



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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General Meeting – **March 2, 2005**

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

Guest Speakers:

- County Budget Representatives

President's Message

Norma Heck

At our February general meeting we addressed home tax assessments. The proposed county budget, and 2005 tax rate, will be released February 28th. Following a period of public review and comment the final budget will be approved on April 25th. For our March 2nd general meeting we have scheduled representatives from the County to discuss the proposed budget with us. This will give our residents an opportunity to hear the major points of the budget firsthand and to provide them your feedback on the proposed total and its allocation to county services.

At the February general meeting one of our concerned residents presented a disturbing newspaper article on the unnecessary removal of old growth trees in our community. Apparently there are some tree removal services active in the community that try to convince residents that their trees are not sound and thus may fall and hurt their children. In many cases this representation is not true. We are working with the county to determine what we can do to better alleviate this problem. In the meantime, if you are approached by a tree service that claims you have trees that may pose a danger to you or your family we ask that you get a second opinion before acting. Most reputable tree services will give you a free evaluation of your tree's health and tell you whether or not it should be removed.

We remind residents that trees not only enhance the community's appearance they also perform an important environmental function. Trees filter pollutants from the air and they act as natural sound barriers to road noise. Trees also provide shade and can lower your utility bills; particularly in the summer.

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 was the start of our 2005 membership drive so please join and encourage your neighbors to join as well.

The date for our community yard sale is set for Saturday May 14, 2005; the date for our community clean up day is set for the following Saturday May 21, 2005. We need volunteers with small trucks or trailers that can assist residents in getting their junk to the drop-off location at the school

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.

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.

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) provides support for the police department by incorporating civilian volunteers so that law enforcement professionals have more time for frontline duty.

You can learn more about these programs at www.fairfaxcountycitizencorps.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 February we went on our annual ski trip in West Virginia. The scouts are currently planning their outdoor adventures for

March through June. 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. March is when the 5th graders graduate Cub Scouts and move into Boy Scouts. If your son is a 5th grader and wants to look us over now is a good time; he'd be joining with several of his classmates. 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 February the Venture Crew went skiing. We are always ready to welcome new members. 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, March 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 held their Pinewood Derby competitions and went snow tubing; in February we had our Blue and Gold Banquet and the Webelos participated in the flag and wreath laying ceremony at George Washington's Mount Vernon tomb. Congratulations to our Pinewood Derby winners:

1st Place - David F (Wolf)

2nd Place - Alec V (Webelos II)

3rd Place - Danny C (Wolf)

In March the Webelos will have an overnight lock-in at the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore. 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

Be sure to mark your calendar

March 21st – 25th Spring Break
April 14th Third Grading Period Ends
April 15th Student Holiday
April 25th Annual Kindergarten Orientation

Past Highlights

On Friday, January 28th North Springfield held their traditional International Family Night, which had such a wonderful turn out and the event brought together a rich and diverse group of families. The songs the children sang were delightful and the performances were great. After the celebration in the gym everyone had the opportunity to taste some delicious food in the cafeteria and just get to know one another better. As a spokeswoman for our PTA and community I would like to say thanks to everyone who helped make this event such a big success.

On Friday, February 11th North Springfield children, teachers, and families had another opportunity to come together and enjoy dancing at the annual Sock-Hop. The folks that attended this event seemed to really have a great time, to include myself (it ROCKED). I think the event was a perfect prelude for the happy heart day, the day of love, or Valentine's Day. Thanks to everyone for helping make it a wonderful event to attend.

Future Highlights

The Annual Kindergarten Orientation begins at 1:30 pm in the cafeteria. The meeting is an information session for rising kindergarten students who will turn 5 years of age by September 30, 2004. (Please call the school at (703) 658-5500 if you will have a child eligible for the school year so that we can mail you information.). This is also *Turn Off TV Week!*

Fund Raising

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 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) NSES ID No. 6608321

The school is still collecting several items for the current school 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).

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.

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

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

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 in the newsletter and on our Website.

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 .

Beautification

Ed Stock

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

D&P AD HERE

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: _____

