CALENDAR

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

Being a good neighbor means:

Obeying the speed limits and stop signs in our community. The posted maximum speed on all of our streets is 25 MPH; it’s not a suggestion, it’s a law based on the population density along our streets. The warmer weather means more children will be running around outside and the chance of someone darting into the road becomes greater. We have a lot of cars parked on the streets in our community and it is often difficult to see someone small entering the roadway.

General Meeting – March 6th
7:30 pm at the School

We have two speakers scheduled for March. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross will update us on projects in the Mason District as well as current Board of Supervisors issues. Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin will update us issues being addressed by the school board.

March Resolution:

If you’re like most people your New Year’s resolution has been abandon. Despair not; March is a great month to start again. Daylight Savings Time starts; we all become Irish for a day; the kids get their spring break; and the weather turns warmer. It’s a great month to start gravitating toward the outdoors and taking a few moments to get to know your neighbors. Communities are happier and safer when neighbors know one another; it’s easier to resolve issues, identify when something or someone is out of place, and assist emergency responders when they are dispatched to our neighborhood.

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

Some may not be aware that part of our North Springfield community is located in the Mason District. Many of our residences also frequent neighboring businesses in Annandale which is in the Mason District. Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross will be here to tell us about new projects that are being completed in her District. Supervisor Gross is also Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and will update us on some important issues currently being considered.

Our second guest speaker will be Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin. She will update us on several important issues under consideration by the School Board.

Crime Alert

There has been an increase in car break-ins in public areas so don’t leave valuables in your vehicle and make sure it is locked. The Audrey Moore Recreation Center has been one of the worst hit areas. Weekday daytime crimes are the most frequent but nights and weekends are also a problem. Burglars are looking for items in unlocked vehicles. Some burglars are also entering the center and looking for unattended bags with keys in them so they can unlock cars. If you are using the facility make sure your bags/clothes are secured inside.

Illegal solicitations are also becoming an issue. Aside from community groups and political affiliations, any solicitor selling goods or services is required to wear an identifiable, County-issued photo license/badge that permits them to be solicitors. This includes phone or cable companies saying that they are taking a survey on who uses which service. However, this is usually not the case; instead it’s an attempt to solicit customers from their competitor. Residents should immediately report violations and concerns about solicitors in a neighborhood going door to door to the Fairfax County Police Department’s non-emergency number, 703-691-2131.

North Springfield Elementary School
Celeste Leyhe

The Student Council Association (SCA), led by teachers Nicole Schwartz and Rusty Canny, participated in an outreach program with Leewood Nursing Home. SCA members made 132 Valentine's Day bags for the residents. The bags included pens, paper, candy and a homemade card. The project was funded by donated "Box Tops for Education" that were turned in for cash. The SCA officers, President - Daniel Vo, VP - Christine Treiu, Secretary - Tony Bin, Treasurer - Gabby Derrick, and Historians - Kim Trong and Yonas Kebede delivered the bags and spent time with the residents on February 14th.

Please join the PTA Friday, March 8th from 6-8:30 for Bingo Night in the school cafeteria. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. It’s a whole lot of fun for the whole family with generous prizes and raffles. Everyone is welcome.

Like NSESPTA on FaceBook for the latest in event/school information.

Need Something to Do In Retirement?

Leadership Fairfax is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to finding, training, and growing leaders in Northern Virginia. Their new Lifetime Leadership Program (LLP) is for those who have a lifetime of accumulated skills and leadership, and would like to use their wealth of knowledge to make a difference in their lives and in the community.

Leadership Fairfax and Volunteer Fairfax seek retirees who want to move their lives from "success to significance." To help people recognize their potential in the second half of their lives they have designed a training program for high-level volunteering and community engagement. This program empowers you to look at who you are in relation to your community-at-large, and encourages you to explore opportunities for civic awareness, community action, and volunteer connections. LLP is based on the belief that retirees can offer a wealth of
experience, leadership, and vitality to your communities while enriching your own lives.

Additional information about LLP is available on their website www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleadersprogram

For questions or to register for an information session, contact Moniek at Moniek@leadershipfairfax.org or (703) 752-7504.

**Membership**

Tricia Barnes

We’ve started a 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 your participation this year.

**BSA Boy Scout Troop 990**

Skip Chaples

In March we’ll be honing our teamwork skills on a wilderness campout. 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**

February 28th the last group of Webeloes scouts will transition to Boy Scouts; Cub Scout Pack 890 will then suspend operations. 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.

**Help Save Our Beautiful Trees**

The removal of healthy trees in our neighborhood continues to increase at an alarming rate. The environmental, energy, health and property value benefits of trees far outweigh the inconvenience of raking or mulching a few leaves in fall; please reconsider before removing one from your property.

**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.

**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

**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 continue our four part series about the development of Springfield; written by Robyn Carter, Crestwood’s Springfield Historian.

Part II

Having been in the home building business for quite a number of years, Carr had already created quite a nationally known name for himself within the industry. At one time or another he served as head on the boards of nearly every local builder and realty group, including his service as president of The National Association of Home Builders during 1947 and his tireless efforts in civic organizations. It was Mr. Carr who saw that DC itself had long been “built out” and that the closer-in areas of Arlington and Alexandria were filling up fast. It was evident to him that the average suburban home development size (at that time) of up to a couple of hundred homes would never be able to handle the projected population increase. Most builders were thinking in terms of hundreds while Carr was thinking in terms of thousands. Because of this he turned his sights to the (then) countryside of Fairfax County for available property in sufficient quantity to create a modern, pre-planned suburban “City”. It was his idea that such a community would be self-sufficient and provide housing for anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000 people upon its completion. For huge post war housing developments, most give credit to William J. Levitt and Levitt and Sons for the creation of “suburbia” in general, but in our area Edward R. Carr was responsible for literally thousands of affordable homes. Unlike Mr. Levitt, Mr. Carr preferred homes of brick rather than the quick-built, pre-fabricated frame houses of the Levittown’s.

Once the idea formulated, then came the issue of where could he create such a huge undertaking. Rural Springfield had the available land mass but at the time no easy access to or from the rest of the DC area… but that was soon to change in a big way.

Just around the time of the start of WW2, the new “Shirley Highway” (now 395/I-95) had been approved to run southward from DC through Virginia to initially terminate at Woodbridge. According to a later article published in The Washington Star (dated January 20, 1952), at the time that Carr was eyeing Springfield for development, Shirley Highway only went as far as Rt. 7 at Fairlington, but plans were already well underway for its extension past Springfield and on further south. Thanks to the war any major extension of the new highway had been delayed until the mid-1940s, but Mr. Carr was aware of its estimated opening and set his plans accordingly.

Up to the early 1950s, the area today known as Springfield was little more than fields of brush, lots of trees with a few scattered old homes and a railroad station. Some of the property was historic thanks to ties with Robert E. Lee and the mansion at Ravensworth Farm, but it was considered by most DC area residents to be quite primitive and remote. Indeed the Springfield area has a long and interesting story, which is well documented by Fairfax County Historian, Mr. Jack L. Hiller. His research and knowledge on the events of its pre-suburban period can be found online at The Edsall Park neighborhood website at: http://www.edsallpark.org/area-history/springfield-history

It was in December of ‘46 that Mr. Carr made his purchase of 2,300 acres of Springfield land. Land records show that The H & H Development Corp., from whom Carr purchased the land three years later, had purchased it for $138,262.80 from the Bristow estate in 1943.

After the purchase he began a long, grueling five-year fight to bring utilities to the area. Usually a new development was located near an established one so utility hookup was an easy process; Springfield’s remote location left quite a bit of distance between it and any established utilities.

The idea of such a large development in this area was nearly unheard of and many utility companies did not want to risk the investment to run trunks and lines out into the virtual wilderness with no solid guarantee that Carr’s plan wouldn’t turn out to be a major flop. They preferred to see the homes
already under construction before they stuck their financial necks out. Carr had a huge investment in the land itself, so building a group of homes with no guarantee of utilities wasn’t viable.

Prior to Mr. Carr’s proposed community, Fairfax County had not dealt with such a massive development project that included both residential areas and plans for commercial, retail and light industrial areas. It can be assumed that getting the permits and approval was a daunting task.

It is also accurate to note that during this same period, a huge amount of Springfield land was owned by a former farming family turned real estate moguls by the name of Lynch. While Carr was planning his massive project, the Lynch firm was selling what was considered rural building lots in what is now known as Springvale. The difference was that rather than purchasing a completed home with all the conveniences (as became the custom in the Carr areas), buyers in the early stages of Springvale were simply buying lots on which they could build their own homes, and would have to depend on wells and septic systems. Up until the rest of Springfield really got underway, the roads in Springvale were not paved, and caused some jangled nerves and muddy travel in and out of its boundaries.

There were other builders creating comparatively small groups of homes in and around the Springfield-Franconia area, coinciding with Carr’s project but none substantially compared in size with his plans.

The main trouble for Carr in the late 1940s seemed to be getting water in enough supply to support a community of so many thousands with attempts at tapping many of the underground springs failing to meet the requirements. During the struggle to get city water mains, sewer lines, power, gas and decent phone service brought in from the surrounding developed areas, Carr began working with Architect-Engineer Edward S. Holland to completely pre-plan what was being called at the time a “Satellite City”. Together and with the staff at Edward R. Carr, Inc. it was decided where the neighborhoods, apartments, shopping centers, churches, parks, schools and public buildings were to be, all based on topography and with a sense of where it would all provide the most convenience for future home/community hungry residents. Articles published in both major local newspapers of the time touted the expansive pre-planning process and how it promised to hasten the settlement of this part of Fairfax County into one of the area’s largest and most complete communities.

Through intense pre-planning, Carr intended to avoid the problems created by the more common piecemeal creation of a community/city. It was reasoned that by laying out the entire area ahead of time, there was less room for costly error and rearrangement. His thoroughness notwithstanding, the plan still met with many obstacles from both county and state objections with regard to roadways, a proposed bridge and the building of what was hoped (at that time) to be Springfield’s own water treatment plant.

It should be noted that far ahead of people being “green minded” today, one of Ed Carr’s desires for building in the area was to retain as many trees as possible while building the homes. If cutting down the previous trees had been necessary, he was always mindful to have some new trees planted on the lots after the homes were finished. This practice is evident today from the many large, mature trees that exist around homes in the early developments in Springfield.

Water mains were finally approved and construction on them began in the spring of 1949. This, along with the opening of Shirley Highway to passenger vehicle traffic during Labor Day weekend of the same year, meant Carr’s plan for Springfield was finally showing more form and substance. With the utilities and basic infrastructure underway, Mr. Carr realized that his firm would not be in a position to physically build the entire area alone. The construction of the first, huge subdivision was to be left to a different entity, and one, which also had a huge impact on our area.

(Part III next month)
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 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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