

Springfield Reporter

President's Corner

The past year has been a positive one for our community. As with any year it has been full of changes, challenges, and opportunities. The SCA has continued its efforts to inform you of the changes, engage at the challenge points, and identify new opportunities for our near and long-term futures. In this collective effort, we lean on one another. It is a day-to-day process with setbacks and successes intertwined, but there is no quitting. This has been the tradition of the SCA, and we should all be proud of our reputation that has been so hard won.

Over the second half of 2011, we have successfully transitioned to a new SCA Board of Directors and in so doing expanded the breadth of involvement across the community while increasing the SCA's reach back to experienced leaders who are now counted among the broader "executive committee," e.g., former SCA Presidents, Board members, and activists. Springfield itself is showing signs of physical change with the impacts of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), specifically the official opening of the National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) just two miles from central Springfield. New hotels, road construction, office parks, restaurants, business relocations, and park improvements will soon be giving us renewed hope as well as some disruption to our daily routines. Change is accompanied by challenges and opportunities; staying in the know, embracing the changes, and making the most of opportunities is our collective mission. Please partner with us in that effort; engage at the local level.

As 2012 dawns, let us look ahead to our

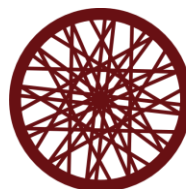
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celebration in June of Springfield Days and the Springfield 15k/5k Road Race that draws people from across the area and shows off our schools, neighborhoods, park system and business district. Volunteers are always needed, and your participation in some form or fashion is much appreciated. Should you be interested in volunteering your time and talents to better Springfield and Fairfax County in general, the SCA is an excellent starting point. Our eclectic community is involved in a variety of noble efforts in the American tradition of volunteering. I have found no better way to learn about Springfield and connect with it than through volunteering. We are surrounded by wonderful people who devote themselves to bettering our way of life.

On behalf of my fellow SCA Board members I wish you and yours all the best for 2012.

Bruce Waggoner, SCA President



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Springfield Civic Association

Where we all come together

Neighborhood Watch

Interested in joining the Neighborhood Watch? One hour a month is all it takes to be part of the solution. Contact the Crime Prevention Officer at 703-922-8263 or SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com.

Anyone with information on crimes is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Alcohol Compliance at 100%

Businesses are routinely tested by officers to ensure that alcohol is not sold to anyone less than 21 years of age. Getting complete compliance is very rare, but on Tuesday, December 6, checks resulted in NO arrests.

Captain Shawn Bennett, Franconia Station Commander, stated, "These checks are part of our broader campaign regarding alcohol-related issues. It's satisfying to see local businesses are being proactive in checking identification and complying with the law."

Crestwood Construction

There is significant construction happening at Crestwood with a new two-story addition to our building. We are very fortunate because this addition will provide us with more learning space for our students and the design will greatly enhance the aesthetics of our campus.

As a community, you will notice additional trucks, noises, and construction equipment during the day on our property. Pavone Construction Company has done many Fairfax County School buildings and they are aware of working in a close community and always strive to have the least impact on our surrounding neighbors.

The safety of our students is always our top priority. Given all the construction equipment and materials that are being brought in and out every day, it is more important than ever to pay attention to the Kiss and Ride rules and to slow your vehicle down when entering and exiting our parking lots. Please use the Kiss and Ride lanes as they were meant to be used. Cars should not be left unattended while you meet your child at the front of the school. This disrupts the entire Kiss and Ride process.

I am asking for patience as we work through this project. Our goal is to be complete with this project by July and ready to start next school year using the new facility.

Timothy Kasik
Principal, Crestwood ES

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Richard Byrd Library Update

By Branch Manager Sandy Freund

During the year 2011, the Library offered many new programs for customers of all ages.

For the first time, we were the host for Mystery Night, an after-hours evening program. Participants interacted with ten suspects, gathered clues, and attempted to solve a murder. Our mystery, Crooke's Crossing, was set at a library gala in rural Virginia.

We also offered a program on social media sites. INOVA presented two outreach programs on health topics: one on hip replacement and one on advanced treatments for acid reflux.

In April, Chief Washington Correspondent for the New York Times and author of "The Inheritance", David Sanger, discussed WikiLeaks and what the release meant to the world.

In December, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services presented a workshop on becoming a naturalized U.S. citizen.

After a two-year hiatus, we resumed booktalking at area elementary schools this spring, promoting books and encouraging children to keep reading over the summer. At Richard Byrd, we had 1,481 children ages birth to age 18 sign up for the Summer Reading Program; 650 turned in a completed reading log and received a coupon

booklet and put up their name on an animal cutout at our signup table. Overall, FCPL had 48,386 starters and 20,842 finishers.

In the fall, library staff introduced a monthly series of evening family storytimes, Bedtime Stories: In the Company of Stars. For preschoolers, we continued to offer a program for 3-5 year-olds, while our former program for ones and twos was divided into two separate storytimes. Fun for Ones (12-23 months) and Time for Twos (24-35 months) present age-appropriate stories and activities for those age groups and are part of Fairfax County Public Library's focus on early literacy.

One of the most exciting developments in 2011 was the increasing demand for ebooks and eaudiobooks. Thanks to the Friends of the Reston Regional Library, the Friends of the Pohick Regional Library, and the Fairfax Library Foundation, our collection continues to grow. Late in the year, Kindle reached an agreement with OverDrive (our main vendor) enabling the downloading of public library ebooks to their devices. During the month of January, various library branches will offer special workshops on downloading e-material. For a schedule, consult the January edition of This Month (available at all libraries) or check the Calendar of Events at the FCPL website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.



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Community Calendar

How can you get involved in your community? There's something on the calendar for everyone. All events are open to the public unless noted otherwise.

Tues., Jan. 10, 7 pm - **Bedtime Storytime: In the Company of Stars.** Come in your pajamas and enjoy bedtime stories and music. All ages, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Jan. 11, 10:30 am - **Time for Twos.** Join us for a storytime focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age two with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Mon., Jan. 16 - **Martin Luther King "Keep Moving Forward" 8K Run/Walk and 2 mile Fun Run.** \$10 entry fee. Lake Accotink Park. More information at <http://www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/>.

Tues., Jan. 17, 7 pm - **SCA Meeting** at Crestwood Elementary, 6010 Hanover Ave.

Wed., Jan. 18, 7:30 pm - **Citizen's Advisory Committee**, Franconia District Police Station, 6121 Franconia Rd. FBI video at 6:30.

Wed., Jan. 18, 10:30 am - **Let it Snow!** Join us for stories, songs and activities celebrating penguins, polar bears and other animals having fun in the snow. Age 3-5 with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Thurs., Jan. 19, 6:30 pm - **Lynbrook Elementary PTA Meeting.**

Thurs., Jan. 19, 7 pm - **Springfield Writers' Group.** Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting, Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Sat., Jan. 21, 1-3 - **Lee District Annual Open House**, 6121 Franconia Rd.

Mon., Jan. 23, 2:30 pm - **Hidden Pond Monday: Hibernators.** Learn how some animals get ready to sleep through the winter and awaken just in time for spring. Ages 6-12, Richard Byrd Library.



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Wed., Jan. 25, 10:30 am - **Fun With Ones.** Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special story time just for ones. Age 12-23 months with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Jan. 25, 1 pm - **Travel Club.** Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Jan. 25, 7:30 pm - **Lee District Association of Civic Organizations,** 6121 Franconia Rd.

Sun., Jan. 29, 10 am-3 pm - **Electric Sunday.** Bring your electronics for recycling to the I-66 Complex, 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA.

Tues., Feb. 7, 7 pm - **Bedtime Storytime: In the Company of Stars.** Come in your pajamas and enjoy bedtime stories and music. All ages, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Feb. 8, 10:30 am - **Time for Twos.** Join us for a storytime focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age two with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Sat., Feb. 11 - **Valentine's Day "I Heart Running" 14K Relay or solo All the Way Run and 1.4 mile Fun Run.** \$10 entry fee. Burke Lake Park. More information at <http://www.metrorunwalkspringfield.com/>.

Tues., Feb. 14, 2-7 pm - **Blood drive** at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Contact Joe Finch at 703-569-1552 or seppl1552@aol.com.

Wed., Feb. 15, 10:30 am - **Still Time for Valentines.** Join us for stories, songs and activities and then decorate a Valentine cookie. Age 3-5 with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Feb. 15, 7:30 pm - **Citizen's Advisory Committee,** Franconia District Police Station, 6121 Franconia Rd. There is usually an interesting presentation by one of the police divisions at 6:30.

Thurs., Feb. 16, 6:30 pm - **Lynbrook Elementary PTA Meeting.**

Thurs., Feb. 16, 7 pm - **Springfield Writers' Group.** Share your work, give and receive

feedback in a supportive setting. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Tues., Feb. 21, 7 pm - **SCA Board Meeting,** Lake Accotink Park office.

Tues., Feb. 21, 7 pm - **Classics Book Club.** *The Rubaiyat* of Omar Khayyam. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Feb. 22, 10:30 am - **Fun With Ones.** Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special story time just for ones. Age 12-23 months with adult, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Feb. 22, 1 pm - **Travel Club.** Bring lunch and enjoy a lively discussion. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Wed., Feb. 22, 7:30 pm - **Lee District Association of Civic Organizations,** 6121 Franconia Rd.

Mon., Feb. 27, 2:30 pm - **Hidden Pond Monday: Nocturnal Animals.** Learn what goes on outside while we sleep. Ages 6-12, Richard Byrd Library.

Tues., Mar. 6, 7 pm - **Bedtime Storytime: In the Company of Stars.** Come in your pajamas and enjoy bedtime stories and music. All ages, Richard Byrd Library.

Tues., Mar. 20, 7 pm - **SCA Meeting** at Crestwood Elementary, 6010 Hanover Ave.

Ongoing Events

One-on-One Internet/Computer Training. Get one-on-one help with computers, common software applications and navigating the Internet. Call the library to schedule an appointment. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Tuesdays, 7 pm - **English Conversation Group.** Practice and improve your English. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Saturdays, beginning Jan. 28, 10 am - 1 pm - **VITA Tax Assistance.** IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earned up to \$50K. Adults, Richard Byrd Library.

Snow Tips from Vivian Watts

If more than 2 inches of snow are predicted

1. Fill up your car with gas. Abandoned cars cause huge problems.
2. Put a bag of sand or clay kitty litter in your trunk. The weight provides traction to combat skidding and tire spinning. The sand or kitty litter can be put under your tires if you get stuck.
3. Park your car(s) in your driveway. It'll save you a lot of shoveling. It allows snowplows to clear a better path, faster.
4. If you can't park a car in the driveway, park it on the side of the street that has odd numbered house addresses. Snowplows can clear a better path, faster.
5. When you shovel the end of your driveway, throw the snow to the right as you face the road and snowplows will be less apt to undo your work.

What you should expect

1. Before the snow gets 2 inches deep, trucks may spread chemicals on major roads to prevent icy pavements. Chemicals may also be spread on feeder roads where there are "hotspots" (difficult slopes / grades) that VDOT has identified.
2. Trucks will not start plowing until 2 inches has accumulated, but you may see them parked at their assigned area ready to go.
3. Only one 8-foot lane is cleared on subdivision streets. Snowplows will not clear to bare pavement.
4. High volume highways are cleared first, but small trucks that can't handle major highways will start clearing feeder roads and then go into subdivision side streets.



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703-455-6203

Background

Most equipment and drivers are not VDOT employees. They are private businessmen. When Northern Virginia got 45 inches of snow during February 2010, only about 1700 vehicles were under contract. We now have double that number.

About 1200 of the privately operated vehicles will be equipped with "Automatic Vehicle Locators" to allow VDOT to track where they've been and (continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

when. During major storms almost every VDOT staff member (including secretaries) drives assigned areas to look for trouble spots.

You should call 1-800-367-7623 to report problems. You also can email novainfo@vdot.virginia.org and the information will be sent to the closest field office. If you are reporting issues with a snowplow give the approximate time it happened and where.

Finally, you can contact my aide, Deb Sherman, by calling 804-786-1039 during the week or 703-978-2989 on weekends. Send us an email at vwatts@erols.com. Even though we're in Richmond during January and February, we'll do our best to get help to you. Most importantly, many improvements were made to VDOT's procedures based on the 100's of calls and emails we received in 2010.

SCA Board of Directors

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Share This Form with a Neighbor! - Join SCA

Annual dues of \$15 cover all adults in a household. Membership is open to all residents and non-resident property owners in the boundaries. Mail this form with your check to PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150 or bring it with you to the Nov. 15th meeting. Please print clearly.

Join SCA Renew my membership Add or change contact information

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Interests _____

By providing your email address, you agree to receive the newsletter and monthly updates by email.



Springfield Civic Association

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SCA Meeting: Disaster Preparedness

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:00 pm, Crestwood
Elementary School, 6010 Hanover Avenue

The social begins at 7 pm with the business
portion kicking-off promptly at 7:30. Our special
guest is Mr. David McKernan, Coordinator, Office
of Emergency Management for Fairfax County.
Check out their newsletter and online information
at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/outreach/>.

The drawing for door prizes is promptly at 9 pm.
Pay your dues to be a member-in-good-standing
for the drawing!

Got Email?

Sign up to receive this newsletter by email. Simply
send an email to springfieldcivic@yahoo.com!

SCA Needs You

We're highlighting just a few of the ways you
could help the Springfield Civic Association. Please
contact SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com if you
are interested in these opportunities or have ideas
of your own!

1. Recruit neighbors to become SCA members.
Time: 5 minutes.
2. Submit calendar items. Time: 1 hour every 2
months.
3. Serve as a liaison to one of the community
meetings listed in the calendar. Time: 2 hours
every month.
4. Solicit businesses for door prizes. Time: 1-2
hours every month.
5. Help with refreshments for meetings. Time: 1
hour every two months.