



CALENDAR

April 2015

- 5 Easter
- 8 NSCA General Meeting – Changes to area shopping centers

May 2015

- 6 NSCA General Meeting – Diversity Outreach and summer opportunities
- 16 Community Yard Sale
- 23 Community Cleanup Day
Community Social at the Pool

WHAT'S INSIDE

President's Message, 60th Anniversary,
Mail Service, Teen Summer Jobs,
Traffic Calming, NSCA Officer Elections,
Service Directory, Cleanup Day,
Yard Sale, Membership, Boy Scouts,
Logo Contest, Diversity Outreach,
Code Enforcement,
Woodlawn Plantation Renovation,
PTA News, Association Officers,
Once in a Lifetime Volunteering,
Community Supported Agriculture,
Watershed Cleanup
Audit Committee, Vendor Ads

General Meeting – April 8th 7:30 pm at the School

This month's membership meeting will address various retail changes in our area. Don McIlvaine, owner of the Ravensworth Shopping Center, will discuss the renovations being done there. Nancy-jo Manney, President of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, will discuss changes in the Concord Shopping Center (where Fischer's Hardware used to be), the Springfield Town Center, and the Kingstown area.

Being a good neighbor means:

Paying attention to parking restrictions. The number of vehicles being parked on the street is increasing and so is the number of complaints. Restrictions can be found at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/parking_restrictions.htm. The most common violations are about vehicles parked too close to driveways (can't be within 10 feet), fire hydrants (can't be within 15 feet), stop signs (can't be within 30 feet), intersections (can't be within 20 feet), and vehicles in driveways but extending over part or all of the sidewalk. If you know a violator politely ask them to stop; if they won't call the police at (703) 691-2131.

Get Connected and Stay Informed!!!!

Sign up for e-mail alerts and notices at www.nscivic.org/contactForms/EMailNotification.htm

Visit www.nscivic.org for current community information

Join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/NorthSpringfieldVA

President's Message

Ken Balbuena

“What if ‘greatness’ was defined as the amount of joy and happiness you brought to others?” These words of wisdom were shared with me during a recent meeting I had with Mr. Fu-Ho Chan; NSCA’s president during the 1962-63 term. Mr. Chan, who still lives in North Springfield and still keeps current with his annual dues, continued by saying, “The Civic Association is needed to build friendship and goodwill. We need to spread it to our neighbors.” Many of us undoubtedly got a little stir crazy during the cold and stormy winter; it was easy to become critical of sidewalks not being shoveled, cars parked on the street, or snow plows filling our freshly-cleared driveway with a berm of hard snow. Hopefully, with the weather improving, we’ll leave those harsh days behind and consider heeding Mr. Chan’s advice. Let’s take time to meet a new neighbor on our street whenever we’re outside working on our lawn, walking, or doing something else out of the house. Let’s invite a neighbor we know but aren’t very close with over for coffee or a cool drink so we can get to know one another better. It’s surprising how much a small act of kindness can improve neighbor relations and draw us closer to Mr. Chan’s definition of “greatness” in community.

We have three important topics scheduled for the April meeting. Representatives will be present to discuss changes in local shopping centers, provide preliminary reports on their impact and answer your questions. Delegate Vivian Watts will provide an overview of the General Assembly’s recent legislative session and we will have the vote on whether or not the community wants to request additional \$200 speeding fines on the streets identified in the previously conducted traffic study.

Our May 6th meeting will be the final meeting of the 2014-15 session; the topics will be diversity outreach, summer programs and officer elections.

If you live in the Leewood Estates part of North Springfield (the Woodland and Larrlyn Drive area), we would love to hear from you. If you

have ideas, concerns, or comments that we should know, please contact us. Some of NSCA’s earliest officers and two past presidents have come from the Leewood Estates section of North Springfield.

We are always looking for more volunteers; short and long term opportunities are available.

Reminder that you can pay your membership dues and make donations online at www.nscivic.org; we also accept credit card payments at meetings and other events.

60th Anniversary Celebration

NSCA will be kicking off a year-long celebration to honor the neighborhood’s & NSCA’s 60th birthday at our annual meeting in May. We are looking for copies of historical documents (newsletters, correspondence, bylaws, etc.) that you may have tucked away in your home. We want to complete some of the gaps in our archives and use some items as part of a visual timeline we create as part of the celebratory activities. If you have ideas to propose, please contact Ken at kenbalbuena@gmail.com.

Mail Service

Several residents have had issues with inconsistent mail delivery service. NSCA has reached out to the USPS Northern Virginia District Office in Merrifield which oversees the post offices that serve our area. The district office has discussed the matter with our post office and management will be conducting regular street observations and delivery checks. Additionally, temporary routes currently assigned to North Springfield will be converted into regular full-time carrier positions. In the next few weeks, you should begin to see more consistency in mail delivery and the postal workers making those deliveries. Should the problems persist after a few weeks, please contact us, and we will reach out to them again.

Teen Summer Jobs

The form to sign up for the summer teen job list is in this newsletter or you can do it online.

Traffic Calming

Residents are encouraged to attend the April 8th NSCA membership meeting where we will be voting on whether or not to adopt \$200 additional speeding fines on qualifying streets in the neighborhood. Since this is a community initiative the vote is open to all residents regardless of whether or not you are an association member. This program was detailed in last November's newsletter, available on our website, and the topic of our February 2015 meeting. A summary of the comments made at the February meeting and our response is posted on the website.

To date nine residents have volunteered for the ad-hoc Traffic Calming Committee; we would like additional representation from the following areas; Heming, Heming extension, Ravensworth, Ferndale and Queensbury. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please email Ken at kenbalbuena@gmail.com. Their first meeting to select a chairperson and get organized for the task at hand will be this spring. This committee will coordinate with the County's Department of Transportation to develop a comprehensive traffic calming plan for North Springfield. The VDOT Traffic Calming Guide is on our website. Plan adoption will require a community vote.

NSCA Officer Elections

Chet McLaren, NSCA's chair of the Parks & Recreation Committee, has agreed to serve as chair of the Nominating Committee alongside residents Gary Black and Heidi Miller. Membership will vote on accepting the Nominating Committee appointments at the April 8th membership meeting. The committee will nominate at least one member in good standing for each officer position (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Members of the nominating committee may not nominate themselves but may nominate current directors of the Association. A list of the nominees shall be made public at least one week in advance of the May meeting. Any member in good standing may make a nomination from the floor at the annual meeting on May 6th including a self-nomination.

Service Directory

We would like to create a directory of neighborhood and nearby local service providers. Please send us your recommendations of providers to include.

North Springfield Cleanup Day

Ron Kinzer

Fairfax County will provide refuse trucks in the North Springfield Elementary School main parking lot between 8:00 am and 11:30 on May 23rd; please do not drop off any item before the trucks arrive. The trucks leave promptly at noon so please be there no later than 11:30 am. This is a great opportunity to get rid of old appliances, sheds, tires, lawn mowers, lumber and other kinds of junk. The County will not accept explosive materials, business construction materials, paint, or any dangerous items. The County usually does not accept yard waste, dirt, glass or wood used in fire places and reserves the right to reject any item. Contractors with unusually large loads must unload their own vehicles and are subject to County approval.

Check www.fbr.org for the locations of local stores that will recycle your used rechargeable batteries. You can take old/unwanted cell phones to the nearest police station. The phones are given to potential abuse victims for emergency use.

To learn about Hazardous Waste disposal you can listen to a recording at (703) 324-5068 or check the website www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Yard Sale

The annual neighborhood-wide yard sale will be Saturday, May 16th. Residents are responsible for marketing their respective sales, including way-finding signs, internet postings, and newspaper announcements. Last year, several residents collaborated on jointly marketing their sales, so you may wish to work with your fellow neighbors in your promotions. Residents are asked to take down your own signs following your respective sales. The NSCA Board has discussed forming a committee early next year to identify ways of enhancing this annual event

that would also include exploring the feasibility of holding the sale at a central-location within the neighborhood versus the multi-yard format currently used. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact us.

Membership

Tricia Barnes

Thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership dues. As a reminder, dues are based on calendar year and are at an extremely affordable at \$15 per household. Your financial support permits us to maintain the public areas of the community, print newsletters, have a website and conduct community events. Cash and check are the preferred methods of payment; we also accept credit cards online or at meeting and events. Visit our website to download a membership form and/or pay online. Donations are welcomed and appreciated.

BSA Boy Scout Troop 990

Skip Chaples

In April we're headed to the Newmarket Battlefield for a weekend reenactment event with 2,000 other scouts. Weekly scout meetings

address various scout skills and Eagle rank required merit badges. To learn more about our program contact Skip at (703) 644-1311.

Logo Contest

Margaret Panik

As part of our 60th anniversary celebration we're looking for ideas for a new NSCA logo. Details about the contest are in the March 2015 newsletter posted on our website.

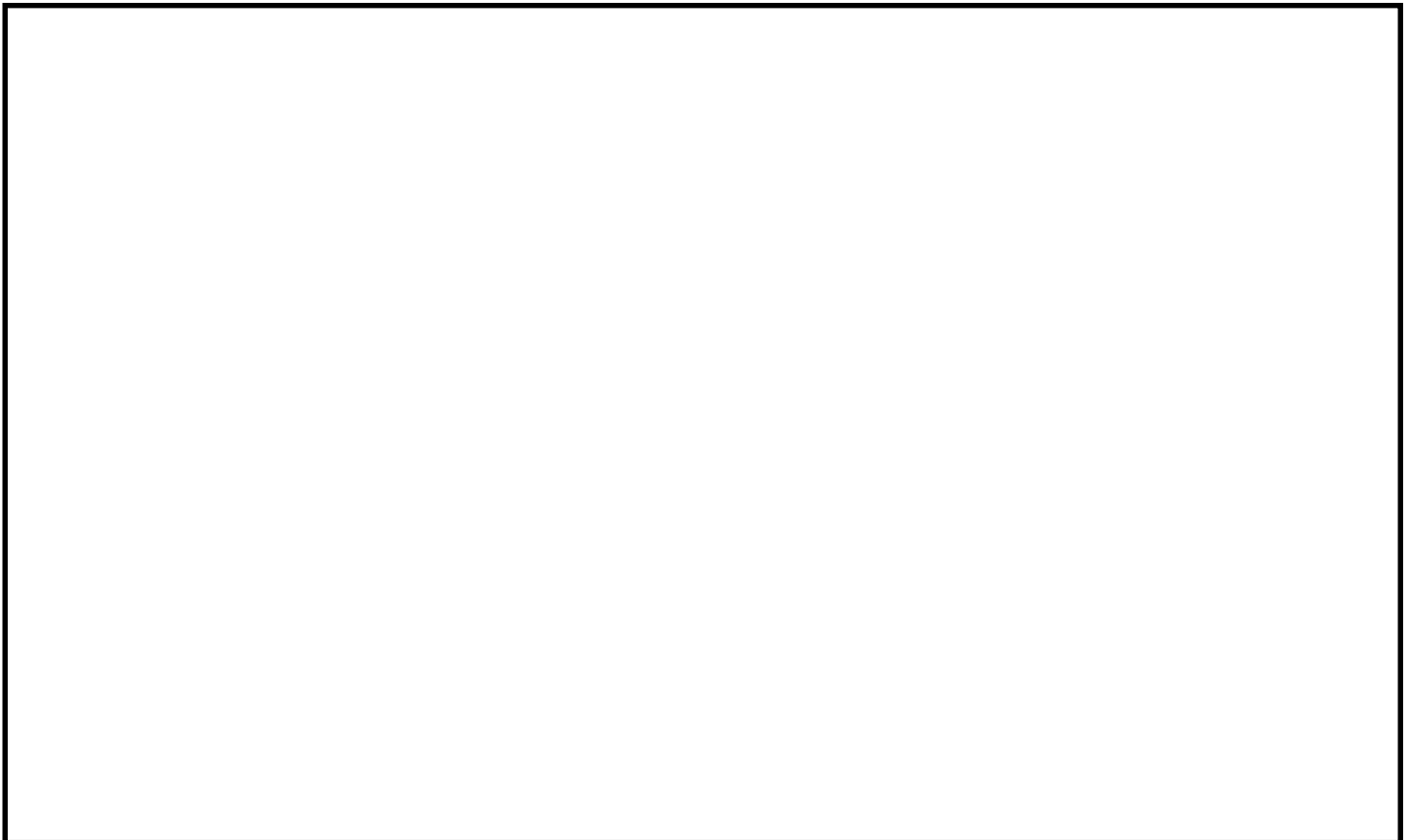
Diversity Outreach

Ivan Carrasco

Diversity Outreach will be the theme at our May meeting. If you are interested in joining the Diversity Committee and/or assisting with the May meeting please see Ivan after the April meeting or email him at cpij@yahoo.com.

Code Enforcement

One of the proposed cuts in the 2016 Fairfax County budget is to stop enforcement of the law prohibiting lawn grass from exceeding 12 inches. NSCA is opposing that cut.



Woodlawn Plantation Renovation

John Simonetti

The Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture, a nonprofit group, is engaged in a PR campaign to garner support for plans to renovate Woodlawn Plantation. To learn more about their initiative you can visit their website www.arcadiafood.org.

PTA News

Kristin & Keith Brown

The North Springfield Elementary School (NSES) renovations have begun; construction is running ahead of schedule. The administration is working with construction crews to maintain safety and accessibility at the school.

The 2015-16 NSES directory will contain advertising. The directory is sent home to over 400 families and the school staff in the fall and used as a resource throughout the school year. If interested in advertising your business in the directory email Lori@atozdirectories.com for information and rates.

The PTA is trying to organize a monthly fund raising restaurant night for the school. Please check the PTA calendar for dates and locations and support NSES – www.nsespta.org.

You can drop off used clothing, shoes, goods, etc. anytime in the B Thrifty boxes across from the main doors of the school. You can also support us by dropping off used ink cartridges in the office or donating books. We always appreciate Box Tops or Labels for Education too. They can be dropped into the bucket just inside the school's front doors.

Boy Scout Fundraiser

Need Your House Number
Painted on Your Curb

Call Boy Scout Troop 990
(703) 644-1311

Association Officers

President: **Ken Balbuena**
(703) 851-8505
kenbalbuena@gmail.com

Vice President: **Scott Pratt**
(571) 238-0574
scott.pratt@vott.com

Secretary: **Margaret Panik**
(703) 750-3714
margaretapanik@aol.com

Treasurer: **Skip Chaples**
(703) 644-1311
skipchaples@cox.net

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.

Once in a lifetime VOLUNTEERING!

In 2015 Fairfax County will host the 16th biennial World Police & Fire Games, one of the largest multi-sport multi-venue events in the world. The competition from June 26 to July 5 celebrates competition and camaraderie in 61 sports at 53 venues throughout Fairfax County and the National Capital Region. 4,000 VOLUNTEERS are needed in positions ranging from greeting spectators at venues, assisting with medal ceremonies, and helping with Results behind the scenes, to checking in athletes at Games registration, setting up the venues ... and many more - there's a role for everyone. Certified medical VOLUNTEERS are needed also! Don't wait and be too late, scheduling starts in April Support these Heroes by applying today at <http://fairfax2015.com/volunteer>.

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

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

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

This year's season is 26 weeks, May-Oct. LFFC has three share options available for vegetables. Prices range from \$14- \$31 per week for veggies and \$10 per week for fruit (21 weeks). There are also chicken, meat, cheese, bread, and egg shares available.

If you are interested in joining or receiving more information, visit their website at www.lancasterfarmfresh.com/csa or call Jen at (703) 922-9353 / jenmarzouk@yahoo.com to answer any questions. Make sure you select the North Springfield location on Inverchapel Road.

Registration closes April 24th but it would be appreciated if you can sign up earlier. They need 30 shares to make this a viable site.

Watershed Cleanup

Chet McLaren

This is a great opportunity for students who need service hours for school.

On Saturday April 11th, dedicated volunteers from over 30+ communities in the Braddock District will be venturing into our parks and stream valleys to help clean up our watersheds, making the Braddock District a better and more attractive place to live. Working in concert with the Alice Ferguson Foundation and Clean Fairfax, there will be significant clean-up efforts in both the Accotink and Pohick Watersheds. Park Authority staff will direct volunteers at Lake Accotink Park, and specific Friends groups, as identified below, will be focusing on other parks in the district.

The **Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP)** will focus exclusively on the Flag Run Stream Valley from Lake Accotink Park up to Port Royal Road. Meet at the marina at 8:30 AM. Point of Contact:

Meghan Walker flap.president@gmail.com
Juan River flap.specialprojects@gmail.com

The **Friends of Audrey Moore RECenter (FAMRC)** will clean up areas in and around Wakefield Park. Meet at the dumpsters at 8:30 AM. Point of Contact:

Albert Malats a_malats71@hotmail.com
Bruce Fisher bfish1712@verizon.net

Audit Committee

We're in need of volunteers with accounting experience to form a committee to audit NSCA's finances. The task will begin after the May meeting. The committee will be asked to provide the Board with a written audit report within one month of the audit's completion. This audit report shall be available to the public upon request.

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Calendar Year January – December 2015

NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

\$15.00 Membership – Contributions Welcome

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Date: _____ Amount Paid: _____

E-Mail: _____ New Resident? Y N
(Only if new or not already on our list)

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEER DRIVE

NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

We are always in need of volunteers for the various committees of the North Springfield Civic Association. If you are interested in serving on a committee, or have suggestions topics for upcoming General Meetings or programs, please fill out the form below and mail it to the above address.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

E-Mail: _____

- Circle committee(s) or position of interest -

BEAUTIFICATION

FEDERATION OF CITIZEN ASSOCIATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

PLANNING & ZONING

COMMUNITY SOCIALS

SPECIAL INTEREST PROGRAMS

SUGGESTIONS FOR:

Other Committees: _____

Topics for upcoming programs:

NORTH SPRINGFIELD SPRING/SUMMER TEEN JOB LIST

Fill out this application and mail to: NSCA, P.O. Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ Age: _____ Availability Dates: _____

Check jobs of interest: Babysitting _____ Yard Work _____ Mowing _____
House Sitting _____ Pet Care _____

Or you can sign up on line at www.nscivic.org ; click on “Community Services” “Teen Job Sign Up”