



Introduction – Letter from the Outgoing Chair

The 27th year of **The Kentlands Community Foundation** started off last July like so many in recent memory. Planning for the 26th Annual Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race, our big annual fundraiser was humming along. The September event was a great success, maintaining its status as Montgomery County’s largest 5K and raising an unprecedented \$20,000 donated to five worthy beneficiaries, including a new one you’ll read about below. As our program year began, The Kentlands Film Society sold out subscriptions to its 14th season and newer programs, like the Kentlands Community Players and the Kentlands Wine Club, were building momentum in their second year. The Players were in rehearsals for their third production, and the Wine Club planned an ambitious schedule of off-site events in 2020 to augment its typical Clubhouse gatherings. Our 14+ volunteer-led programs are all unique, yet they all have something in common; *they build community through promoting the arts, volunteerism and new urbanism*. More specifically, they bring together members of our community with common interests for shared experiences.

Then in March, just as many of our programs and activities were getting into full swing, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the nation and our community, resulting in the public-health emergency that brought many of our programs to a screeching halt. Shared experiences were no longer safe. The Film Society’s final two screenings were cancelled; our classical music concert series, Musica Viva Kentlands, shelved plans for a spring concert on the Green; the Kentlands Acoustic Jam and the Wine Club suspended their in-person gatherings; The Village at Kentlands & Lakelands curtailed many of its services and cancelled its social gatherings; and planning for this year’s 5K race was thrown completely up in the air. As with every organization like ours, it took us weeks to get our bearings, holding our Board meetings virtually via Zoom teleconference and not knowing when the deadly virus would allow us to go back to planning shared experiences. But eventually the cohesiveness and resilience of our community reemerged. All of our planning and many of our activities moved online. The Wine Club participated in a series of “virtual” wine tastings; the Film Society is planning a “Virtual Critic’s Corner” in July; Kentlands Under the Lights, our popular community dinner, pivoted to KUL@Home, promoting takeout dinners on June 13 to support our local restaurants; and the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K Committee is planning our first-ever “virtual” 5K race in September. And thanks to the continuing generosity and community spirit of the Kentlands Citizens Assembly and the Lakelands Community Association (and hopefully other sponsors) who have maintained their title sponsorships even in the virtual format, we should be able to clear a sizable sum to support our worthy beneficiaries. (Read more about this below.) Equally impressive was the fabulous virtual concert performed by our own Maestro Simeone Tartaglione and his wife, world-class violinist Alessandra Cuffaro, streamed from their living room live on Facebook and Zoom, as a fundraiser for planned (fingers crossed) future orchestra concerts.

And just to underscore that the spirit of volunteerism and service to the community remains alive and well during the pandemic, the KidServe program organized weeks of socially-distanced collection (on front porches and stoops around the neighborhood) for the Gaithersburg CARES Hub, a consolidation center for essential health items and food for children, families and seniors recovering at home from COVID-19.

On the heels of last year's honor in receiving a Citizenship Award as the City of Gaithersburg's 'Organization of the Year,' 2020 is proving to be among the most challenging in the Foundation's 27 years. Yet once again, our army of volunteers, our partners at the City of Gaithersburg and our increasingly generous sponsors are all rising to the occasion. As I step down as Chair, despite the challenges that still lie ahead, I'm proud of the engagement and energy of this Board of Directors and our program leadership. I am very confident that I'm leaving the Foundation (after one more year on the Board) in very capable hands. Thank you to all who have made this another incredible year and my service leading the Board so extremely rewarding.



Rob Garretson
Outgoing Chair
Kentlands Community Foundation Board of Directors

About the Foundation

THE KENTLANDS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION is a not-for-profit educational and cultural organization established in 1993 and dedicated to enriching civic life. Our mission is threefold:

- 1) To build community by supporting local arts and cultural programs;
- 2) To provide opportunities for volunteerism and community outreach; and
- 3) To serve as an educational resource on the landmark new urbanist community that is Kentlands.

In addition to serving Kentlands and Lakelands, the Foundation also serves the wider Gaithersburg community and is a frequent partner with the City of Gaithersburg on a variety of programs. Our programs seek to connect individuals and families in ways that enhance everyday life and encourage civic involvement.

Structure of the Foundation

The Foundation's governing structure has two layers. The first is a Board of Directors, which oversees Foundation's strategy, activities and policies. Members are appointed from the Gaithersburg/Montgomery County government, business, arts, and town planning communities, and from the residents of Kentlands and Lakelands.

2020/2021 Board of Directors

Ms. Jaree Donnelly (2014-20) <i>Chair, Arts Professional Seat</i>	Mr. Steve Rambo (2020-22) <i>Treasurer, KCA Appointee</i>	Ms. Ailene Renzi (2011-23) <i>Secretary, At-Large</i>
Ms. Meredith M. Fogle (2018-21) <i>Vice Chair, Local Business Seat</i>	Mr. Rob Garretson (2015-21) <i>Vice Chair, KCA Appointee</i>	Ms. Sooky McFadden (2019-22) <i>KCA Appointee</i>
Ms. Ann Derryberry (2014-23) <i>Local Business Seat</i>	Ms. Sharon Cantrell (2018-21) <i>At Large</i>	Hon. Mike Sesma (2008-*) <i>City Liaison</i>
David Hofmann (2019-**) <i>Kentlands Citizens Assembly Liaison</i>	Ms. Kim Wooldridge (2019-22) <i>New Urbanist Seat</i>	Ms. Jodi Rapaport (2020-23) <i>Alternate</i>
<i>**term concurrent with KCA Trustee term</i>		<i>*term concurrent with City Council term</i>

Foundation Director

Elisabeth Monaco has served as the Executive Director since December 2017. The Executive Director works up to 30 hours per week on average to provide office management, program development, grant writing and communication management for the Foundation in support of the Foundation's Board of Directors and the Foundation's programs.

Committee Chairs

The second layer of the Foundation's organization is composed of the Foundation's Committee Chairs, who plan and execute programs and outreach efforts. The Committee Chairs work with volunteers within their committees and on specific activities to produce or provide the one-time events or on-going activities for each program. Board members also act as liaisons to each Foundation program.

Program	Chairs	Board Liaison
Kentlands/Lakelands 5K	Daniel Talmadge (Race Director), Carolyn Muller (City of Gaithersburg), Erin Cristy, Karen Cranney	Rob Garretson
Community Bridge Club	Judi Moline	Meredith Fogle
GoGreen Group	Alex Stavitsky-Zeineddin, Steve Whelan, Bettina Thompson	Ann Derryberry
KidServe	Sooky McFadden and Sharon Dunda	Sooky McFadden
Film Society	Ron Thelin and Christine Kelly	Sharon Cantrell
Cub Scout Pack 221	Janet Griffiths and John Leary	Stephen Rambo
Kentlands Acoustic Jam	David Pier and Karen Norris	David Hofmann
Village at Kentlands & Lakelands	Fran Randolph and Ann Drum	Stephen Rambo
Kentlands Digital Photography	Markham Luke and Hamid Nazari	Jaree Donnelly
Musica Viva: Kentlands	Ron Thelin and Simeone Tartaglione	Ailene Renzi
Kentlands Under the Lights	John Ingrassia and Silvio Renzi	Ailene Renzi
Artists on Market	Keith Mount	Jaree Donnelly
New Urbanist Lecture Series	Kim Wooldridge	Kim Wooldridge
Kentlands Community Players	Meredith Fogle and Mark Steiner	Meredith Fogle
Kentlands Wine Club	Steve and Lynn Longley	Rob Garretson

Finances

	<u>2017</u> (reviewed)	<u>2018</u> (audited)	2019 (review in process)
Revenue:			
5K Race Revenue	\$68,578	\$73,866	\$76,804
Other Program Revenue	30,430	36,218	¹ 91,318
KCA Funding	46,500	45,000	² 50,900
Other Revenue	80	127	³ 15,061
Total Revenue	\$145,588	\$155,211	\$234,083
Total Operating Expenses	\$125,597	\$152,031	\$200,065
Net Income	\$19,991	\$3,180	\$34,017
Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	\$169,035	\$149,457	\$188,394

The Foundation’s funding comes from multiple sources: an initial endowment from the Kentland Citizens Assembly (KCA), funding from public and private organizations, and income generated by programs and fundraising efforts. The KCA is the Foundation’s most reliable and consistent source of annual funding, with funds raised from every home sale in the Kentlands earmarked by covenant to “the funding of programs determined to be beneficial to the qualities of the social and cultural life in Kentlands,” with a specific reference to “contributions to the Kentlands Foundation, and other similar causes.” The Foundation thus makes an annual request to the KCA for funding of its professional staff, plus contributions for any *ad hoc* programs that require seed funding and are particularly beneficial to the qualities of the social and cultural life in Kentlands. This past year, the Foundation received grant money benefiting the Village of Kentlands and Lakelands, the Musica Viva Kentlands Concert series, and its general operating fund from governmental and private foundations. In support of its philanthropic mission,

¹ Other Program Revenue dramatically increased in 2019 because of program growth overall and in particular the growth and success of the Village at Kentlands & Lakelands and Musica Viva Kentlands.

² In 2019 the KCF received \$50,900 of funds from the KCA to be used as follows: \$35,000 for G&A, \$5,000 for 5K sponsorship, \$7,500 for other programs, and \$3,400 to Musica Viva Kentlands in fulfillment of a matching grant request.

³ The Foundation was a recipient of a Montgomery County Arts & Humanities grant for general operating expenses.

the Foundation donated \$20,000 from the proceeds of the Annual Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race last year to several charitable organizations.

The One Main Street Initiative (OMSI), an initiative funded by the KCA and incubated under the Foundation beginning in 2017, was accounted for separately from the Foundation's annual operations. Funding received for this program in 2017 was not spent until 2018 and all funds received for the Initiative were expensed in 2018. OMSI successfully completed its mission to produce recommendations on ways to revitalize the Main Street commercial district and made plans to spin off as its own nonprofit organization representing live-work owners and businesses on Main Street. OMSI ceased reporting its activities to the Foundation in 2019 and has since merged its activities with the KCA's Kentlands Downtown Working Group.

2020 Awards

To help the Foundation celebrate its programs and the people who make them possible, each year we recognize individuals who go above and beyond in serving our community by giving their time and talents in support of the arts, embodying volunteerism, and helping uphold Kentlands as a landmark of New Urbanism. Volunteers are nominated by program leadership and voted on by the Board of Directors. This year's Awards go to:

Volunteerism Awards

This award recognizes individuals for their outstanding volunteer commitment to a program(s). The award will recognize an exceptional contribution of an individual's time and talents and/or successful recruitment of volunteers to the benefit of one or more of the Foundation's programs.

- Lake Coulson, Kentlands/Lakelands 5K
- Janet Griffiths, Cub Scout Pack 221
- Katrina Vierra, Go Green Group

Arts Support Awards

This award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated excellence and commitment in supporting the arts in Kentlands and/or the greater community through an established program(s) with the Foundation.

- Betty Hafner, Kentlands Film Society
- Mark Steimer, Kentlands Community Players

Friend of the Foundation

This award recognizes individuals and organizations who have demonstrated a higher level of commitment and perseverance for the support or creation of a program.

- Pili Verzariu, Musica Viva Kentlands
- Vince Palmiere, Kentlands/Lakelands 5K
- Rob Garretson, long-time Board member and outgoing Chair

2019 - 2020 Programs

Each year hundreds of volunteers give their time, energy and talents to organize and execute Foundation-sponsored programs and events that collectively involve thousands of participants. Foundation-sponsored programs are intended to be financially self-sustaining, supported by volunteer resources and sponsorships or other mechanisms to defray costs. The Foundation as an organization maintains a relatively lean cost structure and donates the majority of the net proceeds of its largest annual fundraiser—the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K race—to several worthy community charities.

As in past years, the leaders of the programs summarize the highlights of the past year below:

Cultural Arts Program and Events

The Kentlands Film Society (“KFS”) is now in its fifteenth year of successful operation. Its mission is to bring high-quality, independent films to the residents of the greater Kentlands community. Approximately 70 films have been shown to a collective audience of more than 5,500 attendees. In addition, the KFS continues to play a key role in supporting the Arts Barn in its staging of the “Manhattan Short Film Festival” each October.

For the 2019/20 season, the KFS sold 115 season subscriptions. Subscription fees, along with other miscellaneous income, produced \$5,340 in total revenues through the end of 2019 and, after all expenses, yielded a surplus of \$2,660 including the refund of rental fees from the closure of the Arts Barn and the cancellation of the final two films of the 2019-20 season. ***In a show of support for our program, all of our subscribers have so far elected to carry over the unused portion of their subscription into our 2020-21 season rather than seek a refund.*** Uncertainty regarding the timing of the reopening of the Arts Barn has caused us to delay the sale of tickets for the upcoming season.

In recognition of the unique challenges posed by COVID-19, the KFS has implemented a number of new initiatives. First, a “touchless” platform for transacting new subscriptions will be put into place for our next season with an emphasis on online enrollment and credit card payment. Ticket sales are planned to begin in August.

In addition, because we recognize the importance of continued community engagement, we are planning two summer outreach events. This represents a departure from our past practices. The first, released in June, provided the community with a list of suggested films drawn from our past screenings. In addition, the KFS is planning to organize a community “watch” party to be held in late July. People watch a preselected film on their own over a specific set of dates. At the end of the viewing period, the KFS will host an online discussion of the film that will be moderated by several KFS members. In this way, we will maintain the visibility of our program and deliver value to the community during this difficult time.

Kentlands Community Players (“KCP”) continues to grow its sponsor, advertiser, and membership base. The KCP produced its second show this year, “Shoulda Coulda Woulda,” an original work by a Kentlands resident. The play was performed to a full theater at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn in November and served as a fundraiser.

The KCP's second planned production of the season, a One Act Festival to have been performed in partnership with Montgomery Playhouse, was interrupted when rehearsal and performance venues were closed in March.

The KCP is working to establish new ways of engaging audiences in the experience of live theatre through the use of a new Virtual Stage concept. This Virtual Stage will be used to perform another original work, "Together Again for the First Time" in August and will be live streamed to the audience. We are also planning a community talent show, "Kentlands/Lakelands has Talent." No decision at this time has been made whether the talent show will be virtual or live. Long-term plans for KCP include participating in Theater Arts Partnership Program (TAPP) membership with the City of Gaithersburg and performing a two- to three-show season with two-week runs for each show. KCP supports the continuing effort to establish a cultural arts center in our community that hopefully will include additional performance spaces.

Musica Viva: Kentlands, a classical music series, now in its third year, is committed to bringing classical music performed by professional musicians to Kentlands. These free concerts seek to raise appreciation for classical music by making it accessible for all.

In fulfillment of this commitment, two outdoor concerts were held in 2019—one in June featuring a fifteen-member string ensemble at the Kentlands Mansion and a second in September held on the grounds of the Kentlands Clubhouse featuring a 40-member orchestra. These two events saw attendance more than double relative to the prior year with attendance averaging more than 700 people per event. Funding was obtained through private foundation grants, community contributions and through the sale of advertising to local businesses.

The Musica Viva Committee is highly mindful of the need to maintain engagement with our audience and to deliver value to our community during this difficult time. In June, we produced a free online event, Musica Viva Kentlands @Home that was broadcast live on Zoom and Facebook Live and featured Simeone Tartaglione and Alessandra Cuffaro. More than 100 families tuned in for this concert. In addition, while we are still hopeful that an outdoor event might be produced in September, an alternative venue is currently being explored—using commercially available technology and a drive-in format.

No report on this program would be complete without acknowledging the support of two talented Kentlands community residents--Simeone Tartaglione and Alessandra Cuffaro—and the dedicated commitment of our event producer Reynaldo Rojas. Finally, without the contributions of Pili Verzariu this program would never have occurred.

Kentlands Acoustic Jam ("KAJ"), launched in January 2013, offers area residents and musicians a way to come together for informal musical jam sessions twice a month. The group meets on the first and fourth Tuesdays and visiting musicians, neighborhood drop-ins, or an appreciative audience often join. These jams are open to all, from beginner to experienced musicians. KAJ performs within and outside of the Kentlands. In 2019, KAJ performed at happy hours sponsored by the Kentlands Citizens Assembly and City of Gaithersburg, and Foundation programs—Kentlands Under the Lights and the Kentlands/Lakelands 5K. Outside of the Kentlands, KAJ performed at the

Takoma Porch Festival, the Montpelier Mansion Herb and Garden Festival, the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the Olney Farmers and Artists Market, and Wolf Trap's Move With Music Children's Festival, among other great events. In 2019, KAJ jammed a total of 1,560 hours with an average of 10 participants each week, and performed at 22 events. In 2020, KAJ's summer performance season was canceled due to COVID-19; however, KAJ meets every Tuesday evening by Zoom to jam and practice.

Kentlands Photography Association continues its mission to photo and video document the comings and goings of the Kentlands area. During the pandemic, we suspended in-person meetings; however, we are maintaining an active web and internet social media presence. Our members have been exploring various types of photography, many of which are conducive to solo, stay home activity. Others have ventured out with a mask and followed social distancing practices to document the COVID-19 pandemic environment. We continue to expand and invest in the use of technology, such as aerial drone photography and post-processing using Lightroom editing software.

The Gaithersburg Artists Collective had a very successful fall and winter. New and repeat patrons often visited our Artists on Market gallery, operating at RIO. Sales were strong and our artists were very pleased to hear from visitors about how much they enjoyed their visits and their appreciation for the quality of the art on display. Receptions for each new show brought the community to the gallery to enjoy refreshments and the meet our artists. A new "Kid's Corner" in the gallery engaged young visitors to create their own art with supplies provided by our artists.

The COVID-19 pandemic required us to close the gallery in mid-March. We have not re-opened yet and are seeking a new gallery space. When a space has been located and the state and local governments have determined non-essential businesses can begin to operate once again, we will re-open. When we reopen, we will clean and sanitize spaces that people frequently touch. We will encourage physical distancing within the gallery, abide by any regulations regarding capacity, and will continue to prioritize the safety and well-being of all.

We appreciate the opportunity for the community to enjoy the diverse art of our members. We are pleased to give 5% of our sales back to the Foundation, totaling \$2,147 thus far.

In addition to our community-led arts programs, Foundation leadership and volunteers supported **the City of Gaithersburg's Young Artist Award Competition**. More than 90 children ages 12 to 18 from Montgomery County and beyond competed. As part of the competition process, the young artists receive immediate feedback from a panel of judges during their live audition. The winners of each category were showcased in a performance held at the Arts Barn in Kentlands.

The Foundation also participated in the **City of Gaithersburg Book Festival** in 2019. The Festival was virtual in 2020 due to the pandemic.

Community Outreach Programs and Events

The Kentlands/Lakeland's 5K Race and Kids Run celebrated its 26th anniversary in 2019. The Annual charity 5K race drew more than 1,100 runners and walkers. The course featured live entertainment along the way as participants enjoyed the best of New Urbanism and wound their way through the Kentlands and Lakelands neighborhoods. This event engaged over 250 volunteers and drew approximately 4,000 participants, including runners and Expo visitors to the Kentlands Downtown area. The 2019 event saw a change of expo layout to help attract more sponsor involvement. This change received positive feedback from the sponsors and attendees

The 5K Race is the Foundation's largest fundraiser, but in keeping with its philanthropic mission, the Foundation donates approximately half of the net proceeds to one or more beneficiaries. After the 2019 race, the Foundation made donations to benefit five local charities:

- Dolores C. Swoyer Scholarship Fund, organized to give children in need the opportunity to participate in the City of Gaithersburg's summer camp program, was awarded **\$12,500**;
- The Dwelling Place, a nonprofit based in Gaithersburg that provides transitional housing to Montgomery County residents, received **\$3,000**;
- Maryland Senior Olympics received **\$2,000**;
- Mercy Health Clinic, which provides medical care to the uninsured and underinsured in the Gaithersburg community, received **\$1000**; and for the first time
- A scholarship fund for art classes at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn received **\$1,500**.

The 27th 5K race will take place on Saturday, September 5, 2020. Because of COVID-19 concerns, the race will be conducted as a virtual race, in which participants will run a 5K course of their choosing over a span of several days and submit their times.

KidServe continued engaging families in service opportunities. Activities included organizing food drives for Germantown HELP and hosting a St. Patrick's Day party for children whose parents are enrolled in English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs. The COVID-19 pandemic negatively affected our ability to go forward with a planned visit to a local senior center. The pandemic may influence our fall and winter activities of making baby blankets for Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, collaborating with A Wider Circle for a holiday event, and assembling backpacks for the homeless. In response to current need, KidServe volunteers have been actively serving at the Gaithersburg CARES Hub, a consolidation center for essential health items and food for children, families and seniors recovering from COVID-19 at home. The Hub is a partnership between Seneca Creek Community Church and the City of Gaithersburg to create this primary receiving, inventory and packaging center to deliver items to those in need. Volunteers have assisted in sorting food and packing bags. Additionally, KidServe conducted a donation drive in the Kentlands for most needed items like tea and crackers in support of the Hub.

The Village at Kentlands & Lakelands had a very successful year. We started 2019 with a strategic planning process that defined our goals and activities for the year. These included revamping our logo and website,

conducting focus groups on whether we should charge fees for membership and how much, and exploring the need to hire a part-time assistant. The events committee sponsored, co-sponsored or collaborated on approximately 39 events that were attended by 730 participants. Sixteen volunteers provided services to 24 members. There were 381 service requests fulfilled that covered 4469 miles and 298 service hours. The Village applied for several grants and was awarded a \$10,000 grant from Montgomery County. The Communications committee hired consultants who developed a logo and worked with Club Express to create a new website presence. Members of the committee also published monthly articles of interest in our two local newspapers. Plans for 2020 include increasing the number of members and volunteers and hiring a part-time assistant who will support our marketing and fundraising efforts. We are also planning to create additional virtual events and to distribute a newsletter on a monthly basis. We have decided to suspend our request for membership fees until after the pandemic has subsided and life has become more predictable.

Kentlands Under the Lights helped us all feel a little closer to each other and closer to normal when celebrating community and the value of great friends and neighbors is suddenly more meaningful. The organizing committee transformed **Kentlands Under the Lights @Home** in 2020 to not only ensure it would go on without interruption, but to be something special, memorable and valuable to the community in its own right.

This year the focus shifted from assembling the community on the Kentlands Square Plaza for dining, music and lights, to encouraging residents to support local restaurants and sponsors by ordering food and drinks on June 13 and enjoying their meals at home; on porches, stoops, driveways - or in yards, alleys or mews. Of course, while participants could choose to order from a tried and true favorite, **Kentlands Under the Lights @Home** asked the community to consider trying a restaurant they may not have been to before or one of the many exciting new additions to the neighborhood. Publicizing the event also created the opportunity to remind people to shop locally and support our wonderful retail district and other sponsors as well.

While the large gathering of friends, neighbors and merchants may not have taken place as in years past, the spirit of the gathering certainly was not lost. Big plans are in store for 2021 including potentially modifying or expanding the footprint, bringing on additional music staging locations, and additional food and drink areas. We have a wonderful and dedicated committee and are looking forward to **Kentlands Under the Lights** for a long, long time.

Kentlands Wine Club (“KWC”) continues to be proud of its sponsorship by the Kentlands Community Foundation! Our second year of community participation has accelerated its role as a convener of neighbors, area friends and lovers of wine education. Opening its membership to include Kentlands, Lakelands and residents of Greater Gaithersburg, the KWC is now focused on expanding awareness of the cultural diversity in wines around the world.

We instituted a new steering committee within the KWC this year in order to manage and develop the interests of our members that now total 80 people. Thanks to the program expertise of Rob Garretson, we have brought to the membership educational wine programs on regions of Italy and South Africa. We also provided a comparison of wines made with Malbec grapes. Finally, we are happy to report a number of virtual tastings, which provided members the opportunity to stay connected.

Cub Scout Pack 221 experienced a strong start this year with 24 families enrolling. For our first activity of the year, our Cub Master, John Leary, orchestrated small teams of cubs focused on designing new climbing "elements" for the Sandy Spring Climbing Adventure Park. These new elements were created by the kids on a small scale (prototypes) using available household items and we made videos of the kids explaining how their elements will work at full scale in the Adventure Park. Pack 221 was proud to be finalists in the 2019 design competition! As such, we won a free night of camping and climbing at Sandy Spring.

Following the fabulous start to the year, we proceeded to hold our annual food collection in front of the Giant, in Kentlands, and our Pack 221 collected over 70 bags of groceries and donated to the Manna Food Bank. We continued to meet for monthly pack meetings and to emphasize community values and teamwork. Our Den 2 "Arrow of Light" leader, Lee Bennett, organized a visit to the Gaithersburg City Council to meet the Major and to ask questions of the council.

By mid-March, our local District had announced that we should stop in-person meetings due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Since that announcement, we have held one virtual Pack meeting and are now preparing for our final meeting of the year that will also be virtual. At year-end, we traditionally celebrate the advancement of our youth from Lion to Tiger, Tiger to Wolf, Wolf to Bear, Bear to Webelo, Webelo to Arrow of Light and then bridging to Scouts. We are proud to announce the advancement this year of eight Arrow of Light boys of whom seven have decided to move into their next adventure in Scouting. Overall, it has been a fun year with many highlights for Pack 221.

Kentlands Community Bridge Group appreciate the Foundation's support. A few of us have been able to get together on the internet to play bridge during this time of social distancing. Unfortunately, the group as a whole is on hiatus for the time being. We all look forward to the day we can again huddle around the bridge table to challenge our brain and to socialize with our friends. In the meantime, we have been using several free apps for bridge that allow an invitation to be sent to players via a code. To add socialization to our games, we connect via FaceTime, Zoom, or just telephone/cellphone links.

Go Green Group is up and running again thanks to the support of the newly elected co-chair Steve Whelan and Bettina Thompson, At-large Chair. Thank you too to Stephanie Vierra, Go Green member who helped us get started again! Go Green is meeting monthly on the third Thursday of the month from 7-8:30 pm on Zoom. Please visit the Foundation's website to for information on joining in. There have 10-15 participants in our virtual meetings. Regular participants include City of Gaithersburg's Sustainability Coordinator, Deborah Moran. Our current goals are to:

- Work with the Kentlands Citizens Assembly to set up a Green team that will assist in getting Kentlands HOA to be designated a Sustainable HOA through Sustainable Maryland. Kentlands is one of three HOA's in Gaithersburg that have been selected to be part of a pilot program designed to include HOA's. Currently City of Gaithersburg is a sustainable city after having gone through this certification program.
- Foster interest in setting up environmental film series, possibly working with Kentlands Film Society;
- Promote and continue cleanup of neighborhoods with SSL hours for students

- Set up a walk in the Kentlands/Lakelands that highlights environmental conscious home additions (geothermal, solar, kinds of trees, organic lawn care, native gardens, old trees, Rainscape gardens);
- Help promote local business and food as way of reducing carbon footprint especially promoting local farmers;
- Support the composting program in Kentlands;
- Work closely, with Muddy Branch Alliance and other local green groups including Green Drinks, Rose of Lima Green group, and Quince Orchard High School; and
- Invite guest speakers on environmental issues.

New Urbanist Programs and Events

The New **Urbanism** committee is focused on educating the Kentlands community and the community at-large about new urbanism through lectures, events, and social media channels. The highlight events of this past year include:

- October 15, 2019 - Lecture: Paths that Connect Us. The well-attended lecture was presented by Bridget Lalley Ryder, a previous Kentlands Community Foundation Executive Director, long-time Kentlands resident, and Vice President of the Muddy Branch Alliance board.
- February 9, 2020 - Fundraising Event: Kentlands Craft Cocktail Class. Attended by 50 participants, the class was sponsored by Thy Parra and Nicole Hassoun of Cocktail Curations.
- An expanded New Urbanism social media presence has produced 130-plus followers on Instagram and 100-plus followers on the New Urbanist Facebook page.

Looking forward, the New Urbanism Committee continues to look for ways to involve participants of all ages with the community in which they live. The committee strives to provide opportunities to learn more about the principles of new urbanism and the influence design has on communities.

On the Horizon—Letter from the Incoming Chair

My warmest greetings as the Kentlands Community Foundation enters its 28th year. I am so pleased to be able to continue to serve greater Gaithersburg as part of the Foundation in a new role as Chair. The purpose of the Foundation to enrich civic life has perhaps never been more needed than it will be in the coming year, as we face the ongoing impacts of the global pandemic and a turning point in our history with regards to justice.

I wanted to begin by thanking the many volunteers and my fellow Board members for your steadfast help in meeting our mission. We would not exist without you. At the heart of our organization is volunteerism and those

who give of their time and skills to the many Foundation programs are shining lights of what it means to support and be a part of community. I first became involved with the Foundation around 20 years ago when I volunteered to help with the 5K race. We had moved to the Kentlands because we did not want to live in a traditional suburban neighborhood, we wanted to be part of the New Urbanist movement, part of a neighborhood that embodied what “community” really means. To me, that meant not just my address, but giving my time to help, and I can honestly say, for every minute given, the rewards returned have been so much more.

You may or may not know that I hold the “arts” seat on the Board and supporting the arts and culture in our community is my passion. Over the past few months, how many times have you turned to the arts in the form of a movie, a book, music, etc. to help step away for a bit from the challenges of your day? I think most of us have. Art is an integral part of our lives, we turn to the arts for so many reasons, but especially in times of turmoil, it helps us to connect. I believe that this part of our mission will be very important as we move forward and our arts and culture programs are all looking for new ways to share what they do with you.

I am also thrilled that we are finding innovative ways to help educate the community about New Urbanism. Not only through the great lectures, but fun activities that help young and old to understand why our neighborhood “feels” and is so special. New Urbanism is about creating more livable, resilient and equitable communities, something that is even more vital as we step into our “new” normal.

Serving our community, supporting the programs that you bring forth and sustain through your time and effort is what the Foundation is about. And I hope that you will feel free to reach out to me with your ideas and suggestions. We are facing challenges and many unknowns, but we are stronger when we work together, and we will do everything we can to be sure the Foundation is here to help.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaree Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Jaree Donnelly
Incoming Chair
Kentlands Community Foundation Board of Directors