Kensington Heights Civic Association

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November 2017

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KHCA is a non-partisan neighborhood organization dedicated to representing the interests of all homeowners and residents of the Kensington Heights neighborhood in maintaining and enhancing the quality of life in our community

KHCA NEWS BULLETINS

>> December 13: KHCA Executive Committee Meeting for November/December -- All Welcome!

With no major events on our calendar and the Thanksgiving and Christmas festivities looming ahead, we are combining the November and December Executive Committee meeting. It will begin at 8 pm on Wednesday December 13 in the home of Ann and Alberto Arevalo, 10801 Torrance Drive. We welcome anyone who would like to attend and bring up any neighborhood issues – at our last meeting we were joined by three representatives from the new managers of the nursing home and had an in-depth discussion of their operations, the client base, and way that they would like to work together with the community. We hope to see others as well.

>> KHCA Website Photo Lottery: A Winner !!

Congratulations to Donna Savage !! She is the winner of the KHCA Website Photo Lottery !

As part of our activities to upgrade the KHCA website, we asked members of the Kensington Heights community to submit photos to be used on the website. This week one photo was selected at random, and its submitter was the winner of our $50 gift card lottery. Yay for Donna! *See her photo directly below*.

Our website volunteer designer Ricardo Gonzales (many thanks to Ricardo!) is now beginning work on the upgrade, so stay tuned for a new look to our website soon.

>> October General Membership Meeting Report and Election Results

Election Results:

The Slate of Candidates offered by the Nominating Committee was unanimously elected: Karen Cordry, President; Erl Houston, Vice-President; Ann Arevalo, Secretary; and Jim Ryan, Treasurer -- with a quorum including the online votes. Thanks to all! We look forward to serving for the next two years and intend to keep our outgoing officers, Mark Meszaros, Vice President, and Wendy Core, Secretary, involved. We say goodbye to them with a hearty thanks for their service the last four years.

Expanding KHCA and Changes to Bylaws:

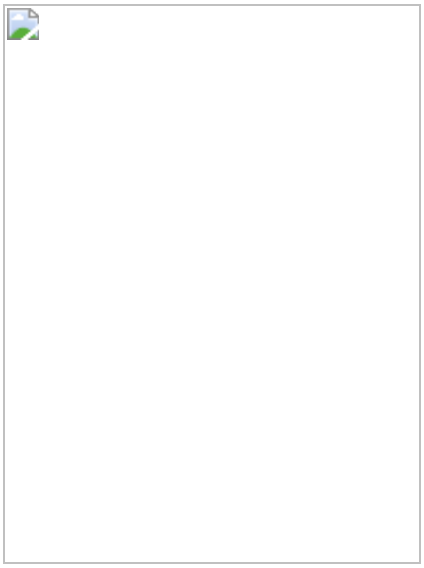
There was also a unanimous vote to add the additional homes to the east of our current boundaries, bringing KHCA to the edge of Georgia Avenue. As a result, we are now almost 1,000 homes strong. We welcome our new members and will be doing some more outreach activities in current months to make sure we are staying in touch with you. The last vote was on changing the bylaws which again passed with no dissenting votes. The main changes are you will no longer need to sign up every two years to be an "Active Member," but there will be a dues obligation in order to be a voting member on issues that come before KHCA. Dues will paid on a calendar year basis and will be $10 a person up to a maximum of $30 per household. Please contact KHCA President Karen Cordry if you have questions.

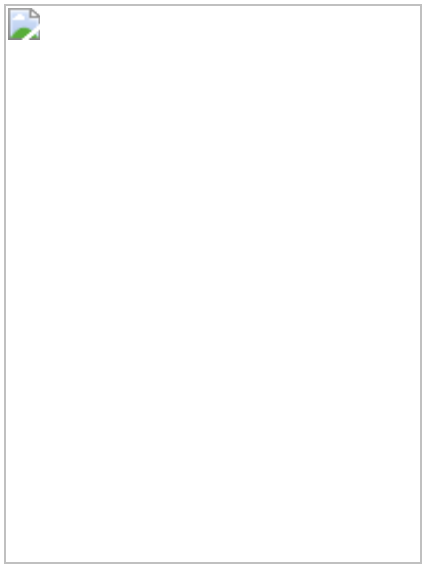
Special Discussions:

Our feature presentation was by Ivan Eloisa, Manager at the Code Enforcement section of the Department of Housing and Community Affairs, and Sgt. David Reed from the Fourth District. They both spoke on available resources for dealing with “problem houses” in the neighborhood. Mr. Eloisa noted that the initial step to making a complaint is to either contact the county’s call center by dialing 311 or by going to the DHCA website. You can request that your information be kept confidential. After that, a case will be opened and assigned to an investigator who will determine if there is a violation. If so, a notice of violation will be sent to the homeowner with a deadline to comply (generally 30 days for non-emergency violations and 24 hours for emergency issues.) The County also has the right to do the work itself and charge the property owner for the costs. More info. A short guide to Code enforcement is also available. Sgt. Reed also referred people with complaints about matters that might fall into police jurisdiction to either the non-emergency number – 240-773-5500 – or 911 for emergencies. He noted some of the resource constraints that might slow down a response and also had some practical suggestions about trying to deal with your neighbor before going to the police (such as asking an apartment or HOA official to intervene first.) He also urged neighbors to be alert to situations with vacant houses to ensure that they were not being broken into and used by homeless people, or those using them to carry out illegal activities. If you see or suspect something, the police ask that you let them know and they will follow up.

We also invited Kensingon Nursing Home representatives to meet with us. There was a great discussion and we hope to continue to collaborate with them. (One thing that we can report on is that the "pond" is looking much better. They have been working with the County to use environmentally appropriate methods to get rid of the green "goop" that has bee covering the surface so that they can start the fountains back up again. As of now, things are *much* improved!)

Additionally, we had a brief report from our Beautification Committee Chair about several County programs including their ***free*** shade tree program and their "rainscapes" program. You can apply for free trees. These are large trees (6-10 feet tall) and the county plants them for you. You can't get a better deal although there is a bit of a wait time (often a year or more), so get your name in now to get in line. The rainscapes program deals with a wide variety of water conservation measures, ranging from rain barrels to pervious pavements to rain gardens. The county provides a great deal of technical assistance – and, best of all, reimburses part of your costs. KHCA President Karen Cordry recently used this program to replace a section of her shady backyard that had turned to nothing but moss into a swath of native plants that will hopefully both beautify that section and soak up rain running down the slope from her house. See pictures directly below. (And she already got her check!) We expect to use the first meeting next year in early spring to have a detailed presentation on these programs and other proposals for KHCA beautification projects. Stay tuned!





KHCA UPDATES

Look for Committee Reports in the upcoming December Newsletter

COMMUNITY NEWS & CALENDAR

>> November 18: Coffee with a Cop, 4th District

Please join Montgomery County police officers from the 4th District for coffee and conversation.
Saturday November 18 at 8 AM to 9:30 AM
Starbucks, 2205 Bel Pre Road, Silver Spring (in Del Mercado center in front of Aldi)

>> November 22: Nighthawks Thanksgiving Dance at Kensington Town Hall

Come take part on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving from 7 PM to 11 PM. The fabulous Nighthawks led by Mark Wenner, a proud KHCA resident, will be presenting their 14th Annual Kensington Town Dance to benefit Bethesda Help and the 20895 Hunger Free Zone.

Tickets are $10 at the door, along with a donation of non-perishable food items and/or a $10 Giant/Safeway gift card. Please bring your own non-alcoholic beverages and snacks to the event. Town Hall is located at 3710 Mitchell Street in Kensington.

>> Holiday Park Senior Center

Luisa Montero, the Director of the Mid-County Services Center, also attended the October KHCA General Meeting. She brought information about the Holiday Park Senior Center, which is open to all residents over 55 years old and offers numerous drop-in activities and services as well as programs that require registration.

It's located at 3950 Ferrara Drive, just north of the intersection of Connecticut and Veirs Mill. It operates Monday-Friday 9:00 am to 4 pm (until 9 pm on Wednesdays) and has a huge array of activities at very reasonable prices – Bollywood Dance Fitness to Line Dancing, computer classes, language classes in English, French, and Spanish, games such a Bridge, Bingo, and chess and much more. It also provides services such as legal services, assistance in tax preparation, etc. For more information, their website and newsletter are available here.

>> Montgomery County Civic Federation

Information from the MCCF Newsletter can be found at this link. The mission of MCCF is to preserve and improve the qulity of life for all current and future residents of Montgomery County. Since its founding in 1925, the volunteers of the MCCF have committed themselves to providing an effective citizen voice to government policy makers.

The newsletter for November contains detailed write-ups on the Bikeway Mater Plan, Pet Poop, County Council Resolution on Divesting associated with fossil fuels, I-270 Traffic Improvements, and Bow Hunting.

KHCA CONTACTS

President:	incoming Karen Cordry (Torrance Drive) karenc425@aol.com
Vice President:	incoming Erl Houston (St. Paul Street) erlhouston@verizon.net
Secretary:	incoming Ann Arevalo (Torrance Drive) annarevalo@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	incoming Jim Ryan ( ) Jim.ryan@longandfoster.com
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Safety Chair:	Chris Peoples (Jennings Road) cpeeps@yahoo.com
Traffic Chair:	Andrew Fraser (McComas Avenue) afraser@sandglass.com
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Website: Ricardo Gonzalez

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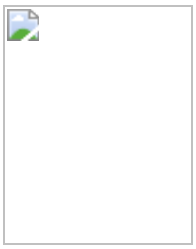

Greetings Neighbors .... from Jim Ryan, Realtor

For those of you that I have yet to meet, I'm sure that day will come. I moved my family to Kensington from Alexandria 27 years ago. There is no other place that I would rather live than this community! I have a real estate license with ***Long and Foster Downtown Silver Spring***. If you have friends interested in moving to this area, I am glad to help.

Jim Ryan Jim.ryan@longandfoster.com Cell 301-919-2280

Responsive Website Design and Managed Hosting in Drupal

Kensington Heights Civic Association

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