



**A MESSAGE FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We would like to wish all of our neighbors a happy and healthy New Year. The officers of Kensington Park are always working towards achieving our goals as well as helping to solve neighborhood issues as they arise.

Together with all the volunteers I know we're helping to make our neighborhood something special.

The activities we're focusing on for 2015 include:

- Beautification- entrances, common areas. Generally making the park more attractive.
- Security- making the park safer, reporting things when we see them.
- Activities – planning fun, family activities everyone can enjoy.
- Fundraising – raising money for the Association.
- Membership - increasing the membership.

Communication is most important for letting all of you know what's happening. The newsletter and e-mail are the two biggest ways we have to inform neighbors what we're doing and planning. Sometime this year we will have a new meeting room at the Calvary Chapel Church. We hope this will attract more neighbors to attend meetings and become more aware of the needs of your neighborhood. We hope the church will be a place we can plan activities around.

We want and need more neighbors to come forward with ideas, suggestions and to be part of a planning process for improving Kensington Park. A neighborhood park at the vacant Aqua Utilities site will be a big project in which we will be calling on you for support. Planning and executing events takes more than 5 people. All of you are the spokes on the wheel. Thank you in advance.

**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**

Search for "Kensington Park Civic Association" on Facebook and "like" us, so we can continue to keep you up-to-date on your neighborhood with occasional posts.



Newly-elected Kensington Park Civic Association Board members. From the left, Vice President Francis Scheuer, Treasurer Millie Oberman, Secretary Joan Krushanski, 2nd Vice President Ben Harrison, President Charles Carson.

**KENSINGTON PARK RECOGNIZES NEIGHBORS WHO HAVE MADE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD A LITTLE NICER WITH THEIR LANDSCAPING**

We hope these neighbors will inspire others. Thank you.

- 3237 Fauna Street
- 3449 24th Parkway
- 3519 24th Parkway
- 3244 Dante Drive
- 3834 Sugar Lane
- 3322 Dudley Place
- 3204 Ridge Avenue
- 4230 Tee Road
- 2708 Lench Place
- 3333 Prudence Drive
- 3783 Dover Drive
- 3851 Melgert Lane

**CIVIC ASSOCIATION PLANS BRAINSTORMING SESSION**

The Kensington Park Civic Association is planning a brainstorming session to generate ideas for increasing the membership and for being more responsive to the needs of the community. The two



hour session is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 18 at 7:30 pm at Ben Harrison's house – 4100 Tee Rd. We are planning to have 8 to 12 participants, so if you are interested in making your ideas heard, please call or send an email to Ben Harrison, phone 941.366.9479 -- email bronie1@comast.net.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Monday, Feb. 9, 2015 -- **Civic Association Meetings**

Wednesday, Feb. 18 – **Brainstorming Session** (see announcement this page)

Saturday, April 25, 2015 8 a.m.-noon -- **Community Cleanup** (call 941-650-3502 for info)

Monday, May 11, 2015 -- **Civic Association Meetings**

All **Civic Association Meetings** take place at **CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH**, 3308 17th Street, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with social time from 6:45 p.m. until 7 p.m. Light refreshments served.

## MAKING HISTORY ON VALENTINE'S DAY

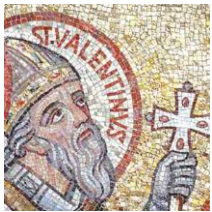
Valentine's Day is a time for affection and love. Or, some may argue, a "Hallmark Holiday." Whatever it means to you, its history is long and worth noting.



There are several saints with the name Valentine, but one, legend has it, served as a third century Roman soldier. During that time, Emperor Claudius II felt that married men made poor soldiers. Valentine didn't buy the logic, and behind closed doors, he performed marriages for his comrades. When Claudius caught wind, Valentine was executed.

Each year on Feb. 15, the Romans celebrated a fertility festival called Lupercalia, which was dedicated to Fannus, their agriculture god and featured rituals involving the hide of a sacrificed goat, meant to enhance fertility. But in the 5th Century, the church banned the holiday. About that same time, Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14th St. Valentine's Day. During the Middle Ages, many in Europe began to associate romance with St. Valentine's Day, perhaps in part because of a belief that birds began their mating season in February.

Valentine's Day kicked into high gear in the year 1415 when an imprisoned Duke named Charles, who was captured at the



Battle of Agincourt, wrote his wife a Valentine note from the dreary confines of the Tower of London. The romantic gesture has survived the ages, but the craft has certainly evolved over the years. It's believed that American colonists

picked up the handwritten Valentine craft sometime around 1700, and in 1900, companies began printing the little love notes en mass. Today, the top gift choices for lovebirds are flowers, chocolate, and jewelry, in that order. Americans spend billions of dollars for Valentine's Day each year.

Now that you're informed, go on and write a sweet note, pick up a box of chocolates, and keep on making history this Valentine's Day.

### PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING TO THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

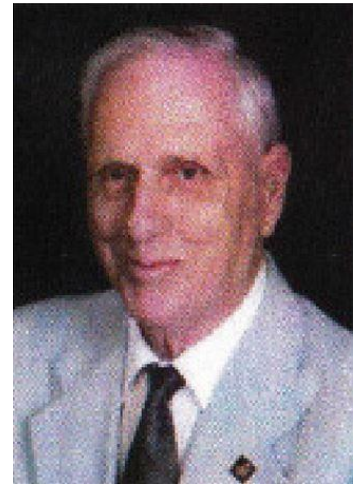
1. Identify yourself (name, address and phone number)
2. Type of Crime (burglary, assault)
3. Crime in Progress (or when it occurred)
4. Where (address, street name)
5. Suspect Armed (gun, knife, etc.)
6. Description (sex, age, race, height, weight, hair, and clothing)
7. Vehicle (color, make, license plate number)
8. Direction in which suspect was traveling
9. What was taken
10. CALL 911

### KENSINGTON PARK SEEKS SECURITY PATROL VOLUNTEERS

If you are interested in volunteering to help make Kensington Park more secure, please contact any board member.

## KENSINGTON PARK REMEMBERS EDDIE DUFF

On Thursday, Dec. 4, 2014 Eddie Duff died in Springfield, Ohio. Eddie and Naomi Duff were long-term residents of Kensington Park. During 2014 they relocated to Springfield to be closer to family. Eddie loved Kensington Park and put in many, many volunteer hours for the organization. Eddie served as President of the Civic Association from 1996 – 99, 2006, and 2008. The thing



that Eddie was the proudest of is that after an 8 year absence he was able to reestablish the Security Patrol which continues to exist today. One could not think about the Easter Egg Hunt without thinking of Eddie & Naomi. Kensington Park was saddened when the Duff's announced their relocation plans.

Eddie was 86 years old. He is survived by his loving and devoted wife Naomi, daughters Jackie & Lori, son Randy, and beloved dog "Mister". Eddie had 5 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. Eddie was a member of the Asbury United Methodist Church for 65 years. He was a Mason for 49 years including York Rite and Knights Templar. Known as "Duffy", he was a clown for the Shriners for 22 years. Eddie served 12 years in the Army National Guard where he earned the rank of Master Sargent. A perfect day for Eddie is one that he spent fishing.

Our thoughts are with Naomi during this difficult time. Kensington Park fondly remembers this gentle soul named Eddie Duff. He has gone on to a well-deserved rest.

### KENSINGTON PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: <b>Charles Carson</b>	363-0794
Vice President: <b>Francis Scheuer</b>	720-5543
2nd Vice President: <b>Ben Harrison</b>	366-9479
Secretary: <b>Joan Krushanski</b>	366-8730
Treasurer: <b>Millie Oberman</b>	955-5058

The Kensington Park Civic Association extends thanks to the Cornerstone Baptist Church on 17th Street for welcoming our group to meet at their location.

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### CRIME STATS FOR SEP THROUGH DEC 2014

→ Vandalism	1
→ Burglary	4
→ Theft	14
→ Juvenile Disturbance	1







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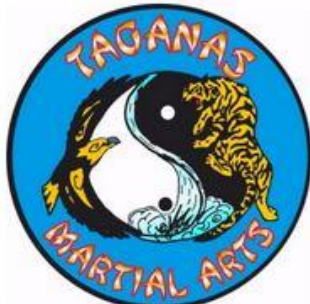
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## WILL KENSINGTON PARK GET A PUBLIC PARK?

The site of the old waste treatment center at the corner of Monica Parkway and 27th Parkway stands mainly empty. There is a building that is used for equipment storage, and the underground pipes still carry water, but the site is pretty much underused and unattractive. So the prospect that this area might be converted into a public park is an appealing one. On Wednesday, October 29th, representatives of the Kensington Park Civic Association, Sarasota County Public Utilities, Sarasota County Neighborhood Services, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation, and Calvary Chapel, met at the site to consider the feasibility of such a development.

The county officials noted that there are several impediments to moving forward on such a project. Aside from the equipment storage issues, the site is currently owned by Public



Utilities and would have to be sold to Parks and Recreation at current market value. No funds are currently budgeted for such a project. The installation of a park at the site would have to become part of the county plan for park development and would have to compete with other proposed projects.

But if these impediments could be overcome, installation of a neighborhood park utilizing all or part of the site would probably be feasible. A neighborhood park might have grass, trees, picnic tables, paths, swing sets (and other equipment) and an open pavilion. There would be no public parking. A more extensive park, with running water, sports facilities, indoor meeting spaces and other features would be much more expensive and difficult to construct.

The planning for a park is part of a long complicated process, and the Kensington Park community would have to show support for such a project. The Civic Association may conduct a survey to show that the community wants a park and to determine what sort of a park is most desirable. Residents would be encouraged to attend meetings to show support for the project. The park would be totally funded by the county, and would not cost anything to the residents directly. The goal would be to establish a park within five years.

Public parks have been shown to provide many benefits to the surrounding areas, and the Civic Association hopes that this neighborhood park will become a reality.

## FLOOD ZONES IN KENSINGTON PARK: ARE YOU AFFECTED?

If you are paying for flood insurance and wish to increase the value of your home, please read on. All homes are classified from Zone A to Zone C. Depending on the street or subdivision where you live, you may be eligible for discounts or rebates.

With permission from a Kensington Park homeowner I'm forwarding a summary of her experience in 2013.

"It took several months but I was able to have the flood risk designation of my property changed from high risk to low risk. I received flood maps and specific property descriptions from Desiree Companion, Sarasota County. I then found a local survey company and paid \$225 to have a survey done and an elevation certificate issued. I applied online to FEMA for a Letter of Map Change (LOMC).

The information Ms. Companion sent me, the survey and a certified copy of my deed had to be attached to the application. It took about 60 days for the final determination but my property went from Zone A to Zone C, so that flood insurance is not federally mandated by mortgage companies. I received the LOMC, sent it to my mortgage company who waived the mandatory flood insurance and was refunded the \$900 I had paid for this year's flood insurance policy. I feel I have definitely increased the market value of my property.

Ms. Companion's information was invaluable to making this possible. I would be glad to be of assistance and share whatever information I can to other Kensington Park homeowners who are experiencing problems with flood zone determinations." Courtesy of Sandra Zellar, 685-1005.



Flood Zones and how they affect Kensington Park will be discussed at our Association meeting in February. Desiree Companion and Sandra Zellar will also be present to answer questions. Desiree Companion is a Community Rating System Coordinator for Sarasota County. She can be reached at 941-861-0802. Check out the flood history website at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net) then search flood history.





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