



The Official Newsletter of the Kensington Downs Community Association

April 2015

Kensington Downs Courier

P.O. Box 15431 • Fort Wayne, Indiana 46885-5431

www.kensingtondowns.com

The History of Memorial Day

Carol A. Griffin, President

Memorial Day, an American holiday observed on the last Monday of May, honors men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades. Unofficially, at least, it marks the beginning of summer.

EARLY OBSERVANCES OF MEMORIAL DAY

The Civil War claimed more lives than any conflict in U.S. history, requiring the establishment of the country's first national cemeteries. By the late 1860s Americans in various towns and cities had begun holding springtime tributes to these countless fallen soldiers, decorating their graves with flowers and reciting prayers.

It is unclear where exactly this tradition originated; numerous different communities may have independently initiated the memorial gatherings. Nevertheless, in 1966 the federal government declared Waterloo,

New York, the official birthplace of Memorial Day. Waterloo—which had first celebrated the day on May 5, 1866—was chosen because it hosted an annual, community-wide event, during which businesses closed and residents decorated the graves of soldiers with flowers and flags.

DECORATION DAY

On May 5, 1862, General John A. Logan, leader of an organization for Northern Civil War veterans, called for a nationwide day of remembrance later that month. "The 30th of May, 1868, is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers, or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion,

and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village and hamlet churchyard in the land," he proclaimed. The date of Decoration Day, as he called it, was chosen because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.

On the first Decoration Day, General James Garfield made a speech at Arlington National Cemetery, and 5,000 participants decorated the graves of the 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers buried

there. Many Northern states held similar commemorative events and reprised the tradition in subsequent years; by 1890 each one had made Decoration Day an official state holiday. Many Southern states, on the other hand, continued to honor their dead on separate days until after World War I.

EVOLUTION OF MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, as Decoration Day gradually came to be known, originally honored only those lost while fighting in

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SAVE THE DATE

Garage Sale	May 7, 8, 9
Board Meeting	May 20, Georgetown Library
Board Meeting	Aug 5, Fire Station #4 (Lahmeyer)
Board Meeting	Sep 2, Georgetown Library
Garage Sale	Oct 1, 2, 3
Board Meeting	Oct 7, Georgetown Library
Annual Meeting	Nov 11, Georgetown Library
Board Meeting	Nov 18, TBD

WELCOME TO KENSINGTON

Jared Lung & Amy Nagel 7527 Scarlet Court



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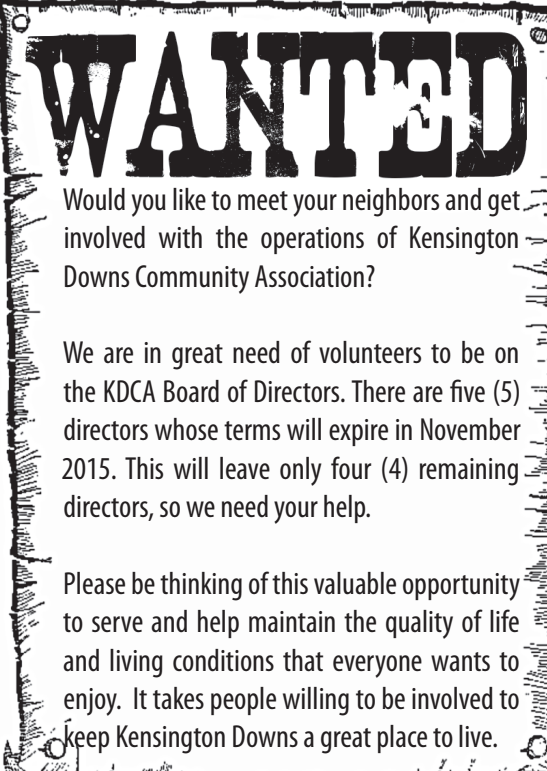
the Civil War. But during World War I the United States found itself embroiled in another major conflict, and the holiday evolved to commemorate American military personnel who died in all wars.

For decades, Memorial Day continued to be observed on May 30, the date Logan had selected for the first Decoration Day. But in 1968 Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act, which established Memorial Day as the last Monday in May in order to create a three-day weekend for federal employees; the change went into effect in 1971. The same law also declared Memorial Day a federal holiday.

### MEMORIAL DAY TRADITIONS

Cities and towns across the United States host Memorial Day parades each year, often incorporating military personnel and members of veterans' organizations. Some of the largest parades take place in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Americans also observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials. On a less somber note, many people throw parties and barbecues on the holiday, perhaps because it unofficially marks the beginning of summer.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to wish you a blessed holiday, and thank those who have served in any branch of the United States military.



**WANTED**

Would you like to meet your neighbors and get involved with the operations of Kensington Downs Community Association?

We are in great need of volunteers to be on the KDCA Board of Directors. There are five (5) directors whose terms will expire in November 2015. This will leave only four (4) remaining directors, so we need your help.

Please be thinking of this valuable opportunity to serve and help maintain the quality of life and living conditions that everyone wants to enjoy. It takes people willing to be involved to keep Kensington Downs a great place to live.




**Are you planning a building project?**

For example, a fence, deck, room addition or swimming pool. Please remember to submit a lot improvement request form to the Architectural Control & Review Committee. Your project must receive approval **BEFORE** construction begins. For a copy of the approved fence policy and the required form, go to the KDCA website or contact Cary Baron at (260) 748-4040.



## Kensington Downs Villas 2015 Board Members

Tom Eggold .....President  
7403 Derby Lane (260) 493.8546  
***Sprinkler system and KDCA Board Liaison***

Jan Porter ..... Vice President  
7419 Derby Lane (260) 749.7907

Joanne Renselle .....Secretary  
7412 Derby Lane (260) 749.4121

Pat Plazek .....Treasurer  
7711 Preakness Cove (260) 748.4031  
***Lawn maintenance (mowing and fertilization),  
Painting and Siding damage***

Dick Dirrim .....Director  
7607 Preakness Cove (260) 493.5700  
***Snow removal***

Manfred Fremder .....Director  
7603 Preakness Cove (260) 493.8522

Margery Timbrook ..... Director  
7411 Derby Lane (260) 493.0063

D. Jean Scherer .....Director  
7406 Derby Lane (260) 749.6295  
***Shrub pruning, Bed edging, Architectural changes***



## GARAGE SALE

**Thursday, May 7 through  
Saturday, May 9**

**Please contact Barb Lepper  
at 438-9648 for more info.**

Kensington Downs East will be joining us for this annual event. The garage sale dates will be advertised in Fort Wayne newspapers and signs will be posted at both subdivision entries. To be helpful to shoppers, we would like to give them a list of garage sale locations. So, if you are participating, please contact Barb by (Friday) May 1 with your address and dates you will be "open for business". We appreciate your cooperation and let's hope for a pleasant-weather weekend.

## Villa News & Views

Tom Eggold, Villa President

Irrigation system start-up for the season will be on June 1. If you have any special requests for the sprinklers in your yard, please email me at [eggoldte@gmail.com](mailto:eggoldte@gmail.com). With your request, a diagram of your yard would be helpful. As the spring and summer come, you may have some questions about the painting schedule, the lawn mowing, sprinklers, repair of snow plow damage to lawns, etc. Please note the Villa Board member responsible for the activity (see list to the left) and contact that individual for assistance. Do not call the contracted company that is providing the service to The Villas.

Thanks for your help and cooperation!

## Upcoming Projects

Board of Directors

- The power boxes/control pad stand located on the north bank of the KD pond will be re-painted this summer. Cary Baron has volunteered to do this work.
- The Board is working with City officials to determine the best locations in Kensington Downs for the installation of additional street light poles.
- The City will be installing two (2) ADA ramps in our subdivision this summer. The ramps will connect the sidewalks in the Villa common area to Derby Lane and Preakness Cove.
- Again this year, the Board will submit a "Street Tree Application" to the City, requesting the planting of trees in our park-strip areas. If you have a suggestion for where street trees are needed, please contact a Board member before June 1.

## Maintenance Matters

Board of Directors

- Hoosier Land Care (HLC) will be here on Fridays each week (weather permitting) to cut all of the KDCA common area grass, including the area around the KD pond.
- **Attention all homeowners with property on the KD pond:** The high quality of our pond water will be maintained this summer by Pond Champs. Since we will want to use only the amount of chemicals necessary to achieve this goal, you can help by doing the following.
  - a) Do not apply any fertilizer in the common area (i.e., beyond your property line)
  - b) Use a slow-release fertilizer on your lawn in the springtime, and then apply either a low- or no-phosphorus fertilizer during the remainder of the season
  - c) Mow all grass clippings away from the pond; do not extend your personal lawn mowing all the way to the water's edge (HLC will mow this common area grass)
- Please remember to keep trash and recycle cans in or on the side of your garage, and not out in front of your house in plain sight. No cans are allowed on the street before 12 noon on Tuesday (with collection on Wednesdays). Cans must be removed from the street by 12 noon on Thursday.
- Help to prevent items from blowing all over the neighborhood on trash and recycling collection days. Garbage should be placed in secured plastic bags and recycled papers can be bundled into paper grocery bags, before putting them into the roll-out carts.
- After you are done mowing your yard, please sweep or blow all debris (grass clippings, dirt, etc.) out of the street.
- Please remove leaves and other materials from the gutters and storm sewer inlets near your home. This helps to prevent street flooding during rain storms.

# Safety & Emergency Preparedness

## Board of Directors

Your KDCA Board is looking for homeowners who are willing to serve on an "exploratory committee" to address this important topic. We would like to start discussing this topic at the May 20 board meeting (before our summer hiatus begins). To volunteer, please contact either Carol Griffin or Arlene Klapes by May 17.

As neighbors, we should be able to rely on each other for support and assistance in the event of a natural and/or man-made disaster. In addition, we all know that severe weather can occur in any season or time of the year. Please take notice and help your neighbors, especially those who are homebound, elderly or disabled.

Also, let your neighbors know if you are planning to be away from your home for an extended period of time. Remember that good neighbors watch out for one another!

And on a related note: As the weather gets warmer, homeowners are apt to leave more doors and windows open. So, this is a good time to

remind everyone that break-ins can be prevented if we all pay some extra attention. Please keep your garage doors closed, and lock any cars parked in driveways or on the streets.

Also, remove all "tempting items" from your car. Don't provide any easy targets! Stay alert to your surroundings, report any suspicious activity, and keep more of your outside lights burning during the evenings and nights.

We encourage all homeowners to promptly report all incidents of vandalism, theft, burglary, etc. to the Fort Wayne Police Department. With a more accurate picture of the "crime statistics", the FWPD will be apprised of any need for increased patrols or heightened vigilance in our neighborhood. In addition, if you need help with a non-emergency, police-related matter, please feel free to make direct contact with Officer Robert Warstler, our Neighborhood Liaison Officer at the FWPD.

## SIGN POSTING RULES

If you are selling your home, having an "open house", holding an auction, or advertising any other event, please remember the following sign posting rules as stated in the ByLaws.

- Well-presented signs may be placed in the Common Area of the Association on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.
- The individual(s) placing the signs in the Common Area will be responsible for removing those signs.
- Signs may be placed in the Common Area at other times, ONLY with written permission of the Board of Directors or the Architectural Control Committee.

Homeowners are asked to take responsibility for advising/educating their Realtor, Auctioneer, or various other agents concerning these rules and requirements. Thanks!

THANK YOU: **Todd Kabisch** and **Karen Casey** for removing the Christmas decorations from the entrance.

**Cary Baron** for collecting all the snow stakes (66 stakes were deployed last November).

**Carl Wheeler** for his excellent work revising the KD Homeowner Directory.

The many "snow shoveling elves" that were spotted this past winter! Specifically, Arlene Klapes would like to thank the **Rick Miller** family for their continued assistance, and Carol Griffin wishes to thank **Dan McMillan**.

A draft copy of the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes has been posted to the KDCA Website. To view this document, you'll need to have "member access". Registration for website access is easy - just go to [www.kensingtondowns.com](http://www.kensingtondowns.com) and follow the directions.

2015 Homeowner Directory - the KDCA Board has done their best to provide an up-to-date listing for each of our Kensington Downs residents, and we apologize for any errors. Please examine the information listed and make sure that it is correct. Any changes may be emailed to Carl Wheeler ([whee\\_c@earthlink.net](mailto:whee_c@earthlink.net)).

Please use your new KD Directory to find the names and contact information for your neighbors. Get to know them and let's watch out for each other, especially those in poor health or with other special needs. Many of you are already doing a great job of "neighboring". Thanks!

"Tox-Away Day" will be held on (Saturday) September 12, 2015 and "Tire Amnesty Day" is (Saturday) October 3, 2015. For more information, contact the Allen County Solid Waste Management District at (260) 449-7878.

Homeowners are encouraged to attend any/all meetings of the Board of Directors. Please feel free to contact any Director with your comments, concerns and suggestions.

### Help your Board of Directors!

Please call 3-1-1 to report broken street lights, potholes that need filling, trees down in the park-strip, or cars parked on the street for extended time periods.

Please remember that all KDCA Board members are homeowners (just like you!) and they are volunteering their time, energy and expertise to keep Kensington Downs running day-to-day. They deserve your thanks and support, so don't be afraid to "pitch in and help".

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

## Important Numbers

Indiana Michigan Power (report power outage)  
Indiana Michigan Power (pay bill by phone)  
NIPSCO - gas company (report gas leaks/odor of gas)  
NIPSCO (customer service)  
City Utilities (customer service)  
City Utilities (pay bill by phone)  
Allen County Public Library Main Library  
Georgetown  
New Haven  
Tecumseh  
Family Help-Line

(800) 311-4634  
(800) 611-0964  
(800) 634-3524  
(800) 464-7726  
(260) 427-1234  
(877) 306-9265  
(260) 421-1200  
(260) 421-1320  
(260) 421-1345  
(260) 421-1360  
(800) 433-0746

