



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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General Meeting – **February 2, 2005**

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

Guest Speakers:

- Representative from the Fairfax County Department of Taxation, Real Estate Assessments Division

President's Message

Norma Heck

We hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season and we wish all our residents the best for 2005. We would like to thank all the residents who decorated for the holidays. The neighborhood looked wonderful and with so many nice looking homes it was difficult for us to narrow our selection down to only three. We did our best and awarded recognition to:

1st Place Al and Stacy Colby
5308 Easton Drive

2nd Place Dennis and Jan McDonald
5421 Lehigh Lane

3rd Place Jim and Mary Ann Brogan
7305 Hogarth Street.

Thanks again to everyone who made our community such a lovely place this year.

January is the start of the 2005 legislative session in Virginia and your board members have been busy covering as many planning sessions as possible to promote the interests and needs of our community. The County and State are both finalizing this year's legislative agendas and we have been expressing our concerns and needs to our representatives both directly and through our participation in the Fairfax Federation and Braddock District Council. Please remember that the more voices we have the better our message is heard. Your Civic Association's efforts are important but they should not be a substitute for each citizen staying informed and expressing their opinion. Our Website, WWW.NSCIVIC.ORG, has links to the websites of all of our Virginia political

leaders as well as to the County and State. This is a convenient and excellent resource for staying informed, answering questions, and expressing opinions so we encourage everyone to take advantage of it.

Your Civic Association is still in need of volunteers to help; many of our current board members are still filling multiple positions. The open positions require no prior experience and are not overly time consuming. If you would like to learn more or volunteer to us better serve your community, contact any of the current board members for more information. Remember too that January is the start of our 2005 membership drive so please join and encourage your neighbors to join as well.

Home values in the Washington area rose again by double digits in 2004. For us in Fairfax County that means another potentially significant increase in property taxes. At our next general meeting on February 2nd we will have representatives from the County Department of Tax Administration, Real Estate Assessments Division. These representatives will explain the assessment process and the criteria used to assess our homes. They will also explain who eligible for property tax relief as well as the process to have your assessment reviewed if you believe it is not correct. Please note that the purpose of this meeting is to inform you on the assessment process and answer your questions about assessments; it is not a budget or tax rate meeting. We are exploring the possibility for a general meeting on budget issues for either March or April.

NSCA Website

Skip Chaples

WWW.NSCIVIC.ORG is online. Our website contains the newsletter as well as valuable information about the community and local government. We have also initiated e-mail notifications. Now you can submit your e-mail address to us and we will automatically notify you every time something new is added to the website or if there is important information that we believe should be disseminated prior to the next newsletter.

Community Volunteers Needed

Skip Chaples

Fairfax County is looking for volunteers to support their Emergency Preparedness Plan within our community. There are four initiatives underway.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trains people in basic disaster response skills, such as fire suppression and search and rescue, and helps them take a more active role in emergency preparedness. The purpose of this team is to provide basic triage services within the community in the event of a major disaster until such time as professional emergency responders are able to respond.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) coordinates volunteer health professionals, as well as citizens with an interest in health issues, to assist with mass dispensing sites for vaccination or medication distribution. The volunteers from the community would provide support staff to sites that dispense medication or administer vaccines.

Neighborhood Watch brings private citizens and law enforcement together to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in our neighborhoods. It's based on the concept of neighbors watching out for neighbors.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) provide support for the police department by incorporating civilian volunteers so that law enforcement professionals have more time for frontline duty.

The VIPS program currently has a waiting list of volunteers but interested parties may be added to the list if you so desire. We have an active Neighborhood Watch Program in place but we are still in need of more volunteers to schedule and do patrols. Our community does not have a CERT or MRC program and we would like to start them. Training is provided free by the county and does not represent a significant time demand. Once trained, there is a nominal time commitment required to stay current. You can learn more about these programs by going to their website - www.fairfaxcountycitizenorgs.org . If you are interested in participating in CERTS or MRC please contact Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311 or at SkipChaples@cox.net.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990 & Venture Crew 990

Skip Chaples

Troop and Crew 990 continue another exciting year of scouting. In January we participated in the District Klondike Derby competitions in Front Royal. In February we'll go on our annual ski trip in West Virginia. Weekly scout meetings address various scout skills and Eagle rank required merit badges.

The Boy Scouts of America is conducting their annual Friends of Scouting campaign. The funds collected are used to support the council programs and summer camp operations that all of the Boy Scouts enjoy. If you would like to donate to this worthy cause please send your tax deductible contribution made payable to BSA FOS 2005 to Skip Chaples, 7453 Long Pine Drive, Springfield, Virginia 22151.

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 (weather permitting) for a \$5 donation to the troop. Anyone interested in this service should call Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

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.

In January the Venture Crew did fundraising for Tsunami victims and attended the presidential inauguration. We are always ready to welcome new members. 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 (703-354-3728) or Mr. Ed Komen (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, February 19th 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 is off to a great start and we have a fun packed as well as informative program set up for the boys this year. In January the boys are participating in the Pinewood Derby competitions and in February we'll have our Blue and Gold Banquet. 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. If you're interested in joining the Pack or filling one of our open positions 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

Can you believe that another year has quickly passed us by! Hopefully the student's reflection of the year 2004 will be a memorable one and 2005 will get off to a good start.

Food For Thought

In reflecting back on the year 2004, can you think of anything that you would like to accomplish this year that you just did not find the time to do? Well now is the time to focus on your short-term and long-term goals to help you accomplish them in the year 2005. Best of luck in accomplishing your 2005 goals!

NSES Upcoming Calendar Events—Be sure to mark your calendar

Jan. 31st – Feb. 1st	Teacher Workdays/ Student Holidays
Tuesday, February 10th February 21st	Presidential Primary President's Day/Washington's Birthday—Holiday
Mar. 21st – 25th	Spring Break
Apr. 14th	Third Grading Period Ends
Apr. 15th	Student Holiday

NSES PTA Calendar Events—Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!

Friday, January 28th at 6:30 International Family Night
North Springfield is a rich and diverse school and we would like everyone to come together to share a special evening of fun, food, and diverse entertainment. We've designated this night to celebrate the rich cultural heritages that our families bring with international food tasting and special events held in the gym and the cafeteria. Bring food to share and wear clothing that represents your culture. Bring your whole family and share your culture in any way that would make your child proud and feel represented.

Friday, February 11th Sock-Hop-6:00 – 8:00p.m.

Let's bring back the 70's again! Parents help your little guys and gals out by looking back to those fun days! Take a trip back in time and get them ready for a fun evening!

Monday, April 25th Annual Kindergarten Orientation

Beginning at 1:30 in the cafeteria—Meeting is an information session for rising kindergarten students who will turn 5 years of age by September 30, 2005. (Please call the school at 658-5500 if you will have a child eligible for the school year so that we can mail you information.) Turn Off TV Week!

Fundraising

If you have not already done so, 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 fundraising 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) NSES ID No. 6608321

The school is still collecting 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).

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

Cafeteria Delayed-Opening Procedures

Just a reminder to all parents: School breakfast IS NOT served when FCPS schools issue a one or two hour delayed opening. This means that the AM Kindergarten classes will not be able to purchase a breakfast. Please ensure that your child comes to school fed so they are prepared for a day of learning.

Membership

Patricia Barnes

It is time to send in your \$15.00 dues for 2005. The Civic Association is for both homeowners and renters. Here are some highlights of what the Civic Association does with the dues.

- Annually prints and delivers six newsletters
- Hosts six general meeting with interesting and informative speakers annually.
- Maintains a community website.
- Ensures plantings at the entranceways are mulched, grass cut, bushes and trees trimmed and pruned. Maintain Leesville and Heming hills. New trees were planted along Leesville during the last 2 years.
- Coordinates arrangements with the county and sponsor the annual May clean up day.
- Makes donations to Scouts and the Annandale HS all night senior prom party.

Also, the Civic Association has worked with the county to get a traffic light installed at Heming Ave, a new left turn signal light installed at Ravensworth Road, stop signs, and lights under the beltway bridge. The association maintains an active relationship with local and state government to present community concerns. We conduct monthly meetings with interesting and informative speakers. Please complete and mail the membership form in this newsletter.

Lost and Found

This is a new feature of our newsletter. If you have lost or found something in the neighborhood let us know and we'll publish it in the newsletter as well as on our Website.

A wedding band was found on the sidewalk before Christmas in the 5500 block of Heming Avenue. If you lost it or know who might have please call Irene at (703) 750-3071.

Commuter's Corner

This is a new feature. If you are a commuter looking to carpool with someone send us your name, address, phone number, destination and times and we'll publish it here in the newsletter as well as on our Website. So far we have:

Maria DeMicoli at 7510 Hamlet Street is looking to carpool with someone to the Rosslyn Area, M - F, 9 am - 6 pm. If interested call (703) 856-3868 or mdemicoli2@yahoo.com.

Fairfax County Zoning Department News

Patricia Barnes

The Braddock district sponsored a meeting for all the area civic associations on topics of interest. North Springfield civic association representatives attended. Some highlights from the zoning discussion are:

For up to date zoning information/regulations, go to the county website; there's a link to it from WWW.NSCIVIC.ORG. Here are a couple of items to keep in mind when you're doing home improvements. Home improvement stores may stock products that do not meet zoning regulations; it is the homeowner, not the store that is responsible to know and abide by zoning regulations. For example, the stores sell 8' fences; the maximum height for a backyard fence is 7'. The maximum height for a shed is 8' unless you get a permit from Fairfax County.

All reports and complaints to the zoning department are confidential and your name will not be used. The zoning person will ask for your name and number so they can call you back and let you know the answer to the your question or complaint. You can reach zoning at (703) 324-1300 or through their website. You should receive a follow up call with answers within 2 weeks. If you do not receive a follow up you can contact Michael Congleton, Deputy Zoning Administrator at (703) 324-1377.

Beautification

Ed Stock

North Springfield continues to be one of the nicer communities to live in part because the vast majority of our residences take pride in properly maintaining their home and property.

Over this past year all of the entrances as well as the common areas were renovated with much of the credit going to John Everett who tackled the Leesville median. New shrubs, grass, mulch and trimming have made the Leesville median almost a showplace. The new look shows that we care about our community. John also zapped most of the weeds and seeded

on Heming Hill which even now in January is still lush and green. Thanks John.

All of the white brick entrance signs were given a fresh coat of paint as well as the delineators and the wooden hanging signs. Our thanks go to Fred Felber who continues to assist with keeping the entrances properly maintained. His "Mean Green Machine" (old pick up truck) has made many a trip to the dump at West Ox Road loaded with trash, broken limbs and other unsightly items picked up from the streets and common areas of North Springfield. Thanks Fred.

Last fall Andrew Judge of Troop 990 led a project to renovate the common area at Heming and Leesville. It was a major undertaking and a very worthwhile Eagle Scout project. A recent check of that area indicates some of the honeysuckle is trying to make a comeback. Hopefully there are some volunteers out there who would be willing to keep the honeysuckle in check. Pile up the debris and we'll haul it away.

The new trees and shrubs recently planted along the Leesville sound barrier will be turned over to VDOT in April of this year for their care and maintenance. As with other shrubs and trees planted on VDOT right-of-ways within North Springfield, your Civic Association will assist in their care. We do this because VDOT has limited maintenance resources and we feel that it is important that we help to properly maintain the natural beauty of our community.

If you notice any graffiti in our community please call me at (703) 256-8174. If you'd like to handle it yourself take a picture of it that you can mail to me and then paint over it.

Winter means snow and ice. Please be careful shoveling snow, especially senior citizens and others with medical conditions. Shovel gently and take lots of breaks to rest and warm up. The cold and dry air you breathe while shoveling snow can put an extra strain on your body. Better yet, hire someone from our teen job list. They always appreciate extra spending money.

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

Newsletter Advertising

Take advantage of our low prices and your ad will be seen by over 2,200 households in March, April or May.

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

Your ad is also posted on our website and will remain there until the next newsletter is published. Mail your business card or camera-ready proof with a check for the appropriate amount by February 14th to:

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

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calendar Year January – December 2005

NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

