President’s Message

I am very excited for the Reflections of Original Residents theme of our next membership meeting, which continues our 60th anniversary festivities. This is your opportunity to be just like Marty McFly who traveled from 1985 back to 1955 and then forward to 2015 in the Back to the Future franchise – which is currently celebrating their 30th anniversary. We have assembled a panel of speakers to share their memories of the early days of North Springfield, and I hope all of you can attend.

Part of what has made this neighborhood such a great place to live over the last six decades has been the valuable volunteers who have dedicated so much of their time. It is evident today, but we are still in need of some volunteers to lead key initiatives. You can find more about how you can serve your community below.

Lastly, as we head into the winter months, please remember to try to clear your driveways and sidewalks of snow and please be cautious of street parking obstructing the path of snow plows. Please also ensure to check on the senior community of the neighborhood. Not only might they not be able to clear their areas around their home, but they also might not be able to travel to the store to buy food or medications. Let us all remember to be kind and look out for one another.

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

November
  3: Election Day
  4: General Meeting
  14: Scouting for Food collection

December
  17: Judging Holiday Decorations

February
  3: General Meeting

March
  2: General Meeting

April
  6: General Meeting

May
  4: General Meeting
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CURRENTLY VACANT

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CURRENTLY VACANT

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CURRENTLY VACANT

**Available Volunteer Positions**

Last month, NSCA posted about a need for four volunteers: one to lead a large-scale clean up project of Flag Run Park (intersection of Ravensworth Road & Elgar Street) and three to serve on the NSCA Board as committee chairs of the Braddock District Council, Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations, & PTA Liaison. So far, no one has stepped forward, and we are still in need of volunteers. Additionally, we’re seeking a volunteer to take over newsletter duties. Skip & his wife, Sherry, accepted the job on a temporary basis when the previous editor moved; that was 10 years ago and they’d like to pass it off to someone else. The newsletter is produced in Adobe InDesign, so interested individuals should have familiarity with the program. If you are interested in any of these positions, please contact Ken Balbuena or Skip Chaples.

**Holiday Display Judging**

The Annual Holiday Display judging will be on Thursday, December 17th. As usual, the categories include Continued Excellence, Must See, Honorable Mention, Traditional Christmas, Best Groupings, Best Tree, and Unique Presentations. Results will be posted on our website.

**Reflections of Original Residents**

What was North Springfield like in 1955? What was it like growing up in the neighborhood back then, and how has it changed? How did North Springfield transform farm land into a sprawling suburban center? Our panel of speakers will try to answer these questions as they share their memories of North Springfield over the years. The panel is featuring Norma Heck, Scott Pratt, Pat Flowe, Bruce Friend and Fred Mears of Carr Inc., the corporation responsible for building most of Springfield. The discussion will be moderated by fellow North Springfield resident Ki Hatch. There will be some additional visual surprises in store, so please try to attend. The event will be recorded with a copy of this oral history included in the time capsule that will be planted in the community in the spring.

**Washington Post Springfield Plant Tour**

NSCA has scheduled a tour of the Washington Post Springfield Plant on Saturday, November 14th at 8:30am as part of our 60th anniversary celebrations and in coordination with the plant’s 35th anniversary of its dedication. Notice of this tour was sent out via Facebook and our email distribution list and is already near the 50-resident capacity. Please email Ken Balbuena (kenbalbuena@gmail.com) to see if there is any space available. NSCA will try to organize a second tour for a spring weeknight and will post notice in the newsletter once the date has been selected.
Upcoming Meeting Topics

The themes for the remaining NSCA general membership meetings for the 2015-16 term are:

- November 4th: Reflections of Original Residents (detailed above)
- February 3rd: Shop Local Expo (detailed below)
- March 2nd: Traffic Calming with community vote on advancing traffic calming plans to the ballot phase. Additional details will be made available in the newsletter preceding the meeting.
- April 6th: Cultural Night with exhibits & performances highlighting the various cultural backgrounds of the North Springfield community. Please contact Ivan Carrasco at (703) 462-9474 or cpiji@yahoo.com for more information to volunteer.
- May 4th: NSCA 60th Anniversary Party with the only business being approval of April minutes & NSCA Board elections.

Shop Local

Attention small business owners, real estate agents, & direct sales consultants living in North Springfield: NSCA’s February 3, 2016 general membership meeting will have a “Shop Local” theme and will be an expo format for you to exhibit your businesses/services. Exhibitors will not be allowed to sell anything, but you can introduce yourself to the community and capture leads for future business. While there is no fee to participate, exhibitors may make an optional donation of your choosing to our 60th anniversary fund (checks to our PO Box or online at mkt.com/ns civic). Details are still being worked out, and we may need to cut off registration for various exhibitor categories due to space constraints and to ensure we have a good balance of each category’s representation. Please email Ken Balbuena if you are interested in exhibiting.

Landscaping Volunteers Needed

Ed Stock, Beautification Committee Chair

As I was waiting for the traffic light to change on Leesville and Backlick I saw someone weeding the rose bushes at that intersection and near the end of the Leesville median. I tried to thank him and get his name but the light changed so I had to move on.

This experience reminded me there is another area in need someone’s attention along stretches of Leesville Boulevard adjacent to the sound wall. Our community has a sizeable investment in the shrubs we had planted there to make the sound wall a little more attractive than a just a gray wall separating us from the roar of the beltway.

We are in need of volunteers to lend a hand to remove the occasional dead shrub and do a little pruning of others to keep that area attractive. We take care of the mowing in that area but the weeding and care of the shrubs, shall we say, is in need of “a personal touch.” Before it gets to cold here is a chance to do some good and help keep that area looking attractive plus get a little exercise.

You are welcome to start and stop at your leisure or even bring a friend to keep you company. If no friends are available there is a small ground hog that appears from time to time then scurries back to his “home” under the sound wall. He was hired by the Beautification Committee to make sure things are done right.

NSES Vandalism Incidents

There were two destruction of property incidents that occurred at North Springfield Elementary School towards the beginning of October. Three young Hispanic teenagers, approximately 13 years old, are believed to have used an air or pellet (BB) gun to shoot out some windows at the school and were believed to be traveling on foot. The suspects also broke into some of the construction trailers and spray painted some of the property. If you have any information on these suspects or the incidents, please contact Detective M. J. Bestick of the Franconia Police Station at (703) 922-0894 ext. 2237. Also, if you are a middle school parent, please talk to your child(ren) about this, as they may have heard something about the incidents. Our Neighborhood Watch continues to be a visible presence in the community, but with limited volunteers, Neighborhood Watch patrols cannot be everywhere all the time to catch everything. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact NSCA’s Neighborhood Watch Coordinator Jeff Schaefer.
Adopt-a-Highway

NSCA would like to recognize Don & Pat Neff for officially adopting Heming Avenue through VDOT’s Adopt-a-Highway Program. According to the program’s website, “AAH volunteers agree to pick up litter at least two times a year for three years over a two-mile stretch of highway. In return, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides trash bags, vests, important safety information, and highway signs that recognize your group.” In addition to Heming Avenue, Leesville Boulevard has also been adopted by JP3E Lawn Service, a North Springfield owned & operated small business. If you or your company is interested in adopting any of our other streets (e.g. Ravensworth, Ferndale, Queensberry), please visit the Adopt-a-Highway website at http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp and contact the local coordinator.

Grand Illumination

Just a reminder to please save your Halloween pumpkins and make them a part of the 2nd Annual Grand Illumination on Sunday evening, November 1, 2015 at 7:30 PM in the North Springfield Pool parking lot (Earlehurst Street off Leesville Boulevard). 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. Please contact Margaret Panik (margaretApanik@aol.com) with any questions. (Note: If you are interested in donating your pumpkin, please drop them off at the pool between 6:30-7:00 PM.)

Grass Parking

In case you were not aware, Fairfax County code does not permit parking on the grass in front of your home, though it does allow grass parking on the side and the rear of your home. Oversimplified, the role of the North Springfield Civic Association is to protect the interests of all residents and to maintain the community’s appearance. NSCA certainly does not want to see the County impose any unnecessary fines for residents who were not aware they were violating County code. Residents are asked to park in their driveways primarily or on the street directly in front of their home if possible. Additional information on parking restrictions can be found on the County’s website here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/vehicles/.

Election Day

November 3rd is Election Day in Fairfax County. Local offices to be decided include the Board of Supervisors, School Board, Clerk of Court, Sheriff, Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District, Commonwealth’s Attorney, Virginia House of Delegates, and Virginia Senate. The vast majority of North Springfield is in the Braddock District and votes at North Springfield Elementary School. Some residents are in the Mason District and vote at St. John’s United Methodist Church. If you are unsure of your voting location, please enter your address on this website: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/myneighborhood/. Additional voting information including sample ballots and a listing of candidates can be found here: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming.htm.

The two County-wide ballot measures pertain to school renovations and renovations of public safety facilities, including Edsall Road Fire Station 26 and the Franconia Police Station, both of which serve the North Springfield community.

Holiday Toy Drive

The date is not set yet but keep your eye out for an email, signs, and our Facebook page that will tell you the day in early December for our 2nd Annual drive through toy drive to benefit local needy children. Last year we stuffed a van and a half full of toys! Let’s break that record this year!

Ravensworth Shopping Center Update

A dedication ceremony was held October 24th; the shopping center opened 50 years ago. Supervisors Bulova and Cook as well as Senator Saslaw and Delegate Watts were there for the event. The new swim club is open in the old Post Office space and the Lotti grocery store is scheduled to open in November in the old Safeway space. The Swiss Bakery will be expanding to include more seating and products. In January the Woodcraft store (currently in the Concord Center in Springfield) will be opening in the space between Kilroys and the Post Office. They are also in negotiations with another restaurant to open in the shopping center.
Scouting for Food

Collection bags were delivered the weekend of October 31st along with your newsletter. Our annual collection to stock the ACCA food bank in Annandale will be on November 14th between 9 and 11 am. Please place your non-perishable contribution where it is visible from the street.

Free Workshop for Parents of Teens and Tweens

Sunday, November 8, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
5100 Ravensworth Rd. Annandale, VA 22003

Getting Past “Whatever!”—Maintaining Connection with Your Teen.

The community is invited to a free workshop for parents on Sunday, November 8, on how to maintain communication with their teens/tweens. The workshop leaders will focus on practical skills for navigating these challenging years! Participants will learn to:

• Communicate more effectively with their teens/tweens
• Understand typical teen development vs. behaviors that are more concerning
• Help your teen/tween manage stress more successfully

The workshop will be led by Cathi Cohen, LCSW, CGP, and Director of In Step PC, which she founded in 1995. Cathi is a well-known author, and conducts frequent workshops for parents, educators, and mental health professionals. She will be joined by Mary Shuffletton, LPC, MA, who works with teens and parents in the In Step practice.*

This workshop is intended for a general audience and is not faith-based. Community volunteers who work with teens would also benefit from the workshop.

For on-line registration go to http://www.ravensworthbaptist.org/communication-workshop, or call Cathy at (703) 941-4113 or email her at cathy@ravensworthbaptist.org

*For more on In Step, visit their web site: http://www.insteppc.com/
THE WASHINGTON POST
SPRINGFIELD BUILDING
DEDICATION CEREMONIES

November 12, 1980
Springfield, Virginia

WELCOMING REMARKS
Donald E. Graham
Publisher
The Washington Post

HONORED GUESTS AND SPEAKERS
The Honorable John N. Dalton
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia

The Honorable John F. Herrity
Chairman
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Thomas O. Might
Manager
Springfield Plant
The Washington Post

Katharine Graham
Chairman of the Board
The Washington Post Company

Music by the
Thomas Jefferson High School Band
John Knapp
Director
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  SUGGESTIONS FOR:
FEDERATION OF CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS  Other Committees: ______________________
MEMBERSHIP  ______________________
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
PLANNING & ZONING  Topics for upcoming programs:
COMMUNITY SOCIALS  ______________________
SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

Español  Utilice "Google Translate" para ver nuestro sitio web en español.
Việt  Sử dụng "Google Translate" để xem trang web của chúng tôi ở Việt Nam.