President’s Message

Happy birthday, North Springfield! During this term, we are celebrating our 60th anniversary as a community and as a civic association. Our fundraising effort to support celebration events is going strong; we have raised over $1,300 to date. Through your generosity, we have received two sponsorships for the time capsules that will be placed in a special location within the neighborhood sometime next year. We are still seeking individual and corporate sponsors to help us meet our budget goals. We are excited with some of the programming we have planned. Our November 4th meeting will feature several original residents sharing their reflections on the neighborhood’s early days. It should be a great evening for our community, and I hope you are all able to attend. In the meanwhile, our upcoming October 7th meeting will be a town hall format where you can ask questions about the neighborhood or civic association’s activities. We will also have our Ad-Hoc Traffic Calming Committee providing an update on the current status of their work. Bring your questions. I look forward to answering them.

General meetings are held in the North Springfield Elementary School cafeteria starting at 7:30 pm.

Very Respectfully,

Ken Balbuena
Civic Association President

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Events Calendar

**October**
- 7: General Meeting
- 31: Trunk or Treat

**November**
- 1: Grand Illumination
- 3: Election Day
- 4: General Meeting

**December**
- 17: Judging Holiday Decorations
Available Volunteer Positions

NSCA is in need of several volunteers. We need someone to lead a large-scale cleanup project of Flag Run Park, located at the intersection of Ravensworth & Elgar. The park has become overgrown with several invasive plants that are drastically affecting the health of several large trees and endangering surrounding homes. This project will require volunteer management, working with our Parks Committee Chair (Chet McLaren), and coordinating with the Fairfax County Park Authority. We need volunteers to chair the NSCA Board committees for the Braddock District Council, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations and PTA Liaison and we need members for the senior Citizen Committee (refer to separate article in this newsletter). If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Ken Balbuena (kenbalbuena@gmail.com).

Traffic Calming Update

The Ad-Hoc Traffic Calming Committee that was formed towards the end of last term spent the better part of the summer working with the County to develop a traffic calming plan for the neighborhood. While the plan is far from completion, they will be providing the community an update at our October 7th meeting. As previously communicated in the NSCA newsletter, community votes will determine whether or not the plan is adopted. Once the committee feels the plan is ready for a community vote, the residents in attendance at a future NSCA meeting will decide whether to advance the plan to the balloting phase wherein those homes along the area(s) of proposed traffic calming measures will be asked if they accept the plan. 60% of the homes balloted must respond; 55% must vote in favor of the plan to proceed with implementation. The matter then goes before the Board of Supervisors who ultimately authorize Fairfax County’s Department of Transportation to proceed with implementation. It is a lengthy process but the VDOT-produced data has indicated that there is a significant speeding problem in our neighborhood that warrants addressing.

Financial Audit

In accordance with our bylaws, an audit team consisting of residents Nancy Moore, Alicia Ward and Craig Delaney reviewed the Association’s books. We are pleased to report that our accounts and practices are in good order. The Committee made a few recommendations for our consideration to improve accountability and cost efficiency. The NSCA Board thanks the Audit Committee for their very hard work!
Membership

Welcome to all new residents in our North Springfield community. If someone new has moved in on your block, please be a good neighbor and welcome them to our community.

The civic association betters our community by working to keep North Springfield a well-kept and safe area; by keeping residents informed through the newsletter, emails, Facebook, our website; and by being a liaison between residents and county government.

Association dues are $15 per household per year. The current membership year runs from January - December 2015. If you are not already a member, there is a membership form in this newsletter. You can pay by check, in person at our October meeting or online at www.nscivic.org using Square or PayPal.

Reflections of North Springfield

As mentioned in the President’s Message, we are looking for original owners (or residents who moved into North Springfield prior to 1966) to share their reflections of the neighborhood over the last 60 years. If you or anyone you know fits this criteria and is willing to be one of our guest speakers, please refer them to us. We are also looking for a moderator to guide the program for the evening.

Gang Graffiti

Part of the neighborhood was spray painted or “tagged” with some gang graffiti. The police have been notified and are investigating the incident for a possible connection to other reports in the vicinity of North Springfield. If you see any additional tagging or have relevant information you would like to share with the authorities, please contact the Fairfax County Police Department’s non-emergency telephone number at (703) 691-2131.

Braddock District Supervisor Debate

The Ravensworth Farm Civic Association will be hosting a debate for the three candidates running for Braddock District Supervisor on Thursday, October 22nd at 7:30pm at the Community Church of Christ, 5610 Inverchapel Road. The candidates are incumbent John Cook (R) and challengers Janet Oleszek (D) and Carey Campbell (I). North Springfield residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Senior Citizen Committee

The NSCA is forming a Senior Citizen Committee to “consider and report on all matters relating to senior citizens in the community and...provide information pertinent to the needs of senior citizens in North Springfield.” We are pleased to announce that Keith Brown (formerly serving on the NSCA Board as the PTA Liaison) has agreed to chair this Committee. The Bylaws authorize the committee but it has not been active for several years. The county and North Springfield have seen a significant increase in the older population and is taking steps to ensure that older citizens receive all required services. The County’s 50+ Community Action Plan will guide this Committee’s work. There will be a two-pronged approach of informing seniors of the programs and services available to help them age-in-place as well as educating the community on the warning signs that a senior citizen is experiencing undue difficulty living independently. If you are interested in serving on this committee or would like more information, please contact Keith Brown (kwibrown@gmail.com).

Community Enhancements

Thanks to Skip Chaples for leading these projects.

The project to install a watering station along the Leesville soundwall so that we can water that area as necessary was completed over the summer. The funds were provided under a grant from Transurban. The water service was installed by Fairfax County Water Authority; thanks to local plumber Mark Russell for providing the parts and labor to connect to that service. We are looking for a volunteer to water that area next year as needed. We have all the equipment necessary; just need someone to use it.

The project to upgrade our entrance signs is nearing completion. Funds were provided under a county grant. The Ferndale entrance is complete; Heming and Ravensworth are next. Thanks to Keith Brown and Bob Lavelle for helping with the work to date.
National Night Out

We held our 2nd annual National Night Out over the summer, and while the weather temporarily interrupted the event, we were grateful to have so many residents turn out. We anticipate next year’s event will also be a success that will be complemented by a renovated pool clubhouse, the first major upgrade since the pool opened in 1957.

Community Trunk ‘N Treat

The families of the North Springfield community are invited to join us at the Ravensworth Baptist Church parking lot, 5100 Ravensworth Road from 10:30 am to noon on Saturday October 31st for Trunk ‘N Treat; a morning of old-fashioned fun! Members of our church will be in the parking lot with decorated cars and Halloween treats. You are invited to bring your children in their Halloween costumes and go “Trunk and Treating” from car to car. Then join us on the patio and lawn for games, activities, and snacks. It will be a great way to get to know your neighbors and to get more use out of those costumes. Questions? Call Cathy at 703-941-4113; or email cathy@ravensworthbaptist.org.

Grand Illumination

Please save your Halloween pumpkins and make them a part of this festivity on Sunday evening November 1, 2015. At 6:30 PM, volunteers will be on hand at the North Springfield Pool parking lot (Earlehurst Street off Leesville Boulevard) to collect your carved pumpkins in our “drive-thru” drop off. Volunteers will then organize all the pumpkins for display.

Residents are invited to return as it gets dark, about 7:30, to see all the pumpkins lit up in one Grand Illumination! Costumes are welcome. Please bring a flashlight to safely walk through the parking lot. Fire pits will be in use; s’mores will be available while supplies last. Please bring a snack to share and your own drink.

Volunteers are needed! Contact Margaret at margaretApanik@aol.com for more details.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

North Springfield residents are invited to Join Ravensworth’s New Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program; get fresh fruits and vegetables delivered direct to our community.

Lancaster Farm Fresh Cooperative (LFFC) is a non-profit organic farmers cooperative of 75 farmers in Lancaster County Pennsylvania. LFFC provides fresh, certified organic fruits, vegetables, and other farm fresh products through a subscription program also known as CSA program. CSA members commit to support LFFC farmers for the entire growing season by paying for their share of the harvest in the winter and early spring.

This fall season, 8 weeks this year, first week of November for 8 consecutive weeks, LFFC has a medium and a large share option. The produce ranges from $21- $32 per week for veggies (depending on share size) and $7.40 per week for fruit. In addition to fruits and vegetables, there are also chicken, meat, cheese, bread, omnivore, vegan and egg shares available.

Every Thursday, the list of items on the share is emailed out to help with meal planning. On the weekly basis (weekend day), everyone picks up their share at a home in Ravensworth Farm. There is an active Facebook and Pinterest site where the community members share recipes that they are making using the vegetables that we receive. It’s really that simple!

If you are interested in joining or receiving more information about the CSA, please visit http://www.lancasterfarmfresh.com (click CSA and Fall Shares) or call your neighbor Jen at (703) 922-9353 / email jenmarzouk@yahoo.com to answer any questions. Make sure you select the North Springfield location on Inverchapel Road. Registration closes October 23rd, but it would be appreciated if you can sign up earlier. We need 30 shares to make this a viable site. As a current shareholder, I can say that it has been a very enjoyable experience and I am very excited to be able to host a location in our neighborhood.
Fridays and Saturdays Oct. 16-31, 2015

The Haunted Village of Annandale silently festers in the underworld except in October, when the earth erupts, unleashing screeching phantoms and creepy goblins. Ghostly impressions move through the air while witches cackle amid the graves in this ancient Village.

You are invited, if you dare, to tour the Village & The Witch’s Graveyard on Fridays and Saturdays, October 16-31 from 6:00-9:00 PM in the Annandale Shopping Center on Columbia Pike at Gallows Road. Discount admission coupons will be available at the stores in the center, while supplies last. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes.

Thursday, October 22
Garden Tour & Tea

1-3 pm. Formal English Tea at Green Spring Garden’s Historic Manor House(Adult) Tour some of the glorious demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who inspires you with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterward, enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House. Reservations required. $32/person. Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, VA 22312. For reservations: 703-941-7987 or register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/teas.htm

Saturday, October 24, 2015
The Annandale Parade

The popular Annandale Parade will march along Columbia Pike from the Annandale Shopping Center at Gallows Road, all the way to the Bowling Alley-Safeway, thousands of participants from Clowns, Storybook Characters, Waving Politicians and Marching Bands to Antique & Military Cars, Fire Trucks, Civic Organizations, Scouts, and beautifully costumed International Dancers will parade before the residents of Greater Annandale.
NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
Calendar Year January – December
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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