President's Message
Ken Balbuena

Fall is here, and winter will be quickly approaching. There are several tips included in this newsletter that you might find helpful in preparing for and dealing with the weather winter brings. It was encouraging having so many people come out to our October town hall meeting. In the near future, I will be using Facebook as a platform to host regular virtual town halls. Be sure to subscribe to the group page’s notifications so that you don’t miss any details about these. If you do not have a Facebook account, you can always reach me by email or phone.

Each November 11th, we celebrate Veterans Day. Undoubtedly, there are a lot of military vets and active duty personnel living in North Springfield. We would like to honor the members of our military (both past & present) and let others know how they can support them. Details for this November 5th meeting can be found in this newsletter. The next NSCA general meetings will be held Feb 4, Mar 4, April 8 and May 6, 2015.

Don’t forget to vote for the candidate of your choice on November 4th. Voting is one of our most valued obligations as citizens.

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Events Calendar

November:
4 – Election Day
5 – General Meeting at the School
8 – Scouting for Food Collection 9-11 am
18 - Ravensworth Industrial Area Rezoning Public Hearing; 4 pm at Government Center

December:
18 – Judging Holiday Decoration

Get Connected and Stay Informed!!!!
Sign up for e-mail alerts and notices at www.nscivic.org/contactForms/EMailNotification.htm
Visit www.nscivic.org for current community information
Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/NorthSpringfieldVA
**Association Officers**

President: Ken Balbuena  
(703) 851-8505  
kenbalbuena@gmail.com

Vice President: Scott Pratt  
(571) 238-0574  
scott.pratt@vott.com

Secretary: Margaret Panik  
(703) 750-3714  
margaretapanik@aol.com

Treasurer: Skip Chaples  
(703) 644-1311  
skipchaples@cox.net

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saestock@att.net

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normaheck@mris.com

Community Service: Ron Kinzer  
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kristinskbrown@gmail.com  
kwbrown@gmail.com

**Political Liaison**

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

**Membership**

Patricia Barnes

This is the last 2014 Newsletter; the next one will be in February 2015. The enclosed membership form is for the 2015 membership year; if you have not joined for 2014 you may include that payment as well. Membership is $15 per year per household. Thanks for your support of the community.

**Volunteering**

The Civic Association has many volunteer opportunities. Please visit our website under “About Us” and “Contacts” to see our subcommittees and contacts. Whether you can commit to a regular schedule or are interested in one-time opportunities, we need you. Together, we can make our neighborhood even better.

**Minority Outreach**

Ivan Carrasco

The 2010 US Census documents that minorities make up 40% of our neighborhood. If you are a minority we welcome your engagement in our community; we want to hear from you; we want to share with you what we do and learn how we can better satisfy your needs. Please contact Ivan Carrasco, Minority Outreach Committee Chair.

**Welcome Wagon**

If you have just moved to the neighborhood, we want you to feel welcome. Please contact our membership chair, and someone from our Welcome Wagon program will be happy to stop by and provided you with helpful information for new residents.

**Suggestions**

Do you have suggestions for NSCA, including programs or social activities you would like to see throughout the neighborhood? Let us know. Together, we can make this great neighborhood even greater.
Are More Speed Bumps & Stop Signs Coming? – Ken Balbuena

NO and the NSCA Board is NOT trying to sneak something past residents either! I would like to dispel some misconceptions about the neighborhood speeding initiative NSCA has been exploring. First of all, the only thing finalized is the Board’s commitment to combat neighborhood speeding via our adoption of Supervisor Cook’s Neighborhood Speeding resolution. The spirit of this resolution is to remind residents that we are often our greatest violators in terms of neighborhood speeding and that NSCA is dedicated to finding ways to slow traffic. Based on feedback from several residents, speed bumps and stop signs are not the preferred solution. As such, we are exploring options for increased law enforcement and increased speeding fines ($200 surcharge) for violations in the neighborhood.

Getting approval for the $200 fine surcharge is a 4-step process:

1. The NSCA Board voted to have Supervisor Cook's office authorize a VDOT traffic study;
2. The VDOT study will be conducted to identify qualifying streets;
3. The NSCA Board will seek community approval for increased fines on those streets as determined by the study; and
4. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the final authorization for those fines.

If the community does not approve the measure when a public vote is taken at a general civic association meeting, action on the initiative will cease, and NSCA will explore other ways to combat residential speeding. We are currently on the second step of the process, and we promise you that we will seek community input (step 3) prior to this matter going to vote before the entire Board of Supervisors.

Lastly, the NSCA Board will work with law enforcement to get more law enforcement on those streets designated as problems by step 2 of the VDOT study.

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**Winter Tips**

1. Park your vehicle(s) in your driveway before an anticipated snowfall so snow plows can better clear the streets.
2. Shovel your sidewalks. While not required by law, it is neighborly.
3. If you are physically unable to shovel your sidewalk, please contact NSCA and ask how we can help.
5. Visit [http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com](http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com) for important weather updates provided by Fairfax County.
7. Make sure your gutters are clean and free of debris.
8. Allow water to drip in order to prevent pipes from freezing.
9. Never leave a fireplace unattended and adhere to safety guidelines when using space heaters.
10. Keep a good stock batteries, non-perishable food, and bottled water on hand in the case of power outages.
11. If you smell gas or have a natural gas-related emergency, leave the area immediately and contact 911 and Washington Gas at (703) 750-1400 or (800) 752-7520.
12. Keep your vehicle’s antifreeze, windshield washer fluid, gas, oil, and other fluids topped off.
13. Ensure your vehicle’s tires are in good condition and suitable for bad weather.
14. Keep an emergency preparedness kit in your vehicle.
15. Dress in layers, keeping clothes as dry as possible to prevent hypothermia and frostbite.
Veterans/Military Appreciation

Our next general membership meeting will be November 5th at 7:30pm in the cafeteria of North Springfield Elementary School. The agenda for the meeting includes representatives from organizations who provide services and/or support to active duty and former military members. Our vets have done a lot for our country, and the North Springfield Civic Association would like to show our gratitude. Veterans can learn about some organizations specifically for military veterans. Active duty and reservists can find ways to maximize educational benefits or prepare for employment after separating from the military. Civilians can also learn how to support our vets and active duty/reservists. We will also be collecting any leftover Halloween candy you wish to part with. This candy will eventually become part of Operation Gratitude, which is an organization that sends candy to U.S. military service members stationed or deployed throughout the world. We hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance at our next meeting.

Dirt Bikes

Just as a friendly reminder, Virginia and Fairfax County Codes prohibit motor-powered cycles such as dirt bikes from being driven on the neighborhood streets and sidewalks. Additionally, motorcycle and moped operators are required to be over the age of 16 and must be properly licensed. Please keep this in mind for any of your children who may own or wish to own such vehicles. Parents of minors may be held liable for their actions and any subsequent penalties that may arise. Oversimplified, the role of the North Springfield Civic Association is to protect the interests of all residents, and we do not wish any harm or troubles come to any of our residents.

Lorton Landfill Project Update

On May 15, the Federation of Citizens Association hosted a panel between EnviroSolutions, Inc. (ESI) and Lorton community leaders regarding the Lorton Landfill Expansion Project. The latest proposal by ESI was to extend the life of the landfill to 2034 and provide a wide ranging demonstration in renewable energy -- wind, solar, geothermal, and methane. The Lorton community members had many concerns and opposed the plan. On July 29, the Board of Supervisors voted 6-4 to reject ESI's new proposal to extend the life of the landfill. The vote effectively closes the Lorton landfill in accordance with the date ESI set in a 2006 agreement; 2018 at the height of 412 feet. No determination has been made on where future waste will be directed after 2018.

Springfield Town Center & Ravensworth Shopping Center

Springfield Town Center is now open! Several stores and restaurants are currently open with several more opening over the next few months. Visit http://springfieldtowncenter.com for more information, a listing of stores/dining options, and special limited-time offers.

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association and the Braddock District Supervisor John C. Cook recently co-hosted a community meeting to discuss changes coming to the Ravensworth Farm Shopping Center. Renovations will begin at the end of March 2015 and will last until October 2015. The biggest changes are that Safeway will be replaced with Lotte Plaza (Asian grocery store) and Bazzano Pizza will be closing. Smith & Clarkson’s and 7-11 are undergoing contract negotiations to stay. All other stores will remain with plans for a new restaurant and a Kids First Swim School franchise. New landscaping and other beautification upgrades will also be incorporated.

NOVA Interpreters

NSCA has recently developed a partnership with the American Sign Language program of Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). Under this partnership, NOVA will be providing ASL interpreters for Deaf and hearing impaired residents whenever possible. This is a win-win because the door is opened to residents who may not have felt they were able to fully participate in Civic Association functions, and NOVA students are able to maximize service learning opportunities that provide them with
real-world, practical experience. The NOVA interpreters first provided services at the October general membership meeting. If you or a resident you know are Deaf or hearing impaired, please email us to see whether an ASL interpreter will be at the next meeting.

Possible New Meeting Location

Since North Springfield Elementary School is currently undergoing renovations, there is a slight possibility that they will be unable to host our general meetings starting in January. The decision will be made by the school’s administration on a case-by-case basis depending on the renovation status. NSCA will be sure to advertise any change in venue and directions to the new location well in advance. In the meanwhile, be sure you are signed up for our email distribution list (visit www.nscivic.org and click on Register for Email Notifications on the right hand side of the page) and, if you have a Facebook account, join (www.facebook.com/Groups/NorthSpringfield VA).

Teens and Parents Workshop

On November 16th from 2:30 – 5:00 PM Ravensworth Baptist Church, 5100 Ravensworth Road, Annandale is hosting a free workshop “Surviving Teen stress in Northern Virginia”. For teens in grades 9-12 there will be a “Survival skills for you and your friends” session; for parents there will be a “Building resilience in our teens” session. Details and registration form is on our website homepage.

Federation of Citizens Associations Update

The Federation met in October to announce its 2015 Legislative Package. These legislative priorities are based on results from a survey conducted with all Federation membership between July-September. The NSCA was the third highest contributor to this survey. Out of 15 legislative issue identified from the survey, 11 were voted on to be the Federation’s top legislative issues for 2015. Legislative issues range from supporting laws for hands-free phone use while driving to backing legislation permitting school boards to change the school

year opening date. For more information on all 11 legislative priorities, please see the Federation's website at http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/legislation1.htm.

Transportation Bond Referendum on Nov. 4 Ballot

The NSCA would like its members to be aware that on November 4th voters will be asked to vote YES or NO on a transportation bond referendum. The $100 million proposed bond will budget $16 million for roadway spot improvements, $78 million for pedestrian improvement projects, and $6 million for bicycle and trail improvement projects. Fairfax County has the highest credit rating possible for government institutions (triple-A rating from Moody's). Between 8-9% of voter taxes goes towards Fairfax County government debt services. For more information, see the Fairfax County website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bond/2014-bond-referendum-pamphlet.pdf.

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 Lisa Pritt at LisaPritt@verizon.net to purchase the cards. We will deliver them to your door.
Newsletter Advertising

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N.S.C.A. Newsletter  
P.O. Box 1007  
Springfield, VA 22151

You can have your ad posted on our website during those months that we do not publish a newsletter. The monthly rates for this are:

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

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TEEN WINTER JOB LIST

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Calendar Year January – December 2015
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

Only provide e-mail if you are not already on the list

Suggestions for program topics: _______________________________________________________

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: ____________________________________

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Sigma Tau Delta, Medieval Academy of America
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A trip Down Memory Lane – by Sam and Pauline West
(Sam was an FBI Agent and Pauline was a secretary at the North Springfield Elementary School)

In the summer of 1956 residents of Arlington and Alexandria referred to Springfield as being “out in the country”; they weren’t far wrong. Imagine North Springfield without a completed elementary school; without nearby shopping centers; without I-495 and I-395; and with Braddock and Backlick Roads being narrow two lane affairs often obstructed due to a narrow bridge on Braddock Road and a railroad crossing on Backlick Road. There was the Springfield railroad station near the present Hechinger Plaza which consisted of a large shed which was unattended and completely open on the side facing the railroad tracks. A few weeks after ordering a sofa from a North Carolina company we received a postcard from the Railway Express Company stating that our sofa had been delivered to the Springfield Railroad Station. We immediately went to the “shed” and there was our sofa which apparently had been sitting there for several days.

The isolation of Springfield can be illustrated by the fact that in the late 1950’s one could travel south on Shirley Highway from Washington, DC at night and upon reaching the crest of the hill at the intersection with Seminary Road no lights would be visible further south. There was no Landmark Shopping center; no high rises or townhouses to be seen.

We purchased our rambler with basement at 7316 Dunston Street in June 1956; we moved in in August 1956. Ramblers with basements and split levels sold for $18,950; we had our choice of six or eight of each. One of our 1956 memories is the large amount of mud abounding after a rain. The builder, Crestwood Construction Company, sodded the front lawn and an area ten feet from the house in the rear. The streets were not all paved in August 1956 and as a result the backyards and some of the streets were a mess after a rain.

There were no street lights, doctors made house calls, newspapers were delivered right to your front door instead of being thrown in the front yard or in the shrubbery. Milk, butter and eggs were also delivered to your door by a friendly dairy truck driver. Garbage collection was made at the rear of your house.

During the year 1956-1957 the North Springfield Elementary School was under construction and classes were held in two house on Axton Street and in several nearby trailers. The first principal was Todd Shirley who was followed by Boyd Collins. The school opened before the finishing touches were completed and we recall having our car stuck in the mud in the parking lot and being pulled out by a construction company truck.

North Springfield parents were mostly young couples with young children. Due to the new community and shared experiences there was a sense of togetherness between families that is lacking today. One of the principal social centers was the Annandale Fire Station on Columbia Pike which had a large room on the second floor where social events were held. Rent for the room, joking referred to as the Flame Room, benefitted the Annandale Volunteer Fire department.

In the winter of 1958 a blizzard struck North Springfield and environs during which more than twenty inches of drifting snow covered the area. We were snowed in for three days and joined the neighbors in cheering the snow plow operator who finally opened our street.

We have many fond memories of North Springfield and believe it to be an excellent community in which to live.
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