

Parkwood

Residents Association Newsletter, Winter 2018

The next meeting of the PRA will be held on Monday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m.
Kensington Parkwood Elementary School Media Center
Topic: Preserving Parkwood's Environment

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Have you seen this? Where is it?

Winter Meeting Program

The topic of our October meeting was keeping our homes and neighborhood safe. The topic of our February meeting will be keeping our environment safe. Many forces – global, national, regional, and state-wide - affect our air, our streams, our woodlands, and our gardens in Parkwood. Some we can influence remotely, some directly by the actions we take here. Our speakers will address the things closest to home that we can do to preserve our environment and keep it safe for the future. We will also vote on the proposed 2018 budget.

President's Letter

The beginning of the year seems a good time to think about the past as well as the future. I've lived in Parkwood for a little over 50 years in the same little rambler which seems even smaller now that I have a huge construction going up next door. The increase in the number of big houses seems to be a defining theme of our neighborhood, but in many ways, it hasn't changed so much at all. We still have lots of big trees, and I very much value living where residents care about each other and their neighborhood.

I've been a part of the Parkwood Residents Association for many years, including serving as president for four two-year terms. There was a break between those while Bailey Condrey served his multiple terms. Surprisingly, there hasn't been a rush for other candidates to replace me, but you should be aware that my present term ends in 2018, so here is an opportunity for someone new to step up. I've had the privilege of serving with an

Executive Committee of people who are truly committed to our neighborhood, and who have made the job of president the easiest office to hold.

Our association has grown to include more residents than most neighborhood groups. Our listserv started in March 2002, and the number of messages posted in a month didn't reach 100 until May 2004 when there were 115. There have been some "hot months", with 665 posts in February 2010 and 597 in January 2016. I didn't check to see what those were all about. I might mention that all this information is available at: <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/parkwoodresidents/info> (thank you Chris Dewey for reminding me of this), as are archived e-mails. This site also lists the 50 times that questions and answers have been posted about notary publics. We now have 927 members on our listserv, an impressive number considering there are 937 homes. The number of residents who paid dues to renew their membership or to join for the first time reached a record high of 335 in 2017, and provided nearly equal amounts from membership dues and donations for neighborhood beautification.

The association tries to respond to residents' concerns when we feel that collective voices can accomplish something that individuals might not. I'm proud of what the PRA has been able to facilitate in 2017. After many resident complaints about the side islands installed for traffic calming on Cedar Lane, PRA requested the County Department of Transportation to find a better solution. With completion of WSSC work on the road requiring repaving, our timing was just right for a better configuration to result while still fulfilling the aim to slow traffic. PRA also persuaded the State to change signaling for southbound Rockville Pike traffic to be able to more easily make a left turn into Cedar Lane. Another change, a dedicated right turn on red from Cedar Lane onto northbound Rockville Pike, is still in the persuasion stage. Planting of new little trees by the County to replace big trees having reached the end of their lives has also been helped thanks to coordination between the County and the PRA Tree Committee. And while tree stumps do take a long time to remove, we have a better understanding of when that will happen for each stump we have identified.

*This is the time of year when we ask you please **to renew your membership in the PRA and perhaps make a contribution to the Beautification Committee** that maintains our beautiful neighborhood gardens. I hope you will do that by completing the renewal form attached to this newsletter. Thank you.*

Kira Lueders

Parkwood Stories

Does anyone remember the old Reader's Digest series called "Life in these United States"? Well, here is the first of what we hope will be an ongoing series called "Parkwood Stories". It is intended to be stories sent in by you Parkwoodians that tell about interesting things that have happened to you since you have lived here. The first one has been contributed by our treasurer, Gerald Sharp. I think you will enjoy it. Send me yours for the Spring edition. Jeff Griffith, editor, jeff@jandjgriffith.com.

The Case of the Unforwarded Letter

By Gerald Sharp

When you move into a house where people have lived before you, you always wonder who they were and what they were like. This is especially true in Parkwood where our houses were built in the early 1950's. Yes, some residents have lived in their houses for decades, even a few since the houses were built. At the meetings of the Parkwood Residents Association, when people are asked to say where they live and for how long, many say 20,

30 or even 40 years and longer. But most of the houses here in Parkwood have of course changed hands several times since they were first built. And my house is one of these. I knew the name of the woman I bought the house from, and my neighbors had mentioned a few people who lived in the house before me. When one neighbor moved out a few years ago, she gave me a stained-glass window made by two women who had lived here and had a workshop in the basement. And there were the



4630 Edgefield Road when I moved in back in 2007

Whites, who were responsible for finishing that now finished basement. But other than that, the people who had lived in the house before me were a mystery.

After you move into an older house you always find yourself receiving mail for the prior residents after their forwarding orders expire. For me after I moved in back in 2007, most of the unforwarded mail was junk mail, but there were a few letters for the woman I bought the house from. I had her new address and was able to forward those letters on to her. There was some junk mail addressed to the Whites and to some other names that I didn't recognize that I could trash. Most of the unforwarded mail did not look important, with one exception. I would regularly get mail from a local bank addressed to a woman whose name I didn't recognize. I initially marked it "not at this address, return to sender" when the first letter came, but they kept coming, and I finally opened one. It was the bank statement for her IRA, and the balance was high. And I assumed that since I was getting her statements, she must have lost track of her account. So, this was important. This mail really needed to be forwarded. But how to find her? I tried googling her name a few times, but it was such a common name that there were too many hits and nothing to tell me which one was right. Then I sent an email to the Parkwood listserv asking if anyone had an address for her. Again, no luck. So, for 10 years, these statements came regularly, and each time, I felt a twinge of guilt when I put them back in the mail marked, "not at this address, return to sender".

In December 2017, I was using the internet to look at the tax records for my house, and I came upon a "Maryland Land Records" website, a site where you can find copies of deeds for property in our state. It required me to create a login ID and password, and I typed in the tax record number for my house. And there they were: the deeds for my house that had been recorded for the last 37 years, a total of 109 records. Not all of them were property transfers; deeds are also recorded when houses are refinanced or mortgages paid off. The online records only went back as far as 1980, but they showed that I was the 7th owner of the house since that time. If I wanted to see the entire history of my house's owners, I'd have to make an actual visit to the records office and look at all the paper deeds from when the house was built back in the 1950's. But there among this long list of scanned deeds was a deed from January 1996 recording the transfer of 4630 Edgefield Road in Bethesda to the woman whose name was on all those bank statements and to her husband. What struck me was that he had a different last name, and it wasn't common.

My heart skipped a beat when I saw this deed. I thought if I can find him, I can find her. Finally, here was some information for the mystery woman that I could use to track her down. I quickly typed his name into google. And there it was: a listing for a man with the odd name that said he was a former resident of Bethesda, Maryland, married to the woman I had wondered about all these years. Eureka! I had found her. The google listings stated that he was the Chief Legal Officer for a publicly traded medical company and even listed his impressive salary. The deed records showed that they had lived in the house until 1999 when the property was transferred to Jonathan and Sara White. So those unforwarded bank statements had been coming to my address for 18 years.

I was able to find an email address for the husband on the internet, and I decided to email him. I used my NIH work email address and signature block which lists my name and Doctor of Public Health degree and job title of Epidemiologist. Since this was to be an email coming from someone they didn't know, living at a house where they had lived a very long time ago, I wanted to look as professional and minimally flakey as possible.

This is what I wrote to him:

I am the current owner of 4630 Edgefield Road in Bethesda, where I believe you lived almost 22 years ago. I was able to track you down by looking at an earlier deed for my property and using the internet, since your name is fairly uncommon. I haven't had any luck tracking down your wife directly. I am writing to you, because every six months or so I get a letter from a bank concerning your wife's IRA which has a balance of over \$xxxx. I have always returned these letters to the bank, writing "address unknown" on the envelope, but I fear that she has forgotten that she has these funds. If you have her address, would you please pass it on to me so that I can forward her statement on to her the next time I receive it. Or perhaps you could advise her to change her address with her bank.

Sincerely,

Gerald Sharp, Dr.PH,

Epidemiologist, National Institute of Allergy & Infectious Diseases, NIH



4630 Edgefield Road as it is today

The husband replied 42 minutes later. He began his letter saying, "Thank you so much for taking the time to track us down." And he gave his new address in New Jersey, explaining that they had moved into 4630 Edgefield Road a few months before his oldest daughter was born, noting that she was now a senior at a School of Public Health, studying of all things: epidemiology. He said that this was the first home they owned and that they still had fond memories of their days in Parkwood.

This was his explanation for the unforwarded bank statements: "With respect to the account, we have

actually have been trying to track this down for years. The original bank that held the account was acquired years ago. My wife went through a process that was supposed to recover it, but we never got any statements... and now we know why! I have copied her on this email. If you could send us the most recent letter that would be very helpful." And he closed his letter with these words: "I hope you are enjoying the house and neighborhood as much as we did! Thanks again for reaching out to us."

I wrote back with a picture of Edgefield Road as it looks now and with pictures of my house as it looked when I bought it and when they lived in it (although I think the driveway was added later) and a picture of how it looks now after I added a floor. I also updated him on all the changes taking place in our neighborhood as the existing houses are enlarged, and families with children move back in. I assured him I would forward the next letter addressed to his wife from their bank when it arrives. And I closed with this: "Congratulations to your daughter. You should tell her that her "disease detective" training will come in handy someday, as it did for me in tracking you down." ***

Updates: Schools and Libraries

KPES Construction. Emily Beckman, the KPES PTA Cluster Representative, reports that "The construction of the KP addition reportedly remains on schedule to be completed in August of this year. We expect to welcome next year's fourth graders to indoor classrooms instead of portables!"

Noyes Library. There is good news about the Noyes Children's Library. The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and the Maryland Historic Trust have both approved the plans for expanding the library, including its external elevator tower. The Noyes Foundation has scheduled its fund-raising gala for Saturday, April 14, from 7-11 in the Kensington Town Hall. See the foundation's website at: <http://www.noyeslibraryfoundation.org/foundation-events.html> for more details. ***

Meet Your Neighbors Saleha, Faisal, and Mazen Mohsin

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@jandigriffith.com) or phone message (301-530-0897).

They were overseas living a cosmopolitan life-style in a Scandinavian capital, working for international companies and traveling all over Europe. By the time their son was seven, he spoke three languages, had lived in two different countries, and traveled with his parents to 10-12 others.

So why would they want to return to the U.S., and put down roots in Parkwood? The answer is family, schools, and, as they discovered, a good place to live. Meet Saleha and Faisal Mohsin, and their seven-year-old son Mazen.

Saleha was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, of Pakistani and Indian Muslim parents. Despite having a clear case of wanderlust, she lived in the same zip code until she was 19. After college she moved to Columbus, Ohio to work for a news magazine. Then this self-acknowledged Anglophile went off to London where she got a master's degree in journalism at University of the Arts. Her move to London was made a bit easier by the fact that she had already met Faisal, her future husband, while he was on a business trip to Chicago. A mutual friend had introduced them, and they had kept in close touch over the next three years.

Faisal was born in London, also of Indian and Pakistani Muslim parents. His father was a chemist and worked for GlaxoSmithKline. His mother knew very little English, so he spoke Urdu until he was four years old. Because his mother had several brothers and sisters living in the U.S., his parents decided to apply for a green card so that they might someday have the option of coming here. Thirteen years later, they received a letter saying that their

green card had been granted. There were no deferments or delays allowed; it was move now or give up the chance forever. So, his parents and his 14-year-old sister moved to the U.S. Faisal's older brother was already here living near White Flint.



Faisal was in his late 20s at the time and had a good job as an architect working for Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. When his parents left, he stayed on in the house he grew up in. It was a little eerie living alone in the house the five of them had shared, but the work was good, and he liked London. It was a bit of luck that at about this time he was assigned a project that required him to come to Chicago several times a year. He was able to help his parents get settled and...he also met and was able to spend an increasing amount of time with Saleha.

Eventually Saleha moved to London, they got married, she got her masters, and Mazen was born. But jobs for budding journalists were difficult to come by, and London was an expensive city. So, they looked for a more affordable place to live where there might be more job opportunities. Faisal was intrigued with the east and thought either of the Far East or of the Middle East.

Through a connection with a friend, Faisal was offered a job in ...Norway. Not exactly the east, but they took the chance (Faisal had only been in Oslo one day for the interview), and moved there in

2011. They loved it, and it was here that Saleha showed what Faisal calls “her grit”. She was in a country where most people speak English, but not very well. Most everyday things are done in Norwegian. And they are a friendly but nevertheless reserved people. After taking a year to help Mazen get settled, Saleha began her job hunt by joining and “hanging out” at the Foreign Press Association. She started a blog about living in Norway. She attended events. Eventually the Wall Street Journal hired her as a part time stringer. Once she had a couple of “clips”, she sent them to Reuters and to Bloomberg. Bloomberg offered her a job as a full-time stringer and then made her a full-time employee.

And the rest, as they say, is history. According to Saleha, Bloomberg is an excellent company to work for. When they finally decided to return to the States in 2016 (more on that in a minute), Bloomberg agreed to transfer her to its Washington, D.C. office where she covers the Treasury Department. (And no, she was not involved in the recent tax legislation.) It is an especially good company for working parents, granting flexible work hours as often as possible. She can work from home on many days. Yet her job still satisfies her “itch” to travel – she covered four countries in six days in October on a recent job assignment. But she can also be home to go to school events with Mazen.

Faisal was able to follow six months later. Coming full circle, he now works in the D.C. office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, the architecture firm where he began his career in London. When he first arrived in Washington, Faisal was working on a project in Saudi Arabia. He was getting ready to go there when President Trump announced his travel ban. Even though he is a citizen of the U.K, and has a green card, Faisal was about to leave for and then return from Saudi Arabia. With his family now here, the last thing he wanted to do was risk being prevented from returning home. Fortunately, his company agreed, and he did not make that trip, finishing up the project by phone as best he could. Now, for the first time, he is working on a project in the continental U.S. – the construction of a new courthouse in Pennsylvania. And he is very happy about that.

But why did they move back here? For one thing, Mazen was getting older and it was time to decide where they wanted him to go to school. They had felt for some time that they wanted him to go to school in the U.S. Kensington Parkwood has proved to be a great school for Mazen. He has excellent teachers and is doing very well. It is especially nice that he can walk to school.

And their family is here in the U.S. Saleha’s parents still live in Cincinnati, and, as she says, they are not getting younger. Her brother lives in Chicago, which they have visited three times just this past year. Faisal’s parents, brother, and sister are here in Montgomery County, and they get together regularly. They both wanted to be around for all the “little family things”, like birthdays and holidays, that are hard to share when you live across the Atlantic.

But perhaps most interesting of all is how much having their own home has meant to them. They both still travel for their jobs, but they love coming home. And home is not a grand place (except in their hearts). It is exactly what they wanted – a place they could fix up over the years and make it their own. It is certainly not huge, but they never wanted a huge place, and compared to most European apartments it is definitely large.

And while it is eminently livable, it still needs a lot of fixing up, which they love doing. Faisal can use his architectural skills in a personal way, and while he does not have the time to be a do-it-yourselfer, he spends many hours planning, researching, and specifying lots of things in the house, from the types of electrical outlets to the designs of drawer joints and the planned extension in the back. Saleha says that while Faisal does the design work, she is in charge of budget and deadlines – a good partnership. And she “loves”, or so she says, “cutting the grass”.

When they have time, they have been discovering what a great community they live in. Like many who have children and work, they don’t have as much time to socialize as they would like, but when they can, they have met great neighbors. And they’ve discovered things like Rock Creek Park and its hiking trails. Even though they cannot walk to

work, in keeping with some of her European “roots”, Saleha sometimes drives her white Piaggio motor scooter to the Medical Center Metro Station.

One final note. I asked how it felt to be a Muslim in this country at this time. In the course of his work, Faisal said that he has traveled in a number of places in the States that do not meet the stereotype that one might expect. He had found the people to be interested in him and his colleagues, to want to know more about their work, to be curious, open, and kind. He likes it here very much - America is vibrant, fast moving, and dynamic. And he finds Americans hard working, entrepreneurial, fun, socially open, and “quick to cross the bridge to friendship”.

Saleha said that she has experienced more discrimination as a woman and as a reporter, especially from the current administration that seems not to like journalists, than as a Muslim. She

told this story about her parents: After the election in November 2016 they decided to hold an open house at their local mosque in Cincinnati and invite people in to learn more about their culture and their religion. They had hoped 50-60 might join them, so they were surprised and delighted when over 500 showed up. At the end, many asked them to please hold another event like this one because they wanted to bring their friends.

Finally, she shared this. When her parents were living in London for over 10 years, they thought they would never leave. But her mother told her that she had never felt part of the U.K. even though she was a citizen. When they moved to the U.S. she was immediately treated like “one of them”, meaning like any other American.

A good story for our times. A wonderful family to have in Parkwood. ***

Feature Article

Kensington Park Elementary School (KPES) Green Team

The KPES Green Team is a committee of the school’s PTA formed to promote environmental sustainability and enhancement through awareness, education, and student activities. The work of the Green Team is guided by the MCPS Environmental Sustainability Management Plan (2014) and Environmental Literacy Plan.

With the help of the KP teachers, staff, dedicated parents and volunteers, and community organizations, including local businesses, civic groups, non-profits, and local government, the Green Team had a number of significant accomplishments last school year (SY2016-2017). It has equally ambitious plans for SY2017-2018, which build on several key projects developed in the previous year.

For example, in SY2016-2017, with support from the teachers, staff, and the Green Team, KP joined the Audubon Naturalist Society (ANS) GreenKids Program, a grant-funded educational outreach program that provides participating public schools with two years of free resources and field experiences. The 2nd graders at KPES planted salad greens in grow tables to be eaten at a salad party. The 4th graders completed a lesson on field sampling in Rock Creek, collecting data on water quality, physical characteristics, litter, and macroinvertebrates. An ecology lesson on the monarch butterfly life cycle, threats to pollinators, and restoration techniques was given in two classes and during Family Fun Day. And a 1,000-square foot outdoor classroom was constructed using approximately 20 cubic yards of mulch, 20 mature tree stumps, existing picnic tables, and a wooden bench. Mulch was courtesy of Dunigan Landscaping and Artistic Tree Service. This area sits under a mature oak canopy and is wifi enabled.





For SY2017-2018 the Green Team will provide additional education materials for students to use in environmental and ecology lessons. It will also maintain and enhance the outdoor classroom, including painting the picnic tables, installing an assembly to hang a white board, and decorating the area with students art.

The Green Team will also enhance a new school yard habitat. In the Spring of 2017, the KP Girl Scout Troop 3664 planned, design, and installed over 100 native pollinator plants brought in from the Montgomery County RainScapes High School Growing Program. The KP Green Team funded the soil amendment, labor, gardening tools, and mulch. The Girl Scout Native Pollinator Garden was certified as a NWF Schoolyard Habitat in May 2017. Enhancements this year will include 100 additional native plants in the habitat and on the hillside adjacent to the playground, and nesting boxes that support owls and bats.

The work of the Green Team is heavily reliant on the contributions of volunteers, both in time and money. If you would like to know more about the program and possibly make a donation, contact Scott Lynch, Chair of the KP Green Team at: kpgreenteam@gmail.com



Environmentalism's Corner

Montgomery County Green Streets Program, by Bailey Condrey

Recently while traveling through Kensington Estates, I saw several homes with yard signs that say, "No 20'x40' pits in our front yards." These signs seemed worthy of investigation.

The Montgomery County Green Streets Program (GSP) is administered by the county's Department of Environmental Protection. The idea is to slow the introduction of storm water from neighborhood streets into the watershed that surrounds us and to allow storm water to infiltrate more slowly back into the ground. For Parkwood and surrounding communities, Rock Creek takes the brunt when torrential rains swell the stream bed in a matter of minutes. See <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/restoration/green-streets.html>.

Neighborhoods such as Parkwood and Kensington Estates were built well before the principles of storm water management matured. The county, with the help of homeowners, wants to comply with state and federal law for reducing storm water discharge into the watershed and simultaneously reduce pollution. The program uses roadway landscaping designs to accomplish these goals through the following:

- Rain gardens,
- Bio-retention pits,
- Grass swales,
- Curb extensions,
- Tree boxes, and
- Permeable pavers and sidewalks.

The areas also provide food and shelter for wildlife. The GSP utilizes low impact development that typically fits between the curb and the sidewalk. However, some of the features can be large and verge on the commercial

scale. When a large rain garden or bio-retention facility is planned, the DEP says that it works with homeowners to agree on placement and design.

The GSP was given birth when the federal government informed Maryland that under the Clean Water Act, in order to retain their MS4 permits, they would have to install Best Management Practices for storm water control. MS4 Permits are also known as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Permits. The county has an MS4 Permit that mandates the County to meet certain water quality standards. The Permit is given every 5 years and the latest permit ended February 2015.



There is some controversy over the program in Kensington Estates and we'll delve a little more deeply into the subject as our neighbors in KE go through the process. We'll have a series of articles beginning with the spring newsletter. Stay tuned... ***

PRA Executive Committee: Officers and Committee Chairs

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Come spring it will rise and flow again



Do you know what this is...and where?

2017 Treasurers Report and 2018 Proposed Budget

Gerald B. Sharp, PRA Treasurer

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 from \$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 this year 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 a Little Library to house donated books and facilitate book sharing. *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 will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.

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 moderate 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. We have discussed closing off the street near the Wildwood Garden and having a picnic with a band and maybe a moon bounce and free hotdogs and/or hamburgers and soft drinks. It would be nice to do this when the Wildwood Garden is in full bloom this summer. Is anyone interested in organizing this? Should we plant more flowers on some of the medians in Parkwood? Please come to the next PRA meeting to discuss ways to invest in Parkwood to make our neighborhood a nicer place to live. Or if you have ideas, please share them on the listserv.

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	168	
Welcome packet for new residents, bags	0	0	
Wells Fargo Bank fees	0	0	
PayPal fees	41	45	
Montgomery County Civic Federation (MCCF) annual fee	50	50	
Website domain fee	35	23	
Misc. admin expenses	152	120	
Administration Total	389	405	600
Newsletters			
Printing costs	1053	690	
Newsletter distribution expenses (stamps, envelopes, labels, etc.)	301	0	
Total for Newsletters	1354	690	1000
Beautification			
Landscaping costs	4089	3875	
Mulch, fertilizer, supplies & plants	300	78	
Doggy potty bags	312	355	
Doggy potty bag dispenser	0	227	
PRA resource maintenance (signs, bench, etc.)	60	0	
Little library	0	203	
Beautification Total	4761	4738	TBD
Meeting Expenses			
Meeting room rental	0	157	
Projector expenses, handouts	0	176	
Meeting total	0	334	300
Totals	6503	6168	TBD.

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)		
				Sub-total		6622.00
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, rounded to the nearest dollar * \$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	

A Note from the Editor

Because we print and deliver a paper copy of the winter edition of the newsletter (thanks to 30 hearty and wonderful volunteers), we try to be frugal in our printing costs. Hence, all photos in the paper version are in black and white, and we limit the number of pages to 12 or fewer. We do email a copy, which has the photos in color, to all paid members.

*This edition does not include the regular column called **Political Notes**. As the October newsletter indicated, 2018 will be a significant year for elections in Montgomery County, when we will elect a new County Executive and at least four new members to the nine-member County Council. **Political Notes** will appear when appropriate on the listserv at least until the primary election, which will be held on June 26.*

This edition also does not include the minutes of the October 2017 meeting. They are available on the PRA website (<http://parkwoodresidents.org/>), and a summary was provided on the listserv after the meeting. If anyone would like a paper copy, please send a note to the editor, Jeff Griffith, 4502 Saul Road, Kensington, MD 20895.