

The Kingstream Communicator

Kingstream Community Council - News Letter – March 2008

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Kingstream Community Council will take place on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 7 PM at the Hiddenbrook Swim Club, 1508 Sadlers Well Drive, Herndon. Three seats on the KCC board will be up for election. If you cannot attend, please send in your proxy to the KCC board management company or give it to a KCC board member.

President's Letter

By Rusty Shaw

We have weathered a mild winter and are looking toward the first blooms of spring. Spring also brings the election of members to sit on the Board. Each year three member's terms expire requiring the election of three new members. This process allows for experienced volunteers to be on the Board at all times.

Each Board has its own unique character and its own unique set of circumstances to work with. This year we have emphasized trying to have more functions as a community. Led by Erin Latimer and Jo Bagley, we had our first community Fourth of July party and our first dog swim. Attendance at each event was great and we are looking forward to the next year's events! Joan Talbert set up an informative meeting with the Neighborhood Watch component of Fairfax County Police Department. This is a program we may want to establish as a community.

Our focus was more than just the social aspect of our neighborhood. We are currently having the top of the pool walls replaced to extend the life of our pool. When completed we will have new white coat in the pool, new tile along the top and new coping at the edge. These improvements will help extend the life of the pool and add to the quality of life in Kingstream. We also contacted Fairfax County Maintenance and Stormwater Management Division and they are coming to clean up the storm retention ponds so they operate properly. Though located in our neighborhood, these ponds are actually maintained by the County.

On a personal note this will be my last month on the Board. It has been a pleasure to be involved in the community. The work of the Board goes primarily unnoticed but is rewarding. It has been a great way for me to meet neighbors that I may not otherwise get an opportunity to meet. I have thoroughly enjoyed

these three years and look forward to seeing a new board take over and continue working for our neighborhood.

Pool News

by Ken Valcourt

The pool renovation is expected to be completed within the next 30-45 days, weather permitting. New brick coping and ceramic tiles will soon be installed.

Additionally, as you may recall from our last newsletter, last year's pool management company decided to cease business operations throughout our area. Because of this, a request for proposal was submitted to search for a new pool management company for the 2008 pool season. I am excited to report that KCC HOA board members recently selected Palm Pools from a number of proposals received as our new pool management company. Palm Pools comes highly recommended and has been in the pool management business for a number of years. The Board feels that Palm Pools offers our community professional pool management services at a very competitive industry rate. We welcome Palm Pools and look forward to a very enjoyable and relaxing summer pool season.

With summer just around the corner, the pool committee is busily preparing for the Memorial Day weekend pool opening. The pool will be open from Saturday, May 24, 2008 until Labor Day 2008.

The operating hours are as follows:

- When School Open : Opens immediately after swim team practice until 8pm
- When School Closed : Sunday – Thursday : 11am – 8pm; Friday – Saturday : 11am – 9pm

To keep informed of the latest pool related news and other activities within the KCC community, please visit the KCC website at <http://www.kccherndon.org>. Also, to receive latest KCC information notifications, please join the Kingstream Yahoo Email Group found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kingstream/>.

As always, please send any comments about our pool to pool@kccherndon.org.

Thanks and looking forward to the summer!

**DON'T FORGET -
ASSESSMENTS ARE DUE APRIL 1!**

Traffic-Calming on Kingstream Drive

By Joan Talbert

Many residents have expressed concern about the volume and speed of vehicles traveling on Kingstream Drive, especially on school days. The Kingstream Board is considering a request to the Dranesville supervisor to initiate a traffic-calming plan (i.e. speed humps) on Kingstream Drive. The volume of vehicles (between 600-4000 per day) and a speed limit of 25 mph qualifies Kingstream for a consideration by the Fairfax County Department of Transportation of a traffic calming plan. To achieve this goal, widespread support and participation from the community is necessary. Soliciting signatures and formation of a community task force to develop a traffic-calming plan is required. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors will make the final decision after a plan is developed by the community task force and voted upon. More information will be available at the April Annual KCC Meeting. If you are interested in participating in this initiative or have any questions, please contact Joan Talbert at Joantalbert@hotmail.com.

Community Participation Needed!

Are you willing to serve the community as a committee member? Or are you interested in running for the KCC Board of Directors? Please contact a Board member to express your interest or to learn about opportunities to serve. Three members of the Board have terms that expire in April and will be stepping down, so your participation is critical to the continued well-being of the Kingstream community. Board members serve a three-year term. There are a number of ways you can get involved in your community. All of Kingstream thanks you!

Kingstream Activities

By Erin Latimer

The results of our Holiday Decorating Contest are in. There were many houses that looked great. I tried to take pictures of all of the lights, to put on the Kingstream Yahoo community website (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Kingstream/>), but they didn't come out. I will learn how to take pictures at night before next year's contest. 1404 Valebrook Lane was the big vote-getter. Congratulations!

Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate this year (so far at least!) and give us enough snow for our first annual "What Can You Do With Snow? Contest". (We needed at least 4 inches of snow and the biggest snow was 2-3 inches.) I'm sure we will have enough snow next year, and we will try it again.

Kingstream's Spring Celebration is Sunday April 6th, from 2-4 pm in the pool parking lot. We are planning to have activities, crafts, balloon animals, snacks, and games. We need volunteers to help organize and run the activities. Please email activities@kccherndon.org if you can help.

School Board Budget Briefing

Fairfax County School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville District) will hold an informational meeting about the Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2009 budget for Dranesville District residents on Tuesday, March 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Herndon High School lecture hall. Along with FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services Deirdra McLaughlin, Strauss will present highlights of the budget and discuss budget issues facing the county and the schools. For more information, contact Joann Kinney in the School Board Office at 571-423-1065 or joann.kinney@fcps.edu.

Do you have new neighbors? If you do, let us know so we can send them a welcome basket. Please email their address (and name if you have it) to welcomes@kccherndon.org.

Architectural Review Committee

By Mike Wei

As you may have noticed, there are many houses for sale in Kingstream. Aside from the obvious steps a homeowner does to sell a house, such as cleaning up the yard and landscaping to improve curb appeal, there are other steps that must be done:

- A Kingstream Community Disclosure Package must be obtained. Please call RCS Management at 703-778-7271 for details. The cost is \$150 plus a \$25 courier fee.
- When a disclosure package is requested, an exterior inspection of the house is done to confirm all changes have been approved. There have been recent Kingstream home sales impacted by un-approved changes. Please plan ahead and request the disclosure package well before the closing date. It can take two weeks from the request date before you receive the documents.
- There will be a walk through of the neighborhood this spring to inspect the exterior of the houses and update the records. This is being done to minimize the number of "surprises" in future sales. The neighborhood will be inspected on a regular schedule in the future.

Information on how to apply for a change to the exterior of the house can be found on the KCC website: <http://www.kccherndon.org/arc.html>

The Kingstream Communicator offers the Kingstream community the opportunity to include announcements of community service projects, on a space-available basis. No buy/sell/trade announcements or items of a commercial nature will be accepted. Send your announcements to communications@kccherndon.org. The Board reserves the right to refuse to publish announcements and to edit them for content, length or clarity.

Spring Lawn Care

By Doug Price, ARC Member

Many neighbors are anxious to get their lawns in shape for spring. Before you get started, decide if you want to control the crabgrass or lay down new lawn seed. You can't do both! The best time to fertilize your lawn is in the fall. The only reason to fertilize in the spring is if you missed your fall application.

Let's say you have crabgrass and you want to keep it from spreading. Attack it early in the spring before it gets out of control. Begin by loosening up the soil with a rake and then you are ready to seed. You can use a crabgrass preventative or an organic alternative like corn gluten. What ever you choose, use a spreader to apply it evenly. The best time to do this is when the daffodils are blooming and the spring rains will help activate the ingredients.

Watering is an important part of spring lawn care. It is better to give your lawn a deep soaking once a week, early in the morning rather than a light sprinkling three times a week.

After you have taken care of your spring mower maintenance and begin to mow, don't cut more than a third of the grass at a time and keep the height to two and a half to three inches. Also, change your mowing pattern to help prevent soil compaction, which inhibits the growth of grass. And don't worry if you think your lawn is not getting fed enough. Every time you mow your grass, if you leave the clippings on, you're giving it free nitrogen and that's the best organic fertilizer you can use.

These spring lawn care tips will make your neighbors green with envy!

Source: Home & Garden Television Maintenance. Reprinted from The Kingstream Communicator, March 2007

Kingstream Community Council

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** Term expires in April 2008

Web site www.kccherndon.org

Community discussion group

groups.yahoo.com/groups/Kingstream

Management:

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Alexandria, VA 22306 rod@rcsmanagement.org

REMEMBER!

Board meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Hiddenbrook pool clubhouse, 1508 Sadlers Well Drive, Herndon. The next annual meeting is Thursday, April 17 at 7 PM at Hiddenbrook. The Board usually does not meet in December.