President’s Message

CALENDAR

February 2015
- 4 NSCA General Meeting
- 16 Presidents Day

March 2015
- 4 NSCA General Meeting
- 8 Daylight Saving Time Begins

April 2015
- 5 Easter
- 8 NSCA General Meeting

May 2015
- 6 NSCA General Meeting
- 16 Community Yard Sale
- 23 Community Cleanup Day

WHAT’S INSIDE

President’s Message, Bylaws Revisions, Membership, Boy Scouts, NSCA Online, Marian Homes, World Police and Fire Games, Fairfax County Website, Volunteers Wanted, Clean Streets Initiative, Recycling, Toy Drive, Welcome Wagon, Audrey Moore Rec Center, Better Understanding Disabilities, Food Deliverers Needed, Beware of Tax Scams, Recycling Electronics, Securing Your Vehicle

General Meeting – February 4th
7:30 pm at the School

Mr. Guy Mullinax of Fairfax County’s Department of Transportation will be the guest speaker at the February 4th NSCA general membership meeting. Mr. Mullinax will present the results of the traffic studies that were conducted last fall; the studies were required to determine which streets, if any, qualified for traffic calming measures like the $200 addition to speeding fines. He will also answer any questions you may have regarding traffic calming measures and the $200 addition to speeding fines.

Being a good neighbor means:

Being courteous during bad weather. If it snows please clear the section of the sidewalk in front of your home; move the snow to the side and medium, do not throw it into the street. Brush off your vehicle before driving; make sure all your windows are clear and there is nothing on the roof that will blow off onto the traffic behind you. Don’t block the sidewalk when parking in your driveway and remember that vehicles parked on the street must be at least 10 feet from driveway entrances.

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
Presidents Message
Ken Balbuena

Happy New Year! Thank you to everyone who decorated their homes this year with holiday displays; our neighborhood looked great. In case you missed it, the results of our judging are still posted on our website homepage.

Our neighborhood turns 60 years old this summer. While many things have changed, owners have come and gone, the quality of life in our North Springfield community has remained high. Thanks to the care and concern of our residents we remain a preferred destination for families looking for a quality neighborhood in which to raise their family.

Last fall, in response to numerous complaints about speeding in the neighborhood, the NSCA Board adopted Supervisor Cook’s Neighborhood Speeding Initiative. I thank each of you who has placed a yellow *Slow Down* sign in your yard. I believe these signs are making a difference for many, but we are still looking to do more. We also recommended the community consider a traffic calming measure to impose an additional $200 speeding fine on some of our streets.

Our February membership meeting will address the additional $200 speeding fine topic and provide residents an opportunity to weigh in before we hold a public vote on the matter during our April meeting. Thank you to those who have already sent me feedback on the topic. Your input is valued.

We realize that additional fines, if adopted by North Springfield residents, will not fully solve the neighborhood speeding problem. Accordingly, we suggest forming an ad-hoc traffic calming committee to research and advice on other available measures. Once the committee’s work is completed, we will present their findings and our recommendations to the community for consideration. If you are interested in participating in this committee, please email me at kenbalbuena@gmail.com.

Lastly, with a new year comes a reminder about membership dues. This extremely affordable amount goes a long way, and we have some exciting news about your payment options. While cash or check is still the preferred payment method, we now accept dues and donations online at www.nscivic.org using PayPal or Square; we also now accept credit card payments at meetings and other events. Thank you for your financial support; we look forward to serving you throughout the year.

Bylaws Revisions
Ken Balbuena

The NSCA Board has drafted a revision to the association Bylaws. Association members are requested to review the proposed changes once they are posted online. In general, these changes:

- Use gender-inclusive language,
- Reflect NSCA’s current way of doing business, which has slightly evolved since the last bylaws revision in 1998,
- Consider new technology such as electronic voting on board matters,
- Clarify roles and responsibilities of committees, and
- Correct typographical errors.

Members in good standing, those who have paid their 2015 dues, will be asked to vote on adopting the revised bylaws at the March 4th general meeting.

Membership
Tricia Barnes

It is time to renew your membership in the Civic Association for 2015. While our newsletters and events are open to all residents, only those who pay dues are official members and eligible to vote on member business.

Your financial support of $15 per household per year fund projects that improve the quality of life in our neighborhood:

- Operate Neighborhood Watch.
- Maintain community entrances and common areas.
- Monitor local & state government for issues that pertain to us.
• Coordinate with local government to resolve traffic, maintenance and code violations.
• Publish newsletters & conduct general meetings six times per year.
• Maintain a website and Facebook page
• Network with other citizens associations to discuss common issues.
• Plan social events designed to bring neighbors together.

Recent accomplishments include:
• Opposing the proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment regarding Residential Studio Units.
• Engaging with Transurban, VDOT, and county representatives to improve our neighborhood’s roads and combat residential speeding.
• Organizing a community cleanup day and National Night Out ice cream social.
• Supporting the North Springfield Scouts and the AHS All-Night Grad party.

**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.

**NSCA Online**
Skip Chaples

Our website contains all the newsletter as well as valuable information about the community and local government. The “About Us” tab lists the officers, covenants and volunteer positions. The “Community Services” tab lists key phone numbers to call for help, teen jobs and rideshare information. The “Community Links” tab has contact information for elected officials, schools, places of worship and shopping.

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 interested in carpooling send us your name, phone number, destination, and time of commute.

Our Facebook page recently hit 500 members! This page was established about a year and a half ago for residents of North Springfield to share information about what’s going on in our community, school announcements, public meetings or events, etc. It’s also a place where you can share your favorite recipe, home improvement tip, gardening tip, safety tip, fun idea, concern, or ask neighbors where to locate a particular product or service. It has been a great communications tool for the community. If you are a Facebook user and are interested in joining the group, please request to join at www.facebook.com/groups/NorthSpringfieldVA.

**Marian Homes**

Marian Homes is a non-profit organization providing homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities that has just acquired a property in North Springfield. It is a participant in Fairfax County’s Good Neighbor Initiative and Agreement. Per the agreement, these organizations concur that “as organizations that provide community housing options for people with disabilities, we know the importance of establishing and maintaining positive relationships with neighbors. When we rent or purchase homes in neighborhoods, we seek an opportunity for our residents to become a part of the community, as would any other new renter or homeowner…We ask our neighbors to welcome us as they would other neighbors.” NSCA, on behalf of all the community, wish to welcome our new friends with Marian Homes.

**World Police and Fire Games**
John Simonetti

At a recent membership meeting, the Fairfax Federation heard a presentation regarding the upcoming 2015 World Police and Fire Games to be hosted by Fairfax County this June 26-July 5. Held every four years, these historic games
will be spread throughout the county and will feature 12,000 professional, public safety athletes from 70 countries competing in 60+ sports. For more information or to volunteer for this once in a lifetime event, please visit the website at http://fairfax2015.com/. Your NSCA Board will keep you posted on any new developments leading up to the Games.

**Fairfax County Website**

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov) has a wealth of information for residents including all the rules, complaint forms and where to go for services.

**Volunteers Wanted for Boards, Authorities and Commissions**

Get engaged and help serve your community by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission! If you are interested in serving please contact the Braddock Office at braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov. Supervisor Cook has vacancies on the:

**Small Business Commission**

The Small Business Commission was established to oversee issues affecting small businesses in Fairfax County, to assist them in becoming established, and to help them succeed. For more information please visit: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sbc](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/sbc)

**Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Citizens Advisory Council**

The JDRC was established to advise and cooperate with the court upon all matters affecting the working of the law and other laws relating to children, their care and protection and to domestic relations. For more information please visit: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bacs/)

Fairfax County is preparing its FY 2016 budget which takes effect July 1st; there are a number of important decisions that will have an impact on Braddock district and the future of Fairfax County. The budget schedule is at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/county_budget_calendar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/county_budget_calendar.htm)

**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. The county is working on ways to address violators.

**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 housewares, 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.

**Toy Drive**

Margaret Panik

The December 7th toy drive was a great success. Games, books, Barbie and Frozen items, and musical instruments were among the items piled high in the eight giant clear leaf bags of toys donated to Firefighters and Friends; the organization coordinates with area school staff to distribute gifts to needy area children. We filled the backs of two 15- passenger vans that were brought! Special thanks to Boy Scout Troop 990, our community youth volunteers Emily and Ava, our wonderful sign makers Jeanette Eddy and Kristin Brown, and the sign hanger, John Panik. Please watch for more community activity announcements like this in our newsletter, website and Facebook page.

**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.
Audrey Moore Rec Center

Residents are invited to participate in formation of a Friends Group for the Audrey Moore Rec Center. The intent of this group is to gather community input to identify, encourage and advocate for improvements to the Audrey Moore Rec Center. It was the first Rec Center in Fairfax County and is now almost 40 years old; it’s time for an upgrade.

A visit to South Run, Oak Marr or Spring Hill Rec Centers can help you to envision the types of improvements that may be appropriate.

The first meeting will be at Braddock Hall, located in the King's Park Library on Burke Lake Road. The date and time is February 5, 2015 at 7:30 PM. The purpose of this meeting is to establish the formation of this Friend's group. A number of Park Authority personnel will be in attendance and a strong showing of the Audrey Moore Community would provide an appropriate indication that there is a strong desire within the community to upgrade and improve the Audrey Moore Rec Center.

If you are interested in attending and/or helping with this group, please e-mail Tom Kennedy at tfkinva@aol.com so that we can plan accordingly.

Better Understanding Disabilities (BUD)

BUD is presenting a FREE Workshop entitled “Please help me understand my child’s educational psychological evaluation.” The Guest Speaker is Dr. Joette James; a licensed Psychologist/Board Certified Clinical Neuropsychologist. To learn more about Dr. James visit http://drjoettejames.com.

The workshop is February 17, 2015 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Mason District Gov’t Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale VA. 22003.

Please bring a copy of your child’s evaluation. A limited number of consultations are being offered after the workshop. Please R.S.V.P. betterud1@gmail.com by Feb. 12, 2015 to attend the workshop.

Food Deliverers Needed

Can you help bring food to a needy family? Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA) needs volunteers to make occasional food deliveries to families referred to them by Fairfax County Social Services. Food may be picked up from the ACCA food pantry in Annandale (located next to the fire station on Columbia Pike) on weekdays between 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM. This can be an after school family activity. Contact North Springfield resident Chuck Woods at (703) 644-4548 for details.

Beware of Tax Scams

"Your driver's license has been suspended. You will be arrested. You will be deported. We are on our way to your home right now." These are just a few of the many phone threats that scammers have made against hundreds of Fairfax County residents over the past several weeks. Police warn the public NOT to fall prey to these scammers and to notify police of these criminal incidents. Remember – Government agencies do not solicit tax payments or threaten action over the phone; they send official letters regarding your situation and how to respond.

Recycling Electronics

We receive numerous complaints regarding people leaving electronics items at the curb. Trash companies will not take them and your neighbors don’t want them. You can drop off electronic items for recycling free of charge at Best Buy on Frontier Drive in Springfield or at either Fairfax County disposal site; the I-66 Transfer Station at 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax or the I-95 Landfill Complex at 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton.

Securing Your Vehicle

Maryann Germaine

We have had several thefts from cars in the neighborhood. Remember to keep your vehicle locked and do not leave anything of value in it. Most residential thefts are crimes of opportunity; you create the opportunity and someone is liable to take advantage of it.
**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 2015
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151
$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: ____________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________
Phone #: __________ Date: _______ Amount Paid: __________

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

**SUGGESTIONS FOR:**
**Other Committees:**

Topics for upcoming programs:

**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: ________________________________ New Resident? Y N

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -