**CALENDAR**

February 2013
- 6 NSCA General Meeting
- 18 Presidents Day

March 2013
- 6 NSCA General Meeting
- 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 31 Easter

April 2013
- 3 NSCA General Meeting

May 2013
- 1 NSCA General Meeting
- 11 Community Yard Sale
- 18 Community Cleanup Day

**WHAT’S INSIDE**

President’s Message, Neighborhood Watch
Community Events, School Events
Membership and Boy Scout Information,
Advertisements

**General Meeting – February 6th**

7:30 pm at the School

Ellen Vogel, VDOT Northern Region Landscape Architect, will speak to us about the landscaping that will be done around the Braddock Road/Beltway interchange and the Leesville sound wall. You’ll learn what’s being planted where and why. If you’re thinking of doing some landscaping on your property this spring this would be a good time to learn about plants that will do well in this area.

**Being a good neighbor means:**

Realizing that just because you can doesn’t mean you should. Communities thrive when everyone does their best to keep the neighborhood looking clean and neat. While piling stuff up in carports or on your property is legal it detracts from the appearance of the neighborhood; eventually it will be reflected in lower property values. Realtors are always reminding us that potential buyers first see the neighborhood and then house. Buyers will often pass up a neighborhood that looks cluttered regardless of how nice the house is.

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 hope everyone had a joyous and safe holiday season and we wish all our residents the best for 2013.

The hot lanes are open; the last phase of the project is the landscaping at each interchange as well as along new sound walls. Ellen Vogel is responsible for the hot lanes landscaping; she’ll be at our February meeting to inform us about what will be done this spring. We’ve coordinated with Ellen for the past two years on the how best to reforest the Leesville sound wall. We’ll be combining her funds with the $10,000 in grants we’ve received from Fairfax County and Trans Urban to ensure the best possible result for our community.

Your Civic Association is active representing the community but our membership continues to slowly decline. Perhaps this is because too many of our residents don’t understand what we do. North Springfield is one of the oldest and largest associations in Fairfax County; through our participation in local Government. We’ve gained the political clout necessary to influence, in our favor, policies that would affect us. If you’re not sure of all we do please contact us and ask; we’ll be glad to meet with you and explain all the things we do. If you’re not participating in our community, please do. If you are participating and know someone who isn’t, ask them to pitch in too.

We thank all the residents who decorated for the holidays. The neighborhood looked wonderful. 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. 5506 Atlee Place
2. 5408 Backlick Woods Court
3. 5209 Light Street

**Continued Excellence from last year**
- 5406 Fremont Street
- 5404 Backlick Woods Court
- 5203 Heming Avenue

**Best Grouping of decorated homes**
- Anola & Webbwood Courts
- Glenallen Street at Ferndale
- Hansford Court

**Best Decorated Outside Trees**
- 7603 Boulder Street
- 7230 Chatham Street
- 5517 Glenallen Street
- 7406 Jervis Street
- 7411 Jervis Street

**Unique Presentations**
- 5313 Garner Street – Van
- 7624 Long Pine Drive – Playhouse

**Honorable Mention**

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Membership
Tricia Barnes

January is the start of the New Year for Civic Association membership. The association represents and benefits everyone who lives in North Springfield; both owners and renters. The dues are only $15 per year; we would like to have a high participation of neighbors.

One of the biggest expenses for the association is our Newsletter. The newsletter is important and a good way for everyone to be aware of what is happening in our community; it is delivered to every house in North Springfield regardless of whether or not you are a member. Don’t assume that because you received a newsletter that you are a member of the Civic Association; you’re only a member if you pay the dues so please support your community by sending in your 2013 dues.

Thank you to those households that have already joined.
BSA Boy Scout Troop 990
Skip Chaples

In February we’ll have our annual ski trip to Timberline in West Virginia. 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 will suspend operations in February 2013. The problem is a lack of boys who want to be in Cub Scouting and adults willing to lead them. The Pack is officially registered through December 31, 2013. Scouting is an important community asset; if you would like to help recruit boys (ages 6-10) and adult leaders and revitalize the Pack contact Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311.

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.

Braddock Dogs Association (BDA)

BDA, a volunteer group dedicated to the development and maintenance of off-leash dog areas (OLDA) in the Braddock District, is working towards the development of our first OLDA at Monticello Park on Guinea Road. The dog area is part of the Monticello Park Master Plan which is available at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/monticello.htm. For more information on BDA and how you can support them visit their website http://braddockdogs.blogspot.com or contact them at BraddockDogs@gmail.com.

Lake Accotink Park

Lots of good things are happening at the park this year; there are more Civil War artifacts in the Visitors Center, the deer management program is winding down, the dam has been repaired, and a trail improvement program is funded. The parking lot has more ADA spaces, there’re new birthday party areas, and the boat yard is being readied for spring rentals. To learn more about all the events scheduled at the park this year visit there event webpage at: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events.htm.

Association Officers

President
Norma Heck (703) 256-1332

Vice President
Lisa Downing (703) 354-6232

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

Braddock District Council
Ken Balbuena (703) 851-8505

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

Membership
Patricia Barnes (703) 354-0134

Neighborhood Watch
Maryann Germaine (703) 861-1849

Newsletter
Sherry Chaples (703) 644-1311

Parks
Chet McLaren (703) 866-6494

Planning and Zoning
Mike Dannholtz (703) 941-9250
Ken Balbuena (703) 851-8505

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

PTA Liaison
Ivan Carrasco (703) 462-9474
Ready For Some More Nostalgia?
We begin a four part series about the development of Springfield; written by Robyn Carter, Crestwood’s Springfield Historian.

Part I

Few might know, or even suspect when driving through the huge interchange of 495/395/95 that as late as just 60 years ago, the now well established fixture in the Fairfax County suburban landscape known as Springfield was not much more than a whistle stop along the railroad line. Fewer might know how important Springfield and its phenomenal mid-century growth impacted the Washington DC area and even got national attention due to its unique beginnings as a suburban community.

Why was Springfield turned from a rural community into a thriving suburban area in the first place? What events made it necessary to take on the monumental task of transforming this quiet little part of Fairfax County into what it has become today? The answer may seem over simplified but the reason was a tremendous need for housing after the end of World War II. As I began digging deeper into the beginnings of Post-War Springfield, I learned that our country was suffering from a serious shortage of housing and the natural questions arose as to why there was a shortage in the first place.

The combination of both The Great Depression of the 1930’s and the effects of World War II had a profound effect on the availability of housing nationwide in the period both during the war and up through the late 1940’s. Particularly hard hit was the Washington DC area, thanks to the increase in Federal Government opportunities, and returning Veterans who were taking up careers at The Pentagon as well as posts at the various military bases. It was this crushing need for post war housing that was the catalyst for the creation of the Springfield, VA that we know today.

Prior to World War II, there were many circumstances, which contributed to the grossly inadequate supply of available homes at the end of the war. For one the process of building a home was hampered by outdated and non-standardized building codes, as well as an industry that had been building houses using technology going back many decades without much advancement in the years since.

Also hampering widespread home building/homeownership was a harsh and complex mortgage lending process; it required a potential homeowner’s down payment to be as much as two thirds of the total home cost. Also, most mortgages were only for five years, at which time it was at the discretion of the lender to extend or not the mortgage for another term. If not, then the loan was terminated and it forced a large balloon payment to clear the title of the house to the buyer. The process of reviewing the loan for extension was time consuming, costly and left both borrowers and lenders very uneasy. Such arrangements not only drove away potential buyers of new homes out of fear of the financial risk and/or the lack of the needed cash, but the high risk/events of foreclosure left many lenders hanging out on a limb for homes they had a hard time re-selling due to the exact same mortgage snafus.

The biggest help with this problem was the enactment of The National Housing Act of 1934 and the resulting creation of The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) which gave government backed insurance to protect home loans, and created a more standardized lending system. Also helping was the creation of longer-term mortgage loans and smaller down payments, which resulted in anywhere from a 5-20% initial investment rather than the staggering and prohibitive two-thirds requirement of old. This made loans safer for the lender and more affordable to a greater number of people.

In addition, the slowdown of home building during The Depression explains itself as the industry was hit by those bleak economic times, much like we are dealing with today. As the country began to climb out of that hole, World War II came and siphoned off a many of the men who worked in the construction trades; there was also a great amount of material rationing during that time.
With the lessening of the building of homes during those periods, and the increase of new families as The Baby Boom began to gear up, the problem of where all those people were going to live became acute. The DC area had already suffered the strain from the hoards of workers who came to help during the war effort with apartments, boarding houses and converted basements full to overflowing with occupants. It was reported in articles in The Washington Post during the winter of 1945-46 that the situation was reaching a crisis with people having to make homes for themselves in attics, garages, basements, cramped multi-family situations, etc, and as more Vets returned, the problem just kept growing like a virus. Many times those conditions led to unsanitary and dangerous problems.

The home building industry was eager to get back to work and fill the ever-growing need for affordable housing. As materials began to become available again, along with tradesmen and laborers returning home, the construction trades were ready and willing to take advantage of the coming boom.

As the old saying goes, “necessity is the mother of invention”, and the necessity of faster, less costly and higher volume forms of manufacturing and building were born from the urgency of providing military housing during the war. It was through the meeting and overcoming of that challenge that lead to incredible improvements in technology which were a key ingredient in providing post war builders with ways to increase the speed and consistency of quality in the construction of post war homes.

As wonderful as all the above improvements were, there was still a human side that had to play in the creation of Springfield. Who envisioned the area as being a self-supporting suburban area? That person was none other than a local realtor/developer/civic leader by the name of Edward R. Carr (1897-1974) and he was one of the true movers and shakers in our area and should rightfully be recognized as The Father of Modern Day Springfield. Without the foresight and vision of this multi-talented individual, Northern Virginia and the DC area in general might have been a different place indeed.

(Part II next month)

Clean Streets Initiative – Trash and junk can only be placed at the curb if you have a service coming to collect it and no earlier than the night before collection. Some violate these rules and the county is working on a way to address this issue.

Recycling – All trash services in Fairfax County are required to pick up items for recycling. However, all services do not collect all the same items. For example, AAA does not accept pizza boxes or aluminum foil, American does; none accept things like wax covered paper, Styrofoam, glass or metal house wares, dishes or glasses, ceramics, light bulbs, batteries clothing or tires. Be sure to check with your service to see what they process; put everything else in the trash. Adding trash to your recycling only raises the cost of the service because the company has to separate it out and dispose of it.

Fairfax County Website – The county website www.fairfaxcounty.gov has a wealth of information for residents including all the rules, complaint forms and where to go for services. Check out Electric Sundays; days when you can recycle unwanted TVs and electronic; the next one is February 24th.

North Springfield PTA – The PTA is looking to fill open leadership positions for the 2013-2014 school year. For more information about the PTA you can visit www.nsespta.org. If you have a child at the school and would like to be involved, please contact CelesteLeyhe@yahoo.com. You can also “Like” NSES PTA on FaceBook.

Musical Instruments Needed – The North Springfield Elementary School music program is in need of more instruments. If you have unwanted musical instruments for band or orchestra please consider donating them to the North Springfield Elementary School music program. Instruments in need of repair are accepted; we have the resources to repair them. Contact the school band teacher Mr. Utell at mputell@fcps.edu for more information.
**Newsletter Advertising**

Take advantage of our low prices and your ad will be seen both in print and on our website by over 2,400 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:

NSCA 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 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

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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
FEDERATION OF CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS
MEMBERSHIP
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PLANNING & ZONING
COMMUNITY SOCIALS
SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

SUGGESTIONS FOR:
Other Committees: __________________

Topics for upcoming programs:

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