KENSINGTON HEIGHTS CIVIC ASSOCIATION

COMMUNITY NEWS

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December 2017/January 2018

Website: www.kensingtonheights.org

Facebook ListServ Twitter @khc_association

kensingtonheights@yahoogroups.com

http://montgomerycivic.org/ nextdoor.com

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

>> January 17: KHCA Executive Committee Meeting -- All Welcome!

The January Executive Committee meeting will be held Wednesday, January 17 at 8 pm in the home of Ann and Alberto Arevalo, 10801 Torrance Drive. We welcome anyone who would like to attend. We plan to talk about general issues in the neighborhood and start the planning for activities for the coming year including gardening and beautification projects, traffic issues, and more.

>> A New Year and New Things Happening in KHCA

With the New Year, it's almost time to launch our new KHCA website. It will be at the same address -- www.kensingtonheightsmd.org -- but with a brand new look. It's fresher, brighter, and easier to navigate. We hope you'll agree. We'll send you a special alert when we go live in the next few days!

And while you're there, please help out KHCA by paying your dues. You can do this online by clicking the donate button. Paying will not only give you the satisfaction of supporting KHCA, but will also automatically make you a voting member. Dues are only $10 per adult (over 18) up to a maximum of $30 per household. You can be either a homeowner or a renter -- we welcome you either way. If you prefer to pay by check, please make it out to "KHCA" and mail to our Treasurer Jim Ryan, 10603 Brunswick Avenue, Kensington 20895.

>> Costco: One Year and Counting

On January 9, 2017, we and the County argued Costco's appeal of the denial of its request to build a mega-gas station before the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. We have now passed our first anniversary of the argument and are still waiting. But, we figure, no news is good news! We'll let you know as soon as there is a ruling.

>> KHCA Needs Volunteers

With our new and exciting website, we have an even better framework for communicating with our membership. We are getting items posted, but we still need someone (or more than one person!) who would be really interested in coordinating with the Executive Committee to identify

website content and post it on the website, to put items on our Facebook page and other social media, and to help us communicate better generally. Please help!

In addition, now that we have expanded our membership, it's time to put our Block Captain program and member outreach back to work. Email is a great tool, but we first need to make contact with everyone in KHCA to get their contact information, and then we need to keep those lists updated as people come and go. We have a core set of people who can be Block Captains, but we need someone who can help oversee this activity, recruit more Captains and stay in touch with them to encourage them to meet their neighbors. If you're the one who knows everyone on your block and can put that enthusiasm to work for KHCA, please become our **Membership Chair**. All of us on the Executive Board will be helping too.

Please respond to KHCA President Karen Cordry if you can help with these activities. Thank you!!

KHCA UPDATES

>> Public Safety Committee Update

Street Lights

There has been some discussion on neighborhood list serves about what to do about street lights that are out or not working properly. If you have a problem on your street, you can either use the website by clicking here, or you can call 311 (general non-emergency County number for service requests). Let's make sure the nights are bright and safe during this darkest part of the year.

Crime Reports

On December 8 a strong-arm robbery occurred in the area of Faulkner Place and Drumm Avenue at approximately 11:00 pm. The suspects assaulted the adult male victim and took his property.

This crime appears to be an isolated incident, but to avoid becoming a victim:
-notice your surroundings when walking at night:
-avoid poorly lit areas
-walk with a purpose
-if you fear you are being followed, head for a well-lit or populated area, call attention to yourself, and phone for help.

If you are a victim of a robbery, call 911 immediately and file a police report. Additionally, police advise not to immediately cancel credit/debit cards because they can be used to locate and possibly apprehend the thief.

Christopher Peoples, Chair

>> Traffic Safety Committee Update

Farragut/McComas

KHCA is reaching out to residents who live along the stretch of McComas Avenue and Farragut Avenue between St. Paul Street. That area is experiencing dangerous traffic during the morning rush hour. Drivers seem to be gaming the system to avoid a 'Do Not Enter' sign posted on St. Paul and and McComas southbound.About 10 residents now support resolving this issue. They feel endangered by the morning traffic, and are concerned about the noise and fumes.

A petition has been drafted in order to mobilize residents and demonstrate to Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the Kensington Town Government that residents are serious about this issue. Please look at the draft petition and offer comments about the document (and identify yourself in the comment). If you would like to participate in this effort, please enter your name using this form, and we will reach out to you to sign the petition once finalized. You may also contact Jon Foreman directly.

McComas/Drumm

Montgomery County is continuing to review options for the intersection of McComas Avenue and Drumm Avenue.

Andy Fraser, Chair. With Jon Foreman

>> Beautification Commitee Update

RainScapes Program: Make a Garden, Get Funding

A RainScape is a landscape or design technique that helps reduce stormwater runoff from individual properties. A Montgomery County program offers rebates up to $2,500 for property owners who install RainScapes. HOAs may receive up to $10,000. For more info, click here. For pictures of RainScapes, click here. Information is also available regarding Requirements and Project Management.

Jon Foreman, Chair

COMMUNITY NEWS & CALENDAR

>> January 15: MLK Service Day

In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday, there will be a county-wide day of service on Monday, January 15. There are numerous activities being coordinated by the county, including opportunities at the Silver Spring Civic Building from 10-12noon, as well as many other activities across the County. Click here for a complete listing of activities, and join in!

>> January 30: Forum on FY 19 County Budget

The County Executive will announce his Recommended FY 19 Operating Budget on March 15. The County Council then provides its input and gives final approval of the operating budget at the end of May. A forum to provide information and gather public input on the upcoming budget issues before those decisions are made will be held at 7 pm on January 30 at the Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring.

>> Kensington Co-Op Nursery School Seeking Staff

The long-time director of KNS is retiring, and the school is looking to hire new staff. If interested, check out the possibility on their Facebook page:
https://www.facebook.com/pg/knscoop/jobs/1676667695728343/?source=post_homepage_stream

>> 2018 Is An Election Year

KHCA is a non-partisan organization, and so we do not endorse candidates or take sides. But we will mention (once!) that *Shruti Bhatnagar*, our current Communications and Education Chair, is a candidate running for County Council At Large. She will be part of a crowded field. KHCA will be working to set up Candidate Forums in our neighborhood so residents can hear from those running for office and make up their own minds. Jon Foreman will be organizing this effort, so please contact him if you are interested in helping to set up such events.

An election resource has been compiled by Paul Bessel and can be found by clicking here. The document lists those who are running in each race in our area, as well as the paid and free events where you can meet and hear candidates. There will be a Candidate Forum for District 18 State Senator and Representative seats on February 10 at Newport Mill Middle School from 1-3pm. Click here to sign up to attend.

Please note: Anyone who will be 18 years old by election day (November 6) can vote in the June 26 primary. Make sure those who are eligible get registered to vote -- it's never too soon to start.

>> 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 quality 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 January reports that on December 11 the Federation adopted a resolution calling upon the Superintendent of Schools to be more forthcoming about child sex abuse issues within the school system.

KHCA CONTACTS

President:	Karen Cordry (Torrance Drive) karenc425@aol.com
Vice President:	Erl Houston (St. Paul Street) erlhouston@verizon.net
Secretary:	Ann Arevalo (Torrance Drive) annarevalo@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Jim Ryan (Brunswick Avenue) Jim.ryan@longandfoster.com
Immediate Past President:	Danila Sheveiko (Melvin Grove Court) dsheveiko@hotmail.com
Beautification Chair	Jon Foreman (University Blvd) jonforeman@gmail.com
Communications Chair	Shruti Bhatnagar (McComas Avenue) shruti_bhatnagar@yahoo.com
Education Chair:	Shruti Bhatnagar (McComas Avenue) shruti_bhatnagar@yahoo.com
History Chair:	vacant
Land Use Chair	Donna R. Savage (McComas Court) donnarsavage@gmail.com
Safety Chair:	Chris Peoples (Jennings Road) cpeeps@yahoo.com
Traffic Chair:	Andrew Fraser (McComas Avenue) afraser@sandglass.com
Newsletter:	Christine Taylor (Torrance Drive) ctaylor3450@gmail.com
Website:	Ricardo Gonzalez

Thank you to our Newsletter Sponsors

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

Drupal

sandglass

website: design - development - migration - training - hosting

Kensington Heights Civic Association

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