



NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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General Meeting – **October 3, 2007**

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

Guest Speakers: State and County Office Candidates

President's Message

Scott Pratt

We hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable summer. Fall is here and your Civic Association is gearing up for another year of service to the community. November 6th is Election Day for Virginia legislator and Fairfax County offices so our first general meeting on October 3rd will be candidate's night. We have invited all those running for elective office in our districts to come and speak to us as well as answer your questions. We anticipate that most of the candidates or their representative will be there so we encourage everyone to attend this important meeting.

Be sure to look at all the ads in our newsletter. Our advertiser's sponsorship helps pay the cost of publishing this newsletter. You will find many local service providers for your homeowner needs as well as opportunities to support our Scout program, the PTA, and the North Springfield Elementary School.

Teen Job List

Sign up now for the Fall and Winter Teen job list. A mail-in form is included in this newsletter or you can sign up on-line at www.NSCIVIC.org. The list will be published in the November newsletter.

Unsafe Property Conditions

Never assume that a home renovation or construction project is being done in accordance with Fairfax County regulations;

never assume that someone else has verified that the project is being performed legally.

Such is the case at 7413 Gresham Street. Over two years ago this single level rambler was demolished with exception of a single wall in the bathroom and a toilet. For months neighbors walked by and wondered what was going on. Scott Pratt became concerned with safety issues so in late June 2007 he took several pictures and sent them to the County; they had no idea any construction had occurred at the residence; the only permit issued by the County was for some plumbing work!

The Civic Association is working with Supervisor Bulova's office and the State to clean up the site and make it safe. If you notice activities like this don't assume it's legitimate; call the Fairfax County Code Enforcement Division, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services at (703) 324-1937 and verify that the project is legal.

NSCA Website

Skip Chaples

Our website contains the newsletter as well as valuable information about the community, local government, and the numbers to call for various services. You can also 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

If you have not sent in your dues for 2007, it is not too late! Please use the membership form you find in this newsletter or bring your dues to the Oct. 3rd meeting.

The Civic Association is for both homeowners and renters. Here are the highlights of how the Civic Association uses your dues to benefit our community: six newsletters are printed and delivered to all the homes each year; entrance ways and common areas are planted, mulched, grass cut, bushes and trees trimmed and pruned; a Community Clean-Up Day is organized and run by the Civic Association; and donations are made to our scouting programs and to the Annandale HS all night senior prom party. The Civic Association requested and worked with the county to get a traffic light installed at Heming Avenue; for better synchronization of the traffic light at Ravensworth Road; stop signs; lights under the bridge by North Springfield elementary school; and blinking school zone lights.

We need to have your support to help keep North Springfield a well maintained and active community.

Beautification

Ed Stock

The drought has taken its toll on many of our shrubs and trees; especially on Leesville Blvd. There are plans to replace some of the shrubs adjacent to the sound wall. The Foster Holly shrubs have not grown as advertised and don't seem to do well in that location. We may try a different type in hopes of getting better results.

Grass cutting on Braddock was drastically improved when the county decided to use prisoners on a work release program to cut the grass, primarily on the median. Sharon Bulova was instrumental in advancing that program. Thanks Sharon.

Another item that was announced in May concerns the placement of signs in the VDOT right of way. According to the announcement

signs are no longer permitted within 15 ft of the edge of the pavement. Signs that are in violation can be removed by those persons registered by VDOT via their ADOPT A HIGHWAY PROGRAM. The only exception is the political signs which are restricted to specific periods before and after the election.

It is time to get those rakes out and chase those leaves around the yard. Just think of it as healthy exercise and all the good it will do your once beautiful body. You may also want to enjoy the fall colors by taking a brisk walk around the lake. Well maybe not a brisk walk, perhaps a leisurely stroll would be better. Enjoy the season.

Neighborhood Watch

Ron & Kathy Kinzer

Many of you have called about the fence-painting incident near Gresham and Ferndale. This artistic expression was allegedly created by local youth that also may be linked to other minor incidents and pranks in that area. If you observe such activity, it is imperative that both the Police and your Neighborhood Watch program be contacted immediately so that a quick response can be initiated. Your assistance in identifying these individuals would also be appreciated so that they, and possibly their parents, might be held accountable. It is hoped that the fence can be repaired soon.

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

Guitars Not Guns (GnG)

Skip Chaples

The charity brought to Virginia in 2006 to remember Troop 990 Eagle Scout Aaron Brown began its 2nd year of service in September. They're now providing mentoring, guitars, and lessons to at risk youth at 9 locations in Northern Virginia. Visit their website www.guitarsnotguns.org and click on Locations and then Virginia to see what's happening and how you can support them.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990

Skip Chaples

Troop 990 has started another exciting year of scouting. In September we went white water rafting in Pennsylvania. In October and November we'll be back camping and hiking in the mountains. 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.

We also sell Entertainment 2007 Coupon Books for only \$25 payable to BSA Troop 990. Each book contains more than \$1,000 in great savings and pays for itself in just a few uses. It's packed with 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 all year at www.Entertainment.com. For more information or to purchase a coupon book contact our Troop Fundraising chairman Nancy DeVera at (703) 256-6451 or Dave Bynum at (703) 658-9324.

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.

BSA Venture Crew 990

Mike Stumpf

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 Mike Stumpf at (703) 642-0982.

Cub Scout Pack 890

Bill Wilson

JOIN CUB SCOUTS!! JOIN CUB SCOUTS!!

Pack 890 is currently recruiting for the new school year. All boys between the ages of 6 (1st gr.) and 11 (5th gr.) are encouraged to join Cub Scouts. All are invited to our next Pack meeting on Thursday, October 18th at 7:00pm in the North Springfield Elementary School Cafeteria to experience first-hand what scouting is all about. We will be holding our annual Space Derby that evening, so it should be especially exciting!

If you are interested in scouting, but unable to attend the pack meeting, please contact Alicia Ward, our Recruiter, at (703)333-5084, our Cubmaster, Bill Wilson at (703) 642-2236, our Assistant Cubmaster, Dwight Sheppard at (703) 912-6397 or have your child ask one of the boys wearing a Cub Scout uniform at school. We are especially looking for 1st and 2nd graders to fill out our two youngest dens, Tigers and Wolves.

We would also like to thank the North Springfield neighborhood for continuing to support our monthly Newspaper Drives. Please save your newspapers (no magazines or phone books, please) and place them at your curb by 8 a.m. the third Saturday of each month. Collecting the newspapers is our primary fundraising activity for all of the Scouts' activities year round, which includes camping, and the Pinewood Derby.

North Springfield Elementary School

Christina Hayashida

Welcome to our new Assistant Principal, Mr. Chad McRae; we look forward to working with him this school year. The students, teachers, and parents at North Springfield Elementary School (NSES) have gotten off to a great start. We had a great turnout at the NSES “Open House”; there were several volunteer tables available to welcome everyone to our great school. This event was a great opportunity for everyone to meet and sign up for the numerous planned activities.

SAFETY ISSUE: Please remember that our school doors open to students at **7:45 am**; therefore students **CANNOT** be dropped off at school prior to this time unless they are going to SAAC or a designated meeting with one of the NSES professionals. Be cautious in and around the school area where students are walking, crossing, and riding their bikes to school. Additionally, please honor the Kiss and Ride procedures of dropping students off **ONLY** in the designated area to help keep our little ones safe (**Note:** the front door of NSES is not a drop off spot. School is dismissed Tuesday – Friday **at the new time of 2:40 pm** and on Mondays at 12:35).

SALLY FOSTER Students will once again be selling Sally Foster gift wrap products **September 13th through October 4th**. We encourage friends and families to order online at SallyFoster.com or to browse through the catalog from one of the students. Our school earns 50% profit on every item sold! If you know a student attending North Springfield, they would be happy to place an order for you. You may also stop by the school office to browse the catalog and place an order.

PROGRAMS: Are you interested in helping out and getting involved with your student at NSES? Attend a PTA meeting or one of the other designated meetings to find out the steps to take—we always need help and love new faces. You may donate your time or money to different areas at NSES; join the PTA; or become a room parent. The NSES PTA participates in Giant Food’s Scrip program.

Here is how it works...you purchase Giant cards from the PTA and use them like cash/credit at any Giant grocery store. The Giant pays the NSES PTA 4% of every dollar purchased. Like the Giant Bonus Card program, it costs you nothing to help us earn money for NSES. Please help us raise money by buying these cards. They come in \$20, \$50, and \$100 cards and can be purchased by calling Caryl Salters at 703-750-0072. We’ll even deliver the cards to your door!

If you would like to participate in the Bonus card program please re-register your Giant Bonus card 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

The school is collecting several items this year: Tyson’s Frozen products—collect the certificate and NSES will get 24 cents per box; General Mills Box Tops for Education, Campbell’s Food Labels for Education clip proofs of purchase from any of the following eligible Campbell’s® products: (Campbell’s® soups, Supper Bakes® meal kits, Franco-American® SpaghettiOs® pasta,® beans, gravies, and canned pasta, Prego® pasta sauces, Swanson® broths and canned poultry, V8® vegetable juices and V8 Splash® juice drinks, Pace® salsa and picante sauces, Pepperidge Farm® breads, cookies, crackers, and frozen products) 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). Questions and arrangements for label collection can be directed to the NSES Program Coordinator, Robin Hylton, at 703-843-3358. Visit 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. We will then receive 1% of all purchases.

SACC: Just a reminder if you are in need of childcare services please contact or visit the

SACC office or website for assistance. The SACC office is located at 12011 Government Center Parkway - Suite 930, Fairfax, Virginia 22035. Telephone information for SACC is: SACC Administration 703-449-1414; SACC Registration 703-449-8989; FAX 703-324-3007 or visit their website at: www.co.fairfax.va.us/ofc/SACC.htm#Contact.

NSES CALENDAR: Mark your calendar for the following NSES PTA events and/or activities:

October 2 nd	PTA Meeting (NSES Library, 7pm)
October 4 th	Sally Foster Fundraiser Orders are Due
October 5 th	School Pictures
October 8 th	Columbus Day (School is Closed)
October 9 th	GT Parent Coffee at 10:00
October 19 th	Tailgate party 5:30 PM in the NSE parking lot before the game. Come & show your support for NSES PTA and AHS.
November 5 th -6 th	Teacher Workdays (No School) (8am – 4pm Sally Foster pickup)
November 21 st	2 hour Early Dismissal
November 22 nd -23 rd	Thanksgiving Holiday

Money's Role in Virginia's State and Local Elections

David Poole

For the past ten years, the non partisan Virginia Public Access Project (VPAP) has brought transparency and accountability to the election process. Using computer technology, VPAP helps Virginians understand the role of money in state and local elections.

Politics has become a major industry, with state and local candidates spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for part-time jobs. VPAP empowers citizens to see for themselves – without the filter of the media or campaign ads – who is paying for the campaigns for state House, state Senate and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. At www.vpap.org, informed citizens such as you can view a complete list of contributors sorted by amount, name, zip code, locality and occupation. You can even plot the information on a map.

Virginia's campaign finance system stands in contrast to the federal system, which seeks to reduce the influence of money in politics by

erecting legal barriers between elected representatives and special interests. But a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision found a key portion of the 2002 McCain-Feingold law violates the constitutional right to free speech.

Virginia is one of a handful of states that does not limit corporate, PAC, or personal campaign contributions. Anything goes, as long as candidates disclose the name, occupation and address of any donor who gives more than \$100. The idea is that politicians who do not show restraint will put themselves at risk if voters perceived them to be more responsive to monied supporters than to their constituents.

For decades, the flaw in the Virginia system was that voters had no practical way to access candidates' disclosure reports, which collected dust in filing cabinets at local and state agencies. In 1997, VPAP brought the information out of the darkness by keying the reports into a database and posting the information online. For the first time, Virginians had immediate and easy access to where candidates got their campaign funds and how they spent it.

During the last decade, VPAP has broadened its view of money in politics by integrating information about gifts and trips reported by elected officials, lobbyist registrations and candidates' personal financial holdings. VPAP weaves all of this information into a single database and makes it available free to the public at www.vpap.org.

VPAP takes a "just-the-fact" approach. It does not comment or interpret, but leaves it to voters to draw their own conclusions. One Virginia newspaper has called VPAP.org a "remarkable cyber place" where the public can "learn a lot more about the candidates by tracking their money than by listening to their stump speeches."

I invite you to visit our site and see for yourself. Election Day is Tuesday, November 6th. There is still time for you to learn the source of money behind each candidate and to understand what that says, if anything, about what kind of representative they will be.

David is the Executive Director of the Virginia Public Access Project. He may be reached at dpoole@vpap.org

Phillips School Fall Festival

The annual fall festival to support the Phillip’s School (corner of Braddock & Backlick roads) will be October 6th from 10 am to 4 pm. There will be live music, food, games for the children and craft sales for the adults. Scouts from our Troop 990 have volunteered to operate the games in the children’s area. To learn more about the Phillips School visit their website at www.phillipsprograms.org

Association Officers

President

Scott Pratt (703) 256-2011

Vice President

Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

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 October 15th 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.

Telephone Numbers to Report Complaints

The following telephone numbers are for Fairfax County departments responsible for resolving the listed complaints

Junk, Debris, vehicles in yards	703 324 1300
Overcrowding	703 324 1300
General noise complaints and barking dogs	703 691 2131
Grass in excess of 12"	703 324 1931
Potential illegal home businesses	703 3241300
Construction without a permit	703 324 1937
Inoperative vehicles on residential property - five vehicles or less	703 280 0716
Commercial vehicles parked on streets	703 691 2131
Illegal signs in public rights of way	703 383 8368
Illegal signs on private property	703 324 1300
Blighted property	703 246 5179
Building codes violations such as unsafe basement bedrooms, unsanitary living conditions, etc	703 324 1937

No-Cost Ways To Save Energy & Money

- Turn off everything not in use: lights, TVs, computers, etc.
- Check the furnace or air conditioner (AC) filter each month, and clean or replace it as needed.
- During hot months, keep window coverings closed on the south, east, and west windows. In winter, let the sun in.
- Glass fireplace doors help stop heat from being lost up the chimney. Also, close the fireplace damper when not in use.
- Activate "sleep" features on computers and office equipment that power down when not in use for a while. Turn off equipment during longer periods of non-use to cut energy costs and improve longevity.
- When cooking, keep the lids on pots. Better yet, use a microwave oven instead.
- Dress appropriately for the weather, and set your thermostat to the lowest possible comfortable setting. On winter nights, put an extra blanket on the bed and turn down your thermostat more.
- In summer, use fans whenever possible instead of AC. Using fans to supplement AC allow you to raise the thermostat temperature and use less energy.
- About 15 percent of an average home energy bill goes to heating water. To save hot water, take five-minute showers instead of baths. Do only full loads when using the clothes washer or dishwasher.
- Switch to cold water washing of laundry in top loading, energy-inefficient washing machines
- Lower the temperature on your water heater. It should be set at "warm," so that a thermometer held under running water reads no more than 120 degrees.
- Only heat or cool the rooms you need—close vents and doors of unused rooms.

Low-Cost Ways To Save Energy & Money

- Install low-flow showerheads and sink aerators to reduce hot water use.
- Seal and weather-strip your windows and doors
- A water tank insulation wrap costs about \$20 and helps hold the heat inside. Add pre-cut pipe insulation to exposed pipes going into your water heater—it is cheap and easy to install.
- Use mastic (a gooey substance applied with a paintbrush) to seal all exposed ductwork joints in areas such as the attic, crawlspace, or basement. Insulate ducts to improve your heating system's efficiency and your own comfort.
- Storm windows can reduce heat lost by single-paned windows by 25–50 percent during the winter. As an alternative, you can improve your windows temporarily with plastic sheeting installed on the inside.
- When buying new products, TVs, furnaces, cell phones, refrigerators, air conditioners and more, look for the ENERGY STAR® label
- Replace your five most used light bulbs with ENERGY STAR compact fluorescent bulbs. These light bulbs use two-thirds less energy and last up to 10 times longer. Use dimmers, timers, and motion detectors on indoor and outdoor lighting.
- Consider safer, more efficient ENERGY STAR torchiere lamps rather than halogen torchieres, which can cause fires.

Check out www.ase.org for more ideas

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: _____

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)
