CALENDAR

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General Meeting – March 7th
7:30 pm at the School

Ever wonder what police dogs and their handlers do in the community? You’ve seen these pairs help solve mysteries or catch criminals on TV shows, now come learn about their role here in Fairfax County! 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.

Being a good neighbor means:

Keeping our common areas and public streets clean. If you put up signs for a yard sale or lost pet, be sure to take them down when the event is over. Don’t leave them to be removed from the pole by wind or rain and become trash on our streets. If there is trash or debris on the sidewalk or road in front of your property please pick it up and dispose of it properly. Remember, anything that’s left on the street gets washed into the storm drains when it rains and eventually finds its way into Lake Accotink then the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.

Get Connected and Stay Informed!!!!

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

We have an interesting program planned for our March 7th 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.

The dates have been set for the Community Yard Sale, Cleanup Day and Social 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 12th**. 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 19th**. Help will be available for those who can’t or don’t have the means to transport items to the school.

- **Community Social:** This year we’ll have it at the pool on **May 26th**. In addition to games for the kids, raffles for the adults and free food for all, the pool will be open for swimming.

The Leesville Blvd sound wall construction is finally complete and we will be replanting the area as soon as the weather permits. Thanks to our treasurer Skip Chaples we have received $10,000 in Fairfax County and Transurban-Flour grants toward this effort. We are coordinating with the State arborist responsible for all the Hotlanes landscaping to integrate our plan with hers thus further leveraging the funds and expertise available to us.

The area along the wall needs work before we do the planting. We must check the ground for rocks or construction debris that would interfere with mowing and there are some dead plants that should be removed. We’ll be scheduling a day to clean up the area in late March. If you would like to assist with the cleanup you can sign up with Skip (skipchaples@cox.net or 703-644-1311) and he’ll let you know the date and time.

Membership
Tricia Barnes

Thank you to all those residents who have sent in their $15 dues for 2012 and those who also included donations. Your support is important; the cost of maintaining our common areas continues to increase and many are in urgent need of repair. Your dues and donations are our only source of income to maintain these areas. If you haven’t had a chance to send in your dues yet there is a form in the newsletter. 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 require a lot of time.

Fairfax County Budget

The 2012 budget process is underway. If you’d like a say in how your money is being spent you can go to the Fairfax County website to review the proposed budget and find out how to have your voice heard.

Citizen Governance Initiative
Skip Chaples

At our February meeting Braddock District Supervisor John Cook informed us about his desire to have more citizen involvement in the decision making process. Supervisor Cook will launch his Citizen Governance Initiative at an all-day Braddock District Visioning Conference on Saturday, May 5. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to attend.

The Citizen Governance Initiative is an effort to get Braddock residents involved in County policy making. Supervisor Cook is seeking to establish one or more committees through which citizens can formally advise him in policy areas such as Land Use and
Environmental Management, Budget and Transportation, and hopes that this conference will serve as the launching point for that effort.

The Visioning Conference will include a review of the current comprehensive land use and transportation plans for Braddock, as well as presentations from citizen committees in other districts, so that participants have the background needed to help design Braddock’s new citizen-governance structure.

Why Rain Barrels?

Rain barrels can be attached to your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. By installing a rain barrel at your home you will:

Provide your plants with water they will love! Unlike treated water, which is "softened" with dissolved minerals, rain water is naturally soft. The water stored in your rain barrel is better than municipal water for washing your car and watering indoor or outdoor plants.

Save money and water! Instead of water from the tap or faucet, you can use the water you've saved to keep your home landscape happy and growing. You'll also reduce your municipal water bill.

Protect the Chesapeake Bay! Water stored in your rain barrel is water that won't rush off into our streams. Instead, as you use the stored rain water around the home and garden, it will absorb slowly into the ground replenishing groundwater supplies. By decreasing the volume of storm runoff, rain barrels also help moderate stream erosion and the resulting pollution that is impairing the Chesapeake Bay.

To learn more about rain barrels (e.g., how the barrels are constructed to prevent mosquitoes from laying their eggs in the barrels) and other economical conservation measures that you can install on your property visit the county website http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd

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 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

February was our annual ski trip to West Virginia; in March we’ll be camping in the Shenandoah Mountains. Weekly scout meetings address various scout skills and Eagle rank required merit badges.

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. 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 Cubmaster Evan Farris at (703) 256-2775.
** Beautification **

Ed Stock

The high winds that have visited us during the winter caused many branches and even some trees to be blown down throughout our community. We cut up, picked up and hauled the downed branches from the entrances as well as a few from homeowners who had dragged one or two large limbs to the curb.

The condition of Heming Hill (corner of Leesville and Heming) has been an eyesore for much of the fall and winter primarily due to construction of a power platform. The construction is finished and most of the area restored. We are also asking Fluor-Lane and VDOT for some shrubs to help camouflage the new power platform.

The beltway project is 84% complete with the Express Lanes expected to open this December. At our request the left turn lane from Braddock west to I-495 south was extended. They expect the Express Lane connection and the final traffic configuration on Braddock to be in place by late spring of this year.

Appomattox Court has received some attention this winter with a new sidewalk and a bus stop platform. While driving by there during the past week, I noticed a volunteer removing trash from the “woods” at Appomattox Court. In order to help with the cleanup effort Fred and I loaded up his truck with limbs and branches and even found an unopened, no doubt vintage, bottle of Heineken. So, you see there are some “rewards” when you volunteer.

** Preserve Our Trees **

Ed Stock

Many years ago when we were looking for a home, the newspaper classified ad that caught our eye was “Trees, Trees, and more Trees”. So we decided to buy in North Springfield and live among the trees. Our property had forty-two trees of various sizes and types including six flowering Crabapples. Over the past forty-five years some of our trees have succumbed to disease or damage and had to be removed. On occasion, my back still reminds me of the time I dug out three stumps. Chalk that up to being young and foolish.

Many of the trees along Leesville Boulevard and some along Ravensworth Road had to be removed because of the current VDOT work on the Beltway. With the increased traffic noise now ringing in our ears I realize now more than ever how important trees are to our community. What really saddens me is to see a healthy mature tree being cut down for no apparent reason. The real estate people are quick to point out how desirable a tree is to the value of a house and property. Conservationists can tell you the many environmental advantages of trees. So, why remove a healthy tree? Don’t like raking leaves; concerned about the maintenance cost; worried it will fall on you. Before you decide to remove that healthy tree think; is saving a few hours in leaf raking and a few dollars in maintenance really worth losing the shade provided in the summer along with lower electric bills and the beauty of the changing colors in the fall. Then there are the squirrels and the songbirds that climb and fly among the trees. They can provide some relaxing moments of entertainment and enjoyment; why destroy their home.

Trees help reduce smog and significantly deaden the noise from the Beltway. They provide shade and cooling in the summer; they drop their leaves in the fall to let the winter sun warm us. The tree provides natural beauty and adds class and value to our community, so please think twice before you remove one.

Spring is a good time to plant a tree. It is important to choose the right tree for the right location. There are fast growing, slow growing and some in between. If you need help, check with a nursery, an arborist or tree service company to select the right tree for your yard.

** Youth Conservation Camp **

For 33 years, the Virginia Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts has sponsored a week long summer conservation camp in July for Virginia high school students on the campus of Virginia Tech. The program brings together about 70 interested students for a week of learning about Virginia’s natural resources from conservation professionals and faculty from Virginia Tech.

Details about the camp and how to apply are on the Northern Virginia Conservation District website http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswhcd
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 BSA Troop 990 at (703) 644-1311

$5 Donation Requested
**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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**NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

Calendar Year January – December 2012
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: ________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
Phone #: __________ Date: __________ Amount Paid: _________________
E-Mail: __________________________________________  New Resident? Y N

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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 are interested in serving on a committee, or have suggestions topics for upcoming General Meetings or programs, please fill out the form below and mail it to the above address.

Name: ________________________________  Phone #: __________________
Address: __________________________________________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________________________________________

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -

BEAUTIFICATION  SUGGESTIONS FOR:
FEDERATION OF CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS  Other Committees: ___________________
MEMBERSHIP
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PLANNING & ZONING  Topics for upcoming programs:
COMMUNITY SOCIALS
SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

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Ready for some more nostalgia? In the last issue we showed the Woodlawn; here is the ad for another style of home that ran when the community was being built. Note the directions on how to get here; 395 and Edsall Road did not exist at the time and the mixing bowl interchange was a cloverleaf. Anyone still have those modern appliances listed in the home ad?

North Springfield

The homes

These homes in North Springfield, Virginia, were planned by Architect Harry E. Ormiston, AIA, to provide the kind of living that is wanted by contemporary Americans. Elbow room for today's larger families—personal privacy when wanted—easy transition from indoor to outdoor living—ease of maintenance—space for informal entertaining—design variations adapted to the contours of the site—this is the type of thinking behind these homes.

The community

North Springfield is an extension of Springfield—an established community with existing facilities. Public and parochial schools are nearby and six churches are in varying degrees of construction. There is a large new shopping center with plenty of parking. Homes have been oriented and sited on landscaped lots for maximum privacy and variety. A community newspaper, PTA, scout troops, clubs, community association and all the things that make life in the suburbs so enjoyable are established and waiting—for you. Springfield is just 15 minutes from downtown along the modern dual lane Shirley Highway; there's not a traffic light after you leave D.C.

Construction details

The construction in North Springfield is the same blend of careful workmanship and top materials that you can see in nearby Yates Village and Monticello Forest. All brick exteriors with a wide variety of treatments, copper plumbing, Bryant floor level gas heat, sliding door closets, fir lumber, fireplaces, venetian blinds, are among the many quality features.

directions

Take Shirley Highway to the Franconia - Springfield Cloverleaf, right to Back Lick Road, right on Back Lick Road one mile to North Springfield on the left. Follow signs.

Ashlawn

This is North Springfield's home for young moderns living on a small budget. The compact, three-bedroom ASHLAWN has low ground-hugging lines that accentuate its brick exterior. A feeling of spaciousness is created by the unobstructed view through the house from the front door to the terrace area off the dining room. The long living room is oriented around a brick fireplace set in a random width, tongue and groove panelled wood wall. Separating the living room, but not excluding it from the dining room, are moveable bookcases with adjustable shelves. Highlight of the step-saving kitchen is a 30" RCA Estate range with its wide oven... also a disposal unit. Adjacent to the kitchen is a sunny utility room which does triple duty as a laundry-storage-hobby room.