

FALL 2026



North Springfield Civic Association

PO Box 1007 | Springfield, VA 22151

www.nscivic.org

President's Message

By: Jeff Schaefer

Hello Neighbors!

As we settle back into our fall routine, I look forward to cooling temperatures, the colors of the foliage in fall, and the warmth of pumpkin-spiced everything! I hope you are all doing well and finding time to reconnect with neighbors after the busy summer months.

Our next general membership meeting is Wednesday, Oct. 7. I am lining up a candidates' forum as the meeting's main topic, as we have done in prior years. Keep your eyes on our [Facebook page](#) for details. Once the pieces come together, this will be a great opportunity to hear directly from those running for office and ask the questions that matter most to you and our neighborhood.

Looking ahead to our Nov. 4 meeting, we are working to bring in a speaker from Fairfax County's Urban and Community Forestry Division. If you've felt the heat dome settle over North Springfield during the past couple of summers, you're not alone. It turns out our tree canopy has a lot to do with it. The speaker will discuss the impact of deforestation and programs available to residents and organizations to get free or low-cost trees for replanting.

Our volunteers make this association work, from the volunteers who keep our entrances looking clean, to the newsletters produced by our Newsletter team, and the timely information shared by our Senior Outreach chair! **Interested in taking a more active role?** The following committees need leaders willing to take the reins:



Fair Play performed at the First Annual North Springfield Porch Fest. Info and photos on pages 12-15.



NSCA GENERAL MEETING **Wednesday, October 7 • 7:30 pm** **Topic: Candidate Forum**

The next NSCA General Meeting will be held at North Springfield Elementary School. For individuals preferring to attend the meeting virtually, please visit the [NSCA Facebook page](#) for login information.

HALLOWEEN PARADE & TRUNK OR TREAT! **Sunday, October 18 • 3-5 pm**

Get those costumes ready! One of North Springfield's favorite fall traditions is returning for its 11th year. Enjoy Halloween games, activities, the parade and Trunk or Treat!
Additional information on page 3.

- **Webmaster:** Keep our website current and useful for the neighborhood, from event listings to general upkeep.
- **Neighborhood Watch:** Coordinate volunteers and be a visible presence keeping our community safe.
- **Parks & Recreation:** Help us stay informed about the county's plans for our parks and recreation facilities.
- **Community Service:** Lead service projects and activities and help other volunteer leaders see their ideas come to fruition.

If any of these roles sound like a fit, or if you're just curious what's involved, reach out to me at President@nscivic.org. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have!

Finally, now is a great time to renew your membership. Dues are just \$15 a year, and that support goes directly toward the programs, advocacy, and activities that make North Springfield a wonderful neighborhood! As an added bonus for supporting your community, **all 2026 NSCA members will be entered into a random drawing to win one of three \$50 Giant Food gift cards!** [Click here to join online](#) or visit page 24 for more information. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood and at our next association meeting.

Sincerely, Jeff 🌟





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The Spooktacular North Springfield Tradition Returns!

11TH ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARADE & TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 18 • 3:00-5:00 pm • North Springfield Swim Club



GET THOSE COSTUMES READY! Join neighbors for an afternoon of costumes, candy, games, crafts, and Halloween fun.

THE PARADE BEGINS PROMPTLY AT 3:00 PM. Families gather near Leesville Boulevard and Earlhurst Street, then follow a short route to the North Springfield Swim Club.

THEN IT'S TIME TO TRUNK OR TREAT! After the group photo, children can visit decorated trunks and enjoy games and activities. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.



NEIGHBORS MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE

Volunteers are essential. Decorate a trunk, help with a game or craft, assist with setup or cleanup, or make a contribution. Students may earn verified service hours.

Sign Up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4CACAC29A6FDCF8-65108393-north>

Please note: Children must remain with an adult. Please leave pets at home; service animals are permitted. Street parking is available nearby.

Questions? Bobbi Grady and Caryn Chmielewski • nshalloweenparade@gmail.com

Sponsored by North Springfield Swim Club, North Springfield Civic Association & Jennifer Porter Law.

Photos from the 2025 Celebration by Tom Miller.

THE HISTORY OF NORTH SPRINGFIELD

Submitted by: Robyn Carter

Hello Again, North Springfielders!

In keeping with the sharing of images of some of the earliest North Springfield homes that were built by Edward R. Carr's, C&J Inc., here is the remainder of the 1955 brochure from the previous edition of the newsletter. In that edition we showed the cover of the brochure and the "Ashlawn" model. The brochure was a donation to the archive and comes from The Don Costello Collection.

In the next edition I will share details from The Crestwood Park section of the neighborhood that was also begun in 1955 but built by The Crestwood Construction Corporation that was not a Carr owned entity. — Until next time, Ye Olde Historian 🌟

north springfield

the homes

These homes in North Springfield, Virginia, were planned by Architect Harry E. Ormston, AIA, to provide the kind of living that is wanted by contemporary Americans. Elbow room for today's larger families—personal privacy when wanted—easy transition from indoor to outdoor living—ease of maintenance—space for informal entertaining—design variations adapted to the contours of the site—this is the type of thinking behind these homes.

the community

North Springfield is an extension of Springfield—an established community with existing facilities. Public and parochial schools are nearby and six churches are in varying degrees of construction. There is a large new shopping center with plenty of parking. Homes have been oriented and sited on landscaped lots for maximum privacy and variety. A community newspaper, PTA, scout troops, clubs, community association and all the things that make life in the suburbs so enjoyable are established and waiting—for you. Springfield is just 15 minutes from downtown along the modern dual lane Shirley Highway; there's not a traffic light after you leave D. C.

construction details

The construction in North Springfield is the same blend of careful workmanship and top materials that you can see in nearby Yates Village and Monticello Forest. All brick exteriors with a wide variety of treatments, copper plumbing, Bryant floor level gas heat, sliding door closets, fir lumber, fireplaces, venetian blinds, are among the many quality features.

directions

Take Shirley Highway to the Franconia-Springfield Cloverleaf, right to Back Lick Road, right one mile to North Springfield on the left.

ashlawn




This is North Springfield's home for young moderns living on a small budget. The compact, three-bedroom ASHLAWN has low ground-bugging lines that accentuate its brick exterior. A feeling of spaciousness is created by the unobstructed view through the house from the front door to the terrace area off the dining room. The long living room is oriented around a brick fireplace set in a random width, tongue and groove paneled wood wall. Separating the living room, but not excluding it from the dining room, are movable bookcases with adjustable shelves. High-light of the step-saving kitchen is a 30" RCA Estate range with its wide oven . . . also a disposal unit. Adjacent to the kitchen is a sunny utility room which does triple duty as a laundry-storage-bobby room.



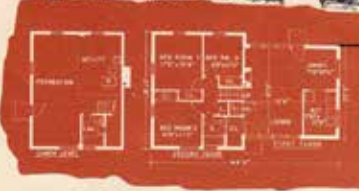

monticello

This is architect Harry Ormston's basic Monticello Forest home which enjoyed such overwhelming public acceptance. In this imaginative three bedroom, one level home you will find a new understanding of space. The low sweeping lines and large glass areas gather the outdoors into its shelter and lead many activities outside. Every foot of living is on one natural level, and a utility room with outside entrance provides ample storage, laundry and play space. The bath and powder room both have colored fixtures. Two complete window walls provide a clean sweep of light through the house from front door to terrace. The bright cheerful kitchen has dishwasher, disposal, 9 foot refrigerator with freezer (all by Westinghouse), fan, fluorescent lighting and an RCA Estate full oven range.

woodlawn




Here is a home designed for the family preferring a basic rancher with a full basement for future expansion. The WOODLAWN'S lower level has above grade windows, roughed-in plumbing for a future bath, and its own fireplace. No compromise here in design, for large window areas in the living and dining rooms provide the sweep of light through the house which is a vital part of the North Springfield design concept. Although the living room has one window wall, it still provides unbroken wall area for a variety of furniture arrangements, and features a paneled wall with fireplace. The back of the fireplace brings the texture of the brick into both the kitchen and dining room. Each of the three bedrooms have roomy sliding door closets. The efficiently-planned kitchen comes with refrigerator, RCA Estate counter-top range, disposal, exhaust fan and lots of cabinet space.

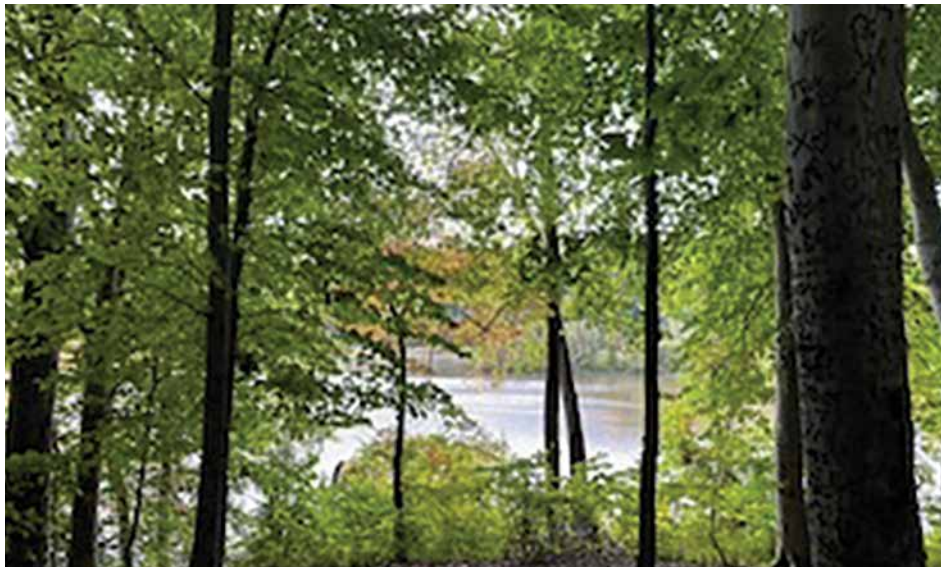
rutledge

Here is a contemporary concept of the three bedroom split level—all of the good split level features have been retained like the daylight lower level with private entrance and the personal privacy offered by the separation of sleeping and living areas. Added have been the design trends demanded by today's families. Windowwall frame either end of the 21' x 13'6" living room and transition from indoor to outdoor living is easy through the door to the rear terrace. There's a distinctly separate dining area, yet for entertaining it becomes part of the living area. The bright kitchen comes equipped with a dishwasher, disposal, refrigerator (all by Westinghouse), RCA wide oven range, and fluorescent lighting. The lower level with its lavatory and five double-hung above grade windows may be developed into two more bedrooms, a recreation room, or a garage and workshop. Other RUTLEDGE features: sliding door closets, large living room closet, folding kitchen door.

GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS:

Tree Talk (Part 3) – SOFT LANDINGS

Submitted by: Martha Wilson



Lake Accotink Park, Fairfax VA. Photo by Martha Wilson.

THE FOREST

When you walk at Lake Accotink, do you notice all the young saplings around the big, beautiful, mature trees? Do you notice the low undergrowth at the base of the trees?

Forest trees drop their seeds to plant the next generation. The forest floor is the perfect planting bed because it is filled with rich, natural compost. Bacteria, fungi, protozoa and nematodes break down this compost into a nutrient-rich Soil Food Web¹ that gives back to the soil exactly what the tree roots extracted from it.

Scientists like Dr. Doug Tallamay through his HomeGrown National Park² organization, and Heather Holm through her research and books are demonstrating that ***the soil food web below ground***, and ***the food web above ground*** are connected. Beneficial pollinators, such as moths, butterflies, bumblebees and fireflies, feed on native trees and plants. They also complete their life cycles as pupae in the soil and in leaf litter beneath the trees.



Luna moth cocoon in leaf litter. Photo from Doug Tallamay.



Red spotted purple caterpillar feeding on a black cherry leaf (left) and as an adult butterfly (right). Photo from Heather Holm.



The benefits and problems of mulching planting beds. Photo by Lumberjax.

THE SUBURBS

Many homeowners strive for either lawn under their trees, or they use vast mulch beds, cleared of any leaf, limb, nut, berry or seed. On the positive side, mulching protects trees from lawn mower and weed eater injury. Mulch holds moisture in times of drought, cools roots and prevents soil erosion. The problem is lawns and mulch do not provide food and shelter for wildlife. When pollinators don't survive, plants can't thrive and birds and animals starve. Today we have 3 billion fewer birds in North America since 1970.⁴

SOFT LANDINGS – A NEW WAY TO LANDSCAPE

What is a “Soft Landing?”

WETA/PBS LearningMedia,⁵ defines a “Soft Landing” as multilayers of native plants set inside the dripline of keystone trees, instead of grass or mulch. At installation, plant plugs (small cell packs) are used instead of larger container plants to minimize root and soil disturbance. Organic matter is retained as natural mulch unless it is diseased.

What are Keystone Plants?

Keystone Plants are native trees and plants that serve as significant hosts
(continued on page 6)

NS Elementary School PTA Updates

By: Laurie Hoffman, President



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NSES

September 2026 – January 2027

We have an exciting few months ahead at NSES! From Movie Nights and our Fun Run to the dance, Parents Night Out, and more, there are lots of opportunities for our NSES families to get involved and have some fun together.

Be sure to mark your calendars and keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities. We can't wait to see our NSES community come together and make this school year one to remember!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Sept. 25, 5:30 pm – **Movie Night**
- Oct. 9 – **Fun Run**
- Oct. 23, 6:30 pm – **4th & 5th Grade Dance**
- Nov. 3 – **5th Grade Election Donut Sales**
- Nov. 9-13 – **Dollar Wars – 4th Grade Jamestown Fundraiser**
- Nov. 11, 7:00 pm – **PTA Meeting**
- Dec. 4, 5:30-9:30 pm – **Parents Night Out – 4th Grade Jamestown Fundraiser**
- Jan. 22, 5:30 pm – **Movie Night & PTA Meeting**

There's always something happening at NSES—come be part of the fun!

North Springfield Elementary School PTA – <https://www.nsespta.org>

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

We are a 501(c)(3) organization, and all donations are 100% tax deductible. 🌟



An example of a Soft Landing under an oak tree. Photo by Michelle Detwiler

Gardening Tips & Snips *(continued from page 5)*

or food sources for butterfly and moth caterpillars. Caterpillars are the essential, foundational element of a healthy food web. A single oak supports over 500 species of lepidoptera. See Home Grown National Park's listing of Keystone Plants for our area.⁶

What happened when I added "Soft Landings" to my yard?

Three years ago, I found 3 small Tulip Poplar saplings (*Liriodendron tulipifera*). I picked one which was in the right place, and now it is about 15 feet tall! This year, I began planting my soft landing borders with native plants. I have already found 5-6

monarch butterfly caterpillars nibbling my Butterfly Weed, (*Asclepias tuberosa*).

The Value of Soft Landings

Soft landings add true value to our yards. They save us money by providing free, self-seeding trees to rejuvenate our aging canopy. Once established, they cost us less to maintain because they allow our existing trees to create their own mulch. Our native plants thrive in this environment and return to us again and again, eliminating the need to replant annuals every year. We spend less time and money on a smaller, more functional lawn. Our soft landings provide habitat for butterflies, fireflies, moths and other beneficial insects. As Doug Tallamy says, with soft landings, we can all participate in "Bringing Nature Home" to North Springfield. 🌟



Monarch Caterpillar – Wilson Yard
Photo by Martha Wilson.

¹ The Soil Food Web Foundation, <https://soilfoodweb.com/resources/animations-videos/?vID=372925873&h=707aa77aa3>

² HomeGrown National Park, Doug Tallamy <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/soft-landings>

³ Soft Landings, by Heather Holm, <https://www.pollinatorsnativeplants.com/softlandings.html>

⁴ Rosenberg, K.V. et al. (2019). Decline of the North American avifauna. Science

⁵ WETA/PBS LearningMedia, "Soft Landings – The Mulch Alternative." (2:40 min video): <https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/soft-landings-video/year-round-gardening>

⁶ Home Grown National Park, <https://homegrownnationalpark.org/keystone-plants>

FAMILY LIBRARY EVENTS

Fall 2026

Compiled by: Ivan Carrasco

The Fairfax County Public Libraries offer a wide variety of activities and classes for residents of all ages. Please contact each library for registration/updates and additional events: <https://library.calendar.fairfaxcounty.gov>.

GEORGE MASON REGIONAL LIBRARY

7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA, 22003 • Phone: 703-256-3800

Saturday, October 17, 2026; 11:00am - 4:00pm; SEE YOU LATER! GEORGE MASON LIBRARY CELEBRATION & OPEN HOUSE; Join us for a celebration to say "See you later" to George Mason Regional Library ahead of our 2-year renovation closure. Stop by throughout the day for: storytime, a performance by the Lorenzo and Friends Magic Show, crafts & activities, library themed giveaways, and a slideshow of George Mason through the years.

RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY

7250 Commerce Street, Springfield VA 22150 • Phone: 703-451-8055

Thursdays through Dec. 17; 10:30am - 11:15 am; TODDLER STORYTIME; Join us for stories, songs, rhymes, and movement activities for active tots and twos. Have fun together while building an early literacy foundation. Ages 18-35 months with an adult.

Saturday, October 24, 2026; 3:00pm - 4:00pm; DARK SKIES: ESSENTIAL FOR CREATURES AND HUMANS; Light pollution is impacting not just our ability to see the stars, but also our circadian rhythms and the survival of birds, bats, insects and other wildlife.

Saturday, November 7, 2026; 2:30pm - 3:30pm; STILL LIFE DRAWING; Richard Byrd's regular drawing program! Practicing or developing art skills has been shown to improve mental health, reduce mood disturbances, stimulate mental function, and alleviate pain.

Friday, December 18, 2026; 10:30am - 12:30pm; SIP AND SOLVE; Grab a cup of your favorite hot beverage and puzzle your heart out. Drinks and puzzles will be provided. All ages and abilities welcome.

KINGS PARK LIBRARY

9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke VA 22015 • Phone: 703-978-5600.

Monday, October 12, 2026; 10:30am - 11:15am; BABY STEPS; Are you looking for ways to help your new baby learn, grow, and socialize? Then come join us for early literacy activities, sing alongs, and rhymes designed with you and your baby in mind.

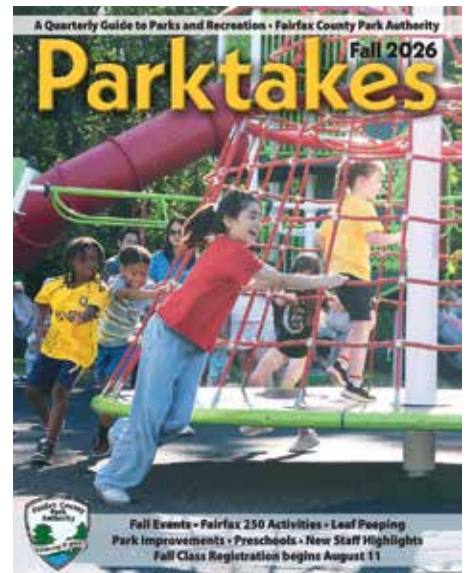
Monday, November 16, 2026; 4:00pm - 5:30pm; MAKER MONDAY; Join us for open hours of the Maker Cart. Explore robotics, try out new art forms, and check out STEM tools! Tools to explore include Sphero robots, Cubelets, snap circuits, a Chomp Saw for cardboard...

Tuesday, December 29, 2026; 2:30pm - 3:30pm; LIFELONG LEARNING SERIES; Joint Health: You Rest, You Rust Our bodies are designed for movement. Our bodies begin aging as soon as we stop growing in our early 20s. Learn about joints. What is normal, what is not? How can we...

Please contact each library for registration/updates and additional events: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov>.

Please Recycle and Minimize Waste for a Greener and more Sustainable World!

Have a Wonderful FALL! 🌟



Enjoy the Fairfax County Parks & Rec Centers

We are so lucky to live in an area full of county parks and recreation centers. The Fairfax County Park Authority offers hundreds of classes, events and camps for Fairfax residents. Check out *Parktakes*, the county's quarterly guide to parks and rec classes. It is available in print and at <https://fxparks.org/e-parktakes.html>.

Our neighborhood backs up to Lake Accotink. This 476-acre park provides opportunities to relax, learn, and enjoy the natural resources of both Lake Accotink and Accotink Creek. In addition to trail systems and waterfront activities this park offers family-friendly activities including picnic areas, classes, and a carousel.

North Springfield is also close to the **Audrey Moore Rec Center**. This terrific facility has an indoor 50m pool, fitness center, racquetball & tennis courts, basketball, exercise studios, bike & hiking trails, pottery lab, and the Wakefield skate park. In addition, Audrey Moore offers numerous camps and classes. 🌟

Newsletter Archive

To view the most recent NSCA newsletter and access issues dating back to October 2004, visit <https://nscivic.org/newsletters-archived.html>. 🌟

FOXES IN NOT SO WILD NORTH SPRINGFIELD

Submitted by: Debra Stevenson



The most common fox in our area is the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), also known as screaming foxes. They are 35 to 48 inches long from nose to tail, a bit taller than a large cat or small dog, and weigh 7 to 17 lbs. Females are a tawny blonde color while the males are bright red with black stockings and a white tail tip. Foxes have a distinctive way of walking by loosely flipping their paws forward (rather than stepping firmly as a dog does) that allows them to travel across a leaf-covered lawn and through the underbrush of the woods in near silence. They scream like a person being attacked to let other foxes know where they are – either for mating purposes or to announce “get out of my territory”. The young kits scream indiscriminately because, like most children, they can be quite screamy – they might not have a reason to scream, but they just feel like it.

Red foxes pose very little threat to people or pets, although cats and foxes seem to instinctively dislike each other – maybe due to prey drive since both hunt small mammals; they usually ignore each other, but occasionally there will be a face off with both parties crouched a few feet apart yowling at each other.

Suburban and urban life is very attractive to red foxes; there is plenty of food available and foxes do like to hunt mice, rats, voles and other small rodents; there are safe places for vixens to den under porches and sheds, and in overgrown hedges. Foxes are very curious, and especially drawn to smells; shoes are particularly attractive to them and they will steal any that are left in reach, and the smellier the better. That is why we often spot a single shoe lying in a front yard or along the road – it struck the fancy of an exploring fox who carried it along and probably sniffed and chewed on it and pitched it about, and then left it in pursuit of something else interesting.

Red foxes often dig their own complex tunnel systems or expand abandoned burrows made by ground hogs, badgers, or rabbits,

adding tunnels up to several dozen feet long. City or suburban foxes frequently use human structures, setting up dens under porches, sheds, decks, or in crawlspaces. A typical red fox den features multiple entrances, a main nesting chamber and is lined with dry vegetation or fur, or “people products” that attract them such as plastics bags, small plastic tarps, canvas woodpile covers, or even articles of clothing left lying outside – whatever makes the den warm and dry.

Red foxes have seasonal dens that they use at various times of their kits’ lives. Parents often move their kits between two to four different backup dens within their territory if disturbed or if parasites build up. As the kits grow, they are often moved to dens in more secluded areas so they can play and explore in relative seclusion away from the den. By early fall, parents and kits will have abandoned the dens as the kits are ready to explore on their own. The vixens will return to their same dens when it is time for the next litter of kits. While foxes are mainly nocturnal when hunting, vixens with very young kits will often hunt and scavenge during the day.

Gray foxes (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) also live in wooded, suburban parts of Fairfax County, though they are less common and more timid than red foxes. They are slightly smaller than red foxes. They have dark gray to reddish-gray fur, an ashy or white belly, a distinct black stripe down a long bushy tail, and a black tail tip (unlike red foxes, which have white tail tips). Gray foxes are primarily nocturnal and crepuscular (most active at dawn and dusk). They have the unique trait of semi-retractable claws that allow them to climb trees to escape predators or to live between denning seasons, earning them the nickname “tree foxes”.

Gray foxes are quiet, compared to the screaming red ones; they have a dog-like bark, but rather than growling, they make a chattering noise. They are not drawn to urban life, and even in the suburbs they will keep to wooded areas, marshes, and rivers. In denning season, gray fox vixens choose caves, hollow logs, or elevated position to nest; the female pulls out her own fur to line the nest, so gray foxes spotted at that time may appear to be mangy or otherwise sick when they are not.

As interesting as these neighbors are, it is illegal to feed wildlife if the animal causes property damage, endangers people or animals, or creates a public health concern or to make a wild animal into a pet without a special license. Fairfax County Animal Protection Police do not remove healthy, free-roaming wildlife even if it is considered a nuisance. It is illegal to trap a healthy fox and move it to another location in Virginia; residents can hire a licensed private trapper for removal or check guidance from Fairfax County Wildlife Management. **HOWEVER, if you see a fox acting strangely, bite a pet or person, or enter a home, call the Fairfax County Police non-emergency number at 703-691-2131.**

Interested in the secret life of urban foxes? Check YouTube for some fun videos! 🦊

NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB (NSSC)

That's a Wrap on Summer 2026!

Located at the intersection of
Leesville Blvd. & Earlehurst St.
Serving the North Springfield
community since 1956!

Another summer has come and gone at North Springfield Swim Club, and what a summer it was! New neighbors became new friends. Families spent long summer days together at the pool. Parents somehow lost an impressive number of goggles, pool toys, towels, clothes, and who-knows-what-else to the lost and found. Wednesday nights meant dinner was taken care of, kids stayed in the water until it was time to go home, and countless memories were made along the way.

Our **Mighty Dolphins** gave us a season we won't soon forget! The North Springfield swim team had an incredible year, breaking multiple pool records—including some that had stood for more than **35 years**—and adding some new trophies to our collection.

The North Springfield Mighty Dolphins are your 2026 NVSL Division 17 Champions! The Dolphins went undefeated during the regular season and brought home a second trophy with a Relay Carnival victory. Congratulations, Dolphins! We are so proud of you all! A huge shoutout to our swimmers, parents, volunteers, team reps, and coaches who made this incredible season possible.

Our dive community also had plenty to celebrate. North Springfield once again had the honor of hosting **Cracker Jack**, the largest single-day dive meet in the country. More than **350 divers from across the region** joined us for a remarkable day showcasing their talent, dedication, and love of the sport.

Of course, there is so much more to North Springfield Swim Club than competition.

- Our **Wednesday Grill Nights** will certainly be missed—if only because many of us now have to figure out what to make for



Fearless pool members participate in the Big Splash on a chilly Opening Day in late May 2026!

North Springfield Swim Club Recap

(continued from page 9)

dinner again! Throughout the summer, members enjoyed trivia nights, music bingo, float nights, men's and women's breakfasts, a chili cookoff, ice cream socials, and so much more.

- The **Mermaids**, our water aerobics group, are still going strong, with dedicated regulars who have been members of the pool for more than 20 years.
- We also had the opportunity to welcome the greater North Springfield community through our **Community Open House on Memorial Day weekend** and again when we hosted **National Night Out**.

But when I think about another summer at North Springfield Swim Club, what stands out most isn't a trophy, a record, or even an event. **It's the people.**

There is a true family aspect to this club that is difficult to put into words. Over the years, I have met numerous former Dolphins who still fondly remember their summers spent on the team. I've met people who moved away from North Springfield only to return more than 30 years later, sharing stories of their time here and the joy of seeing a record they set decades ago still displayed on the wall.

North Springfield Swim Club is a unique and special place for so many families in our neighborhood. I personally call it **my happy place**. It's a place our families can bike to on a summer afternoon, knowing we'll see familiar faces while probably meeting someone



(Top) The Mermaids, our amazing water aerobics group.

(Bottom) Weekly Grill Night at North Springfield Swim Club. Yum!



JOIN THE NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB

Meet your neighbors poolside and build community connections through regular social events.

Grill Night • Bingo • Float Night • Swim & Dive Teams • Exercise Classes and more!



 Wading Pool

 Playground

 Table Tennis

 Beach Volleyball

 Snack Shack

Follow us on Facebook! | www.ns-sc.org

new. It's a place where friendships formed during swim and dive season continue throughout the school year and, in many cases, for years to come.

It's watching high school students cheer for kindergarteners and seeing those younger Dolphins look up to these incredible teens. It's watching children learn that being part of a team means celebrating someone else's success just as enthusiastically as their own. It's an atmosphere that is welcoming and encouraging while fostering a love of sport, healthy competition, teamwork, and the drive to challenge yourself both physically and mentally. Those are lessons that last far beyond a summer at the pool.

There is a bond here that I have personally never experienced in any other sport, and it is one of the many things that makes North Springfield Swim Club so special.

Now the pool is closed, the chairs are stacked away, and many of us are trying to remember exactly what we used to do with our evenings and weekends before summer began. But we get to look back fondly on another season filled with friendships, accomplishments, laughter, traditions, and memories. And before we know it, we'll hear that first big splash again.

Mark your calendars for Memorial Day weekend 2027!

We invite the entire North Springfield community to join us for our **Community Open House on Memorial Day, Monday, May 31, 2027, beginning at 11:00 a.m.**

Until then, thank you to everyone who made the 2026 season one to remember. **We'll see you next summer at our little oasis in North Springfield!** 🌟

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FIRST ANNUAL NORTH SPRINGFIELD PORCHFEST

A Back Stage Perspective

MUSIC! NEIGHBORS! COMMUNITY! FUN! FREE!

The First Porch Fest in our neighborhood happened on Saturday, September 19, 2026! And by all accounts, it was a huge success!

After the Fest, Judy Gomez, one of the main organizers and long-time North Springfield resident said, "While we don't know the exact number in attendance, based on the numerous photos shared, it looks like hundreds of people attended. Not bad for our first time. Reviews have been positive from both the audience, host homes, and musicians."

The perfect partly sunny 70-degree weather was the important final piece to the orchestration of this huge community project. It was reported that an average of 40-80 people attended each

performance throughout the day, 2-6pm who sat in the yards and lawns to enjoy the free music. There were ten home venues and 40 bands, mostly musicians from our immediate neighborhoods but a few travelled from as far as Reston and Leesburg to perform.

Many locals bicycled from venue to venue. Some families caravanned in cars, parked in one spot on a street, then piled their children into wagons and walked from one home to the next. This was one of the main goals of the organizers—to expose children to live music.

HOW DID IT ALL START?

On a cold day in January over a cup of coffee, as everyone was preparing for Snowcrete 2026, Dana Cibulski proposed to Judy the idea of "1st Annual North Springfield Porchfest". Little did they know that huge storm was foreshadowing the huge amount of work they had in store for them! Porchfest was literally MONTHS in the making, but a labor of love.

When Angelo Cruz, another longtime NS resident, joined the team, he brought with him IT expertise. The team was then able to build a website, a public Facebook page, create QR codes to get the word out more widely.

Not only were Judy and Dana the coordinators of the Porch Fest, they also each hosted a venue and performed!

Judy, a professional musician, plays violin for two groups that performed that day—Mariachi Estrella, a traditional Mexican group and Swingology, a Gypsy jazz band. She was in charge of recruiting, organizing the musicians and helping them perform at Porch Fest. She visited each of the 10 venue homes and worked individually with the hosts to ensure a good 'stage' area, which was sometimes the front driveway, a front patio, a front porch, a back deck or back yard. She wanted to make sure there was a good-sized flat area for a stage for the musicians, shade for the audience, a comfortable seating area, nearby outlets, and so on.

Dana, a retired visual artist and college art professor, brought

(continued on page 13)



The First Annual NS Porch Fest included ten home venues and 40 bands! It was reported that an average of 40-80 people attended each performance throughout the day.

to the team her vast knowledge of creating community and planning large-scale public events, not to mention, her huge 'roladex' of public, private and community contacts. She was tasked with helping to find local residents who were musicians, neighbors who would be willing to host, and then later building the audience to attend. She contacted local schools, churches, music academies, politicians, community and recreation centers. Many people who live outside of North Springfield commented that they saw her posts on 8 Facebook group pages, Next Door, Braddock Beacon, Annandale Patch, fliers in local shops and yard signs throughout the neighborhood.

HOW DID THEY PLAN SUCH A WIDE, COMMUNITY EVENT?

One of the first questions the team asked when starting to plan this event was: "What kind of Porch Fest do we want? Large, slick 'corporate' with sponsors, closed off streets and food trucks? Or smaller, a more local fest? Do we want only professional musicians or a range including amateurs?" The team agreed that it was important to keep it small -- especially the first year -- to have a local flavor and local musicians as much as possible. Also they wanted to have it volunteer-driven with no sponsors to keep the 'grassroots' vibe.

And very importantly, they would not 'judge' the musicians. If someone called themselves a musician, they would be accepted as long as they showed they could keep in tune, play at a good level of musicianship. Also, the team really worked hard to try to 'curate' the mix of groups. So, at this year's Porch Fest, there was a range of professionals to amateurs, school groups, and church choirs. Musical genres ranged from rock & roll, Americana, mariachi, choral, high school orchestral, tropical, jazz, indie, a German Oktoberfest Fest band, blues, a jug band, an African-beats musician, classical, and more. There was a little of everything for everyone and it was appreciated.



CONNECTING AT PORCH FEST

Monica Jackson (left), a long-time resident and owner of the Jackson Childcare Center in the neighborhood, attended the Porch Fest. She said, "Thank you for bringing our neighbors together for an afternoon of music, friendship, and community spirit. I am so glad I attended". She shared that she

ran into a young man, now in his twenties, and his mother, Kyle and Alison Dalsimer. Kyle had grown up in her childcare center. She had not seen them in years. They reconnected that day.

Of the ten venues, two of them were in the Ravensworth Farms neighborhood. A host there for one of the home venues, Kate Alleman, shared that a group performing, Jetset Cowboy, one of the more professional groups that perform regularly in the area, heard the solo artist, Illiandi, perform with her violin. They invited her to perform on their next cd! Saying that her sound is what they had been looking for in one particular song.

At one of the venues, most of the musicians were young and



Two Members of Mariachi Estrellas.

just starting their careers. Mayur Nagpure, the host of the venue observed: "I loved watching three groups of young musicians support one another, connect with each other, and share their talents. NS Porch Fest is creating wonderful opportunities for young artists."

Two of the hosts shared that many of their nearby neighbors attended Porch Fest in their yards. And several residents, even though they live near, this was the first time they had met. They had been casually waving at each other over the years, but this was the first time they had sat down together and really talked and got to know each other. Their neighbors want to host a venue if there is another Porch Fest.

There were several instances of the more professional musicians helping out the other performers. At several home venues, those who already had sound equipment—amps, microphones, speakers, sound board—shared their gear with the other groups at the venue. Many performers arrived early to hear the acts before theirs. And many bands stayed after their performance ended to listen, applaud and lend support to their fellow musicians.

"Music is the soundtrack of your life", Dick Clark, TV personality and host of "American Bandstand for 37 years, used to say. That Saturday, with Porch Fest, music filled the air of our neighborhood and brought people together to sit down next to each other, listen to the tunes, even introduce themselves and chat.

The team is just wrapping up this festival and will use their newfound knowledge in planning for the 2nd Annual North Springfield Porchfest. They asked, "We sure could use some help. Do you want to join this fantastic team?"

For a complete list of bands that day, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/ns-porch-fest/performers>.

See more photos at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=north%20springfield%20porch%20fest>. They are planning to keep the public Facebook page going and invite people to please share and post photos and videos from Porch Fest.

For more information, contact the organizers:

Judy Gomez: mariachiestrella@hotmail.com

Dana Cibulski: danacibulski@cox.net

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGES 14-15! 🌟



Members of Robert & Friends



Peanut Butter Lovers



Microplastic Brain



Sunny At Midnight



Green Acres Jam Band



Swingology with Judy Gomez on Violin



Dana Cibulski Introducing FairPlay



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FAIRFAX COUNTY'S SNAP & CHIP PROGRAMS

Submitted By: Marie Norman

Fairfax County continues to be one of the healthiest and most prosperous regions in Virginia — yet thousands of families still struggle with food access, healthcare, affordability and the rising cost of living. Two programs help bridge these gaps: SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, and CHIP, the Community Health Improvement Plan. Together, they form a powerful foundation for supporting vulnerable residents and advancing long-term community well-being. All students at George Mason University and their families are eligible for these benefits.

SNAP provides monthly funds to help eligible households purchase groceries, ensuring adults, children and seniors have access to nutritious meals. Benefits are delivered through an Electronic Benefit Transfer card which works like a debit card at most grocery stores and even at select online retailers. Five Fairfax County farmers markets also accept SNAP and offer up to \$40 in matching dollars for fruits and vegetables — a major boost for families seeking healthy options.

Federal changes enacted in 2025 adjusted eligibility and program requirements, with updates continuing into 2026. Fairfax County determines eligibility, while the Virginia Department of Social Services loads benefits onto Electronic Benefits Transfer cards. Starting September 2026, all magnetic stripe cards will be

replaced with chip-enabled cards to reduce fraud and improve security.

SNAP remains one of the most effective anti-hunger programs in the nation, helping families purchase fresh foods while supporting local grocers and farmers markets. Farmers Markets located in Burke, Lorton, Mt Vernon and Reston remain open until Thanksgiving.

While SNAP addresses immediate food needs, Fairfax County's Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) tackles the broader conditions that shape health -from food access to transportation, behavioral health and environmental safety. CHIP is a community-driven strategic plan developed by the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax. The current plan is known as CHIP 3.0 2026-2030 and aligns with the County's One Fairfax equity framework, recognizing that even in a high-income region, disparities persist. Some residents face poverty, chronic health conditions and limited access to healthy food challenges that CHIP aims to address through coordinated action across government, nonprofits and community partners. SNAP and CHIP operate at different levels but share a common goal: ensuring every Fairfax County resident has the opportunity to live a healthy life.

For more information see the Fairfax County website www.FairfaxCounty.gov. ♦

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BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

Volunteering in Our Community

Report by: Paul Hartwell, NSCA's Representative to the Braddock District Council

Lead by Braddock District Council member Mike Perel together with guest speakers from the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging and NV Rides, this meeting was about volunteering and how the Braddock community can strengthen and expand opportunities to help our neighbors. Volunteering not only provides essential support for residents, especially older adults, but also offers proven mental, social, and health benefits for the volunteers.

Firstly, Mike Perel, who is the Braddock District representative to the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging, discussed ways to recruit and retain volunteers and the impact it can have on all involved. Mike has a long resume of volunteer positions in Public Safety, Community, Libraries, Animal shelters and Health and shared that in 2024, Fairfax County compiled statistics for its 29,000 volunteers, who provided 443,000 hours of service, with an estimated equivalent of \$14.8m in saved costs.

Next was Elena Alergent, director of NV Rides (<https://nvrides.org>), a program that started in 2014 and coordinates volunteer drivers who help older adults get to medical appointments and grocery stores. NV Rides has 15 partners in NoVa that provide transportation and drivers while NV Rides manages the scheduling system and the vetting and training of new volunteer drivers. This is a very impactful service as without their own transportation

many area residents lose their independence, suffer social isolation and can miss important medical care. NV Rides recent statistics listed 636 drivers who delivered 23,000 services covering 237,000 miles.

Lastly Tanya Erway from the Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging, presented on the Volunteer Solutions program that connects residents with meaningful volunteer opportunities (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/volunteer-solutions>). Volunteer Solutions was formed to support primarily seniors and the disabled age in place and covers a wide range of services including help with grocery shopping, medical transport, running errands, decluttering, respite care for caregivers (6 hours/month), social isolation visits (1 hour/month), language volunteers, the Pets on Wheels team, Community Ambassadors, and flower delivery in conjunction with garden clubs. A new partnership is "Grandinvolve" for Title 1 Elementary Schools.

If you are thinking of contributing to your community through volunteering, then a great event to learn about opportunities will be at the **2026 Venture into Volunteering Fair** taking place on Sunday October 18th from 12-4 pm at the upper level of Springfield Town Center (<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/volunteer-solutions/volunteer-fair>). 🌟



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LAKE ACCOTINK UPDATE

Submitted by: Martin “Shep” E. Shepherd / rfca.lake.accotink@gmail.com

WHY DOES THE RECENT MOWING ON THE BERM AT LAKE ACCOTINK DAM LOOK SO EXTREME? WHY WAS ALL THAT VEGETATION CUT DOWN?

Anyone recently walking across or near the Lake Accotink Dam probably noticed a dramatic change. The tall grasses, flowering plants, and other vegetation growing along the earthen portion of the dam have been mowed down.

For people concerned about Lake Accotink’s environment, the reaction is understandable. Vegetation that provided flowers, seeds, cover, and habitat for insects, birds, and other wildlife disappeared almost overnight. The timing also raises legitimate concerns because late summer is an important period for seed development and dispersal and for many insects and birds that depend upon flowering and seed-producing plants.

There have also been questions about whether cutting so much vegetation at once could contribute to erosion or increased sediment entering the lake. Those are reasonable concerns.

But there is an important part of this story that many people may not realize: What appears to be a long grassy berm beside the lake is actually the major earthen portion of the Lake Accotink Dam. It is an engineered structure, and maintaining its vegetation is an important part of dam safety.

THE DAM IS MUCH MORE THAN THE CONCRETE SPILLWAY

When most of us think of Lake Accotink Dam, we probably picture the concrete spillway where water flows from the lake into Accotink Creek. That is only one part of the dam.

Lake Accotink has what engineers call a composite dam. It consists of two principal sections: the familiar concrete spillway and a much longer earthen embankment. The entire dam is approximately 1,065 feet long and 28 feet high. Much of that length is the grass-covered earthen embankment extending from the concrete spillway toward the marina and the small pavilion.

In other words, that grassy slope is not simply park landscaping, an open field, or an area that can be managed as a natural meadow. That distinction is essential to understanding why its vegetation requires special management.

LAKE ACCOTINK IS A HIGH HAZARD DAM

Lake Accotink Dam is regulated through the Virginia Dam Safety Program and is classified as a High Hazard Potential dam. That term can sound alarming, so it is important to understand exactly what it means. “High Hazard Potential” does not mean that the dam is in imminent danger of failing or that engineers consider failure likely.

Hazard classification describes the consequences if a dam fails. Under Virginia’s dam-safety regulations, High Hazard Potential applies where failure would probably cause loss of human life or serious economic damage downstream. That classification makes careful inspection, maintenance, monitoring, and emergency planning particularly important.

Lake Accotink Dam currently operates under a Conditional Virginia Dam Safety Operation and Maintenance Certificate.

Fairfax County’s Lake Accotink Discovery Report describes the approximately 100-year-old dam as a composite earthen embankment/concrete spillway structure. It explains that the conditional certificate relates to the dam’s spillway capacity and current Virginia dam-safety standards.

None of this means that the vegetation recently posed an imminent threat to the dam. It does mean that maintenance of a High Hazard Potential dam cannot be treated as ordinary groundskeeping. It is part of a dam-safety program.

WHY DOES THE GRASS HAVE TO BE KEPT SHORT?

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) provides very specific guidance for vegetation on earthen dams.

For a new dam or an existing dam without trees, DCR calls for establishing and maintaining good grass cover and states that the grass should be maintained at a height of 4 to 8 inches. There is an important reason.

Engineers and inspectors need to be able to see the surface of an earthen dam. Maintaining dense, relatively short grass allows inspection for conditions such as:

- erosion and bare areas
- cracks
- settlement or depressions
- animal burrows
- slope movement
- woody vegetation and developing root systems

Tall vegetation can hide these conditions. Trees and woody vegetation present additional problems because their large root systems can affect an earthen embankment and leave pathways through the soil as roots decay.

Proper grass cover also protects the soil against erosion. The objective is therefore not to strip vegetation from the dam—quite the opposite. The objective is to maintain a dense, healthy, erosion-resistant grass cover at a height that allows effective inspection of the engineered structure beneath it.

WHY DOES THE RECENT MOWING LOOK SO EXTREME?

This is where the real maintenance problem lies. The problem is not that the dam was mowed. The problem is that the vegetation was allowed to grow far beyond the 4-8-inch height specified in Virginia DCR dam-safety guidance.

If mowing occurs frequently enough throughout the growing season, crews should trim established grass periodically and maintain it within the appropriate range.

Instead, portions of the vegetation grew much taller. Plants flowered. Some reached seed-producing stages. Pollinators used them. Birds and other wildlife found food and cover there. To people walking through the park, portions of the earthen embankment increasingly looked and functioned like a meadow.

Then it was all cut. That understandably creates concern about the sudden loss of flowers, seeds, insects, bird habitat, and other ecological benefits. But it also demonstrates why allowing the vegetation to reach that condition created a problem.

(continued on page 20)

Lake Accotink Update *(continued from page 19)*

The dam embankment should never have been allowed to become a temporary meadow that periodically requires a major cutting event.

WHAT ABOUT EROSION AND SILTATION?

This concern deserves particular attention at Lake Accotink. Properly maintained grass on an earthen dam actually helps prevent erosion. Cutting grass to the appropriate height leaves the root system and shorter vegetation in place to stabilize and protect the soil.

The maintenance itself becomes problematic if equipment scalps the turf, exposes soil, creates ruts, damages drainage features, or otherwise disturbs the protective grass cover. Those conditions should be identified and corrected.

A regularly maintained 4-8-inch grass cover provides a much better outcome than alternating between tall vegetation and major cutting events.

DAM SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DO NOT HAVE TO CONFLICT

We should not have to choose between maintaining a safe dam and protecting the Lake Accotink ecosystem. The solution is consistent, properly funded, regularly scheduled maintenance.

The earthen dam cannot serve as an unmanaged meadow because its primary purpose is structural. At the same time, allowing vegetation to grow well beyond its proper maintenance

height and then cutting everything at once creates unnecessary environmental and visual disruption.

There are many other areas around Lake Accotink where native grasses, wildflowers, pollinator plants, and seed-producing vegetation can and should receive management specifically designed to maximize their ecological value. The dam embankment has a different job. Its first function is safely retaining the lake.

THE GOOD NEWS: FCPA RECOGNIZES THE PROBLEM

I have discussed this issue directly with Lake Accotink Park Manager Dan Grulke and with the Fairfax County Park Authority manager responsible for the dam assessment portion of the current Lake Accotink study, Alex Burdick.

They are acutely aware of the vegetation-maintenance problem. More importantly, FCPA is actively working to address both the contractual Statement of Work and the funding necessary to establish the regular maintenance schedule that this critical structure requires. That is important because simply criticizing the recent mowing misses the underlying issue. What needs correction is the maintenance system that allowed the vegetation to become so overgrown that required mowing resulted in such a dramatic clearing event.

A properly written and adequately funded maintenance program should keep the grass within DCR's 4-8-inch guidance throughout the growing season, maintain the dense grass cover necessary to resist erosion, prevent establishment of woody vegetation, keep the embankment visible for inspection, and avoid repeatedly creating and then abruptly eliminating temporary habitat.

That approach serves both dam safety and responsible environmental stewardship. So, when we look at the newly mowed earthen embankment, the question should not be: "Why did they cut all of this down?"

The better question is: "How do we make certain Lake Accotink Dam receives the regular, properly funded maintenance that a High Hazard Potential dam requires, so this does not happen again?" FCPA recognizes that problem and is working on the contractual and funding changes necessary to correct it.

I encourage everyone who visits Lake Accotink and follows the Save Lake Accotink Facebook page to continue following this effort, because preserving Lake Accotink also means properly maintaining the structure that creates it.

This is one more part of viewing the Lake Accotink watershed as a functioning organism, rather than as a collection of separate problems. The lake, dam, streams, stormwater system, vegetation, wildlife, and surrounding communities all function as interconnected parts of that organism. We must understand, manage, and maintain those parts together if we expect the entire system to remain healthy and sustainable for years to come. 🌱

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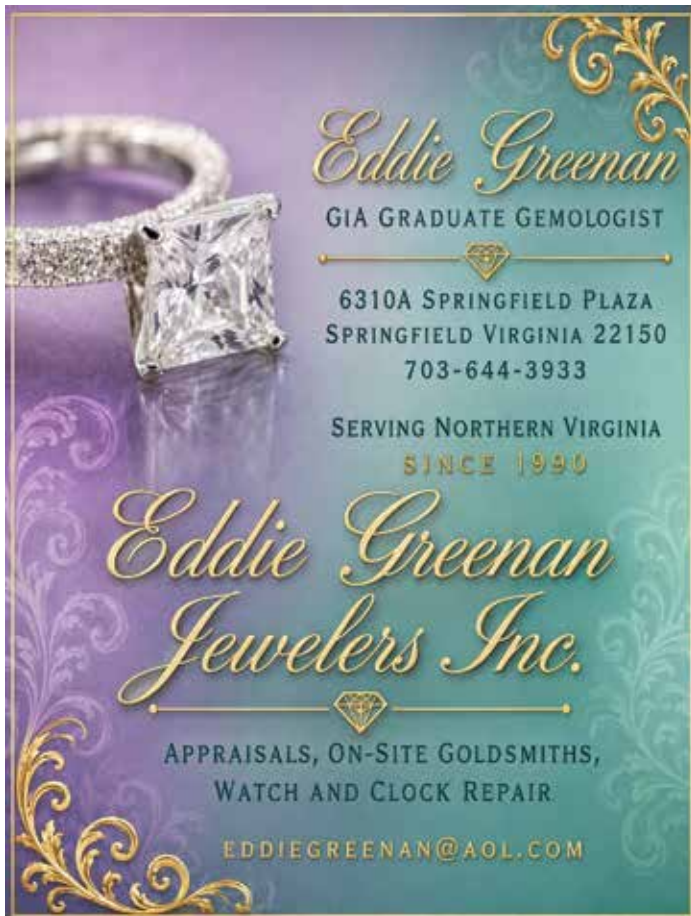
Report by: Ken Balbuena, NSCA's Representative to the Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations

The Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations held its first meeting of the 2026-27 term on August 27th. The purpose of the Federation is "to promote the interests of citizens' associations (homeowners, civic, and condominium unit owners) in Fairfax County and to further the common good and general welfare of all residents of Fairfax County." The meeting included a [presentation](#) from the Save Bren Mar Coalition, which is an advocacy group opposing the development of a data center adjacent to several communities in the Bren Mar portion of the Mason District. The proposed is off of Edsall Road less than five miles from North Springfield. The Federation membership also approved two resolutions related to data centers. The [first resolution](#) opposed the Bren Mar data center. The [second resolution](#) encouraged the General Assembly to end tax exemptions for data centers. The NSCA board quickly discussed both resolutions over email since the Federation did not distribute them until the day off the meeting. The board supported both resolutions by about a 2:1 margin. Since the size of North Springfield's community grants NSCA three votes on Federation matters, Ken Balbuena, NSCA's representative to the Federation, split NSCA's three votes with two votes in favor of the resolutions and one vote opposed. The resolutions passed almost unanimously. The Planning

Commission will be holding a public hearing on October 28th at 7:30pm at the Fairfax County Government Center. Residents are encouraged to speak at the hearing. If passed, the Board of Supervisors will hold another public hearing during a future board meeting.

In addition to being the NSCA representative to the Federation, Ken also serves as the Federation's Treasurer. Since he just took over the role on July 1st and was independent of the Federation's past financial transactions, the new Federation President asked him to lead the Audit Committee. Although the bylaws require an annual audit, the Federation has not done one since 2020. The three-person committee is also comprised of the Secretary of the Bren Pointe HOA (Mason District) and the Treasurer of the Ravensworth Farm Civic Association (Braddock District). The committee presented their findings and recommendations at the September Federation board and membership meetings.

Federation membership meetings are open to all to attend, though votes are restricted to the delegates appointed by each civic association/HOA. The Federation generally meets on the fourth Thursday of each month. If you are interested in attending a meeting, please email board@fairfaxfederation.org to obtain the Zoom link. 🌟



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The form asks for four pieces of information: (1) your email address, (2) your name, (3) your street name and house number (i.e. 1234 Heming Ave), and (4) your preferred language. We are asking for your preferred language so we can evaluate the possibility of translating these emails, making this information more accessible and useful for all members of our community. 🌟

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION		
FY 2026 Year End Financial Data		
(July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)		
	Budget	Actual
Income:		
Membership Dues & Donations	\$11,640.00	\$10,260.50
Leesville Blvd. Adoption Donation	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00
Advertising	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 5,436.00
Other Income	\$ 700.00	\$ 1,036.18
Total Income:	\$18,440.00	\$19,732.68
Expenses:		
Administration	\$ 1,425.00	\$ 1,980.52
Beautification	\$ 6,600.00	\$ 5,336.00
Community Support	\$ 2,475.00	\$ 1,860.61
Dues & Membership	\$ 360.00	\$ 269.72
Newsletter Printing & Distribution	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 7,541.03
70th/75th Anniversary	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Total Expenses:	\$19,760.00	\$16,987.88
Net Income:	\$ (1,320.00)	\$ 2,744.80

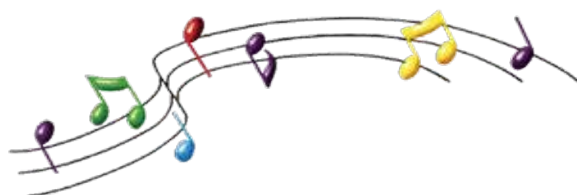
NOTE: Contact Jeanne Bond at Treasurer@NSCIVIC.org with questions

NORTH SPRINGFIELD CIVIC ASSOCIATION BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The \$15 annual dues goes directly to help support the NSCA initiatives that benefit our community & make this newsletter possible. Simply fill out the membership form on page 24 or join online.



NoVA Lights Choral



NoVA Lights Choral is looking for men and women who like to sing. The choral welcomes singers of all voice ranges. No audition required. Rehearsals are held on Mondays at 7:00pm at the St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Bailey's Crossroads beginning in September.

For more information please call Johanna Droel at 703-569-0214.

<https://novalightschorale.org>



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JULY 2026

07/10 – NSCA Newsletter Notification Weekend 1/

AUGUST 2026

08/05 – National Night Out Community Open House
 08/24 – Fairfax County First Day of School
 08/26 – NSCA Newsletter – Call for Articles

SEPTEMBER 2026

09/10 – Articles and Advertising Copy Due
 09/17 – FY 2027 BDC Annual Meeting
 09/19 – NS Porch Fest! (Rain Date 9/26)
 09/24 – Fairfax Federation Meeting

OCTOBER 2026

10/02 – NSCA Newsletter Weekend 1/
 10/07 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 Topic: Candidate Forum
 10/15 – BDC Candidate Forum (tentative)
 10/18 – Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat (3-5pm)
 10/22 – Fairfax Federation Meeting

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2026

11/04 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 Topic: Free Trees! Impact of deforestation
 and how to replenish our tree canopy.
 12/17 – BDC Business Meeting (tentative)

JANUARY 2027

01/12 – Articles and Advertising Copy Due
 01/21 – BDC Business Meeting (tentative)
 01/28 – Fairfax Federation Meeting
 01/30 – NSCA Newsletter Weekend 1/

FEBRUARY 2027

02/03 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 02/25 – Fairfax Federation Meeting

MARCH 2027

03/03 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 03/18 – BDC Business Meeting (tentative)
 03/29 – Call for Newsletter Articles
 03/25 – Fairfax Federation Meeting

APRIL 2027

TBD – North Springfield Spruce Up Day!
 04/07 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 04/13 – Articles & Advertising Copy Due
 04/22 – Fairfax Federation Meeting
 04/30 – NSCA Newsletter Weekend 1/

MAY/JUNE 2027

05/05 – [NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting](#)
 Celebrate our year end and help to elect your
 FY 2028 NSCA officials!
 06/24 – Fairfax Federation Meeting

1/ Residents will receive a flyer with newsletter highlights and a link to the full online newsletter. If you have difficulty accessing it online, request a paper copy at Newsletter@NSCIVIC.org.

Note: The NSCA Board of Directors meets virtually on the Wednesday before each regularly scheduled General Membership Meeting to conduct Association business and planning. Email the [NSCA President@NSCIVIC.org](mailto:NSCA.President@NSCIVIC.org) if you would like anything added to our agenda.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Jeff Schaefer
president@nscivic.org

VICE PRESIDENT Scott Pratt
(571) 238-0574
vp@nscivic.org

SECRETARY Nancy Moore
secretary@nscivic.org

TREASURER Jeanne Bond
treasurer@nscivic.org

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BEAUTIFICATION Co-Chairs
Calvin Coleman and Mayur Nagpure
(703) 626-4491 (Calvin)
beautification@nscivic.org

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL
Paul Hartwell, (703) 629-6375
bdc@nscivic.org

COMMUNITY SERVICE
VACANT

FAIRFAX FEDERATION
Ken Balbuena
federation@nscivic.org

LEGAL/REGISTERED AGENT Dorene Haney
(703) 256-1688
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MEMBERSHIP/OUTREACH Donna Moore
(703) 256-7605
membership@nscivic.org

DIVERSITY LIAISON Ivan Carrasco
(703) 462-9474
diverse@nscivic.org

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH
Jennette Eddy, Co-Chair
VACANT, Co-Chair
watch@nscivic.org

NEWSLETTER TEAM
• **EDITOR, DISTRIBUTION TEAM LEAD & ADVERTISING SALES LEAD**
Nancy Moore (703) 750-2170
newsletter@nscivic.org
• **NSCA GRAPHIC DESIGNERS:**
Candy Rogers — Newsletter
Bill Wilson — Flyer
• **WEBMASTER** KC Felton

PARKS & RECREATION
VACANT
parks@nscivic.org

PLANNING & ZONING Carey Campbell
(703) 939-0970
zoning@nscivic.org

NSES PTA PRESIDENT Laurie Hoffman
nsespta@gmail.com

SENIOR OUTREACH Marie Norman
(703) 989-3093
seniors@nscivic.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Submitted by: Donna Moore

Happy Fall! We missed seeing everyone over the summer, and we're excited to kick off another season in North Springfield! Our 2026 membership drive got off to a slower start than usual, so we'd love your help finishing the year strong. **For just \$15 per household, your NSCA membership helps support the programs and activities that make North Springfield such a great place to live.** Your dues help us:

- Keep our neighborhood beautiful through community beautification efforts.
- Keep residents informed and connected through our quarterly NSCA newsletter.
- Bring neighbors together and encourage participation in community activities.
- Advocate for North Springfield with Fairfax County, local government, and other organizations on issues that affect our community.

Membership also gives you a voice in NSCA. Paid members may vote, hold office, and participate in our 2026 Membership Contest — **three lucky NSCA members will each win a \$50 Giant Food Gift Card!** The NSCA membership year runs from January through December, and 2026 dues can still be paid anytime through Dec. 31, 2026. Not sure if you've already paid? Email membership@nscivic.org, and I'll be happy to check our records. Your membership is an easy and affordable way to support your neighborhood, stay connected, and help us continue making North Springfield a wonderful community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many neighbors who generously contributed above their annual membership dues. A special thank you to the following donors who have graciously allowed us to recognize them:

GOLD (\$50+) — Holly Cook, Toni Horst, Candy & Charlie Rodgers

SILVER(\$25-\$49) — Farris Family, John & Marlene Schmidt

BRONZE(\$15-\$24) — Victoria Motsay

\$7 for 70 — Skip Chaples 🌟



BECOME A NSCA MEMBER!

Fill out form below or [PAY ONLINE](#).

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 \$15 - \$24 | SILVER \$25 - \$49 | GOLD \$50+

With your donation of \$15 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 _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

☐ 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 or [click here to pay online.](#))

☐ Check here to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. Because the cost of paper delivery is approximately \$10/year, we ask that this be limited to those who cannot read or access the newsletter online. Of course, we also welcome additional donations to help defray this cost.

I WISH TO VOLUNTEER WITH NSCA (PLEASE CHECK YOUR INTERESTS)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Beautification | ☐ Membership & Welcome Outreach |
| ☐ Neighborhood Watch | ☐ Federation of Citizen Associations |
| ☐ Planning and Zoning | ☐ Community Social Events |
| ☐ Special Interest Programs | ☐ Newsletter Team |
| ☐ Senior Outreach | ☐ Other _____ |

CONTACT INFO (If different from above)

☐ Are you a Senior citizen (age 55 or older)?

NAME _____ EMAIL _____ PH _____