



Newsletter nr. 1, January 2026

Change of board in our Neighborhood Committee

Last month, two board members decided in good consultation to step down from our board. Karin van den Boom has taken care of our secretariat for almost 10 years. Marty van Herk has been our chairman for the last 2 years. We are grateful to both of them for their commitment to the neighborhood. We put them in the spotlight on our volunteer thank you evening. They have both indicated that they would like to continue to participate as volunteers, which we are very happy with.

The board now consists of chairman Ankie Slaats, and treasurer Jarno van de Giessen. Ankie is also temporarily secretary and second treasurer. Fortunately, a new board member has already registered, and we will soon start talking.

However, we think a board consisting of 3 members is thin. We prefer to have five board members. Think about whether it is something for you. We will first ask if you want to participate for a while and only later will we look at what you would like to do and what is desirable for the neighborhood. The most important thing is that you are going to do something you like. You can just walk in at our coffee moments "in the walk-in", or send an e-mail to our secretariat or call us. We would like to get to know you in a very accessible way, but maybe we already know you?

New Year's Coffee Wijkcommissie

Wednesday morning, January 7, in **Wijkcentrum "in de inloop"** at the Mgr. Zwijsenstraat 4.

Start **10:00** am, until 12:00 pm.

Admission is **FREE**, coffee and tea too.

We provide tasty snacks. Will you join us?

Heemkundekring Weerderheem

Wednesday evening January 14 presentation Archaeological excavation border corridor N69, habitation in the 16th century & the road along the Mgr. Smetsstraat. Start **20:00 hrs.** in **De Horizon** at the Amundsenstraat 5.

Admission is **FREE**, coffee and tea too.

Seniors association Brabant



You will receive a detailed explanation about this organization and their activities for seniors in Valkenswaard.

Come on **Wednesday morning, January 21** to **Wijkcentrum "in de inloop"** at the Mgr. Zwijsenstraat 4. Start **± 10:00 am**. Admission is **FREE**, coffee and tea too. If you can't wait, check out their website: www.senioresbrabantzeeland.nl

Energiek Valkenswaard

Are you shocked by your energy bill? Are you getting lost between the different types of energy contracts? Then come to the Energy Café on **Wednesday evening**

February 11 at 20:00 hrs,

in **De Horizon** at **Amundsenstraat 5**.

Interesting for homeowners and tenants.

Independent presentation provided by volunteers of the KempenEnergie Association:

- Understanding energy contracts
 - Choose favourable contract
- Admission is **FREE**, coffee and tea too.

Learn more at: energiekvalkenswaard.nl



10 years Wijkcommissie Kerkakkers

We proudly think back to the establishment of the neighborhood committee, now 10 years ago. We proudly think of everything we have already achieved and proudly look forward to all the activities we are going to organize.

Wednesday morning, February 18, in **Wijkcentrum "in de inloop"** at the Mgr. Zwijsenstraat 4.

Start **10:00** am, until 12:00 pm.

Admission is **FREE**, coffee and tea too.



Voor de nederlandse versie van deze nieuwsbrief zie onze website:

www.wijkcommissiekerkakkers.nl

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Stichting Wijkcommissie Kerkakkers

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KvK 65610245, bank account: NL54RABO0309964717 in the name of Stichting Wijkcommissie Kerkakkers

www.wijkcommissiekerkakkers.nl

Control of Asian hornets



Special grids have been made that fit the glass jars of the Calvé peanut butter (350 gram).

With this grid, the Asian hornets can crawl into the pot, but not out anymore. Other insects can fly in and out of the pot. To lure the

hornets, a special attractant is put in the pot.

If you have empty jars of this brand peanut butter (350 gr), you can hand them in at Alice Heijmans, Pater van den Elsenstraat 31. She will release the



pots in the neighborhoods where nests of the Asian hornet hung last year. In the spring she can then catch the queens of the hornet.

With every queen that is caught, she prevents

a new nest. You can also put and manage such a pot in your garden yourself, Alice will be happy to explain it to you.

Take a look at: www.bijenhouders.nl

Rent allowance now also with high rent

If you have a rented house in 2025 with a rent that is too high to receive rent allowance, you may be able to receive rent allowance from 2026.

As of January 1, 2026, no maximum rental amount will apply. As a result, many people will be able to receive an allowance. In 2026, the allowance will be calculated on a maximum of € 932.93 per month, even if the basic rent is higher. There are a few other changes to this allowance scheme: the service costs are no longer included and adjusted amounts apply for tenants between the ages of 18 and 21.

Make a free test calculation www.belastingdienst.nl and search for: *proefberekening toeslagen*

Biodiversity



Photosynthesis

In words: A plant makes sugar and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water, using the energy of sunlight. The carbon from the sugars is used by the plant to make complex carbon compounds, they are the building blocks of the plant itself.

The sugar is also the fuel needed for the maintenance/growth of the plant.

Seeds usually contain a supply of starch for the initial development of the seedling. We can use that starch from wheat seeds, for example, to bake bread.

We can also eat the whole plant. But not only



we live from it. Also all the other organisms that digest the plants and bring them back to the CO₂ and water that started it.

As if steered by an invisible hand, unimaginably many forms of life have arisen. Over millions of years, all kinds of life have arisen due to

differences in location. It's amazing that the whole of life, with all that diversity, is based on the one success formula with which this article began.

However, there is still the chicken or the egg dilemma: Which came first, the plant or the chloroplast?

It is biodiversity that makes life worth living.

Enjoy that, even in the new year. I wish that for you.

Jan Gijsbers



Traffic and public space.

Traffic in our neighborhood is getting busier. Major changes have also recently taken place, just think of the work on the Dommelseweg.

Traffic changes will also take place with the planned new construction on the site of the Pumpke and on the Amundsenstraat.

That is why we are looking for people who want to work on this on behalf of our local residents. Not only for our road network but also for the public space, we have not yet been able to find any local residents who are willing to commit to this. We as a neighborhood committee would like to set up a Traffic and Public Space Committee.

If you think you are interested in this and you want to talk / think about it, inform local residents and act as a representative to the municipality, you are welcome to register. Walk in during our coffee walk-in or send your e-mail to

secretariaat@wijkcommissiekerkakkers.nl

or call 06-422 494 71

Of course you can also drop by, email or call if you want some more information first.

Wanted: manager of bookcases



In our neighborhood there are two neighborhood bookcases, at the Nettorama and on the Columbusstraat, for the free exchange or taking of books and toys.

Unfortunately, not every user is equally passionate about leaving the books/toys tidy. It is also regularly overcrowded in the cupboards. That is why we are looking for a few people who want to

supervise a bit and put everything back in order. Crockery, clothing, shoes, etc. is unfortunately not a place for it. Heavily damaged or unusable items also have to be removed.

Is this something for you? Then help to keep the cupboards tidy and neatly. You don't have to register, but you can (so we can thank you): Feel free to go ahead if you are in the area.

New website volunteer center

The volunteer center of Cordaad Welzijn recently launched a new website as a marketplace for supply and demand of volunteers.

After a few weeks of hard work, the brand new website of the volunteer center went live. Alderman Bram Bots proudly opened the renewed and user-friendly website on Tuesday November 4.

All organizations, associations and foundations that



work with volunteers can profile themselves on this. In addition, they can post vacancies in their search for people

who volunteer their time, attention and involvement. Volunteer center Valkenswaard mediates in this. They enter into conversations between provider and searcher. In those interviews, all vacancies are included to find the golden match.

If you are looking for an interpretation of your day, a few hours a week or in the month, chances are that you can find it on the new website of the volunteer center.

If you want to look outside the box, or just in line with what you are good at, there is an organization or association somewhere that can use your support. Think, for example, of helping to design new flyers for an organization that works with refugees, people who like to cook soup, board positions or volunteer work that takes place in the summer, for example, at the flower parade. You name it, the possibility is there to make a difference. Your commitment is invaluable and helps society move forward. No matter how big and how small the involvement is.

The website of the volunteer center is:

www.vrijwilligerscentralevalkenswaard.nl

Want to know more? Please contact the volunteer center Valkenswaard:

vrijwilligerscentraleva@cordaadwelzijn.nl

or call: 040 204 66 14.

Wijkcentrum "in de inloop"



Mgr. Zwijsen-straat 4.

EVERY MONDAY MORNING from 10:00 to 12:00, chat about the weekend with neighbors with

a **free** cup of coffee or tea.

EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING from 10:00 to 12:00, while enjoying a **free** cup of coffee or tea, we have a nice chat and/or play games or play cards. You can also come and knit, crochet etc. or draw with Zentangle. Will you join us?

On the **third Wednesday** of the month, there will be a short presentation on an interesting topic during the coffee walk-in around 10:30 am.



EVERY LAST FRIDAY of the month there is a Lunch for Singles at 12:00 pm. Together with other singles from the neighborhood, good

food for € 5.00 per person. Register from the 15th until the Monday before at the latest, by sending an e-mail to bestuurslidkerkakkers@gmail.com or by phone 06-4224 9471.

Door & Voor information evenings

Every **second Wednesday-evening** of the month a **free** lecture, excursion or workshop is organized "By & For" neighborhood residents, in community center **De Horizon**, **Amundsenstraat 5**. Start is 20:00 hrs. Admission is **free**, as is coffee and tea.



Agenda

Admission is **FREE**, so is the coffee and tea. See elsewhere in this newsletter for details and our [website](http://www.kerkakkers.nl) for any changes.

January 2026

Monday 5 Jan Coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 7 Jan Coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
New Year's reception with goodies with coffee

Monday 12 Jan Coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 14 Jan Coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 14 Jan **De Horizon 20:00–22:30 presentation Local history Weerderheem:** Archaeological excavation N69, habitation in the 1600s & road along the Mgr. Smetsstraat.

Monday 19 Jan coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 21 Jan coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
10:30 short presentation: Seniors Brabant What does this association organize for you?

Monday 26 Jan coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 28 Jan coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Friday 30 Jan **Wijkcentrum 12:00–13:30 lunch** for singles. Contribution € 5,- pp

February 2026

Monday 2 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 4 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00

Monday 9 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 11 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 11 Feb **De Horizon 20:00–22:30 presentation: Energiek Valkenswaard** Free explanation about energy contracts

Monday 16 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 18 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Celebration of 10 years of the Kerkakkers district committee

Monday 23 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Wednesday 25 Feb coffee walk-in 10:00–12:00
Friday 27 Feb **Wijkcentrum 12:00–13:30 lunch** for singles. Contribution € 5,- pp