



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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General Meeting – **February 7, 2007**
7:30 p.m. – North Springfield Elementary School Cafeteria

Guest Speaker: James Nida, Crime Prevention Officer, Fairfax County Police

President's Message

Norma Heck

We hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season and we wish all our residents the best for 2007.

The topic for the February 7th General Meeting is Crime Prevention Safety. As most residents are aware, last year there were two murders within 3 miles of our community; both were women in their early 70's who lived alone. The Fairfax County Police have put together a program for residents to ensure that we are all aware of the precautions one should take to keep themselves safe in their community. James Nida, the Crime Protection Officer for our area will present this program at our next meeting; we encourage everyone to attend.

Our March meeting will be on a similar theme. Ms. Verda Johnson, an investigator with the Fairfax County Office of Consumer Protection will speak to us about identity theft.

Board members continue to receive numerous inquiries from residents concerned about the general appearance of our community. Unkempt yards, junk stored on the property, homes in disrepair, overcrowded homes and illegal home businesses are the most common complaints. Home appearances in our community are important to maintain property values and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all our neighbors. We are a residential neighborhood and we should strive to look and

act like one. If you need help maintaining your property or removing junk let us know and we'll try to help; there are volunteers and resources available. We also understand that in today's economy there are many who choose or need to share a home or work from their home. That's fine but it is the responsibility of those who do so to respect the rights of their neighbors; there are laws governing what you can do in a residential neighborhood.

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 5328 Ravensworth Road
- 3rd Place 5308 Easton Street
- Best Tree - 7230 Chatham Street

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

7312 Axton St	5709 Heming Ave
7002 Catlett St	5515 Hinton St
5206 Easton Dr	5414 Ives Place
5303 Easton Dr	7410 Leesville Blvd
5422 Easton Dr	5421 Lehigh Ln
5517 Glen Allen St	7420 Long Pine Dr
5203 Heming Ave	5620 Queensberry Ave
5313 Heming Ave	5300 Ravensworth Rd

Thanks to everyone who participated.

Neighborhood Watch

Ron & Kathy Kinzer

Some of you have graciously and recently volunteered to join your neighborhood watch program. In an attempt to expand the program we are still seeking volunteers and old friends for the positions of observer, scheduler, captain, and co-director. We are currently waiting to accumulate enough volunteers to start the process. Those of you who have volunteered to date you will be hearing about organizational plans soon.

The purpose of the Watch Program is to keep the neighborhood safe and to provide assistance to the Civic Association during emergencies. The patrol travels throughout the neighborhood communicating via cell phone ensuring that property and vehicles are being maintained in a safe manor and complying with county zoning requirements. The program also observes houses while owners are on vacation.

Your Neighborhood Watch Program has a proud history of being one of the first watch programs in the county, operating since the late 1960's and early 1970's.

If you would like more information or to volunteer please call us at 703-941-6415 or email Ron at RKinzer@fairfaxva.gov

Yard Sale and Clean-Up Day

Our annual community yard sale is scheduled for May 5, 2007; Clean-Up Day is scheduled for May 12, 2007. On that day the County of Fairfax will provide trash trucks to haul away your debris. Clean-Up Day will take place from 8am - noon at the North Springfield Elementary School parking lot. Dangerous materials, paint, yard debris and excessive amounts of logs are not permitted. We will be publishing further instructions in April and May.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990

Skip Chaples

In February we'll have our annual ski trip to Timberline Resort 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 for a \$5 donation to the troop. Anyone interested in this service should call Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

Boys between the ages of 10½ 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.

BSA Venture Crew 990

CJ Sidener

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. Our membership is male and female young adults, ages 14 to 20, and adult advisors. The Crew young adults plan, schedule, arrange, and lead the activities. 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).

Cub Scout Pack 890

Steve Slough

Pack 890 continues to be very busy. In November, Pack 890 and Troop 990 collected for Scouting for Food. We want to thank the neighborhood for supporting our effort. With your help we collected over **1,800 pounds** of food for the local community food bank.

In December we went caroling in the neighborhood and stuffed Holiday stockings for the Salvation Army. In January we held our annual Pinewood Derby race. And we continued our Newspaper Drives on the third Saturday of each month.

On Thursday, February 15, we will celebrate the birthday of Cub Scouting with our annual Blue and Gold Banquet. This is a time for all the families to come together and honor the Scouts. This year's theme is "Aloha Scouts", and we are looking forward to many floral shirts for this festive occasion.

Kindergarten age boys become eligible to join Cub Scouts on June 1st. Plan now to visit our Pack and see what all the Fun is about. Our Pack meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 pm in the North Springfield Elementary School Cafeteria. If you are interested, please join us at a pack meeting or contact our Cubmaster, Bill Wilson at 703-642-2236 or Assistant Cubmaster, Steve Slough at 703-451-4439.

Beautification

Ed Stock

The North Springfield foxes continue cavorting around my neighborhood. One in particular is usually seen around my area in the morning hours. He is a beautiful animal with distinct shades of brown, tan and gray. The Animal Control Division of Fairfax County informs that it is against Virginia law to trap a wild animal or release a wild animal from a trap. So, unless the fox appears unhealthy, wobbly, or in distress or has attacked a pet (dog or cat) they will not respond to a citizen complaint about a healthy wild animal.

One of our spring projects is to restore some of the brickwork on our white entrance signs. The top row of bricks is deteriorating on some signs and the damaged ones need replacing. Once restored and painted we plan to cap them to seal out the moisture.

Stay warm and be careful shoveling the snow.

NSCA Website

Skip Chaples

Our website contains the newsletter as well as valuable information about the community and local government. 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 should be disseminated between newsletters.

Membership

Tricia Barnes

It is time to send in your \$15 dues for 2007. The Civic Association year runs from Jan-Dec 07. Please fill out the membership form in the newsletter. Some residents think because they get the newsletter that means they are members of the association. That is not correct. You need to send in your \$15 dues to become a member.

It would be great if you checked off an area you are interested in helping with or any program topics you would like for a future meeting. None of the offices or committees takes a big amount of time, but it would be nice to have more people involved. Our biggest monthly expenses are the newsletter and maintenance of the common areas within North Springfield. The newsletter is an important communication tool to keep you updated on what is happening. The website www.NSCIVIC.org is another association service provided to let you know of any important happenings in the neighborhood.

Guitars Not Guns

Skip Chaples, President

The charity established last year in memory of Aaron Brown had a very successful start in 2006. Our mission is to provide opportunity, encouragement and empowerment to at-risk youth with modest means; to help instill in them the confidence and character necessary for them to grow into productive members of society and responsible adults. We engage their creative potential with a structured music program, taught by caring adults in a safe environment, and then coupled that with our

mentoring in music related career fields. We are an all-volunteer, community based 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that provides at risk youth a positive alternative to the self-destructive behaviors of drugs, alcohol, crime, and gang activity. We are not anti-gun; we are anti-gun violence.

In 2006 we opened classes at three locations in the County; we served 24 students. In 2007 we continued classes at those three locations and added 15 more students to the program; two additional class locations with up to 20 more students will be opening in February.

Volunteer opportunities are available for those interested in helping at-risk children in our community. Many positions do not require musical ability. You can learn more about our program and how you can help by visiting our website www.guitarsnotguns.org/Virginia.html or by contacting Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311 or skipchaples@cox.net.

North Springfield Elementary School

Christina Hayashida

North Springfield Elementary students have had a great start for the 2007 New Year and hope to make it another exciting year. We hope that all of you will have an opportunity to get involved in our events. NSES has begun implementing new security procedures and cameras for the new 2007 school year to keep our children safer.

PTA Calendar Events

February 6 th	NSES PTA Meeting 7:00 pm (Library)
February 8 th	Family Math Night 7:00 pm
February 19 th	President's Day—(No School)
March 23 rd	"Family Heritage Night" 6:30 pm
March 30 th	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
April 2 nd - 6 th	Spring Break (No School)
April 30 th	Annual Kindergarten Orientation
May 28 th	Memorial Day Holiday (No School)
June 18 th	Last Day of School

"International Family Night" is now "Family Heritage 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.

Annual Kindergarden Orientation is an information session for rising kindergarten students; those who will turn 5 years of age by September 30, 2007. It begins at 1:00 in the cafeteria. 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 the information.

Just a reminder to all parents: Students should arrive at 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. NSES WILL NOT serve breakfast when FCPS schools are issued a one or two hour delayed opening.

For Safety reasons Students should leave their **heelys** at home; they are **NOT ALLOWED** in school. This rule applies to both during school AS WELL AS after school activities.

If you'd like to participate in the Bonus card program please re-register your Giant Bonus card, Safeway or your Harris Teeter VIC card at your local store or through the stores' website.

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

The school is collecting box tops, labels and printer ink cartridges again this year. There is a box in the lobby where you may drop them off. Questions and arrangements for label collection can be directed to the NSES Program Coordinator Robin Hylton at 703-843-3358 or at www.LabelsforEducation.com for additional information and recipe ideas.

If you shop at Target, please register your target card and record us as your school.

If you are in need of childcare services please contact SACC for assistance; (703) 449-8989 or www.co.fairfax.va.us/ofc/SACC.html.

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 19th 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.

Boy Scout Fundraiser

Need your House Number
painted on your curb?

Call Boy Scout Troop 990
(703) 644-1311

North Springfield Elementary School PTA Fundraiser

Do you shop at Giant? If so, you can help NSES PTA fund school activities by purchasing Giant grocery cards.

Use the cards like cash at Giant. The school gets 4% from Giant for every dollar purchased. Buy \$20, \$50, or \$100 cards. They never expire.

Contact Tuanchai or Rob Horvath at 703-914-9492 to purchase the cards. We will deliver them to your door.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calendar Year January – December 2007

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

\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

Address: _____

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -

MEMBERSHIP

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

PLANNING & ZONING

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

SUGGESTIONS FOR:

Other Committees: _____

Topics for upcoming programs: _____
