

APRIL 2022



PO Box 1007 | Springfield, VA 22151
www.nscivic.org

President's Message

Hello North Springfield Neighbors. This is my final newsletter article as the North Springfield Civic Association (NSCA) President. It's been an unusual and rewarding time being part of NSCA during COVID.

This year, the NSCA had some great accomplishments and some challenges. We started out holding our first meeting in person in October where we had candidates Vivian Watts and Maureen Brody as our guest speakers. But after the rise in COVID rates, we returned to ZOOM meetings, which we will continue to do through our April meeting. Despite our return to online meetings, we were able to have several guest speakers, including the Fairfax County Fire Department, the Friends of Accotink Creek, and the Fairfax County Waste Management Department.

I'd like to recognize the efforts of our volunteers, starting with our newsletter team, who did an amazing job assembling, editing, and distributing the newsletters. In particular, I'd like to thank Nancy Moore, our newsletter coordinator, who helped us tremendously by getting local companies to advertise in the newsletter. It is expensive to print nearly 2,000 copies of our newsletter every three months. The advertising revenue combined with your membership dues cover the printing costs.

Our beautification committee did an outstanding job in our community. The co-chairs Dana Cibulski and Calvin Coleman put in a lot of time, energy, and funds into the committee. Thank you to them and their wonderful team of volunteers! We had several families participate in "Adopt a Sign" where they adopted and maintained one of the North Springfield entrances. But not everything can be done by volunteers. This year we hired vendors to help us cut back some of the overgrown shrubbery along Leesville Blvd and to take down the dying Bradford Pear Trees at the Leesville entrance. We also used some of our funds to help pay for mowing of our common areas.

My last request as NSCA President is to ask you to join the North Springfield Civic Association. Many of our activities are paid by the \$15 annual membership dues and donations. By joining you are truly helping your community.

Thank you again for being such a great neighborhood!

Sincerely,

Craig Delaney



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SAVE THE DATE!

SPRUCE UP NORTH SPRINGFIELD DAY
Saturday, April 23 • 10:00 am–2:00 pm

NEXT GENERAL MEETING:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13 • 7:30 PM

The NSCA General Meeting will be held on Zoom. A link will be emailed to members in good standing (paid Calendar Year 2021/2022 dues). All residents are welcome. If you would like to attend, email Newsletter@NSCIVIC.org requesting a link with your home address.



GO GREEN
SIGN UP FOR AN eNEWSLETTER

Help us help the environment without missing any issues of the NSCA newsletter by signing up to receive an electronic-only format. You will no longer receive the hard copy of the newsletter but will be among the first to receive the newsletter when it is published. Sign up by emailing Nancy Moore at newsletter@nscivic.org. Please include your street address along with the email addresses you'd like to have the newsletter sent to.



NSCA Election Scheduled for May 4, 2022

NSCA ELECTION DATE SET

The NSCA General Election is scheduled to be held in the parking lot of the North Springfield Pool on May 4, 2022 at 7:30 pm. This is a tentative location pending approval by the pool board. Please check our website, <http://www.nscivic.org>, for updates. All members in good standing (paid dues of \$15.00 for CY 2022) are invited to attend and vote.

2022-2023 NSCA OFFICER'S SLATE

The NSCA Nominating Committee has convened and selected the slate of officers for the 2022-2023 term. Floor nominations will also be accepted. Residents interested in running for any of these officer positions must be a member of the NSCA in good standing (dues paid for this term) in order to be eligible per the NSCA Bylaws. For a description of each position, please visit <http://nscivic.org/bylaws.html>.

PRESIDENT – Jeff Schaefer TREASURER – Open
 VICE PRESIDENT – Scott Pratt* SECRETARY – Julie Steven*
 *Denotes Incumbent

Impact of the Internet and COVID-19 on Real Estate

By Pat Sawhney • RE/MAX100

The Internet allows us to work on our desktops, iPads and iPhones. Over the years, workers have transitioned from working one day a week from home, to full time at home. The benefits have included less travel time, ability to spend more time with family, not having to dress up (except maybe for Zoom calls), ability to spend time with newly acquired pets, and more.

Viewing our surroundings in this new light is leading to home expansion/renovations and, possibly, deciding to move to a larger home or farther out for a larger home and more land. Statistically, more people are moving to western Loudoun County, for instance.

If COVID-19 hadn't reared its ugly head would people have returned to their offices? After working from home for a couple years, not going back to the office is a new trend that may be here to stay. Among those who have a workplace outside of their homes, a 61% majority said they are choosing to work from home, while the remainder said they're remote because their workplace is closed or unavailable to them. This is up from 54%.

Among people who rarely, if ever, worked from home before the pandemic are choosing to do so now. 64% said working from home has improved their work-life balance. 44% say remote work has made it easier for them to get work done and meet deadlines. However, 60% feel less connected to colleagues.

Renovators have been bombarded with work, material cost increases, and delays in delivery. How long this trend will continue is hard to guess. Even people who are retired are renovating. The plan is to stay in place to age and not even think about moving.

(continued on page 11)



**PAT SAWHNEY
 RE/MAX 100**

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 PatSawhney42@gmail.com
 See my video:
 GetMovingwithPat.com

Here's what Pat Sawhney can do for you:

- Advice on getting your home organized & renovated
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- Negotiating and advocating for your best interests

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SPRUCE UP NORTH SPRINGFIELD!

Saturday, April 23

By Dana Cibulski and Calvin Coleman, Co-Chairs
NSCA Beautification Committee

We are excited to announce a neighborhood-wide event in celebration of Earth Day. The North Springfield Civic Association is teaming with the NS Swim Club, NS Elementary School, our Community Officer from the Fairfax County Police Department, and the Supervisor of the Braddock District, James Walkinshaw, to coordinate a "Spruce up North Springfield" Day on April 23rd (Rain Date – April 30th).

Meet and Greet • 10:00–11:00 am

North Springfield Swim Club • 5604 Earlehurst Street at Leesville Boulevard
Coffee, donuts, and water provided. Two paper yard waste bags per family will be available, until supplies last, courtesy of the NSCA. Martha Wilson, NS neighbor and Master Gardener, will be available to answer gardening questions.

Neighborhood Spruce Up • 11:00 AM–2:00 pm

What NS areas need work? How can you help? You could clean up your own yard or work with a group to clean up a stretch of your street. For a list of suggested tasks or areas in need of sprucing up, please visit [NSCA Board: Spruce Up North Springfield!](#) on signuption.com or email the Beautification Committee at beautification@nscivic.org. Also, you might consider helping a neighbor (with their permission) by cleaning up their front yard, curb, etc. Here are just some of the general tasks that we are suggesting:

- Pick up litter & cut away/remove dead branches, bushes, plants from front yards;
- Remove/haul away old, unwanted, 'junk' items;
- Clean yard debris and litter from gutter areas and curbs that block sewers;
- Remove outdated signs/fliers from telephone poles, streets corners, etc.; and
- If you live near a creek, you could pick up litter in the creek.

Why are we doing this? Unfortunately, for the third year in a row, Fairfax County has cancelled their annual Cleanup Day, due to Covid-19 and staff shortages. NSCA is asking that neighbors use this day to collaborate and tackle cleanup projects.

Good opportunity for community service! If you are a member of a team, organization, scout, or youth group, consider using this day to work as a team on a larger area to help your neighborhood. You can also earn community service hours! Please keep in mind that youth groups must have their own adult supervision. No unaccompanied minors can be dropped off.

Do you need assistance with cleanup in your front yard? If you are a neighbor who needs help with a cleanup project in your front yard, please contact us. You could be a senior citizen, have a temporary illness or injury, physically challenged, or just need a little help. If you need help, or know a neighbor who needs help, please let us know.

Disposal of litter, yard waste, etc. NO DUMPSTER will be provided. We ask that you dispose of all collected litter, yard waste, and other junk items yourself. Thank you!

Questions? Please contact the co-chairs at beautification@nscivic.org or call Dana Cibulski at (703)v642-0375. 🌟



When Do I Become a Senior Citizen?

By: Marie Norman

Now that the Baby Boomers have almost all turned 65, the question of when one becomes a senior citizen is a topic of interest to a new generation. According to a 2010 Del Webb Baby Boomer Survey, people said the term "senior citizen" does not apply to them because they don't 'feel' like a senior. They described themselves as still being active and young at heart. In the same survey, 96% of 50-year-olds also rejected the term. The 64-year-olds who embraced the term did so primarily for economic reasons, because they are now eligible for Senior Discounts.

Interestingly, when asked to pinpoint when "old age" begins, both the oldest and youngest Boomers selected ages well beyond them. The youngest said a person becomes old at age 78, while the oldest said that old age begins at 80.

So, what does the term "Senior Citizen" mean? The answer varies widely. The term was first coined during a 1938 political campaign as a euphemism for "old person", and now enjoys widespread usage in the common vernacular. The term is often shortened to 'senior'.

In legislation, the term applies to the age at which pensions, social security or medical benefits for the elderly become available. Traditionally people have been eligible to retire with full Social Security benefits at age 65. Because of increases in average life expectancy and stresses on the federal budget, Congress has passed legislation to gradually increase the full retirement age from 65 to 67 by 2027.

In business, the term 'senior' is often used in regards to special discounts and customer loyalty programs. Receiving an AARP card in the mail is a rite of passage for those turning 50. All of this is to say that the boundary line between middle age and old age in our society cannot be defined exactly because governments and organizations don't apply standard definitions. Associate Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., who retired from the Supreme Court in 1932 at the age of 90 once said, "Old is fifteen years older than I am now."

So, if you are a senior, think you might be a senior, or are going to become one soon, get yourself on the Senior Contact List by emailing us at seniors@nscivic.org. We'll try our best to keep you up to date on what's going on in North Springfield and Fairfax County. 🌟

Note: The above article was borrowed from the Senior Citizen's Guide to Indianapolis, Indiana.

In Memory of “Coach” Sandy Kauffman (1942–2022)



Lovingly called “Coach Sandy” or “Grandma Sandy” by her students, family, and friends, Sandra Kauffman died on February 9, 2022. She was 79 years old. Extremely fit and active, her death came early and unexpectedly. She was enjoying her retirement and love of life, family and friends while with her sister, Kathy, in Florida. A 50 -year resident of North Springfield and member of the North Springfield Swim Club, she moved with her family into

a house in the neighborhood in 1972. The reason she and her husband bought that particular house was because it was so close to the swim club. Swimming, lifeguarding, and love of water started at an early age. Born in Reading, PA, she met her husband at their local swim club as lifeguards, married, then when he joined the Navy, they moved to several different bases in New York, Florida, Rhode Island, Georgia, and Michigan. Sandy enjoyed being a Navy Captain’s wife, entertaining, socializing with the other officers, and even organizing fashion shows and hosting parties with the wives. She was extremely popular and known to be creative and fun-loving.

This 5’3” dynamo was best known as the long-time NSSC Dolphin Head Swim Coach for more than 30 years and was the Aquatics Director at the Audrey Moore Rec Center for 15 years. Coach Sandy’s legacy is that she taught swimming and love of water to hundreds of young (“and old”) people in our community. “Sandy was the first swim coach I ever had,” said Tiffany Edwards (formerly Wattenbarger). “I fell in love with swimming because of her and she passed her passion on to me and all those who came before and after me.” Tiffany was a Dolphin swimmer from 1994–2006 and was Sandy’s Assistant Coach from 2004–08. Madison Cruz, now a first-year student in college, and a Dolphin swimmer who took private lessons from 2011–2019, said, “Grandma Sandy taught me to always work hard to achieve success. I will remember how she would tell me to use my legs for power in my breaststroke. She always joked that she wanted me to grow just a little taller to be even faster!” Coach Sandy was very dedicated to the love and safety of swimming, as she personally trained many of the lifeguards at the swim club and the entire area, even conducting CPR and Red Cross First Aid Training at her home.

“Sandy did life” said her daughter Dori Krause. Sandy had a wide range of passions -- baseball, cooking, music, and the Special Olympics. She was a huge Washington Nationals fan. She loved recounting the latest rosters, stats, and records of all baseball teams. At her sister’s home in Florida, a ‘baseball-themed’ Christmas tree is dedicated to all things baseball and remains up all year. Her cooking was a life-long love, starting as that young Navy Captain’s wife, a mom and later for her grandchildren and friends. Sandy was a musician and loved going to concerts ranging from Bruce

MEMORIAL SERVICE CELEBRATING SANDY KAUFFMAN

Saturday, April 30th • 12:00 pm–3:00 pm
Twin Lakes Golf Course Clubhouse
6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton, VA

Springsteen, Bob Dylan, Jimmy Buffett, Brazilian groups, to her recent favorite, the brassy funk group, the Lucky Chops. She taught percussion and how to read music to her grandchildren. Max, her grandson, a junior at Annandale High School and a percussionist in the band would often share and discuss the music they were learning at school. Often seen with her other grandson, Eddie, who has autism, she would bring him to the swim club daily, working with him on his swimming. Teaching him to play the xylophone, Eddie’s rendition of the “Star Spangled Banner” before the swim meets became a crowd favorite. Sandy taught special needs students through the Fairfax County Park Authority. She felt strongly about “treating individuals like everyone else” shared her daughter, Dori, who is continuing her mom’s passion of swimming by coaching a Masters Swim Team at Audrey Moore.

“She was really happy,” shared her daughters Deb and Dori. Deb Kauffman said, “Mom started taking Portuguese classes 10 years ago”, inspired by her dear friend, Elisabeth, who is Brazilian. “She inspired me, and I started taking lessons with her. She worked so hard in the weekly classes to improve her accent, fluidity, and vocabulary.” She had the pleasure of traveling to Brazil six times over these last years of her life. Coach Sandy was resilient, eager to learn, and was fun-loving late into her life. At 69 she was still training lifeguards and up until the end, she was traveling and learning foreign languages.

Sandy leaves behind her three children, Deb, Dori and Danny. Her eldest child, Denise or “Denny” died in 2014. All four children grew up in North Springfield and her two daughters still live in the neighborhood. Of her five grandchildren, Eddie and Max live in the North Springfield neighborhood. Sadie, Laura, and Danny live in Ocean City, MD and share Grandma Sandy’s love of swimming and music. She was truly beloved and seen as a grandmother figure to many young neighbors. Olivia Cruz, currently a junior at Annandale HS, remembers when she was 2 and she first met Grandma Sandy in the “Mommy and Me’ class at Audrey Moore. Later, when her family joined the swim club, Olivia took private lessons for 8 years with Sandy and still frequently makes the All Stars NVSL team.

“She was a pillar of North Springfield, and the entire neighborhood grieves for her”, said Anne Goodwin who knew Sandy as both a long-time neighbor and student of hers at Audrey Moore.

A memorial is scheduled to honor Sandy on Saturday, April 30th at the Twin Lakes Golf Course clubhouse, 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton from 12:00–3:00 pm. In lieu of flowers, the family asks for donations to honor two of their mom’s favorite interests: the North Springfield Swim Club and the Special Olympics. 🌟

NORTH SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA UPDATE

By Caryn Chmielewski



Congratulations to all of the Spelling Bee participants!

Spelling Bee – It has been a busy 2022 at North Springfield ES! In February, the PTA sponsored the first ever Spelling Bee! It was a lot of fun and the students had a blast. The winner, Annabelle Avriett, a 5th grader, advanced to the Fairfax County Spelling Bee held on March 20th. We are so proud of all the students that had the courage to participate.

Math-a-Thon – The school just wrapped up their weeklong Math-a-Thon, which began on March 14th, also known as Pi Day, and ends Sunday, March 20th. Students were encouraged to complete math puzzles and a few lucky students got to “Pi the Principals”! As of this writing, over \$8,000 have been raised and we are just over 80% towards our \$10,000 goal. All funds raised go directly to the PTA to help support the school.

Family Movie Night / April 22 – On Friday, April 22nd, the PTA will host a Family Movie Night, showing *Encanto*, at 6:00 pm at the school. Admission is free but dinner can be pre-ordered or bought at the event and concessions will be available for purchase. Concession proceeds go to the fifth grade class activities.

Spring Fair / May 13 – North Springfield ES and the NSES PTA will hold a Spring Fair on Friday, May 13th from 5:00 pm–8:00 pm with a rain date set for the following Friday. Admission is free but



Surprise! You've been flocked with flamingos.

tickets can be purchased for games. There will be lots of games, activities, and entertainment plus we expect to have at least two food trucks. We are looking for volunteers to help with running games and activities. This would be a great opportunity for any students looking for volunteer or community service hours. Please email nsefair@gmail.com for more information.

Ongoing Fundraisers – Lastly, there are a few ongoing fundraisers that everyone is encouraged to support, whether you are a parent of a student at NSES or a community member.

- Every Thursday, you can order dinner from Papa Johns and use the promo code NSES4010 for 40% off regular menu prices. 10% of the sales to the NSES PTA.
- Through the Amazon Smiles program, whenever you make a purchase with Amazon, you can support the NSES PTA. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and sign in with your Amazon credentials. Search North Springfield Elem PTA and select it as your Amazon Smiles recipient.
- Want to celebrate someone in the neighborhood in a fun and unique way? Request a Flamingo Flocking! Go to <https://www.nsespta.org/NSES-PTA-Home/fundraising/flocking> to submit your order. 🌟



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NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB • OPENING ON MAY 28!

By: Dana Cibulski



May 28th marks the opening of our neighborhood swim club and the unofficial start of summer. We are planning another “fun-tastic” season! Located at the intersection of Leesville Boulevard and Earlehurst Street, the club will be open 7 days a week (weather and safety permitting). We will have Grill Nights on Wednesdays and food trucks on Fridays, sponsor youth swim and dive teams, and host social events for kids and adults.

NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Want to join a fun club that is a short distance away, where you can cool off during hot summer days, and support the neighborhood? Contact our membership director, Ken Balbuena at membershipnssc@gmail.com.

NSSC ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING & NEWSLETTER

The annual newsletter will be sent via email to members on April 11th. Membership fees are due May 15th. If you do NOT receive the newsletter, want a hard copy, need to update your email address, or know someone who did not receive the newsletter, contact the membership director listed above. Our annual members' meeting is Monday, April 25, 7:00 pm, via Zoom. Sign on and meet the Board of Directors and Advisors, vote on the new Board members, and hear about the upcoming pool season.

ARE YOU A TEEN LOOKING FOR A SUMMER JOB?

We are hiring front desk staff (must be 14 years or older), lifeguards (15 or older) and pool operators (16 or older). Priority is given to members of the swim club, but exceptions may be made for outstanding workers. Applicants, please register for lifeguard courses NOW! Check out the courses through the Fairfax County Park Authority and the American Red Cross. Applications for both returning and new lifeguards are due April 30. Questions and completed application forms should be sent by email to Kathy Ayers at kaayers@fcps.edu. Employment application forms will be available after April 1 on our website: www.ns-sc.org.

DIVE COACHES, WE ARE HIRING!

We are looking for a new head dive coach. Candidates must be available the following days/times: practices begin June 1st, Monday-Friday from 6:00-7:30 pm and then June 13th-July 31st and practices are Monday-Friday from 9:00-11:00 am. The dive meets are Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm. Previous dive experience is required, coaching experience desirable. Salary depends on experience. Please email Celeste Leyhe, the Dive Team Representative, before May 1 at celesteleyhe@yahoo.com.

NSSC DOLPHIN SWIM AND DIVE TEAMS

The Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL) is planning a full summer season and the NSSC Dolphin Swim and Dive teams will be competing. Practices will begin in June and your kids will want in on the fun. If you have questions about the teams, contact Katie Wayne, Dolphin Swim Team Representative at ns.dolphin.swim@gmail.com or Celeste Leyhe, Dolphin Dive Team Representative at celesteleyhe@yahoo.com. Go Dolphins!

For more information about employment, membership, or other questions, please check our website: <http://www.ns-sc.org>. And follow us on Facebook @ North Springfield Swim Club. See you at the pool this summer! 🌟



North Springfield Swim Club

Looking Ahead to Another Great Summer!
Opening on Saturday, May 28, 2022

Home of the Dolphins Swim & Dive Teams
Swim Lessons • Lap Swimming • Water Aerobics
Tennis Court • Pickleball Court • Basketball Court • Ping Pong
Sand Volleyball Court • Frisbee Golf • Horseshoe Pit
Family Dressing/Bathroom • Playground • Gated Baby Pool
Food Truck Fridays • Dolphin Snack Shack

For membership information contact Ken Balbuena
membershipnssc@gmail.com

www.ns-sc.org • [Facebook@North.Springfield.Swim.Club](https://www.facebook.com/North.Springfield.Swim.Club)

Tribute to Ed Stock, NSCA Beautification Chair (1977–2018)

By Nancy Moore (with input from the Stock Family)

It was a lucky day for North Springfield when Ed Stock, his wife Sandy and two children, Chuck and Sharon, moved into North Springfield! Ed was born in Ashland, KY. His parents and six sisters moved to Washington, D.C., and then to Arlington VA where he graduated from Washington-Lee High School. He attended the University of Richmond for two years and played baseball. Ed spent six years in the Army working at the White House as part of the Army Signal Agency under the Eisenhower administration. Ed and Sandy married in 1958 and moved to North Springfield in 1967. He worked for Western Electric/AT&T for 31 years while he and his wife raised their children in our wonderful community.

Ed was a kind and gentle man who you instantly liked the minute you met him! He was very involved in community service; he was a member of First Trinity Lutheran Church in D.C. for more than 60 years and served as the Minister of Facilities for much of that time. Ed coached youth sports, umpired high school softball and was a member of Northern Virginia Senior Softball for 27 years. He coached Scott Pratt, (current NSCA Vice President), and Scott remembers Ed fondly as “calm and smooth” with all the boys on the team. Ed also helped his nephew, Gary Stock, coach the Hope Lutheran softball team, for 29 years. Ed’s love of baseball endured, and he and his son enjoyed going to baseball training camp in Florida each year.

Ed became active with the NSCA as our Beautification Chair in 1977 and remained in that position for 40 years! Ed was very hands on with the beautification committee, including mowing all North Springfield entrances himself. He would tie his Toro mower to the bumper of his white Lincoln Town car and drive it around to various NS entrances. He recruited his children to help with the mowing. Sharon remembers mowing the areas on Braddock Road when it was still a two-lane road. Unfortunately, the police frowned on Ed’s method of towing the mower to the entrances, so he had to give that up!

In May 2018, Ken Balbuena, as the NSCA President, presented Ed with a Certificate



Ed Stock with his Leesville Boulevard and Appomattox sign in 2018.

of Appreciation. During Ed’s tenure, the NSCA was able to obtain two Transurban grants for beautification of our neighborhood and the installation of a water station to water newly planted trees along Leesville Blvd. Ed and his neighbor also designed and built the two wooden signs at either end of Leesville Blvd. Sadly, only one remains today. The Appomattox

sign was destroyed when a tree fell on it. Thanks to Ed and his neighbor, the sign was an iconic symbol of North Springfield for many years.

Over the years you could often find Ed working on one of his (many) cars, while laying on cardboard in front of his home on Cosgrove Place. His wonderful neighbors kept him fed with special homemade dinners after his wife Sandy died. Ed also dearly loved Willard’s BBQ and ate several hundred Costco hot dogs! He kept a stash of bakery goods in the trunk of his ’71 green Pontiac. I guess you never know when you may need a pastry!

Sadly, Ed passed away February 28th. Ed leaves behind many friends and family members. He is survived by his son Chuck Stock, his wife Kelly and his daughter Sharon Groff, her husband Steve, three grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren (with one more on the way). Ed’s nephew, Gary Stock lives in North Springfield as does Gary’s daughter Julie Stock and her daughter. So, the Stock family ties to North Springfield live on!

North Springfield is grateful for everything that Ed did for our community, and we send our deepest condolences to his family. 🌟

NSCA FY 2022 FINANCIAL DATA YTD as of 7/1/2021 – 3/15/2022

INCOME:

Dues	\$2,950.00	28%
Household Donations	\$4,245.00	41%
Advertising	\$3,286.40	31%
Other (Vendor Fair/Youth Awards)	\$0.00	0%

TOTAL: \$10,481.40

EXPENSES:

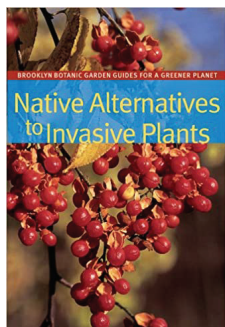
Beautification	\$2,420.00	38%
Newsletter Printing and Delivery	\$3,641.00	57%
Braddock District & Fairfax Federation Dues	-\$100.00	-2%
Community Expenses	\$100.00	2%
Administrative Expenses	\$322.85	5%

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$6,383.85

Net Income/(Loss): \$4,097.55

GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS: *The Importance of Native Plants*

By Martha Wilson



I recently enjoyed a marvelous lecture entitled “More than a Pretty Face: Native Alternatives to Invasive Exotic Plants” by C. Colston Burrell. He is a landscape architect and horticulturist, acclaimed lecturer for the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture at UVA, as well as an award-winning author and photographer, and principal of his private firm. Mr. Burrell has devoted a lifetime to studying native plants in the wild

and in gardens. You can learn more about him at <https://www.ccolstonburrell.com>.

I contacted Mr. Burrell to ask if I could share my notes from his lecture and he gave me permission to do so. He has published extensively on the subject. Check out one of his many books, *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*. The lecture was a part of the 2022, Brookside Gardens, GreenScapes Symposium in Silver Spring, MD, held February 19 on Zoom.

WHAT IS A “NATIVE” VS. A NON-NATIVE PLANT?

A native plant is one that evolved in a specific region (called eco-regions) over a sufficiently long enough time to have developed communities and mutually beneficial relationships with other plants, animals, insects, soils, bacteria, and fungi. The key is that this system evolved together, and the pieces thrive best when all are present and healthy. (Note: It happens that North Springfield lies right on the fall line between two eco-regions, the Coastal Plain, and the Piedmont of North America.)

A non-native plant is a part of a different eco-region, and it can play the same beneficial role in its home eco-region. However, a non-native plant will not fully fit or benefit our system of plants, animals, insects and specific soil bacteria and fungi.

Doug Tallamy, a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware in Newark, has written extensively on these mutually beneficial relationships. His research has been instrumental in linking the decline in insect, butterfly, bee, and bird populations to areas which no longer have sufficient native plant communities to sustain them.

WHAT IS AN INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES?

An invasive plant is a non-native plant whose introduction into a region causes (additional) harm to humans or to the eco-regions they now invade. Invasive plants alter the structure or function of the native system. A plant is invasive when it essentially out-competes and displaces native species. An invasive plant is “successful” because it has one or more of these characteristics: Rapid growth to maturity, prolific seed production, highly successful in seed dispersal or rampant vegetative spread.

Below is a sampling of Burrell’s recommendations for native plants alternatives.

Butterfly Bush, *Buddleia davidii* – Do not plant.

Spreads rapidly, invading riverbanks, reforested areas, and open fields. It forms a thick shrubby thicket choking out native species. Sold to attract butterflies, ironically.

Native Alternatives for Attracting Butterflies:

- Butterfly weed or Scarlet Bee Balm, *Monarda didyma* – Moist well drained soil. Full sun.
- Buttonbush, *Cephalanthus occidentalis* – Moist, occasionally dry to wet soil. Full to part sun.
- New Jersey Tea, *Ceanothus americanus*, Dry to moist soils. Full to partial sun.
- Summersweet, *Clethera alnifolia* – Moist, well-drained soil. Full sun to deep shade.
- Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica* – Moist, well-drained soils. Part shade.

English Ivy, *Hedera helix* – Highly invasive. Do not plant.

Cut stems at base if on trees. Sold as a ground cover.

Native Groundcover Alternatives:

- Bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi* – Dry rocky or sandy soils. Full sun to light shade.
- Creeping Phlox, *Phlox stolonifera* – Well drained soil. Full sun, part sun, or shade.
- Foam Flower, *Tiarella cordifolia* – Medium to moist soils. Part sun, shade.
- Moss Phlox, *Phlox subulate* – Well drained soil. Full sun.
- Native Pachysandra, or Allegheny spurge, *Pachysandra procumbens* – Moist soil. Part shade to shade, deciduous – not evergreen. (Usually people plant *Pachysandra terminalis*, which is evergreen. But *P. terminalis* is native to Japan, Korea & China.)
- Pussytoes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia* – Dry, gritty to rocky soil. Full to partial sun.
- Woodland Phlox, *Phlox divaricate* – Moist but well drained soil. Partial sun.

Privet, *Ligustrum sinense* – Highly invasive. Do not plant.

Outcompetes the diverse native shrub layer in woodlands and by streams, creating a monoculture which does not support bees, spiders & insects. Often sold as a landscape plant for screening.

Native Screening Alternatives:

- Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis* – Moist, well-drained soil. Full sun.
- Atlantic White Cedar (It’s not a cedar!) *Chamaecyparis thyoides* – Wet to marshland. Full sun to part sun.
- Eastern Red Cedar (Also not a cedar!) *Juniperus virginiana* – Drought tolerant, full sun.
- Inkberry, *Ilex glabra* ‘Shamrock’ – Medium to moist soils. Full sun, part sun.
- Northern Bayberry, *Morella pensylvanica* – Drought tolerant. Full sun, part shade.
- Wax Myrtle, *Morella cerifera* – Medium to wet soil. Full sun to part shade.
- Yew, Canadian Yew (Yes this one is native here in VA as well.) *Taxus canadensis*, Dry to moist soils. Sun, part sun to shade.

My hope is that these native alternatives will delight you as you get acquainted with them. I’ll continue this review in the Summer newsletter.

Happy Spring and Happy Planting! 🌸

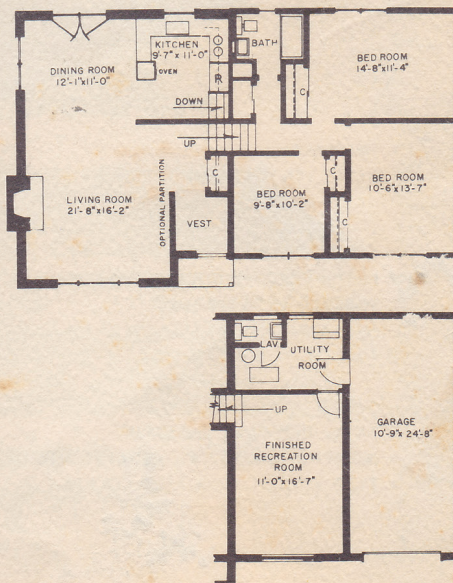
NORTH SPRINGFIELD HISTORY – PART FOUR

By Robyn Carter, North Springfield Historian

The Split Level

We created this 3-bedroom **SPLIT LEVEL** to meet the demands of the **entertainment-minded**, the **family with teenagers**, and **those who prefer** an easy to maintain two-level home with **room to expand**. Engaging features include a living room with **hearth-warming fireplace**, dining room with French doors, and an immense **finished recreation room** that does double-duty as an extra sleeping room, a study or second 'living' room for the younger set. The kitchen is what

every woman wants! While working in this modern marvel, Mother can oversee the children's outdoor activities from the picture-pretty window and enjoy a cup of coffee with a neighbor at the versatile buffet-bar. Built-in **HARDWICKE** wall oven with counter top range, easy to reach cabinets, **GE** garbage disposal, 10 cu. ft. **GE** refrigerator with freezing unit and care-free Formica counter tops are also part of this color coordinated kitchen. A master bath with good storage space, utility room with extra half bath, enclosed garage, solid oak floors, and room for future expansion are other features.



Hello Again North Springfielders!

In the last issue, I shared some brochure pages showing the early models of the houses that Edward R. Carr built in his section of North Springfield. In this issue, and over the next several, I will be highlighting the different models in The Crestwood Park section of North Springfield, built by The Crestwood Construction Corp. This time out, I present you two of the most popular models built by the company during their 1955–59 run in your neighborhood. Both images are from the builder issued sales brochure from 1956.

CRESTWOOD PARK SPLIT LEVEL

First up we have the first generation tri-level splits, which are the 3 bedroom, 2 bath, garage models with a front facing gable roof

over the second story. As the company built towards the west, they began to offer this great home with variations such as 4 bedrooms, a 3rd bath, elimination of the garage, larger recreation rooms, carports and a side facing gable over the second story.

CRESTWOOD PARK RAMBLER – THE VIRGINIAN

Next we have the ever popular Virginian, of which about 97% were built without a basement. There was some variation as to the size of the front facing dinette window, but the basic floor plan and dimensions remained the same. There were some pilot model Virginians built with basements but as noted they are more of a rarity compared to the more common slab built ones. One way to

(Continued on page 12.)

PIANO & GUITAR LESSONS

My name is Bud Ireland. I love teaching piano and guitar. I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Music from University of Virginia at Wise and have been teaching for eight years. I specialize in working with children with learning differences. Music has been proven to help improve the processing abilities of those with visual, motor, auditory, and hand and eye coordination challenges. I am dyslexic and have managed those challenges.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION UPDATE

By: Cathy Field



Lake Accotink Park

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to check for latest events posted here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events>. Cost may be required for some events.

DREDGING PROJECT

Actual dredging operations are scheduled to occur from early 2023 through 2026. The full Lake Accotink Dredging project web-page can be found at <https://bit.ly/dredgeproject>.

The conceptual design is anticipated to be ready by May 2022. County staff will share the conceptual design with the community at that time for review and comment. Additional information will be shared with the public in the interim as it becomes available.

Wakefield Park

AUDREY MOORE REC CENTER RENOVATION AND EXPANSION PROJECT

A community survey gathered input on the type of amenities/improvements desired in the renovated Rec Center. The results of this community survey can be found at: <https://bit.ly/communitysurveyreport>.

Moving forward, the Concept Design Options are anticipated to be available late spring, with a follow up community meeting planned for this summer.

Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)

MONTHLY PARK CLEAN-UP

- **WHEN:** 2nd Sunday of every month / 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

- **WHERE:** Sign in at Lake Accotink Marina
- **ACTIVITIES:** Pick-up debris dumped and forgotten. Dog waste stations (refill & check stations), vine clipping and more.
- **REGISTER:** <https://bit.ly/monthlycleanup>

Pick up your gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps, and more. You will also be loaned a FLAP Safety Vest. Volunteer four times and receive your very OWN Safety Vest to personalize!

CARING FOR & EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

- **WHEN:** 2nd Sunday of every month / 10:30 am
- **WHERE:** Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden / Adjacent to the Marina
- **ACTIVITIES:**
 - Work alongside our experts as they care for the pollinator plants. We'll provide tools and gloves, or bring your own. <https://bit.ly/caringforpollinator>
 - Our experts will guide you through the pollinators and pollinator plants, plus starting/maintaining your own pollinator garden. <https://bit.ly/exploringpollinator>

IT IS YOUR LAKE ACCOTINK PARK!

Board & Committee positions are open. Help make a difference for a few hours a month! Accepting candidates. Send an email to Contact@flapaccotink.org for more information.

Donate On-line: www.flapaccotink.org

Done via Mail: FLAP • P.O. Box 1203 • Springfield VA 22151

Do you know of any Parks & Recs info that should be shared with our neighbors? Please contact Cathy via parks@nscivic.org! 🌟

Real Estate Update *(continued from page 2)*

Because investors have found real estate to be a better investment than keeping money in the bank, there have been more cash buyers for flips, now up to 18% of the market in 2021 in the DMV.

COVID hasn't hurt this segment of the market nor the standard residential market. Renters are hoping to buy; and, if they can't find the right property at the right price, they are continuing to rent. Therefore, there is tremendous pressure on the rental market, with rents rising, and competition for the limited availability.

As far as supply and demand in residential housing, currently there is only one-half month's supply of inventory, which is very unusual. Even though mortgage rates are rising, prices are rising and there are bidding wars.

Another effect of this robust market is an increase in residential assessments for 2022, based on 2021 sales. Increases range from approximately 3% to 9%. We will see what our County Supervisors do with the budget and whether there will be any decrease in the real estate tax rate. Contact me at patsawhney42@gmail.com or 703-395-9214 to discuss how your plans fit in this market. 🌟



Teen Job List – Support Our Teens!

We have some industrious teens in North Springfield that would like to earn extra money over the spring and

summer months! If you need any of the following services, please consider hiring these teens to help them add to their college fund! The link to the teen job list can be found at www.nscivic.org.

Available Services Include:

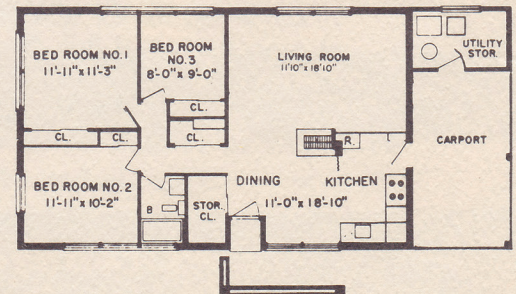
- Babysitting • Dog Walking/Pet Waste Removal
- Pet Sitting • Lawn Mowing/Yard Work • Car Washing
- Snow Removal • Tutoring

The Virginian

This best-selling, one-level VIRGINIAN—designed for young marrieds, families with several children or whose off-spring are away from home—offers the same functional advantages as a two-story dwelling. Here on one spacious level the rooms fall in an easy-to-care-for order. Skillful planning keeps the three bedrooms and tiled bath nicely separate from the living-work center. Enhancing the pleasingly large living-dining areas are a stunning two-way fireplace, ceiling high windowalls, recessed ceiling spotlights and built-in bookcases. The sheltered carport has convenient entrance to the utility room and the kitchen—a glamour spot with HARDWICKE gas range, GE garbage disposall, 10 cu. ft. GE refrigerator and roomy cabinets. If desired, the carport may be screened in to function as a porch, summer playroom or family-fun



center. You'll appreciate the VIRGINIAN'S budget-price; you'll also like the pretty planting area, paved drive and walk and the contemporary exterior accented by a wide roof overhang which gives the home a ground hugging, uncluttered look, keeps it cool in summer and reduces maintenance by keeping rain off walls and windows.



tell the difference between a Virginian from the Carr built Monticello models is that Virginians have their kitchens and dinettes in front, the fireplaces have "steps" on the side with the living rooms to the rear. This design has a history beyond the Washington DC area as it originated in the famous Levittown on Long Island, NY and was built by Levitt & Sons but was done by them in frame construction. Crestwood copied the design and brought it home to Virginia but used the brick and block construction favored by their customers. Like the tri-level splits, Crestwood built these wonderful, compact, sturdy and practical homes from 1953 up to about 1971 when the company stopped building single family homes.

As with all the houses in all parts of North Springfield, the Crestwood Park homes have and will continue to provide quality built comfortable homes for their owners for decades to come, just as they have proven to do now for over 60 years. They are all

important pieces to the historic importance of North Springfield in the annals of Fairfax County and Northern Virginia history. I hope you all will look upon your homes with well deserved pride. Until next time, when Ye Olde Historian covers a few more models, I wish you all a very Happy Spring Season!

P.S. — For a really interesting trip back in time to Crestwood Park during the winter of 1955–56, check out the [YouTube video](#) that my friend and fellow historian, Patrick Coffey made using images from my archive and some still photos and home movies from former resident Grace Genie McClellan Hobson. The video focuses on the eastern ends of Inzer and Hogarth with views of some new homes along Ferndale. 🌟

LIBRARY EVENTS (April–June 2022)

Compiled by Ivan Carrasco • diverse@nscivic.org

Check out the following events being held at two of our local libraries. Please contact each library for registration, additional dates, and updates.

Saturday, April 2, 2022; 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; Local History of Gold; **Regional History of Mining and Tales of Lost Treasure.** Brian Slawski from the Burke Historical Society will discuss the science of gold and the regional history of this metal. Adults.

Sunday, April 3, 2022; 11:00 am – 11:30 am; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Family Storytime;** Enjoy a family story time that encourages your child's love of reading. All ages. Registration required.

Wednesday, May 4, 2022; 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Yarn-Aholics;** Calling all knitters and crocheters! Come discuss, learn and share ideas and projects. Age 16 and up.

Tuesday, June 28, 2022; 10:30 am – 11:00 am; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Toddler Storytime;** Join us for an early literacy-enhanced story time with stories, songs, and more. Ages 18 months–3 years with adult. Registration is required. Please only register once for your family.

Tuesday, June 28, 2022; 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Jay Mattioli Magic Show for Families;** Magician Jay Mattioli invites kids on a journey where the impossible happens...LIVE! A Quarter Finalist on "America's Got Talent," Jay's show incorporates high energy music and comedy.

Wednesday, June 29, 2022; 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Ready, Set, Imagine;** In this interactive family workshop with Wolf Trap Master Teaching Artist Michele Valeri, you will discover how the world of imagination can make learning fun everywhere and every day.

Friday, April 1, 2022; 10:30 am – 12:30 pm; Richard Byrd Library; Join us for the classic movie **Singing in the Rain** and a fresh cup of coffee. Sponsored by Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Registration required. Adults.

Saturday, April 16, 2022; 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm; Richard Byrd Library; **CoderDojo, Teaching Kids to Code;** Learn to develop websites & apps; create games. Bring a laptop, limited computers available. Ages 7–17. Registration required.

Tuesday, May 17, 2022; 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Library; **Richard Byrd Chess Club for Kids;** Practice and learn to play chess in person. Ages 6 and 12 with one adult.

Monday, June 27, 2022; 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm; Richard Byrd Library; **Make a Scene with Reflex Improv;** Meet new people and laugh hard in this beginner improv class. You don't need to be a natural comedian to enjoy this workshop.

Thursday, April 7, 2022; 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library; **Chess Club;** Come learn about and play chess with us! Recommended for children/teens ages 8–16. Caregivers welcome to stay to play and learn. Registration is encouraged but walk-ins will be welcomed.

Friday, April 8, 2022; 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library; **Hogwarts House Trivia Battle;** Join us in a trivia competition between the Houses of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Test your knowledge of Harry Potter from the books and movies! Ages 7+.

Wednesday, June 15, 2022; 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library; **Tiny Terrariums @ Your Library;** PLANT THERAPY THIS SUMMER. Relax, unwind, engage with nature. Create your own tiny terrariums with succulents in a glass jar. All supplies will be provided. We will also offer terrarium care tips. Adults. 🌱



Spring Activities in Fairfax County

Fairfax County Parks offer a wide variety of spring events. Visit [Parktakes Magazine](#) or the [Parktakes website](#) for more information. Below are a few springtime activities.

DINO DISCOVERY EGGSTRAVAGANZA

Sully Historic Site
3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, VA
Saturday, April 9, 2022 • Hourly Sessions
Bring your basket and hunt for dinosaur surprise filled eggs. Join the egg roll, see the Easter Bunny, and make a dinosaur craft. Register early/\$10 per child. (Ages 2-8)

HOLIDAY EGG ROLL

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA
Saturday, April 9, 2022 • 1:00 pm
Celebrate the beginning of spring with an egg roll and other themed activities. Learn how to use natural materials to dye and decorate your own craft to take home. Play yard games with family and friends. Registration required/\$10 per child.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Green Spring Gardens
4603 Green Spring Rd, Alexandria, VA
April 23, 2022 • 11:00 am
Celebrate Earth Day and say thanks with face painting, poetry, pictures, and puppets! Make a special Earth Day craft and help us decorate a tree. All attendees, including parents, must be registered for the program. \$10 per person. (5-Adult)

SPRING FARM DAY

Frying Pan Farm Park
2739 West Ox Rd, Herndon, VA
Saturday, May 7, 2022 • 10:00 am–3:00 pm
Join us at Frying Farm Park to visit farm animals, and enjoy food, games, demonstrations, carousel & wagon rides, and lots more! \$10 per person if registered before May 7; \$12 per person on May 7; no fee for ages 0-2. 🌱

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2022 NSCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The North Springfield Civic Association would like to remind its members that it is time to pay your dues for the 2022 calendar year. Your affordable \$15.00 annual dues go directly to help support the NSCA initiatives that directly benefit our community. One of the NSCA's goals is to bring people together and encourage them to be active in community affairs. We advocate for our community's interests and concerns through local government and other entities. We also maintain North Springfield by keeping our neighborhood beautiful and welcoming. You must be a paying member to vote and to hold office. If you've already renewed your NSCA membership for this year, thank you! The NSCA would not be the strong and vibrant entity that it is without members like you.

Thank you to all the neighbors who have made generous donations over and above their dues, including the following donors who have allowed us to publish their names.

GOLD (\$50+) – Chris & Michele Bergen, Courtney Brown & Anthony Zerante, Gene & Nancy DeSantis, Carla Dove & Chris Milensky, Robert & Roswitha Eaheart, Jan & Steve Gaskins, Alice & Joseph Grant, Don Neff, John & Marilou Novak, Jean & Max Smith, Phillip Weimer. Eugene Williams, Wells Wilson, Diana Worley

SILVER (\$25-\$49) – Jeanne & Larry Bond, Deborah Chu, Dana Cibulski & Scott Bronstein, Alan & Holly Cook, Craig & Casey Delaney, Johanna Droel, Paul Hartwell, Tom & Paula Ledman; Billy & Jeanette Linkous; Jose & Daphne Martinez, Dave & Nancy Moore, John & Susan Novack, Lisa O'Donnell, Cleuzy V. De Oliveria & Aswin Kokilananda, Anne Perry, Harold & Caryl Salters, Jose Sanchez, William Sanders, Deborah Jane Walsh, Shelli Wayland, Jay & Kim Weitzel, Ronald & Sandra Wilmore

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EMAIL _____

New Member Renewal (Above information is for NSCA use only. We do not give out or sell to outside parties)

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ (Mail checks to: PO Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151. By credit card: mkt.com/nscivic)

Please help us go Green, check here if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically.

I WISH TO VOLUNTEER WITH NSCA (PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Federation of Citizen Associations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor Welcome Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

CONTACT INFO (If different from above)

NAME _____ EMAIL _____ PH _____