



# The Kenwood Oaks Neighborhood Association



Springfield, Virginia 22152

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009

Volume 3, Number 1

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## The New Pentagon Memorial Dedication.

Subsequent to the horrendous terrorist attack on the Pentagon on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, it was decided to design a suitable, lasting Memorial Park to be built on the west side of the Pentagon near where American Airlines Flight 77 impacted the building to honor the 184 victims (59 on the aircraft and 125 in the Pentagon). The memorial design was the result of an international contest won by the design team of Julie Beckman and Keith Kaseman of New York



City. On Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, President George Bush dedicated the Pentagon Memorial, calling it not only a place of remembrance, but also a reminder of the resilience of the American spirit.

The Pentagon Memorial is composed of 59 Memorial Units (benches) facing the Pentagon, 125

facing away from the building, which distinguishes victims on board American Airlines Flight 77 from those who were inside the Pentagon. Each of the 184 Memorial Units include a cantilevered bench, a lighted pool of flowing water, and a permanent tribute, by name, to each victim, in one single element. Each Memorial Unit is composed of stainless steel and inlaid with smooth granite.

Engraved on the free-standing end, each bench is the name of the person it honors. The benches arch over the flowing pool of lighted water, reflecting light in the evenings onto the bench and surrounding gravel field. The benches are arranged in a timeline of the ages of the victims (from 3 to 71 years). The age lines traverse the Memorial Park at an approximately 45° angle to the Pentagon, directing your eyes to the flight path of AA Flight 77.

**Useful Web Links:**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/)  
Link to Fairfax County Gov't.

[www.geocities.com/wsca2000](http://www.geocities.com/wsca2000)  
Link to West Springfield Civic Association.

[www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)  
Link to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

**Important Telephone Numbers:**

Police, fire and ambulance for a non-emergency:  
703-691-2131

Poison Control:  
800-222-1222

Power Outage:  
888-667-3000

Cable Outage:  
703-378-8440

Sewer Line Breaks:  
703-323-1211

Animal Control:  
703-830-3310

Voting Information:  
703-324-4735

Traffic Tickets:  
703-691-7320

Recycling Information:  
703-324-5052

Fairfax Schools:  
800-839-3277

Fairfax County Government:  
703-324-3185

Eighty-five Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*) trees were also planted in the Memorial and will one day grow to about 30 feet and will provide a canopy of shade over the benches. The Paperbark is one of the last Maples to drop their leaves, retaining their fall foliage of brilliant oranges and reds well into the winter months.

Describing the Pentagon Memorial Park or looking at these photos doesn't do it justice, so you are encouraged to visit the Memorial yourself. The Pentagon Memorial Park is all free and open 24/7. It is located on the west side of the Pentagon adjacent to Route 27, and cameras are encouraged. At night the Memorial is artfully illuminated and is quite impressive. However, be advised that there is no public parking nearby (Macy's parking garage is closest) and the Metro is probably the best route to visit; and you should be prepared to walk a lot to see it all.



Parenthetically, our neighbor Dick Smith, of Lamese Court, was the Senior IT Engineer on the PenRen Telcoms Special Projects Team that worked on constructing the Pentagon Memorial Park. Dick also provided info for this article and is available for questions at: 703-451-8248.

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## **The KONA President's Message.**

As we approach the New Year, 2009, it seems appropriate to assess the state of our neighborhood and what we are doing as an association. Membership wise, we will again have over seventy member homes (73 of 90) with dues paid and signed up for 2009 thanks to the efforts of our Block Captains. We continue to have a first class electronic newsletter published on a bi-monthly basis thanks to our Editor. We also have a fine web site thanks to our Web Master who is also our Newsletter Editor and our Treasurer. KONA is also in good financial condition with just over \$3,000 in our bank account. A new initiative begun in 2008 was the formation of a KONA Welcoming Committee to welcome and inform new residents about KONA and the neighborhood and to encourage them to join KONA. KONA continues to maintain an effective liaison with our neighbor town house developments to ensure they fulfill their responsibilities for maintaining the property adjacent to Kenwood Oaks. They have done very well as evidenced by construction of the new Millwood fence on Kenwood Avenue.

**KONA Board of Directors:**

*President: Bill Wojanis  
Treasurer: Gene S. Bartlow  
Secretary: Zoe Anagnos*

**Block Captains:**  
*Muhammad Ahmad  
Kenwood Ave. to Essex Ct.*

*Catherine Vogel  
Kenwood Ave. from Essex  
Court to Lamese Court*

*Mark Susa  
Kenwood Ave. from Lamese  
Court to Park View Court*

*Kim Bieron  
Gregory Court*

*Ulla Jackson  
Essex Court*

*Leonard Kojm  
Top half of Phillip Court*

*Dave Salamone  
Lower half of Phillip Court*

*Kathy Marchetti  
Tiburon Court*

*Dick Smith  
Lamese Court*

*Nicki Johnson &  
Yvonne Hoyle  
Park View Court*



Kenwood townhouses also do a great job of maintaining their property fronting Kenwood Avenue.

We are also keeping the local politicians and VDOT aware of our wishes regarding the project to widen Rolling Road. According to John Cooley of the Springfield Village Civic Association, the Rolling Road widening project is still on. Money is available and according to VDOT property acquisition and utility relocation are to begin in 2009. The project construction should start in 2013 with late 2014 or early 2015 for a projected finish date. KONA needs to keep in contact with VDOT planners and designers to ensure we are able to continue accessing and exiting from Kenwood Avenue in both directions.

Late mail delivery, lack of street lighting on Park View court, unkempt property, security, and rats on Phillip Court all have been brought to the KONA Board's attention. Whether anything positive will result is not yet known, but from this list you can get a feel for the myriad of issues we routinely face as a civic association. Looking ahead, your President believes that we need to consider KONA long-range planning for neighborhood projects that will require funding. A review of the VDOT plans for Rolling Road indicates that our existing entrance signs will need to be moved as their current location will soon become part of the roadway. There are probably other worthwhile projects that require KONA funding.

We thank Mark Susa and Dave Salamone and their Cub Scouts for the great job that they did in picking up leafs and debris on Kenwood Avenue as a volunteer service project.

Finally, we should be looking for members who are willing to participate as officers or Block Captains in KONA. I am happy to announce that Catherine Vogel has accepted the Block Captancy of Kenwood Avenue from Essex court to Lamese Court. However, by next September we anticipate that there will be some vacancies open on the Board of Directors. If KONA is to continue as a viable association and to be as successful as we have been in recent years, we will need willing and able volunteer replacements. I will keep you informed as the situation develops.

Bill Wojanis, KONA President

**Merry Christmas**

*and a*

**Happy New Year**

## **The Cub Scouts Cleanup Kenwood Avenue.**

On Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Cub Scouts from Pack #1545 & Bear Den #7, Springfield, Virginia, accepted the challenge from KONA to rake up and bag the leaves and other debris accumulated along Kenwood Avenue. Cub Scouts is a program for boys ages 7 through 10. The Cub Scouts are a subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America, which is a program for boys ages 11 through 17, designed to achieve the aims of Scouting through a vigorous outdoor program and peer group leadership with the counsel of an adult Scoutmaster (in this case some of our neighbors). The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.



The Cub Scouts took the place this year of the annual gathering of the “KONA Gang of Old Guys” who has normally volunteered to clean up this area the first Saturday in December. KONA made a modest donation to a Cub Scout pizza party in recognition of their volunteering to handle the clean up action this year. The last story on the annual leaf raking event was from December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006 (18 Old Guys collected 76 bags in a bit over 2 hours) as reported in the *KONA Newsletter*, dated Jan. 1, 2007, Vol. 1, #2, which is available on the KONA website at: [www.KenwoodOaks.org](http://www.KenwoodOaks.org).

## **Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus.**

By: Gene S. Bartlow

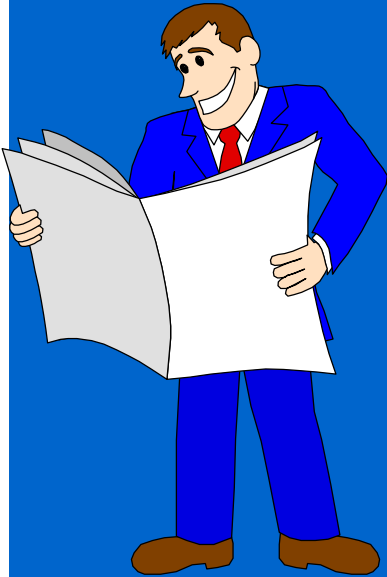
My parents lived in Woodward, Oklahoma, and we had traveled a short distance to my mother’s parents farm house south of Waynoka, Oklahoma (a very small town in NW Okla.), for the Christmas holidays on Christmas Eve, 1945. It was the year that World War II ended and memories of the Great Depression had long faded.

I had just turned five-years old and was anxiously anticipating the Great Awakening that everyone had talked about on Christmas morning when the Christmas presents from Santa Claus would be discovered and opened.

By profession my parents (Merle & Mildred Bartlow) were owner/operators of a dry-cleaning shop and my grandparents (H.O. & Minnie Stevens) owned a small farm that produced milk, cheese, chickens, and eggs for sale locally, while my grandfather was a local new car salesman (Fords). We often observed the German prisoners of war (POWs) driven from Alva, Oklahoma, via bus to the local ice production facility north of town where they worked a regular 8-hour shift that serviced the cross-continent AT&SF steam-driven trains with iced-box cars that moved fruits and vegetables from California to the East Coast (those were the days before refrigeration).



Yes, I do remember it all...as if it were yesterday...



I was told to sleep on the couch in the living room on Christmas Eve, because there was limited space in their relatively small farm house. The couch was half-a-room away from the Grand Christmas Tree with sparking lights that almost touched the ceiling with the ornamental star on top. I was sternly admonished to sleep soundly because Santa Claus would be coming shortly after mid-night and that I was not to disturb him while he worked to fill the room with Christmas presents. We left cookies and milk for him as refreshment on his wondrous journey to visit “children who had been good” this year. The family stayed up late that evening enjoying the food and sweets and drinks and camaraderie and ambiance of the candle-lit Christmas environment and colorful decorations. Earlier everyone had gone to the Christian Church for the seasonal prayer services. To me at age five this was all a quite wondrous and an exciting time of year.

I fell to sleep almost immediately when everyone retired to their respective rooms. However, I was awakened at nearly dawn when I heard someone shuffling around in the room near the Christmas tree. I was afraid to peek out from under the covers as I might actually see Santa Claus and perhaps interrupt his distribution of toys, some of which I was certain were for me. I was seriously concerned that my observance might somehow deter the magic of the moment. But, as I continued to hear Santa’s movements and papers being shaken, the curiosity of a five-year old overcame my reluctance to personally observe the phenomenon that I had anticipated. I took a peek...

What I saw and heard was my grandmother shuffling along in her bath robe and house shoes moving presents from the hall-way closet to under the now again lighted Christmas tree. It wasn't Santa Claus...it was my grandmother!!! The moment was as if I had pulled back the curtain hiding the Great Wizard of Oz and discovered a human being pulling the leavers and pushing the buttons. I was frozen in silence, what was it that I had just discovered? Where was Santa Claus and why was my grandmother delivering the presents from the closet? She ate some of the cookies and drank some of the milk and returned to her bedroom, just as the sun came up. I was incredulous and totally dumbfounded. What had I discovered; what was wrong with this picture? Startled and breathless, I couldn't move or make a sound fearful of learning about some other potentially frightful and earth shattering revelations.

A few long minutes later, it seemed that everyone woke up all at once and everyone bounded into the living room to observe the now lighted Christmas tree with great enthusiasm and loud happy voices. I sat up on the couch and walked slowly over to the tree to join the celebration as the adults began pouring bubbly champagne and opening the candy wrappers. I was not smiling and I was still silent awaiting the next development. I was handed a warm cup of chocolate milk as my father began the exercise of distributing the presents to those named that he said, in a strong voice, were left by Santa Claus.

I was searching for just the right time to tell everyone what I had learned this morning...I now knew that there was no Santa Claus...it was my grandmother who had moved the presents from the closet to the Christmas tree. My disappointment was quite profound.

As we all sat around the dining table for an early afternoon Christmas dinner, just after the opening prayer, I simply blurted it out, saying: "I know that there is no Santa Claus"! After a long silence when no one spoke, my grandmother who was sitting next to me said, "Just how do you know that?" "Grandma, I saw you getting the presents from the closet and eat the cookies", I said. She gently put her arm around my shoulder and said, "Santa Claus is as real as you believe him to be (continuing...), because all good things come from our hearts which are moved forward by our beliefs".

My father then led a toast "to Santa Claus who brings good things from the heart". This was a simple philosophy that even at that young age became indelibly imprinted upon my young heart and soul...

I cannot remember the Christmas presents that I'm sure were left for me that year, but I do remember Grandma's words, so very clearly...I also promised to keep the secret of Santa Claus from my peers.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus, if you will believe.

## Editor's Notebook.

This issue of the KONA Newsletter is the first edition of Volume 3 (our third year of official publication). This issue of the KONA Newsletter is published before the end of the year, and as usual, a few days before the publication date of the Newsletter. Therefore, it is still quite appropriate to include some Holiday Cheer and well wishes for all during the Holiday Season. **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.**



## Tidbits: More trivial yet somewhat pleasing morsels of totally useless fun information.

- If an Amish man has a beard, he is married.
- The lion costume in the 1939 film "Wizard of Oz" was made from real lion's skin.
- The cigarette lighter was invented before the match.
- Neil Armstrong stepped on the moon with his left foot first.
- France has the highest *per capita* consumption of cheese (French: *fromage*).
- The stall closest to the door in a public bathroom is the usually the cleanest, because it is the least used.
- More Americans have died in automobile accidents than have died in all the wars ever fought by the United States.
- A Boeing 747's wingspan is longer than the Wright brother's first flight.
- So far 22 banks **have failed** in the country YTD. Over the previous 6 calendar years (2002-07), 22 banks failed in the USA. As of 9/30/08, the government was **monitoring 171 banks** that were in danger of failing (source: Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation).

**First Day of Winter:**

**Hanukkah:**

**Christmas Eve:**

**Christmas Day:**

**New Years Eve:**

**New Years Day:**

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday:**

**Inauguration Day:**

**Chinese New Year:**

**December 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**December 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**December 31<sup>st</sup>.**

**January 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**January 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**January 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**January 26<sup>th</sup>.**