

# Parkwood

## Residents Association Newsletter, Spring 2019

The spring PRA meeting will be a meet your neighbors get-together at the community garden at the intersection of Wildwood Rd and Saul Rd  
Sunday, June 2nd from 4 to 6 pm.

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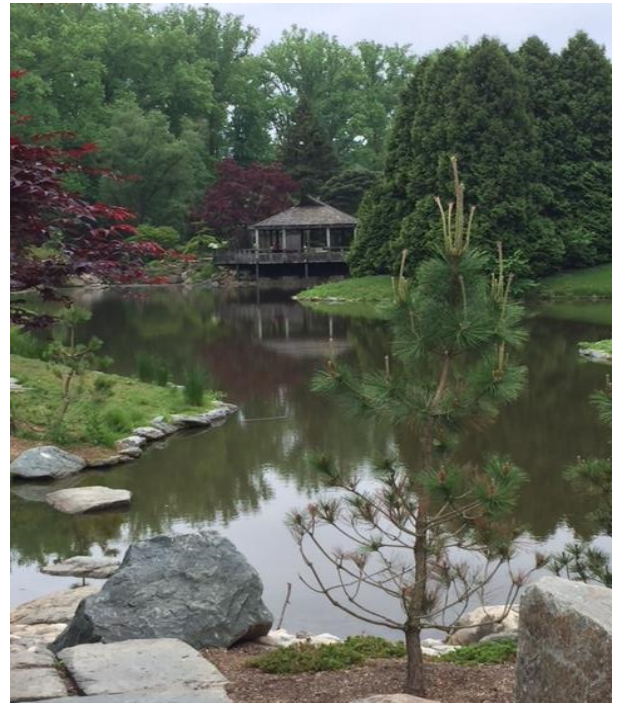
### SPRING MEETING

Instead of a formal meeting at KPES, the Spring Meeting of the PRA will be a gathering of members, families, and friends at the community garden on Wildwood Road between Saul Road and Roxbury. To keep things as simple and as enjoyable as possible, folks are asked to bring their own beverages. The PRA will provide snacks and entertainment – the Wildwood Combo, led by our own Rob Howe. No business will be conducted, and attendees are encouraged to dance on the lawn.

**Date:** Sunday, June 2.

**Time:** 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Place:** Community Garden on Wildwood at the Maypole



*Recognize this? See the feature article on page 6*

### And about the Winter

**Meeting....** We had a lively discussion with Councilmember Andrew Friedson, our newly elected councilmember for District 1 at our winter meeting on February 25. See the excellent minutes of that meeting beginning on page 16, prepared by Judith Dighe, our PRA Secretary.

**Paid your dues for 2019? If you have, thank you. If not, there is still time. See page 20.**

## **Updates: Proposed developments that will affect Parkwood.**

This section provides brief updates on several proposed development projects that are of importance to Parkwood residents. The summaries are intended to be as objective and balanced as possible. The PRA Development Committee will continue to track these and other proposed developments with the goal of keeping residents informed. Individuals are encouraged to express their opinions to the appropriate organization.

### ***I-495 and I-270***

To relieve current and projected congestion on the Beltway (I-495) and I-270, Governor Hogan has proposed what he describes as the largest Public-Private-Partnership (P3) in the country. The plan would take several decades to complete and would require, by some estimates, as much as \$11B or more. Elements of the plan include possible express toll lanes, with the tolls varying depending on traffic volume. Preliminary studies also suggest that some houses would be removed, and that adding lanes could encroach on several hundred properties. The State Highway Administration (SHA) is evaluating a number of options, some of which would move the Beltway further into Rock Creek Park along Beach Drive near Cedar Lane.

In May or June, the Maryland Board of Public Works will vote on whether to approve a Public-Private-Partnership for this project. If approved, the State Highway Administration will obtain more detailed plans and assessments of several options that will be presented for public comment next fall.

State delegates from Montgomery County have asked that the project not proceed until the required environmental impact study has been completed, currently expected by the end of the year. Some delegates have also asked the state to wait until issues of financial impact and accountability have been resolved. The County Council has asked Montgomery Parks and Planning not to cede any parkland to the project. The County Executive has argued that the project should begin with repair and expansion of the American Legion bridge and that further phases should wait for an assessment of the impact of that project. Other non-government organizations have said that more emphasis needs to be put on transit and less on cars.

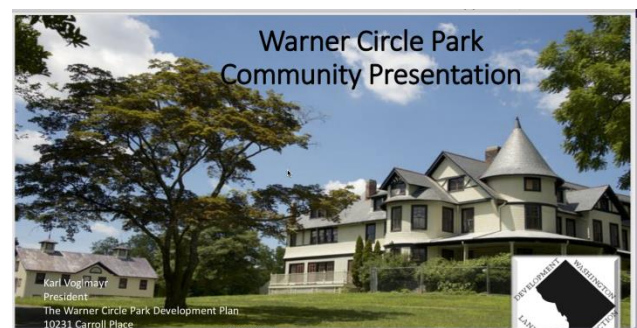
The governor and his staff have argued that the need to address congestion is urgent. They say the governor has supported mass transit by securing stable funding for Metro and by his support for building the Purple Line.

Opinions vary, with some polls indicating that a majority of Marylanders support the proposal while other polls indicate that a majority of Montgomery and Prince Georges County residents are opposed. Parkwood residents have expressed a variety of opinions on the PRA Listserv.

More information about the project as proposed by the governor can be found at [the state website](#). Examples of organizations opposed to the project can be found at the websites of [Citizens Against Beltway Expansion](#) and the [Sierra Club of Maryland](#).

*[Late update: As this newsletter "went to press", the Council reported the following: "Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker, who chairs the Council's Transportation and Environment Committee, [...noted...] the announcement by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) of an I-270 and I-495 Managed Lanes Transit Work Group. The stated purpose of this work group is 'to explore how managed lanes on I-495 and I-270 will complement and benefit local transit agencies in Frederick, Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Washington, D.C.'"* Stay tuned.]

### ***Warner Circle Park***

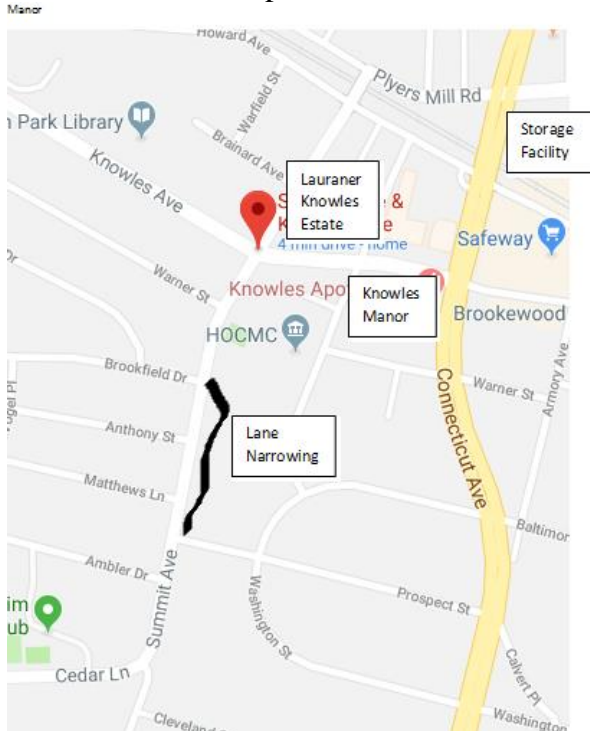


Warner Circle Special Park is a 4.5-acre property located at 10231 Carroll Place in the heart of the Kensington Historic District. It was originally the home of Brainard Warner, the founder of the town and a significant figure in the development of Montgomery County and Washington, DC. The site was acquired by the Maryland National Capital

Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in 2005-2006 through the Legacy Open Space program to preserve the historic landscape that has served as de facto public parkland for decades and to preserve the historic buildings by providing a public benefit through their adaptive reuse. The property is a primary resource in the Kensington Historic District and is listed on both the Montgomery County Master Plan for Historic Preservation and the National Register of Historic Places.

Montgomery County Parks and Planning Department is considering a Public-Private-Partnership with the Washington Landmark Construction (WLC) company to develop condominiums in the former mansion while still preserving its historic exterior. WLC has preserved and developed a number of historic sites in the Washington area.

At a public information session on May 14, Karl Voglmayr, co-owner of WLC, presented his company's [development plan](#) and estimated that if the project is approved by Montgomery County Parks and Planning, occupancy could occur in approximately three years. He also estimated that the cost of the condos would be in the range of \$600,000-\$800,000 plus annual condo fees.



### ***Summit Avenue Lanes and Pedestrian Safety***

The Town of Kensington has asked the County Department of Transportation MCDOT to consider closing the right-hand lane on Summit Avenue between Prospect Street and Brookfield Drive. The Town's major concern is pedestrian safety. The sidewalk along this portion of Summit Avenue is very narrow and in places tends to slant into the traffic lane. Cars using the right-hand lane to turn right onto Knowles Avenue often pass close by pedestrians because there is no buffer such as that provided by the parking lane further south on Summit and Cedar. In addition, the crosswalk at Brookfield is heavily used, especially by children crossing into the park on the east side of Summit. The Town has asked MCDOT to improve the safety of this crosswalk and the ones at Summit and Knowles.

There are several options for addressing these safety issues that MCDOT is currently studying. Each option has pluses and minuses as well as differing costs, and the resulting recommendation is likely to be a compromise. Some have emphasized the impact on traffic congestion if the right-hand lane on Summit is closed between Brookfield and Prospect. Others have emphasized the need for greater pedestrian safety. MCDOT is expected to report its recommendations in the next few weeks.

Staff of Councilmember Friedson have stated that his primary concern is safety and that he will support the recommendation of MCDOT.

### ***Knowles Manor***

This is a proposed moderately-priced senior housing apartment and condo complex across from Strosniders Hardware Store. A report from Parks and Planning staff on the developer's final plans is expected by the end of June, and the Planning Board is expected to make its final decision on approval of the project in early July. The PRA Development Committee anticipates that this project will be approved with construction beginning in the fall.

### ***Lauraner Knowles Estate***

This is a proposal to build townhouses at the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue. The applicant has requested a second extension for two months from April 25, 2019 to



June 27, 2019, because additional time is required to address the Planning Department and external agency comments.

### ***Storage Facility***

This is a proposal, not yet submitted to the Planning Board, to build a storage facility at the southeast corner of Connecticut Avenue and Plyers Mill Road. The first floor would have a restaurant and the second floor would have artists' studios. The Town of Kensington has voted not to approve this project; the Planning Board would have to have a majority of 4-1 votes to override the Town.

### ***Noyes Children's Library***



Fund raising for the renovation of the Noyes Children's Library has reached the halfway mark in its goal to raise \$1.6 million. The state will match local funds to complete the renovation. This charming and historic building needs to be preserved and expanded so that it can continue to serve children.

### ***Summit Avenue Extension***

As reported in previous newsletters, the county is assessing design and cost options for extending Summit Avenue to intersect Connecticut Avenue at Farragut Avenue as a means of relieving congestion at the Knowles/Connecticut Avenue intersection. Councilmember Friedson reported in [his statement](#) regarding the recently concluded County Council agreement on the 2020 operating and capital budget that it included "Keeping the design and planning of Summit Avenue Extended in Kensington on-schedule to provide a shared street for residents to get through Kensington and a safer pedestrian and bicyclist experience."

### **Photo Gallery-I**

In the spring the Town of Kensington sponsors an afternoon of paper airplane building and flying at St. Paul Park, with awards for both kids and adults. Here some young engineers hard at work on their designs. See page 19 for some more moments of fun.





## Brookside Gardens: Celebrating a Local Gem

*Kira Lueders*

I recently learned that our County has 421 parks, encompassing 36,895 acres, which are overseen by Montgomery Parks, an agency that is part of the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission [M-NCPPC]. One of these, Rock Creek Park, is right in Parkwood's back yard, and gives us a chance to enjoy nature with just a short walk. Most residents are certainly aware of the Park, but I'm frequently surprised by how many don't know about Brookside Gardens, which is just a 15-minute drive away in Wheaton Regional Park.



Brookside is one of my favorite places to go in all seasons. It makes up only 50 acres of the Parks community, and when you visit, it feels as if you are miles away from hectic urban life. I support it both by volunteering and by donating to Friends of Brookside Gardens and the Montgomery Parks Foundation, which help supplement funds provided in the County budget, and make possible a variety of programs.

Volunteers at Brookside are passionate about the gardens and represent 28% of the total Parks' volunteers in the County. This year Brookside is 50 years old, and Friends' donations were used to plant 50,000 daffodil bulbs to celebrate the anniversary.



Spring is one of the most spectacular seasons at Brookside, and when tulips bloom there are so many visitors that the parking lots overflow. After the daffodils, the tulips, cherry and redbud trees finish blooming, one of the long paths is lined with azaleas and rhododendrons. It is a popular time for weddings in the garden, even though the weather can be surprisingly capricious.

Early summer is a time for roses and peonies. In any season, it is a place to learn what varieties of plants work well in our climate. Two major programs at the Gardens, the Wings of Fancy and Garden of Lights, have both been held for over 20 years. The Wings of Fancy, which features hundreds of live butterflies from North America, Costa Rica, Africa, and Asia flitting among colorful flowers in the south conservatory, began on April 17th and will continue until September 22nd. Educational materials about butterfly life cycles make this program a popular one for school groups and families. This is one of the events for which I volunteer, so I'll get to spend lots of time watching these amazing creatures enjoying their short lives in a perfect habitat.





enjoy landing on visitors, and I've had a butterfly lay her eggs on me.

The show is overseen by US Department of Agriculture rules that emphasize containment of the butterflies. Even though some of the butterflies are native to Maryland, specimens in the exhibit are purchased from breeders outside the state and could carry diseases that would be harmful to local butterflies. Release of non-native butterflies could lead to environmental damage, with the Gypsy moth being a good example. The conservatory contains only nectar plants, so feeding and mating butterflies are common, but without host plants it is impossible for the butterflies to increase their numbers in the



exhibit. Visitors have to be carefully checked by volunteers and by themselves in mirrors as they leave the conservatory to ensure that no butterflies are tucked away on them. The butterflies seem to



The second major program, the Garden of Lights, begins at the end of November and runs until the end of December. Volunteers begin installing one million LED lights several months before the show opens. Admission for this exhibit is by the carload, but once parked, visitors walk through the garden to see the light displays. The conservatory then



becomes a place to see holiday plants and G-scale model train displays manned by the Washington, Virginia, and Maryland Garden Railway Society. There is also a bonfire outside the visitors' center where smores can be enjoyed, and a musical performance in the center by local groups every



evening. Many families come for this display even on the coldest evenings.

In addition to these major programs, Brookside provides classes (requiring registration and fees) in art, horticulture, cooking, and yoga (including with goats, which filled up very fast!) as well as bus day trips to other gardens. The region near Philadelphia in particular has a surprisingly large number of gardens which are frequently visited.

The visitors' center has revolving art exhibitions, and there are plant society shows and sales



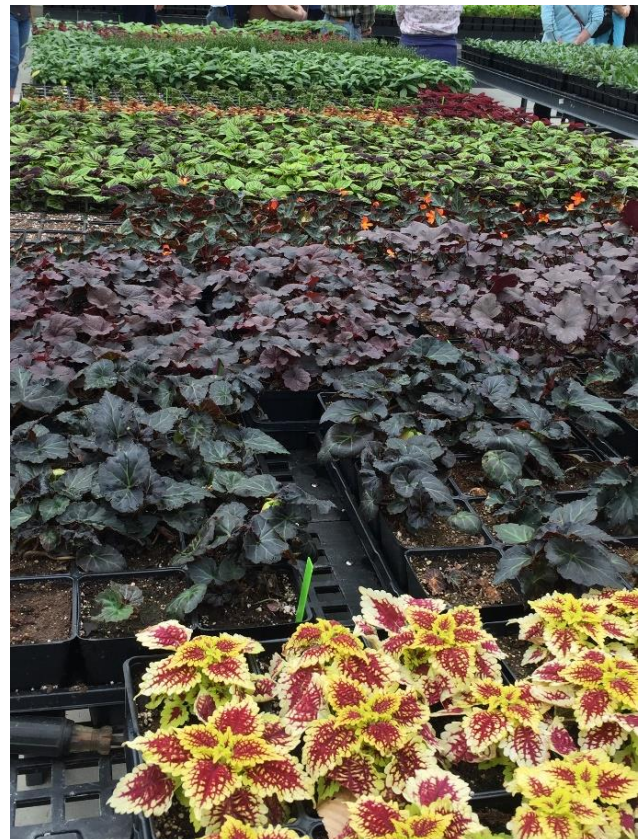
throughout the year. There are the orchid festival in March, camellia show in April, daylily show in June, cactus and succulent show in August, dahlia and chrysanthemum shows in September or October. There is a special garden with activities for children outside the visitors' center, and gift shops in both the visitors' center and the north conservatory (Friends of Brookside Gardens get a 10% discount).

Flower displays in the conservatories change several times a year. The spring display starts in January in both conservatories to help with a longing for winter to end. Plants in the display are natives from where winters are mild such as South Africa, South America, and the Mediterranean, and

familiar garden plants like snapdragons, violas, and primroses. While the butterflies are in the south conservatory, the north one switches to a new variety of plants.

Interestingly, many of the plants for the conservatory displays and for the gardens are cultivated on site in greenhouses that visitors don't see. In 2018 Brookside dedicated a new three-million dollar greenhouse that was partly funded by a major donor and Friends of Brookside Gardens.

Just as we have to worry about deer in our own gardens, Brookside has had its own fights with creatures who view the gardens as an invitation to dine. Although there is a fence, and grids on the road that prevent deer from entering, at times some



seem to find their way in. One of my volunteer jobs was chasing deer out of the garden. We had a line of volunteers walk through the woods driving the deer toward one of the gates. Occasionally one still gets back in.

Another problem is the large number of geese that seem to find the ponds at Brookside a very attractive habitat for raising families. The solution was renting a dog to chase the geese several times a week so they could never get comfortable enough to



settle in. After a season of rentals, the management realized that it would be more cost effective to buy a dog, which then became a staff pet. There are still geese at the garden.

I wanted to share my experiences at Brookside in hopes that you will visit and grow to love the gardens as much as I do.





## Environmental Corner: Is it time Maryland passed a bottle bill?

Gerald Sharp

“Plastics” - that’s the one word of career advice for the Graduate in the 1967 movie. And what prophetic advice that was. Five decades later, we are drowning in plastic. Even the oceans are drowning in plastic. And one of the biggest culprits is the single use plastic bottle of water that we enjoy for a few minutes but that takes about 450 years to decompose ([Bio-Tec Environmental](#)). Meanwhile they pile up as trash in our parks, as shown in Figure 1, or floating in our oceans or in the bellies of beached whales.

Single use *glass* bottles are also a problem. When I drink a bottle of wine, I enjoy it, but I also think that the bottle, like the thousand-year-old pottery artifacts in museums, could still be here hundreds or even thousands of years in the future. The EPA estimates that only about 26% of glass waste actually gets recycled, so reusing bottles that can last thousands of years makes a lot of sense.

Montgomery County passed some smart legislation a few years ago to reduce plastic bag pollution by putting a small 5-cent tax on bags. A small tax (miniscule compared to what we pay in real estate, income and sale taxes) that changed the behavior of many shoppers to their bringing their own cloth bags to grocery stores, and the proceeds of those buying plastic or paper bags at the store going to good environmental causes. In the 7 and a half years this law has been in effect, about \$1.4 million a year has gone to pollution and stormwater control programs ([Washington Post](#)).

Now it’s time for smart legislation to deal with the single use beverage container problem. Could Maryland join the states that have passed bottle bills to encourage glass wine, beer and soft drink bottles to be either reused or melted down and recycled?

Ten states and Guam have passed such bills; Oregon was the first state to do so in 1971, almost 50 years ago. The other states are New York, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Vermont, and Michigan. Bottle bill laws have also been in force in all 10 Canadian provinces and two of its three territories, some since the early 1970s. Overall in Canada just under 80% of aluminum cans and about 97% of refillable beer bottles are returned for their primarily 5 or 10 cent deposits ([Bottle Bill Resource Guide](#)). Have you even noticed when you drink a bottle of Canadian beer how scratched up the bottle is? My theory is that they reuse their bottles as long as possible and then export them to the U.S., so we can deal with their disposal.

One challenge is that not everyone sees the value of recycling. We live in a culture where we often judge the value of things based on their cost. Bottled water is an incredible bargain, if you ignore its environmental impact. You can buy a case of 40 bottles for \$3.76 at Walmart. That’s less than 10-cents per bottle. The idea that we need to ignore that bargain price and not buy bottled water is a concept that many people have trouble grasping. I grew up with that idea of not wasting

resources with my German grandmother saving all her jars and when running the faucet to get hot water, putting the excess water into those jars to water her plants. And this in a household where water wasn’t metered, so there was no economic incentive.

But not everyone is raised with those influences. As shown in the graph in Figure 2, recycling rates differ a lot around the world, with Germany coming in at number one at 65%. In comparison, recycling rates are low in Mexico at 5% and Chile at 1%. So, depending on where we each grew up, recycling may or may not be something that we have been exposed to or consider to be important. That is one



Figure 1: Plastic bottles washed up in Rock Creek

reason we need legislation and economic incentives - to encourage people to recycle cans and bottles. Marc Elrich's 222 member transition team prepared a [Transition Report](#) to outline their suggestions for "The First Steps Toward A More Equitable and Inclusive Montgomery County". One of their suggestions for Montgomery County is to require deposits on bottles and cans and encourage reuse of glass bottles. The report cites a public survey the team conducted that found that plastic reduction was cited as important by respondents. Even though we have curbside pickup of recyclable material in the county, a bottle bill would be a valuable addition to the County's recycling and environmental efforts, because it would provide an incentive to those who do not already participate in curbside collection.

Among the concerns expressed about this proposal were a) the County already has curb pickup and b) some who had lived in a state that had bottle deposits said that it was "a big pain" to haul stuff to the collection centers. But curb pickup could help alleviate that problem by having a separate curbside container for deposit bottles and cans and having those separate containers taken to collection centers

to be redeemed on behalf of the County. The county could then use the proceeds to support pro-environment activities. The county could even be creative and rotate environmentally-focused charities on some time frame. People who didn't

want to bother to redeem their containers could dump them in their bins and consider their actions as supporting the charity receiving the deposits that month. Or kids and other people who wanted to make pocket change could redeem them. With the increased value of redeemable containers, it might also be cost-effective for the county to sort through trash to pull them out and redeem them, thereby greatly increasing recycling rates.

This is how bottle bills work. When a retailer buys beverages from a distributor, a deposit is paid to the distributor for each container purchased. The consumer pays the deposit to the retailer when buying the beverage and receives a refund when the

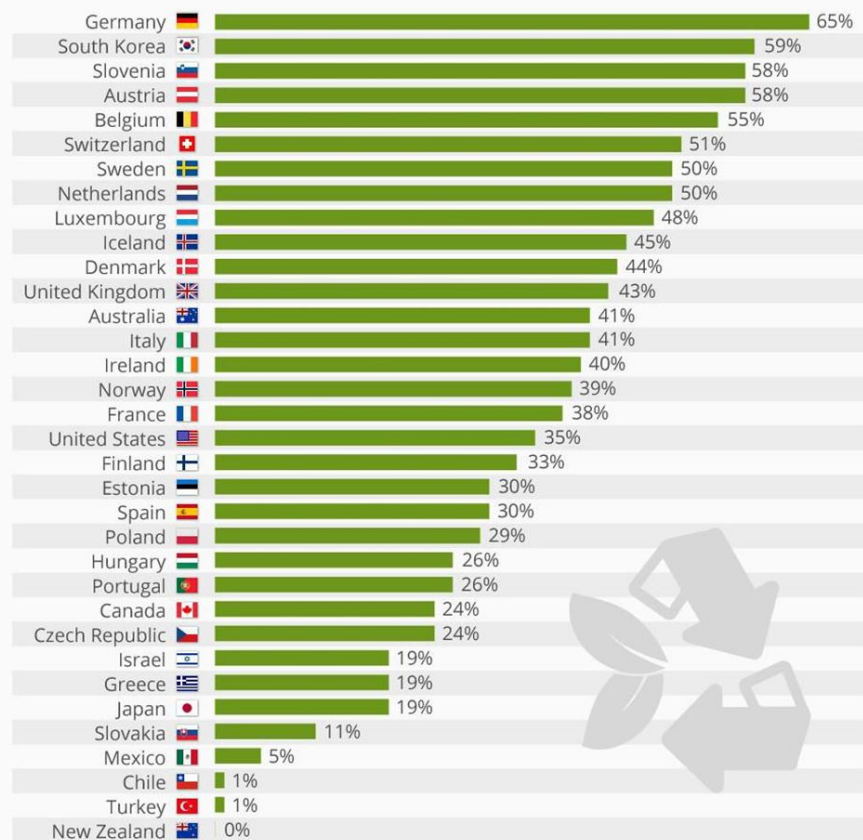
empty container is returned to a supermarket or other redemption center. The distributor then reimburses the retailer or redemption center the deposit amount for each container, plus an additional handling fee in most states. Unredeemed deposits are either returned to the state, retained by distributors, or used for program administration.

The deposits vary from 5 cents to 15 cents depending on the size of the bottle or can and generally apply to beer, wine, soft drinks, and bottled

water. Germany adjusts the deposit on bottles and cans according to how easy it is to recycle them. The deposit on plastic bottles is 25 cents but only 7 cents on glass bottles. Prince Edward Island in Canada incentivizes refillable containers by

### The Countries Winning The Recycling Race

Recycled & composted waste as a share of total municipal waste in OECD countries (2013)



Source: OECD

Figure 2: Recycling rates around the world. Germany coming in at number one with Mexico, Chile, Turkey and New Zealand at the bottom. Forbes website



charging a 10-cent deposit on both refillable and unrefillable containers but only giving back a nickel for the unrefillable ones. If the deposit were lower on aluminum cans than bottles, people would be incentivized to buy drinks in those rather than in the harder to recycle, single-use glass or plastic bottles. About 70% of an aluminum can is recyclable compared to just 3% of a plastic bottle and 23% of a glass bottle ([Aluminum Association](#)). Aluminum cans also have the highest recycling rates compared to glass and plastic bottles, partly because they are more valuable, but also because they are of uniform size and more amenable to mechanical sorting methods. Unlike glass and plastic bottles, they can be melted down and reused for new cans in an endless loop. However, while being the most valuable recyclable item, with aluminum selling for about 32 cents per pound each half-ounce can is only worth 1.7 cents ([Aluminum Association](#)). Thus, placing a small deposit on them would increase their value and likelihood of being recycled.

Plastic bottles are difficult to recycle now that the markets for recycled plastic have dried up; increasing the cost of plastic water bottles would discourage people from buying them, especially if a high deposit was placed on plastic bottles with no deposit on paper, milk-carton-type bottles of water. Putting a deposit on them would incentivize more environmentally friendly alternatives, such as the paper cartons of water or keeping a pitcher of filtered water in the refrigerator to pour into a drinking glass or reusable container. Also if people did still buy plastic water bottles, they would be more likely to be recycled and transformed into other products, since they could easily be kept separated from other plastic recyclables and sold in bulk to manufacturing companies. A bottle bill makes sense statewide, but if that can't happen politically, is there something Montgomery County, as the leading pro-environment county in the state, can do on its own like that smart move we made with the plastic bag tax? What about just outlawing single-use plastic bottles of water in the county and continuing to work for a Maryland bottle deposit bill?

If a law putting deposits on bottles and aluminum cans was proposed for Maryland, corporations would vigorously oppose it, and they would likely

argue that it would cost jobs. And while some manufacturing jobs might be lost, green manufacturing jobs would be added as well as jobs at local stores to handle bottle and can returns. So job-wise it balances out. It's a question of whether our government wants to support jobs and corporations that hurt the environment and increase waste disposal costs or does it want to support green jobs and green corporations that encourage recycling and reuse of containers that help protect the environment, and reduce litter as well as disposal costs.

## Photo Gallery-II

Some more spring photos before we move on to meet some of our neighbors. The first one below is whimsical sculpture seen at the Day of the Book Festival in Kensington this past April. The second one is some serious chess players getting ready to make their moves at the Kensington Park Library.



## Meet Your Neighbors: Anne Dix and Danny Morse

He has the calm and thoughtful demeanor of a college professor. She has the effervescent and energetic demeanor of an American raised in Central America from the age of three. In Danny's own words, "... my life has been uneventful (lots of school, a few odd jobs, and the Naval Academy", where he teaches chemistry). Uneventful, that is, "other than my time with Anne." And therein, lies the tale of this delightful couple.

He had been a bachelor all his life, living alone or with housemates until he was in his fifties. She had a daughter who was in middle school; her two younger brothers, one born in the U.S. and one born in Guatemala, were living with her in her home on Dresden Street in Parkwood.

Family had always been important in Anne's life, beginning with her grandparents, who strongly encouraged the extended family to gather at their home in Potomac every year for the Christmas holidays. Other than a brief half semester in high school in the U.S., these holidays were Anne's only time back in the States until she went off to college at Mount Holyoke. So, her experience of America was that it was cold and snowy – quite different from Guatemala, which is "the land of eternal spring."

Danny was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, went to college at Washington University in St. Louis, and did his graduate work in Biochemistry at the University of Missouri. From there, he went to the University of Utah in Salt Lake City for his post-doc work and then on to the Naval Academy to teach and do research.

Anne was born in Athens, Georgia where her father was teaching at the university. Her parents, Michael and Margaret, are both biologists. They had met at Harvard where they both were doing

their Ph.D.'s. When Anne was 3 years old (1969), they moved to Guatemala City where her parents had gotten a 2-year fellowship. Margaret is from the Channel Islands (a part of the UK), and her visa required her to leave the US before applying for residence.

Her parents started the biology programs at two universities in Guatemala. Although it was supposed to be a 2-year fellowship, Anne's parents never left, and they became well-respected, practically legends there. Many of the doctors and government officials were once their students. They

have lived in the same house for more than 50 years in Guatemala. It was originally out in the middle of nowhere, but the city has grown to engulf it.

After college, Anne got her Ph.D. in ecology from the University of Georgia, living in the house where she was born (the family still owns this house). She gave birth to her

daughter, Katy, who was six months old when Anne had to defend her thesis. She had chosen to be a single mom and drove back with her Dad and Katy through Mexico to Guatemala in a pickup truck.

Back in Central America Anne taught at a local university and worked at an environmental NGO managing their research program and doing fundraising. Then she was hired by USAID where she has worked for the last 20 years. Her initial AID assignment was to help do quality control of construction projects throughout Central America after the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch; she also reviewed earthquake reconstruction projects after the El Salvador Earthquake.

Anne and Katy returned to DC just before September 11, 2001. All of us can remember where we were on that day. Anne was at an orientation for new Foreign Service officers (FSOs); Katy was in a daycare center in a Smithsonian building. Anne immediately left the briefing, found Katy, and spent



*Figure 1: Anne and Danny celebrating Mother's Day*



the afternoon on the Mall giving her lots of crayons for her coloring books until the traffic thinned out



*Figure 2: Anne, a younger Katy, and a couple of canines*

enough for her to take Katy home.

That same year, Danny had moved to Annapolis to take up his job at the Academy. When the terrorists struck, the midshipmen were all ordered back to their dorms, a decision that struck Danny as odd, since it placed a large segment of our future naval officers in a single location. He remembers thinking that he had just left a very safe city (Salt Lake) to come to a place that clearly had a target on its back. But this was just the beginning of the end of his quiet bachelorhood.



*Figure 3: Some of Danny's dedicated chemistry students at the Naval Academy*

After completing her FSO training, Anne had a series of assignments, including managing bilateral

environment programs for protected areas in Guatemala and then environmental programs for all of Central America, working out of El Salvador. When she came back to the U.S., Anne served as the desk officer for Bangladesh, and then for Pakistan. From 2009-2012, she managed the AID Amazon Program. It was during this time that Anne's two brothers moved in with her.

And then Danny and Anne met...on E-Harmony. Their first meeting was at Guapo's on Wisconsin Avenue. Danny had recently gotten tenure at the Academy and had bought a house in Annapolis. In his own words, he had decided it was time to try to have a "normal life!" They were married in 2010 after Danny had been vetted by Katy, and they determined that their dogs could get along.

At that time Anne, Katy, and the brothers had been living on Dresden Street in a rental house. Anne and Danny wanted Katy to be able to stay at Walter Johnson, so they looked for a house in Parkwood that was big enough for everyone and still affordable. *That* took a while. Then one day as they were driving up Edgefield, they saw someone just putting up a sign – For Sale By Owner. They stopped immediately and told the owner they were interested but did not think it was big enough for everyone. "You haven't seen the basement, yet" he said; there were two more bedrooms downstairs. After some additional renovations, the basement became an apartment "for the boys" [i.e. her brothers].

Then life got even more interesting. In 2012, they all (Anne, Danny, Katy, and their dog, Leah) went to Accra, Ghana for two years. At this point the brothers moved into their own places in other parts of Maryland.

In Accra, Anne was in charge of the regional environment program, so she traveled throughout West Africa (Katy often joined her). Among the things she and her team accomplished was completion of a water and sanitation program with the help of Florida International University. They also set in motion a critical sanitation marketing program as well as working on transboundary protected areas, one of which was located near ground zero for the first Ebola crisis.



*Figure 4: Anne's West Africa team*

Meanwhile, Danny stayed in Accra having his usual life of teaching and research at the University of Ghana. Katy did her last two years of high school in an international school in Accra, which had an I.B. program.

Anne then decided to shorten her assignment in



*Figure 5: A Sierra Leone water source*

Ghana by committing to Afghanistan for one year. After a few weeks of training back in D.C., she was off again. Danny stayed in his house in Annapolis so that he did not have the long commute to the Academy, and Katy went off to Williams College.

In Afghanistan Anne was in charge of infrastructure (power lines, a dam, roads, etc.). Because USAID often assigns very large jobs to very small teams, in both Ghana and Afghanistan, she had just a few people on her staffs to accomplish their mission. The dam her team worked on in Afghanistan had

been built in the 1960s, and the final turbine had never been setup due to political unrest. The team installed high power transmission lines from a town near Kabul to Ghazni despite losing key engineering capacity at the time due to staffing cuts. In her own words, "I had an awesome multinational team who worked hard and brought their whole selves to the table."

In Kabul, Anne lived in a converted truck container. It was a very stressful time for both of them. Danny remembers calling her once and hearing a siren go off. "Oops, gotta go, we're being attacked!", she said. Luckily, the rockets did not do any damage inside the embassy compound. During other times, the violence got so bad, that Anne was not allowed to leave the embassy to monitor her programs. Once, when she needed emergency dental care, they flew her to the dentist at a military base in a helicopter.

In 2016, after completing her time in Afghanistan, Anne returned to the U.S. to manage the American Schools and Hospitals Abroad [ASHA] program for USAID. This program predates USAID itself and came about as part of Marshall Plan, which started after World War II. One of ASHA's first grants was



*Figure 6: Danny and a local boy bailing out their boat in Ghana (not exactly his "usual life" and probably not the kinds of boats he was used to at the Naval Academy.)*

to the American University of Beirut. Danny and Anne are now settled in Parkwood, at least until Anne has to leave on her next overseas rotation. A major challenge they face, however, is Anne's aging parents who still live in Guatemala. Her mother is still working, even though she is over 80 and needs to be on oxygen. As a child, Anne



lived through the civil war in Guatemala in the 70s. Now her parents have to contend with the high rates of crime in the country, and it is clear, at least to Danny and Anne, that they have to bring them back to the States. Their plan is to have her parents live on the first floor of their house while they move to the basement apartment that her brothers had previously occupied. Family is always first.

Meanwhile, Katy has graduated from Williams and has spent the last year in Toulouse France teaching English to immigrant kids from Morocco and Algeria in a vocational school. When she returns, she plans to get a Master's in International Development at Brandeis. She has always loved the international life so she will likely work for NGOs around the world. As Anne says, "She has the travel bug."



*Figure7: Katy picking coffee in Nicaragua*

Finally, here are two stories that say much about why Parkwood is such a good place to live.

When Danny first arrived at the Academy, his lab was not ready yet. His research focuses on RNA structure and function. So a friend at NIH offered him lab space for two years until his own lab could be completed. That is a bit of professional kindness that probably ranks above and beyond...

And when Katy came back to the States after Anne had completed one of her overseas assignments,

Anne had arranged for her to let herself in each afternoon when she got home from middle school. Anne would then arrive an hour or so later. But Katy did not want to go into the house. She was scared, she said, because there were no walls around the house on Dresden, as there had been in Guatemala and El Salvador; she said she felt safer waiting outside, which she did. A Parkwood neighbor noticed Katy outside and after Katy explained how she felt, the neighbor took her into her own home until Anne got home.

We are glad they are back in Parkwood, at least for now, and so are they.

## **Treasurer's Report**

*Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer*

I wanted to update everyone on where we are in this year's Parkwood Residents Association membership drive. Paula Flicker has entered all the members' data (with some help from Vice-President Jeff Griffith and his wife Jane), and I have deposited all the checks.

We have received a total of \$3,040 from 307 PRA members paying the annual \$10 membership fee this year. As has been normal in recent years, beautification donations are exceeding income from membership dues: \$3,040 in dues vs. \$3,500 in donations, for a total of \$6,540 in receipts; about 19% of total receipts being paid using PayPal (\$1,235 in total). Donations range from \$5 to \$200 with most people who donate adding \$10. Last year we ended the year with a total of \$7,655 in dues and donations and 326 paid up members, so we have reached about 85% of last year's receipts with about 95% of last year's total paid up members having paid so far this year. This means we are on track to reach last year's membership and receipt levels, although total income is likely not to be quite so high this year, because of the extra donations we received last year to help pay for the Saul Island renovation.

If you haven't paid your \$10 dues yet this year (with or without an optional donation to the PRA beautification fund) and would like to, the PayPal link to pay PRA dues/donations by credit card or with your PayPal account is included on the [PRA](#)

[website](#) . If you do pay this way and want to stay anonymous, be sure to mention this in the comment box. Also please check the box giving us access to your home address, so we can enter it on the list of paid up members.

Information about how to pay by mail is also available on the PRA website. Just mail a check made out to either the PRA or Parkwood Residents Association to:

Paula Flicker  
PRA Membership Chair  
10225 Parkwood Court  
Kensington, MD 20895

Thanks very much for your support of the PRA.

## **Minutes of Parkwood Residents Association Meeting, February 25, 2019**

Jeffrey Griffith, PRA vice president, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Thirty-four members were present. Jeff introduced the speaker, Councilmember Andrew Friedson. Councilmember Friedson is our newly elected District 1 representative on the Montgomery County Council. Accompanying Mr. Friedson was his staff member, Aaron Kraut. Mr. Kraut is familiar to PRA members from his work on our behalf as staff to former councilmember, Roger Berliner.

### **Presentation, Councilmember Andrew Friedson**

Councilmember Friedson has been a lifelong District 1 resident, having attended Montgomery County Public Schools, kindergarten through high school. He spoke of his background in public service and his commitment to Montgomery County which has strong assets such as its diversity, and also some fiscal challenges. For example, 39.6% of students in MCPS are eligible for Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS)—a number that's higher than the total enrollment of DC public schools.

As senior policy advisor, deputy chief of staff and division director for the comptroller of Maryland, Mr. Friedson scrutinized public agencies and reviewed billions in government contracts to ensure transparency and accountability. He brings his fiscal policy experience to the Council where he serves on the Government Operations & Fiscal Policy committee, and the Planning, Housing, & Economic Development committee. He and the newly elected

council will need to work on county challenges such as anemic business growth, a lack of affordable housing, and an aging population. They are working to find ways to grow the tax base without raising taxes on residents, close the gap between available jobs and skills, and ensure that the county has green space and parks. Councilmember Friedson stressed his commitment to constituent service especially focusing on quality of life issues, such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and parks. He encouraged us to reach out to him and his staff with our concerns.

The newly installed County Council has been tasked with preparing a Capital Budget. They are focused on developing a savings plan that centers on budget reality: meeting increasing fiscal needs by growing development and the tax base while keeping the quality and character of Montgomery County.

### **Responses to Questions**

An animated discussion ensued as participants had numerous questions and comments for Councilmember Friedson.

**Parks and Green Space.** Councilmember Friedson agrees on the importance of parks, ball fields, dog parks and green space; the Council is working on this and developers are being required to contribute. Part of the Bethesda sector plan is a fund for \$10 million for parks/green space in downtown Bethesda.

**Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs).** i.e., a second small dwelling on the grounds of a single-family home. Mr. Friedson agreed that there are pros (affordable housing, possibility of aging-in-place, keeping family units close, etc.) and cons (residents can take advantage—resulting in a proliferation of small dwellings, parking challenges, etc.) The county passed a bill addressing ADUs, but it was too restrictive. Sometimes a resident's home is their only asset. The Council is trying to approach this issue with an open mind: How do we make ADUs work?

**Business Development.** The question is how to view business development. Is the builder promoting economic and workforce development? We need new businesses and development to grow our tax base and meet MC's needs without raising taxes on residents. We can promote mixed-use building and



more entities on behalf of parks. The concern is that we pave more and more of MC until it resembles Northern Virginia. In important ways, MC is attractive to business. We have an educated diverse population and suburban, urban, and rural locales—something for everyone. Amazon seriously considered MC. Honest Tea has established its office here.

Would you support an Independent audit of the public school system? Approximately one-half of the county's budget goes to our public school system, but our schools have limited financial independence under the state. The school system was not included in the inspector general's report. Yes, I would support an independent audit.

Reuse of existing buildings. This is a huge challenge. The main issue is that suburban office parks are less attractive than they used to be. New construction is much more appealing to companies. We have fewer businesses in the county than we did ten years ago. It is incumbent on us to grow the economy, but we can't do this without low- and modest-income housing. We could rezone some of these areas so that the public is invested, e.g., a food hub.

Parks. There is a lack of oversight of parks. Ball fields need not be tied to schools. Locations of green areas can be found on the parks department website.

Adding additional lanes to Rtes. 270 and 495? Councilmember Friedson is opposed to anything that would expand existing right-of-way.

Pedestrian and traffic issues. Mr. Friedson met with the State Secretary of Transportation focusing on pedestrian and bicycling issues. On state roads we need to negotiate cross walks with the state. Pedestrian safety is a major concern. We have traffic challenges and need to think about rapid transit that can be a competitive alternative to getting in a car.

What about autonomous vehicles that can move more people in less space. In a few years we may have enough capacity. I think we're a long way from implementation at present though a dedicated lane for buses and autonomous vehicles may be possible. We'll move to ride-sharing sooner. A

major grant could move the industry more quickly but there are problems to be overcome. For example, autonomous vehicles "see" by using light. But light is absorbed by the color black so autonomous vehicles can't see black cars.

It is important to move away from cars. Parking garages take up a lot of space that could be better purposed.

5G—small cell phone towers. New cell phones present a technology challenge. The FCC's (Federal Communications Commission) policy regarding infrastructure makes state and local actions difficult. We may still have some leverage, however, and we are addressing the issue.

Councilmember Friedson reiterated that we should not hesitate to contact him and his team. They will be at the Kensington Town Hall on April 4, 7:30 p.m. Many other events are being planned throughout the district, including "Fridays with Friedson" at various restaurants and other locales. Constituents can also keep in touch through Facebook.

In parting, Councilmember Friedson affirmed: This is just the beginning of the discussion; we need more parks and more businesses.

### **Treasurer's Report for 2018 and Discussion of Proposed Budget for 2019**

PRA Treasurer Gerald Sharp presented the Treasurer's Report with a table: 2017-2018 Budgeted and Actual Expenses and Budgeted Amounts for 2018/2019. The table which was printed in the Winter Newsletter was also projected on a screen and given as a handout. Three hundred, forty-two members paid membership dues of \$10 each in 2018, the highest number ever. Beautification donations (\$4236) exceeded dues. Expenses included MC Civic Federation fees, administrative expenses, newsletter printing costs, beautification projects, doggy potty bags, the Little Library and its dedication, and meeting room and projector expenses.

Because of a projected budget surplus for 2019, additional projects can be contemplated. PRA members suggested the following activities and neighborhood enhancements: Another Little Library, this one focusing on children's books;

another “Maypole” celebration; and plantings on other islands. (There’s a map of Parkwood islands—with names—on the website). Members can make additional suggestions to the beautification committee or executive committee.

### **Update on Development Projects in Kensington**

Jeff Griffith, Chair of the Development Committee, brought us up to date on the status of new development in Kensington.

Knowles Station, next to Strosniders, now has a prominent sign, “Wine & Co.” The restaurant/wine bar is slated to open in the near future. A gelato place and Verizon store will share the building.

Knowles Manor on Knowles (formerly called Kensington Manor), a rental property for low- and moderate-income seniors, has received approval from the MC Planning Board. Parking will be provided for residents at a 1:2 ratio. Jeff noted that pedestrian safety at the intersection of Connecticut and Knowles must be a focus due to the age of the residents, their likelihood to shop at Safeway and nearby businesses, and heavy traffic at the Connecticut/Knowles intersection.

The Town of Kensington has stated its support for Solera Reserve, a 5-story residence for independent living, assisted living, and memory care on Metropolitan Ave. in the location of the former Mizell Lumber property. The design will incorporate some of the old Mizell building features.

The Town of Kensington has refused to approve Kensington Storage Facility which was proposed for the site of the closed gas station at Plyers Mill and Connecticut.

Proposed Kensington projects are headed by different developers but many are represented by the same law firm.

The PRA website has additional information on proposed developments in Kensington.

There was some discussion of a State Hwy. proposal to narrow the lanes of Knowles Ave. This could slow traffic on Knowles. Several members expressed disapproval of the plan.

Jeff stated that PRA does not have a procedural mechanism empowering development committee members or PRA officers to speak for the PRA. Liz Brennan made a motion to empower the President and Vice President to speak for the PRA in testimony to the council and planning board opposing the narrowing of Knowles Ave. and to emphasize the need to improve pedestrian safety. The motion further asked that a letter be sent from the PRA to Councilmember Friedson regarding these concerns and that the Councilmember communicate these concerns to the Planning Board, County Department of Transportation, and the State Highway Commission. The motion passed with one dissenting vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Dighe, secretary



**And don't forget – the PRA Spring Meeting will be a fun afternoon of friends and family at the community garden on Wildwood. Look for the Maypole. Bring your own beverages; PRA will provide snacks and entertainment – the incomparable Wildwood Combo, led by our own Rob Howe. Sunday, June 2, 4-6**



**If you haven't paid your 2019 dues, there is still time. The registration/renewal form is attached. If you are not sure, check with Paula Flicker, our PRA Membership Chair.**

## Photo Gallery-III

### More from paper airplane day at St. Paul's Park



*I am sure this will fly, don't you agree?*



*Up and away! Go!!!*

### **PRA Executive Committee: Officers, Committee Chairs, and Other EC Members**

#### **Officers**

President	Kira Lueders	301-564-0263	kklarl@yahoo.com
Vice President	Jeff 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
Development	Jeff Griffith	301-633-4512	jeff@jandjgriffith.com
Membership	Paula Flicker	301-897-3869	pftoo@mindspring.com
Welcoming	Vacant		

#### **Other EC Members**

Listserv Admins	Chris Dewey		cdpwd@yahoo.com
	Alex Clark		aclark@aclark.net
Newsletter Editor	Jeff Griffith	301-633-4512	jeff@jandjgriffith.com
Webmaster	Alex Clark		aclark@aclark.net
MCCF Delegates	Kira Lueders	301-564-0263	kklarl@yahoo.com
	Jeff Griffith	301-633-4512	jeff@jandjgriffith.com
	Gail Condrey	240-888-2901	gaildalferes@yahoo.com
Past President	Bailey Condrey	571-213-2729	condreybailey@gmail.com

## **Parkwood Residents Association – 2019 Membership/Renewal Application**

Each year the PRA makes available on our listserv a list of PRA members who have paid their dues. In past years, some members have forgotten if they paid or not, and this gives people a way to look it up. We will list names, street addresses, and email addresses. This list will only be distributed on the Parkwood listserv and not on our website. Also it's in PDF format to make it difficult for anyone to use it as an email distribution list.

If you ***do not want your name on this list*** of paid-up members, please check below, and we will list you as anonymous.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please list me as anonymous in the list of paid up members

Please print contact information for your household here:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of the PRA email listserv (check one): \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

Information on how to join the listserv is available here: [www.parkwoodresidents.org](http://www.parkwoodresidents.org)

A paper copy of the winter issue of the PRA newsletter is distributed to all Parkwood residences. The other copies during the year are delivered electronically by email. We also will post all newsletters on the PRA website and distribute them on our listserv. If you cannot receive a copy electronically and would like a printed copy, please check below, and we will mail you printed copies of the electronic newsletters.

\_\_\_\_\_ I cannot receive an electronic copy. Please mail me a copy of each newsletter (*newsletter mailing is restricted to members who do not have email addresses who are also not on the listserv*)

### **Enclosed**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Annual membership dues (\$10 per household) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donation to Beautification Committee (optional)

**Please make your check payable to: PRA or Parkwood Residents Association**

Checks can be mailed to this address:

Parkwood Residents Association  
c/o Paula Flicker, PRA Membership Secretary  
10225 Parkwood Ct.  
Kensington, MD 20895

**You can also pay using our PayPal account at <http://parkwoodresidents.org/>**

The PRA is also on Facebook: [facebook.com/groups/parkwood.residents.association](https://facebook.com/groups/parkwood.residents.association)