

March 2020



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President's Message

Hello Neighbors,

Our NSCA Facebook (FB) page was set up to be a place where everyone can share ideas, seek help, ask for recommendations from neighbors, whether for a reliable plumber or a good restaurant, or letting folks know about things for sale or even for free; you get the picture – that's the mission and purpose of the FB page.

By and large, the NSCA FB family uses the site as intended and I believe, as many others do, that it's a worthwhile and enjoyable place to visit and interact on daily. The elected NSCA officers intend to keep it that way and will continue to have moderators monitor posts to maintain our mission and purpose.

Like many things in life though, we need an occasional reality check. The NSCA FB page is not a place to snipe or make personal attacks on people regardless of who they are, what they did, or where they live. If you have a problem with somebody, that's between you and them. Take it offline, use the FB messaging function, or use some other means to work out your differences. Do not make it everybody's business; nobody cares. If you have an opinion on something, use your personal FB page for that.

If you have a legitimate community concern, contact one of the NSCA officers or committee chairs via our website. That's why we are here. Again, the NSCA FB page is not the venue to air concerns or grievances.

Reporting events that actually occurred, such as vehicle tampering or house burglaries, is also valuable so that others can be aware of what's happening and can take countermeasures. *(Continued on page 11)*

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- Meet Supervisor Walkinshaw
- The 2020 Census is Coming!
- NS Elementary School Updates
- North Springfield Swim Club
- Parks & Recreation

IN EVERY ISSUE:

- Gardening Tips & Snips
- President's Message
- Recipe Corner
- Senior Outreach
- Teen Job List
- Upcoming Events

NEXT GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020

Meeting Topic: Meet our Braddock District Council Representative James Walkinshaw

**NO. SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY (CAFETERIA)
SOCIAL: 7:00pm - 7:30pm (coffee & snacks)
GENERAL MEETING: 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm**



GO GREEN SIGN UP FOR AN eNEWSLETTER

Help us help the environment without missing any issues of the NSCA newsletter by signing up to receive an electronic-only format. You will no longer receive the hard copy of the newsletter but will be among the first to receive the newsletter when it is published. Sign up by emailing Nancy Moore at newsletter@nscivic.org. Please include your street address along with the email addresses you'd like to have the newsletter sent to.





MEET SUPERVISOR WALKINSHAW

James Walkinshaw will be our guest speaker at the March 4th NSCA General Meeting.

Mr. Walkinshaw began his term on January 1, 2020 and will be coming to our meeting to introduce himself to our community and answer any

questions you may have. The evening begins at 7pm with refreshments and the meeting will begin at 7:30pm. Thank you to Norma Heck, our Braddock District Council Representative, for inviting Mr. Walkinshaw to our meeting!

Here is a biography obtained from the Braddock District Council website:

James R. Walkinshaw was born and raised in Northern Virginia and has devoted his career to ensuring that our community remains a great place to live, work, and raise a family. During more than a decade of service as Chief of Staff to Congressman Gerry Connolly, James oversaw all aspects of the Congressman's office and served as his chief adviser on a host of issues, working closely with state and local officials. James and his wife, Yvette, live in the Ravensworth Farm neighborhood.

James graduated from New York University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Politics in 2005. Since 2012, he has volunteered as a mentor to at-risk youth through Fairfax County's Befriend-A-Child program. He is a member of the Council to End Domestic Violence where he helped lead the effort to create the county's "Make the Call" campaign to raise awareness of the 24-hour

domestic and sexual violence hotline and help victims get access to the services they need. James is a former vice president of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association, where he has spearheaded an annual awards ceremony to recognize neighborhood volunteers and serves as a block captain. He is a long-time volunteer with the Friends of Lake Accotink Park.

James serves on the following Board committees:

Standing Committees:

- Legislative, Chairman
- Older Adults, Vice-Chairman
- Public Safety, Vice-Chairman

Intergovernmental Committees:

- Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- COG Board of Directors, Alternate
- CPG Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, Alternate
- Northern Virginia Transportation Commission, Principal, VRE Operation
- COG Region Forward Committee, Principal
- COG National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, Principal
- George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board
- INOVA Health Care Services Board
- Virginia Association of Counties

Interjurisdictional Committees:

- District of Columbia
- Fairfax City, Chairman

We hope you will come to the March meeting or participate via Facebook Live to learn more about what the Braddock District Council can do to improve our community! 🌟



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Here are some events where all of us can go. For the library events, please contact the library for updates.

MARCH

Sunday, March 1, 2020; All Day Event; George Mason Regional Library-Maker Table Self Guided Explorations- Explore monthly prompts from cardmaking to construction. All ages.

Monday, March 2, 2020; 4:30pm - 5:30pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-STEAM Academy: Seussville- Explore the world of STEAM in this fun, hands-on program designed to encourage tinkering, learning and imagination! (Ages 6-12).

Tuesday, March 3, 2020; 7:00pm - 8:00pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library-How to Defend Against Robocalls and Identity Theft- Get tips, tools and information to minimize robocalls and defend against identity theft. Presented by Fairfax County Consumer Affairs. Adults.

Friday, March 6, 2020; 10:30am - 12:00pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library-Information Security for Beginners- Internet-based crime is one of the fastest growing crimes in the United States. We use our devices daily to do the simplest of tasks, but do you know how to protect yourself? Adults.

Saturday, March 7, 2020; 2:00pm - 3:30pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library-It's a Wrap with Chef Cal- Learn all about making quick, light, and healthy wraps with Chef Cal. Adults-Teens.

Monday, March 9, 2020; 7:00pm - 8:30pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-Financial Literacy Workshop: Getting the Most out of your Tax Return- Co-sponsored by Andrews Federal Credit Union and the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Adults.

Saturday, March 14, 2020; 2:00pm - 3:30pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library-PI Day Celebration- Stop by for crafts, snacks, activities, and demonstrations of Raspberry Pi to celebrate Pi Day (3.14!). All ages.

Thursday, March 19, 2020; 7:00pm - 8:00pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-Chess Club- Come and learn or practice chess. Ages 6 to 12.

Tuesday, March 31, 2020; 7:00pm - 8:30pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library-Watching TV over The Internet- Cord cutters are replacing or supplementing their cable TV subscriptions with streaming. Learn about the pros and cons of using services such as Netflix, Hulu and Apple TV. Adults.

APRIL

Saturday, April 4, 2020; 2:00pm - 3:30pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library-Quick and Easy Salads and Sandwiches with Chef Cal- Join Chef Cal Kraft to learn about making fresh and tasty salads and sandwiches perfect for spring! Adults-Teens.

Saturday, April 11, 2020; 10:30am - 11:00am; Richard Byrd Library-Saturday Stories- Come and enjoy stories and activities. Ages Birth to 5 with adult.

Monday, April 13, 2020; 7:00pm - 8:30pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-Financial Literacy Workshop: Home Buying Tips- Co-sponsored by Andrews Federal Credit Union and the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Adults.

Thursday, April 16, 2020; 4:45pm - 6:00pm; Kings Park Meeting Room, Kings Park Library-Chess Club- Learn openings, strategies, tactics, and more. Players paired with others of similar skill. Cosponsored by Friends of the Kings Park Library. Age 8-16.

Tuesday, April 21, 2020; 10:30am - 11:00am; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-Dance Party- Come and dance! Age birth to 5 with adult.

Wednesday, April 22, 2020; 4:00pm - 5:00pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library-M.A.D. (Making a Difference) Teens- Come and make blankets for the Animal Welfare League. Age 12 to 18. 1 service hour provided.

Thursday, April 23, 2020; All Day Event; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Conference Room, George Mason Regional Library-George Mason Friends Book Sale- Hours: Thursday April 23 from 3-9; Friday April 24 from 10-6; Saturday April 25 from 10-5; Sunday April 26 from 12-5. Sale includes over 50,000 books, DVDs, CDs, and sheet music.

Thursday, April 30 - Sat May 2, 2020; Friday, May 1; All Day Event; Kings Park Conference Room, Kings Park Library-Friends of the Kings Park Library Book Sale- Used book sale.

Thursday, April 30 - 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Friday, May 1 - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 2 - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Proceeds go to support the Library. 🌟

Got Junk?

CLEAN UP DAY: Saturday, July 25, 2020 (8:00am - Noon)

Got Junk? The NSCA has scheduled with the county to take your big bulky items off your hands. This includes old TVs, yard furniture, old bicycles, lawnmowers and grills (no gas/propane), large appliances, windows, mattresses, glass shower doors, car parts, paint cans (paint must be dried), etc. Please note that the county will not take yard waste (brush/stumps), propane tanks, fuel tank, paint cans with paint or tires mounted on rims.

U-Hauls and large box trucks are not permitted.

If you are elderly and/or have items that you cannot drop off, we hope to have volunteers to pick up at your home. Please contact Nancy Moore at 703-750-2170 or email Newsletter@NSCIVIC.org to schedule a pickup.

Clean Up Day is free to North Springfield residents;



however, we ask that you be a NSCA member in order to participate. Please be sure you have paid your \$15.00 dues in advance or you can join when you come to drop off.

We need volunteers to make clean up day a success! We need help with:

- "Trash to Treasure" area (where items that are in good shape are placed for you to take home)
- Unloading the cars and trucks for the county to transfer to the receptacles
- Provide trucks (and muscle) to pick up items from the elderly or those unable to attend
- Manage the traffic flow and check the cars in by verifying NSCA memberships

If you can help, please contact Nancy (703-750-2170 or email Newsletter@nscivic.org).

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PARKS & RECREATION

Kathy Field parks@nscivic.org

Flag Run at Elgar Street Stream Restoration Project Update from FFX County Department of Public Works & Environmental Services

"We are still anticipating completing construction in September 2020. In mid to late February the contractor plans on opening a second construction entrance on the other side of Elgar Street; the opening of this entrance will not close the sidewalk. At the beginning of March we will be adding additional construction crews to the site and anticipate beginning work on the lower portion of the stream.

So far we have completed half of the structures in the upper portion of the project. We expect the progress over the next 300' of the stream to be quicker because we will be changing from rock structures to log structures; however, this is weather dependent. All of the pipe work has been completed for this project at this time. And we also discovered a sanitary sewer main break at the beginning of the project on Gresham Street which has been repaired."

Additional updates are planned to be delivered to NSCA on a monthly basis. For any questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact Cathy Field at parks@nscivic.org.

Did you know about the relocation of Lake Accotink Park's pollination garden?

Sponsored by the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) and the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), the pollinator garden was relocated from the traffic circle near the boathouse to an expanded garden area near the handicap parking at the large shelter pavilion.

Pollinator gardens provide food in the form of nectar and pollen, and also provide an attractive habitat for various pollinator insect species. The hope is to reverse the decline in pollinator populations, including bees, which have an essential role in the reproduction of many flowering plants.

In this new pollinator garden space last spring, volunteers planted over 400 plants of 14 different varieties that are all native to the area. While the garden was meant to attract a variety of animals including butterflies, birds, and hummingbirds, "five of the 14 kinds of plants are intended to attract pollinating bees," according to Dave Gibson, FLAP Member At Large.

In December, FLAP held a ceremony to dedicate the newly relocated pollinator garden as The Margaret Kinder Education and Pollinator Garden. Margaret has been a long-time member of the Ravensworth Garden Club. She has tended the pollinator garden at Lake Accotink for years and was actively involved in its relocation and expansion.

While the garden is quiet in this colder part of the year, I look forward to going back to this space again in the spring to see the flowering plants and all the wildlife that benefits from them. I hope you will too!

Lake Accotink Trail Clean-Up

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - ALL AGES WELCOME - SERVICE HOURS PROVIDED

WHEN: 2nd Sunday of EVERY Month @ 9am

WHERE: Several Meeting Locations...

- Trail entrance Ellet & Inverchapel Rd
- Lake Accotink Marina
- Trail entrance at the end of Danbury Forest/Lonsdale Dr
- Trail entrance Queensbury & Hatteras

HOW: Pick-up or bring your own trash bags

NOTE: Long sleeves & pants, boots, gloves & sunscreen are encouraged

REGISTER: VOLUNTEER.FAIRFAX.GOV

EMAIL: CONTACT@FLAPACCOTINK.ORG

LOCAL PARK EVENTS

Lake Accotink Park

BGS-Eco-Explorer: 02/29/2020 5:00 pm

(7-9 yrs.) Complete activities toward earning the Brownie Girl Scout Eco-Explorer badge.

Art at Lake Accotink: 03/10/2020 10:00 am

(7-12 yrs.) Series. Learn fundamental skills in a variety of art genres, and take home a nature-themed project at the end of each monthly class. The topic in March will be sewing.

Homeschool at the Lake Winter: 03/12/2020 1:30 pm

(7-12 yrs.) This program for schoolchildren focuses on nature and history. A different topic and hands-on activities are covered each month.

Audrey Moore

Spring Backyard Burn Trail Running Series: 3/1/2020 9:00 am

Park Authority Camp Fair - FREE: 3/7/2020 10:00 am

MORE Wakefield Trail Work Spring Series: 3/14/2020, 5/3/2020 - 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

For all hikers, bikers, runners, and players of dirt trails - keep our incredible trails in good shape! Start with donuts and coffee at 8:45am, end with pizza at 1pm. Bring boots, gloves, pants, water, bug spray, and sunscreen. Send questions to wakefield@more-mtb.org.

Friends of Accotink Creek Monthly Mtng: 3/17/2020 7:00 pm

Friends of Lake Accotink Park

General Membership & Alliances Mtng: 3/19/2020 7:30 pm

Community of Christ 5610 Inverchapel Road, Springfield VA 22151

FLAP monthly cleanup at the Lake: 3/8/2020, 4/12/2020 - 9:00 am -

Meet up with our NS neighbor, Arika VanBrunt, at the Marina!

Do you know any Parks & Recs events or info that should be shared with our neighbors? Please reach out to parks@nscivic.org! ♦

RECIPE CORNER

Nancy Moore newsletter@nscivic.org

To celebrate St Patrick's Day, I thought I would share this delicious recipe for Corned Beef and Cabbage. Corned Beef and Cabbage is a traditional St. Patrick's Day meal that we have every March 17th. I hope you and your family enjoy it, perhaps it will become your family's tradition too! Happy St. Patrick's Day North Springfield! —Nancy



BEST Corned Beef and Cabbage

INGREDIENTS:

One 3-pound corned beef brisket (uncooked), in brine (Colorado Premium Corned Beef Pointe Cut, tenderized with Papain is very good)

16 cups cold water

2 bay leaves **

2 teaspoons black peppercorns **

4 whole allspice berries **

2 whole cloves **

1/2 large head green cabbage (about 2 pounds), cut into 8 thick wedges

8 small new potatoes (about 1 1/4 pounds), halved

Freshly ground black pepper to taste

**Place these spices in a cheesecloth tied with string for easy removal.

DIRECTIONS:

Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.

Place the corned beef in a colander in the sink and rinse well under cold running water. Discard spice pack if provided.

To a large Dutch oven with a tight-fitting lid, add the corned beef, water and the cheesecloth filled with bay leaves, peppercorns, allspice and cloves. Bring to a boil, uncovered, and skim off any scum that rises to the surface. Cover and transfer pan to the oven, and braise until very tender, about 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Transfer the corned beef to a cutting board and cover tightly with foil to keep warm. Remove the spice bag or strain the spices out of the cooking liquid if you have not bagged it. Add the cabbage and potatoes to the cooking liquid and bring to a boil. Lower the heat and simmer until the vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer the cabbage to a large platter. Slice the corned beef across the grain of the meat into thin slices. Lay the slices over the cabbage and surround it with the potatoes. Ladle some of the hot cooking liquid over the corned beef and season with pepper. Serve immediately with mustard or horseradish sauce.

If you have a recipe you'd like to share please send it to Nancy Moore at Newsletter@NSCIVIC.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your family recipes and culinary traditions with your neighbors!



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THE 2020 CENSUS IS COMING!

Scott Konicki

Note: All opinions in the following article are my own, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the U.S. Census Bureau, of which I am an employee.



How many people live in North Springfield? Soon, we will all be asked to help answer that question by completing the 2020 Census. Every ten years, the United States counts its population by conducting a census. It is a process enshrined in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution:

"The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the first Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent Term of ten Years..." The last census was conducted in 2010. Then, the population of North Springfield was 7,274 people.

The main purpose of the census is to determine how many seats each state will have in the House of Representatives for the next ten years. The more populous the state, the greater the number of representatives. However, census data serve many other important uses. Census counts are used to divvy up billions of dollars in federal funding for programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, and Head Start. Local communities use census data to determine where to build new schools, fire stations, and roads.

Completing the 2020 Census is vital to our community. This March, we will all receive letters and postcards asking us to go online to complete the 2020 Census. The 2020 Census is a short questionnaire, including questions about how many people live in our homes and basic demographic questions like age and sex. The easiest way to complete the census is online, where you can respond in one of 12 languages. If you prefer not to complete the census online, you can also do it over the telephone or wait for a paper form to be mailed to you a few weeks later.

Responding to the census by one of these three options (internet, phone, or paper) is very important. It saves the government money and is easier for the Census Bureau to process. Furthermore, if you do not respond by mid May, a census worker will come to your door to conduct an interview in person. Even if you complete your own form, a census worker may come to your door to ask about a neighbor whom they cannot contact, or about a house that may be vacant. I know that nobody likes solicitors, but please be kind when the census workers do their work this summer. These are our neighbors who are working these difficult, temporary jobs.

Responding to the census is safe. By law, your answers must be kept private and secure. The Census Bureau cannot

release your personal information, even to other government agencies like the FBI. Your answers are only used to produce statistics at aggregated levels.

Keep in mind that the 2020 Census counts everyone at your address, not just your own family. Anyone who is living or staying at your address should be included in your household count: children and adults, immediate family and distant relatives, roommates and temporary residents. All of these people should be included on your census form if they have no other place where they normally stay.

I hope that you will help make sure that North Springfield is counted accurately by joining me and responding promptly to the 2020 Census this spring! For more information about how the census works, the questions that are asked, and the uses of the data, please go to www.2020census.gov. *

20 PARTICIPATE IN THE CENSUS
It's about **FAIR** Representation

What to Know about the Census and Why It Matters

\$1.5 trillion
in federal funds are allocated to states, communities and local governments to spend on vital programs

Schools Hospitals Roads Public Works

Participation is constitutionally mandated

The results determine how many seats states are allocated in the House of Representatives

Every household will have the option of responding

Online By mail By phone

The Census Bureau will NEVER ask for

- ✗ Social security numbers
- ✗ Political party information
- ✗ Bank/credit card account numbers
- ✗ Donations

2020census.gov

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WHAT IS NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB (NSSC)?

Stephen Frey

Dear Neighbors,

Spring is right around the corner. We are already working hard to make sure that members have an inviting and relaxing getaway within walking distance of their home. For those of you not familiar with NSSC, please read on for a summary.

What is NSSC?

It is a member-run club, founded in 1957, by and for the residents of North Springfield. The club is centered around a full-sized swimming pool with a dive well, dedicated adult lap lane, poolside basketball hoop, lounge chairs and tables, and is situated in a forested lot with plenty of sunny and shady areas to meet every preference. In addition, there is a kiddie pool and playground area for our smallest members. We have a sizable picnic area for meals, BBQ grills for use and a Snack Shack for food and drinks open all during the day. There is plenty of grassy area for games, a sand volleyball court, horseshoes, basketball, and a frisbee golf goal. We have very active swim and dive teams. In addition, we have a booming 'Little Flippers' learn-to-swim class. Tying this all together is a social committee that organizes events all through the summer season.

Who are our Members?

There are currently over 200 active memberships of all types, including families, couples, seniors and singles, totaling over 1,000 members of all kinds and ages. Responsible children 10 and up are able to enjoy the club without parental supervision until 6PM daily. Teens 13 and older may enjoy the club during all open hours without adult supervision, making NSSC a safe destination within walking and biking distance. Finally, we have a neighborhood-inclusive guest policy.

Teens looking for Summer jobs?

We are one of a few teen employers located right in the neighborhood. We are located right off Leesville at the Earlhurst stop signs.

When is opening day?

Our opening day is Saturday, May 23. Details for this season will be appearing on our website and FB pages as we move into spring. Please contact our membership team (MembershipNSSC@gmail.com) for more information and to arrange a tour. Responsible teens seeking employment as a lifeguard or front desk staff should contact Lisa Pritt, Staff Manager (lisasehpritt@gmail.com) Please contact me with any questions and if you would like to be a sponsor.

We hope to see you this summer! –Stephen Frey ♦

North Springfield Swim Club

"Home of the Dolphins"



www.ns-sc.org
Built 1957 – Rebuilt 2016



Opening day is Saturday May 23, 2020

Amenities: Swim and Dive Teams; Tennis Courts and Tennis Lessons; Swim Lessons; Lap Swimming; Dolphin Snack Shack; Sand Volleyball Court; Ping Pong; Frisbee Golf, Gated Baby Pool; Playground; Family Dressing/Bathroom; Pool Parties for all Ages; Horseshoe pit; Food Truck Fridays; and more!

For membership information contact Ken Balbuena. kenbalbuena@gmail.com

For general questions contact Stephen Frey, merenkulku@yahoo.com.

Also on Facebook [@North.Springfield.Swim.Club](https://www.facebook.com/North.Springfield.Swim.Club)

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THE NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

The civic association is looking for volunteers! If you are interested in any of our positions, even if they are currently filled, or if you want to volunteer to help with one of the committees, please email president@nscivic.org.

If you would like to contribute to the NSCA newsletter as a contributing reporter (submitting articles of interest to our residents) or help with door to door distributions, please email newsletter@nscivic.org.

Many hands make light work and we are always happy to have more help! Current open positions and descriptions of these positions follow:

SECRETARY

The Secretary will keep a correct and complete record of the proceedings of the association (meeting minutes), verify that only members in good standing are permitted to vote on matters presented at the regular meetings and verify the quorum required per the by-laws. Manage and maintain historical records of all official correspondence of the association or its officers. Also serves as the committee chairman for the NS Facebook group and the lead for moderating the page for content.

FAIRFAX FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE

The Fairfax County (VA) Federation is the association for the county's homeowner, civic, and community organizations. The chair serving on this committee would work together with the Fairfax Federation association on issues that impact North Springfield. For more information on the Fairfax Federation go to <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/>.

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

This committee chair organizes volunteers to greet new residents. They bring a welcome package including a recent newsletter, "Who to Call" information (to help the new resident know who to contact for help,) and let them know that North Springfield has a civic association that is there to support them and maintain their community. Bilingual residents would be very welcome to join this committee. We want new North Springfield residents to feel welcome and happy they chose our neighborhood as their new home! 🌟

SENIOR OUTREACH

Marie Norman Seniors@nscivic.org

At the Civic Association meeting on February 5th our guest speaker was Jodi Smith from Fairfax County Services for Older Adults. She gave a great presentation on services available through the county. There are services not only for older adults but also for caregivers, and there are a wealth of volunteer opportunities. Jodi made a point of thanking our North Springfield neighbors who volunteer through Adult Services. She said they could not do such important work without these volunteers. We thank them too!

There was a table full of handouts that she brought for us. I'm sorry that more of our seniors weren't at the meeting. Ask your neighbors if they were there and maybe they can share their handouts with you. You can also access much of this information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults

Two of the handouts, I thought, were very timely. One addresses the coming census and its importance because it determines how tax funds are distributed to Virginia and Fairfax County; it also determines how many delegates Virginia can send to Congress. The other is the county's Silver Shield Anti-Scam Campaign which is always a problem for young and old alike. I think it's more so for older adults because people always assume that older people should "know better." You can check this out at www.fairfaxcounty.gov and search for "Silver Shield."

Senior Outreach will send a letter to Jodi thanking her for spending her evening with us. We would also like to thank our neighbor Lauriebeth Hoffman. Lauriebeth is a professional organizer. She shared information with us about her company and the services they offer. You can check that out at www.AceofSpaceDC.com. Thank you, Lauriebeth!!

Last but not least, I was told that I didn't make this clear enough so please let me try again:

If you are 65 or over, retired or not, any gender, and would be interested in getting together in the afternoon maybe once or twice a month for coffee, conversation, and idea sharing (just getting to know each other,) please email me at seniors@nscivic.org

A small group could meet at McDonalds. If we have a large group, the George Mason library has rooms that we could probably use. I don't mean to exclude anyone, but this is SENIOR Outreach.

Additional Resources Provided:

- Your One-Stop call center is 703-324-7948 (Mon-Fri 8am – 4:30 pm) TTY 711
- Stay in the loop – subscribe to the Golden Gazette and Fairfax 50+ (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/subscribe-golden-gazette-e-news)
- Find upcoming events at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar and click on "Older Adults".
- Adult Protective Services (APS) Hotline: 703-324-7450, TTY: 711 (available 24/7)
- Volunteer Solutions: Provides volunteer opportunities with older adults and adults with disabilities: 703-324-5406, TTY: 711 or go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on "Volunteer Solutions." 🌟

(President's Message: Continued from page 1)

NOTE on last week's backfiring event and other possible or emerging situations that occur in North Springfield: unless there is confirmation of a problem, such as a witness or information broadcast on a police radio, please do not post, since wild speculation can cause more harm than good. Call the police if you feel a threat to you or our community. Very few people can distinguish a gunshot from a vehicle backfire, as we recently discovered. Please think before you post in these situations.

Lastly, the NSCA officers, committee chairs, and FB moderators are volunteers and are also your neighbors. I want to highlight that our FB moderators have an extremely difficult job when it comes to content approval as it relates to our NSCA FB information-sharing mission. It is not personal to them, and it shouldn't be to you either. So if something you posted gets edited or deleted altogether, understand that we're just doing our jobs to support the mission. Take any negativity elsewhere.

Thank you.

Ted Wiatrak
NSCA PRESIDENT

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GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS

Martha Wilson

Are you perhaps longing for the blooms of spring? Instead the days are filled with wind and rain knocking at your window panes! Don't just pine for daffodils and tulips. Here are some surprises for you even now:

HELLEBORUS

Perennials, with a bloom time February to March. Blooms last 6-8 weeks. Wonderful cut flowers of white, green, pink, purple, cream, rosy red. Some have a spotted, streaked, and edged mix. Plant in part shade to full shade. Deer tolerant. Prefer moist, organically rich, well-drained soils. There are about 15 different species in the Helleborus genus. My text on Herbaceous Perennial Plants by Allan M. Armitage, says:

"...no garden should be without hellebores. Period! ... Strolling by a clump of hellebores on the edge of a path or on a hillside where flowers nod their greetings, the stroller knows that spring has sprung and all is right with the world."

Check out these species and varieties:



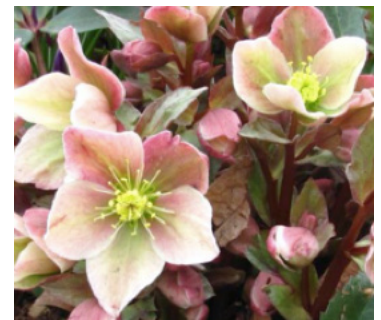
Helleborus niger

(Picture from the MO Botanical Garden)
<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=c990>



Helleborus x hybridus

(Picture from Fine Gardening)
<https://www.finegardening.com/genus/helleborus>



Helleborus 'Winer Sunshine'

(Picture from the gardens of Woodberry Forest School, by Sue Dickson, Prof Herbaceous Plants, Northern Virginia Community College)



Although best planted in the fall, some of your garden centers will have them now. Plant them outside in a sheltered location protected from cold winter winds. Or, given their irresistible blooms, enjoy them as a potted plant for February and put them out next month. Clumps never require division and will form and grow best when left undisturbed. Enjoy, and let them give you a spring smile every winter! ❁

NORTH SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL UPDATES

Chad McRae, Principal



North Springfield Community,

There are many exciting instructional models and events that are now happening at our school. Our students' work and discoveries around the school system's Portrait of a Graduate (POG) program, the infusion of technology,

and an increase in access for all our students to the delivery models used in the advanced academic program have made a tremendous difference in our students' thinking and learning. Instruction at North Springfield looks and sounds very different from when most of us were in school.

One way to stay informed is by going to our school website (<https://northspringfieldes.fcps.edu/>); under the drop-down tab titled "Get Involved," you can register for "News You Choose" and select North Springfield when you register. You will then automatically be emailed our weekly community newsletter.

Our community should be very proud of our students. They are kind and empathetic and they truly enjoy learning.

Our current enrollment is 544 students, of which 100 students are in our special education preschool programs. We continue to have the largest special education preschool program in the county.

There are currently two ways you can get involved in our school. First, we have an on-going plastic bag collection, the ones that everyone gets from stores, that is sponsored by our Eco-club. We recycle the bags and receive recycled items for the school made from different Trex materials. The drop-off boxes are in the lobby and main office. This is an ongoing eco project and we are hoping to collect 1000 lbs of plastic bags this year. Please feel free to bring your bags and contribute to our collection during school hours. The second program that we are currently collecting for is "Ellie's Hats," which supports childhood cancer victims. This program ends on Wednesday, February 19th. If you would like to donate a NEW hat or support the program through a monetary donation, both can be dropped off in the main office during school hours.

It is our hope to continue to provide school updates to the civic association newsletter moving forward. Thank you to our entire community for your continued support of our school. —Chad McRae, Principal

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TEEN JOB LIST



The following is a list of teens who are willing to help with pet sitting, babysitting, dog walking, pet waste removal, snow removal, car washing and yard work.

If you would like your teen added to this list, please email newsletter@nscivic.org with their contact information and what they would like to help with. Thank you to all the North Springfield teens who offer these services to our neighborhood. It is a great way to earn some money while providing help for our residents!

NOTE: Parents of the teens on the NSCA Teen Job List are required to verify all job requests to ensure their child's safety.

	Pet Sitting	Baby-Sitting	Dog Walking	Pet Waste Removal	Snow Removal	Raking	Car Washing	Yard Work	Lawn Mowing
Beatrice Johnston (16) (H) 703-642-5362 (M) 517-274-8543 ashsugt@yahoo.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!						
Xavier Johnston (14) (H) 703-642-5362 (M) 517-274-8543 ashsugt@yahoo.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!		✓ YES!		
Michael Oliver (16) (H) 703-644-9709 irwinkaren@verizon.net					✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!
Anna Oliver (15) (H) 703-644-9709 irwinkaren@verizon.net	✓ YES!		✓ YES!						
L.J. Oliver (13) (H) 703-644-9709 irwinkaren@verizon.net					✓ YES!	✓ YES!		✓ YES!	✓ YES!
Liam McGinity 1* (14) (H) 253-548-5183 liam_mcginity@bcaemail.org	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!		✓ YES!				✓ YES!
Megan Brown 2* (16) (H) 703-866-3044 ivondale@aol.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!						
Trinity Tompkins 3* (13) (H) 719-650-2199 u24ttompkins@icloud.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!			✓ YES!			
Emily Hawkins (13) (H) 571-395-0245 emilyhawkins2136@gmail.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!						
Brian Bernard (13) (H) 916-792-9401 missrhe81@yahoo.com	✓ YES!		✓ YES!		✓ YES!				✓ YES!
Ella McGinity (13) (H) 253-548-5183 ellamc4g@gmail.com	✓ YES!	✓ YES!	✓ YES!						

1* Boy Scout, Safesitter Certified (children 3+) 2* Girl Scout Babysitter Training 3* 4-10 year olds, Girl Scout Babysitter Training, lots of experience



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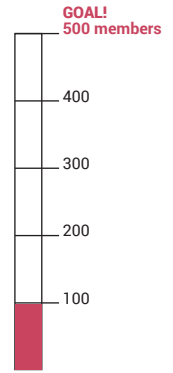
PTA PRESIDENT Erin Henderson
ptapresident.nses@gmail.com

SR OUTREACH COMMITTEE Marie Norman
seniors@nscivic.org

2020 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

NSCA Membership Renewal Year began January 1, 2020! We are off to a good start and thank you to the 100 households that have paid their 2020 membership dues. Please help us meet our goal of 525 members! That is a modest goal of only 24% of the total number of homes in North Springfield. Please help your community by becoming a member for the affordable annual membership dues of \$15.00!

Thank you to all the neighbors who have made generous donations over and above their dues, including the following donors who have allowed us to publish their names as a thank you!



GOLD (\$50+)

Bergen Family
Tanja & Stephan Frey
Jan & Steve Gaskins
Jose & Daphene Martinez
Donald Neff
Jeff & Dawn Schaefer
Phillip Weimer

SILVER (\$25 - \$49)

Linda & Rob Blau	John Merchant
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Jim and Ellen Gray	Marion Scaffidi
Billy & Jeanette Linkous	Wells & Jill Wilson

BRONZE (\$10 - \$24)

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Become a Member! Fill out form below or pay online: mkt.com/nscivic

NSCA Annual Membership is **\$15**. In addition, your donations are greatly appreciated and help us to keep the neighborhood beautiful, safe and connected. We would like to thank you for your donation by listing your name in the newsletter and online in the following donation categories:

BRONZE \$10 - \$24 | SILVER \$25 - \$49 | GOLD \$50+

With your donation of \$10 or more (in addition to dues) we will include your name in the appropriate category. If you do not wish your name to be published please check "no." No

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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New Member Renewal (above information is for NSCA use only. We do not give out or sell to outside parties)

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ (Mail checks to: PO Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151. By credit card: mkt.com/nscivic)

Please help us go Green, check here if you would like to receive the newsletter electronically

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning and Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Social Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Neighbor Welcome Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Outreach | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify below) |

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