CALANDAR

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General Meeting – March 2nd
7:30 pm at the School

We have an opportunity for you to learn about some of the special services performed by the county’s police department. Officers Gary Brown and Brad Weeks, Special Ops Division Canine Unit will bring their work dog(s) and answer your questions about the K9 Unit. Vicky Monroe, Wildlife Biologist, Animal Services Division Wildlife Section will talk to us about the wildlife in and around the neighborhood, and answer your questions.

Being a good neighbor means:

Paying attention to our environmental impact; read labels and avoid products with cosmetic additives that don’t impact performance. For example, consider laundry detergents and softeners. Companies are using stronger chemical additives for scenting their laundry products. These stronger chemical scents are causing increased numbers of allergy, asthma, and respiratory problems in children and adults. They can also adversely affect air quality and the vegetation growing in your yard. So let’s all be smart consumers and worry more about the product’s performance than how good it smells.

Get Connected and Stay Informed!!!!

Sign up for e-mail alerts and notices at www.nscivic.org/EMailNotification.htm
or visit Hwww.nscivic.orgH for current community information
President’s Message
Norma Heck

We have an interesting program planned for our March 2nd meeting. It’s a great opportunity for you to learn about some of the special units in our Fairfax County Police Department and the work they do to keep our communities safe.

Our February meeting was very productive; the speakers gave us an excellent overview of new energy efficient systems and services that can significantly reduce the cost of your utilities and home improvement projects. Links to the speaker’s websites are on our website homepage www.nscivic.org.

The dates have been set for the Community Yard Sale and Community Cleanup Day so let’s all include those dates in our spring cleaning plans.

- Yard Sale: Gather up all those unused items that are in good condition and make them available to others who could use them on May 14th. It’s win-win; others get a product they need at a bargain price and you get extra cash for that Memorial Day barbeque. If yard sales are not your thing then give them to a neighbor who is participating or drop them off at a place like Goodwill.

- Community Clean Up Day: At the same time pile up all those trash items that your normal trash service won’t take (no glass or hazardous items please) and plan on bringing them to the school for disposal on the May 21st. Help will be available for those who can’t or don’t have the means to transport items to the school.

Ravensworth Post Office Relocation

The Ravensworth Post Office should move to its new location, about 30 feet from the current one, in March. It will be in the space across the walkway from the current front door; previously occupied by a flower shop. They still have not decided on the procedure for holding mail; i.e. whether we’ll be able to stop and resume our mail service at the Ravensworth Post Office or have to go to the Burke Post Office; 9501 Burke Rd, Burke Virginia 22015. They also have not decided on the hours of operation for the new location.

For those who have PO boxes, be aware that new boxes are being installed in the new location. Your box number will remain the same but they have not learned yet whether or not a new key will be required. You’ll get a notice in your box as to whether or not you’ll need to trade in your old key for a new one.

Membership
Tricia Barnes

Thank you to all those residents who have sent in their $15 2011 dues and those who also included donations; if you haven’t had a chance to send in your dues yet there is a form in the newsletter. The Civic Association appreciates your involvement and support of our community.

Please check off an area you are interested in helping with or any program topic you would like for a future meeting. None of the offices or committees takes a lot of time.

Sound Wall Landscaping
Norma Heck

Parts of the soundwalls bordering on both Leesville Boulevard and Long Pine Drive will be moved over the next couple of months. As we reported earlier, the State did not budget sufficient funds for landscaping so your Civic Association has been working hard to find funds to restore the landscaping after the construction is completed. Our treasurer, Skip Chaples has been pursing grants for this purpose. We announced last fall that Skip had secured a $2,500 grant from the contractor Transurban-Fluor; in February he secured another $2,500 grant from the county’s Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program. We now have $5,000 to use toward the landscaping. Skip is also coordinating our efforts with the State arborist responsible for all the Hotlanes landscaping to secure our share of her funds; the arborist will also help us get better pricing from State landscaping suppliers.
Fairfax County Budget

The 2012 budget process is underway and there will be more spending cuts. If you’d like a say in where those cuts are made here is the schedule for the budget process.

- Feb 3rd – School Board released their proposed budget; you can go online and review it at [http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/advertised/FY2012AdvertisedBudget.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/advertised/FY2012AdvertisedBudget.pdf)
- Feb 22nd – County Executive releases his proposed budget which includes transfer to the schools; you can go online and review it
- Mar 29th – 31st – Public hearings on the budget
- Apr 26th – Board of Supervisors approves 2012 budget
- May 17th, 18th – School Board holds public hearings on their final budget
- May 26th – School board approves 2012 budget
- July 1st – 2012 budget goes into effect

Political Redistricting

The census data related to population distribution has been released; you can find the maps and data for Fairfax County at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/submit-plans.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting/submit-plans.htm). Inputs to the advisory committee reviewing the data are due by March 2nd; instructions are on the referenced website.

The Fairfax County data reveals that the Braddock, Dranesville, Lee and Mason Districts are all under the average population; the Braddock and Mason Districts must increase their population, the other two are within the acceptable deviation. All other districts are over the average population but only the Hunter Mill and Mount Vernon Districts have to reduce population. Note that while five of the districts are within the acceptable deviation from average that does not mean that they are exempt from changes. We are looking at the data and putting together our recommendation for the committee’s consideration.

The redistricting website for the State is [http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/](http://redistricting.dls.virginia.gov/). We are in District 39 represented by Vivian Watts. Our district, as well as those around us, is under the acceptable deviation from the average so all must add population. We are following the process and looking at the data and will put together our recommendation for consideration.

At the federal level we are on the boundary between the 11th and 8th districts currently represented by Gerry Connolly and Jim Moran respectively; most of us are in Mr. Connolly’s district. The census data reveals that 8th district is under the average population and 11th district is over which suggests that the population in Representative Connelly’s district will have to be reduced. We are following the process and looking at the data and will put together our recommendation for consideration.

Political primaries are scheduled for August 23rd. Elections for state and county offices are November 8th.

Neighborhood Watch

Maryann Germaine

Participating in Neighborhood Watch is easy. All equipment is provided, and it’s completely up to you to decide when you do your patrol. You’ll be given a quick training when you pick up the equipment. Please check your calendar and select a week you’d like to help out. Email us at [NSNW@googlegroups.com](mailto:NSNW@googlegroups.com) or call 703-861-1849. If you are a fitness or pet walker, please get in touch as well—you can be part of Neighborhood Watch while you’re out on your regular walks.

Remember that students looking for community service hours can use their Neighborhood Watch volunteer time, whether they ride along with a parent, or as a licensed driver. We ask all North Springfield households to volunteer for a patrol just once during this year---it just takes a total of 2 hours, per year. Together we can make sure North Springfield remains a safe and vibrant community for all our residents.
BSA Boy Scout Troop 990
Skip Chaples

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. In February they had their annual Blue & gold Banquet; this year’s theme was Mardi Gras.

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 Andy Butler at (571) 436-4292.

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.

North Springfield Elementary School

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

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 Judi Giannini at judi.e.giannini@cox.net, Natalie Smith at nataliecs14@gmail.com or Toni Nietzsche at tnitschke@verizon.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.

Beautification
Ed Stock

Now that the days are getting longer and warmer we can rest assured that Spring is on the way; however, I’d still keep that snow shovel handy. Take advantage of warm weather to shake out some of the winter wrinkles and nose about on the outside checking for winter damage to trees and shrubs. Inspection of the house and shed will probably reveal some spring projects that will need to be done as well. It’s also a chance to clean some of the leaves out of the flowerbeds where there is already evidence of nature’s first rumblings of Spring.

For those dealing with downed limbs and branches, remember that if it’s on your property (which includes the median in front of your house) it’s your responsibility to clean them up and dispose of them. No one from the Civic Association, state or county is coming around to do it for you unless the downed tree or limb is posing a safety hazard; i.e. on a power line or blocking the street. Our local trash services will haul away limbs up to 4 inches in diameter if you bundle them in no more than 4 foot long lots or put them in containers they can lift and empty into their truck. For larger pieces you’ll need to solicit the help of a neighbor with a pickup truck or hire someone to haul the stuff away.

Many of you are new to the North Springfield area and you’ll be glad to know we have a fine reputation for having a clean, well-kept community. Raking, mowing, pruning, sweeping, keeping our homes and property the way we want others to keep theirs are the norm in our community. For old and young alike, it can be family fun and time that is well spent. So, paint up, clean up, fix up and get your neighbors out there with you, you’ll both enjoy the results.

Association Officers

President
Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

Vice President
Scott Pratt (703) 256-2011

Secretary
Celeste Leyhe (703) 941-8088

Treasurer
Skip Chaples (703) 644-1311

Beautification
Ed Stock (703) 256-8174

Federation of Citizens Associations
Carey Campbell (703) 351-1235

Legal/Registered Agent
Dorene Haney (703) 256-1688

Membership
Patricia Barnes (703) 354-0134

Neighborhood Watch
Maryann Germaine (703) 534-5427

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) 351-1235

Political Liaison
Norma Heck (703) 256-1332
Jean Smith (703) 256-5895

PTA Liaison
Ivan Carrasco (703) 462-9474
**Newsletter Advertising**

Take advantage of our low prices and your ad will be seen both in print and on our website by over 2,200 households in February, March, April, May, October or November.

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Mail your business card or camera-ready proof with a check for the appropriate amount by 15th of the preceding month 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:

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**Calendar Year January – December 2011**  
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA  22151  
$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: __________________________________________

Phone #: _________  Date: _________  Amount Paid: ______________________

E-Mail: ____________________________________________  Are you a new resident?  Yes

Suggestions for program topics: ____________________________________________

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**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:

_____________________________________

_____________________________________

_____________________________________