



P.O. Box 1007  
Springfield, VA 22151

# NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## CALENDAR

### February 2010

- 3 NSCA General Meeting
- 22 Presidents Day

### March 2010

- 3 NSCA General Meeting
- 14 Daylight Saving Time Begins

### April 2010

- 4 Easter
- 7 NSCA General Meeting

### May 2010

- 5 NSCA General Meeting
- ? Community Yard Sale
- ? Community Cleanup Day

## WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message, Neighborhood Watch  
Community Events, School Events  
Membership and Boy Scout information  
Advertisements

## General Meeting – February 3rd 7:30 pm at the School

Fairfax County Police  
Crime Prevention Unit

Officer Allie Eggers of the Crime Prevention Unit, Franconia District Station, will provide us the trends in our community and give us some tips on how you can protect yourself from becoming a victim.

### Being a good neighbor means:

Maintaining your property all the way to the curb. Fairfax County does not maintain the right of way (sidewalk, median and curb); that responsibility is left to the property owner. Please keep those areas clean and neat. Don't let leaves and other debris accumulate along the curb; rain will wash it into the storm drains. In addition to polluting our streams and lakes, clogged storm drains can cause local flooding.

## Get Connected and Stay Informed!!!!

Sign up for e-mail alerts and notices at  
[www.nscivic.org/EMailNotification.htm](http://www.nscivic.org/EMailNotification.htm)

or visit [Hwww.nscivic.orgH](http://www.nscivic.org) for current community information

## **President's Message**

Norma Heck

We hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season and we wish all our residents the best for 2010.

The Fairfax County Police will be the guest speaker at our February meeting. They'll bring us up to date on activity in our community and the surrounding area as well as give us some tips on how to avoid becoming a victim.

Your Civic Association has remained very active representing the community but our membership has declined. This is making it difficult for us to sustain the level of service required because the costs for the newsletter, web site and beautification continue to rise. If you haven't joined, please do. If you are a member, please recruit a neighbor or two who are not members yet.

We 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. We did our best and awarded recognition to:

### **Traditional Christmas**

1. 5404 Backlick Woods Court
2. 5203 Heming Avenue
3. 5422 Easton Drive

### **Continued Excellence from last year**

- 5406 Fremont Street

### **Best Grouping of decorated homes**

- 7400 block of Long Pine Drive

### **Honorable Mention**

5503 Atlee Place	7511 Hogarth Street
7215 Countrywood Ct	5414 Ives Place
5202 Garner Street	5421 Lehigh Court
5409 Heming Avenue	5415 Littleford Street
5515 Hinton Street	5302 Ravensworth Rd

## **New Parking Restrictions**

On December 7, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved changes to Section 82-5-7 of the Fairfax County Code, which prohibits parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts. The code changes are intended to better define commercial vehicles in the County code, in order to improve parking enforcement and respond to complaints about large/commercial vehicles parking on residential streets. The effective date of these changes is February 1, 2010 followed by a 30 day warning period.

Changes code requirement for taxicabs and limousines: One resident of each single family dwelling unit may park one vehicle licensed and registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a taxicab or limousine

Expands definition of commercial vehicle restricted from parking in a residential area to include:

Any vehicle licensed as a common or contract carrier or limousine (except as above)

Vehicles that exceed size and weight limits: more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high including appurtenances, width of 102 inches or more, or gross vehicle weight of 12,000 or more pounds.

Vehicles exempted from these size and weight limits are: commercial vehicles used by Public Service Company, watercraft or motor home, school buses, vehicles driven by or used for transporting persons with disabilities, vehicles for cable television service, moving vehicles for 48 hours, vehicles for propane gas service. These "exempted" vehicles can park in a residential area unless restricted elsewhere in the Code, e.g., boats and motor homes are not allowed to park in areas that are Community Parking Districts

Vehicle carrying commercial freight in plain view

Trailer or semitrailer except camper, boat or single axle utility

Any vehicle with 3 or more axles

Clarification of parking restrictions on service drives: Where a service road is adjacent to a residentially zoned area, parking restrictions apply to the side of the service road that is adjacent to the residential area except as

otherwise provided in section 82-5-37(5). This allows prohibiting commercial parking on that side of the street which is zoned for a use other than residential to further the residential character of the abutting community.

The restrictions do not apply to commercial vehicles when temporarily parked while performing work or service.

For Additional information go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parkingcodechanges.htm)

### **Neighborhood Watch**

Maryann Germaine

We are seeking volunteers and old friends for the positions of observer, scheduler, captain, and co-director. If you would like more information or to volunteer please email Maryann at [mgermaine@cox.net](mailto:mgermaine@cox.net)

### **BSA Boy Scout Troop 990**

Skip Chaples

In February we'll have our annual ski trip to Timberline in West Virginia; later this spring we will be taking Scuba certification classes. Weekly scout meetings address various scout skills and Eagle rank required merit badges.

We have a list of house numbers to paint on the curb and will be around as soon as the weather is warm enough.

To learn more about our program contact Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

### **Cub Scout Pack 890**

Cub Scout Pack 890 has been very busy this winter. Together with Troop 990 we collected contributions for Scouting for Food. In December we had our Pack Bowling Event at the Edsall Road Bowl America and we collected items for the Salvation Army; we provide 125 stockings to underprivileged children in our area for the holidays. In January we just concluded our Pinewood Derby; results will be available next month.

All boys in grades 1-5 are urged to join. We meet the third Thursday of each month at NSES, in the cafeteria. If you have any questions please contact Dwight Sheppard at (703) 928-9103.

### **Beautification**

Ed Stock

This year's plans include a fresh coat of paint for the white brick entrance signs and replacing a few of the "worn out" shrubs at the entrances. We will also prune the Bradford pear trees on the Leesville median funds permitting.

VDOT's budget for mowing state right of ways continues to decrease. Some predictions are the reduction of mowing in our area to two cuts this year. That includes the Braddock Road median and the grass along the Leesville sound wall.

We are coordinating with county and VDOT officials to improve the situation. At a recent meeting of the Braddock District Council it was suggested that each community that borders Braddock Road look for solutions to maintain a portion of what was described as the "Main Street" of the Braddock District. Hopefully the effort required to maintain the median would be a combination of VDOT and Fairfax County. We should know more as the budgets from VDOT and the County are announced.

The Adopt a Highway program has been expanded; John Everett was granted Leesville Blvd. from Heming Avenue east to Backlick Road. Thanks John for volunteering and thanks to Mike Lauler who continues his clean up of Heming.

There are many of us who include picking up trash from our streets as we take our walks throughout the community. Just as the dog walkers carry their plastic bags so do many walkers. It is encouraging to see and we all thank you for your efforts.

We're looking forward to beginning another season of sprouting, mowing, raking and shoveling. Spring is on the way! Please join and support your Civic Association.

## **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.

If you are looking to carpool send us your name, phone number, destination, and time of commute.

## **Membership**

### Tricia Barnes

It is time to renew your membership in the Civic Association for 2010; dues are only \$15. The membership form is in the newsletter and it includes a place for you to list possible topics for upcoming meetings and committees you may want to join. We need your support to keep North Springfield a well maintained and active community.

The Civic Association is for both homeowners and renters. We help better the community by working to keep North Springfield a well kept safe area, keeping residents informed through the newsletters, and by being a liaison between residents and county government. Our association is a member of the Federation of Citizen Associations which represents all residents and works as a united voice to our local government representatives for concerns in Fairfax County.

Here are some highlights of what the Civic Association does with the dues for the residents and our community:

- Six newsletters are printed and delivered to all the homes and we have civic association meetings to keep residents informed about community changes and events.
- Entrance ways are planted, mulched, grass cut, bushes and trees trimmed and pruned. The hills at Leesville and Heming are maintained.

- The association arranges for a community clean up day each May when residents can bring oversized trash for free disposal.
- Maintains a web site with community information – [www.nscivic.org](http://www.nscivic.org).
- The association is coordinating with the Hot Lanes project team concerning the height, placement and landscaping of the soundwalls.
- Donations are made to the North Springfield Scouts 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 Ave, a left turn signal light installed at Ravensworth Road, stop signs, lights under the bridge on Heming, and blinking school zone lights at North Springfield Elementary school.
- The Association worked with the Washington Post to permanently preserve the buffer zone between the Post building and homes in North Springfield.

## **Eco-Savvy Gardening Symposium**

The symposium is being held February 27 at nearby Green Spring Gardens Park; 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, Virginia. The symposium is sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension with support from the Fairfax County Park Authority and Green Spring Gardens. Experts will share practical information on understanding the life cycle of your garden. Topics include: how residential gardens can provide critical resources for beneficial insects that help control pests; seasonal strategies for successful gardening in Virginia; how climate change affects flowering and other stages of plant development as well as pollinators such as bees; and how your observations (of things such as first leafing, first flower, and first fruit ripening) can become valuable data for climate change and environmental researchers through Project BudBurst. The cost is \$45; a boxed lunch is an additional \$12. Register by February 19 by calling (703) 642-5173.

For questions or additional information contact Barbara Glotfelty at (703) 451-9378

## North Springfield Elementary School

We hope all of you choose to support our school this year - we appreciate your involvement in whatever capacity.

Kindergarten Orientation - If you will have a kindergartener next fall, please join us for Kindergarten Orientation, scheduled on April 19th at 1:00 p.m. For questions please call the school at (703) 658-5500.

Do you have an hour per year or 30 minutes per week to help students in your community? Here are two new opportunities to share your talents:

North Springfield Elementary School currently has 44 students in its mentoring program. All of the current mentors are teachers and staff members. The school needs volunteers from our community to help as the need for mentoring continues to grow. This is a wonderful way to get involved and help students succeed. Training is provided, and the time commitment is just 30 minutes a week. To learn more contact Jennifer Mrowka at (703) 658-5500 or JBMrowka@fcps.edu.

Do you love art and wish to share your interest with NSES students? GRACE Arts is a brief, ready-to-use art presentation followed by a short student art project. Community volunteers are needed to lead or assist another volunteer. Training is provided, the time commitment is about one hour, as little as once a year or up to three times per school year. The remaining topics for this year are Children in Art and Women in Art. Artistic ability is not necessary! Please contact Dana Cibulski at (703) 642-0375 or danacibulski@cox.net for more information.

**Safety Issue --** Be Safe and alert—Continue to be watchful of all the North Springfield children around the area, observe the speed limit, keep your kids safe in your cars by buckling up, and allow your children to cross at the crosswalk.

## **Fund Raising**

Please register your Giant Bonus card, Harris Teeter VIC card, Safeway Card and Target 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.

The school also collects several other items: 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).

## **School Age Child Care (SACC)**

NSES SACC offers a safe environment and a place the children to participate in many fun activities. The trained staff assists the children with any homework 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 assistance contact the SACC administration office at (703) 449-8989.

### **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 **Beth Buckreis at 703-913-7115** to purchase the cards. We will deliver them to your door.

### **Boy Scout Fundraiser**

Need your House Number  
painted on your curb?

Call Boy Scout Troop 990  
(703) 644-1311

**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 March, April, May, October, November, or February.

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

**Calendar Year January – December 2010**

NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151  
\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**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
- MEMBERSHIP
- NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
- PLANNING & ZONING
- SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

SUGGESTIONS FOR:  
Other Committees: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Topics for upcoming programs:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 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**

Maryann Germaine (703) 534-5427

### **Community Service Projects**

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**

Open