



KPCA Newsletter January 2021



MEET THE 2021 BOARD:

Dan Nolan, Secretary ; John Heine, 1st Vice President; Pat Becker, Treasurer; John Hackemer, President; and Christopher Austin, 2nd Vice President

Message from the outgoing Board: As we move forward into 2021 with great anticipation and hope, we are sad to lose 2 members of the 2020 board. Any time someone volunteers, they give up time. Their own valuable time. And sometimes it is not appreciated as it should be, but we sincerely appreciate the time, energy and experience they afforded the rest of us for 12 months!

2nd Vice President John Kallio has always put his all into any task before him. His community and general knowledge plus attention to detail, has proved invaluable not only in 2020, but in 2019 in a number of capacities. Thankfully, he has tentatively, at this point, agreed to stay on as Head of both the Security Patrol and Unit Volunteers.

Secretary Joan Krushanski has also brought a wealth of community knowledge and years of experience to the 2020 board. She has served in this capacity for 12+ years! That is many hours of her time given to Kensington Park. Everyone should applaud her. We will miss you Joan.

John Hackemer, John Heine, Pat Becker

UPCOMING EVENTS

Association Meetings for 2021 will be held the first Tuesday of each month.

Meeting dates: Feb 2, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1, Jul 6, Aug 3, Sep 7, Oct 5, Nov 2, and Dec 7
7:00 pm, behind Calvary Chapel Church in Pod D

Look for the signs prior to the next meeting. Virtual attendance is available.

A MESSAGE TO ALL WHO LIVE IN KP

We want to thank you for choosing Kensington Park as your place to live in Sarasota. We like our neighborhood and hope you do too. The neighborhood was established in 1956 by the Paver family who purchased 440 acres of land from the Schmidt Dairy Farm. They built over 1100 homes in KP, arranged in units.

Originally it was deed restricted, with a true governing body with many committees and activities. There was actually a Club House and an Olympic size pool! Once the deed restrictions expired around 1990 and the community property was sold (now Calvary Chapel Church/school), the Kensington Park Association continued, but in a different governing capacity. We are not an HOA, but a civic group, totally voluntary and no true governing authority. Our guidelines are the county guidelines. Which we try to apprise you of and assist with when we can.

Presently we have an executive board (by annual election) and a handful of neighbor volunteers. We literally work just to keep the lights on. In that, monthly entrance utilities are paid. We have 4 with lighting and 2 of those have water. Both systems have fallen into various states of disrepair, along with the landscaping (or lack thereof). We have an ongoing goal to improve, update and maintain our entrances, but funding has been difficult. Other costs are a printed newsletter (resurrected in 2019), that we try to print 3 times a year; postcards and postage for annual dues; PO box rental; miscellaneous expenses, and in the past couple months electrical and water repairs at entrances.

From the beginning of this year, we planned to work on the entrances one at a time. We had all the pillars pressure washed, have painted the 4 cement ones, purchased materials and repaired the irrigation at Andrea. Plants have just been added! The planter at 27th was dismantled to remove the need to plant & maintain, as there is no irrigation there.

Sadly, this year we have dealt with physical damage to the entrances. Not all necessitating large costs to repair, but distressing none the less. A sign light was broken on one of the Gocio pillars. The ground lights at Monica have been broken several times. We have repaired them to what extent we could, but now they really should be replaced. At 27th Pkwy entrance, both signs were pulled loose from the pillar and needed to be re-secured. The plexi-glass in one lantern was replaced due to breakage. Lastly, the electric meter box and wiring was damaged on the south pillar, resulting in the power being disconnected for several weeks as we needed to get estimates for the repair and go through the county process. This cost over \$400.00.

The worst has been the willful damage to the south wall at Monica Pkwy. Over the weekend of Oct. 10th, someone spray painted in black, vile words on it. Obviously, this presented a thorough cleaning situation performed by neighborhood volunteers, who did a great job! Before all these setbacks, we had planned to try to raise funds to completely revamp the Monica entrance. It has been decided to still make that this year's goal, if funds permit. And where do these funds come from?? YOU.

The "dues" are called such because historically that's what they were. Now, even they are voluntary, however, very essential to just to keep the entrances maintained and pay bills. We send a postcard reminder out at the beginning of the year. We ask only once (they are annual dues). If that is a hardship, we gladly accept donations in any amount. Out of the 1130 homes, dues are received from less than 200 in any given year. Not much=not much done.

Besides funding, the next most important thing you can do for the neighborhood is get involved. The KP Civic Association asks all residents to come to the neighborhood meetings, volunteer for committees or projects, join the Board. Kensington Park very much needs future leaders and volunteering at any level is a great way to start. The more involvement, the more effective the Association can be.

Volunteering in KP can be as minimal or much as you want. We know you have concerns, but maybe you also have ideas, or a possible solution? Please help us help you. Your support, whether monetary or voluntary is very important to keep our community a safe, clean and welcoming place to live.

Yours respectfully,

KPCA Executive Board

Coming Early in 2021
Kensington Park Civic Association is Getting a New Website!

Designed to be fully compatible with all mobile devices, the new website will feature brand new photography from the neighborhood, meeting times and agendas, news and events, information about the community, maps of local resources, historical data, and a whole bunch more!

Be sure to check our Facebook page for updates!
www.facebook.com/KensingtonParkFL/



KENSINGTON PARK VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WE ARE LOOKING FOR SOME NEIGHBORHOOD-MINDED INDIVIDUALS TO HELP WITH CERTAIN ASPECTS/ACTIVITIES WITHIN KPCA AND THE ASSOCIATION.

AREAS OF NEED ARE:

SECURITY PATROL- THIS REQUIRES A 1 TIME INFO/TRAINING SESSION WITH OFFICER HICKS (our Sheriff liaison), and a minimum of two separate 1 hour patrols driving around KP each month. The time is picked by you and your partner as 2 people must go together, so this can fit into any schedule. It is for observation only of anyone or thing that seems suspicious, and you do not leave your car.

UNIT VOLUNTEER-These two individuals are responsible to deliver our newsletters in their own unit only 3 times per year. There are 8 units in KP, so we technically need 16 people. We have a few volunteers already, so presently the need is less. You will work under the direction of a member of the Board. At least 1 info/organizational meeting will be necessary before delivery. It does require driving and/or walking. There need not be any direct contact even though you will go door to door.

WELCOME COMMITTEE-These individuals will work under the direction of a chairperson. We need 2 people (preferably Bi-lingual individuals (Spanish-English), to join 2 present volunteers, for you must again go out in pairs. This also requires driving/walking, as you do go to listed addresses to welcome new residents to Kensington Park and leave informational packets. Each pair can pick the day, time, etc., making it flexible. As with the above there will be at least 1 info/organizational meeting.

Beautification Committee- These individuals will work as a team under the direction of a chairperson. Basically, this involves weeding and watering as needed at the 4 main entrances of KP, picking up litter and informing the Board as maintenance needs arise. This committee can have a big impact on property values as a whole. As funds allow, we continue to work toward entrance improvements, so future projects would involve more hands.

TO VOLUNTEER YOU CAN EMAIL INFO TO KPCASRQ.OFFICE@GMAIL.COM OR MAIL THIS PAGE TO: KPCA, P O BOX 52574, SARASOTA, 34232.

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE

AREA(S) OF INTEREST

PLEASE PROVIDE A WORKING PHONE NUMBER AND/OR A VALID EMAIL. THANK YOU.