. Those of you who have lived here for some time may remember me from when I was president for two years before Bailey's tenure. PRA has grown a great deal since then, with many more listserv participants, and generous contributions from members supporting the creation of multiple gardens that enhance our neighborhood. PRA has a core of dedicated volunteers (listed below) who deliver this newsletter to you whether or not you have paid the modest dues of \$10 per household to join PRA, but PRA needs more of you to be active in other roles. I encourage you to get to know your neighbors, attend meetings, and run for office to keep the PRA going.

The agenda for our next meeting includes an informational presentation about the Rock Creek Renovation Project by Mr. Lucas Bonney, Project Manager. The overall goal of the project is to identify opportunities to enhance the natural environment along the trail, reduce frequency of trail maintenance, as well as improve safety, pavement conditions, drainage, and accessibility. Mr. Bonney will present the current stage of planning for realignment of the trail between Cedar Lane and the crossing at Beach/Franklin to address the impact from flooding and sediment accumulation.

We will also discuss the PRA Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2015 Garden Maintenance to invite bids from vendors to tend to the common area gardens. The RFP will be available on the PRA website on December 10th. Proposals are to be submitted to PRA Treasurer, Gerald Sharp at gbs2001@yahoo.com and must be received by January 13,

2015. Inquiries can be directed to Gail Dalferes at gaidalferes@yahoo.com.

I hope to see you at our next meeting.

Kira Lueders

KP Elementary School Renovation

Bailey Condrey

Currently, the student population of Kensington Parkwood Elementary School stands at 670. It was constructed for 470 pupils, placing it at 143% of capacity. When the renovation is completed sometime around 2020, it will accommodate 740 students. The renovation will add 16,450 sq.-ft. of space, not including corridors and bathrooms. The renovation information can be obtained at: <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/construction/studies/Docs/Kensington-ParkwoodESFeasibility.pdf> Within the feasibility study, dated October 2013, the option chosen is #1.

School officials have said that elementary school population growth has slowed in the last couple of years and they feel that the renovation will adequately accommodate demand in the future. However, they cannot say that the portable classrooms will be removed when the renovation is completed.

The renovation design places the new space up against the southeast side of the school, utilizing the area where the stairs descend from the main entrance down to the gym level. School officials say they are required to meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design silver level for school renovations, but they have been reaching gold levels. Unfortunately, they do not plan to install a green roof. They also have not committed to install

solar panels on the school to help offset the more than \$100,000 annual electricity bill.

In terms of the Capital Improvement Program, school officials felt that they could get the KP renovation moved from the 2017 CIP to 2016, but Governor-elect Hogan has said that school construction and renovation projects will be closely scrutinized. The next informational community meeting will be held at the school on December 3rd at 4pm.

Leaf Collection Changes

Lara Akinbami

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has made changes to its leaf vacuuming collection procedures:

- The leaf collection schedule is posted online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ DOT-Highway/Leaf/PostingLog.html. Additional information is available at 240-777-7623
- The signs posted in neighborhoods (green posters) no longer state collection dates but refer to the website above. MCDOT will attempt to post signs before each of the two collections with enough notice to provide a weekend for raking leaves to the road edge.
- MDOT is newly emphasizing that residents should not rake leaves into the street (disrupts traffic and surface drainage of storm water, hampers snow removal, fire hazard to parked vehicles, slip hazard in wet weather). Rather, leaves should be raked up to the edge of the road—MCDOT notes that grass discoloration is temporary given that grass is dormant at this time of the year.

These past guidelines still apply:

- Do not place sticks or other debris in leaves.
- Do not place leaves in plastic bags. They will not be collected.
- Do not block access to the leaves for collectors by parking cars on or in front of piles.
- It is acceptable to put leaves in paper yard waste bags.

Cedar Lane Construction Continued...

Kira Lueders

Many who travel the intersection of MD355 and Cedar Lane have been frustrated by the reduced lane numbers, reduced lane widths and altered lane turning designations during the ongoing construction that keeps on going. One reason this project has taken so long is that a culvert is also being constructed underneath the roadway. One of the most troublesome aspects is the single westbound lane on Cedar Lane to either continue straight across MD355 or to turn right to go north on MD355. Before construction, there were two lanes to accommodate this traffic.

According to Jon Dixon, the Maryland Department of Transportation project engineer, intersection improvements are being constructed in four phases. Phases 1-3 include improvements along MD355 including an additional northbound through lane from North Wood Road to Cedar Lane/West Cedar Lane and a southbound through lane from Cedar Lane/West Cedar Lane to Wilson Drive; the proposed lanes terminate as exclusive right turn lanes. The proposed design provides four through lanes and variable width turn bays, as needed, adjacent to a median, for both northbound and southbound MD 355. One lane of widening will occur on West Cedar Lane and Cedar Lane.

The final pattern will be as follows:

- MD355 northbound: 1 left, 3 through, 1 through or right turn
- MD355 southbound: 1 left, 3 through, 1 through or right turn
- Cedar Lane westbound: 2 left, 2 through, 1 right turn only
- Cedar lane eastbound: 2 left, 1 through, 1 through or right turn

Questions can be sent to Jon Dixon at jdixon@sha.state.md.us

County Deer Management

Excerpted from MCCF Newsletter by Bailey Condrey

The overpopulation of whitetail deer is problematic in jurisdictions up and down the eastern seaboard, and politicians and wildlife professionals are under growing pressure to decrease the number of deer.

At the September Montgomery County Civic Federation meeting, "Strategies for Managing the County's Whitetail Deer" was presented by Bill Hamilton, Principal Natural

Resources Specialist, and Ryan Butler, Senior Natural Resources Specialist of the Montgomery County Department of Parks. Both serve on the County's Deer Management Work Group. They covered county deer population statistics and procedures for managed hunts in a growing number of parks. For more information, see: www.montgomeryparks.org/PPSD/Natural_Resources_Stewardship/Living_with_wildlife/deer/DeerManagement.shtm. George Timko, Assistant Deer Project Leader, Wildlife and Heritage Service of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) also participated. The DNR has been supportive of the MCCF's legislative efforts to get the 150-yard safety perimeter for bow and arrow hunters decreased to 50 yards, already accomplished in Frederick and Carroll Counties. Montgomery County has reduced the perimeter to 100 yards.

Bow and arrow hunting for deer and other game has long been legal throughout the county and the state, is one of the safest sports in the US, and the least costly means of decreasing the number of deer. Hunters must be licensed, must hunt only during the official hunting season and times of day permitted, and must observe all applicable laws and regulations. For years, many property owners in the county's Ag Reserve have relied on hunters to cull deer herds and help reduce crop damage. Smaller lot sizes, shorter distances between homes, lack of knowledge about the safety of bow and arrow hunting, and fear of antagonizing neighbors has made it much more difficult for bow and arrow hunters to work down county, but many homeowners and civic associations are adapting to change.

How does the new law facilitate bow and arrow hunting in suburban neighborhoods? Property owners who want to allow this activity and who have a suitable location for hunting – a tree that could hold a tree stand or a deck or balcony allowing the hunter to aim at a downhill angle – should meet with a hunter to establish the suitability of the location. The "Citizens Guide" listed below lists reputable archery groups. Next, the property owner and hunter must get written permission from homeowners within 100 yards of the proposed hunting location.

Park officials support the use of private property for archery hunting locations and have approved language (see below – Guidelines for Deer Hunters) governing the procedures in the rare event that a wounded deer wanders off private property and onto public park land. The hunter will provide the neces-

sary permission forms and meet with neighbors within the 100-yard perimeter. Neighbors living outside this perimeter do not have legal grounds for objecting to or obstructing a legal hunt.

The Civic Federation webpage (<http://montgomerycivic.org/currentissuesEnv.html>) provides these three resources: *A Citizens Guide to Safe Bow and Arrow Hunting in Suburban Neighborhoods in Montgomery County*; *Guidelines for Deer Hunters Retrieving Deer from Parkland*; and David Berk's *Frequently Asked Questions on Bow and Arrow Hunting*.

PRA Block Captains

Kira Lueders

The PRA would like to thank our block-captains, the volunteers who deliver the PRA newsletter. Many of these volunteers have been doing this job for years. The last few years, PRA has not had to spend any money on mailing the newsletters. As block-captain chair who delivers the newsletters to the volunteers, I add my own thanks as well:

Lara Akinbami (Saul)
 Debbie Blumenthal (Oldfield)
 Mary Brown (Woodfield)
 Sandy Cepaitis (Dresden)
 Al DelGrosso (Westbrook)
 Maryann Dillon (Edgefield and Parkwood)
 Marie Eibel (Cedar)
 David Flumbaum (Conifer and Delmont)
 Cathie Flynn (Franklin)
 Christine Foster (Everett)
 John Giovanelli (Thornwood)
 Annalise Hafer (Amherst)
 Carol Hall (Franklin)
 Robert Howe (Parkwood)
 Mariann Jacobs (Parkwood Terrace)
 Becky Johnson (Crestwood)
 Shirley Lewis (Edgefield)
 Kira Lueders (Ashwood)
 Bonnie Lutz (Roxbury)
 Denise Malcomson (Thornwood)
 Craig Milhiser (Parkwood)
 Brenda Marshall (Wildwood)
 Diana Mears (Wildwood)
 Sharon Parver (Cedar)
 Jennifer Reed (Parkwood)
 Laura Roberts (Roxbury)
 Carol Rothenberg (Glenridge)
 MaryAnn Schelling (Parkwood)
 Meg Shaw (Greenfield and Clearbrook)
 Kyle Upton (Saul)
 Anne Ursell (Everett)
 Niclolle Walters (Edgefield)
 Lynn Weidenschilling (Westbrook)
 Rich Wilhelm (Crestwood and Woodfield)
 Barbara Wilson (Woodfield)