

Springfield Reporter

Lake Accotink De-Staffing

Lake Accotink was one of three lakefront parks which were de-staffed this winter from Jan. 23 to mid-March! Did you know that? Were you asked to share your concerns and thoughts before the decision was made and implemented? No! Surrounding communities and park users, who are impacted the most, were not given the opportunity for input before this decision was made.

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) transferred permanent staff to Rec-centers because the Rec-centers generate more revenue. Millions of Fairfax County taxpayer dollars have been poured into Lake Accotink over the years in the form of park bonds. Our tax dollars. Because of the de-staffing, the park improvements our dollars have paid for are not being consistently monitored. Who is there to be vigilant about environmental, safety and liability issues? The park office is closed. A maintenance person is in the park periodically thanks to citizen outcry, but that is not enough. Our park is just as important as a Rec-center. A safe park is important to everyone!

How many months will the Park Authority de-staff the park next year? If de-staffing continues year-to-year we could see a decline that will affect not only Lake Accotink Park, but also the value of the homes and neighborhoods around it.

Let's not let this happen again! If you object to the de-staffing of Lake Accotink Park, please go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardfeedback.htm> and make your voice heard to the Park Authority Board. The Lake is bordered by three supervisory districts. We can let all of the Park Authority Board members know our concerns, regardless of the district the Board member represents. Let all of the Board members know we want our park's visitor center open and permanent staff kept at Lake Accotink throughout the year.

In addition you can call the Park Authority's General Information number at 703-324-8716.

You can also contact your Fairfax County Supervisor:

- Lee District (Jeff McKay): leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Braddock District (John Cook): braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Springfield District (Pat Herry): springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov

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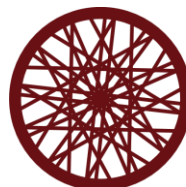
Please pass this information on to your neighbors and fellow park users. Lake Accotink Park and its reputation are too valuable to the revitalization of the Greater Springfield area to leave unattended.

SCA Meeting: Code Compliance

Tuesday, Mar. 20, 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. The drawing for door prizes is promptly at 9 pm. Pay your dues to be a member-in-good-standing for the drawing!

The Code Compliance team will inform us about how code compliance inquiries are prioritized for work. While we will not be discussing specific addresses at the meeting, we do want folks to be able to ask questions about the types of information that they can gather when they want to notify Code Compliance about a potential issue. Using the list

(continued on page 2)



Est. 1953

Springfield Civic Association

Where we all come together

(continued from page 1)

below, members will be able to ask about examples of zoning violations and get helpful feedback to use when reporting the issues.

Everyone is asked to provide the following:

- Address
- Nature of complaint
- Single Family, townhouse, commercial
- Other agencies contacted?

Depending on the nature of the complaint, other information is needed.

Related to Work without a Permit

- Construction materials or construction vehicles onsite? Names?
- Inside or Outside work?

Multiple Occupancy

- How many people?
- Related or unknown?
- How many cars and tag numbers
- Same cars every day? Remaining overnight?
- Entrances used by residents?
- More than one kitchen?
- Children?

Property Maintenance: Structure in Disrepair

- Are you a renter at the property?
- Property Vacant?
- List the issues that apply
- Has the landlord been contacted? Who is it? What was the response?

Business in a Residential District

- What type of business?
- Are employees coming and going from the home?
- What time of day?
- Are vehicles associated with the business?
- Any equipment or materials on the property?

Outdoor Storage

- Location of items being stored
- Space occupied by items
- Type of debris
- Inoperable vehicles
- Parking in Grass

Hoarding / Unsanitary Living Conditions

- Have you seen inside the home?
- What can be seen from the outside?
- Can the occupant take care of him/herself?
- Are children present?
- Are animals present?
- Is the occupant the owner?
- Any exterior trash?

Citizens Advisory Committee: Partner with the Police

Don't miss your chance! The 3rd Wednesday of each month, you have the opportunity to go behind the scenes with your police force. At 6:30 pm in the Helen Wilson Community Room (Franconia Govt. Center, 6121 Franconia Road), you can hear presentations on a variety of police work, including topics such as identity theft, home security, substance abuse, cold cases, and code compliance. At 7:30 the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) continues the interaction with our police officers with a report from the Captain and/or the Lieutenant of Franconia Station, updates on happenings in our area by the investigating detectives, and a question and answer period. This is your opportunity to be involved!

All are welcome. You don't have to be representing any particular group of people; you also don't have to pay anything to participate. Just come! Partnering with our police department is critical! At the February meeting, Fairfax County Police Chief Dave Rohrer described the budgetary challenges the Fairfax Police Department faces. He asked that all citizens get involved - be the eyes and ears of their neighborhood and call the police when they see anything questionable or suspicious. That's how crime is prevented and cases are solved ... community involvement.

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President's Corner

Like the coming season, things are germinating around us. The mall will commence in the June timeframe, while other properties are springing up (e.g., the Chik fil-A, two Hilton-family hotels, and new office buildings) or are in the planning stages (Boston Properties near the metro and the Metro Police sub-station). The SCA also took an active role in changing the course of events at Lake Accotink Park which was slated to be completely de-staffed until mid-March. Thanks to citizen involvement we helped change the Park Authority's plans. It wasn't optimum, but we made a difference by effectively partnering for a better result; the SCA will remain engaged on that front.

More good news comes from the Supervisor's Office where we can expect to see some progress with the ugly commercial parking in the central business district. Mr. McKay and his staff are working with VDOT and the impacted businesses to put a halt to what has become a truck stop for many. On the near horizon, we have invited Code Compliance as our guest

at the March meeting. Come out and learn how best to address zoning concerns. Looking beyond the March membership meeting, we are planning a special April panel discussion with four area realtors who know our community well. We will discuss how Crestwood and Lynbrook are doing relative to the rest of the County; there is a lot of good news. At the regular May membership meeting, we will hear from our elected officials; you will not want to miss this opportunity to engage your representatives. Until we next meet, on behalf of the SCA Board, I wish you the best of spring.

Bruce Waggoner, SCA President

2012 Native Seedling Sale

This annual seedling sale makes low-cost native shrub and tree seedlings available to residents. Seedling packages are available for pick-up in mid-April. Trees and shrubs help cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate and clean our air. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm>.

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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.

Thurs., Mar. 15, 6:30 pm - **Lynbrook Elementary PTA Meeting.**

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

Wed., Mar. 21, 6:30 pm - **Citizen's Advisory Committee**, Franconia District Police Station, 6121 Franconia Rd.

Thurs., Mar. 22, 7 pm - **Connecting Your Home: How to Choose Phone, Cable TV & Internet Services.** Information on choosing cable services, how today's communications services work, advantages and disadvantages of digital and high-definition services, 911 and E-911 issues. Presented by Fairfax County's Department of Cable and Consumer Services. Registration required at 703-451-8055 or <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>. Richard Byrd Library.

Sat., Mar. 24, 9 am - 2 pm - **Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Sun., Mar. 25, 10 am-3 pm - **Electric Sunday.** Bring your electronics for recycling to the I-95 Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton.

Wed., Mar. 28, 7:30 pm - **Lee District Association of Civic Organizations**, Franconia Govt. Center, 6121 Franconia Rd.

Sat., Mar. 31, 8 am - 12 pm - **Document Shredding.** South County Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

Thurs., Apr. 12, 7 pm - **Crestwood Elementary PTA Meeting.**

Sat., Apr. 14 - **ECHO Yard Sale** at St. Bernadette's Church.

Sat., Apr. 14, 8 am - 12 pm - **Document Shredding.** West Springfield Govt. Center, 6140 Rolling Road.

Mon., Apr. 16, 7 pm - **Lee District Land Use Advisory Committee.** Franconia Govt. Center, 6121 Franconia Rd.

Tues., Apr. 17, 2-7 pm - **Blood Drive** at American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave. Contact Joe Finch at 703-569-1552 or sepl1552@aol.com.

Tues., Apr. 17, 7 pm - **SCA Board Meeting**, TBD.

Wed., Apr. 18, 6:30 pm - **Citizen's Advisory Committee**, Franconia District Police Station, 6121 Franconia Rd.

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

Thurs. Apr. 19, 7-8:30 pm - **E-reader and E-workbook workshop**, Richard Byrd Library

Wed., Apr. 20, 11 am - **Barefoot Puppets Presents Little by Little.** Appalachian music, animals and more in this tale of a forest and its new growth after a fire. All ages. Registration required at 703-451-8055 or <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>. Richard Byrd Library.

Sat., Apr. 21 - **Springfield/Franconia Host Lions flea markets begin.** Any non-profit can have a space. VRE Commuter Rail Parking Lot 6900 Hechinger Drive/ 5701 Backlick Road.

Sat. Apr. 21, 10:30 am - **Lake Accotink Wildflower Walk.** Registration required at 703-222-4664 or <http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov>. Lake Accotink Park.

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

Thurs., Apr. 26, 7 pm - **Inside the WikiLeaks Revelations with David Sanger.** Chief Washington Correspondent for the New York Times and author of "The Inheritance", David Sanger, discusses WikiLeaks and what the release means to the world. Adults. Registration required at 703-451-8055 or <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events/>. Richard Byrd Library.

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

Sat., May 5, 9 am - 2 pm - **Household Hazardous Waste Collection.** Mason Govt. Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale.

Mon., May 7, 7 pm - **Lee District Land Use Advisory Committee.** Franconia Govt. Center, 6121 Franconia Rd.

Thurs., May 10, 7 pm - **Crestwood Elementary PTA Meeting.**

Tues., May 15, 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.

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

NEW! Saturdays, beginning Jun. 2, 10 am - 2 pm - **Central Springfield Farmers Market**, American Legion Post, 6520 Amherst Ave.

Neighborhood Watch in Action

In February, we had a great example of our Neighborhood Watch working the way it's designed to! A neighbor called to say that a man was at her front door asking if she needed any work done. She did not feel comfortable opening the door to speak with him. He left and proceeded to another house on the street. What would you do? Call the police non-emergency number - 703-691-2131!

She did. At the same time, a member of our Neighborhood Watch team who had been visited by the man's partner called the police with a description of the man and his vehicle. The police arrived within minutes and charged the men with soliciting without a license. It's good to see things work the way they should.

Officer Jim Reid, Franconia's Crime Prevention Officer, had emailed alerts just prior to this incident. He wrote, "I want to alert you to something that has occurred at least once in each the Franconia and Mt Vernon Districts during the month of January. Solicitors knocked on doors of elderly residents and offered to do tree work. The subjects then performed a few minutes of shoddy work and significantly overcharged the residents. Unfortunately, it is not illegal to overcharge. However, most of these individuals do not have solicitors' licenses, and that is a violation for which we can place a

charge. Please keep an eye out for these individuals and call our non-emergency number 703-691-2131 if they are seen in your neighborhood. They are targeting those who may be vulnerable, so please check on your senior citizen neighbors. Encourage them to call and make a report if this has happened to them."

The police are happy to investigate anything that seems abnormal or suspicious - anything that's out of the ordinary for your neighborhood. You can call the non-emergency number (or even 911 in a real emergency where the situation and timing are critical) and remain anonymous, if that's what you want.

Our neighborhood is always in need of eyes and ears; we need to watch out for each other. The Neighborhood Watch teams would love to have your help! All it takes is 45 minutes of your driving through our neighborhood once a month. There is no confrontation involved. Anything that is to be reported can be done by internet or by phone.

Please contact the Crime Prevention Officer at 703-922-8263 or SCA at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com if you'd like more information.



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Richard Byrd Library Update

By Branch Manager Sandy Freund

Career Transitions is one of our newest online resources and may be used either in the library or at home. A joint project of Gale and the Fairfax County Public Library, *Career Transitions* is designed to help job-seekers and is divided into 5 sections: *Discover Interests*, *Explore Careers*, *Build Resume*, *Improve My Chances*, and *Find Jobs*. Although you may use it as a guest, creating a user profile will enable you to save all of your work in the database. This information is not shared with anyone.

Discover Interests includes an interest assessment that takes about 10 minutes to complete. *Explore Careers* helps users establish state targets (where they want to work), career targets (what they want to do), and industry targets (in what industry). *Build Resume* gives step-by-step assistance in writing a resume. Explore *Improve My Chances* to get quick advice on networking, interviewing, applying and negotiating. Finally, *Find Jobs* lets you do exactly that, searching by type (job title, keyword, company) and by location (city, state, zip code).

To use *Career Transitions* at home, go to the library webpage at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. Click on *Online Resources* at the left side of the page. Look for the list of resources by *Subject* and click on *Careers*. You may also scroll down to the search box and type in *Career Transitions*. From the list of resources displayed, scroll down to *Career Transitions* and click on *log on*. You will need your library card number to access the database.



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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 membership 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.

Inter-Service Clubs Council

The Inter-Service Clubs Council (ISCC) meets at noon, on the second Monday of each month, in the Richard Byrd Library. Your SCA is represented, as are other service clubs, community organizations, and government entities. The purpose and objectives of the Council are: to promote friendship, good will, understanding, and cooperation among member organizations; to coordinate projects among the various service clubs and organizations in order to alleviate duplication scheduling of events, and conflicts of interest in an effort to achieve through unity the maximum degree of service in the community; and to discuss community problems with a view toward a joint effort in making the community a better place to live.

If your organization or an organization you know is interested in the community and are looking for a chance to make a difference, please consider joining the ISCC. For additional information on how to join, please contact Linda Bond, ISCC President via email at lbond@verizon.net

In addition to the SCA, the ISCC includes representatives from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7327 Ladies Auxiliary; Lee District Supervisor’s Director of Communication; Women’s Club of Springfield; Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce; ECHO; American Legion Post 176 Ladies’ Auxiliary; NARFE; Richard Byrd Library; VFW Post 7327; Friends of Richard Byrd Library, and Springfield/Franconia Host Lions.

The February meeting featured speakers from VDOT. John Lynch, Regional Transportation Program Director, gave a Megaprojects update. For the latest information, go to <http://www.vamegaprojects.com/> Steven Shannon, Transportation Operations Manager at VDOT, explained road issues and asked for community assistance in letting his department know about road issues in our neighborhoods. Call 1-800-FOR-ROAD to report an issue. Please be specific in describing the location and dimensions of the problem.



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Board of Directors Election: Nominations Sought, Replacement Needed!

Nominations of members in good standing (dues paid) to serve in the Board's seven positions will be requested from the floor at the March 20th meeting and elections will be held at the May 15th meeting. At February's end, all current Directors except one had indicated a willingness to stand for reelection to their current positions. However, those who'd like to become more actively involved are encouraged to volunteer as candidates for the Board by contacting our Nominating Committee Chair Alice Merrill at 703-569-1771 or a-b6103@cox.net through April 15th. The resulting slate of candidates will be published in the newsletter call for the May electoral meeting.

Due to a recent eye diagnosis, Alice Merrill desires a role requiring less near-vision work, so nominations for the Secretary's position are urgently sought. The duties of the position are to record the minutes of Board of Directors and Executive Committee meetings, keeping track of new and unfinished business; to record the minutes of Membership Meetings, coordinating as needed to ensure they're complete and accurate for upload to the SCA website; to conduct the

association's correspondence; to maintain the historical written record of SCA's operations.

Only members in good standing are eligible to vote (and to receive door prizes!), so please pay your dues. Remind your neighbors to do the same or invite them to join us! Mail your \$15 check per household to Springfield Civic Association, PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150 now, give it to one of the Directors, or bring it to a meeting so you can be checked in as paid and be given the means to have your vote counted.

Mark your calendars now for these meetings critical to the continued operation of your civic association. Then come out and cast your vote to secure next year's SCA leadership team!

Got Email?

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