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

Our Speaker is Braddock District Supervisor John Cook. He will be updating us on the status of transportation and other redevelopment projects in Braddock District.

**Being a good neighbor means:**

Keeping our public space presentable and not piling up our trash, yard waste or items we’re donating/giving away on the curb days before someone comes to pick it up. County regulations specify items should not be put out until the night before pickup and containers must be removed same day as the pickup.

**Please vote on November 6th.** There are a number of important issues ranging from health care and taxes to education and transportation under consideration. Those we elect will make the decisions that affect each of us and our children so make sure your voice is heard.

**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

Last month we heard from Supervisor McKay’s office concerning the status of redevelopment projects in the Franconia District to include Springfield. This month we will hear from Supervisor Cook about the status of transportation and other redevelopment projects in the Braddock District.

Congratulations to Lisa M Downing; our new elected NSCA Vice President. Lisa is a native Washingtonian who settled in North Springfield in 2003. Prior to moving to our community, she served many years as the president of her condo association in Falls Church so she brings to us a wealth of community service experience. Lisa has served as a greeter during our annual Clean Up Day, so she may already be a familiar face to you.

The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be conducting their annual Scouting for Food Drive in November. Collection bags will be distributed November 3rd and collection will be between 9 and 11 am on November 10th. All donated food is delivered to ACCA in Annandale. If you don’t receive a collection bag, no problem; you can put your donation in any plastic bag for collection on the 10th. Our community has always been a generous supporter of this important event. The need is greater than ever and we hope everyone will support our scouts’ efforts this year.

Judging Holiday Decorations

The civic association officers will be judging your Holiday decorations again this year. We’ll be around between 7 & 10 pm on Thursday December 20th so please have your lights on that evening. What we look for are creative displays that reflect the true meaning of the holiday season; presentation is more important to us than the number of lights and figures you can place in your yard.

To ensure fairness, homes will be eligible for award once in a three year period. Prior year awardees who continue to enhance our community with their displays will also be recognized annually for their continued excellence.

Awardees will be listed on our website so residents can see our choices before the season is over and the displays are taken down.

November 6th is Election Day; if you’re 18 or older it is your privilege and obligation to vote. Our country is facing spending decisions on a number of difficult issues and the president and congress will make them. It is important that each of us vote for those we believe will act in our best interest during these difficult times. Here’s the list of candidates.

President and Vice-President of the United States

Republican Party
Mitt Romney, President
Paul Ryan, Vice President

Democratic Party
Barack Obama, President
Joe Biden, Vice President

Constitution Party
Virgil Goode, President
Jim Clymer, Vice President

Libertarian Party
Gary Johnson, President
James P. Gray, Vice President

Green Party
Jill Stein, President
Cheri Honkala, Vice President

U.S. Senator
George F. Allen (R)
Timothy M. Kaine (D)

U.S. House of Representatives, 8th District
J. Patrick Murray (R)
James P. "Jim" Moran, Jr. (D)
Janet Murphy (IG)
Jason J. Howell (I)

U.S. House of Representatives, 11th District
Chris S. Perkins (R)
Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)
Peter M. Marchetti - (IG)
Joe F. Galdo, Jr. - (G)
Christopher F. DeCarlo (I)
Mark T. Gibson (I)
North Springfield Elementary School

The school is in need of volunteers and mentors for the students. If you have some free time during the day and would like to help please contact the school at (703) 658-5500.

You can also support the school by purchasing Giant Gift Cards through the PTA (Contact Beth Buckreis at 703-913-7115) and by registering North Springfield Elementary School with your Giant, Safeway or Harris Teeter club card.

Beautification
Ed Stock

It is encouraging to have more North Springfield residents volunteering to help with keeping our community well-groomed. The Beautification committee has added Mike Suchar who has maintained the Ferndale entrance over the summer and Don Neff who has been mowing and pruning the area around the bridge on Leesville. Don also maintains the area along the Heming Avenue entrance to Lake Accotink. These two new volunteers join John Everett (Heming entrance and Heming Hill), Bill Linkous (Heming entrance), Fred Felber (Leesville median and Appomattox Court) and Skip Chaples (Ravensworth entrance). Our committee has also taken over some of the responsibility for keeping the sidewalk clear of overgrown trees and shrubs at the Elgar Park.

It takes a number of residents to keep things “looking up” in our community. If we inadvertently left out anyone, please let me know so we can properly thank you for your efforts.

We have repainted some of the entrance signs and will be doing more repainting during the fall. We have also added some flowering plants on the Leesville median and will be landscaping next to the Leesville sound wall once the soil has settled and construction of light poles is completed. That landscaping will probably take place in the spring of 2013.

The 495 Express Lanes reforestation will include the sound wall behind some residential properties on Ravensworth Rd. and Jervis St. is still on the VDOT agenda. It is scheduled to be under way in the spring and fall of 2013 once all beltway construction has been completed and will include the entire construction corridor.

There are many walkers who regularly help out with picking up trash and reporting pot holes as well as those calling in for repair of street signs or requesting the police to help with catching the speeders in our community. Thanks to all of you.

As the falling leaves drift by your windows, it is time to get out the rake and clean up instead of waiting for them to blow into your neighbor’s yard. I’ve tried the latter and it doesn’t always work. Remember to clean up the leaves on the curb in front of your house. Don’t let them wash into the storm drains; it will clog the drains and cause flooding when it rains. Let’s all pitch in and keep North Springfield a friendly and clean neighborhood.

Teen Job List

The Fall and Winter Teen job list is published in this newsletter and is available on our website.

Membership
Tricia Barnes

This newsletter is the last one this year; the next one will be in February 2013. The membership form in this newsletter is for the new 2013 membership year so please send in your $15 dues.

The Civic Association is for both homeowners and renters. Here are some highlights of what the Civic Association does with the dues for the residents and our community:

- In the last 3 years the association has been actively involved working with Transurban, VDOT, and our local Government representatives to make sure areas of our neighborhood affected by the Hot Lane construction are repaired, replanted, and brought back to pre-construction standards. The civic association treasurer wrote grants that awarded our community with $10,000 to use for landscaping along the Leesville Blvd sound wall.
- Six newsletters are printed and delivered to all the homes and we have six 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

Donations are made to the North Springfield Scouts and to the Annandale HS all night Grad Party.

The membership form has a place for you to give suggestions of possible topics for upcoming meetings and a list of committees that you may want to be a part of. We need your support to keep North Springfield a well maintained and active community.

**Award Winning Christmas Display**
Pat LeBeau

Each year since Cliff Berner bought his house at 5406 Fremont Street from his parents 24 years ago, he has put up Christmas decorations. He started using music and animated light shows 10 years ago. Since then, his display has earned him first place in North Springfield four times, second place once, and honorable mention the remaining years. Last year he was Number 8 in Northern Virginia.

In 2011, Cliff had a colorful 17-minute display with Charlie Brown asking Linus the meaning of Christmas and featured a Looney Tunes Christmas with lighted characters. This display was featured on Channel 9 by Chief Meteorologist, Topper Shut.

This year Cliff is working on a display with new music. He starts working on a new song in January, shortly after he takes down the previous year’s display. He listens to it and in his mind tries to figure out how it will look with lights. Then, using a Light-O-Rama software program, he downloads the song and starts working on it in sections. It takes him 10 hours of work to program one minute of the light show. He spends approximately 300 hours on the computer synchronizing the lights to the music down to 500ths of a second. Everything about the lights comes from Cliff’s imagination. He has 14 16-channel controllers throughout the yard controlling the lights from his computer and has a 25-watt FM transmitter in his office that is hooked up to his computer and transmits his radio signal to 107.9 FM. The display is programmed to start each evening at 5:30 and end at 10:00 on weekdays and 11:00 on weekends.

The first time Cliff used computerized lights, he had 32 channels. This year he will have 224 channels and between 40,000 and 50,000 lights, of which 9,000 are new LEDs he bought to replace some incandescents. The mega tree he used in his display last year had 7,200 LEDs, 24 channels, and 101 extension cords just to run the tree. He has 21 20-amp electrical outlets outside to run the show. The cost of electricity, which runs about $50, is the cheapest part of his display.

He starts getting ready in early October. In mid-October he was already making Christmas trees from tomato cages and hanging his house lights, which take about seven weeks. Nothing can go up in the yard though until all the leaves have fallen. Except for the lights, Cliff makes all the decorations himself and uses plastic and cardboard to make his cartoon characters. And what does he do with all these decorations after Christmas? He stores them in his Dad’s huge basement in Fairfax. Last year he had 13 pickup truck loads which took up half of the basement.

Cliff, a retired Fairfax County firefighter, retired three years ago after 31 years of service. His wife Terry is also a firefighter and has worked as one for 25 years.

Cliff also puts up a Halloween display with sounds, fog machine, and strobe lights. But Christmas is his true love and he plays Santa for the neighborhood and listens to Christmas music all year long. When asked why he got started, he said he grew up in the 60s and liked the psychedelic era. We’re happy he did, as we love seeing his displays and look forward to seeing his new show, beginning on December 8.
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. Prices are per newsletter issue.

| Business Card | $25 (3.5” x 2”) |
| Quarter Page  | $45 (3.75” x 5”) |
| Half Page     | $90 (7.5” x 5”)  |
| Full Page     | $180 (7.5” x 10”) |

Mail your business card or camera-ready proof with a check for the appropriate amount by the 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:

| Business Card | $5 (3.5” x 2”) |
| Quarter Page  | $10 (3.75” x 5”) |
| Half Page     | $20 (7.5” x 5”)  |
| Full Page     | $40 (7.5” x 10”) |

Please note that this service is only available to those who have advertised in the newsletter.

TEEN WINTER JOB LIST

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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
NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Calendar Year January – December 2013
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

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: ______________________________________________________________________
E-Mail: ____________________________

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -

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