



The Kenwood Oaks Neighborhood Association



Springfield, Virginia 22152

November 1st, 2007

Volume 1, Number 7

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Springfield, Virginia 22152

KONA Membership Development.

KONA had a membership of 68 homes/residents in 2006-07, which obviously does not include all of the 90 homes in our housing complex. It is now time again to sign up for your annual KONA membership, if you haven't already done so. We need all residents to join KONA; and it is not about the dues money. It is about community, togetherness, involvement, home values, fellowship, traffic and parking, solidarity, caring about your neighborhood, "curb appeal", volunteerism and citizenship, and sharing the burden of protecting our own. So how do we get the rest of the community to join KONA? We simply ask (the first E-Newsletter provided sufficient rationale)! Take a look at the Membership Directory to see who you know who are missing from the membership list. We need for you to rejoin KONA for another year. We need your help to ask your neighbor nicely, to cajole, encourage, solicit, request, entreat, beg, recommend, and yes, even embarrass them with peer pressure into signing up with KONA. Let's work together to grow KONA.



There's Good News & Bad News...

- The Good News: The added personnel planned for Fort Belvoir will likely increase the value of real estate in Springfield.
- The Bad News: The added personnel will exacerbate traffic along Rolling Road and the Fairfax County Parkway.
- The Good News: The unfinished segment of the Fairfax County Parkway connecting Rolling Road to Ft. Belvoir is already funded.
- The Bad News: The widening and re-paving of Rolling Road to four lanes between Old Keene Mill Road to the Fairfax County Parkway is not scheduled until the year 2012.
- The Good News: There is a plan now in place to construct an asphalt trail along Old Keene Mill Road on the Springfield Golf Course property from the bus stop next to the Shell Station on to the second bus stop located approximately 940 feet east of the corner of Carrleigh Parkway and Old Keene Mill Road.
- The Bad News: There is no date set for constructing the trail.
- The Good News: There were 83 at the annual KONA picnic.
- The Bad News: No one turned in any photographs of the party.

Useful Web Links:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/
Link to Fairfax County Gov't.

www.geocities.com/wsca2000
Link to West Springfield Civic Association.

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

“Poop”! And what to do about it!

Hmmm, well first of all it is quite natural, probably eco-friendly, and certainly biodegradable...dog excrement that is. Why not let the “mushy” stuff just sit there and degrade naturally? Aside from the fact that small children may be sharing the yard, dog “poop” is a health hazard. Left alone it can gather maggots, parasites from other animals, pass parasites on to other animals, which in turn can be passed back to the dogs, and possibly humans as well. The smell alone is also a good incentive to pick it up, as well as irate neighbors (who may complain of the smell). Picking it up is also the best solution, especially if you have a dog who may like to snack on “poop-sicles” (*coprophagia*). The problem becomes serious when the dog “poop” found in your yard is not from your dog, but deposited by an uninvited depositor. Failure to pick up after your dog is not neighborly and is in fact illegal. Residents and visitors alike should be aware of the Fairfax Code on animal control, which states clearly in Article III, Chapter 6, and Section 6-61(b): *“It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dog to fail to remove immediately the dog’s excrement from a public right-of-way or from any property other than the dog owner’s property”*. (County Code 1978, §4-8, 4-12; Ordinance. No. 2004-18, 7-27-2004.) Residents should be more neighborly, more respectful, more caring regarding their responsibility for retrieving dog “poop”! Wouldn’t you agree?



The USMC Memorial & Veteran’s Day.

Veteran’s Day is November 11th a time to remember the contribution of our service men and women over the years. The US Marine Corps War Memorial stands as a symbol of this grateful Nation’s esteem for the honored dead of the US Marine Corps. It was officially dedicated by President Eisenhower on November 10th, 1954, the 179th anniversary of the US Marine Corps. In 1961, President John F. Kennedy issued a proclamation that a U.S. Flag should fly from the memorial 24 hours a day—one of the few official sites where this is permitted (illuminated at night). The base of the memorial is made of Swedish granite. Written in gold are the names and dates of Marine Corps engagements since the founding of the organization and the following inscription:

“In honor and memory of the men of the United States Marine Corps who have given their lives to their country since November 10, 1775”.

KONA Board of Directors:

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

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

*Phyllis Schneider
Kenwood Ave. from Essex
Court to Lamese Court*

*Mark Susa
Kenwood Oaks from Lamese
Court to Park View Court*

*Kim Bieron
Gregory Court*

*Ulla Jackson
Essex Court*

*Leonard Kojm & Bob Walsh
Top half of Phillips Court*

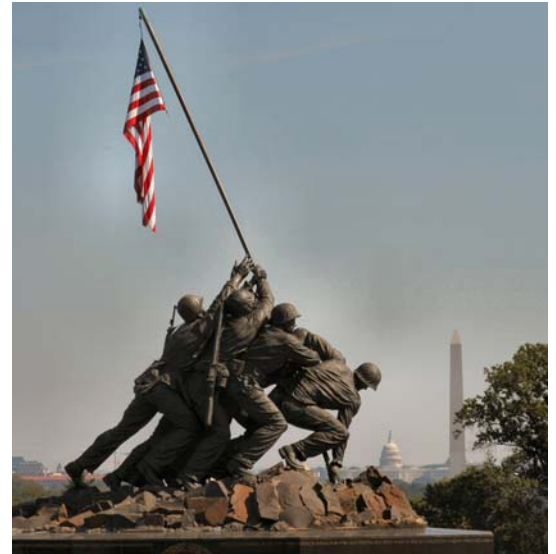
*Dave Salamone
Lower half of Phillips Court*

*Kathy Marchetti
Tiburon Court*

*Dick Smith
Lamese Court*

*Nicki Johnson &
Yvonne Hoyle
Park View Court*

While the statue depicts one of the most famous incidents of World War II, the memorial is dedicated to *all* Marines who have given their lives in the defense of the United States since 1775. The USMC Memorial overlooks the Potomac River at an entrance to Arlington National Cemetery. The unique telephoto image depicted herein of the USMC Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the US Capital together can be viewed only from a very small spot on a rise about 20 yards to the rear of the Memorial.

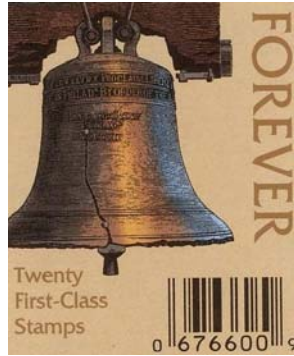


Within the US “island hopping” military strategy against Japan, the small island of Iwo Jima was deemed crucial with airfields only 660 miles from Tokyo, just over two hours flying time. On the morning of February 19th, 1945, the 4th and 5th Marine Divisions invaded Iwo Jima after a somewhat ineffective bombardment lasting 72 hours. One of the island’s outstanding geographical features is Mount Suribachi, an extinct volcano that forms the narrow southern tip of the island and rises 550 feet to dominate the area. The 28th Regiment, 5th Division, was ordered to capture Mount Suribachi. They reached the base of the mountain on the afternoon of February 21st, and by nightfall the next day had almost completely surrounded it. On the morning of February 23rd, 1945, the US flag was raised on the summit replaced by a larger flag later that afternoon. It is important to remember that 6,821 Americans never left Iwo Jima alive and an *additional* 19,217 Americans were maimed or grievously wounded.

News-photographer Joe Rosenthal caught the afternoon flag rising on Iwo Jima in an awe-inspiring Pulitzer Prize winning photograph on which the memorial is based. The figures in the sculpture stand 32 feet tall and are shown raising a 60-foot-tall bronze post with a cloth US flag flying at the top. The memorial stands about 78 feet tall overall. The rifle and the carbine carried by two of the figures are 16 and 12 feet long, and the canteen would hold 32 quarts of water. The USMC Memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world. You must be physically present to fully appreciate the grand majesty of the USMC Memorial—it is worth a return visit. Your timing would be perfect if you visited the Memorial on either November 10th or 11th.



At Last, A Really Good Idea!



The US Postal Service is not well known to be innovative, efficient, or highly productive, which is why we have seen their competitors grow, e.g., Federal Express and United Parcel Service. But this time the USPS seems to have hit a “home run” with the innovation of a First Class stamp that will forever be accepted for mailing a one-ounce letter.

Beginning May 14th the postal rate went up from 39¢ to 41¢ causing everyone in the US to have to again buy 2¢ stamps to affix along with their left-over old 39¢ stamps. The Forever Stamps will never become

obsolete requiring citizens to buy extra stamps for mailing a letter. At last, a really, really good idea comes from the USPS—they’ve listened to their customer’s concerns. Now if only the oil companies could do the same.

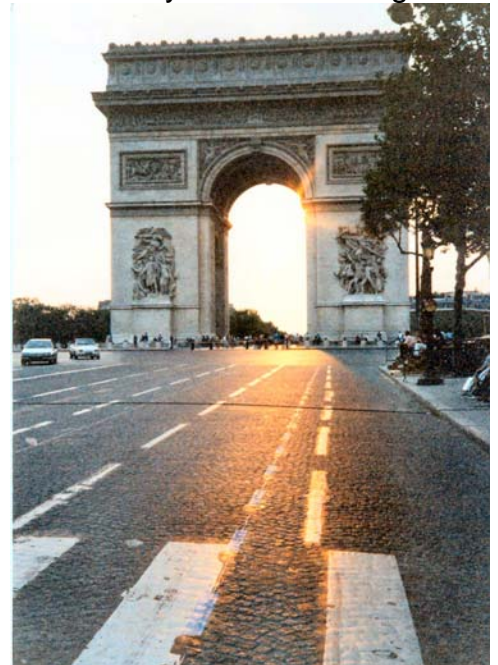
Three Triumphal Arches...

Gene S. Bartlow: “Of the 29 countries I’ve visited I’ve often found that there are some places that remind me of other places”. This is a brief description of three Triumphal Arches with distinctly historical linkages.

In the middle of the *Place Charles de Gaulle* in Paris, France at the border of the 8th, 16th, and 17th

arrondissements (administrative divisions), stands one of the greatest arches in history: Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe* (arch of triumph). It magnificently crowns the hill from where the *Champs-Élysées*, the *Avenue Foch*, the *Avenue de la Grande Armée*, and nine other avenues radiate. *Arc de Triomphe* was commissioned by Napoléon in 1806 to commemorate his victories, but he was ousted before the arch was completed. In fact, it wasn't completed until 1836 during the reign

of Louis-Philippe. The *Arc de Triomphe* is engraved with the names of generals who commanded French troops during Napoléon's regime.



The *Arc de Triomphe* also memorializes all those killed in World War One (1914-1918), with a grave of the Unknown Soldier and a permanently burning flame of remembrance. Each year on the 14th of July, the city hosts a Bastille Day military parade, and a large French flag is hung from the center of the monument.

Napoléon's *Arc de Triomphe* is very much reminiscent of and may have been modeled after the white marble Arch of *Septimius Severus*, erected in AD 205 in the northeast end of the ancient Roman Forum to commemorate the Parthian victories of Emperor *Septimius Severus* and his two sons, *Caracalla* and *Geta*, in the two campaigns against the Parthians of AD 195 and 203. The Roman Forum was the center of the civic and economic life of Rome in the Republican era and kept its prominent role even in the Imperial age. The monumental complex, lies between the Capitol, the Imperial Forums, the Coliseum, and the Palatine in Rome, Italy.



The Laotian Victory Monument *Patuxai (Anousavary Kao)* is situated at the north end of Lane *Xang Avenue* in Vientiane and resembles the *Arc de Triomphe* in Paris. *Patuxai* means, in Laotian, “Gate of Triumph”, and is the last name awarded to the monument. Earlier it was named *Anousavary Kao*, which incongruously means the “Old Monument”. Vientiane is the capital city of Laos and is a vivacious and gorgeous city located on the Mekong River which forms the lifeline of the country. This monument was dedicated in 1958 to commemorate those who fought in the war of independence against the French. Ironically, Laos, a former French colony, decided to commemorate its independence struggle with a monument resembling one of the best known features of Paris—their colonial masters’ capital.



The Laotian Victory Monument's detailing is typically Lao, however, with many “*kinnari*” figures—half woman, half bird. It's an imposing sight, and you can climb up for a good city view. At first sight, *Patuxai* resembles the *Arc de Triomphe* in Paris; however a closer look shows a top which is clearly inspired by Buddhist motifs and a solid cement main body that is obviously far less attractive than the original back in Paris, France.

The ceiling of the Monument features beautiful and detailed artwork, mixing Western and Laotian motifs. To demonstrate its supremacy over the original, *Patuxai* features four gates, one on each side, as compared to the mere two gates of its Parisian counter part.

It seems that the legacy of ancient Roman culture can be found around the world.

A Really Re-Enactor's Day.

Normally, August is famous for its hot doldrums, but, it was a very bright and sunny day, a just right 82°F Saturday, perfect for Civil War Re-Enactors to practice their hobby and to entertain and educate visitors at Sully Farm (August 17-18), Chantilly, Virginia. Soldier re-enactors representing the Union and the Confederate army's were camped out in authentic uniforms, tents, cooking utensils, rifles and pistols, cannons, horses, and associated *accoutrement*. All of the re-enactors take their hobby very seriously adopting an authentic "character" for the encampment, wearing only period-appropriate clothing, eye glasses, hand guns, rifles, *etc.* that can cost over \$1K.



The re-enactor's, young and old alike, remained in "character" when they were asked about their role and life style, all of which added a special flavor and authenticity to the various activities. The most unique "characters" this day were the elderly couple shown in the top photo (a retired couple from Baltimore), who were thoroughly enjoying the attention they rightfully deserved. In contrast, another couple from the old South (2nd photo) added a youthful element to an absolutely delightful day. It was all very informative and impressive to the 18,000+ visitors to this the 7th year of the annual two-day event.

New recruits were being instructed in “drill and ceremonies”, the proper handling of their rifles, and the appropriate response to various military commands. It appeared they all needed a great deal more work because there was a lot of “amateurish” bumbling about.

Horsemanship demonstrations, story telling, cannonades, rifle volleys, cooking, and a period fashion show together added sound and variety to the festivities. Re-enactors on horseback represented the “Black Horse Troop”, Company “H”, 4th Virginia Calvary.



Music was provided by the vocal duet “Evergreen Shade” playing a banjo, a guitar, wood spoons, and a tambourine entertaining the crowd with melodic tunes popular during the Civil War.

The Sully farm was completed in 1794 by Richard Bland Lee, who was Northern Virginia's first Representative to Congress, as well as Lt. General Robert E. Lee's uncle. The farm house is furnished with antiques of the “Federal Period”. Outbuildings include a stone dairy, kitchen/laundry, smokehouse, and a slave cabin. Visitors to Sully are able to appreciate the vivid contrast it provides between today's life style and the every-day harsh realities of life in the late 18th century.

Northern Virginia is unique in the nation for the number of Civil War Re-Enactments, and you are encouraged to visit one of these increasingly popular events. It will be a day you will long remember.

Winter Snow Removal.

Now that the temperature is beginning to drop and the Winter Solstice arrives on December 22nd, it won't be very long before the snowflakes start to fall. In 2005, the first snow arrived on December 5th. Thus, winter snow removal becomes a neighborhood concern.

Will the county plow my street?

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for removing snow and ice from the thousands of miles of public roads (interstate, primary, and secondary) in Fairfax County. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high volume roads cleared first. Once the most heavily traveled roads and emergency routes are adequately clear, snow crews move to less-traveled roads and subdivisions. Pipestem driveways are privately owned and

maintained by the property owners on the pipestem; snow removal would be the property owners' responsibility.

Residents should remove snow around mail boxes otherwise the mailman will not deliver mail. Also, cars should be removed from streets to facilitate snow plowing when snow is predicted.

Who is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalks in my neighborhood?

Neither the VDOT nor Fairfax County clears snow and ice from public walkways (sidewalks and trails). While not legally obligated, citizens and businesses are asked to help keep sidewalks safe. They should, as soon as feasible, clear snow off the sidewalks in front of their property so that all pedestrians, especially school children, those with disabilities, and the elderly, may walk securely. For further information, contact the Maintenance & Stormwater Management Division at: **703-934-2800**.

A “Cool” Cost Avoidance.

Dominion Virginia Power, our electrical power company, has a subsidiary called Dominion Products & Services (DP&S). As many of you know Dominion P & S offers Water Line Replacement, Sewer Line Replacement, and Heating & Cooling Repair Programs for a total of \$18.45 per month, which can be added to your monthly Virginia Power electric bill. This is a story about why Bill Wojanis (your KONA President) signed up for all three plans and why Bill is very satisfied with their services.

Bill signed up for the three service plans because he knew that several neighbors had experienced water-and-sewer line problems and he had an aging vintage 1995 heat pump. During one hot 100°F summer day, Bill’s home air conditioning system was generating only limited cooling. So Bill called his regular a/c service company with whom he had a service policy since he first purchased his home in 1982. After checking out the heat pump, Bill’s repair man, who had serviced Bill’s air conditioning system for the last 15 years, said the system had a Freon leak with possible inner-coil damage.



Bill’s repair man recommended that Bill replace both the inside and outside heating and air conditioning units saying, “There is no sense investing more money into a twelve-year-old system” (which was estimated to be over \$300.00 for a Freon leak inspection and repairs). Bill’s repair man said his sales representative would call Bill the next day, and charged Bill \$100.95 for the service call. Subsequently, the sales representative called Bill with a system replacement cost estimate of \$7,860.00.

Then Bill remembered paying \$9.95 *per* month since last April for a DP&S Heating & Cooling Repair Program. Bill called DP&S the next morning and they sent a local contractor to Bill's home to check out the a/c system. First the DP&S contract technician conducted a thorough inspection of the a/c system inside and out for Freon leaks and found no significant leaks. So the DP&S contract technician added about two pounds of Freon and Bill's problem was solved. Bill gave him a check for \$25.00 made out to Dominion P & S and that was the total of his costs. Needless to say, Bill does not plan to renew the \$143.00 Bronze Service Policy with you know who.

Editor's Notebook.

This issue of the KONA E-Newsletter is the last edition of Volume 1. With this issue we conclude our first year of official publication. The next issue will be Volume 2, Issue 1, dated January 1st, 2008, as part of a planned schedule for six issues, published bi-monthly. We have enjoyed working on the newsletter; and fortunately, we've received a lot of positive feedback. We hope you have found it helpful and interesting. As usual all the photos herein are by "Your Editor".



Tidbits: More totally useless information.

- Percentage of Africa that is wilderness: 28%.
- Percentage of North America that is wilderness: 38%.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- The San Francisco Cable cars are the only mobile National Monuments.
- The city with the most Rolls Royce's *per* capita: Hong Kong.
- The two lines that connect your top lip to the bottom of your nose are known as the *philtrum*.
- "Second string", meaning "replacement or backup", comes from the Middle Ages. An archer always carried a second string in case the one on his bow broke.

Daylight Savings Ends: November 4th.
Election Day: November 6th.
USMC Birthday: November 10th.
Veterans Day: November 11th.
Thanksgiving Day: November 22nd.
Pearl Harbor Day: December 7th.
National Guard B-Day: December 13th.
Winter Begins: December 22nd.
Christmas Day: December 25th.
New Year's Eve: December 31st.