



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

General Meeting – **October 6, 2004**

7:30 p.m. – North Springfield Elementary School Cafeteria

Guest Speakers: • Fairfax County Office of the Virginia
State Master Gardener Representative
• John Fish, Meadows Farm

President's Message

Norma Heck

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. The new school year has begun and your civic association is gearing up for another year of service to the community.

Our October program will address fall landscaping. One of our community's greatest assets is the curb appeal of our homes. In addition to providing a pleasant atmosphere in which to live it also helps sustain our property values. A representative from the Fairfax County Office of the Virginia State Master Gardener will present information, and answer your questions, regarding the fall maintenance and care of the various varieties of trees, shrubs, and perennial plants that populate our community. There will also be a Landscape Designer, John Fish, from Meadows Farms present to provide us ideas on things we can do this fall to enhance our property's landscaping.

There will be drawings for a fall plant and Meadows Farms 10% discount coupons at this meeting. To be eligible just come to the meeting and drop your name in the hat.

I'd like to thank John Everett for his efforts to restore the Leesville entrance. Damaged and missing plants have been replaced, bare spots have been reseeded, and the area has been cleaned and mulched.

There are also several issues that carried over from the spring that we are still working.

Restrictions against thru trucks – The County is in the final approval stage for our application to post signs prohibiting thru trucks on the major streets in North Springfield. The public comment period is over and the final approval paperwork is being prepared.

Two turn lanes on the Heming exit to Braddock Road – VDOT has reviewed our request to add a right turn lane on the Heming Avenue exit to Braddock Road. They are unable to do it because the land available for a second lane is not sufficient to meet the State requirements for dual lanes. Specifically, the lanes could not be made wide enough to safely accommodate two lanes of school buses and other large vehicles.

Traffic Calming Study – We are still in the process of acquiring petitions and assigning street captains to solicit signatures. As was stated at the May meeting our ability to complete this task in a timely manner is dependent on the number of volunteers available to do the leg work. Anyone interested in helping should contact the Taskforce Leader Scott Pratt at (703) 256-2011.

Trash Collection – At our meeting in May AAA Trash Service had committed to providing a reduced, uniform fee for all North Springfield residents. It was our understanding that this would occur automatically but so far it has not. We have re-initiated our dialog with them to get the new pricing in place for everyone. In the interim, residents can call AAA and request the North Springfield discount if you so choose.

Our effort to determine resident interest in establishing a Sanitary District (qualify for County trash collection) within North Springfield is complete. The County defined a Sanitary District area and issued a petition for residents to sign. The petition was circulated in that area and there was not sufficient resident interest (signatures) to warrant a Sanitary District. Thanks to John Everett for his efforts to circulate the petition.

Your civic association is in urgent need of volunteers. The Vice President and Secretary positions (two of the four elected officers) as well as committee chairs for Planning and Zoning, Federation of Citizen Associations, and Braddock District Council are all vacant. Neighborhood watch also needs more participants. Current members are filling multiple positions in an attempt to keep things moving but this is only a temporary fix that can not be sustained throughout the year. No prior experience or unique expertise is required for any of the vacant positions nor do any of the positions require an excessive time commitment. The Secretary and Vice President positions require attendance at the six board meetings and six general meetings that are held each year. The Secretary also sends out a few letters over the course of the year. The committee positions require someone to monitor State and County activity in their respective areas to identify issues which may impact our community. This usually entails attending a monthly Government meeting and periodic review of postings on the related Government website. For more information or to join please contact us as soon as possible.

Remember you can join your Civic association at any time. If you have not joined for 2004 there is a membership application enclosed in this newsletter. An application for 2005 memberships, which begin in January, will be published in the next newsletter.

Remember too that your Civic Association sponsors the Scouting Programs in our community. Scouting provides an excellent opportunity for our children including involvement in a number of service projects in the community. Please read the Scouting

sections of this newsletter to learn more about their activities and how you can support their fund raising initiatives.

NSCA Website

Skip Chaples

Over the past few years several residents have suggested that we have a North Springfield Civic Association Website. A plan to create and operate a Website has been put together and approved by the board members. The estimated initial cost is \$100 per year. Additional costs may be incurred based on the level of use and/or expansion of the Website. A vote will be taken at the October meeting to obtain citizen approval to proceed with the Website. If it is approved the plan is for a basic Website to be operational by the end of October.

The basic Website will include the newsletter, phone numbers for Civic Association officers, community emergency and assistance numbers, membership applications, and a schedule of events. Subsequent information will include the property Covenants, status/updates for ongoing board actions, teen job listings, scouting information, Lake Accotink information, links to relevant Government websites, and information articles on other issues (for example gangs, crime, new state or county proposals or ordinances, etc.) that may impact the community.

We will continue to produce and distribute the North Springfield Civic Association Newsletter in its current form. The Website is considered an additional information source for the community; not a replacement for the newsletter. It has the advantage of consolidating the information normally found in several newsletters into a single location that is readily accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For those who may not have internet access from home, the Website will be accessible through the computers available at our public libraries.

Covenant Reminder

Residents are reminded that all properties in our community have a set of covenants attached to the deed. While realtors are often remiss in not informing home buyers about these covenants they exist and they are legally binding. These covenants address changes you can or can not make to your property. For example, fences can not extend past the front corner of your house. If you are planning any changes to your home or property and are not familiar with the covenants contact the Civic Association before you start the work. It may well save you some time, money and aggravation.

Need help with yard work?

There are a number of neighborhood Teenagers who are interested in part time work. Teenagers are usually available after school or on weekends to do mowing, raking, snow shoveling, baby sitting, or pet sitting. We publish a list of willing workers in the November and May newsletters each year. If you don't have a list handy and have a job you need done call Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311 and he'll put a local Teenager in touch with you.

Teen Job List

Sign up now for the fall and winter Teen job list. You will find a mail-in form in the back of this newsletter or you can e-mail the required information to SkipChaples@cox.net. Your response must be received by October 15th so it can be included in our November newsletter.

Community Dialog on Gangs

Skip Chaples

This past winter and spring, Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova held a series of meetings on the topic of gang activity in the Annandale/Heritage area. Participants included representatives from local law enforcement agencies, the courts, the schools, and various non-profits that deal with the gang issue. Topics addressed included current programs for

prevention and enforcement, dealing with gangs in the legal arena, the impact of aging neighborhoods and communities, and where should we go from here.

The gist of these meetings was that it will take both public programs and a cooperative community effort to successfully deal with the gang issue. There are a substantial number of Government and non-profit agency initiatives underway or planned that deal with the gang issue. For more information on these programs, please contact Sharon Bulova's office at (703) 425-9300. As for the community's part, it is important that each citizen understands the problem and is aware of what he or she can do to help.

Gang activity in our area is limited and it does not pose an immanent threat to most citizens. However, the problem is growing and it should be addressed before it becomes a critical problem. Gangs are groups of people who form an allegiance for a common purpose and commit violent, unlawful or criminal activities. Gang members generally range in age from 13-21 years old, but can be as young as 9. Kids join gangs for a variety of reasons and each case is individual. Reasons include: excitement and fun, a sense of belonging, companionship, peer pressure, attention or status, financial gain, intimidation, protection, and a failure to realize what being in a gang means. Living in a gang infested area or having a family member in a gang increases the possibility of a kid joining one. Among the risk factors are: lack of community youth support systems and too much unsupervised time, poverty, lack of self-worth, poor decision-making and communication skills, domestic violence at home, media that glorifies violence, and parental denial of a gang problem.

Every citizen should be aware of the signs of possible gang involvement. If you're a parent, react to those signs and, if you're a neighbor, mention your observation to the parent in a non-judgmental manner. The sign you observe might not be a problem, but you won't know that for sure unless you check it out. Remember, it's important that you take an interest and speak up even when it's not your

kid; many kids act differently when their parents are not around, thus the parent might not be aware of the behavior.

The signs of possible gang involvement include sudden poor school grades and disinterest in school, withdrawal from family activities, use of unknown vocabulary, sudden changes in friends, evidence of drug abuse, sudden affluence, use of hand signs, desire for excessive privacy, having a new nickname, developing a bad attitude towards family, school and authorities, purchase or desire to buy clothing of all one color or style, wearing altered headwear, changing appearance with special haircuts, eyebrow markings or tattoos, use of gang graffiti on folders, desks, walls, and buildings, and staying out later than usual.

Keeping the neighborhood free of graffiti is also important. If you see someone actually writing the graffiti call the police non-emergency number at (703) 691-2131. If you see something in the neighborhood that has been marked with graffiti, call Ed Stock at (703) 256-8174. It is important to clean up graffiti quickly, but please do not do that until the authorities have had a chance to look at it and photograph it. Knowing what graffiti was put where helps the police develop a sense of the areas in which specific gangs are operating.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990 & Venture Crew 990

Skip Chaples

Troop and Crew 990 have begun another exciting year of scouting. In September we went rafting on the Shenandoah River. In October we will be hosting the second year Webelos for a weekend campout and in November we'll be backpacking in the Mountains. Weekly scout meetings address various scout skills and Eagle rank required merit badges. Now is a great time for the younger boys to join. The Cub Scouts recently graduated to Boy Scouts. If your son is 10-1/2 and finished the 5th grade he would be joining with a group of 13 others his age.

Congratulations to Andrew Judge who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, Scouting's highest honor. Andrew graduated Annandale high school last June and will be joining the Navy in December. His Eagle Project was the restoration of Heming Hill, the open lot at the intersection of Heming and Leesville.

We continue to raise funds for the operation of the Troop by recycling aluminum cans. Our collection trailer is parked at the North Springfield pool for anyone desiring to contribute their cans to the Troop. Please - aluminum only - no steel, glass, paper, plastic, or trash. We also paint house numbers on curbs for a \$5 donation to the troop. Anyone interested in this service should call Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

We have started a new fund raiser this year; the Troop now sells Entertainment 2005 Coupon Books for only \$25 payable to BSA Troop 990. Each book contains thousands of dollars in great savings and pays for itself in just a few uses. It's packed with \$1,000 in 50%-off savings for the things you love to do (eat out, movies, travel, shopping) and things you have to do (dry cleaning, oil changes, groceries) as well as ongoing 20%-off discounts with an Entertainment Membership Card and new savings at www.Entertainment.com all year long. For more information or to purchase a coupon book contact our Troop Fundraising chairman Nancy DeVera at (703) 256-6451.

Now is a great time to come see what Scouting is all about. Boys between the ages of 10-1/2 and 17 interested in the Troop can learn more about our programs by contacting Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311 or by dropping by one of our Thursday night scout meetings - 7:30 PM at North Springfield Elementary School. No prior experience required.

For those not familiar with the term, Venture Crew 990 is a group of young adults that do a wide variety of fun social, outdoor, and service activities. The Crew young adults plan, schedule, arrange, and lead the activities. For example, last year we attended a ski weekend in Pennsylvania with other Venture Crews, built cardboard boats for the races at Lake

Accotink, and assisted the American Legion in retiring no longer serviceable flags. We are always ready to welcome new members. Our membership is male and female young adults, ages 14 and 20, and adult advisors. We are based in the North Springfield and Annandale areas. We are chartered by American Legion Post 1976 and are part of the National Capital Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. For more information on the Crew or how to contact a Crew young adult, please contact Mrs. Kathy Ichter at (703) 354-3728 or Mr. Ed Komen at (703) 256-5387.

Cub Scout Pack 890

Steve Slough

Thanks for your continued support of our monthly newspaper drives. The next paper drive is scheduled for Saturday, October 16th beginning at 8AM. Please bundle newspapers only, no magazines or phone books, and place them curbside for pick up by the Cub Scouts. We do not collect newspapers that are placed on the curb in recycling bins from a trash company, or if they are in dark plastic bags. If we miss collection at your house that morning, please bring newspapers to the collection trailer at the far end of the North Springfield Elementary School parking lot before noon. Newspaper collection will take place the third Saturday of each month throughout the year.

The Pack got off to a great start at its September Pack Meeting. We have a fun packed as well as informative program set up for the boys this year. If your son is a student at North Springfield Elementary School and interested in having fun as he learns new skills and makes new friends why not give the Pack a look. A parent and son can attend any Pack function as a guest to see what it's all about with no obligation to join. No prior scouting experience is required. If you're interested call Cubmaster Steve Slough at (703) 451-4439, Committee Chairman Bob Wattenbarger at (703) 455-0027, or Chartered Organization Representative Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

North Springfield Elementary School

Christina Hayashida

The North Springfield Elementary school has gotten off to a great start. There were many new faces as we welcomed our kindergarten classes as well as some new students to North Springfield this year.

Please re-register your Giant Bonus card, Harris Teeter VIC card, and Safeway Card so that North Springfield Elementary can receive credit through these very successful fund raising programs. Visit the stores' website or register at your local store.

- Giantfood.com - NSES ID No. 02079
- HarrisTeeter.com - NSES ID No. 4530
- Escrip.com(Safeway) - NSESID No. 6608321

Giant food gift cards – for additional information contact Kendall Delavergne at (703) 354-1682 or pick up a form at the school for more information. Gift cards can be purchased in the following amounts; \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 with checks made payable to NSES PTA.

The school is collecting several items this year: General Mills Box Tops for Education, Campbell's Food Labels for Education and any and all ink jet and laser jet cartridges. These programs allow the school to buy computers, software and other helpful things. There is a box in the lobby where you may drop off your box tops, labels and ink jets. (Please put ink jets in a plastic bag).

If you shop at Target, please register your target card and record us as your school. We will then receive 1% of all purchases.

Please plan to attend our first PTA Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 5th, at 7:00pm.

Mark your calendar for October 8th and plan to attend the PTA sponsored tailgate party beginning at approximately 5:30 PM in the North Springfield Elementary parking lot

before the game. Come out and show your support for NSES PTA and Annandale High School.

The Book Fair will be held at the school October 15-22. Stop by the library during school hours and purchase books for your family. On Tuesday, October 19th from 6:30-8:30 PM, the Book Fair will be open in the evening along with a PTA bake sale. Stop by and purchase some of the best homemade treats around.

Boy Scout Troop 990 Honors Skip Chaples

Betsy Stone, Troop 990 Committee Chair (retired)

At their Court of Honor on June 10th, Boy Scout Troop 990 honored Skip Chaples for 25 years of scouting leadership. Skip became an Assistant Scoutmaster with Troop 990 when his son joined the Boy Scouts in 1979. Two years later he inherited the position of Scoutmaster and has continued volunteering his time, talents and efforts ever since. During his tenure his son became an Eagle Scout, left the troop, graduated from high school and college, moved away, married and now has a son of his own.

Jason Hamel, our scouting District Executive, Rick Hillenbrand, our scouting District Commissioner, and Nancy Barrett, Cubmaster of Pack 890 each recognized Skip for his 25 years of service.

While appreciative of the recognition Skip commented that "Volunteering should be the expected norm. I strongly believe that every citizen has an obligation to serve their community and that people should not be thanked simply for fulfilling their obligation"

Donations totaling \$625 were collected before the ceremony and given to the North Springfield Civic Association in honor of Skip. This was handily done since Skip also volunteers as the Treasurer of the Civic Association!

Newsletter Advertising

Take advantage of our low prices and your ad will be seen by over 2,200 households in October, November, and December.

Business Card	\$25 (3.5" x 2")
Quarter Page	\$45 (3.75" x 5")
Half Page	\$90
Full Page	\$180

Mail your business card or camera-ready proof with a check for the appropriate amount by October 18th to:

N.S.C.A. Newsletter
P.O. Box 1007
Springfield, VA 22151

Association Officers

President

Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

Vice President

Jean Smith (703) 256-5895

Secretary

Vacant

Treasurer

Skip Chaples (703) 644-1311

Beautification

Ed Stock (703) 256-8174

Federation of Citizens Associations

Vacant

Legal/Registered Agent

Dorene Haney (703) 256-1688

Membership

Patricia Barnes (703) 354-0134

Neighborhood Watch

Ron Kinzer (703) 941-6415

Newsletter

Sherry Chaples (703) 644-1311

Parks

Chet McLaren (703) 866-6494

Planning and Zoning

Vacant

Braddock District Council

Vacant

Political Liaison

Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

Jean Smith (703) 256-5895

PTA Liaison

Christina Hayashida (703) 582-3608

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Calendar Year January – December 2004
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151
\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER DRIVE
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

We are always in need of volunteers for the various committees of the North Springfield Civic Association. If you would be interested in serving on a committee, or have suggestions for topics of upcoming General Meetings or programs, please fill out the form below and mail it to the above address.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -

BEAUTIFICATION
FEDERATION OF CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS
MEMBERSHIP
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PLANNING & ZONING
SECRETARY
SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

SUGGESTIONS FOR:
Other Committees: _____

Topics for upcoming programs:

NORTH SPRINGFIELD WINTER TEEN JOB LIST

Fill out this application and mail to: NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____ Availability Dates: _____

Check jobs of interest: Babysitting _____ Yard Work _____ House Sitting _____ Pet Care _____

Winter Snow Removal _____ (clearing walkways and/or driveways only)

Annandale High School Choral Boosters

Once again the Annandale High School Choral Boosters will kick off their **Pies for Thanksgiving** Fundraiser the week of October 11th. Students from the choral department will be taking orders for the delicious pies – 22 flavors to choose from - made by “Maribeth’s Bakery” of Alexandria. Orders will be taken from October 12th through November 5th. The 9” pies sell for **\$10.00** each and will be available November 22nd, the Monday before Thanksgiving. For each pie sold, the choral student receives a donation towards their individual account for their spring trip and/or for their Germany trip in June. Please contact your AHS neighborhood choral student if you are interested in buying pies, or call Patti Parker (703-451-6331) or Debbie Walsh (703-654-5998). The pies freeze well so buy enough for the Holidays!!!