

Springfield Reporter

Over 50 Years Serving Central Springfield

Volume 27, Issue 1

September/October 2010



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Friends, it's hard to believe as I write this message to you all that another summer is almost behind us.

I just returned from a week in Southwest Virginia working on housing needs of the good people living in this area of our state. Experiences like this really put things into perspective. I was thinking of my own community quite a bit while I was there. Thinking about how it's relatively quiet right now, yet we still contend with challenges and concerns. Gone is the frenzy that packed meetings and launched frequent communications with each other. I also know while the community is relatively quiet that there are neighbors in our midst that also have immediate needs and I remind us all to be the neighbor that we would like to have. Let us extend the hand of friendship and continue to devote ourselves to communicating with our neighbors old and new alike. It's really the only way we will ever find common ground, bonds and expectations. No guidebook, newsletter or meeting, however well planned or implemented, can achieve what we can by shaking each other's hands and talking to each other.

Please mark your calendars for the following important dates:

- Tuesday, September 21 at 7 pm we will hold the first membership meeting of the season at **Grace Presbyterian Church** at 7434 Bath Street (three blocks from Crestwood Elementary School) - **NOTE THE CHANGE IN LOCATION.** This meeting is devoted to candidates for the 11th Congressional District of Virginia. Congressman Connolly and a surrogate for Keith Fimian will be present to answer our questions.
- Tuesday, November 16 from 6 pm to 8 pm at Springfield Mall we will once again partner with the

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NEXT MEETING —

WHEN AND WHERE

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE!!

September 21, 2010

Grace Presbyterian Church
7434 Bath St., Springfield

Meet and Greet: 7 p.m.

Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Announcement of Winners of
2010 Beautiful Homes Contest

Candidates' Night

Continued on Page 2

President's Corner, Continued

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and the Springfield Mall for a consumer-to-business fair. ADT Security is sponsoring this year's BizFair and Fairfax County Police will be on hand to address holiday safety as well personal safety measures that all of us should take year round regardless of the season!

I look forward to seeing you soon. Be well and keep in touch. Bring a new neighbor to the September meeting where we will announce the 2010 Beautiful Home Contest Winners.

Tawny Hammond, President

GO GREEN!

Over half of our membership has made the commitment to a "green" newsletter by agreeing to receive The Springfield Reporter by email. Springfield Civic Association should set an example for our community by "going green". Beginning this year, we would like to send the newsletter by email to everyone who has an email address *unless* you have told us that you prefer a mailed copy. Not only does this help our environment, but it also cuts the expenses for your civic association. Let us know your preference by filling out the information below.

Name: _____

Yes, I would like to help Springfield be "Green" and receive my newsletter by email.

My email address is:

(Please print)

No, thank you, I still need my newsletter delivered by mail.

My address is:

Address: _____

Send your preference to:

springfieldcivic@yahoo.com

or Springfield Civic Association, Box 842, Springfield, Virginia, 22150

ATTEND A MEETING, WIN A DOOR PRIZE!

Attend the September 21 meeting and be eligible to win a Gift Certificate. A prize of two \$25 gift certificates is donated by The Springfield Butcher which has been serving our community since 1977. They are celebrating their one-year anniversary in their new location at 6310-B Springfield Plaza. Please stop by to say "Thanks", and sign up for their new email list of specials.

Lorraine Hancock of Springfield Massage Center for Women, a frequent contributor of our door prizes, has again offered a gift certificate to her center. 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.

SCA PAST DOOR PRIZE ONTRIBUTORS

- Springfield Massage Center for Women
- Starbucks – Springfield Plaza & Bradlick Center locations
- Tokyo Inn
- Jerry's Paint & Wallpaper
- Fischers Hardware
- Silver Diner
- Chipotle
- Malek's Restaurant
- Houlihan's
- Austin Grill
- Mike's American Grill
- Felix & Oscar Pet Food Naturally
- Hard Times Cafe
- Springfield Restaurant & Pizzeria
- Outback Steak House
- Kate's Irish Pub
- TGI Fridays
- Springfield Plaza Merchant's Association
- The Springfield Butcher
- The Swiss Bakery
- Eddie Greenan Jewelers
- Backlick Self Storage
- Z Pizza
- Pho Bowl Restaurant
- Fast Eddies
- Delia's Restaurant
- TW Perry
- El Paso Mexican Restaurant
- Wash Fair Car Wash
- Woodcraft
- Shadowland
- EmbroidMe

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

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.

...

Crime Prevention Starts With You!

What's your first line of defense? ALWAYS LOCK YOUR CAR DOORS!

In the Franconia District, officers take reports daily from people who have not locked their car doors and find someone has been in their car, something missing from their car or their car missing all together. Locking your car doors is your first line of defense.

How do you protect your valuables?

TAKE THEM OUT OF YOUR VEHICLE!

The reason people steal personal belongings from your car is because they see something they want. Remember, what is not valuable to you may be the object of their desire.

Please, take the extra time to physically remove your CD player, BlueTooth, laptop, GPS, CDs, purse, radio, etc. from your vehicle. Remove any

empty bags or briefcases to relieve the criminals' curiosities. Clean the GPS suction cup circle off of your windshield.

What can you do to help?

REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Suspicious activity is any person, noise or event that doesn't feel right to you. Report suspicious activity by calling 703-691-2131. The information you provide may be a crucial link to solving a crime in your area.

If you would like more information of how to protect yourself from becoming a victim or have a crime prevention question, contact the Franconia Crime Prevention Office at 703-922-8263 or by e-mail at James.reid@fairfaxcounty.gov.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH!

One hour a month is all it takes to be part of the solution. Protect your community. Protect your home and your family.

The Springfield Civic Association is dedicated to promoting community involvement and improvement. It comprises 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 (unless otherwise announced) on Hanover Avenue.

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

RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY
 7250 Commerce Street
 Springfield, VA 22150
 703-451-8055

By Branch Manager Sandy Freund

The library's grand reopening ceremony took place on July 22 at 6 pm. The children of the Bravo Theatre Project from St. Mark's Church sang a medley of patriotic songs. Springfield Boy Scout Troop 881 did the flag ceremony. The ribbon-cutting took place after remarks by Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova, Supervisor Jeff McKay, and Library Director Sam Clay. The architectural firm Berry-Rio presented the library with two new books on architecture to be added to its collection. Berry-Rio architects designed the renovation.

In addition to storytimes for preschoolers, we will offer an English conversation group for those who wish to practice their English and a monthly nature program for ages 6-12 presented by the Hidden Pond Nature Center. The Springfield Writers Group and the Travel Club will continue to meet at the library. We also hope to resume our popular one-on-one computer tutoring later this fall.

The Friends of the Richard Byrd Library began their ongoing book sale on August 10. Prices are very reasonable and the proceeds are used to support the library in many ways.

Here is our calendar for September and October 2010:

Tuesday, September 7, 14, 21, 28, 7 p.m.
English Conversation Group. Practice and improve your English. Adults.

Thursday, September 16, 7 p.m.
Springfield Writers' Group. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

Wednesday, September 22, 10:30 a.m.
Llama Llama Misses Mama. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adults.

Wednesday, September 22, 1 p.m.
Travel Club. Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults.

Thursday, September 30, 2 p.m.
Pig Tales. Stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Tuesday, October 5, 12, 19, 26, 7 p.m.
English Conversation Group. Practice and improve your English. Adults.

Tuesday, October 12, 7 p.m.
Finding Your Fit on the Roller Coaster of College Admissions. Author and educational consultant Julia Ross will teach students and parents how to identify the colleges best able to meet individual academic, social, athletic and financial needs and to navigate the college application process. Teens and adults.

Monday, October 18, 2:30 p.m.
Amazing Amphibians: The Hidden World of Frogs and Toads. Meet and learn about the frogs and toads living all around us. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Age 6-12.

Wednesday, October 20, 10:30 a.m.
Pigeon Madness. Bus-driving pigeons? Pigeons that eat hot dogs? Find out what all the madness is about! Join us for stories and activities. Age 2-5 with adult.

Thursday, October 21, 7 p.m.
Springfield Writers' Group. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.

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

Thursday, October 28, 2 p.m.
Tales from the Pumpkin Patch. Join us for fun stories and activities celebrating the season. Age 2-5 with adult.

TRANSPORTATION

Potholes. Tall grass. Traffic. Unpainted lane markings and pedestrian crossings. Roadside trash. Traffic calming. My staff and I are peppered with complaints at meetings and in phone calls and emails. We are a conduit for funneling these complaints to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) but we have neither the authority nor the funding to resolve them.

Since the Depression year of 1932, the state has been responsible for road construction and maintenance. (Only two counties—Henrico and Arlington—opted to keep that responsibility at the time that the state secondary road system was established. Virginia cities, however, are responsible for road construction and maintenance.)

For some time, the General Assembly has dealt with Virginia's fiscal issues by steadily cutting funding to VDOT. Despite our local state leaders' efforts to fund transportation, the statewide General Assembly has cut road construction funds to almost nothing and maintenance funding is now at a crisis point. As a matter of fact, VDOT released a press release encouraging volunteer mowing after its annual mowing budget was slashed in half. The headline might as well have been *You Want it Done, Do it Yourself*.

We got a good look at how bad the situation is last week at the Board of Supervisors' public hearing on the *Proposed Virginia Department of Transportation Six-Year Secondary System Construction for Fiscal Years 2011 through 2016*. The amount allocated to Fairfax County roads is \$1,989. That's less than two thousand dollars for six years to cover 395 square miles and more than a million people. In 2003, the *Six-Year Program* allocated \$138 million to Fairfax County; in 2004 it was \$153 million. But by 2005, we saw a steep downward trend.

Where do we go from here?

Some have asked if Fairfax County could do a better job of maintaining roads and managing traffic than VDOT. At the same time, the state appears eager to hand off or devolve its road responsibility to local governments. Without adequate funding transferred to localities, we'd be left holding the bag with nowhere to go but to the taxpayers. That is completely unacceptable to me. Since the devolution train seems to be moving down the track, the Board's Transportation Committee (that I chair) is studying this issue. We're looking at what options we might take on if the state lives up to its responsibilities and provides adequate funding.

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



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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Tawny Hammond
1st Vice President:	Bruce Waggoner
2nd Vice President:	Jennifer Moody
Treasurer:.....	Bill Gaylord
Secretary:	Alice Merrill
Director-at-large:	Bonnie Pritchard
Director-at-large:	Gail Nittle
Past President.....	Charlie Butler
Past President:.....	Rick Renninger
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 coupon below, make any necessary corrections, and indicate your areas of interest in the SCA in the box on the left.

Membership and Newsletter Delivery Information

Enclosed is my check to:

Join SCA Renew my membership

Name _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please deliver my newsletter by:

E-Mail U.S. Mail

*Please **PRINT** all information.*

Community Ads and Recommendations

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 703-569-0285

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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 Tuesday, October 19, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Springfield American Legion, 6520 Amherst Avenue. 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 21 de Septiembre 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 Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., a las 7:00 de la tarde. Esperamos contar con su valiosa presencia.