

Springfield Reporter

Over 50 Years Serving Central Springfield

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THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year Dear Neighbors and Friends!

2009 was an interesting as well as a challenging year.

We celebrated some victories in addition to weathering adversity. While the big news was most certainly the arrests in the mortgage fraud cases that Fairfax County Police Detectives worked so diligently on, we also continued to grapple with the after effects of the tear downs, re-builds or “pop ups” and the continued overcrowding in not only new houses, but the existing homes as well. We can be assured that the Fairfax County Strike Team and the Lee District Supervisor’s office stay committed to addressing all of our concerns regarding building to code and regulations along with the ultimate use of the property. There is a saying that I am reminded of with great frequency as I follow the debates on national, state and local policy: “Where you stand on an issue depends on where you sit”. This is true of most things in life. Our blessings, or lack of, inform our decisions and opinions. Many have experienced relief when boarding houses were shut down and even have had the pleasure of a family moving in while others in our community continue to be plagued by overcrowding around them. We need to remain vigilant and be part of the solutions no matter how frustrated we become. We don’t have a corner on the suffering, although we might feel like we do. Most big metropolitan areas are experiencing similar housing challenges as well.

The national economic crisis certainly impacted the state and county economies. Please remember the faith and community based assistance organizations as we weather the storm as a community. Reach out to your neighbors if they are in need. Often in times of crisis and adversity we find common ground where previously

INSIDE THIS ISSUE	PAGE
The President’s Corner	1
Neighborhood Watch	4
Library News	5
School News	6
Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay	8
Delegate Vivian Watts	11
Membership Application	13
Blood Drive	16

NEXT MEETING —
WHEN AND WHERE
January 19, 2010
Crestwood Elementary School
Meet and Greet: 7 p.m.
Special Demo by ReBuild
Enjoy coffee and cookies!

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.
Robyn Carter will discuss the historical significance of the Springfield community.

Continued on Page 2

The President's Corner (Continued)

all we could see were our differences. Let's resolve in 2010 to be the neighbor that we would like to have.

Remember how important it is to stay connected to our elected and appointed officials as they make decisions that will impact the quality of our lives for a long time to come. Some of these changes may not be reversible anytime soon. We can attend public hearings, e-mail our questions and concerns and speak out before it is too late. The 15 county-sponsored Community Dialogue sessions have been completed, and the budget online form and hotline have been closed. County and schools staff are now analyzing and preparing a final report of public and employee input as well as input from the community dialogue sessions. This report will be shared with county and schools decision-makers to assist them in formulating their recommended budgets for the Board of Supervisors and School Board, respectively. The public hearings on the FY 2011 budget will be held at the Government Center in early April 2010. A list of all county and school budget-related calendar dates can be found online. The county votes on their budget in early spring. Public hearings are in February. Go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/> for details.

The delivery of the Springfield Civic Association's Community Handbook was another 2009 victory! 2400 copies were printed and we have almost completed delivery. If you are interested in assisting with the completion of this important project please let us know at lgonzalez@kpmg.com.

A big thank you to all of you that helped thus far to get this important guide into the hands of the residents of our community. Loida and Rick Gonzalez translated the guide into Spanish and now we are delivering those

translated copies to Crestwood and Lynbrook Elementary Schools.

Speaking of cause for celebration, Cerro Grande, a restaurant that was located in Springfield Mall has been closed down for many months now. The restaurant that stayed open very late and also functioned as a nightclub was not only a draw for law abiding customers, but it was the location of several criminal incidents in the past. The cases were solved and closed, but the restaurant's departure from the mall was a victory for the community.

The Springfield Mall construction project, slowed by negotiations with adjacent property owners, is now underway. We eagerly await the metamorphous to come!

Over twenty three-vendors participated this year as SCA board member and BizFair chair, Bonnie Pritchard, worked collaboratively with the Springfield Mall marketing department and Nancy-jo Manney, the Executive Director of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, to deliver a successful Fair. More space, more foot traffic and collaborative partners made this year's event a big success. Mark your calendars now for the third Tuesday in November for BizFair 2010! Shopping locally creates and supports a healthy community. Don't drive your dollars to another neighborhood.

National Night Out, sponsored by ADT Security, was another successful SCA initiative chaired by the Neighborhood Watch Director, Maureen Gibson. In August of 2009 the Springfield Swim and Racquet Club along with SCA members hosted barbecues that brought together neighbors and local police in an effort to improve communication and collaboration regarding crime prevention. This is the third year ADT has sponsored this important annual event. Gift cards for purchas-

ing barbecue staples were made possible by ADT contributions. Remember our sponsors when you make purchasing decisions.

Take a tour down memory lane at our next meeting on Tuesday, January 19 at 7 pm at Crestwood Elementary School. Robyn Carter, local resident and historian, will share her collection of photographs, advertising and other memorabilia related to the development of our community. Her photographs, drawings, plans and ads from the 50's and 60's as well as information on the Crestwood Construction Corp and Edward Carr's Real Estate Development will be showcased. Robyn will speak about how the community was developed and why it is of historical significance to the Washington Metropolitan area. Join us for this interactive evening. ReBuild of Springfield is sponsoring the evening. Visit <http://www.rebuildwarehouse.org/> for more information about ReBuild *and* arrive at 7 pm on January 19th for refreshments and to learn more about this innovative business in our community. Company representatives will be on hand to answer questions and share information.

Tawny Hammond, President

ATTEND A MEETING, WIN A DOOR PRIZE!

Attend the January 19 meeting and be eligible to win a Gift Certificate graciously donated by some of our own Springfield merchants.

The businesses contributing door prizes this month are Lorraine Hancock's Massage Center for Women and Mike's American Grill.

The Springfield Civic Association offers door prizes at every meeting. Drawings are held at 9:00 P.M. You must be present to win.

We encourage you to patronize these generous, civic minded businesses.

The Springfield Civic Association is dedicated to promoting community involvement and improvement. It is comprised of 2,400 homes in the area bound by Old Keene Mill Road on the south, I-95 on the east, I-495/Evanston Road on the north, and Lake Accotink Park boundaries on the west.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every other month from September through May at Crestwood Elementary School on Hanover Avenue.

Association dues are \$15 per year. Those interested in joining should contact President Tawny Hammond at (703) 569-0923 or springfield-civic@yahoo.com



Springfield Civic Association has been working to save the cost of printing and mailing your newsletter. Over half of our membership now receives The Springfield Reporter by e-mail. If you would like the SCA to spend your dues on community improvement projects rather than printing and postage to mail the newsletter, you can choose to receive your newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address, name and street address to springfield-civic@yahoo.com today!

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REPORT

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Lynbrook East of Backlick
Captain: Bruce Waggoner

North North of Floyd, between Backlick
 and Hanover
Captain: Chris Colovos

Central South of Floyd, between Backlick
 and Hanover
Captain: Maureen Gibson

West North of Floyd, west of Hanover
Captain: Gail Nittle

South South of Floyd, west of Hanover
Captain: Debbie Mays

NEW PARKING RULES EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 1, 2010

On December 7, 2009 the Board of Supervisors approved changes to Section 82-5-7 of the Fairfax County Code, which prohibits parking of commercial vehicles in residential districts. The code changes are intended to better define commercial vehicles in the County code, in order to improve parking enforcement and respond to complaints about large/commercial vehicles parking on residential streets. The effective date of these changes is February 1, 2010 followed by a 30 day warning period.

- Changes code requirement for taxicabs and limousines: One resident of each single family dwelling unit may park one vehicle licensed and registered in the Commonwealth of Virginia as a taxicab or limousine
- Expands definition of commercial vehicle restricted from parking in a residential area to include:
- Any vehicle licensed as a common or contract carrier or limousine (except as above)
- Vehicles that exceed size and weight limits: more than 21 feet long, more than 8 feet high including appurtenances, width of 102

inches or more, or gross vehicle weight of 12,000 or more pounds.

- Vehicles exempted from these size and weight limits are: commercial vehicles used by public service company, watercraft or motor home, school buses, vehicles driven by or used for transporting persons with disabilities, vehicles for cable television service, moving vehicles for 48 hours, vehicles for propane gas service. These "exempted" vehicles can park in a residential area unless restricted elsewhere in the Code, e.g., boats and motor homes are not allowed to park in areas that are Community Parking Districts
- Vehicle carrying commercial freight in plain view
- Trailer or semitrailer except camper, boat or single axle utility
- Any vehicle with 3 or more axles
- Clarification of parking restrictions on service drives: Where a service road is adjacent to a residentially zoned area, parking restrictions apply to the side of the service road that is adjacent to the residential area except as otherwise provided in section 82-5-37(5). This allows prohibiting commercial parking on that side of the street which is zoned for a use other than residential to further the residential character of the abutting community.
- The restrictions do not apply to commercial vehicles when temporarily parked while performing work or service.

If you would like to join the Neighborhood Watch team, call the Crime Prevention Officer at 703-922-8263 or e-mail Springfield Civic Association at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com. One hour a month is all it takes to be part of the solution. Protect your community. Protect your home and your family.



SSRC IN NEED OF MEMBERS

What would our neighborhood be without the Springfield Swimming & Racquet Club (SSRC)? SSRC was incorporated in September 1954 as a non-profit, non-stock corporation “to afford a better community life for the area of Springfield.” Without immediate action, SSRC will be unable to open its pool as planned on May 30, 2010 due to low revenue. Memberships, the primary source of SSRC’s income, have dwindled from 525 to 180. Approximately 240 active Memberships are needed to generate the income to pay for pool management, insurance and utilities. In an effort to attract new members, SSRC dramatically reduced its initial Membership fees to \$100 and stabilized its annual dues structure to \$199 for singles, \$299 for couples and \$399 for families. Also, SSRC has taken other measures to cut costs to include adjusting closing at 8pm, offer alternate payment options by using PayPal to permit credit card payments, expand its outreach by working to establish partnerships with “Nadar por Vida” and others, and increase revenues in 2011 with the proposed installation of a T-Mobile cell tower. What action can we take to save SSRC? This is all about people wanting to be SSRC Members. For those in the community who may have wanted to join, but thought it beyond their reach because of past initial fees, this is an opportune time to join along with your neighbors. Additionally, SSRC will hold its Annual Membership Meeting – tentatively scheduled for the end of January 2010 to discuss options for moving forward in 2010. More information is available through www.swimspringfield.com or by contacting SSRC Membership at 703.455.6203.

RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY

6315 Backlick Road, Second Floor
Springfield, VA 22150
703-451-8055

By Branch Manager Sandy Freund

The new year brings with it the excitement of preparing to move into the renovated library. The library is still on track for an August or September opening.

The ceiling has been painted and the acoustical tiles are being hung just below the ceiling in the main stack area. Suspended lighting will then be installed beneath the tiles. Paint in the other areas of the library is still just primer, while ceiling work and wiring is underway. As soon as the wiring is complete, the remaining ceiling tiles will be installed and the walls will be painted. In the meantime, floor and wall tile is being installed in the bathrooms. The HVAC unit is being hooked up and should be running soon.

The paving of the parking lot, scheduled for late October or early November, was delayed due to a series of rain storms. It will be paved as soon as there is a stretch of dry, warmer weather. In the meantime, the 8-foot concrete trail along Commerce Street and Monticello Boulevard is being constructed, and will soon be open to pedestrian traffic. On the face of the building, the conical metal roof will soon be installed.

In January and February 2010, we are offering the following programs at the Backlick Road site:

Thursday, January 21, 10:30 a.m.
Snowy Day. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Continued on Page 6

Library News, Continued

Wednesday, January 27, 1:00 p.m.
Travel Club. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults.

Thursday, February 18, 10:30 a.m.
Dinosaur Days. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Wednesday, February 24, 1:00 p.m.
Travel Club. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults.

Wednesday, February 24, 6:00 p.m.
Tell it Again. Enjoy a story in English and Spanish. Music and activities. Age 4-12 with adult.

Registration is required for all programs except the Travel Club. Beginning two weeks before each program, please register by calling the library at 703-451-8055 or online at the library's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

School News**SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS AND HAPPENINGS — BRAD CENTER, LEE DISTRICT**

As your representative on the School Board, my job is to not only represent you on the issues that confront Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) but to communicate with you in an open and honest fashion about our education system. These are truly difficult times for us. As you know, FCPS receives a majority of its funding from the Board of Supervisors through the real estate tax. Those revenues are down due to the real estate market. As I am sure you are also aware, the School Board does not have the authority to raise revenues and is legally bound to submit a balanced budget with no deficit funding. We rely solely on funding allocations from the county and state. For the

past two years, those funds have not increased and are not likely to do so this year. When you couple this with the fact that our student enrollment has gone up and continues to climb – we are in a very bad place. The net effect is a huge deficit in the amount of funds needed to run FCPS.

Last year's budget cuts were painful as we reduced 10-15% from just about every department, froze employees' salaries, eliminated cost of living increases, and *reluctantly* increased class size. Without the infusion of federal funding for designated programs, the cuts would have been deeper.

Unfortunately, this year is worse because we have already cut to where it hurts. Now, I want to be very clear with what I am about to say; any additional cuts will impact student achievement – possibly in a very profound way. Once cuts like these are made and the impact felt, it can take years to recover for the system, but it is impossible to recover a year lost to a single child. At this point, any decision the Board makes will change FCPS as we know it which means the same school system that has always been one of the strongest factors in spurring our county's economic growth could be in jeopardy. Across the nation, businesses and families know FCPS' stellar reputation, and they want to move here for the economic and educational advantages. This is what we could lose.

Our budget discussions this year will not be about one program's value versus another, we have clear evidence that all of our programs make a positive difference in our students' education. What we must deliberate is how and where we can make cuts that are fair and that do the least

harm. There are no easy decisions.

Thus we must work together to do the best we can in these difficult times. The School Board wants to hear your thoughts and recommendations before we make any decisions impacting your children and our schools. I encourage you to stay informed and to keep me informed! These are your tax dollars – if you want more of them to go to education funding, tell the Board of Supervisors and your state legislators. And, let me know your recommendations for the education funding we receive. I do my job best, when I work **with** you!

Brad.center@fcps.edu

Crestwood Elementary

Mary Person,
Principal



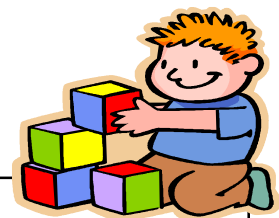
Happy New Year to the members of the Springfield Civic Association! It is my hope that we continue to work together for the benefit of students. As we approach the mid-year point of the 2009-2010 school year, the Crestwood staff is working to insure that all of our students are meeting their target assessments academically. In addition, our focus is to make sure that our school community is safe and that students maintain respect for themselves, respect for others, and respect for their surroundings.

This year, one of our community goals is to implement a recycling plan. Our objective states: Students will increase participation and involvement in a school-wide recycling program. We kicked off the goal with an assembly, where the cheerleaders from Lee High School daz-

zled us with flips, somersaults, and cheers about recycling. We have already hosted a Fall Clean-Up Day; 62 Crestwood family members and community members came out to rake leaves and clean up our grounds. We will keep you informed when we host our Spring Clean-Up. Crestwood wants everyone to be involved!

Again this year, Crestwood will be having its third Annual Science and Math Day. Saturday, May 1, 2010 will be an exciting day for the Crestwood community. The day will feature science presentations, math projects, and many other exciting academic learning events. This event will be held from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. We hope you can join us that day.

We appreciate all of the continued support the Springfield Civic Association gives to our school. Please feel free to call me (703-923-5400) if you have any questions or concerns.



CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

Do you want to attend Springfield Civic Association meetings but wonder what to do with the children? Our trained child care staff can provide videos, coloring books, and some light crafts in the school while you enjoy the company and informative discussion.

A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR JEFF MCKAY

A LEE YEAR IN REVIEW

As the year draws to a close, it's good to reflect on what we've accomplished by working together in Lee District during 2009. Space precludes more than an outline, so please contact my office or subscribe to my e-newsletter at Leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov if you would like more details.

County Budget

While financially more stable than many other jurisdictions, Fairfax County has been battered by the national and state financial slowdown. The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to balance our FY2010 budget (in spite of a \$650 million deficit). My citizen budget advisory committee provided valuable input and will continue its work on the FY2011 budget.

Transportation

In October, after a year of community input and support, the Board of Supervisors approved a Lee District community parking district that will improve transportation and pedestrian safety. This means that it is no longer legal to park on residential streets boats, RVs, trailers, campers, vehicles with 3 or more axles or a gross weight of 12,000 pounds or more. Prior to this, communities that wanted to institute such parking restrictions had to go through a cumbersome and lengthy petition process.

Since 9/11, the connection from Telegraph Road to Route 1 through Fort Belvoir has been closed. A replacement four-lane road is under construction that extends and widens Old Mill Road (renamed Mulligan Road) from Route 1 to Telegraph Road through Fort Belvoir .

Mortgage Fraud Investigation

In September, a two-year mortgage fraud investigation that I initiated resulted in numerous ar-

rests with more expected. The largest mortgage fraud case in the history of Fairfax County, it supported my efforts to crack down on illegal boarding houses and push for operational changes in zoning enforcement and strike team operations.

Springfield Mall

Redevelopment of the mall has been a priority and we have successfully worked with the mall owner in planning a transformation into a modern, pedestrian-oriented mixed-use town center. In July, the Board of Supervisors approved the rezoning that moved the project forward. The new mall and town center will include a number of community amenities and investments.

Parks, Recreation, Environment

A new recreation area at Lee District Park will include an accessible tree house, along with an accessible family activity complex, including a spray park, playground, carousel, and picnic shelter. Construction will begin in early 2010.

Three synthetic turf fields have been installed at Lee District Park, Franconia Park, and Lee High School. These fields have lower maintenance costs and higher capacity than grass fields. Funding came from the 2008 park bond and construction proffers.

Huntley Meadows Wetlands

Designs for a dam to preserve the park's rare freshwater wetlands and to reestablish the wetlands for habitat, wildlife, and water quality has been completed. Funding is from the 1998 and 2008 park bonds.

THE NEW NORMAL?

That's a term I've been hearing a lot lately about the economy and it comes with a question mark. It seems like you can ask any two economists about our financial future and get four different answers.

What exactly is the new normal and what does it mean for Fairfax County and the services that it provides? That's the question both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board are asking as we head into preparations for the FY2011 fiscal year that will begin next July. We are looking not only at the 12 months to come, but at sustainability throughout the next several years.

When we began our budget process at this time last year, we anticipated \$650 million shortfall to maintain our FY2009 level of services. We closed that shortfall through a number of means including freezing County employee salaries, cutting 306 positions, and holding budgets for most County agencies at or below the FY2009 level. We cut half the Penny for Affordable Housing, reduced overtime funding, and cut funds budgeted for fuel and take home cars. And—where we could, we raised fees in such areas as commercial parking violations and construction permits.

Our County budget reflects the economic conditions of the national and state economies. The Board met at the end of September for a fiscal outlook presentation. As with so much of the economic reports we're getting daily, there was both good and bad news.

On the positive side, the county's housing market seems to be closer to stabilizing—key because about 64 percent of our General Fund revenue comes from real estate property taxes. While prices are still declining, they moderated considerably during the summer months. On the worrisome side is the concern about another possible wave of residential foreclosures, along with continuing

weakness in the commercial residential market. At this point, our economic experts think that it will be at least 2013 before the housing market achieves equilibrium.

Also on the positive side of the ledger, Fairfax County's local economy is holding up well, in large part because of the growth of Federal procurement spending, as well as Federal stimulus dollars and the sales tax revenue from programs such as Cash for Clunkers.

What does this mean and how does it affect our ability to provide services to our citizens? At this point, we anticipate a \$490 million shortfall that we will have to close—on top of the cuts that we made in the last County budget. I went into our budget deliberations last year believing that there are some government responsibilities that are not negotiable. Proposed cuts to critical police and fire services, including regional shopping center officers, middle school police resource officers, and the sexual predator enforcement and detection team, among others, were restored. Unacceptable response times for medical emergencies were avoided with the restoration of EMS services, and many vital human services that are especially necessary during tough economic times were spared. As much as possible, we protected the school system and maintained the progress we're making keeping our neighborhoods healthy by restoring proposed cuts to zoning enforcement, property maintenance, and the strike team.

Fairfax County will again hold a series of community budget dialogues this fall. You can find more detailed information on the County's website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/budget/>

Continued on Page 10

Supervisor Jeff McKay, Continued

My budget advisory group is also reconvening and will work with me and senior County staff to find areas of cost containment and consolidation.

This year *will* be harder. Our citizens have high expectations for their local government, the services it provides, and the quality of those services. How we handle those and how we agree on what shared sacrifices and adjustments need to be made will resonate long after this deep recession ends.

GRAFFITI

Toward the end of summer, several complaints about graffiti came into my office, especially in the Franconia/Kingstowne and Telegraph Road areas.

Grffiti is a particular concern of mine and since taking office I've been pushing to get a streamlined graffiti response system in place and to get public entities such as VDOT to be more proactive cleaning up their property. Also, recent changes to state law now make it possible for the County to remove graffiti from private property if the property owner does not do so.

When I heard about the recent graffiti, I met with Captain Schaible of the Franconia police station and asked her to step up police patrols in the areas that were hit. She readily agreed to do so. Many of the sites that were hit by this visual plague were public property such as utility boxes. As they do with all instances of graffiti, the police document each graffiti site, identifying the hidden messages that often

indicate who is responsible. (The police tell me that most of the graffiti we see is *not* gang related.)

While the police have an important role to play, community action is a key element in making an area inhospitable to graffiti artists and speeding up graffiti removal. We all know that the aesthetics of a community are key factors in supporting property values, instilling community pride, and keeping crime low. When rare instances of vandalism occur we all have a responsibility to stamp them out and protect our community. Whenever—and where ever—you see graffiti, you should report it. By all means, call it in to my office but even more importantly, please take a minute and report the graffiti directly to the police non-emergency number (703-691-2131). Reporting graffiti to the non-emergency number ensures that a police officer will be quickly dispatched to the graffiti site, setting the graffiti analysis and removal process in motion.

Lee District Open House

Please join Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay and his staff at the annual Lee District open house from 1 – 3 pm on Saturday, January 30.

The open house will take place in the community room of the Franconia Governmental Center at 6121 Franconia Road.

All are welcome!

<p>You can reach Supervisor McKay at 703-971-6262 or by e-mail at leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov.</p>

REPORT FROM RICHMOND
DELEGATE VIVIAN WATTS

Virginia has a diverse economy.. we are not Michigan. Virginia has a strong reputation for being fiscally responsible...we are not California. Nevertheless, Virginia faces virtually unprecedented negative economic conditions, as we strive to shape a budget in this General Assembly session.

With our diverse economy, Virginia's unemployment rate was "just" 6.3% in October...the third lowest among states with over a million people. Because the D.C. region has the lowest unemployment of all large metropolitan areas, Northern Virginia's economy continues to balance out those areas of Virginia where unemployment significantly exceeds the national average of over 10%.

Nevertheless, unemployment in Virginia increased 50% this last year. The greatest job losses were in manufacturing and construction, mirroring the national economy. We've lost 60,000 manufacturing jobs since 2004 and most won't come back due to plant closures. Construction employment peaked in 2006, driven by the housing boom that in just one decade created a two decade inventory. Commercial construction will be equally slow to recover due to the credit crunch on small business, which is becoming even worse as 5-year commercial construction loans are coming due.

The bottom line is that for the first time *ever*, state revenue from payroll withholding this year is expected to be less than the previous year. In addition, from July through October, monthly sales tax revenue is running 5% below last year...again, unprecedented. These two sources of revenue make up almost 75% of the state revenue that we use to support local K-12 education

(34% of state spending), Medicaid (15%), Higher Education (12%), Mental Health and Human Services (11%), Public Safety (11%), Car Tax reimbursement (6%) and Debt Service (3%).

Because Virginia is fiscally well-managed, we began making cuts in 2007. Cumulatively, we've cut general spending \$6.3 billion in what is already the longest recession by far since WWII. However, analyzing a wide range of economic indicators, we can't responsibly assume a strong recovery. Indeed, the most disturbing factor in looking at past recessions is that full recovery took an average of four and a half years. The budget we hammer-out this General Assembly session must deal with even deeper cuts of \$2.8 to \$3.5 billion more...a grim 10% pull back on top of what's already been cut.

In addition, dedicated transportation revenue has been even harder hit because it depends on the number of gallons gas sold, car sales, as well as the general retail sales tax. Along with the effect of the current economy, none of these tax sources has been increased in 24 years and we're out of money to do much more than come up with the state match required for federal construction, limited Metrorail support, and the most basic maintenance.

Virginia does remain a low tax state at about 41st. All of the revenue from the half-cent sales tax increase in 2004 ended up being used for tax cuts: reducing the sales tax on food (\$190 million), eliminating the estate tax (\$120 million), reducing the individual income tax (\$60 million), and providing a land preservation tax credit (\$150 million).

Continued on Page 12

Delegate Vivian Watts, Continued

One final perspective: Virginia's budget did grow 23% (adjusted for population and inflation) in the ten years ending July, 2008. However, looking at where it grew doesn't present easy pull-backs. The big new state programs were a Rainy Day Fund, Car Tax Relief (\$950 million), and use of the General Fund for transportation (\$150 million). Federal mandates included No Child Left Behind, Real ID, and Child Support Enforcement where the state collects past due amounts and then pays them out as an expenditure. And finally, Medicaid grew at twice the rate of general spending (even though Virginia is 48th in the needs Medicaid covers), while college tuition increases and prison population growth also drove the size of Virginia's budget.

I know I've tried to pack a lot of details into this piece. But, there are no easy answers and I wanted you to have a basic understanding of the challenges. Hopefully, the new year will bring nothing but good news! I do wish you and your families and your businesses The Best.

The Springfield Civic Association (SCA) is the hub that links residents and organizations, enhances communications, and embraces diversity to create a vibrant Springfield community. Your ideas and suggestions to improve our association and our community economically, environmentally, socially, culturally, and otherwise would be much appreciated. Please e-mail us your suggestions or even complaints at information@springfieldcivic.org ..

Please remember to visit our website at www.springfieldcivic.org for information about the Springfield Civic Association, useful links to schools, businesses and local organizations. And don't miss the beautiful photography by our own Yasuko Riggs, web master of the SCA site!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Tawny Hammond
1st Vice President:	Jennifer Moody
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Web Site Administrator.....	Yasuko Riggs
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator	Maureen Gibson
Hospitality.....	Sandy Frieswyk
Newsletter Layout:	Lee Paulson

Springfield Civic Association Members: Have you paid your dues? Your support is necessary to the health of our association! Be a "Good Do-Bee" and Pay Your Dues!

SCA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Become a "Springfield Promoter" and help your association to improve our community; make Springfield an ideal place for you and your children. Join the Springfield Civic Association (SCA) - contribute your voice when local problems are discussed, publish your views in our newsletter, become a Committee Member and alert SCA to community issues. For a mere \$15.00 you can join!

Cut along the dotted line above, to maintain uniformity of size and filing ease, and send the bottom part with your check to:

The Springfield Civic Association

P.O. Box 842,
Springfield, VA 22150

Areas Of Interest (Circle One or More)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Parks | Membership |
| Land Use/ Zoning | SCA Management |
| Community Improvement | Newsletter |
| Neighborhood Watch | Web Site |
| Transportation | Other |

This will incorporate the address labels which contain our filing info. Membership is on an annual basis, with dues payable in September. Any excess amount over \$15.00 will be considered a donation unless indicated otherwise.

Please complete the label verification below, make any necessary corrections, and indicate your areas of interest in the SCA:

Label Verification

Address is OK. Renewal New
(Circle one)

Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Please complete ALL information.

Community Ads and Recommendations



SHOP TOWER CENTER



*Our Merchants
Are Open and
At Your Service*

***Serving Springfield Since 1953
And Into the Future***

Conveniently Located on Bland St. Between Backlick Rd. and Brandon

SPRINGFIELD MASSAGE CENTER FOR WOMEN

5417-C Backlick Road
Springfield VA 22151

Specializing in Massage:

Swedish, Deep-Tissue Focused Work, Medical, Lymphatic,
Pediatric, Pregnancy, Sports, Geriatric, Palliative Therapy.
Classes Offered in Couples Massage and Infant Massage.

**Director, Lorraine Hancock, VA Registered Nurse,
Certified Massage Therapist, Infant Massage Instructor,
Lymphedema Therapist, and Nationally Certified in
Therapeutic Massage and Body Work.**

**Lorraine's massages are unique because she focus on each client's
specific needs. Every session is different because each person
has different needs and goals.**

**Lorraine's desire is to help clients of all ages
meet their goals through bodywork.**

Men by referral only.

**E-mail: GreatMassage909@aol.com
Web Site: www.RubDown.Info**

Community Ads and Recommendations

**ADT Security Services
7399 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, Virginia 22153**



ATD — Always There

Proud Sponsor of National Night Out

House Cleaning by Myrna
Local References
703-463-4375
Low prices and reliable service

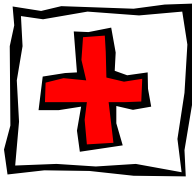
The Springfield Reporter features a personal ad section for the community. The cost is \$45 a square. If you would like to place an ad of your own here, please contact Tawny Hammond at 703-569-0923.

Springfield Civic Association
P.O. Box 842
Springfield, VA 22150

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JOIN THE VOICE
OF YOUR COMMUNITY!

**BLOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY THE
American Legion Post 176**



The American Legion will host a
BLOOD DRIVE on 16 February 2010
From 2:00 to 7:00PM, at the Springfield
American Legion, 6520 Amherst Ave.
For more information please contact

Joe Finch 703 569 1552
Email – SEPPL1552@AOL.COM

The Springfield Civic Association would like to thank the students and faculty at Key center School for printing the newsletter.
Thank you!

Queridos miembros de la comunidad hispana:

De la Asociación Civica de Springfield quisieramos invitarles a una reunión el dia 19 de Enero que tendra como objetivo el de llegar a conocernos mejor y será una oportunidad en la que podamos escuchar sus opiniones.

Esta reunión será en la escuela elementaria de Crestwood a las 7:00 de la tarde. Esperamos contar con su valiosa presencia.