

Parkwood Residents Association

...working for our community...

Spring 2022 Newsletter



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- Before you leave, and when you are out and about...
- Membership Registration/Renewal Form
- With a few spring photos sprinkled throughout

In case you forgot to renew your membership or sign up anew – at \$10, still a bargain – the form and instructions are included at the end of this newsletter.

FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to the people who contributed to this edition of the newsletter: Allison Gallaway gave us an informative article about GIGS – the Gaiser Insider Guitar Studio on Antique Row, Howard Avenue (p.3). Barbara Coufal summarized the latest developments on the proposed expansion of 495/270 (p.6 and on the [PRA website](#).) And Emily Beckman provided an update on the status of Woodward High School, which the County plans to use to relieve the overcrowding at Walter Johnson (p.9).

The PRA newsletter is published three times a year and is distributed to members by email. A link to the edition on the PRA website is posted on the listserv. The editor welcomes all comments, criticisms, and suggestions for articles. [jeffgpra@gmail.com]

COMMUNITY NOTES

Impact of Climate Change

The May/June Issue of Bethesda Magazine included an article titled “Danger Ahead”, which described some of the most significant impacts of climate change in store for Montgomery County (pp 158-164). Not unexpectedly, the most serious will be hotter days and heavier and more frequent rain.

The [County’s] Climate Action Plan, which describes predicted impacts of climate change lays out a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, says extreme heat may pose the most severe local threat to health and the environment. If ambitious efforts in Montgomery County, and elsewhere fall short, the county is slated to experience a [dramatic] increase in 95-plus degree days...” (p.160).

Using a baseline of 1950-2005, which had four 95+ degree days on average per year, the plan predicts 12 such days by 2035, 16-19 such days by 2050, and 28-32 such days by 2100. The 2018 National Climate Assessment predicts that the average increase in temperatures in the Northeast by 2050 will be 5.1 degrees.

Storms and stormwater will also pose grave risks.

The [County’s] stormwater management system has limited adaptive capacity, particularly as storms become more intense in the future, and the existing system is under designed....During the generation since much of the system was built, the county’s growth has resulted in the construction of larger homes and an increase in impervious surfaces, from which water runs off rather than being absorbed....the county is barely meeting investment needs for maintaining existing infrastructure, let alone future risks. (p.164)

For more on the County’s plan for dealing with these impacts, see the [County Action Plan and 2021-2022 Workplan](#) on the PRA website.

Parkwood’s Hot Housing Market

If you think prices are going up and houses are selling quickly, you are right. The March/April 2022 issue of Bethesda Magazine had the following data about our two zip codes.

20814	2017	2021
Homes Sold	8	13
Avg Sale Price	\$693,050	\$1,015,538
Avg Days on Market	43	10
20895	2017	2021
Homes Sold	22	27
Avg Sale Price	\$719,409	\$928,071
Avg Days on Market	42	9

As one resident noted recently, “I could not afford my own home now, and, sadly, neither could my children.

See [this page on the PRA website](#) for more about apartment projects, some intended to be moderately priced, that have recently been built or are proposed in the Town of Kensington.

Juneteenth

The Town of Kensington will hold its first annual [celebration of Juneteenth](#) on Saturday, June 18, from 12:00-4:00 in St. Paul Park, on St Paul Street and Plyers Mill Road. Juneteenth is an annual holiday celebrating the date when some of the last enslaved people in the Confederacy were notified of their freedom following the Civil War. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: PARKWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer

Paula Flicker, Membership Chair, and I have entered all the people paying dues so far this year into our database. Before the COVID pandemic, volunteers would deliver the winter newsletter with an envelope addressed to the PRA Membership Chair and a membership renewal form that residents could mail in with their checks. But we stopped doing this after 2020 when we switched to an all-digital newsletter, and we have depended instead on listserv reminders to encourage PRA members to either use PayPal or mail checks to pay the annual \$10 annual dues and optionally to make donations to our beautification committee. Those funds allow us to plant and maintain flowers, shrubs, and trees in the public areas of Parkwood. The County mows the grass but doesn't do much else. Beautification funds also pay to install and refill dispensers of plastic bags for dog waste that volunteers maintain throughout the neighborhood and in the past have paid for a bench and little library at the Wildwood Garden, to repaint Parkwood signs at the entrances to our community and to plant daffodils throughout Parkwood, one of the few flowers that are immune to our hungry deer.

Total receipts of dues payments and beautification donations to date for 2022 are \$5595, which is less than the \$7683 currently budgeted to cover PRA expenses for 2022. This includes \$1760 in dues payments from 176 members and \$3835 in beautification donations. In prior years about 330 or so Parkwood residents have paid dues, so we are currently under usual membership levels. If you have not paid the \$10 annual dues yet and would like to, information is available on the PRA website at this [link](#). The 2022 PRA membership form is included in this newsletter, and you can print this and mail it with your check to Paula Flicker at the address on the form. Alternatively, you can use a credit card and our PayPal account.

Thanks, everyone, for your support of your organization.

PROPOSAL FOR A SERIES ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Jeff Griffith, Newsletter Editor

The article about the GIGS music studio that follows is the first of a *proposed* series on local businesses. The purpose of the series is to enable residents to share their own experiences and opinions about neighborhood businesses with other PRA members.

There are, of course, other sources to get some of this information. The PRA listserv is a great place to quickly get recommendations about where to find some product or service. But the recommendations, while often helpful and timely, are usually brief ("We have used XX for many years and they are very reliable."). They do not normally convey other information that could be useful to the person asking the question, e.g., why do you like this company, how were they especially helpful? The Town of Kensington does periodically publish lists of businesses, e.g., all the gift shops on Howard Avenue, but they don't offer a basis for deciding who might be good for something particular. And, of course, most of our local businesses are too small to gain the attention of the Washington Post.

As noted above, this a *proposed* series. Some PRA members may like the idea, some may not. Some may think it appropriate for the newsletter, some may feel otherwise. Whatever your opinion, it would be helpful to hear from you about this proposal. Please send the editor your thoughts: jeffgpra@gmail.com

GIGS: Gaiser Insider Guitar Studio

Allison Gallaway

If you follow the PRA listserv, you've probably seen my regular praise of GIGS when neighbors ask for music lesson recommendations. Although GIGS is an acronym for Gaiser Insider Guitar Studio, it offers instruction in not only guitar, but also piano, drums, ukulele, and voice. We started with GIGS nearly four years ago when my son Ben expressed an interest in playing drums. We quickly discovered he actually preferred piano, and we made the switch. Ben is ten years old now and enjoys using what he has learned at GIGS to begin writing his own music.

As for myself, I'd wanted to learn to play the guitar for years. The studio manager, Olivia, works magic with schedules and figured out a way for me to take guitar lessons at the same time as Ben's piano lessons. Initially, I felt self-conscious about being an adult beginner in a studio full of kids, but I quickly got over that. One of my favorite things about GIGS is their commitment to inclusion. Sean Gaiser, GIGS's owner, believes music should be as accessible as possible. I'm consistently impressed by how much thought they put into matching students and teachers. GIGS instructors accommodate a broad spectrum of skill levels and musical preferences.

As for convenience to Parkwood, you can't beat GIGS. It's located in the Antique Row section of the Town of Kensington. Lessons are held in the afternoons and evenings during the school year. They offer summer lessons in June and July but close for the month of August. GIGS is flexible with scheduling; they even try to find make-up times when students have to miss lessons. Lessons are not a full-year commitment.

One final note: If you are the parent of a child who has ADHD, learning differences, autism, or other types of [neurodivergence](#) and are wondering about music lessons, I encourage you to contact GIGS. If you'd be more comfortable having a preliminary parent-to-parent conversation, feel free to contact me at allisongallaway@gmail.com.
Website: www.gigsstudio.com
Email: gigsstudio@gmail.com
Phone: 301.466.1358

[Editor's note: Articles from residents about other music studios are invited and will be published in the next edition of the newsletter, subject to light-handed editing as needed.]

COMMUNITY ISSUES—June 2022

Jeff Griffith, Editor

This is the June update on the issues and activities in 2022 that could have a significant impact on the Parkwood community. As information about major developments becomes available, I will update the [Current Issues page on the PRA Website](#) and post brief summaries on the listserv as warranted.

In accordance with the PRA Listserv Guidelines, the purpose will be to **provide residents with information** about these issues and activities without taking a pro or con stand. Suggestions regarding items to be included will be most welcome.

The links on each major heading are to the full PRA website page on that topic. Links under headings are to more detailed information, background, and status on the specific issue.

DEVELOPMENT

Crossroads of Kensington. On May 19, 2022, the Planning Board approved the proposed retail development at the corner of Connecticut Ave. and Plyers Mill Rd. with the condition that the State Highway Administration examine the issue of access from the site onto Metropolitan Ave., especially for traffic intending to then turn left from Metropolitan Ave. onto Plyers Mill. See [PRA website for more details](#).

Summit Avenue Extension. May 19, 2022: The County Council approved funding in the 2023 Capital Improvements Project budget for this proposed shortcut from Summit Ave. to Connecticut Ave. Design work is scheduled for FY27 with completion of the project by FY31.

Noyes Children's Library. Councilmember Friedson reported that the Noyes Library for Young Children Rehabilitation and Renovation project is "...finally fully funded, and thanks to our state partners and a significant county commitment, construction is scheduled to begin this fiscal year." See [Noyes Children's Library Foundation](#) for details.

ELECTIONS 2022

[A new page on the PRA website](#) now lists candidates for the following offices: County

Council District 4 (Parkwood's district), At-Large County Councilmembers, County Executive, Board of Education, and Parkwood's District 18 in the state legislature.

If you have a Maryland driver's license or MVA-issued ID card you can request a mail-in ballot [here](#).

The primaries will be held on July 19. The general election will be held on November 8.

For the Board of Education (BoE), 4 of the 7 seats are being contested. Current law allows County voters to vote for a candidate in every district, regardless of the district the candidate will represent.

The list of **all** candidates running for **all** Maryland federal, state, and county offices can be found [here](#).

ENVIRONMENT

County Actions. The County published its [third quarter \(3Q\) 2022 update](#) to its Climate Action Work Plan. Highlights include the latest on clean energy generation, building construction codes, transportation, carbon sequestration, climate adaption (e.g., enhance storm water management), and climate governance.

On May 2, County Executive Marc Elrich signed the Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS) legislation (Bill 16-21) into law. The new law expands the number of buildings covered by the County's existing Benchmarking Law to include additional County-owned, commercial, and multifamily buildings, establishes long-term standards for those buildings, and requires the use of less energy.

State Actions. In its recently concluded legislative session, the General Assembly passed, and the governor signed the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. **The law will require the state to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent by 2031 and reach net zero emissions by 2045.** [See details here.](#)

POLITICS AND POLICIES

State Operating Budget. Delegate Marc Korman, member of the House of Delegates Appropriations

Committee, states that the General Assembly passed a "...robust and bipartisan budget that funds ...legislative priorities while maintaining projected surpluses through fiscal year 2027." [Details are on the PRA website here.](#)

General Assembly Actions-2022. The legislature's Department of Legislative Services has issued its [summary report of the 2022 session](#). The report contains detailed information on all legislative actions, including the budget as well as other policy matters.

County Operating Budget.

The Montgomery County Council unanimously approved a \$6.3 billion operating budget for fiscal 2023, which begins July 1, and a \$5.3 billion capital budget for fiscal years 2023 to 2028. The operating budget represents roughly a \$300 million increase over spending for fiscal 2022. [Links to more detailed information about the budget are here.](#)

SAFETY

Mail. Remember not to put mail in the blue post office collection boxes – thieves managed to get the keys and are stealing letters with checks, changing the name and amount, and cashing them.

Summer safety tips – while here or traveling. Here are [some excellent summer safety](#) tips from the PRA Safety Committee.

Stop at the Stop Signs. PRA Safety Committee Co-Chair Jill Lipton attended the recent 2nd District Police Traffic meeting. She spoke to Officer Hance, who reported that on May 10, 2022, he was stationed at the intersection of Franklin and Saul (near KPES) where he issued citations to drivers who failed to make a full stop at the Stop Sign. **He stated that many of the drivers were parents of students or staff members at KPES.**

SCHOOLS

School Safety. Because of a recent increase in violence in the schools, MCPS and the County's Police Department have signed an agreement that brings back police officers into schools in a limited form — they will not be patrolling hallways and will only have a designated space near the front office or administrative areas. [See details here.](#)

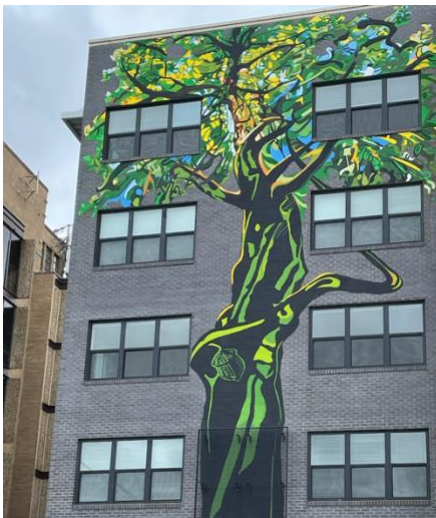
Woodward and WJ High Schools. See this update by Emily Beckman on page 9 of the newsletter and [on the PRA website](#)

THRIVE 2050

The County Council has extended from May 19 to July 18, 2022, the time needed to review and act on the Thrive Montgomery 2050 Plan. The delay will allow consideration of the effect of Thrive on racial equity and social justice.

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate highways 495 & 270. [By Barbara Coufal]. In June, MDOT is expected to release a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) on the proposed toll lanes. The US Dept. of Transportation is expected to take about 30 days or more to decide whether to approve the project. County Executive Marc Elrich, the Mayor and Council of Rockville and 88 members of the General Assembly have sent letters to the Federal Highway Administration raising concerns that the environmental review does not meet federal requirements. Also, the Maryland Dept. of Transportation confirmed on May 22 that it would not change its award of the contract to Transurban. [More details here.](#)



Mural on the Silver Creek Apartment Bldg by Nicole Bourgea. She has several murals in our area. Can you find three of them in the Town of Kensington?

GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE

Excerpts from a few of the postings on our listserv

Neighbors,

Thank you for your generosity towards our efforts to provide support to a newly arrived family of refugees through <https://www.irocenter.org/how-you-can-help>. In addition to your generous financial contributions, to date we've collected:

2 area rugs

Dresser

Kitchen table

A sleeper sofa and a matching love seat

Dishes, bowls, flatware

.....

GAIL, CLARE, BAILEY, GERALD,
KIRA AND ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
ENLIVENED THE "NATURE SPIRITS" IN
PARKWOOD THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS ON
THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE....

.....

I was so touched at the outpouring of help and support yesterday. Thank you, Tracey on Parkwood, for running to CVS for the activated charcoal. Thanks to Kristina? on Greenfield for giving me some in the meantime and other kind folks who offered to help. It means a lot to me. If you don't know about activated charcoal, it's a great thing to have in the house. I can't believe I was out. Upset stomachs, dogs who eat chocolate, onions, etc...Kindle had a rough time from whatever toxin she ate but she's doing better today. At 14.5 she's pretty amazing. We love our dear dogs.

.....

In the event "Gina" ("Jeana") lives in our neighborhood, I'd like to share my heartfelt gratitude for the return of my wallet this afternoon. I dropped it in the Container Store parking lot, and Gina dropped it at my home before I returned. Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

.....

Thank you for another stellar collective contribution for Shepherd's Table! Another fascinating assortment, covering a good number of the Wish List items combined with those sandwiches! If I didn't know better, I would think someone is coordinating it.

.....

In addition to collecting food scraps, we're now recovering food at lunch at KP. During lunch, volunteers, staff, and students drop off unopened food at the Share Table. Students are free to pick up food from the Share Table during lunch if they're interested.

At the end of lunch, we load whatever is left (it's always a LOT) into super volunteer Peihan Orestes' cooler and she distributes it to community organizations like Shepherd's Table. Last week we collected 145 yogurts!

Please reach out if you'd like to help with this project, either by volunteering at lunch or dropping off food. We're also looking for more organizations where we can drop off rescued food.

.....

When you are taking your walk, I would like to invite you to stop by 10106 Cedar Ln. and see my backyard azaleas this year. I feel I must share them.
Paul Snyder (Grandpa Paul)

.....

Thank you all for your continued generosity. The collective donations of people in the region have allowed St. Andrew's Ukrainian Orthodox Church to send 30 TONS of food and supplies to Ukraine, just this week!!! Thank you, thank you for your contributions.

.....



KPES made a visual affirmation of the need for world peace



And walkers on Parkwood Drive were encouraged to "relax" and "loosen up".



Along a neighbor's fence



...and in the Saul Road Garden

AND 20 Years Ago.

From the PRA Newsletter, Spring 2002

KPES. “As most Parkwood residents know, Kensington Parkwood Elementary School is a 50-year-old school that badly needs to be renovated and updated. KP was scheduled to be "modernized" during the 2002-2003 school year. However, the County Executive has recommended that the modernization of KP be delayed until January 2006 due to overall weakness in the economy. The school PTA has been lobbying the County Council and School Board to have the modernization completed as soon as possible. A "new" school, which may include a gym, will be an asset for Parkwood and the entire Kensington community. Parkwood residents are invited to write to the County Council and the School Board if they would like to express support for the modernization.”

Gym in the HOC Building. “For the past several months the Kensington Gazette has been faithfully reporting the community discussions regarding the gym at the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) which is currently housed in the old Kensington Elementary School. Up until 1998, the gym was used for recreational basketball through the Department of Recreation. For a variety of reasons, including perceived underutilization, the gym was closed and is currently being used by the HOC for file storage. [Ed. Note. Thanks to Del. Al Carr and to Liz Brennan, who was PRA President 20 years ago, we now have access to the gym.]

Kensington Residents Form Coalition.

“In response to mounting frustration regarding quality-of-life issues, area residents have formed an umbrella organization to work together to address common areas of concern. The Coalition of Kensington Communities (CKC) is a unified body of area civic associations and townships founded to enhance the quality of life in the Kensington community. Towards this end the group will work with local government to address issues of urban design, recreation, transportation, pedestrian accessibility, and economic growth affecting greater Kensington. The CKC held its first meeting in January (2022) at the Kensington Firehouse, and PRA was represented by several residents.”

WOODWARD UPDATE

Emily Beckman, Westbrook Lane

(Ed. Note: Because the population at Walter Johnson High School, the public school for Parkwood students, exceeds its designed capacity, the County is reactivating the former Woodward High School to deal with the overcrowding.)

As you may have seen while driving on Old Georgetown Road, construction has begun at the Woodward High School property. The Woodward construction project has been broken up into two “Phases.” Phase I, currently underway, involves construction of the main school building, but without a theater and auxiliary gym.

After completion of Phase I, the new building is expected to be used as a holding school for Northwood High School while Phase II construction continues at Woodward and while major renovations are completed at the Northwood High School site on University Boulevard. The Northwood occupancy of the Woodward site is planned for 2 years.

Phase II construction plans for Woodward include the theater, auxiliary gym, and the playing fields and sports stadium. Phase II construction plans were recently approved by the Board of Education. It therefore appears that Woodward is on track to open as a new area high school in the fall of 2026.

Construction of Woodward and Northwood at the same time, allowing for Woodward to re-open as a high school in fall 2026, will be costly. Advocacy may be needed in the future to keep the project on schedule and ensure that the facility is comparable to all other Montgomery County high schools. In addition, the Phase II plans require the County Executive to deed over a small slice of county land to MCPS. Any delay in that transfer of land could jeopardize the opening date or the field facilities at the new Woodward High School.

No decision yet has been made regarding the catchment area for a re-opened Woodward High School. The process for drawing such boundaries would be expected to start approximately 18 months before the school is scheduled to re-open.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

Gail Dalferes and Bailey Condrey

She is a computer manager, a designer, a gardener/landscaper, a political activist, and humanitarian. She has never seen a tree she didn’t love. (Well, maybe just a couple). He is a passionate environmentalist who isn’t going to stop until we get things right and save the planet. Meet our dedicated green neighbors, Bailey Condrey and Gail Dalferes, who live on Parkwood Drive.



Gail bought “...that little Cape Cod on the hill...”, as she refers to it, in 1992. She was the child of military parents who were stationed in several different places, including the Philippines when she was 3-5 years old. Her family returned Maryland, first to Camp Springs, moving later to Fort Washington when Gail was 9. After graduating from the University of Maryland at College Park, she lived with a couple of friends on Old Georgetown Road. When some of them got married and moved away, Gail came to Parkwood.

After five years living solo, traveling for work and pleasure, and strengthening a passion for photography, she added to her family, first Kodiak, then Chaise, each a mixed-breed lab rescue dog. They eventually tore up everything green in her backyard, creating a dust bowl. Fortunately, Gail’s life-long friend, Patti, who married Bob, Bailey’s college roommate, recommended contacting Bailey, who had experience in landscaping and might be interested in helping with her yard. “Only on weekends, and only for special people”, was his reply. So, in 2003, Bailey began coming up from Virginia (we’ll get back to why he was there later)

on Saturdays and Sundays, first to repair and then to build a beautifully landscaped yard. It took two years, working together, hauling rocks and stones, and doing all the hard labor as a team. By 2005, it was clear to them that they were meant to be together. So, they got married. (It had the extra benefit of cutting down on Bailey's commute from Virginia).

At Maryland, Gail had studied computer science, then got a master's degree in engineering management from George Washington University. After a short time working as a consultant developer/trainer for government contracts, she took a job as a systems analyst at the Gannett newspaper and media company. "I began my career at Gannett working on the advertising billing system run on a system 38 (a mid-range computer) written in COBAL. My work included business analysis and software coding, testing, and implementation. I then transitioned to managing the business application support team and service desk software deployed across Gannett's 100+ U.S. based newspaper and broadcast locations." She worked there for 24 years. When the newspaper side of the company was split off from the media side, they "unceremoniously" eliminated her position – on the day before her birthday.

But she had great skills and was in demand as an IT contractor, finally settling in with Octo Consulting, working for the National Cancer Institute (NCI) at NIH. She loves the work and the Institute. Because of COVID she has worked from home since 2020 and is still able to work remotely.

Back in 2017, Gail and Bailey were able to complete a renovation to their home on Parkwood requiring fast paced decisions on layouts, finishes and designs that gave Gail the good fortune of rediscovering her artistic skills. The right side of her brain kicked in and almost on a whim, she applied for and got a job working part time as a designer at Pottery Barn. She found that she had a knack for working directly with clients on room layouts and home renovations, to the point where she consistently recorded the highest sales per hour in the region. Not bad for a left-brained computer geek.

One other note that tells you a great deal about Gail is her work for the Nyumbani children's home. (Nyumbani means "home" in Swahili.) Located in Nairobi, Kenya, it was started in 1992 to support the needs of children and families infected and affected by the HIV-AIDS pandemic. Gail got involved initially because of her dad, who was on the U.S. board for nine years, two of which as board president. Because of his work experience as a lawyer, in the military and as a defense contractor, he was instrumental in formalizing the organization's board structure in the U.S. and establishing awareness and support from USAID. After he stepped down, Gail was asked to serve on the board. She chaired their fund-raising gala for six years, with Bailey supplying a large dose of in-kind support. She then became president for several years before working on the communications committee responsible for the website and regular donor outreach, establishing a global communications team with the boards in the U.K., Italy, Spain, and Kenya to reimagine support because of the COVID pandemic. It was a deeply rewarding experience, one she remains passionate to support since moving to the emeritus board in 2021.

Meanwhile, what about landscaper-par-excellence Bailey? Remember he was living in Virginia when this story started. Bailey was born in Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy, where, according to him "...the history that is taught is morphed in one particular direction", and not a good one in his opinion.

In 1965, when Bailey was six, his dad, a WWII Navy vet who worked for the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company, was transferred to Virginia Beach. "It was an incredible place, truly a garden of Eden. We were gregarious kids growing up in an outdoor paradise where our home was on a freshwater lake which had been created by a dam on a former estuary. So, we had fresh water on one side and salt water on the other side. When we got tired of fishing for freshwater fish, we went to the other side and fished for saltwater fish. For a lot of us kids, taking the fish home was part of feeding the family. We ate fish all the time, so much of the time that my mother would institute moratoriums on fish for a while."

His love of the water led him to help sail the HMS Rose, the tall ship that appears in the movie “Master and Commander”, from NYC to Washington, DC, and from Nantes, France to San Sebastian, Spain. Both journeys he would repeat.

After high school, Bailey went to Duke because he fell in love with the Gothic campus, liked their basketball team, and was pre-med. “That was a bad decision because I was just not cut out for the chemistry side of the equation.” He graduated instead with a B.S. in psychology, but he was still interested in doing something in the medical field. So, he became an EKG technician.

In his first week out of college, he sprained his ankle badly playing basketball. Even though the doctor put him in a cast for six weeks, he was still focused on getting a job. He found out that the Duke Medical Center was hiring EKG technicians. Since it was not far from where he was living, and he had a sturdy pair of crutches, which he made blister-causing-free, he walked to the hospital. He strapped his books and papers to the crutches and hoofed it to the center, where he met with some of the nurses. Nobody said anything about the crutches. 2-3 days later he had another interview. When somebody asked why he was so sweaty when he walked in the door the second time, he replied “Because I walked here. I don’t have a car. I do have a bike, but it is hard to ride with a cast, and it is not very far.” At his 3rd interview, this time with the head of program, she said “You did it again - you came to work again on crutches. That’s it, you get the job.” Those who know the dogged determination with which Bailey approaches everything he does will not be surprised by this story.

The EKG program had good training and was intellectually stimulating. Staff had to understand the electro-conductivity of the heart to understand what creates arrhythmias. The work was based on remote telemetry. Each staff person sat at a bank of monitors and was responsible for 10 patients. Each of these patients had cardiac conditions, related to their lungs or heart. The job was to note any aberrant heart beats, make a note and record it, then give it to the doctor to evaluate and add it to the patient’s file. After that job, he moved on to become an anesthesia technician in cardiothoracic

anesthesia, where he assisted with open heart surgery every day and attended to the anesthesiologists’ and nurse anesthetists’ needs in the other ORs.

Eventually, however, Bailey decided that “...maybe journalism was the place for me. So, I left Duke medical center and applied to Virginia Commonwealth University and got in as a resident, after a fight about my residency. I had my own news radio show as an intern at a classical radio station. I did a documentary on drug use and how addiction is tied to socio-economic conditions. I was also a weekend assignment editor at an NBC affiliate in Richmond for several months. Following graduation, I was a substitute teacher, model, bartender, and studio camera man for a Northern Virginia station that covered the General Assembly. I was behind the camera quite often when governors and senators and others were interviewed.”

During that time, a friend called Bailey to tell him about a PR job with a plastics industry task force in Washington called the Council for Solid Waste Solutions. It was supposed to be an environmental task force for the industry. “And what it became was a plastics industry ‘save their asses through advertising’ task force.” Nevertheless, according to Bailey, they did a good job getting curbside plastics recycling established across the U.S., setting up technology for the process and making it profitable for industries handling second-hand materials. “But it was grossly insufficient compared to what they could have done. They could have orchestrated programs around the world to keep people from throwing plastics on the ground and they have not.”

He was with the task force for nine years. He directed technical communications for two and then led their national multi-media advertising campaign which included directing the creation of new television and print ads. They won a David Ogilvy Gold Medal award for effectiveness and impact on public opinion. Given Bailey’s commitment to the environment, it is somewhat ironic that he helped the industry “buck” the bans that were coming their way in 1991-92. “To do this the industry spent millions of dollars on research & development, and technology transfer which helped forestall bans on polystyrene, certain films and other ‘nuisance’ plastics for 30 years.”

Nevertheless, he was vocal about what they needed to do. For example, they had a technical research program in Chehalis, WA, that was converting hard-to-recycle plastics back to liquids. For multi-material and durables plastics, they were seeing success breaking them back to liquids and then pellets. The next step was new products. They started on that in the '90s, but they scrapped it because "...the guys from Exxon Mobil said they did not want to be in the recycling business. They knew it was possible, but it was killed internally by people who wanted to keep on making virgin plastics. That left a pretty sour taste in my mouth."

"So eventually I was asked to move along." For a while he worked at National Geographic.com, "a great place. We created internal web sites for advertisers within the NG domain with sponsor content that often hosted contests to win trips around the world with NG experts. I managed that program. There were several teams that put the content together and got the clearances, etc." But in 2003 National Geographic was struggling because of 9/11. Revenues were not coming in. They brought in outsiders to do a reorg, and they let a lot of staff go, especially within advertising, which is where Bailey was working.

After his time at National Geographic, Bailey did PR stints at several other organizations. These included the Methanol Institute - methanol was regarded as an up-and-coming fuel for fuel cells because it has the highest number of hydrogen atoms per carbon atom. Then he worked at the Oxygenated Fuels Association, fighting bans on methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE). A final stint was with the Formaldehyde Institute. The big issue for the institute was trying to argue that the formaldehyde in the trailers that were provided to people after the twin hurricanes hit New Orleans and Texas was not really causing the health problems they were seeing. A tough, if not impossible argument to make.

"So, I have had heavy industry experience in communicating messages and helping them 'snow' people, i.e., inform people of their position."

Throughout this time, Bailey had started "meddling with landscaping." While working in his PR jobs during the week, he did landscape jobs on the

weekends. He built "...all kinds of things around the region – Leesburg, Mt. Vernon, and over in Vienna."

And now we are back to Gail and Bailey together. It was about this time in 2003 that Gail and Bailey connected to re-build her backyard. It took them two years of weekends to complete the work. Bailey says, "It became a labor of love, and I was trying to impress her. The weight of all the materials in the job, multiplied by the number of times they had to be lifted to reach the backyard comes to 1,500,000 pounds." So of course, they got married.

When Bailey moved into Gail's house, many of his friends in Virginia considered it "...a crazy move. You are going where? To the socialistic state of Montgomery? I said maybe they will have better local government than we do."

But it has all been good, and they love living in Parkwood. In 2006 Bailey and Gail joined the PRA and have been involved ever since. Bailey became President in 2008, succeeding Kira Lueders, and Gail became Chair of the Beautification Committee in the same year.

At about this time they also became involved with the proposed Sector Plan for Kensington and vicinity. From Gail's perspective, the initial ideas were not good for Kensington. "They wanted to do to Kensington what has since been done to Bethesda – higher density buildings to bring in more taxes. But Bethesda is different – it has the Metro – while Kensington has the MARC train moving 300-400 people a day by comparison. To understand the plan, I had to learn about land use and zoning policy, and local politics." As a founding member of the Committee to Save Kensington, which included members from the town of Kensington as well as several residents associations in the area, Gail would often provide written and oral testimony at Montgomery County Council hearings and Town of Kensington meetings.

"The main things that got attention were impacts to the school zones and traffic ...working as volunteers we had to educate ourselves and our neighbors one issue at a time in a seemingly never-ending barrage of proposed changes while the

developers relied on paid lawyers. As a result, in part because of our community's involvement, density was eventually reduced and there were some wins for the residents."

During those battles and afterward, they devoted many hours to Parkwood activities, especially the gardens. After several terms as PRA president, and later as an officer and then president of the Montgomery County Civic Federation, Bailey took on the work of maintaining all PRA gardens, working meticulously for many hours beyond what he was paid. And until just this year, Gail chaired the Beautification Committee. Together they were dedicated to ensuring that our community gardens were built sustainably and using native perennials.

And now they are moving on - not leaving Parkwood, which is good thing for us – but moving on to other activities. Bailey is now a landscaper working full time for the Pineapple Landscaping Company, a growing organization that has recently opened a second office in Bethesda. He will no longer be the maintainer-in-chief of our gardens, nor she responsible for PRA beautification.

Even so, they will continue to advocate for numerous policies that are essential to our community and our county if we are to *stay* beautiful and environmentally healthy. They will keep lobbying for better storm water management, the need to protect our trees, and against the dangers of synthetic turf, to name just a few issues they champion.

We thank them for all their service to Parkwood in the past and look forward to learning all the good things they will be doing in the future...



...in addition to traveling, which they love to do.

Before you leave...

- You might want to take a look at the minutes of the Winter and Spring meetings on the PRA website:

[Winter meeting minutes](#)

[Spring meeting minutes](#)

- And here is the link to the PRA [officers and committee chairs](#), with contact info, elected to serve for the 2022-2024 term.

And when you are out and about...

You might just want to take a walk to see the new mural that Nicole Bourgea did for the Kensington Book Shop at the start of Antique Row on Howard Ave.



Unfortunately, it's too late to see these flowers in the woods along Rock Creek...maybe next spring.



And if you missed this wonderful story walk in the Clum-Kennedy Park (it closed June 5), don't worry, there will be more.

The Noyes Children's Library Foundation presented *Dumplings for Lili* by Melissa Iwai as its 13th free **Noyes Story Walk**. Families were invited to read the bilingual picture book on posted signs at [Clum-Kennedy Park](#) at 10298 Frederick Avenue, Kensington, MD 20895, from May 7 – June 5, 2022. This Story Walk was presented in partnership with the Town of Kensington in celebration of [Asian Pacific American Heritage Month](#) and [Older Americans Month](#).



Parkwood Residents Association – 2022 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.

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 people in your household age 18 and older, who, per our bylaws, are eligible and may wish to vote at PRA meetings.** (If more than two, please list at the bottom of the page.)

Name-1: _____ email address: _____

Name-2: _____ email address: _____

Residence Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

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

[Information on how to join the listserv is available here.](#)

Copies of the PRA newsletter are sent by email to members for whom we have email addresses. We also 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

Please mail checks and this renewal/registration 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/>

[If you use PayPal, please add in the note field your address and the names of adult residents in your home with email addresses if you want them to vote in PRA elections, and let us know if you want to remain anonymous.](#)

** Please list at least one contact, even if anonymous; listing additional adults is optional unless they will want to vote at PRA meetings.