

Parkwood

Residents Association Newsletter, Spring 2018

The next meeting of the PRA will be held on Monday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Media Center

Topic: Fire and Emergency Medical Help – the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- **Spring Meeting Agenda** *p. 1.*
- **Parkwood Stories,** *p. 2*
- **The Case of the Unforwarded Letter: A Follow-up,** *p. 5*
- **New Plantings on the Saul Road Garden Entrance,** *p.5*
- **The New Parkwood Book Swap,** *p. 6*
- **2018 Election,** *p. 6*
- **Meet Your Neighbors: Romero and Kristina Wyatt,** *p.7*
- **Rock Creek Cleanup,** *p. 11*
- **Feature Article: The British Players,** *p. 12*
- **Minutes of the Winter 2018 meeting,** *p. 13*
- **Treasurer's Report,** *p. 16*
- **Photo Gallery: You don't want to miss these photographs taken this spring,** *p. 19*



Did you see this "spring bird"? You can probably guess where it alighted, but do you remember the event?

Spring Meeting Agenda Program

The PRA Spring meeting will be held at 7:30 on **Monday, June 11** in the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School. Our speakers will be Steve Semler and Norm Jones, two long time members of the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD), Station 5, Parkwood's nearest fire and rescue station. Although Station 5 has a paid staff on duty from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, it is staffed 100% by volunteers on weekday nights, and all day and night on Saturday and Sunday. At the upcoming meeting Norm and Steve, both former presidents of the KVFD, will share some of their experiences responding to fires and medical emergencies and will discuss how residents can be better prepared for these kinds of emergencies. This meeting is a continuation of the theme *Keeping Our Homes and Neighborhood Safe*, which we began last Fall with a presentation by police officer Dana Stroman, the Community Services Officer for the Second District Station.

Election of Officers

We will also have nominations and the election of officers and committee chairs, which, according to the bylaws, are held at the spring meeting of even numbered years. The term of office is two years for all officers and chairs, who collectively form the Executive Committee. The current officers and chairs are listed below:

PRA Executive Committee: Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers

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

Committee Chairs

Beautification	Gail Condrey	240-888-2901	gaildalferes@yahoo.com
Block Captain	Kira Lueders	301-564-0263	kklarl@yahoo.com
Membership	Paula Flicker	301-897-3869	pftoo@mindspring.com
Welcoming	Vacant		
Listserv Admin	Chris Dewey		cdpwd@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Alex Clark		aclark@aclark.net
Civic Liaison	Bailey Condrey	571-213-2729	condreybailey@gmail.com
Past President	Bailey Condrey	571-213-2729	condreybailey@gmail.com

These officers and chairs, all of whom are volunteers, have indicated their willingness to serve another two-year term. However, several of these members have already served more than one term and would most willingly step aside for someone else who would like to serve.

Please note that the Chair of the Welcoming Committee is currently vacant and has been for over two years. This is an important position. With the help of some of our members who are real estate agents, the role of the chair is to identify residents who are new to Parkwood and then ask other members of the committee to reach out to them, welcoming them to our community and introducing them to our association. The members of the executive committee have each offered to be one of these contact people (along with any other volunteers). What we need is someone to coordinate this effort.

Other Issues Discussion

Knowles Ave. Development: Proposed development of six story residence for seniors. Kira Lueders will report.

Bike Lane on Cedar Lane: County proposal for a separated bike lane. Jeff Griffith will report.

If members would like to discuss other issues at the meeting, please contact Kira at kklarl@yahoo.com or 301-564-0263 by June 1st so she can add them to the agenda.

Parkwood Stories

This is continuation of the series of Parkwood Stories begun in the Winter 2018 issue.

How Well Does That Credit Card Rental Car Insurance Actually Work?

By Gerald Sharp

Insurance is one of those things we buy that you take for granted but only rarely test out. Most of us have credit cards that, as a perk, say they will cover rental car damage if you use their card to pay for a rental. Buying this insurance from the rental company itself is expensive, and so I, like many of us, have always depended on the credit card insurance when renting cars. But I'd never had an accident to find out how it actually works to collect the damage payment. Never, that is, until my trip to Cornwall, England last July.

Arriving at Heathrow Airport with my cousin and sister, the rental experience started out bad. I'd reserved a car through United Airlines, with a good weekly rate, but I had just assumed I could rent a portable navigation unit when I picked up the car without actually reserving one. Not true, said the clerk at Hertz, who told me I'd need to book a car twice as expensive to get GPS. The other alternative was to have bought a data plan for one of our smart phones, so we could have used smart phone navigation, but we hadn't done that either. I denied the car rental insurance and put the rental charge on my Chase credit card which covered rental car insurance in England. And we started out on our trip sans maps and sans GPS, hoping the street signs would be enough to guide us. And that worked out okay—a bit stressful, a bit frustrating at times, but we arrived at our bed and breakfasts okay



Figure 1. Picture of scrape on the bottom of left side of the rental car from grazing the rock

and visited the Cornwall cliff sites. Driving on English roads is a challenge, though; they are narrower than what we are used to, and instead of having our nice shoulders, many of their roads are lined with stone walls and hedges. And not being used to driving on the left side of the road, it was hard for me to tell where the car ended on the left side and where those stone walls began.

Pulling into a parking lot on the Cornish coast in between two buildings, I missed seeing a large rock to the left of the car that they had put about two feet out from the building's corner to keep people from hitting it. We all winced as we heard a loud scaping sound as the car slid over it. It didn't dent the car,

but, as shown in Figure 1, the paint was visibly scraped on the bottom of the left side of the car.

As we continued our trip, I kept thinking, the scrape was pretty minor and if I could just buy some matching paint, Hertz would never know there was damage, but I didn't do that. And when we eventually pulled into the Hertz lot at the airport, the clerk, said, "Oh you're Americans" and made a beeline to check out the left side of the car where he quickly noticed the damage. Since I hadn't bought their insurance, he put a charge of £555.60 on my credit card (about \$776) to cover the damage. Hertz emailed me a "Damage Appraisal Report" which, as shown in Figure 2, included a cartoon of the car showing the location of the damage and a total of the repair charges, that £555.60 amount charged on my credit card.

When I arrived back home, I called Chase to find out how to be reimbursed. Chase, like many credit card companies, uses a company called "Card Benefit Services" to handle these insurance claims, and I sent them the "Damage Appraisal Report" that Hertz had sent me along with photos of the damage. About a month later, Card Benefit Services sent me a letter asking for 1) "A copy of the itemized estimate of repair/cost matrix from the rental agency. This document indicates the charges for repairs." And 2) "A copy of the itemized estimate of repair or appraisal detailing the repairs made to the rental vehicle." There was also a notation bold faced in their letter that said that "all documents must be postmarked no later than 365 days from the incident date" or the claim will be closed. This meant I had until July 8, 2018, to get them the required documents. I called Card Benefits and told them that I had already sent them everything that Hertz had given me, but the clerk said that Hertz needed to send me these additional "cost matrix" documents, assuring me that the company would be happy to send me them. However, I soon learned that it is not possible to call the Hertz office at Heathrow Airport; you can leave a message, but calls are not returned. Similarly, letters and emails to them are not answered. And I quickly realized that Hertz would not happily or even unhappily comply with these document requests, and I decided that another strategy would be needed if I was to be

Details of damages detected at return:

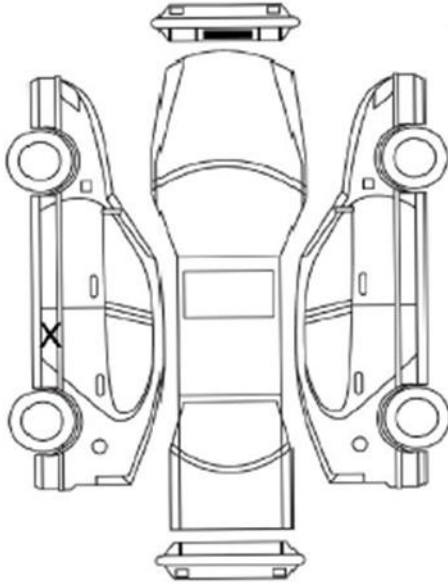


Figure 2. Cartoon showing location of damage to rental car contained in Hertz's Damage Appraisal Report

reimbursed for the repair charges assessed to my credit card.

This is what I did.

1). I filed a dispute with Chase for the repair charge Hertz put on my credit card. I argued that the £555.60 charge was an estimate of the repair costs, not a legitimate charge as determined by the company Chase hired to handle these claims. I told them they could charge me the actual charges when Hertz supplied the "itemized estimate of repair / cost matrix" requested by the insurance company. I thought if the charge was invalidated, then this would force Hertz to supply the required documents, which would then allow me to be reimbursed. However, my dispute was denied, and Chase determined that Hertz's original repair charge was valid.

2). I appealed the dispute decision, using the same arguments. And once again, Chase determined that the repair charge was valid, denying my dispute. So, I was at an impasse. Chase was saying that the Hertz repair charges were valid enough for me to pay but not valid enough for their insurance company to reimburse me. And I could not force

Hertz to supply me with the documents they wanted.

3). Finally, in early December, realizing that my 365-day time limit was now half over, I sent this email to Card Benefit Services.

To: Card Benefits Service: I am attaching the two letters from Chase stating that the repair charges levied by Hertz are valid charges. There are two letters, because I disputed the charges on my credit card and then filed an appeal once that dispute was denied. In both instances Chase decided that these charges are valid. These are the same charges that you are saying are not valid charges and that you are refusing to pay under my Chase credit card contract wherein Chase agrees to cover rental car repair costs if I use my Chase card for a car rental as I did. I'm also attaching the Damage Appraisal Report and the Damage Estimate provided by Hertz, that Chase has determined are sufficient to justify a charge of £555.60 on my credit card. Thank you for reminding me of the 365-day deadline for this case to be resolved from the date of the incident. We have now reached about half of that time limit. In the event that this time limit is reached, I plan to file a claim with the Maryland Insurance Administration to investigate your handling of this claim. In the event that they find that your actions are unjustified, Chase might be forbidden to offer rental car insurance in my state. I also will file a small claims case locally, arguing that Chase has failed to fulfill the terms of my credit card contract with them to provide rental car insurance.

I received a check with full payment of the repair costs charged by Hertz two weeks later. The Maryland Insurance Administration regulates insurance companies operating in our state, and you can ask them to review insurance judgements that you feel are unfair. I don't know how they would have responded to this case, but, luckily, just the threat of involving them, along with a potential small claims court suit, was enough to solve the problem.

The Case of the Unforwarded Letter: A Follow-up

By Gerald Sharp

The PRA newsletter editor thought our readers might be interested in what happened with my unforwarded letter story from our last edition, so here's an update. I didn't actually have a bank statement in hand when I was finally able to locate the long-ago residents of my house on Edgefield Road to connect them with their IRA, and, unfortunately, I did not remember the name of their bank. I needed the bank to send one last statement that I could forward. I was a bit nervous that after 18 years of the bank's statements being returned to them marked "addressee unknown" that the bank might finally decide to stop sending them. So, I was relieved when a letter from PNC Bank arrived addressed to that former owner of my house. I quickly stuck it in an envelope and sent it to their address in Princeton. Problem solved. And no more bank statements coming to my house addressed to them. They sent me a nice letter thanking me for my efforts to locate them. And hopefully their retirement will be a little happier now that they are reunited with their IRA funds. I was thinking that there might be a lot of people who have lost track of their IRA accounts, since the money isn't taxable and so, unlike interest statements that you have to report every year, IRA accounts can basically be ignored until you hit that magic retirement age when you can start drawing on the funds.

New plantings on the Saul Road Garden Entrance. By Bailey and Gail Condrey



Last year the Beautification Committee (BC) of the PRA decided upon a renovation of the Saul Road island. The forsythia and pyracantha clusters had become unwieldy and slightly worn out. The pyracantha

especially had numerous invasive vines growing from within the main stalks of the plant that could not be eliminated due to the numerous thorns that adorn this plant. The county grass cutting crews

will no doubt be thankful that they no longer have to contend with working around them.

The committee also decided to remove the Barberry shrubs on both sides of the Parkwood marquee. They had become too large and were obstructing motorists' line-of-sight of pedestrians on the sidewalk and cars within the intersection. Barberry shrubs also contain thorns that can pierce work gloves and the barbs are not easily removed from the hand.

The individual islands were rejuvenated by removing the root debris from the old plants after cutting, sifting the soil and adding soil amenders before placing the new plants. We decided to place a pair of single-stem redbuds on the ends of the marquee to eliminate the line-of-sight issues. At this point, one of them has flourished and the other has been unhappy with the move. Should the struggling red bud not make it, we'll decide on whether to remove it now, or in the fall.

Within the long island, the BC decided to plant the following:

- Two red crape myrtles with multiple stems of the Tuscarora variety.
- A fringetree that has clusters of white flowers that hang like earrings from the branches.
- Three Virginia sweetspire bushes in a triangular group. These are deer resistant and will produce white flowers also.



One of the new crape myrtles in the Saul Island garden

The sweetspire and the fringetree are native plants beneficial to wildlife. When the island reaches its full floral potential, it will produce color for most of the growing season with purple, white, yellow and red palettes.

All the trees were sourced from Maryland Gardens Tree & Shrub Farm, which is located in Potomac at

12329 McCrossin Lane, 20854. The proprietor is Tom Moseley and can be reached at 301-977-3982. Tom, Gerald Sharp, and Bailey Condrey walked the farm and hand-selected each of the trees that were planted. Tom raises all his stock from cuttings that are then freshly dug from the ground. He also sells live and cut Christmas trees.

Mr. Moseley also brought a Natchez crape myrtle as a gift to the community. This was planted in a triangular arrangement with other crape myrtles at the Parkwood Terrace island. Natchez crape myrtles bloom white with trunks that become red and shed their bark in dramatic fashion. Bailey Condrey has a complete list of Maryland Gardens inventory and can share it upon request.

The three sweetspire bushes were obtained at Merryfield Garden Center in Virginia.

[The question of whether they are “crape” or “crepe” myrtles generated considerable discussion among the editorial board of the newsletter. Your editor made an arbitrary decision in favor of “crape”. However, you are invited to weigh in on this issue via a letter to the editor: jeff@jandjgriffith.com]

The New Parkwood Book Swap

By Judith Digne

If you drive or walk past Saul Rd. and Wildwood, you’ve probably seen the “maypole” and green Parkwood Book Swap box on the island. This box, Parkwood’s own small library, was officially unveiled at a neighborhood celebration sponsored by the PRA on Sunday, April 29. The event was a great time to say hello to old friends and meet new neighbors as we gathered around snacking, talking, scanning books and...listening to drum sounds



rarely heard on this block. Musical entertainment was provided by *Drum Talk 39*. This group, headed by Parkwood resident, Romero Wyatt, performed Ghanaian-style drumming on their African drums. (See the photo on page 10 at the end of the article *Meet Your Neighbors*)

Donated books overflowed the green box as neighbors came with one book and left with another. Some folks stayed until dark, others took their books (and sometime dogs) and departed. The evening was a little chilly.

The Book Drop, which is provided and maintained by the PRA, remains open for business. Sit on the bench and peruse new and old titles for adults and children. The idea is “take a book--leave a book” but you are welcome to do one without the other.

2018 Election

As noted in the Fall Newsletter, this will be an important year for elections in Montgomery County. A referendum passed last year by voters set term limits for the County Executive and Council Members, so fewer incumbents and more candidates unfamiliar to many of us will be running in this election. Parkwood voters will help elect the following:

- A new District 1 Council Member
- Up to 4 At-Large Council Members
- A new County Executive

Elections for the Board of Education (BoE) will also be held, and Parkwood voters will elect:

- 1 new At-Large Member of the BoE
- 1 Member of the BoE for District 3

In addition to these county offices, there will also be elections for state-wide offices (e.g., Governor, Attorney General, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, etc.) and the Maryland State Senate and House of Delegates.

There are many sources of information about each of the candidates. The Maryland State Board of Elections is the authoritative source that lists all candidates for all positions, including state-wide offices, the Maryland State Senate, the Maryland House of Delegates, and all Montgomery County positions. This site includes contact and website/Facebook links for all candidates who have listed them. Candidate websites/Facebook sites often include statements about their positions on various issues, their endorsements, and other campaign related information.

The League of Women Voters maintains a non-partisan website that allows one to compare the positions of any two candidates at a time on specific issues. These positions have been written by the candidates themselves in response to questions from the League. Users must enter their home address so that the site can list the offices and candidates for which the user is eligible to vote. Then click on the green highlighted link that says *Get personalized information on candidates and issues*.

[“personalized” in this case means those candidates for whom you can vote.]. Next choose “political party” to see just those races in which political party is specified OR choose “Show All” to see Board of Education elections (no party affiliation is shown for these) as well as all Democrat or Republican primary races.

The primary election will take place on June 26, 2018 with early voting June 14-21

Meet Your Neighbors: Romero and Kristina Wyatt

She is an occupational therapist in a challenging setting – a maximum security forensic psychiatric hospital – where her skills include teaching tai chi and meditation.

He is first and foremost a musician who, over time, has become a teacher, producer, and mentor for younger emerging talent.

He also teaches meditation. Meet Kristina and Romero Wyatt, part of our Kensington community for 18 years.



Kristina grew up in Montgomery County. Her parents, both born in Finland, moved to this area when her father took a job with the International Monetary Fund; Kristina was three-years old at the time. Romero was born in Washington, D.C. but when they got married – drumming brought them together -- he decided that he had had enough of the traffic, noise, and congestion of D.C. and wanted to live in a calmer, more laid back area. She loved living here, so he was happy to move with her to Parkwood.

Despite the hectic pace and stressful nature of her job, Kristina has brought some calming influences into her work. Her tai chi course for patients is a short version, lasting about 5-7 minutes, and can be done in a small space. She also teaches qigong (“chi gong”), which is translated literally as “Life Energy Cultivation”; it is a holistic system of coordinated body posture and movement, breathing, and meditation used to promote health and spirituality. With roots in Chinese medicine, philosophy, and martial arts, qigong is traditionally viewed as a practice to cultivate and balance qi,

allowing access to higher realms of awareness and helping to develop human potential.

Kristina is also a practitioner of somatic experiencing, a form of alternative therapy aimed at relieving the symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other mental and physical trauma-related health problems. By focusing on the client's perceived body sensations (or somatic experiences), somatic experiencing promotes awareness and the release of physical tension that remains in the aftermath of trauma. In a forensic hospital 80% or more of patients have a history of traumatic experience. Somatic experiencing treats the behavioral results of those trauma – the behaviors that come from trauma-caused triggers. At its core, the therapy helps people be more aware of their triggers and how they can respond to them.

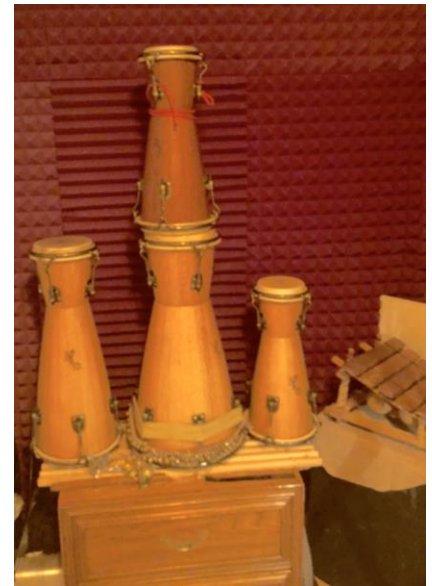
All these techniques tie together through awareness, which findings from neuroscience have underscored as a means for helping people manage their behavior. Awareness is about focus and mindfulness, and about being more centered.

And then there is the drumming, which Kristina says helps her to concentrate and to be more in the present moment. Drumming, in fact, is one of the things that ties Kristina and Romero together, along with their commitment to meditation. Romero consults at the University of Maryland Medical School's integrated medicine program where he teaches meditation to interns. "The work of interns is mind boggling. To do it you must have a means of stress release. I am there to give them the tools to stay centered."

Music came into Romero's life very early and in a very big way. His parents were from the South – Georgia and Louisiana – and moved to D.C., where he went to school. He grew up in a home where some of the most successful musicians in Washington rehearsed in his basement. One of these was Chuck Brown, an American guitarist, bandleader and singer who garnered the honorific nickname "The Godfather of Go-Go". Donald Byrd was another – a sideman for many other jazz musicians of his generation, Byrd was known as one of the only bebop jazz musicians who successfully pioneered the funk and soul genres

while remaining a jazz artist. As a bandleader, Byrd is notable for his influence on the early career of Herbie Hancock.

Meeting these D.C. greats introduced Romero to many other artists. "That was my road in." He also had talent. "Mother bought



Some of Romero's Afro-Cuban drums

me a drum. Expensive. Mother said I had to make good. She saw something in me. She kept buying me better and better drums. And I was blessed to have the opportunity to play with many phenomenal musicians from this country and abroad, coming in from Mali, India, other countries." It is from his exposure to so many international influences -- African, Cuban, Brazilian -- that Romero's own signature style developed.

ROMERO WYATT (Percussionist) is a performer, instructor, producer, engineer, and owner of Drumtalk39 Entertainment and Trusounds studio. This is his third production of *Crowns*. He was also drummer for *Dinah Was*, sound designer/composer for *Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters* (Imagination Stage), and sound engineer for the films *Painted Smiles* and *Expendable*. TV credits include BET network. He's toured the world, working with legendary artists such as Katherine Dunham, Alvin Ailey, Carmen de Lavallade, Pearl Prime, Donald Fagen, as well as Nat Turner, Earth Wind & Fire, Bobby Lyle, Sketches, Russell Ferrante, Yellowjackets, Karen Briggs, Yanni, Jimi Mbaye, Youssou N'Dour, Dave Weckl, and Marcus Johnson. For more info about his group, Sigüil with Cheikh Ndoeye, and their new CD, *A Child's Tale*, visit myspace@romerow Wyatt.com or drumtalk39.com. Wyatt is a member of ASCAP and AFM locals 802 and 171.

Early in his career Romero started to tour, first with an R&B group -- Phillip James and Tough Act to Follow -- for two years. That led Romero being invited to join the company for *Crowns*, a major musical which played at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. and then traveled to many other cities in the U.S. and Canada. He was hired by actress, turned director, Regina Taylor as the percussionist and percussion creator for a five-year gig; he stayed on for another four years. Each time a new director took over, he had to recreate the percussion portions of the production anew. “*Crowns* was very successful – it always sold out; it always got a standing ovation, and it always contributed significantly to the bottom line of every theater in which it played, taking many of them out of the red.”



A second important project for Romero was his creative and performing work for the *Dinah Washington Story*. Dinah was one of the first black stage actresses to do big shows. The famous (or infamous) so called “Rat Pack”, which included Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis Jr., among others, went to see her often when she played Vegas. Romero said, “I was given the opportunity to do the first Dinah Washington story. We did not tour as heavily as *Crowns*, but the significance behind it was major...to know that during that period when most black artists were not being treated well, yet the biggest artists were going to see *her* perform. That really gave me chills.”

Then Romero went international. After playing at George Washington University’s Lisner auditorium, he was approached by a Korean choreographer and instructor who was doing a production called

“Peace Around the World.” That led him to Seoul, where he took a large African dance company to perform at the multi-cultural event. He had truly become an international performer of the world’s music.

Eventually, Romero stopped traveling so much. While he still performs at local venues ranging from the Cedar Lane Unitarian church to The Arts Barn in Gaithersburg, he devotes most of his time now to his work as an instructor, composer, producer, and engineer. We also know him in Parkwood, because of his performance with his students and a guest artist in May at the dedication of the Little Library in the Wildwood Garden.

Teaching is very important to him – “You get taught and then you have to give it back.” He emphasizes understanding the rhythm, not just learning the patterns, and how to relax the body, which takes concentration. He teaches his student how to focus. He has two studios in his home – one for Afro-Cuban and African rhythms—and one for American and (sometimes) Cuban forms. For his production work he has an extraordinary studio in his basement; at one point it contained over 2,000 cables.



Romero works with young artists (or older less experienced artists) trying to become established. He teaches and composes for them, advises them on their contracts (one of the attorneys he learned from was the lawyer for Don King, a famous boxing promoter), and serves as a mentor. One of his primary goals is to protect and support young artists until they can find the right people who will take

them on, treat them fairly, and promote them seriously.

Mentoring is key to his success. “You have to be inside the person. That comes back to awareness, mindfulness, consciousness, being focused and grounded. You have to be focused and grounded to understand the artist – who is not always grounded.”

They are an extraordinary couple. Keter Betts, a jazz bassist who played for Ella Fitzgerald for over 25 years, once told them about the significance of their mixed marriage. Betts, an African American, and his wife, a Caucasian woman, often traveled

together on their way to a performance. When they would pass through certain counties in the U.S., he would have to put on his “chauffeur’s cap” and she would have to ride in the back of the car – a painful but real life version of the movie “Driving Miss Daisy.”

Fortunately for Romero and Kristina – and for us – they have not experienced that kind of prejudice here in our community. They love living in Parkwood, home and neighbors all. And we are very glad they do.



Kristina and Romero and the drum crew helping us celebrate the opening of the L'il Library. From left to right they are: Marge Dimond, Nana Frimpong, Kristina, Romero, Solange Regi, and Fernanda Bianchi

Rock Creek Cleanup

In April the Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Green Team sponsored a cleanup of Rock Creek. Close to 100 people from the school, the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Parkwood residents joined in and collected almost 60 bags of trash, recyclables, and other “stuff”. Well done, everyone!!



Some of the happy crew who picked up the trash.



And just some of the bags by the end of the day.



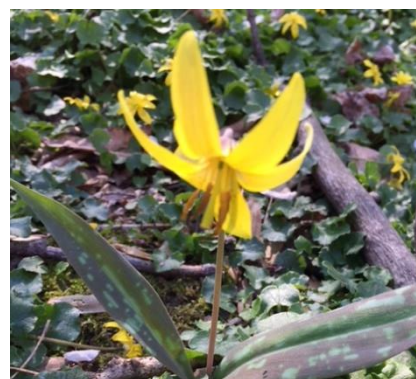
Den 3 of Pack 460 (all from Parkwood) should get a prize for this junk!



You must be careful to separate the trash and the recyclables.



We want the park to keep looking like this...



...and this.



If you like good theater, go see one of the plays by The British Players at the Kensington Town Hall, 3710 Mitchell Street in Kensington. In the late winter/early spring they put on a work by a British playwright, often a comedy or drama of some form. Their most recent offering this past March was *Quartet* by Ronald Harwood. (*Your editor attended one of the performances and enjoyed it greatly.*)

If you think you might enjoy a different style of live performance, go to their 53rd Old Time Music Hall, June 8-23. This annual production transports the audience back in time to an era before television and movies when theatre ruled as the entertainment choice of the working and middle classes in Britain, reaching its height of popularity about the time of WW-I. Each show features a selection of the most popular songs that defined that era, together with soloists and comedy acts that bring back to life the humor that inspired a nation and kept morale alive through two world wars. Audience members experience not only the entertainment, but also the ambience that traditionally accompanied Music Hall shows. K-Town Hall is transformed into an Old Time British Music Hall, with the audience seated at tables, with beer, wine, and snacks included in the price of the ticket.

Or take the family to their classic Pantomime. (Not the silent mime – British pantomime is quite lively – and noisy.) Traditionally performed at Christmas, British pantomime is a popular form of theatre, incorporating song, dance, buffoonery, slapstick, in-jokes, audience participation, and mild innuendo. Panto story lines and scripts typically make no reference to Christmas and are almost always based on traditional children's stories. Audience participation with the children occurs throughout the show, as they are encouraged to "boo" the villain and "cheer" the hero. The actors are very skilled at managing some of the youthful energy this can generate as the metaphorical "4th wall" is temporarily breached between the audience and the

players. Last year's production was a version of *Beauty and the Beast*. It was great fun.

By their own description, The British Players is dedicated to bringing traditional British theatre to the Washington area, and since 1964 has been combining humor, patriotism, music, dance and dialog, with material dating from Victorian times to the modern day. They were originally formed in 1964 as The British Embassy Players and performed for the next 40 years at the British Embassy in Washington. However, since 2005 their new home, fortunately for us, has been the Kensington Town Hall.

The decision to relocate to Kensington was also a good one for the Players as it is a theatre well-suited to their performances. The risers for seating provide excellent site lines for every member of the audience, and the stage is large and includes both a curtain and a proscenium arch. According to Colin Davies, a member of The British Players board, one deficit is an inadequate trap door with too small a space under the stage floor, that limits the ability of actors to leap out for dramatic effect during performances. K-Town Hall also has rooms where the players can rehearse, usually during the week before performances start. Prior to that, they rehearse in small community center rooms in other locations.

The 12-person board for The British Players decides what plays will be performed and organizes auditions. The Players is not a repertory company – actors audition for every play; some have experience on the stage; some do not. Even though some are professionals, all the actors who perform for The British Players are volunteers, i.e., they don't get paid. The backstage crew, the folks who handle the lighting, sound, costumes, makeup, etc., are also volunteers, although they are often the same people who do this for all of the various plays

and performances. They have been referred to as “...the rock on which all is built.”

Donations and ticket sales cover the cost to rent the hall and for the equipment, costumes, sets and other production expenses. Funding is a challenge for all community theaters, and while this has always been the case, unlike those days at the beginning of the last century when theatre was the only game in town, the digital era provides much competition for people’s leisure time and, thus, for their dollars. It is a testament to the quality of the performances of The British Players that they have continued to attract significant audiences.

Selecting a wide range of types of performances has also been a factor in the company’s success, as well as picking plays that are appealing to as wide an audience as possible. In selecting their plays, the company steers a course between picking traditional/old fashioned plays and modern/avantgarde plays. In the words of one of their board members, “People do not go to the theater to be depressed”, but they also don’t want to see plays they’ve seen several times already.

Fortunately for us, their formula is working, and we have excellent and enjoyable theater right here in Kensington. Go see one of their performances.

Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, February 26, 2018

PRA Business

Kira Lueders, president, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thirty-three members were present and were invited to introduce themselves. The minutes of the October PRA meeting, posted on the website, were approved.

Treasurer’s Report and Proposed Budget

Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer, presented the 2017 treasurer’s report and the proposed budget for 2018. Gerald’s detailed spreadsheets, projected on the screen were also printed in the Winter Newsletter. Income has grown during the last ten years due to increased membership. The membership fee has remained \$10 since the PRA’s beginning. Last year’s 400 PRA members, a record number, represent a significant proportion of the 935 houses in Parkwood. Income for 2017 included membership dues (\$3360) and \$3262 in donations

to the beautification fund. Expenses include administration, newsletter printing, meeting room fees and beautification--landscaping, gardening supplies and plants, doggy potty bags & dispensers, maintenance, and the Little Library. The proposed budget for 2018 was explained and approved by vote.

Beautification Report

Gail Dalferes Condrey, Beautification Chair, reported on the committee’s accomplishments and plans. Additional doggy potty bag dispensers have been installed. Gail distributed a Parkwood map (also on the website) with doggy bag locations and PRA maintained gardens. Some overgrown bushes on the Saul Road island will be removed and replaced. Gail requested a volunteer to research raingarden requisites with local entities and assist with plans for creation of a raingarden at the intersection of Parkwood and Saul.

Announcements:

March 30, 4:00-7:00. Make and Take Rain Barrel class will be presented at Brookside Gardens (fee \$15).

April 14. Rock Creek Conservancy’s 10th Annual Extreme Cleanup.

April 29. Unveiling of Little Library at a community gathering on the Wildwood Rd. island March meeting (date TBD) of the Beautification Committee. Interested volunteers welcome.

Speaker: Mr. Jim Fustero, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Solid Waste Services.

Mr. Fustero said that a new company has been awarded the Montgomery County trash collection contract. However, the schedule and most of the service workers remain the same, so it is likely that the only change residents will notice is the color of the trash truck.

Mr. Fustero gave the following tips to enhance the trash pick-up and recycling process:

- Pet owners/walkers: Don’t just put the little bag of pet waste in your trash can. Insert the dog waste bag in a bag with other trash.
- Call the Montgomery County 311 number to arrange for pickup of scrap metal and large items.

- Broken blue containers can be replaced. Call 311 if your trash bin has been cracked.
- Separate plastic from paper items in the mixed paper bin. When disposing of cardboard cartons, remove any bubble wrap or Styrofoam. It is helpful, but not required, to break down large cardboard cartons.
- When in doubt about the recyclability of an item, throw it in the trash. Think about reusing or donating items before disposing of them.
- Paper is a valuable commodity at this time; the county sells this resource.
- Shredded paper should be put in a box or paper bag that is securely closed, so that the shredded paper does not fly over the street when the recycle container is emptied into the truck.
- Clean jars and cans before placing them in the recycling bin, but not to the extent that you're using too much of water resources.
- It is preferable to remove tops of jars (they are generally made of a different material). Put lids in recycle bin too.
- Trash should be placed in plastic bags in trash cans with lids. Do not put out trash in plastic bags without the trash can; the bags can be ripped open by animals. Large, commercial-size trash cans are not desirable. The can's capacity should not exceed 45 gallons. A small trash can should be adequate for households that recycle.
- Recyclables should be placed loose inside the blue container, not in plastic bags.
- If in doubt about an item's recyclability, throw it in the trash.
- Do not put hazardous materials such as lithium batteries in the trash. Home Depot will dispose of batteries brought to the store.
- Do not use compostable plastic bags for recyclables. They do not fit in with the

Montgomery County scheme and they contaminate the recycle system.

Mr. Fustero described Montgomery County's process for handling trash. When trucks deposit their loads at the Material Resources Facility, yard waste, trash and recyclables are handled separately. Recyclables are mechanically sorted, then sorted by hand. Trash gets transported by train to Dickerson where it is burnt. Energy from this process is captured and sold to PEPCO. Yard Waste is composted and sold. After composting it becomes Compro and Leafpro.

Mr. Fustero handed out flyers describing what items can be recycled as commingled materials and mixed paper. This information and more can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/recycling.

Old Business: Easing Traffic Concerns at Cedar Lane and Rockville Pike

Kira reported that the PRA has worked with the State to change signaling for southbound Rockville Pike traffic, with a flashing arrow for turning left onto Cedar Lane during non-peak hours. A dedicated right turn lane from Cedar Lane onto northbound Rockville Pike has been approved, though right-turn-on-red at this intersection has been held up due to pedestrian concerns. Kira suggested: maybe a "right-turn-on-red—yield to pedestrians in crosswalk" would work.

The Montgomery County Green Streets Program

Bailey Condrey, Civic Liaison and Past President, presented a brief overview of the Green Streets Program (GSP). A spokesperson for this program will provide more information at the Spring PRA meeting if membership is interested. The Green Streets Program, administered by the county's Department of Environmental Protection, is an effort to reduce pollution and storm water regularly flowing into tributaries and from there to the Chesapeake Bay. The GSP typically uses a raingarden for bioretention. Plants in the raingarden pull away water and replenish ground water. Green Streets installations have not been slated for Parkwood at this time, but Kensington Estates is in line for the program. The intersection of Puller Rd. and Parkwood Drive is one proposed location for a raingarden/bio-retention depression.

Bailey has visited and photographed a number of Green Streets installations in Silver Spring. He projected these photos. Several show a “bump out” on the road between the sidewalk and street. When correctly placed, these can slow water moving downhill. Most of the depressions are 12” to 14” in depth.

The impetus for the GSP is the federal Clean Water Act. Montgomery County has been found to be not in compliance with this legislation and must comply with this federal law. The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection has reached a tentative agreement on a program of compliance, but funding issues remain. Bailey is also exploring data on the efficacy of the GSP. He promised that more information would be provided to PRA members through a series of articles in the PRA newsletters.

More Civic News

Local Primary Elections

June 26 is Primary Election Day.

Jeffrey Griffith, Vice President, presented information about the 2018 primary election. This primary is unusual because of the large number of candidates running for each office. Seven candidates are running for MC county executive. A total of 35 candidates are running for at-large

positions in the County Council, and 9 candidates for County Council, District 1, our district. Statewide 209 people are running for office. Website:
http://www.elections.state.md.us/elections/2018primary_candidates

Cell Phone Towers

Jeff also alerted us to a federal requirement re: cell phone towers and proposed changes in the county’s zoning regulations. Federal law prohibits local jurisdictions from creating impediments to the placement of cell phone towers. In February the County Executive (CE) submitted to the County Council a proposed Zoning Text Amendment related to the placement of cell phone towers. According the CE’s letter of transmittal, the proposed ZTA would permit “...very limited changes in residential zones,” specifically allowing deployment of cell antennas as “limited use only” in those zones where commercial and employment uses are currently allowed. However, the CE indicated in his transmittal letter that there will be a later proposal regarding changes in residential zones. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Judith Dighe, secretary

2017 Treasurers Report and 2018 Proposed Budget

Gerald B. Sharp, PRA Treasurer

December 31, 2017

2017 is the 14th year since 2000 that the Parkwood Residents Association has taken in more than it spent. Before 2007 we frequently spent more than the annual income, but this has happened only once since then, in 2011, when we installed a bench in the Wildwood Garden and signs at several entrances into the neighborhood. From 2008 to 2013, income exceeded expenses by \$2000 to \$3000 annually, but in 2014 we began paying for landscaping services to maintain the Parkwood public gardens, and since then we have only brought in about \$500 more each year than we spend.

In terms of this year's numbers, as shown in Table 2, we received \$3360 in dues payments, just \$10 of which was prepaid for 2018. The 335 members who paid their dues in 2017 is the highest number of paid up members in the history of our organization, slightly exceeding last year's 325. A total of \$3262 was donated to the beautification fund, an amount several hundred dollars lower than in both 2015 and 2016. The December 31, 2017 balances in the various PRA treasury accounts are listed in the Table 4.

Table 1 shows 2017 expenses by category. *Administrative costs* were similar to those of past years. *Newsletter costs* were lower than in past years, primarily because we publish two of the three newsletters a year electronically now instead of printing them. Costs are also lower in 2017 compared to 2016, because we did not print and mail out as many of the digital newsletters to members as we did in 2016. This year we asked members to request mailed copies only if they could not receive the digital newsletters online. *Beautification expenses* were similar to those of previous years. We did install an additional doggy potty bag dispenser this year and have purchased an old style newspaper box to house donated books and facilitate book sharing (the Little Library). *Meeting room expenses* were higher this year than last—partly because last year's meeting room costs were paid either the year before or the year after and partly because of projector expenses. We also paid for Maryland Native Plants handouts for one of the meetings.

2018. The total amounts proposed for the 2018 budget for each of the major categories of expenses are shown in the last column of Table 1 above. Specific amounts for each line item are omitted to allow some flexibility as needs and expenses change. The beautification budget for 2018 is higher than in past years, because we added an additional \$2500 to cover costs of renovating the Saul Road garden. The total budgeted for 2018 is \$10,000, and, although we are unlikely to spend this much in 2018, it is likely that expenses will exceed income this year.

Because of our frugality in spending and the strong support of Parkwood residents who pay the annual \$10 PRA dues and make generous donations to the beautification fund, our organization has been able to function without raising that modest annual fee for the last decade. At the end of 2017, the balance in the PRA treasury was \$16,781.34. Although we need to maintain some reserves in case a situation arises that requires use of our resources, we could easily spend \$6000 or more on some worthy Parkwood-centered project.

Parkwood Residents Association 2017 Treasurer's Report

Gerald B. Sharp, PRA Treasurer, Dec. 31, 2017

Table 1: 2016 & 2017 Actual Expenses, 2018 Proposed Expenses¹

Category	Actual Expenses 2016	Actual Expenses 2017	Proposed Budgeted Amounts 2018
Administration			
Membership expenses (envelopes, membership forms, and address labels)	111.36	167.95	
Welcome packet for new residents, bags	0	0	
Wells Fargo Bank fees	0	0	
PayPal fees	40.70	44.67	
Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) annual fee	50.00	50.00	
Website domain fee	34.95	22.71	
Misc. admin expenses	151.76	120.06	
Administration Total	388.77	405.39	500
Newsletters			
Printing costs	1052.97	689.62	
Newsletter distribution expenses (stamps, envelopes, labels, etc.)	301.02	0	
Total for Newsletters	1353.99	689.62	1500
Beautification			
Landscaping costs	4088.99	3875.00	4000 + 2500
Mulch, fertilizer, supplies & plants	299.80	78.38	300
Doggy potty bags	312.00	354.96	400
Doggy potty bag dispenser	0	227.00	0
PRA resource maintenance (signs, bench, etc.)	60.00	0	300
Little library	0	203.49	200
Beautification Total	4760.79	4738.83	7700
Meeting Expenses			
Meeting room rental	0	157.25	
Projector expenses, handouts	0	176.34	
Meeting total	0	334.59	300
Totals	6503.55	6168.43	10,000

Table 2: 2017 Receipts¹

Type of Income	Income 2016		Income 2017		Total 2017
	Dues	Donations	Dues	Donations	
2017 total dues & donations	3250	3634	3360*	3262	6622.00
Payments made using PayPal	(915)		(950)		
Interest: Well Fargo Checking & Savings @ 0.02% (\$0.17); Capital One 360 @ 0.4% (\$18.25)					18.42
	TOTAL INCOME 2017				6640.42

¹ All figures in dollars * \$10 was prepaid in 2017 for 2018 dues

Table 3: Income and Expenses Since 2007

Year	Member dues	Beaut. Donations	Interest	Total Income	Admin costs / room rental	Newsletter	Beaut. Costs	Total Costs	Income - expenses
2008	2540	2212	57	4810	173 / 52	987	847	2059	2751
2009	3210	2015	90	5315	291 / 107	1479	714	2591	2724
2010	2880	2040	82	5002	496 / 84	677	721	1978	3024
2011	2830	2505	74	5409	601 / 94	752	5607	7054	-1645
2012	3120	2793	40	5953	355 / 108	1172	2150	3785	2168
2013	2760	2749	36	5545	277 / 108	967	1625	2977	2568
2014	3150	2751	42	5943	770 / 108	897	3399	5174	769
2015	2440	3804	42	6286	360 / 110	971	4636	6077	209
2016	3300	3689	18	7008*	389 / 0	1354	4761	6504	504
2017	3360	3262	18	6640*	405 / 335	690	4739	6169	471

*Totals includes \$105 (2016) and \$10 (2017) in prepaid membership dues and donations

Table 4: Balance Sheet

	Dec. 31, 2016	Dec. 31, 2017
Wells Fargo checking acct.	10,326.30	10,415.47
Wells Fargo savings acct.	557.05	557.22
Capital One 360 savings acct.	4565.53	4583.78
PayPal acct.	819.32	1266.50
Cash	41.15	41.12
Outstanding checks	0	-83.25
TOTAL	\$16,309.35	16,781.34
2017 Credits	6640.42	
2017 Debits	6168.43	
Dec. 31, 2017 Balance	16,781.34	

Photo Gallery I

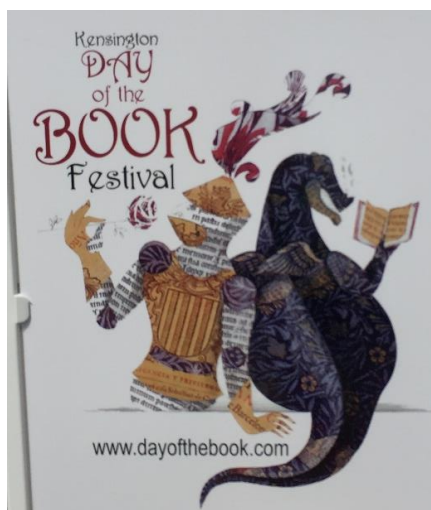
Remember that nasty winter? Well that cardinal does, especially when the newsletter editor forgot to fill up the feeder. The pileated woodpecker had a much nicer Parkwood resident. The people who know these things tell me that yes, that is a male goldfinch. And if you missed the creeping phlox at Saul and Cedar, here it is.



Photo Gallery II: The Day of the Book is always great fun.



Sticker books are always a good idea while you wait for Mommy to bring that cold drink



Do you think it is OK to go in here? I mean it looks a little scary. Do they have kids books?

Of course, there were some adult things like poetry readings, and talks by authors, and tango lessons. Tango lessons?