

Parkwood Residents Association

...working for our community...

Spring 2023 Newsletter



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

- **From the Editor***: A 'thank you' to contributors to the newsletter – Joe Harkins, Mary Ellen Savarese, Kira Lueders, and Gerald Sharp.
- **Community Notes, p. 2**: *Neighbors coming and going, da' bear, Neighborhood Watch Programs, a new bench at the Parkwood triangle, the ol' Maypole, WSSC project update, house sales, the latest Noyes story walk, the PRA spring picnic, more daffodils, and finally where some of us were born.*
- **Update on Current Issues, p. 7**: *Development policies and projects, our environment, county and state politics and policies, safety in our community, schools and MCPS, transportation, Thrive and housing.*
- **Meet Your Neighbors, p. 10**: *Tracey Furman, The Mayor of Kensington. And see the photo of Parkwood's Paul Snyder at the County's celebration for centenarians, p. 13.*
- **Good Things Happen Here, p. 14**: *These notes from the PRA listserv always bring a smile.*
- An **update from our Treasurer** and the membership registration/renewal form, p. 15.
- And finally, some **photos** of the **bookfair** and the **car show**.

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

COMMUNITY NOTES...Some items of interest

Some neighbors leave and others come home.

Here are personal notes from two Parkwood families, one leaving and one coming home. They illustrate the wonderful diversity of our neighbors' lives and the joys of living in our community.

From Lisa Welsien and family, who are leaving us.

I grew up in a suburb of Boston and my husband, Kristoffer, is from a tiny island in the southern part of Denmark called Als, which is where we are moving at the end of June. When we were first married, we lived in Kenya for 4 years and then moved to Tanzania for almost 5 more years. We bought our home in Parkwood in 2016 and have been very happy here. Our children, Grace (14), Noah, (12), and Aya (9) have attended KP and NB over the years and become strongly embedded in the community through soccer, music, Girl Scouts, and church. We adopted our dog, Sita, from Lucky Dog close to 4 years ago and she is known to many families around the 'hood.

Kristoffer is a Senior Water and Sanitation Specialist with the World Bank, currently working with the governments of India and Bhutan on large-scale rural water supply solutions (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/03/28/world-bank-approves-363-million-to-improve-water-supply-to-2-million-rural-households-in-the-indian-state-of-karnataka>). I was an NYC public high school teacher many moons ago but have been working remotely as a professional online book club manager for the last 3 years after 11 years as a stay-at-home-mom. As Kristoffer has been an expat for 18 years now, we are moving to Sønderborg, Denmark to be closer to his family and give our children more exposure to their Danish heritage, language, and culture for at least the next several years. But Parkwood is a hard neighborhood to walk away from, so we will keep and rent out our home in case life brings us back this way in the future. We love our neighbors and our friends here; having lived in many different places, we know that a community like this is rare and special.

We are sure going to miss this neighborhood. Thank you!

Very best,

Lisa Welsien at 4403 Edgefield Rd.

And from Anne Dix and Danny Morse, long term Parkwood residents on Edgefield who are in Botswana but are coming home. Anne left for Botswana in August of '21. Vaccines began being dispensed early 2022 allowing more freedom of movement. Danny joined her last fall and is working in a University of Pennsylvania supported project at the University of Botswana. He is enjoying working with students from Botswana and Lesotho. Since Southern Africa has been open for business, they have enjoyed wildlife viewing in Southern Africa. Katy [their daughter] is now pursuing her PhD at Purdue and Anne's parents are living in their Kensington home, having left Guatemala on an evacuation flight in August of 2020 after more than six months of severe lockdown. They enjoy birdwatching, writing papers and gardening. Danny and Anne (and Bobby Beagle) will return home to the neighborhood sometime this fall.

Anne M. Dix, Ph.D.

Country Representative

USAID)/Botswana

A New Bench on the Parkwood Triangle. The PRA Beautification Committee installed a bench in the Parkwood Triangle, which has been set in concrete to keep it from moving around. The Committee considered several possible designs and chose a metal bench with red birds.



Maypole. The Maypole went up in the Wildwood Garden in May [that's why it is called a "May"pole] and came down at the end of the month...because it was time for June. Drove by too fast and missed it? Don't worry, you can see it next year. Same time, same place. [But drive more slowly.]



Neighborhood Watch Programs. In response to a sense of an increase in criminal activity in Parkwood, we held a follow-up meeting on the topic of Neighborhood Watch Programs [NWP] on May 23, 2023. [[Notes from the initial meeting](#) on March 29 can be found here.] The purpose of the meeting was to continue the discussion of steps we might want to take in addition to what we are already doing through the efforts of our PRA Safety Committee. The [recording of the follow-up meeting is here](#). The passcode, which it is easiest to cut and paste, is ?3+X44G4. A link to some of the questions raised and to references to additional information about NWPs is [here](#).

At the meeting we decided to survey residents regarding their views on 1) having a volunteer nighttime watch program and whether they would be willing to participate 2) paying a private company to provide such a service and whether and how much they would be willing to pay for such a service. Because we are about to enter the summer vacation season, we will conduct this survey in the fall. We also decided to find out

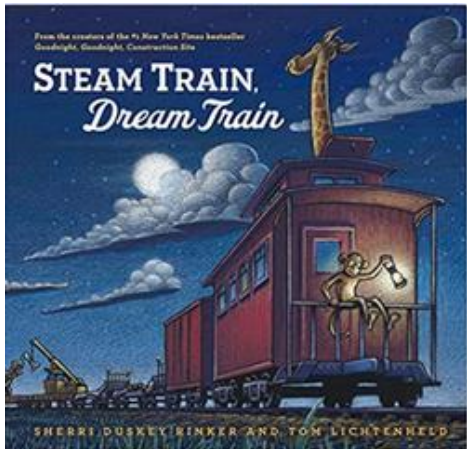
what, if anything, Chevy Chase View and the Town of Kensington do about these issues.

WSSC Water Main Replacement Projects. The WSSC will undertake two projects to replace water mains in Parkwood. The first project occurs in the 20895 section of Parkwood. It includes the streets north of Saul Rd. (but not including Saul) up to Dresden St. and Parkwood Dr. from Saul Rd. to Westbrook La. As of February 2023, the design phase of this project is completed. Construction is estimated to start in October 2023. The second project will occur in the 20814 section of Parkwood. It includes the streets south of Saul Rd. (including Saul) to Parkwood Dr. ending at Delmont Ln. As of April 2023, this project is in the design phase which is estimated to be completed in the Fall of 2024. For more details and a map of each project [see the PRA website](#).

Where were we born? Based on an engaging online exhibit entitled [The Immigrant Experience in Montgomery County, MD](#), Kira Lueders, PRA President asked Parkwood residents born outside the US to send her emails so she could list the countries we come from to make our great neighborhood the diverse place it is. Kira reported that "...the results are in, though I suspect there are many more who were just a bit shy about taking part in this poll. Those of you who responded represent 20 countries, and five of those have two residents representing them, and my own Estonia has three, little as it is. Here is the list. Thank you for taking part."

Afghanistan	Guatemala
Australia-2	Jamaica
Belgium	Jersey, Channel Islands
Chile	Kyrgyzstan-2
Colombia	Philippines
Denmark-2	Romania-2
Estonia-3	Scotland
Finland	Sweden
France	Trinidad
Germany-2	Yugoslavia
	(now Slovenia)

Noyes Library Latest StoryWalk. For its 21st free Noyes StoryWalk®, The Noyes Children's Library Foundation presents *Steam Train, Dream Train*, written by Sherri Duskey Rinker and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld.



Families can read this best-selling story on posted signs at Clum-Kennedy Park in Kensington from Wednesday, May 17 – Thursday June 15, 2023. Clum-Kennedy Park is located at 10207-10225 Kensington Pkwy, Kensington, MD. The Storywalk® is part of the celebration of [150 years of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad](#) and is presented in partnership with The Kensington Historical Society and Montgomery Preservation. More information and a full calendar of 150th Anniversary events can be found [HERE](#). The Kensington Train Station, the second oldest in Montgomery County.



up, including Jared Solomon, one of our MD General Assembly delegates, and Soona, who brought Donut, her pet rabbit. We had such a good time that we are going to do it next year...weather permitting.



Spring picnic. We had a wonderful PRA picnic this spring on the median at Wildwood and Parkwood. The weather was perfect, the Daryl Davis band was terrific, and lots of folks showed

The Daffodils of Parkwood—Hungry Deer and Now a New Enemy, the County Lawn Cutters.

By Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer and member of the PRA Beautification Committee.

Since 2008, the Beautification Committee of the Parkwood Residents Association (PRA) has been planting daffodils in our neighborhood—daffodils being one of the few flowers that the deer won't eat. The PRA started with the easement between Edgefield Road and Parkwood Drive in 2008, that we named Jonquil Lane. We planted several hundred bulbs halfway down along the path.



Jonquil Lane Path between Edgefield Road and Parkwood Drive, April 2023

I have a large auger drill bit that fits on my electric drill, and as long as I have a power source, drilling holes for the bulbs is easy. Also, I have always mowed this section of the path and can delay mowing until after the flowers bloom to give the bulbs time to regenerate. This has worked well, and the path with its dog poop dispenser has become a popular dog walking venue now.



Entrance into Parkwood at Franklin Street and Beach Drive. April 2023

We have also planted some daffodils at the entrances into Parkwood, in our main gardens, and on the median where Roxbury Drive intersects with Parkwood Drive. These areas don't have grass, so there isn't an issue with the county lawn mowers cutting down the flowers.



Circle of daffodils at Triangle Median at Parkwood Terrace & Parkwood Drive, April 2023.

In December of 2018, we planted 500 bulbs in a big circle in the middle of the grassy triangle median where Parkwood Terrace meets Parkwood Drive. And in early winter in 2020 we added bulbs in the three corners of the median. We thought this would be a good visible location where we had minimal plants, and the flowers could be cut down by the

mowers so it wouldn't increase the PRA's budget for maintaining our gardens. The problem with this plan is that we don't have control over **when** the county lawn cutters mow the grass and daffodils, and we can't prevent them from cutting down the flowers too soon after they bloom. So far, the daffys on the Triangle are surviving, but they are not doing great. The picture above is from April of this year showing the blooms in the center of the median. The county lawn cutters did mow the daffodils in April this year, hopefully long enough after they bloomed to give them enough time to regenerate, so that they will bloom again next spring.

newly planted flowers were slow to bloom, and in early April the landscaper who cuts grass along the path mowed them down on one side of the path before the flowers bloomed.



Luckily Kira Lueders was walking there at the time and was able to stop him before he mowed down all the daffodils.



Members of the Beautification Committee planting daffys on the Wildwood Road / Clearbrook Lane path last December. Right to left: Jeff Griffith, PRA Vice-President; Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer with drill for boring holes for the bulbs; Carol Roman; Kira Lueders, PRA President; and Lara Akinbani. December 2022



Top left picture: Daffodils after being mowed down on the Wildwood/Clearbrook path before they could bloom. Early April 2023. Top right and bottom pictures: Surviving daffys blooming there in late April.

The PRA Beautification Committee's latest daffodil project was planting 200 bulbs last December on the path at the end of Wildwood Road that connects it to Clearbrook Lane. As always with the daffodil planting, we looked forward to seeing them bloom the next spring, and we monitored the progress of these new plants closely this year. Compared to other daffys blooming all over Parkwood, these

Overall, the planting of daffodils by the PRA Beautification has been a success with spring here full of yellow blooms. We have solved the problem of deer eating flowers. We are working on getting the lawn cutting crews to delay cutting them down before they bloom and hopefully late enough after they bloom that they can come back again in future years.

Current Issues-Spring 2023 Update

Jeff Griffith, Editor

This is the Spring 2023 update on ongoing issues and activities that could have a significant impact on the Parkwood community. In accordance with the PRA Listserv Guidelines, the purpose is to provide residents with information about these issues and activities without taking a pro or con stand. The links on each major heading in caps are to the full PRA website page on that topic. Links under the headings are to more detailed information from various sources.

DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROJECTS

Development Policies 1) New evidence from the U.S. Census Data shows that more people are moving out of Montgomery County, and more are moving into Frederick County. This is the second year in a row that the County's population has declined. 2) There are competing bills that the Council is considering that would implement rent control to reduce the cost of housing, a controversial issue. 3) Both the County Executive and the Council have plans to increase housing. The current housing shortage is causing house prices to rise despite the rise in interest rates. The impact on sales of the recent increase in Montgomery County's recordation tax for houses selling above \$600,000 is unknown at this point.

New Projects. The Kaiser Medical Building at Summit and Knowles [10500 Summit Avenue] and its associated parking lot at Summit and Brainard [10515 Summit Avenue] will be replaced by two mixed-use commercial and residential buildings containing 60 and 40 apartments, respectively. Parking will be underground; entrance and exit will be on Brainard Street. Stormwater management will be an issue.

Projects Underway and Previously Reported. 1) An amendment to the Flats at Knowles Station has been approved by the Planning Board 2) Construction is expected to begin on the Crossroads of Kensington in the summer, 2023.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

State. One year after the Climate Solutions Now Act passed in 2022, state lawmakers focused on passing smaller climate bills, with **Offshore**

wind energy getting much of the attention. This sector is growing rapidly nationally, and Gov. Wes Moore (D) traveled to an industrial development in Baltimore County in May to sign a bill that could expand this industry in Maryland. *Maryland Matters* summarized some of the other bills that will soon take effect. These include legislation dealing with electric trucks, EV charging stations, EVs use of HOV lanes, state forests, community solar, and waste and recycling. One bill, the Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act, would encourage the installation of EV charging stations in multifamily dwellings in underserved communities, while the other bill would allow drivers of EV's to use high-occupancy-vehicle lanes on state highways and interstates, regardless of how many passengers are in the vehicle, after obtaining a permit from the state for about \$20 a year.

County. Climate Action 3rd Quarter Progress Report highlights countywide accomplishments to reduce climate-related risks by focusing on **clean energy, building standards, transportation, carbon sequestration, climate adaptation, and zero waste.** Council delayed final action on gas-powered leaf blower ban bill. A majority of Councilmembers want more information on the rebate program and the timing of ban.

Global. Renewable energy and nuclear power will meet almost all of the growth in global demand for electricity over the next three years, according to a report by the International Energy Agency. Emissions reductions will be constrained by how quickly new wind turbines, batteries, and high-voltage power lines can be built. According to a report from a Princeton lab, **the U.S. must more than double its current rate of electricity-grid expansion in order to meet growing demand from electric vehicles, heat pumps, and other electrification.**

POLITICS AND POLICIES

County Budget. On May 25, 2023, the County Council approved the FY2023-24 Montgomery County \$6.7 Billion operating budget and amendments to the FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program (CIP). According to the Council's press release, the Council's budget "... makes an historic investment in education, provides essential services for residents, and funds all collective bargaining

agreements, while reducing [the] proposed property tax increase by more than half and achieving savings across government operations.” County Executive Elrich was [critical of the Council’s budget](#), saying that it did not adequately meet the County’s needs, especially for schools. See also this [statement by our District 4 Councilmember Kate Stewart](#) about the budget and the tax increases.

[Taxes.](#) As a result of the actions by the County Executive and the Council, direct and indirect taxes for most county residents will be going up. These include recordation taxes, levied when homes are bought; school and transportation impact assessments paid by developers and which may or may not be included in the price of the units being developed; and an increase in property taxes, initially proposed by the County Executive at 10% but reduced by the Council to 4.7%.

[County Revenues.](#) At the same time, County revenues are projected to decline with a revenue deficit anticipated in 2025.

[County Legislative Activities](#)

While the county budget, especially the proposed tax increases of various types took up much of the council’s time in the spring, members also focused on rising crime rates, including a significant increase in hate crime incidents; on rent stabilization; and on housing, among other issues. See this [newsletter](#) from our Councilmember Kate Stewart.

[Economic Development.](#) Citing a need to improve the business climate, Montgomery County Council President Evan Glass announced a [new economic development roadmap](#) for the county, with the intention of making it easier for small businesses to operate and to encourage local development. Currently, however, the **County’s economic progress continues to be weak.**

[State Legislative Activities](#)

The District 18 members of the Maryland General Assembly [MGA], which includes Parkwood, issued a summary of what they considered to be the MGA’s major legislative accomplishments at the end of the Assembly’s 2023 session in April. Significant topics included 1) protecting the right to choose 2) gun violence 3) cannabis reform 4) the

FY2024 state budget 5) the environment and 6) legislation that reflects our core values and addresses critical needs.

A **[major initiative of the governor](#)** was a new law that creates a **service year program for graduating high school seniors.**

The **Department of Legislative Services** of the Maryland General Assembly issued a **Review of the 2023 legislative session** referred to as [The 90 Day Report](#). It is comprehensive; major issues are listed on page 9 of the report.

[State Budget.](#) The General Assembly passed a balanced budget for next year that made major investments in education, health care, and transportation. A [report by state’s Board of Revenue Estimates](#), however, projected a **\$478 million revenue dip** during the current and next fiscal year.

[SAFETY AND POLICING](#)

[Hate crimes](#) are up, [property crimes are up](#), but [police staffing](#) is down. The Maryland General Assembly and the County Council have taken steps to deal with hate crimes, and the County is trying to add more police officers. In its 2023 session, the General Assembly also passed several [gun control measures](#). The PRA has held two meetings on the topic of [Neighborhood Watch Programs](#) [NWP] as one possible response to crime in the community.

[SCHOOLS AND MCPS](#)

1) Hate crimes in schools have increased dramatically 2) 2023-24 MCPS operating budget was approved by the Council along with a property tax increase (4.7%), but which was smaller than that proposed by the County Executive (10%), to the condemnation of the MC Education Association 3) MCPS budget transparency was debated 4) The Maryland General Assembly appropriated \$900M for the Blueprint for the coming fiscal year 5) WJ/Woodward boundary study will begin in Fall 2023 6) A Recordation Tax increase will impact MCPS school construction (see details) 7) Math achievement levels of County Middle Schoolers have fallen 8) There has been a measurable increase in county students living in poverty.

TRANSPORTATION

1) Beltway expansion. The company that was contracted to build toll lanes and widen I-270 has withdrawn from the project. Governor Moore says that "...the state remains committed to continuing progress and will move forward in a manner that ensures social equity, environmental protection, and engagement with local partners while always acting in the best interest of taxpayers." Secretary of Transportation Wiedefeld stated that his agency is "...committed to delivering new American Legion Bridge and transportation solutions that relieve traffic congestion..." 2) Purple Line. The Purple Line light rail is **on target to open in fall 2026**, a spokesperson confirmed to MoCo360, despite reports in January that opening would be delayed until mid-2027 because of issues moving utility lines. 3) OGT bike lanes. There were no pedestrian- or bicyclist-involved crashes on Old Georgetown Road since bike lanes were installed on the state road in October, according to a report from the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA). Travel times for vehicles increased by about 7% to 13%. 4) Complete Street Design. Montgomery County is developing a new approach to designing county roads using a concept called "Complete Streets." According to the County, Complete Streets, roadways are designed and operated to provide safe, accessible, and healthy travel for all users of the roadway system, including pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders, and motorists. 5) The County's Planning Commission has released **the final version of its Pedestrian Master Plan**.

THRIVE AND HOUSING

Planning Board Chair and Final Member Appointed. The Montgomery County Council appointed Artie L. Harris, Jr. as the new Montgomery County Planning Board chair and Josh Linden as a Planning Board member. Harris has served as vice president of real estate at Montgomery Housing Partnership, Inc. (MHP), which is a nonprofit real estate development organization based in Silver Spring where he has worked since 2009. Linden is a planner and analyst for BERK Consulting where he provides comprehensive plans, housing needs assessments, climate vulnerability assessments, equity analyses, pricing and more for housing, transportation and planning projects.

People's Counsel versus a Land Use Resource Office. A new bill from County Council member Andrew Friedson (D-Dist. 1) would establish a **Community Zoning and Land Use Resource Office**, changing an established but currently unfunded land use attorney position called the **Office of the People's Counsel**. The Office of the People's Counsel [OPC] is intended to provide a county-funded attorney to represent constituents in land use decisions, but it hasn't been funded since 2010.

Affordable Housing. In January, the County Council unanimously passed legislation that would provide more opportunities for affordable housing on county-owned land or alongside capital projects such as libraries, fire stations and police stations.

Homelessness Growing in the County. The number of adults and children experiencing homelessness in Montgomery County increased by 313 people since last year, according to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) survey report released May 10.



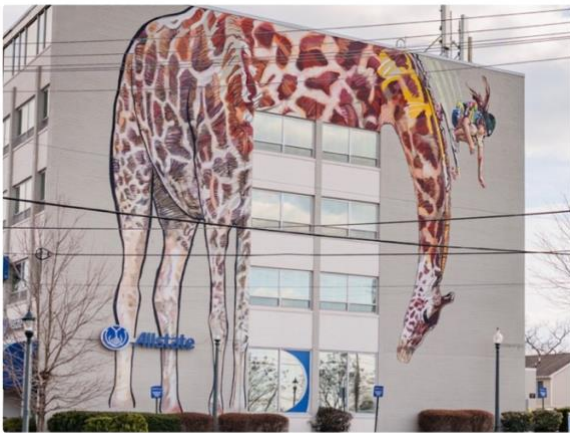
Photo of people enjoying one of the bands at the spring book fair.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS:

Tracey Furman, Mayor of Kensington (“where the train still stops ... and the people still walk.”)

Jeff Griffith, Newsletter Editor

Being the mayor of a small town like Kensington, population less than 2,500, can be challenging, time-consuming, and sometimes even frustrating. But there are also many joyful moments, at least in the eyes of Tracey Furman, Mayor of the Town of Kensington (the Town). Like the time she met a couple who had recently started an acupuncture practice in town; when she asked them where they were located, they replied “In the giraffe building.” That definitely brought a smile because the town’s eleven murals and eight carvings [and hopefully more to come] are a special feature of this town, reflecting its openness to the arts that blends so well with its fostering of small businesses [200+].



See the notes on this giraffe mural at the end of the article.

The Town is one of 21 municipalities in the county. Each of these manage some of the responsibilities such as trash collection, street and sidewalk maintenance, snow removal, parks, etc., normally carried out by Montgomery County, although the specific tasks can vary among the municipalities. (As reported in the Winter 2021 newsletter, our neighboring community of Chevy Chase View, just across Cedar Lane, is also a municipality.)

All municipalities receive tax duplication and highway user funds back from the county and the state and a portion of property and income tax to pay towards these services and municipal government. [Its budget for FY2024](#) is approximately \$5M.

How it works. The Town government consists of a [Mayor and four Councilmembers](#), elected on a staggered basis to two-year terms. (Tracey Furman became a member of the Council in 2012 and has been mayor since 2016.) They are supported by Matt Hoffman, [Town Manager](#), [five office staff members](#) and a [Public Works Crew](#). The town also has a number of active [volunteer committees](#), including the:

- *Development Review Board (DRB)*, which reviews proposed projects (per its [DRB Guidelines](#)) within the Town and provides input and feedback to developers in an effort to create a collaborative process between the Town and developers on projects being proposed within the Town limits.
- *Pedestrian and Bicycling Access and Safety Working Group*, established in July 2020 to explore options for increasing pedestrian and overall traffic safety as well as bicycle access in and around the Town of Kensington.
- *Sustainable Kensington*, formerly the Green Team, formed in Fall 2022, to help the Town identify cost effective and strategic ways to protect its natural assets using best practices in areas like water, energy, health, food and economy, in order to earn points towards Sustainable Maryland Certification. [New EV charging stations were installed last fall at Town Hall and the Train Station.]
- *Racial Justice Committee*, formed in 2020 after the murder of George Floyd, as a means to understand past inequities and to build a more engaged and inclusive community.

How it got here. Kensington’s Historical Society traces The Town’s history back to 1689 when Joseph’s Park was created through a land grant of 4,220 acres, located at the time within Charles County, to Mr. William Joseph. In 1705, it came within Prince George’s County, and William Joseph’s son used the land for agriculture until he sold it in 1736 to Mr. Daniel Carroll of Upper Marlboro. *Carroll was one of only five men to sign both the Articles of Confederation (1777) and the Constitution (1787).* He sold various parcels of land to local farmers. With the coming of the

railroads, Knowles Station [now Kensington Station] was established on the B&O Railroad line and on the then-named Met Line, Washingtonians “...could ditch their horse and buggies and take an 11-mile trip out to Kensington from DC’s Union Station...” for just 35 cents. You can read more of the Town’s history on the [Society’s website](#).

And now. From this historic beginning, Kensington has evolved into the engaged, welcoming, and thoughtful community that it has become. Even though Connecticut Ave., a major thoroughfare runs through it, the Town still has many charming sections with beautiful Victorian homes just a few blocks from the noisome traffic. The Town has become an attractive place for young families, longer term residents, and many senior citizens who do not plan to leave. And the same holds true for its immediate neighborhoods, such as Parkwood, Kensington Estates, Chevy Chase View, Ken Gar, and other close-by neighborhoods, where many residents think of Kensington as “their town”, too.

A lot going on. Kensington has certainly become a livelier place since the time not so long ago when it was “dry”. (Kensington prohibited alcohol sales for more than a half century after repeal of prohibition in 1933). In addition to its casual restaurants that can now serve alcohol beverages, Kensington has recently added its first brewery. Kensington also has many annual events that engage the community. In just the past two months, there was a community yard sale, an Earth Day Garden Party, the Day of the Book Festival, a session on Home Tree Care, the Kensington Car Show, the GIGS music concerts, the Kensington Art Studio Open House, and the annual Dog Parade. In May there was a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Metropolitan Branch Train line connecting Kensington south bound to Washington, DC. In June the Town will celebrate its 2nd Juneteenth event, Saturday summer concerts, and let’s not forget the 4th of July Bike Parade and Movies in the Park.

The annual Labor Day parade attracts many members of the county and state government (last year’s parade included then-candidate and now-Governor Wes Moore), and it occurs during the Montgomery Art Association’s annual 3-day Paint

the Town art show. The list goes on - the 8K race to support the local schools, the Opera in the Park, the British Players – and on and on.

The market. And then there is the Saturday morning Farmers Market. There are bigger ones in the area, but this cozy affair is just the right size and quality to attract residents all year long. Located in the parking lot of the train station, it is in the midst of several other shops and services that are within a 2-minute walk, including a local bank, the post office, several bakeries, and, if you want to cross the dreaded Connecticut Avenue, one of the world’s most helpful hardware stores, as well as several eateries.

During the almost 2-years of the pandemic, the mayor and councilmembers worked many hours before, during and after the market’s hours making sure that shoppers were properly masked and spaced according to whatever guidelines were in place at the time, and that the lines were equitably and safely maintained. This was a tribute to their commitment the Town, for which they receive small honorariums.

Antique Row and more. Speaking of commitment, the Town’s elected officials have worked hard to support the many local businesses in the Town, especially Antique Row, which, if you like old things – or even newer things - has become something of a destination in the area. And it is not just antiques; there are clever gift shops, good bookstores, and even a dry-cleaner shop.

New things. As the Mayor has noted – sometimes ruefully--things can take a long time to get done, but for those of us who have lived here for a number of years, it is clear that Kensington has been growing. Not everyone likes change, but as Al Carr, a former Kensington Councilmember and



former State Delegate remarked three years ago, Kensington was “popping”, by which he meant that after years of relatively little growth there were a number of development projects planned or underway.

These included two new facilities for senior citizens, reflecting the size of the county’s fastest growing demographic group, a new wine bar/restaurant in a building that houses a café, a pet store, and a smoothie Playa Bowl shop. The Crossroads of Kensington, a small shopping center, at Plyers Mill Rd. and Connecticut will replace a former gas station (groundbreaking anticipated this summer), new townhouses have been erected, and at least one new multi-unit apartment building is pending approval.

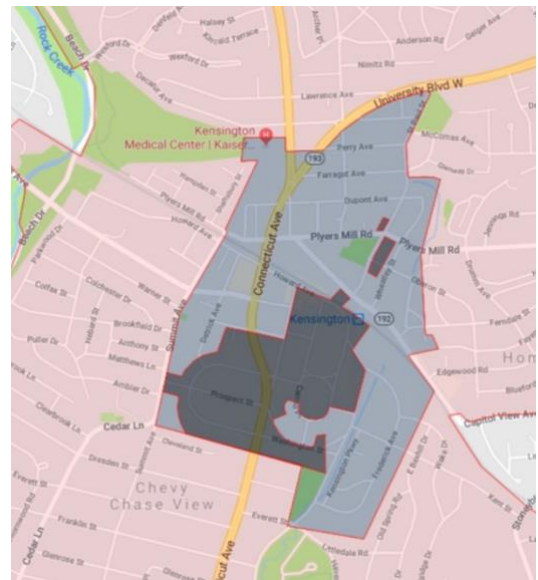
The Town Council has also been strongly supportive of a proposed extension of Summit Avenue, a plan to ease traffic on Connecticut Avenue by redirecting northbound traffic. While not everyone in the community favors the proposal, and, given the county’s budget delays it is unclear if it will ever be built; but if it is completed, the design appears to be an attractive option for revitalizing the area with housing, stores and shops, and added improvements to pedestrian and bike access.

The housing challenge. The popularity of Kensington and its surrounding communities has also brought a significant challenge – the cost of homes has risen to the point where there is little affordable housing, especially for young people, with or without families, seeking their first homes.

Also, the increasing assessment of homes puts pressure on residents on fixed incomes, for whom rising property taxes can make it difficult to continue to live here. Sensitive to this problem, the mayor and council explored with the county the possibility of purchasing an apartment complex in the town that could be re-configured financially into apartments that were more affordable, and that would enable the new owners to accrue some equity. Unfortunately this plan has fallen through for reasons that are not entirely clear. However, the mayor and council remain committed to finding ways to ameliorate this problem.

This reflects the fact that if one can characterize an entity as diverse as the Town, it is safe to say that Kensington is a caring community. The effort to create more affordable housing is one example. Another is the effort that the Town has made to recognize Ken-Gar. This historically black community has contributed to both Kensington and Garrett Park’s history – hence Ken-Gar. In 2020 the Town commissioned a mural on the Summit Ave bridge celebrating Ken-Gar’s history.

During the county council redistricting process in 2022, the town lobbied to have Ken-Gar included in District 4, so that together the Town could assist when called on to advocate more effectively for its neighbor. (Parkwood is also in District 4.)



Parks. Despite its small size the Town, maintains seven parks and a dog park where kids can play, adults can relax, and dogs can romp. There are also three county parks and a skate park, play equipment, and a field behind the Housing Opportunity Commission building.

Recently the Town had sway swings installed in two of its parks and plans to add accessible play equipment at St. Paul Park in the fall. The last two years the Town oversaw the renovation of its garden park, Clum-Kennedy Park (pictured above), a true oasis of quiet even though it is often the site of story board walks created by the Noyes Library for Children – the only library in the county dedicated exclusively to children.



Flinn Park fountain at night.

A welcoming town. The Town welcomes the residents of its neighboring communities. At a practical level, it knows its residents alone cannot support its many small businesses. Equally importantly, it understands that it is in the midst of a vital, diverse, and growing population center in the county, and its values and decisions affect many people outside the Town, as well as those inside. Its monthly council meetings (agenda available on the Friday before the meeting) are open to all, and they are recorded for those who cannot attend. The committees on *Racial Justice* and *Pedestrians, Biking, and Safety* welcome residents from other communities. And although the Town's *Development Review Board* has its procedures whereby it hears from members of the committee and the Town first, it then always invites comments and questions from those outside the Town.

[Its website](#) is a cornucopia of information about the Town and “what’s happening”. And for those who don’t already get enough email, you can sign up to get messages about Town announcements, meetings, and other events.

And some fine spring day before it gets too hot, do take the [Kensington Art Walk Tour](#), and see if you can spot the 11 murals and 8 carvings. Or on a cool evening you might enjoy sitting on a sway swing while watching the fountain in Flinn Park.

Notes on the Giraffe Mural

Artist: [Nicole Bourgea](#)

Location: Blick Building | 3720 Farragut Ave

Details: This five story high giraffe was painted with just two paintbrushes!

Inspiration: Commissioned by John Blick, owner of The Blick Building.

The artists inspiration came from ‘Love over Fear.’ Put in the work, let go and thrill in the ride.

Date of Installation: 2022

Support: In support of the mural, the Town of Kensington provided a Community Arts Grant.

County Celebrates Centenarians. Montgomery County Recreation held a celebration for the county’s centenarians. Parkwood’s own Paul Snyder, now 101, was one of the invited guests.



GOOD THINGS HAPPEN HERE

Drawn from our listserv, below are examples of the caring nature of the Parkwood community.

.....
Azadeh and family said: Thanks to the generous contributions of our community, we were able to share a wagon full of delicious foods and snacks with the St. Paul's hunger kitchen last week. Thank you for your assistance, despite the late notice. This is a testament to the nature and strength of our community.

.....
An urgent request from Tamara. If you are a veterinarian, and willing to spend about 15 minutes on the phone with me, please contact me offline. I'm trying to assist my daughter who is on the west coast. Her 3 year old dog is in liver failure, and I'm uncertain of the advice we are getting for him.

Bill offered a helpful suggestion about one source.

Tamara replied: Thank you, Bill. Yes, her pup has been in good veterinary care in San Diego. Due to the uniqueness of his illness, I needed more info and thankfully, I was able to get the guidance I was seeking through this community list. So thank you (you know who you are). And to those who also reached out. Much appreciated.

.....
Jane asked: Hi neighbors. Where is the best place to donate old sheets?

Amy replied: Contact Lauren Peterson who collects things for animal shelters:

Or

Take them directly to animal shelters. In addition to the county run shelter there is the MC Humane Society in Rockville

Or

If they are in excellent shape, A Wider Circle might take them, or perhaps Interfaith Works Clothing Center on Twinbrook.

.....
Dana posted: It's raining white mulberries in our backyard. We are gathering several quarts a day, who would like some? They are extremely sweet, they can be eaten as a snack, on yogurt or cereal. You can bake a pie; you can add them to a

smoothie. I suppose they qualify as organic since we don't put anything on the tree! Just respond to me directly and we will work out pickups.

.....
Melanie posted: Freshly dug oregano. Had to split mine -it grows almost as much as mint. Help yourself.

.....
Suzan asked: By chance does anyone have a used kids bike I could have/ buy for a 6 and 7 year old? Or know of any places where I can get used kids bikes.

Marc replied: We have one. It's a little old but should still work. You can have it for free. Let me know if you would like to come and take a look.

.....
Anne said: I'm seeking 2 free bikes to pass along to 14/15 year old boys from Afghanistan. If you have bikes or helmets and locks to donate, this would be greatly appreciated. I'm also looking for a donation of table/chairs, lamps, pressure cooker, crock pot or any other kitchen items.

Tamara replied: I have two bikes for you. The larger one will need new tires, and the smaller one likely only needs the tires inflated. But otherwise both are solid bikes.

I also have a crockpot and I'm sure I have some other kitchen items. My oldest daughter moved to San Diego and left behind everything that wouldn't fit in her car!

.....
Kira reported: Next time you walk by the triangle at Parkwood Drive at the Terrace, where we had lots of daffodils blooming, say hello to our new red maple tree. The tree was a gift from residents Andra and Mike Gregory, and PRA thanks them for providing the tree and also the labor to get it planted.

.....
Mary Ellen wrote: A HUGE Thank You to all of my neighbors who dropped off books in response to my request. Friends of the KP Library collect and sell these books all year round so feel free to drop off anytime. And check out the book sale shelves at KP Library.

PRA Membership Update

By Gerald Sharp, PRA Treasurer

A total of 255 Parkwood residents so far have renewed their 2023 memberships in the PRA or joined for the first time. Of these, 165 people paid using their credit cards on our PayPal account, and 90 mailed checks to Paula Flicker, PRA Membership Chair. This compares to 329 people who joined the PRA last year, 216 using PayPal and 113 sending in checks.

In terms of revenue received so far this year, we have received \$2,550 in dues payments and \$3,757 in donations to our Beautification fund, a total of \$6,307. Last year we received \$3,290 in dues payments and \$5,177 in donations for a total of \$8,467, so we have a ways to go to catch up to past year membership levels and revenues.

If you have not paid your dues yet this year and would like to, information on how to do so is available on our [website](#). You can send a check **made out to PRA** for \$10 and any optional beautification donation you care to make to:

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

[The membership form is here](#). Please print it off and mail it in with your check. Alternatively you can use your credit card to pay using our [PayPal account](#). Please make sure your address is included if you use PayPal and type in additional information in the comments box.

AND FINALLY...

Some photos from the annual Kensington Car Show, courtesy of Joe Harkins and Gerald Sharp.



Parkwood Residents Association – 2023 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 be distributed on the Parkwood listserv only 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: www.parkwoodresidents.org

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*)

\$ _____ 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

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