President’s Message
I sincerely hope you will consider attending in person or online (preferably in person) our March 1st NSCA general membership meeting. We will have a town hall format, which is probably my favorite kind of meeting. It’s an opportunity for me to hear from you, the residents of our great community, about your concerns, ideas, and most importantly, assessment of what NSCA is doing – right or wrong – to address these needs. If the NSCA board operated in a bubble, we would be a useless and self-serving entity. Part of our mission is to “serve the common needs of our community.” In stated in the vision document I presented to the NSCA Board in 2014:

“Webster’s defines community as, “1) a unified body of individuals; 2) the people with common interests living in a particular area; 3) an interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location. It is no coincidence that comm as in common constitute half of the word community while unity constitutes the other half of community. The neighborhood shares or should share common unity in terms of wanting only the best for its residents.”

So please consider attending the March 1st Town Hall to ask your tough questions. The NSCA board is here to serve you!

Very Respectfully,

Ken Balbuena
NSCA President

April 5 Cultural Festival
The April NSCA general membership meeting will be a celebration of North Springfield’s diversity by way of a cultural festival. If you have a food dish, dance/performance, or cultural dress/artifact that represents your heritage, please consider being part of this experience. The NSCA Board wants the entire neighborhood to feel a sense of community, especially the residents who typically are not involved in NSCA activities. Please consider participating and/or encouraging your neighbors to take part. Interested individuals should contact Ivan Carrasco, NSCA’s Minority Outreach Committee chair, at (571) 269-2388 or email me to cpij4u@yahoo.com. Please include your contact information, including a telephone number. You can also sign up directly on Sign Up Genius at https://goo.gl/AJcTnq.

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Congratulations to Jennifer Porter who was elected as interim Secretary at our last NSCA general membership meeting. Jennifer is an attorney who also serves on the North Springfield Swim Club board and as a Girl Scout leader. We are grateful to her for stepping up and also to Margaret Panik for her 2.5 years as NSCA’s Secretary. Margaret was a great drive force behind many of NSCA’s recent social/community activities. Interested in advertising in the newsletter? Contact Nancy Moore at NancyMoore.NSCA@gmail.com or (703) 750-2170 to get all the information you need. Multi-month discounts available. Space is limited.

Announcements/Upcoming Events:

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<td>Applications due for the NSCA Community Service Youth Awards (Sponsored by Eagle Bank)</td>
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<td>April 5</td>
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<td>April 18</td>
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<td>May 3</td>
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*All NSCA meetings are at 7:30pm in the cafeteria of North Springfield Elementary School unless otherwise noted.*
HUMAN REMAINS RECOVERED NEARBY
As you may have seen in the news or heard from a neighbor, Fairfax County Police recovered the remains of a 15-year old female believed to be Damaris “Alexandra” Reyes Rivas of Gaithersburg, MD this past Saturday. Ms. Reyes Rivas had been missing since December 10, 2016. Police believe she was brought against her will to Lake Accotink Park before being assaulted and killed with her body disposed near the railroad tracks along Wimsatt Road by the Washington Post Springfield Plant. During the search, several officers accessed the wooded area near the railroad tracks through the terminus of Heming Avenue; however, no evidence has suggested that the North Springfield neighborhood was used access the location where Reyes Rivas’s body was found. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has ruled Ms. Rivas’ death a homicide. This case has been part of an ongoing, two-month investigation involving several jurisdictions including Fairfax County, Prince William County, and Montgomery County, MD. Fairfax County Police have worked swiftly and diligently. Within days of the discovery, they made a total of ten arrests in connection with Reyes Rivas’
murder. Ms. Reyes Rivas’ case is connected to two other recent teenage disappearances: Venus Iraheta and Lizzy Colindres (along with Lizzy’s 5-month old son). Iraheta returned home on her own accord yesterday is said to have direct involvement with the case. She was among those taken into custody. Additionally, the father of Lizzy Colindres’ baby is involved in the group of primary suspects and has also been apprehended. Police confirmed all three cases are gang related but would not disclose which gang it was so not as to give them credibility. Of the ten arrests, half are charged with murder with only two of those five being adults.

Reyes Rivas was reported missing on December 10th, and police confirmed today that they believe she died around January 8th (a month before her remains were recovered). The police continue to post updates to the case on their blog: [https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/author/fcpdpio](https://fcpdnews.wordpress.com/author/fcpdpio).

Anyone with any leads should contact Fairfax County police at (703) 691-2131 or Crime Solvers by visiting [http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or texting “TIP187” to CRIMES(274637).

The NSCA board is very concerned with the safety of our residents. Our Neighborhood Watch volunteers, while not police officers, do patrol North Springfield regularly and work closely with law enforcement to report suspicious activity. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer, please contact Jeff Schaefer at [jeff.a.schaefer@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.a.schaefer@gmail.com).

Thank you, and please continue to be vigilant. Hug your children, and if they are teenagers, please ask them if they have any information about the case.

### BRADDOCK ROAD MULTI-MODAL STUDY

For the past three years, a task force has looked at proposed improvements to Braddock Road from Guinea Rd. to the Beltway. This task force, convened by Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, presented their first recommended plan on February 6th. The slides from their presentation can be found here: [https://goo.gl/aKUolO](https://goo.gl/aKUolO).

This project does not have a direct impact on North Springfield itself but may on the commutes of our residents. Their meeting minutes and other relevant items can be found here: [http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockroadmeetings.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/braddock/braddockroadmeetings.htm).
TRIPLE P: PROBLEMS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT by Ken Balbuena
This regular feature highlights an issue or concern raised to me and/or other members of the NSCA Board. Here is this month’s topic:

Leaf Collection As a County Service in North Springfield

Q: The county collects leaves in certain locations but not in North Springfield? Why can’t we have that?

Last month we shared that Fairfax County’s Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) made an administrative change to collecting leaves and other yard waste with this change scheduled to be effective July 1st. Additionally, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors had scheduled a public hearing for January 24th to consider amending Fairfax County Code.

Fortunately, public outcry to the supervisors was extensive throughout the county, and one supervisor in particular (Herrity, Springfield District) was very adamant that this change was never approved by the Board of Supervisors. As such, the Board of Supervisors decided at 2:45pm the day before the public hearing to indefinitely postpone the public hearing until the Board’s environmental committee was able to discuss the matter in greater detail.

Nonetheless, last month’s letter and some of the news leading up to it prompted several residents to ask me about the possibility of getting the County services to collect leaves for us. Like with anything that requires getting government approval, there is a process. There are two things to know before getting to the process part. First, the county only provides waste management, recycling, and leaf removal services from Solid Waste Collection Areas (also known as Sanitary Districts). Second, these areas can be designated for trash removal-only or designated for trash and leaf removal. They cannot, however, just be designated solely for leaf removal.

Now let’s look at the numbers:

- The process involves petitioning North Springfield residents. In order to be declared a Solid Waste Collection Area, neighborhoods must have 55% of all residents in favor of the measure. With 2,480 total homes, this equates to 1,364 homes being in favor. To put things in perspective, during the Leesville traffic calming efforts, we fell just short of getting 132 votes out of a pool of 264 to meet the 50% response rate requirement – and that’s just getting people to respond and doesn’t consider the favorability rate. In my estimation, it is likely that we would get the 1,364 homes to approve of such a measure.

- According to Fairfax County’s tax rates for FY 2017, a $500k house would cost about $420 per year that would be tacked onto everyone’s personal property tax ($345 for solid waste/refuse + $0.015 per $100 x $500k for leaf collection). With the negotiated Republic collection rate (which is slightly higher than the American Disposal rate) of at $78.50/qtr, an annual cost would be $314/year. Seniors paying the $69.50/qtr senior citizen rate have an annual cost of $278. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors can raise or lower the tax rate for any fiscal year. To this point, the FY 2018 proposed tax rates that will be officially voted on by the Board of Supervisors in May. The County Executive has proposed keeping the solid waste/refuse rate the same at $345 but has proposed lowering the leaf collection rate to $0.013 per $100. In the $500k housing example, this will result in only a $10 net reduction over the FY 2017 among and equates to $410 per year – still in excess of NSCA’s negotiated private collection rates of $278 - $314 per year.

As you can see, while the thought of getting the County to provide leaf collection services is commendable, it is not a cost effective solution that would result in everyone in the community’s property taxes raising at a rate that exceeds the cost of paying for private trash collection.

So what NSCA can do, however, is work with VDOT to have the main thoroughfare streets (e.g. Heming, Leesville, etc.) swept once per year. VDOT has done this for us in the past. Spring is the best time for this to happen because of the leaves and the snow crud that is left in the street.

Other options are hiring teens to clean up the leaves in your yard and getting volunteers – perhaps to supplement the “clean up” aspect of Clean Up Day – to take charge of a wide-scale cleanup effort in the community’s common areas. Any volunteers?
TRASH TALKING
We now have negotiated rates with American Disposal and Republic Services for a “North Springfield” rate. Here are the details:

**American Disposal**
- Regular: $75/qtr ($25/mo)
- Senior: $69/qtr ($23/mo)
- Senior Age: 62 years old

**Republic Services**
- Regular: $78.50/qtr ($26.17/mo)
- Senior: $69.50/qtr ($23.17/mo)
- Senior Age: 60 years old

The Republic rate is valid through January 1, 2018, and the American Rate is valid through February 1, 2018. You may receive this rate at any time throughout this period, but you will be required to commit to a 1-year contract effective the billing cycle following your agreement. If you are a current resident already using either company, you will need to call your respective provider and specifically ask for the “North Springfield Rate.” Neither company will scour their records list to make automatic changes, nor will any company retroactively apply these discounts (i.e. if you call up American and ask for this rate in July, the won’t credit your bill back to February when NSCA made this agreement).

Two things to note before making your phone call:

1. Check your bill before calling. Republic and American have made individual agreements with residents. Your rate might be lower than the negotiated rate, but we have also heard of residents who are now enjoying their rates being lowered from $110/qtr (a 32% savings).
2. Republic’s call center is located in Raleigh, NC. Some of the customer service representatives (seemingly those working weekend shifts) are unaware of these specialized rates. Please let them know NSCA negotiated these rates with a supervisor in the Fairfax, VA office located on Ox Road and that it should be noted in the system. If issues persist, please contact us.

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**Email:** stjohnscece@aol.com
**703-256-7748**

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METRO BUS LINES 17A, 17B, and 17M by Ken Balbuena

Many of our residents have expressed concern over the proposed elimination of the above Metrobus lines that were proposed for elimination in Metro’s FY18 budget. The president of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association joined me in a 4-page letter to Metro’s GM with copies to several elected officials. Among those officials included in the letter was Supervisor Cathy Hudgins of the Hunter Mill District, who is the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors’ liaison to the Metro board. I received a phone call from Supervisor Hudgins’ Chief of Staff who assured me that Supervisor Hudgins has heard us. She generally has been a champion for issues adversely affecting lower-income residents, and while North Springfield or Ravensworth Farm do not have an overwhelming number of low-income families in our communities, we tried to paint the picture that there are a good number of them who likely rely on Metrobus. The letter included five direct quotes from emails/Facebook posts generated by affected residents. Here are some excerpts:

- The $1,293,904 cost savings Metro would receive for eliminating these routes...only less than half of 1% of the identified $290 million gap and 0.04% of Metro’s $3.1 billion FY18 proposed budget.

- Furthermore, the alternative service listed in the plan would only physically reach our communities along Braddock Road. The proposal itself even states, “Braddock Road between I-395 and Little River Turnpike and along Queensberry Avenue, Heming Avenue, Leesville Boulevard, Backlick Road and Edsall Road would have no alternative service.” Nearly 70% of the current roads accessible by Metro would no longer have bus service (23 streets down to 7) – and that does not account for the number of stops along each of these streets.

- This change would be penny-wise but pound-foolish.

- The mission of Metro is to create a system that “enhances mobility [and] improves the quality of life.” This change would not be fulfilling Metro’s mission.

- Lastly, the Metro Board previously recommended to eliminate bus service within our communities in 1985 after 23 years of operation. Now 32 years later, ridership is still relatively high, and several of our residents still benefit from Metro.

---

**Current Map**

| Total Bus Stops | 24 |
| Number of Streets Residents Can Access Buses | 23 |

**Proposed Map**

| Total Bus Stops | 7 |
| Number of Streets Residents Can Access Buses | 7 |

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Bill Amery, North Springfield Native

Please feel free to contact me to discuss any Real Estate Issues.

North Springfield Civic Association

March 2017
Many of our residents have expressed concern over the proposed elimination of the above Metrobus lines that likely rely on Metrobus. The letter included five direct quotes from emails/Facebook posts generated by affected Supervisor Hudgins has heard us. She generally has been a champion for issues adversely affecting lower-income residents. Presently, many of our streets are unserved by Metrobus.

The $1,293,904 cost savings Metro would receive for eliminating these routes…only less than half of the identified $290 million gap and 0.04% of Metro’s $3.1 billion FY18 proposed budget.

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For membership information contact Alicia Ward at 703-333-5084 or membershipNSSC@gmail.com
For general questions contact Dana Cibulski at 703-642-0375 or danacibulski@cox.net

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COMMUNITY SERVICE YOUTH AWARDS

Does your son or daughter want to earn $100, $200, or $300 in recognition for dedicated community service? Then encourage them to apply for NSCA’s Community Service Youth Awards Program (Sponsored by Eagle Bank).

NSCA is now accepting applications for NSCA’s 2016-17 term. We had 10 applicants last year. Let’s try to increase that number. You can download an application here: https://goo.gl/uhRBY2.

These awards recognize youth who demonstrate civic mindedness through community service. Three recipients are recognized annually, one at the elementary ($100 cash award), middle ($200 cash award), and high school ($300 cash award) levels. NSCA hopes this award will encourage young residents to become involved in & see the value of volunteerism. For the purpose of this application, community service is defined as a not-for-pay activity performed by the applicant, either individually or as part of a group, solely for the benefit of the public or a public institution. The application deadline is March 30. Winners will be recognized at NSCA’s May 3rd meeting.

FLAG RUN PARK UPDATE

There’s been a bit of a hold up on the Flag Run Clean Up project. With the restoration of the Flag Run body of water, the County’s office who assists with invasive plant removal does not want to dedicate their resources when the area will be cleared in a year or two by way of the stream restoration. Undeterred, the team of...
volunteers consisting of residents Caryn Chmielewski, Ken Hockenberry, and Dwight George will proceed with another phase of the project: Polling the residents in the surrounding area (approximately 39 homes) to see whether 1) They want something done to the park and 2) What would they want to see. A similar poll was conducted by NSCA in 1982, and the decision was to let the park be as it is. Clearly, that has not been a sustainable option. Tax records suggest that only approximately 5 of the 39 residents from 1982 may still be living in those homes. Given how the park looks today, perhaps they’ve had a change of heart.

**MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS**

Finding four generations all living in the same neighborhood is unheard of. Meet the Stanton Family. Esmond “Ed” Stanton of Leesville led NSCA’s beautification efforts for many years. He also served as NSCA’s Parks & Recreation chair and led several initiatives such as installing entrance signs and fundraising. His crew of “Mighty Mowers” maintained the neighborhood’s common areas.

The second Stanton generation is Bill and his wife Joy also of Leesville. Bill recalled that he had an extremely safe neighborhood growing up. The large groups of kids that were constantly playing outside was “a big consideration for Joy and I when we returned to North Springfield, as we wanted our kids to get to experience a great neighborhood.”

The final two generations living in North Springfield, Karen Mast, her husband Zach, and their children (one in the world and one on the way), jumped on the opportunity to move into their Long Pine home. “I was excited my kids will grow up in the same neighborhood that my parents and I did...attend the same elementary school and play at Lake Accotink and the North Springfield pool just like I did growing up. It will be fun to experience it all again through their eyes and tell them what’s changed over the past 50+ years.”

Let us know if have someone in mind for this feature.

Let us know if have someone in mind for this feature.
**DUES AND DONATIONS**

Don’t forget that NSCA relies on your annual dues and generous contributions to maintain a high-quality neighborhood and to provide social/resource events to help unite the community. NSCA has developed three donation tiers, and we will do our best to recognize every donor in each tier in our newsletter. If we’ve missed your name on this list, please email tbarnesva@cox.net and we will include you next month. The tiers are as follows:

1. **Bronze**: Donors who contributed between $10-$24 (in addition to $15 dues)
2. **Silver**: Donors who contributed between $25-$49 (in addition to $15 dues)
3. **Gold**: Donors who contributed more than $50 (in addition to $15 dues).

Help us go for the gold, and visit mkt.com/nscivic today! Thank you for your support. Here are our donors from January & February:

**GOLD ($50+)
Gale Allen • Courtney Brown & Anthony Zerante • Bea Clark • Andrea Diconi • Kathleen Goehner • Robert Horvath • Donald Lawson • Alma Long • Marlene MacMillin • Robert Richards • Joanne Sieve • James & Kerry Jane Sterns • Marty & Lynda Stewart • Kief & Gretchen Tackaberry • Eugene Williams**

**SILVER ($25-$49)
Jeanne & Lawrence Bond • Lyman Butler • Dana Cibulski & Scott Bronstein • The Delaney Family • Charles & Sherry Ebben • Nonia Gay & Kyle Jones • Ron Kinzer • Billy & Jeannette Linkous • Carolyn McWright David & Nancy Moore • Don Neff • Andrew Nguyen & Laurà Fink • Maureen & Anthony Ratcliff • Tracey Reed • Krista Sharp • Wells Wilson**

**BRONZE ($10-$24)
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HUMAN REMAINS RECOVERED NEARBY
As you may have seen in the news or heard from a neighbor, Fairfax County Police recovered the remains of a 15-year old female believed to be Damaris “Alexandra” Reyes Rivas of Gaithersburg, MD this past Saturday. Ms. Reyes Rivas had been missing since December 10, 2016. Police believe she was brought against her will to Lake Accotink Park before being assaulted and killed with her body disposed near the railroad tracks along Wimsatt Road by the Washington Post Springfield Plant. During the search, several officers accessed the wooded area near the railroad tracks through the terminus of Heming Avenue; however, no evidence has suggested that the North Springfield neighborhood was used access the location where Reyes Rivas’s body was found. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has ruled Ms. Rivas’ death a homicide. This case has been part of an ongoing, two-month investigation involving several jurisdictions including Fairfax County, Prince William County, and Montgomery County, MD. Fairfax County Police have worked swiftly and diligently. Within days of the discovery, they made a total of ten arrests in connection with Reyes Rivas’
SENIOR OUTREACH VOLUNTEERING by Kathe Conrad

My dog, Casper, and I have made regular visits to a nearby nursing home and assisted living facility for several years as Fairfax Pets on Wheels (FPOW) volunteers. Casper, who is a senior himself, cheers up the residents who once had pets themselves. They look forward to running their hands through his thick Sheltie fur and telling him how handsome he is. I look forward to seeing people’s eyes light up when they see us coming. FPOW is a good volunteer fit for me. If you are interested in volunteering with your pet, there is more information at www.fpow.org. Other opportunities for getting involved can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults. Click on Volunteer Solutions – Help with Older Adults. The Golden Gazette Feb issue also highlights volunteer opportunities and other programs of interest, http://littleriverglenseniorcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/golden-gazette.pdf.

There are many activities going on for older adults in Fairfax, and I want to highlight one place that is unique in our neighborhood which has a lot going on. In North Springfield, we are lucky to have the Wakefield Senior Center nearby. It is located in the Audrey Moore REC center and offers lots of opportunities to older adults for exercise and learning at a nominal fee. If you are a member, you can pay an additional $20/month and use the rest of the facility between 10 am and 2 pm. Please contact the program coordinator Rebecca Boone at rebecca.boone2@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 321-3000 for more information.

MINI MEMBERSHIP FORM

NSCA Annual Membership is $15.00. In addition, your donations are greatly appreciated and help us to keep the neighborhood beautiful, safe and connected. Beginning in 2017 we would like to thank you for your donation by listing your name in the newsletter and online in the following donation categories: Bronze - $10.00-$24.00 Silver - $25.00-$49.00 Gold - $50.00+

With your donation of $10.00 or more (in addition to dues) may we include your name on our list of Donors?  Yes  No

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Phone: __________________________ Date: ____________ Amount Paid: __________________

Email (Only if your email is new or not already on our list) ____________________________________________

New Resident?  Yes  No

Payment Methods: By check (mail to Post Office Box above), Credit Card at mkt.com/nsciv

Please Consider Volunteering with NSCA

Contact Information: Name: __________________________ E-Mail: __________________________ Phone: __________________________

Please check area(s) of interest and include your contact information above:

- Beautification
- Membership
- Neighborhood Watch
- Federation of Citizen Associations
- Planning and Zoning
- Community Social Events
- Special Interest Programs
- Neighbor Welcome Outreach
- Other (Specify Below)

Suggestions and/or Topics for Meeting Programs:

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