



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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General Meeting – **February 1, 2006**
7:30 p.m. – North Springfield Elementary School Cafeteria

Guest Speaker:

- Nancy-Jo Manney, Executive Director, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce

President's Message

Norma Heck

We hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season and we wish all our residents the best for 2006.

Our February meeting will be a presentation on the business changes that are planned in Springfield to include the Springfield Mall and the area around Bob Evans Restaurant.

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 5406 Fremont Street
- 2nd Place 5308 Easton Street
- 3rd Place 5328 Ravensworth Road

A number of other homes were also selected for honorable mention they are:

Anola Court	5203 Heming Ave.
5428 Camrose Pl.	5709 Heming Ave.
7215 Country Wood Ct	7605 Hogarth St.
5206 Easton Dr.	7303 Husky La.
5303 Easton Dr.	7413 Inzer St
7712 Elgar St.	5209 Light St
7614 Gresham St.	6987 Meadow Forest Ct

Thanks to everyone who participated.

We have had several incidents in our neighborhood where signs advertising local organizations such as Little League have been taken or knocked down. Our community supports these organizations and we ask residents not to remove these signs. If a homeowner does not want a sign placed on the common area in front of their house, please contact the organization for its removal. We also ask that resident remove signs when events have passed such as yard sales, lost pets, and sales of homes.

Both the North Springfield Elementary School and the North Springfield Civic Association are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. A joint celebration will take place at the NSES in May. If you have photos, documents, or can provide history about the early days of either organization, please contact Jenette Eddy at Jenette.Eddy@fcps.edu or (703) 658-5500. Look for more details in following newsletters.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990 & Venture Crew 990

Skip Chaples

Troop and Crew 990 continue another exciting year of scouting. In January we camped at Sky Meadows State Park. 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.

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 attended the Klondike Derby competition. We are always ready to welcome new members. We are based in the North Springfield and Annandale areas. For more information on the Crew or how to contact a Crew young adult, please contact Mrs. Kathy Ichter (703-354-3728) or Mr. Mike Stumpf (703-642-0982).

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 18th 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.

North Springfield Elementary School

Christina Hayashida

We appreciated your involvement throughout the 2005 school year. 2006 promises to be even better and we hope that all of you will have an opportunity to get involved in the events planned for this year.

NSES Upcoming PTA Calendar of Events

February 7 NSES PTA Meeting 7:00 (Library)

February 20 President's Day—Holiday (No School)

February 24 "Family Heritage Night" (6:30 pm) Note: it use to be called "International Family Night". North Springfield is a rich and diverse school and would like everyone to come together to share a special evening of fun, food, and diverse entertainment. 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.

April 6 Third Grading Period Ends

April 7 Student Holiday (No School)

April 10 –14 Spring Break (No School)

May 1 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, 2006. (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.)

May 29 Memorial Day Holiday (No School)

June 20 Last Day of School

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).

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

School Arrival Times and Cafeteria Delayed-Opening Procedures

Just a reminder to all parents: Students should arrive to school NO EARLIER than 7:45am. This is due to the fact that a staff person is not assigned to supervise the cafeteria until that time. We appreciate your assistance in helping us to keep your children safe. For Cafeteria Delays NSES WILL NOT be served when FCPS schools are issued 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.

School Age Child Care (SACC)

NSES SACC is a wonderful program conveniently located on the school grounds. It offers a safe environment and a place the children have to participate in many fun activities. The trained staff assists the children with any home work needs and they team lead the numerous game activities. If you are in need of before and after school, spring break and/or summer camp feel free to contact the SACC administration office at (703) 449-8989.

Membership

Patricia Barnes

It is time to send in your \$15.00 dues for 2006. 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.
- 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.

Beautification

Ed Stock

Foxes

A few foxes have been seen in our community. Their diet is primarily meat – usually mice, birds, squirrel, rabbits, and in some cases small cats. The County does not deal with wild animals unless they appear to be rabid or are a specific danger to people. Concerned residents may call Fairfax County Animal Control to rent a "Have A Heart" trap so one can trap them, take them to a wooded area and release them or have Animal Control pick them up.

Traffic Update

The installation of the pedestrian cross lights at Braddock and Ravensworth is complete. Truck traffic in our community has increased dramatically – especially large tractor trailers and construction vehicles including cranes and concrete mixers. Most of our community streets are narrow and do not permit two-way

traffic when vehicles of any type are parked. Please be courteous and exercise extra caution in these situations. Roll off dumpsters are required to be in the yard or driveway (not on the street). Call Fairfax County Zoning with any violations at (703) 324-1300.

New Fences

New fences have been going up in North Springfield and all residents are reminded of the existing covenant restrictions. "All fences or enclosures facing any front or side street shall be of wood or masonry construction, said fences and enclosures along the interior side lot lines from a line parallel to the front wall of the house and running to the rear or in any part of the rear yard may be of metal constructions, with at least 50% open design and not exceeding 42 inches in height. Any fence built shall be maintained in a manner so as not to detract from the value and desirability of surrounding property." (Deed book 1332, page 548, 7/15/55)

Clearing of Leaves

The leaves by now have quit blowing from yard to yard and most have nestled in the shrubs and the corners yards. It's time to gather them and put them out for recycling. If time permits, include the leaves in the gutter at the curb. This will keep them from getting into or blocking storm drains and becoming silt somewhere down stream.

Clearing Sidewalks & Fire Hydrants in Event of Snow

If we do get more snow this year, residents who are physically able are requested to shovel sidewalks next to their property for the safety of pedestrians, especially schoolchildren. Area teens are available to shovel snow and help with other odd jobs through the teen job list published in November 2005.

Residents are also asked to clear ice and snow from fire hydrants near their homes. In case of an emergency, firefighters can respond much quicker if the hydrants are accessible.

Snow Removal FAQs

Q: Which streets are plowed first and why?

A: Primary streets, which are most important for emergency situations, followed by secondary streets and cul-de-Sacs.

Q: Why don't they plow from curb to curb?

A: Plow crews are trying to open area streets for emergency access with the initial pass. When primary streets are clear, crews will return for additional plowing.

Q: Why do I sometimes see a snowplow going down the street with its blade up?

A: It may be going to a reassigned area, applying sand or returning to the property yard for more sand.

Q: Why don't they plow my cul-de-sac better?

A: Maneuverability in cul-de-sacs is very difficult for snow plows, and cars parked on the street can make plowing nearly impossible.

Q: Why do they plow the snow onto my yard?

A: This occurs mainly on corner lots in order to widen the intersection for increased safety.

Q: Where should I put the snow when I dig my car out so it won't be plowed in again?

A: To the edge of the roadway.

Q: Is there an ordinance requiring residents to shovel sidewalks?

A: Fairfax County has no such requirement, mainly because it would impose a hardship on elderly and disabled residents.

Stay warm, Spring is on the way.

Parks

Chet McLaren

Lake Accotink Dredging Project

The dredging project at Lake Accotink is underway. Phase 1 began September 29th when the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors gave the contractor, Mobile Dredging and Pumping Company of Chester, Pennsylvania, notice to proceed.

The goal of the project is to remove 161,000 cubic yards of sediment from Lake Accotink. Doing so will create an average lake depth of six to seven feet. The dredge will be a

hydraulic dredge, which means water will be kept in the lake at all times. The slurry (water and silt) will be pumped via pipeline 2.8-miles to Virginia Concrete.

Phase 1 is the preparation of the disposal site at Virginia Concrete. Visitors to the park and nearby residents will not see anything happening at Lake Accotink Park until Phase 2 which will begin in mid-November with the construction of the pipeline that will ultimately pump dredged material to the disposal site. The pipeline is 14 inches high and will be the first physical signs of the project at the park. It will run along the railroad right-of-way, cross the entrance road near the camp office and enter the lake near the Small Pavilion. It will be covered with a steel plate where it crosses the road. The pipeline will be inspected daily by contractor staff.

Phase 3 will be the actual dredging, which will begin with the equipment launch in late February 2006. The equipment, including two barges and three push boats, will be lowered onto the lake using a crane. The equipment will be readied to start dredging at the beginning of March 2006. The project will then take about a year to finish.

In addition to the pipeline and equipment on the lake, Phase 3 will bring construction trucks and some fences around equipment in the park. One truck will most likely be kept on the beach during working hours; other trucks will be parked in the gravel employee parking lot.

The dredging equipment is scheduled to run weekdays only, 7 am – 5 pm. The sound level is expected to be comparable to that of typical construction sites.

At this point, there is no indication that normal park operations or programs will be disrupted. Spring trout fishing, summer camps, boat rental and the annual Cardboard Boat Regatta will continue as planned.

Information regarding this project is posted on the Fairfax County Park Authority's website www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/accotink/index.htm under the "Dredging Project" button. For

further questions or to make comments, citizens can use the "online feedback form" at the bottom of that page.

Lake Accotink Park Rescue Mission

Lake Accotink Park is addressing a problem that took up residence in the park when a female cat had a litter of kittens in the spring. Two of the three kittens survived. Knowing the problems feral cats face and the potential risks they pose to wildlife and people, park staff humanely trapped the remaining cats and took them to a local vet who discounted services to get the animals spayed, neutered and vaccinated.

How did this happen? Someone allowed an unaltered cat to roam, abandoned a cat permanently or dumped a pet in the park. One pair of cats can exponentially produce 420,000 cats in seven years. This is why it is so crucial to spay and neuter pets.

Cats are not wild animals. They face a very difficult existence outdoors. Even cats that go outside "only once in a while" are not immune to these dangers. On average, a free-roaming cat lives three years or less, while the life span of an indoors-only cat averages 15-18 years. Although cats are the nation's most popular pet, they are also the most likely to die prematurely.

Free-roaming cats affect everyone. Cats may seem like they want to go outside because they are bored with their indoor environment. But rather than accommodating that perceived desire, the better alternative is to create a stimulating indoor environment.

Local governments spend millions of dollars every year dealing with problems created by free-roaming cats. Diseases potentially spread by cats are a public health concern. Each year, cats kill millions of birds, reptiles and small animals unnecessarily. Cats are not part of the natural environment and when they become predators, they reduce food sources for native animals.

Lake Accotink staff is investing their personal time and money in a solution. They hope their example will inspire others to:

- Be responsible pet owners and keep domestic cats indoors.
- Address feral cat problems in their community in a humane way
- Help educate others
- Adopt rather than buy a pet. More than five million cats and dogs are euthanized each year.

Good, loving homes are needed for two of the cats. Cinder is a striking six-month old tortoise shell colored kitten. She is still a little wary around people, but likes to be spoken to softly. Trusting others is counterproductive to how she survived for six months, but she is coming along.

Chamberlain, presumably the father cat, is only about a year-and-a-half himself. He is a beautiful tawny colored cat. Though he's a little nervous when being petted, he has a very relaxed personality and will make a wonderful pet when he becomes used to his new home, kindness and care.

Remaining medical and care costs for the cats are being paid for by park staff. If you are interested in adopting one of these cats, please contact Lake Accotink Park 703-569-0285. TTY 703-569-5200

Association Officers

President

Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

Vice President

Scott Pratt (703) 256-2011

Secretary

John Osipchak (703) 200-6400

Treasurer

Skip Chaples (703) 644-1311

Beautification

Ed Stock (703) 256-8174

Federation of Citizens Associations

Carey Campbell (703) 916-0945

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

Mike Dannholtz (703) 941-9250

Braddock District Council

Carey Campbell (703) 916-0945

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 in print and on our website by over 2,200 households in October, November, February, March, April or May.

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 February 13th to:

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

Now you can have your ad posted on our website during those months that we do not publish a newsletter. The monthly rates for this service are:

Business Card	\$5 (3.5" x 2")
Quarter Page	\$10 (3.75" x 5")
Half Page	\$20
Full Page	\$40

Please note that this service is only available to those who have advertised in the newsletter.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calendar Year January – December 2006

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

\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____
