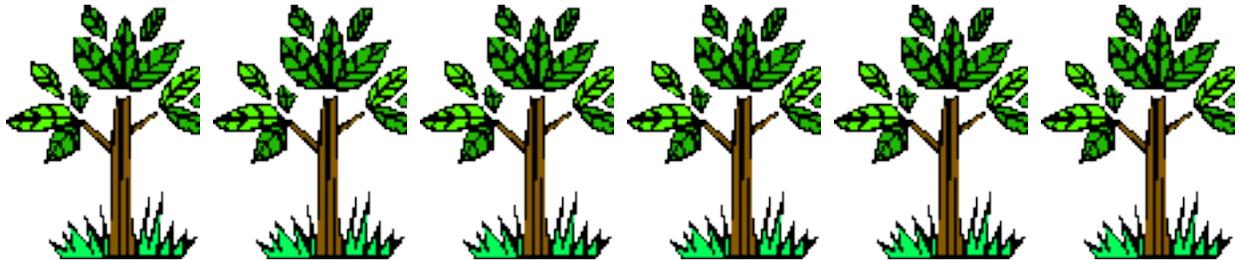


Summer 2003

Parkwood Resident's Association



The *next PRA meeting will be held on Monday, June 9th at 7:30 pm* in the All-Purpose Room at KP Elementary School. Please contact Liz Brennan or Jan Rothman if you have any items that you would like included on the agenda.

June 9th Meeting Agenda Items:

- Discussion on Changes to the Annual Growth Policy
- Treasurer/Membership Reports
- Committee Reports
- CKC Update

Message from the President, Liz Brennan

The Planning Board has indicated that modifications need to be made to the plans for the new Kensington Safeway. There will be an informational meeting on the Safeway hosted by the Coalition of Kensington Communities on Thursday, May 29th at 7:30 pm at the Garret Park Town Hall. All interested Parkwood residents are encouraged to attend.

We are in need of a new volunteer to serve as the PRA representative on the NIH Community Liaison Council. The Council meets on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 4 pm. The meetings usually last about 2 hours. Parking fees are reimbursed. Contact Kirea Lueders (kklarl@yahoo.com, 301-496-6855 - daytime #) for additional information or if you are able to serve. Current issues include the proposed bioterrorism facility - we need to be at the table on these discussions.

This is a call to action for volunteers. At this time it appears that we only have a few active committees Block Captain and Gardening. I believe there is a lot of interest in other committees but not enough leaders. I would very much like to revive the Traffic Committee and the Beltway Sound Barrier Committee. Please contact me if you are interested or if you know of someone I can approach.

PRA to Host Speaker on Annual Growth Policy

The Annual Growth Policy (AGP) is undergoing a "top to bottom" review by Park and Planning and the County Council with the goal of ratifying changes in November of this year. Park and Planning has scheduled a series of forums to gather input from the communities on the AGP.

The AGP is the policy that is intended to be an instrument that facilitates and coordinates the use of various powers of government to limit or encourage growth and development in a manner that best enhances the general health, welfare and safety of county residents. County officials use the AGP to match the timing of private development with the availability of public facilities.

Based on the current gridlock on our roads and the overcrowded schools, it is probably safe to say that the current AGP is not working. As a friendly reminder to our elected officials at the County Council and the appointed officials at the Planning Board that we are an engaged and active community, I would like to have the Parkwood community weigh in on this issue. Karl Moritz, Research and Policy Planner for the Planning Board has been invited to our June 9th meeting to provide information on the current draft changes and how our community can participate in this important process.

Coalition of Kensington Communities (CKC)

Community Center: Liz Brennan, Chair of the Community Center and Recreation Committee of the Coalition of Kensington Communities testified in front of the State House Appropriations Committee in Annapolis in March. Rich Madaleno, District 18 delegate, sponsored a \$100,000 bond bill for planning and design of a community center at the Housing Opportunities Commission site on Summit Ave. Given the grim financial picture at the state level, it's no surprise that the bill did not pass. Nevertheless, this opportunity was very good exposure for the cause. Committee members appeared to be very interested in the fact that a location and building have been identified and they asked questions and offered advice about going forward. We look forward to continuing work with our state and county representatives toward providing a community center for Kensington residents.

Traffic: The CKC testified in front of the Planning Board regarding Zoning Text Amendment (ZTA) 03-06 to eliminate the requirement for a traffic study at the zoning stage for a development. This ZTA was specifically created to help the LCOR development at White Flint (8 buildings: 20 stories high, 4 apartment buildings, 4 office building, plus retail space) through the zoning approval process. The argument given on behalf of the CKC is that more information is better than less and that requiring a traffic study at the zoning stage and another at the site plan stage would ensure enough time to allocate funding and allow community input. However, members of the Planning Board unanimously supported the ZTA and, by a 5 to 2 vote, County Council did the same. As a result, we have no idea at this time what the LCOR developers can do to effectively mitigate the traffic impact of their project.

Development Impact Tax: In May, Council members Tom Perez (District 5) and Phil Andrews (District 3) sponsored a bill to impose an impact tax on developers dedicated for

school construction. Montgomery County Schools are currently two years behind on a very conservative construction schedule (so conservative that elementary schools are being modernized once every 125 years!). Council member Perez authored a compelling editorial in the *Gazette* and support for this bill was broad-based and countywide. Some of the supporters included the Board of Education, Montgomery County Council of PTAs, the Town of Gaithersburg, the Town of Rockville, Montgomery County Taxpayers League, Montgomery County Education Association, NAACP, Solutions Not Sprawl, the Audubon Naturalist Society, and many more. CKC was pleased to testify and fully supports this effort. However, the proposal lost by a narrow margin in a contentious 5 to 4 vote. Those supporting the bill included Marilyn Praisner (District 4) and Michael Subin (at-large), as well as the sponsors. This set-back may be sorely felt by our community as funding for the KP modernization and the WJ modernization is at risk of being delayed even further.



PRA Membership Down in 2003

There are 912 houses in the PRA membership area, yet only about 125 of them are represented in the association. Where are all of our neighbors? Surely they are interested in improving our safety, resolving traffic issues, understanding property taxes, learning about local development, and — most of all — meeting their neighbors.

Membership in PRA is an excellent way to stay informed about the things that affect us most directly and to lend your voice to an organization that represents us to the larger community.

If you have not already submitted your dues for 2003 (\$10), please complete the form below and send your check to Kitty Stone, 4313 Clearbrook Lane, Kensington 20895. If you are not sure about your membership status, please call Kitty at (301) 564-6340 or e-mail her at castone3@aol.com.

For an energetic, useful, and effective neighborhood association, all of us must participate.

2003 Membership Renewal - Annual Dues per household: \$10

Please mail or deliver your 2003 PRA membership renewal dues to: Kitty Stone, 4313 Clearbrook Lane, Kensington, MD 20895. Please make check payable to: Parkwood Residents Association. Please print your information below:

Name: _____

ADDRESS: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Numbers: (daytime) _____ evening _____

Email: _____



**Kensington Parkwood Elementary School:
Registration Round-up**

According to the Montgomery County Public Schools' projections, Kensington Parkwood Elementary School is anticipating an additional 30 students in grades 1 through 5 next school year. The projected 2003-04 kindergarten enrollment is 70. Currently, fewer than 50 kindergarten students have enrolled for the fall.

To ensure adequate staffing, school leadership is encouraging prospective families to register their children as soon as possible. If you have any questions about the school or its programs, contact either PTA President Laura Roberts at (301)493-4988 or Principal John Cechini at (301) 571-6949

Garden Committee News

The Garden Committee hired a local Kensington man, Derrick Brown, (301) 564-3662, to do the work on the Saul Road island this year and we're very pleased with the results. He gathered the leaves and loads of trash left by our neighbors, weeded, and mulched around the shrubs. It certainly is a big improvement to have the island in good shape for the start of spring and summer. The cleanup makes it a lot easier for volunteers to maintain the island throughout the summer.

Next, we would like to have some volunteers come forward to organize the "beautification" of the other islands in Parkwood. Are any residents interested in working on the Wildwood and Roxbury islands? Contact Jean Wirsching (301-493-8667) if you are able to help

Finally, let's all be good citizens about keeping the public green space and islands clean. Please don't litter or discard your own garden waste on the islands. Please ask your neighbors not to "trash" the islands. And please, please, it's a county ordinance to pick up your dog's waste.

**Communicate with your Community
Join the PRA Listserve**



In order to provide a constant source of communication for the Parkwood Community, an e-mail group was created. The e-mail group is open to all residents of the Parkwood subdivision who have an e-mail address. To subscribe to the e-mail group, send a blank

message to: parkwoodresidents-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Do not write anything in the subject or body of the message; it will not be seen by anyone and you will not get a response. You will receive a confirmation message when you are subscribed. Many thanks to Heidi Lipson for setting up this valuable communication opportunity!

PRA Bookclub

Love books? Interested in getting to know your neighbors? The PRA bookclub meets once a month to engage in lively conversations about books. If you are interested in participating, contact Karen Lockyer at (301) 530-8311.

Dog Leash Law Update

Last fall the PRA passed a resolution requesting the Montgomery County Council require dogs to be on a leash after one act of aggression: Our resolution was sent to the County Council members along with similar PTA and CKC resolutions late last year. The Council Public Safety Committee, chaired by Council member Phil Andrews, is now reviewing dog leash laws to determine if more protections are needed against attacks. Our PRA resolution helped prompt this review..

PRA Directory

Work is continuing on the PRA directory, if you haven't already completed a form and either e-mailed or mailed it to Kitty Stone, please do so as soon as possible. We currently have received fewer than 100 forms.

This directory is similar to the directories that all schools and most churches provide to their members. It can serve as an important communication tool for our neighborhood in many ways, including facilitating outreach during bad weather, sharing information on local schools and daycare programs, setting up play-dates for children, organizing block parties, yard sales, and other social events. Finally, it can serve as a critically important outreach option if a situation arises. It is very important for all to participate.

We have determined the pricing for the advertising and are giving first opportunity to Parkwood business folk. All advertisers will be listed on an acknowledgement page in the front of the directory and then ads will be placed through out the book. The pricing breakdown is: Cover \$150 , Full page \$100, ½ page \$ 75 and ¼ page \$ 50. Contact Debbie Zwick if you are interested in purchasing advertising space drzwick@yahoo.com or 301-581-9392.

PRA Directory Form: Please complete the information that you would like to be included in the Directory. If you do **NOT** wish to be listed at all, please complete your street address and check the box at the bottom of the page. *Webmaster's note: You can display just this form, for printing, by clicking [this link](#).*

Street Address: _____

Adult Residents: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone(s): _____

E-mail Address(es): _____

Fax Number: _____

Children:

Name	Age	Grade	School Attended

I do not wish to be included in the Parkwood Residents Association Directory.

Please submit this form ASAP to Kitty Stone, 4313 Clearbrook Lane, Fax: (301) 564-9574 or preferred method: E-mail: castone3@aol.com