

# Parkwood Residents Association

## ...working for our community...

### Fall 2022 Newsletter

**Next Meeting: Monday, October 17, 2022, 7:30 pm on Zoom**

#### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

**Election 2022:** November 8. See p.2 for when, where, how, and *especially why*.

**Update on Community Issues:** New housing developments; our Environment; Politics and Policies; Transportation, (I-495, etc.); Safety (scams are increasing); School; and Thrive, p. 2.

**Meet Your Neighbors:** Michael Barber, our local chef de mobile cuisine and Samuel Weeks, our ironman triathlon athlete, p.5.

**Community Notes:** Lots of fun stuff happened this fall! The Labor Day parade, MAA Art Show, the annual Train Show, Opera in the Park, and the K-Town 8K Race. See the photos and checkout our first time ever video and audio in the PRA newsletter, p. 8.

**20 Years Ago:** A blast from the past. The tale of the (could have been) nasty bioterrorism lab, p.11.

**Good Things Happen Here:** They certainly do...here are a few examples from our listserv, p.12.

#### PRA FALL MEETING

The topic of the **FALL Meeting** of the Parkwood Residents Association is **THRIVE 2050**. The meeting will be held on Zoom on **Monday, October 17** at 7:30 p.m.

The purpose of this meeting is to learn more about Thrive, to understand it better, and to hear residents' concerns. It is intended to shed light, not heat. We will be joined by several people who are knowledgeable about Thrive and have offered to share some of their understanding. [For more information, see this page on the PRA website.](#)

**To join this meeting, please send an email message to Jeff Griffith, PRA Vice President at [jeffgpra@gmail.com](mailto:jeffgpra@gmail.com)** He will send you the Zoom invite and information on how to link up.



*We're back!!  
Check out the [video of the train show](#) and [listen to the beautiful Flower Duet](#) sung by these ladies at "Opera in the [Warner] Park.*



## 2022 GENERAL ELECTION

GENERAL ELECTION 2022: Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 7am - 8pm

EARLY VOTING: October 27–November 3, 2022, 7am - 8pm

VOTE BY MAIL: Now through November 8, 2022  
([See this site to request a ballot by November 4](#))

All elections are important. The 2022 Election is especially important for Montgomery County. In the next four years, the County Executive and the County Council will be dealing with major issues, including actions to address climate change and improve storm water management; zoning changes that could result from the possible approval of the Thrive 2050 General Plan; legislative and regulatory enactments to encourage economic growth, which has been anemic for the past several years; the potential impact and cost if the plan to expand I-495 is approved; and significant proposed housing and road developments within a mile of Parkwood. And while the Council does not directly manage the County school system, it does approve its budget.

Here are two sources of information about the candidates and their views compiled by two independent and objective organizations. There are others, of course, but over time, these two have proven themselves relatively thorough and balanced, to the extent any organization can be totally objective.

[League of Women Voters' Guide](#)  
[Bethesda Beat Voters Guide](#)

PLEASE VOTE. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT OUR REPRESENTATIVES KNOW THAT WE CARE, THAT WE ARE WATCHING, AND THAT WE WILL BE WATCHING FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS.

## COMMUNITY ISSUES–FALL 2022

*Jeff Griffith, Editor*

This is the FALL 2022 update on the issues and activities 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 are 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 PROJECTS

[Two new buildings](#) are being proposed for the northwest corner of Summit Avenue and Knowles Avenue. The basic design of the project is for two five-story buildings, one on each lot, and totally residential. There will be 75-100 units, with a split of 1 and 2 bedrooms, with numbers of each to be determined by the level of interest.

According to several reliable sources, the **BCTGM building** located at the SE corner of Connecticut



Avenue and Knowles Avenue and which houses the union representing workers in the baking, confectionery, tobacco and grain milling industries has been sold and is likely to be redeveloped. No further details are available yet.

## ENVIRONMENT

Montgomery County has released its first [Climate Action Plan Annual Report](#), a work plan detailing Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) accomplishments and Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) plans to combat climate change. The report highlights 75 accomplishments in the first year since the plan was released in June 2021. See a [summary of the highlights here](#).

The County Council passed legislation requiring the county Office of Legislative Oversight to prepare a **climate impact assessment for proposed bills** starting in January. The bill also calls for the Montgomery County Planning Board and Planning Department to conduct climate assessments for zoning text amendments and master plans beginning March 1. [See Bethesda Beat July 12, 2022](#).

A **ban on gas powered leaf blowers** has been introduced in the County Council but has not yet been enacted. [At a hearing in September](#), [Councilmembers](#) heard from proponents who say it's needed to reduce noise and environmental impacts, and from critics who say it will hurt businesses and the farming community.

Montgomery has developed a [new website that provides information about frequently flooded roads](#), steps residents can take to prepare for potential flooding, and the availability of flood insurance to all properties in the county. The County is seeking assistance from community members to help identify flood-prone areas. The new website includes a short, confidential survey where residents can provide feedback on flooding experiences and insight.

## POLICIES AND POLITICS

*State budget surplus.* Maryland ended FY2022 with [another unanticipated budget surplus](#). This year some of that windfall will automatically be redirected to state savings accounts, school construction programs, and state employee wage increases.

State [Senate President Bill Ferguson offered a preview of the issues lawmakers are likely to focus on](#) when the General Assembly convenes four months from now. He identified mental health, transportation and workforce development as likely

priorities. He also said the new wave of state leaders need to pay careful attention to the learning and social deficits experienced by children because of the pandemic.

## TRANSPORTATION

495/270. In August, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved the environmental study for the toll lanes project prepared by the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). See its [Record of Decision](#) (ROD). There are other requirements to be met including permits from the Army Corps of Engineers and resolution of a lawsuit brought by one of the losing bidders. The final step is that the Board of Public Works will need to approve the projects' proposed 50-year contract before term-limited Governor Hogan leaves office in January. Otherwise, a new governor could block, change or slow the toll lanes plan.

*Bike Lanes.* The recently painted lime-green bike lanes at the intersection of Woodmont and Bethesda avenues in downtown Bethesda are part of the County's [Bicycle Master Plan](#), approved by the County Council in 2018. According to the planning department's website, the goal is to transform the county into a world-class bicycling community.

*Pedestrian Master Plan.* The County's Planning Department has introduced [part of a draft Pedestrian Master plan](#). See the plan's [four main goals here](#). It could, if implemented, change the parking rate structure for residents countywide, implement infrastructure like raised crosswalks at intersections, or lead to new laws to help ensure more snow is cleared, among others. A final vote on the entire plan — which will include more information about the plan's overall goals, data collection and other information — won't occur at the Planning Board until 2023.

## SAFETY

[Police Accountability Board.](#) In accordance with Maryland House Bill (HB670) passed during the last legislative session, the County Council established and approved the appointment this past summer of nine members to the Police Accountability Board [PAB]. Three of five members have been appointed to the Administrative Charging Committee ACC; the remaining two are

expected to be appointed in the Fall, 2022. [See staff report here.](#)

[Scams.](#) From the PRA Safety Committee (Jill Lipton and Gabrielle Prandoni.)

**Malvertising:** Quoting from an [article in the Washington Post](#) (September 16, 2022) "Add one more to the list of online places bad guys are hiding: the very top of search results. Nasty scams and malware are preying on your trust by hiding behind the ads that sit on top of search pages. Google, Duck Duck-Go, and Bing are being paid to put them in front of us, and they haven't figured out how to stop it. It's called "Malvertising" and if you're not vigilant at spotting it, you could get burned."

**Telephone Scams.** Over the last several weeks, some Montgomery County residents have received calls from a person stating that he/she is a Montgomery County Police (MCP) Officer. The scammer has "spoofed" (disguised) their number to make it appear that the call is coming from a Police Station. Usually the impersonating "officer" states that the resident must make a payment – for a bond, warrant, missed court hearing, or fine. The scammer instructs the resident to send money through a wire transfer, pre-paid cards, or internet transaction. It is important to remember that the Montgomery County Police Department will never call residents to collect payment for fines or bonds nor solicit money. If you receive this type of call, hang up and call the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000.

*Autumn Safety Tips.* See these [tips on the PRA website](#) posted by the PRA Safety Committee.

## **SCHOOLS AND THE MCPS**

*Maryland's Educational Blueprint.* According to [Maryland Matters](#), a draft to implement Maryland's multi-billion education reform plan that lawmakers approved last year is scheduled for release this fall. The comprehensive reforms focus on five areas:

- Expanding early childhood education
- Creating a diverse workforce with high-quality teachers
- Improving college and career readiness
- Providing additional resources for some students

- Maintaining accountability.

*BoE adopts sustainability plan.* The Montgomery County school board has voted unanimously to adopt an "aggressive" sustainability policy. MCPS is joining the county in its goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 80% in five years and 100% by 2035 compared to 2005 levels, according to the policy. The policy suggests decreasing greenhouse gas emissions by adjusting energy and transportation practices and considering food services as an area for waste reduction, for example, by adding compost bins. See more details in the [Bethesda Beat](#).

**MCPS staffing shortage has improved.** [See this report on the PRA website.](#)

## **THRIVE 2050**

The County Council plans to review Thrive 2050 on October 4, take a straw vote on October 11, and will likely hold a final vote on October 25. In addition to proposed changes to the current draft of the plan, the [staff report](#) for the meeting includes statements from those who favor and those who oppose adoption of Thrive. [The version of the plan the Council is reviewing can be seen here.](#)

[According to the Bethesda Beat](#), Council President Alborno acknowledged that the proposed plan isn't supported by everyone. But he added that the current council should vote on it before the Nov. 8 general election. "I do think it's important for this council to vote on it ... starting from scratch would not be advisable. We are never going to come to a perfect document, but sensible people can agree that there is more agreement than disagreement on what's in the document."

The Council appears ready to proceed despite objections from County Executive Elrich, who said that his office and the public deserve an opportunity to evaluate the consultants' recommended changes, specifically, those about preventing displacement in areas of naturally occurring affordable housing, providing more parks in communities of minorities, and more low-income housing.



## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

### *Michael Barber and Samuel Weeks*

If you have seen some of the postings on the PRA listserv about the food trucks that come to Parkwood on a weekly basis, then you have seen the name Michael Barber, our local “chef de mobile cuisine”. And if you have seen a person flash by you on the Rock Creek Trail or on Beach Drive when it is closed, then you may have seen Samuel Weeks training for his next ironman triathlon. Michael and Samuel came to Parkwood just a year ago last spring. Their journey reflects the social and economic changes that have affected all of us in the last few years.

Michael’s parents are from England. His father is an aeronautical and mechanical engineer, skills that were in high demand in San Diego, CA, where they emigrated in 1980. Born in 1984, Michael lived there until he was two; the family then moved back to England for several years before returning to California where Michael spent the rest of his childhood. He graduated from the University of Arizona in Tucson and became a marketing consultant, first in Phoenix and then in Los Angeles.

Samuel was born right here at what was then called the Bethesda Naval Hospital, now the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. He grew up in the Clarksburg area where some of his family still live. In his own words, he is not the “academic type of person.” He wanted to work with his hands, and when he came to live in DC at 19, he became a hair stylist. He enjoyed it and became very successful, working at various places in the District. Three years ago, he joined Sense Salon on Georgia Avenue.

During the pandemic, Sense Salon had to close for three months. When it re-opened, they had to learn the best practices for themselves and their customers. They persevered and the shop has been prospering despite the challenges of Covid. Besides being an incredible salon, according to Samuel, he thinks this is also due in part to their location; many people are not going downtown as often and being in NW Washington is an advantage in terms of attracting customers.



*The first fall in Parkwood for Samuel, Michael, and Manny*

Samuel’s other passion is triathlons. He had been a runner in school and when he moved to D.C., he always commuted to work by bike. He began running marathons but found that it was more fun to participate in triathlons, which are smaller: 2,500-4,000 people compared to the 25,000-50,000 thousand who often run in marathons. And he felt it was time to push himself athletically. Although it attracts a lot of older teens and college-age kids, “...a triathlon is a sport at which you peak at a later age, so the winners are usually in their mid to late 30s, sometimes even in their 40s. That is one of the reasons I enjoy. And it is a growing sport.”

He participates at the ironman level, which means a 2.4 mile swim (3.9K), 112 mile bike (180.2K), and 26.2 mile run (42.2K). Depending on a person’s fitness level, course conditions, and the weather on race day, it can take 8-17 hours to complete all three legs. Samuel usually finishes in 10-12 hours. He has done extremely well in competition, often placing in the top ten for his age group (30-34) and frequently finishing in the top 30-50 overall.

Samuel has been doing triathlons for seven years and takes it seriously, working with a coach and a team. His typical training program includes at least 2-3 hours of training 4 times per week, and one longer day of training that can last 5-8 hours.

And as we shall see shortly, moving to a house in Parkwood has been very beneficial for his training.

But meanwhile, back to Michael in Los Angeles. How did he get here? Michael is a brand and marketing strategist. In 2017 the company he founded was acquired by one of the country's largest ad agencies. That company was headquartered in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Lancaster is, in Michael's words, "...a lovely, wonderful, small town..." but there was not much to do there on the weekend, and it is not the kind of town where Michael wanted to live permanently. Because his sister had lived in DC since 2004, he began coming here frequently. Then he met Samuel, they became a couple, and when Michael's contract at that time was up, he had to decide whether to stay with the company in Lancaster or move somewhere else.

When Michael started looking for a new company, he got to the fifth of six interviews with Facebook but did not get the job. In hindsight he says this was fortunate because it would have meant that he and Samuel would have had to move to New York City just as the city was shutting down because of the pandemic. So instead, they moved to DC, just as this city was shutting down. But it was not as bad as New York might have been, and Michael's sister and Samuel's family were here. Michael still had a few private clients who needed his help. His business continued to grow despite, or perhaps because of the pandemic, and became large enough that he is now able to work independently.

They rented an apartment in Southeast D.C., close to the airport – an advantage because Michael was still traveling a lot – but when Manny, their rescue dog joined them, they decided it was time to start looking for a bigger place with a yard. They had also realized that mortgage rates were only going to go up, so now was the time.

Their home on Amherst was the first place they saw. They looked at three others and decided they

were not going to see anything better in their price range. It was 2021 and the real estate market in Parkwood was hot! – so they could forget about contingencies. They saw the house on Sunday; they had the pre-offer inspection on Monday; they made an offer on Tuesday morning; their offer was accepted on Tuesday night. *[Ed. Note: About average for Parkwood last year; things have slowed a bit this year, but only slightly.]*

They love the house. It was owned by two NIH scientists who had been offered jobs at a Canadian university and had already moved. It had been well maintained, and there was little for them to do except the few cosmetic things that anyone does whenever they move into a new home. Michael uses a room on the side of the house as his office and works from there, except when he is traveling, a sign of the times both during and "post" Covid, a version of the new "hybrid" work pattern. And Manny loves having his own backyard.

Samuel initially had some reservations about moving out of the city, which he had always enjoyed. As he jokingly said, "I did not want to live north of East-West Highway." Also, being a same-sex married couple, they had a bit of trepidation about leaving the District, which they saw as more diverse and accepting.

But Samuel came to greatly appreciate the advantages, especially for his triathlon training. In the District, he would sometimes have to drive half an hour to get to a place where he could do his workouts. Here he can walk out the door and run or bike for miles on the Rock Creek trail north or south – and sometimes both. As for swimming, he bounces between Montgomery County Pools, Equinox Bethesda, and Equinox Tysons Corner.

And the house offers Samuel many advantages compared to an apartment, especially in the winter. "In our house, I have taken over the basement with several bikes and my setup to do indoor training. I have one bike on an electronic trainer that I spend a lot of time on, and that is hooked up to my PC; the TV is down there to entertain myself as I spend hours there on my bike." *[Like many older houses in Parkwood, the access to the basement is narrow so he is doubtful that he will ever be able to get a treadmill down there.]*

Michael also had a few reservations. He had never heard of Kensington or Parkwood before they found the house. “I really enjoyed the two and half years we spent in DC walking around Capitol Hill and the Mall and the Eastern Market. Perhaps because I was a West Coast kid. And you don’t have any heritage and history on the West Coast and then going to England and seeing buildings that are thousands of years old and suddenly you are in California and everything there was built in the last 60 years. The first time I came to D.C. I was 16, and I was in awe. And it was always fun to visit my sister.”

What worries they had were soon gone. “The Parkwood community has always been extremely welcoming. We feel like the moment people knew there were new neighbors on Amherst we felt welcomed from the very beginning. And when we were looking for a house, it was important that there be some diversity in the neighborhood. And there is diversity on this street and our immediate neighbors. We did have some concerns about leaving the city and coming to the suburbs, but we are constantly surprised how much we love being in this home and in this neighborhood.”

And about those food trucks. Michael says that “Food is my thing. It was a way for both of us to meet people and be a part of the neighborhood. It was a gateway. Food has always been a passion of mine. If I am in a new city, I am always looking for the best coffee shops, I want to eat at the places locals love. I get the benefits of getting to know the owners of the food trucks and bring some good food into the neighborhood. This is a way to bridge the gap that we had in D.C. where we could step out of the house and get some food.”

Michael credits Tamara Kucik, President of the Kensington Estates Civic Association, who started the food truck evenings (remember No Cook Thursdays?) She passed the chef’s toque and her list of vendors to Michael, who, with help from his friend, Tracy Yaklyvich on Edgefield, expanded the list considerably. He says he is “...always on the lookout for new and good trucks. I was at our niece’s dance recital and Flames and Cones was there and I invited them. And we do ask all the food trucks for recommendations. It is a small community, and they all know each other. I keep

my eyes open when we are out and about. Sometimes neighbors in Kensington or Parkwood have called and said, ‘Hey I am at this beer garden and there is a good food truck here.’”

“Tracy and I divide up the vendors as the point of contact for Parkwood. The summer is a slow time. But every food truck vendor says Parkwood is one of its best stops in the spring and fall. Timber Pizza sells close to 200 pizzas when they are here. That is their sellout point. Jared runs Silver and Sons. He loves being here and Pho Wheels – they do 60-70 meals. It does take time. There are times when I have spent 2-3 hours coordinating food trucks on a day. You have to be flexible. They are always working/always busy. Some of them take days or weeks to get back to you.”



*Honeymoon in Anguilla*

After being together for three years. Michael and Samuel were married on May 1, 2021, at the Conrad Hotel in DC. “Samuel documented our journey to engagement, and it went viral on TikTok. We were in the Washingtonian. That got the attention of a local photographer who asked if we would be interested in doing a photoshoot for the Conrad hotel because the Conrad had been open for only a year, and they did not have any information about same-sex weddings in their package on their website. Then, without Samuel knowing, I thought ‘how about if we do a surprise wedding?’ I had only 21 days to plan for this wedding with 50 of our friends and families. That went viral too.”

It was a great way to celebrate their relationship. And then they came to their home on Amherst, an event that we too celebrate. Welcome to Parkwood, Michael and Samuel!



## COMMUNITY NOTES

*We're back!!*

As the Covid restrictions eased, and it became safe(r) to get together in-person, some of our traditional events returned, starting with:

### Montgomery Art Association's "Paint the Town"

Exhibition, which included works painted on the very morning of the show's opening as well as art submitted in advance. With apologies to the artists for your editor's limited photographic skills, here are the 1st and 2nd place winners in the *Town of Kensington* category as well as a delightful painting of the town hall done the morning the show opened.



*Town Hall painted the morning of the show*

And continued that weekend with the **Kensington Labor Day Parade**.



*First Place, **Historia Est Magistra Vitae** "I wanted to create a trompe l'oeil with the Kensington Town Station as the main subject." Dora Patin*



*The Grand Marshal, who else?*



*Second Place. **The Hard Work**. "A pizza cook at Frankly Pizza inspired me once again with his artistry and grace." Paula Zeller*



*You always need a band*





*Kensington's Volunteer Fire Department – keeping us safe.*



*Gotta love those kiddies and their balloons*



*These guys are always prepared*

Then of course on the following weekend we had the annual **Train Show**, with kids and parents captivated by the trains and the songs and the stories. And take a [look at this video](#) by one of the sponsors of this event, which is now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year.

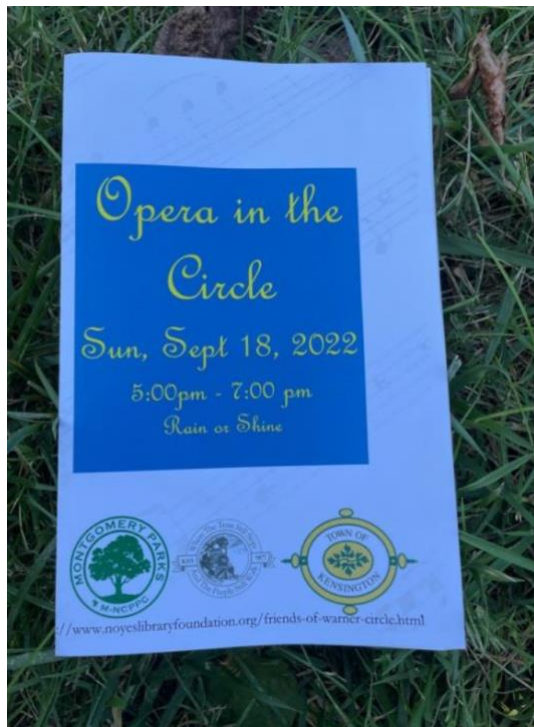




And some friendly neighbors held a **block party** on Parkwood Drive, which was closed from Franklin to the Roxbury split, so that this little guy could (safely) get into this cool bounce house.



The block party was followed the next day by **Opera in the Park**, which returned to Warner Park for an hour of beautiful music.



Just [listen to this selection](#) - the magnificent Flower Duet from the opera Lakme begins about 15 seconds into the recording.



And the month ended with the **K-Town Race** which raised \$27,000 for our local schools



And that was just September!!

## **PRA HISTORY**

### **An Excerpt from the PRA Newsletter 20 Years Ago (Fall 2002)**

*[Ed. Note: Looking over the newsletters from 20 years ago, I came across this great story from the past. For the record, I did not ask Kira if I could include it here; I figured she would object. So, I did it anyway – poetic license or something akin.]*

#### **Proposed Bioterrorism Facility at NIH**

*Kira Lueders*

I am writing this to share information which has not been widely publicized but may be of interest to the Parkwood community (my apologies to those of you who have seen this on the Listserv).

I am a long-time resident of Parkwood and also an employee of NIH. This Spring I read in the "NIH Record" a story titled "New Facilities to Bolster Anti-Bioterror Effort". The facility described is to be part of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) effort to counter emerging viruses and pathogens worldwide. The proposed six story building is to be located at the northeast corner of NIH, close to the intersection of Rockville Pike and Cedar Lane, and will include BSL-3 laboratories.

Such laboratories are used to work with biological agents that "may cause serious or potentially a lethal disease as a result of exposure by the inhalation route". Presumably this could include agents such as anthrax. Other agents that have been mentioned are the plague and smallpox. Such facilities are already available to NIH at more remote locations such as Frederick, Maryland and Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Colorado where additional facilities could also be built if necessary. Strong justification should be required to build such a facility in this densely populated area (a few miles from Parkwood) and directly across the street from a school. Apparently there has been no review of these plans either internally at NIH or by the county. According to the M-NCPPC, the county does not have plans to review the building because there is a "laboratory building" at the site on the

NIH Master Plan, and the Plan has been approved by the county.

I have attended two meetings of the NIH Community Liaison Council (CLC) as a representative of the PRA to learn more about this facility without success. The leadership of the CLC, which handles issues of concern to neighborhoods around NIH, changed in July, and the new head of the Council was not willing to discuss the facility before he had familiarized himself with the issues.

However, it is clear from my conversations with representatives of other community associations that there is a great deal of opposition to this NIH facility from the surrounding neighborhoods. The NIH Alumni Association has sent a formal resolution to Dr. Zerhouni, the new director of NIH, expressing their opposition to this facility being built. In addition to the possibility that disease organisms could escape from the facility, such a facility would also increase pressure for even more intensive security at NIH and could also make NIH more of a potential target for those who wish to do harm. I hope to get additional information about this facility at the CLC meeting in August which I can share with the community at the PRA meeting in September. I think this is an issue of importance to all of us who live in Parkwood.

*[Ed Note: Although the laboratory was eventually built on the NIH campus, Kira's efforts along with those of Parkwood resident Tom Robertson, several NIH Community Liaison Committee members, and one of Chris van Hollen's staff members, resulted in significantly improved safety and security for the building -- for which we thank her.]*

#### **The PRA**

For a list of officers, committee chairs, and their contact information, see [this page on the PRA website](#).

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## GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE

*A few selections from some of the good things reported on the PRA listserv, with mild editing to protect privacy*

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A belated THANK YOU for Shepherd's Table  
You all are amazing! I want to thank all of you who are so faithful...

Our neighborhood, teenage sandwich-making "machine" (who wants to remain anonymous) got back to work with another 100 sandwiches and sent along a huge bag full of cookies. AND, Peihan Orestes returned to Kensington-Parkwood Elementary School, collecting all the goodies the kiddos left untouched. (Lots of bagged baby carrots, I must say). I truly appreciate your continued commitment to supplying sandwiches and Wish List items to Shepherd's Table. It is quite heartening!

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*The request:* Does anyone have a booster seat I can borrow for a few hours today?

*The response:* Appreciate all the offers. I found one.

.....

*The request:* Can anyone recommend a good ophthalmologist who I might be able to see sooner rather than later?

*The response:* Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU my kind neighbors for you excellent recommendations!

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*A message from Ajay, our local ice cream guy who collects donations for kids in his native Sierra Leone.*

I hope all is well with you and your families. I'm here to express my gratitude and appreciation. Words are not enough for me to say how I feel.

You are some of the most extraordinary, supportive people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Not only is your donation an amazing help, you are all real gems. People like you are an inspiration. I

promise you that this has just fueled my desire to do more for humanity, in my capacity.

Thank you for this generous act of giving. Your donation is a gift that my family and I will cherish for the rest of our lives.

Remain blessed and safe. Best to all.

Your good friend-Ajay

[See more about Ajay in [Bethesda Magazine article](#)]

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Thanks to all who offered boxes for my daughter's upcoming move! What a wonderful community, she is all set.

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*The request:* I am collecting instruments for [Unified Efforts in Baltimore](#)

*Just one of the responses:* I would like to thank the neighbor who dropped off a beautiful full-sized acoustic guitar on my front porch yesterday.

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With our final food scrap collection last Friday, we've achieved a total of about 4800 pounds of food scraps diverted from the trash at KP for the school year. According to our food scrap hauler's impact calculator, diverting 4800 pounds is the equivalent of planting 32 trees and growing them for 10 years - a small forest!

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Just wanted to let the community know that for five years Mark Thompson has been removing the grass that grows from between the concrete on the island at Saul and Cedar.

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To all our Parkwood neighbors,

Of all the places that we have lived in the greater DC area (Rockville, Chevy Chase and Kensington Estates) Parkwood was by far the best. Thanks to all of you. The Tropeas, formerly on Everett St, now in Michigan.

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