President’s Message

I hope everyone’s 2016 is off to a great start. Last July, we celebrated the community’s official 60th anniversary. A few days ago, we officially celebrated North Springfield Civic Association’s 60th birthday. We have come a long way as neighborhood and an association. While civic associations like ours have largely given way to more power-wielding HOAs, your Civic Association continues to provide for the overall wellbeing of the neighborhood while also providing relevant programs for the residents of our community. Our next two civic association meetings reflect this balance between the needs of the physical neighborhood and the effort to create resident-to-resident engagement. This month’s meeting will be a Shop Local Expo (detailed below) while the March meeting will be focused on traffic calming.

Please be sure to mark your calendars.

Also, please consider paying your annual, calendar-based Civic Association dues – an affordable $15 per household. Your financial support helps to significantly landscape the public areas of North Springfield, print and deliver newsletters, and organize family-friend activities. We accept check, cash, or credit cards and greatly appreciate your contributions and donations (general donations as well as those earmarked for our 60th anniversary). Thank you for your support in helping us advance for quality of the neighborhood for yet another 60 years.

Without the efforts of the NSCA, we could be living in a very different North Springfield.

Very Respectfully,

Ken Balbuena
Civic Association President
**Association Officers**

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NEED A VOLUNTEER!  

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**Winter Weather Tips**

1. Park your vehicle(s) in your driveway before an anticipated snowfall, so snowplows 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.
7. Make sure your gutters are clean and free of debris.
8. Allow water to drip to prevent pipes from freezing.
9. Never leave a fireplace unattended and adhere to safety guidelines when using space heaters.
10. Keep a stock of batteries, non-perishable food, and bottled water on hand in case of power outage.
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.
Shop Local Expo

Do you need a plumber, lawyer, tax professional, or realtor? Does your child need child care or preschool education? Do you want to host a direct sales party but don’t know who to contact? If you answered yes, you need to attend the Feb. 3 Civic Association meeting. In lieu of a formal meeting, NSCA will be hosting a “Shop Local Expo” that will feature 25 local businesses and community organizations owned by North Springfield residents who will be exhibiting their products and services. The exhibitors will not be selling anything, but it is a perfect opportunity for you to ask questions and book future appointments. Please stop by the North Springfield Elementary School cafeteria, anytime between 7:30-9:00 pm. We hope to see you there!

Traffic Calming Committee Update

The Ad-Hoc Traffic Calming Committee is preparing for the March 2 Civic Association meeting where residents will vote on advancing a traffic calming plan to the ballot phase. As you may recall, the plan calls for recommended traffic control devices (speed humps and/or tables) along Leesville Boulevard where neighborhood traffic volume is the greatest and where speeding has historically occurred. A committee representative will be onsite at the Shop Local Expo to answer questions and to share the proposed plan. Information is also available on the committee’s blog: https://northsprinfieldtrafficcalming.wordpress.com/

Volunteers

Your community needs you! In the last two newsletters, NSCA has called for volunteers to serve on the NSCA Board (three positions available), lead a clean up effort of Flag Run Park (Elgar Street between Ravensworth Road and Juliet Street), assist with landscaping efforts, and serve as newsletter editor. We have been fortunate to get two great volunteers to take over the newsletter duties (thank you Sue Ellen Mann & Laurie Graham), but we are still in need of volunteers to assist with the other efforts.

The NSCA Board has also discussed the creation of an ad-hoc committee to look at the annual coordinated yard sale event typically held each May. Traditionally, NSCA selects a date and residents wishing to host a yard sale do so in their own yards. This committee will explore the feasibility of holding the event at a centralized location instead. The committee will also market the event including online announcements (e.g. virtual yard sale websites) and uniform wayfinding signs. The time commitment would be at the yet-to-be-named chair’s discretion and the committee would be in existence only from the January-May time frame.

Please email kenbalbuena@gmail.com if you are interested in giving back to your community in any of these ways.

Cultural Night

Our community has a 40% minority rate according to the U.S. Census while Fairfax County Public Schools reports that North Springfield Elementary School has a 75% minority rate, meaning we are a very diverse community. The April 6th NSCA general meeting will celebrate the various cultures of our community. If you are interested in sharing your heritage’s food, dress, or customs at the meeting, please email Ivan Carrasco, Minority Outreach Committee Chair, at cpjj4u@yahoo.com. Ivan is also looking for committee members to assist with minority resident outreach beyond the April meeting. Please consider volunteering on this committee so that NSCA can best serve the needs of the entire neighborhood.

Aaron Brown Remembered

Skip Chaples

Feb. 25 marks the 10th anniversary of Aaron Brown’s death and the beginning of a nonprofit to honor his memory. Aaron was an 18-year-old North Springfield resident and accomplished guitarist studying music at NOVA. He graduated North Springfield Elementary, Holmes Middle School and Annandale High School; he was also an Eagle Scout from NSCA’s Boy Scout Troop 990.

In response to his death some neighbors got together to bring a nonprofit after-school music program for low income and at-risk youth; that program, now known as Music for Life, has grown to serve over 800 youth annually throughout the metropolitan DC area. Their website www.musicforlife.org has a video about Aaron, as well as information about the good being done in honor of him.
Mark Slough Remembered

Mark Slough was a North Springfield resident who died Oct. 8, 2015 in a bicycle accident in Blacksburg, Virginia. He was a sophomore at Virginia Tech majoring in Aerospace Engineering. He graduated North Springfield Elementary, Holmes Middle School and Annandale High School.

NSCA will remember Mark this spring by sponsoring a Bicycle Safety Rodeo in early April; we plan to make this an annual event. All residents who ride a bicycle, children and adults, are invited to participate. We’ll have bicycle technicians on hand to check bikes for safety and proper operation; information about the laws, safe riding and local cycling resources; and much more. More details to follow in our March newsletter.

Fairfax County Budget Time
Skip Chaples

The 2017 County Budget process is underway. The projection is there will be significant budget shortfall and decisions will have to be made regarding tax increases and/or service cuts. Each of us has an obligation to follow the process and have our voices heard. Throughout the process the advertised budgets and opportunities for public comment are posted on the county (www.fairfaxcounty.gov) and school (www.fcps.edu) websites.

The timeline is as follows: School Superintendent Karen Garza released the proposed budget January 7; the school board will adopt its advertised budget February 4. Fairfax County Executive Edward L. Long Jr. will release his advertised budget February 17. The Board of Supervisors will release their advertised tax rate March 1 and approve the final tax rate and budget April 26. The School Board will approve its 2017 budget May 26.

North Springfield Swim Club (NSSC) Bath House Renovation Update

Built in 1957 and one of the first original five community pools built in Northern Virginia, NSSC is finally having a face lift. As of January 1, demolition has taken place, dumpsters are in place, and roof trusses delivered! A new roof will be placed over the entire bathhouse around the end of January—previously it was “open-air.” Completely new, updated bath and changing rooms will be built and all areas will meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) handicapped accessible design requirements, that did not exist when the original bathhouse was built. The construction is to be completed by opening day for the 2016 season.

The pool’s Board of Directors and the Renovation Committee, headed by Robert Sweeney (previous President), Kathy and Mike Dannholz, have been working tirelessly (and on a volunteer basis!) over the past several years, planning, getting funding, and preparing the grounds for this historic event. From several area businesses, 2 local North Springfield residents were selected to lead the project. Shamual Choudhury (Easton Drive) of Moore Architects is the lead architect and Steve Bowes (Atlee Place) of Phoenix Home Services, is the lead contractor.

You are welcome to check out the progress over the next several weeks. Updated photos will be added to the website as well: ns-sc.org.

Contact Dana Cibulski, President, Board of Directors, NSSC danacibulski@cox.net with questions.

Upcoming School Orientations and Superintendent’s Visit

Immanuel Christian School will have First Look Friday Open Houses for kindergarten through eighth grade at 9 a.m. on Feb. 5, 26, March 11, April 15 and May 13. E-mail questions to admissions@icsva.org. RSVP at www.icsva.org.

Word of Life will have an open house for pre-school to 8th grade on Saturday, Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. Call (703) 354-4222 or go to wolca.org.

Wednesday, Feb. 17, Superintendent Garza will hold an event at Annandale High School at 6:30 p.m. Students, parents, employees, and community members are welcome. Garza, among others, will provide an update on budget, strategic plans, and classroom initiatives as well as receive audience feedback.

North Springfield Elementary will have a kindergarten orientation on April 5 at 5:30 p.m. Students will visit a classroom while parents receive information about the program. A packet detailing the orientation program and the registration requirements will be mailed to those parents who have submitted their name and address to North Springfield (703) 658-5500.
Boy Scouts of America Troop 990

The Scouts are off on their annual ski trip in February. If you have a son age 11-17 who may be interested in scouting contact Scoutmaster Skip Chaples at (703) 644-1311 or email him at skipchaples@cox.net; boys can attend Scout functions as a guest to determine if they want to join.

If you’d like to support scouting our annual Friends of Scouting campaign is underway; the pledge form is on the website www.nscivic.org or contact Skip. Supporting Scouting is an investment in young boys’ success. Scouts have higher graduation rates from high school and college. The lessons and experiences received in scouting provide an excellent foundation for succeeding in college and/or a career.

Streetlight Outage

It is commonly believed that improved streetlights can lead to safer neighborhood. Many residents also believe it is either VDOT or Fairfax County who changes the streetlights. In reality, the best way to report streetlights that need to be replaced is to contact Dominion Power. You will need to include the pole number (e.g. C-0417-VF-04), so be sure to capture that information before reporting. Be patient when waiting for Dominion to dispatch a crew but also be sure to follow up with them if the burned out light is not replaced in a timely manner. Dominion can be contacted by calling 1-866-DOM-HELP (1-866-366-4357) or by filling out the online form found here: https://www.dom.com/residential/dominion-virginia-power/outage-center/streetlight-outages/outdoor-lighting-concern

Drop-In Senior Exercise Class

Want to get fit or try something new? Drop in at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St, on Thursday at noon. Originally started as part of the exercise portion of the Fairfax County Independent Living Project, the class is geared to seniors of all fitness levels. Exercises include gentle aerobics that can be done standing or sitting, strength training, balance work, weights, bands, and balls. Equipment is provided. The fee is $5 per class. Contact NSCA resident Christine Moore for more information at moorefitt@yahoo.com or (703) 922-9299.

North Springfield Elementary School Renovation Update

Renate Thompson

Currently, construction is on schedule with an estimated completion date of Dec. 2016 and open house in Jan. 2017. The pre-school and 3rd and 4th grade areas are finished. Jan. 11, the hallway with the library, art room, music room, and access to the stage area were completed. The stage will be used for the 5th grade play this spring. Kindergarten and 1st grade areas are scheduled to be done in early March. The school entrance and office areas are planned for completion in early June and the cafeteria, gym and parking lot will be worked on during the summer. The main hall and upstairs will be the final focus in the fall.

Meditation Anyone?

Do you like to meditate? Do you want to learn to meditate? Do you want to mediate with others? There has been some interest in forming a neighborhood group. Contact Lisa Tudor at lisa.colon@gmail.com if you are interested.

Boy Scout Fundraiser

Need Your House Number Painted on Your Curb?

Call Boy Scout Troop 990 (703) 644-1311

(Will be done when the weather warms up)
2016 NSCA Membership Drive

It is time to renew your membership in the Civic Association for 2016; dues are only $15. You can join by writing a check, filling out and then mailing the membership form in the newsletter – or pay online at http://mkt.com/nscivic.

The membership form is in the newsletter and it includes a place for you to list possible topics for upcoming meetings and committees you may want to join. We need your support to keep North Springfield a well maintained and active community.

The Civic Association is for both homeowners and renters. We help better the community by working to keep North Springfield a well kept safe area, keeping residents informed through the newsletters, and by being a liaison between residents and county government.

Our association is a member of the Federation of Citizen Associations which represents all residents and works as a united voice to our local government representatives for concerns in Fairfax County.

Here are some highlights of what the Civic Association does with the dues: Six newsletters are printed and delivered to all the homes and we have civic association meetings to keep residents informed about community changes and events.

- Maintains a web site with community information nscivic.org and a facebook page North Springfield Civic Association
- Entrance ways are planted, mulched, grass cut, bushes and trees trimmed and pruned. The hills at Leesville and Heming are maintained.
- The association arranges for a community clean up day each spring when residents can bring oversized trash for free disposal.
- Donations are made to the North Springfield Scouts and to the Annandale HS all night senior prom party.

North Springfield Professional Center

7009 Backlick Court
Springfield, VA 22151-3903
703-354-2124
Since 1962

We’re on the right, headed south toward downtown Springfield, the same place we’ve been since this center was built. We’re a small, family owned business taking care of our annual clients with perhaps a wee bit more complexity than they care to input into Turbo-Tax.

Our primary business has taken care of the same small business clients through two –and sometimes three – generations.

We’re open all year.

Sue Ellen Mann  Roger L. Hefferan
EXECTAXSUEELLEN@AOL.COM  EXECTAXES@AOL.COM

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.

Girl Scout Fundraiser
Don't forget that Girl Scout cookie sales start February 19!!
Support your local scouts as they come knocking on your door!!
North Springfield Civic Association 2016 Membership Drive
Calendar Year: January – December 2016
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151
$15.00 Membership, Contributions Welcome

Name: ________________________________________________________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________
Phone: (_____) _______________________    Date: __________________    Amount Paid: __________________
email: ______________________________________________________    New Resident?  ☐ Yes

North Springfield Civic Association 2016 Volunteer Drive
NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

Name: _________________________________________________________________________________________
Address: _______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone: (_____) _______________________
email: ________________________________

Please Check Committees or Positions of Interest:

☐ Beautification
☐ Federation of Citizen Associations
☐ Membership
☐ Neighborhood Watch
☐ Planning and Zoning
☐ Community Social Events
☐ Special Interest Programs

Suggestions:
Other Committees:

Topics for programs:

Visit us online!

You may also pay online at: mkt.com/nscivic
Congratulations to longtime NSCA Supporter, Debbie Dogrul Associates, for being named Washingtonian’s Top Real Estate Agents in 2015!!

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