

WINTER 2023



North Springfield Civic Association

PO Box 1007 | Springfield, VA 22151
www.nscivic.org



2023 NSCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE KICKOFF

Become a Member Today!
It's only \$15 for the year.

Already a NSCA member? It is time to renew your \$15 membership dues. Your funding is critical to preserve the quality of our neighborhood and keep residents informed and connected. Information on NSCA membership, activities, and dues payment is located on pages 3 & 16.

Next General Meeting
Wednesday, Feb. 8 • 7:30 pm

The NSCA General Meeting will be held on Zoom. A Zoom link will be sent out to all 2022/23 members in good standing and more information will be posted to Facebook, including the link. All residents are welcome. If you would like to attend, email newsletter@NSCIVIC.org requesting a link with your home address.

President's Message

By: Jeff Schaefer

Hello Neighbors, and Happy New Year!

With 2022 set firmly in our rear-view mirror, we begin looking ahead to a wonderful 2023. It is good to pause at this time of year to reflect on the year that was and to consider our goals for the year ahead. First and foremost, I would like to thank all my North Springfield neighbors who paid dues in 2022, especially everyone that gave generously of your time, talents, and donations! You are the reason why our neighborhood is a lovely place to live.

We started the year with our annual membership drive! I hope you will consider renewing or joining our association as a voting member. Dues are \$15 per calendar year and are turned right back into resources and activities that benefit the community. Please also consider including a small donation — every little bit helps. We use your dues and donations to fund things like the printing and delivery of this newsletter, paying for landscaping along common areas to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood, and for community events and general meetings.

I'd like to give special recognition to the work that our volunteers do for the community, starting with our Committee Chairs. Our Beautification Committee, led by Dana Cibulski and Calvin Coleman, is responsible for keeping our common areas and entrances clean and tidy! They are supported by a great number of volunteers who help with the entrances, and sometimes lend a hand or chainsaw to deal with downed trees. I hope that you have noticed the seasonal decorations as you drive past our entrance signs!

Our Newsletter and Website team, led by Caryn Chmielewski and Candy Rogers, with support from Nancy Moore and KC Felton, go above and beyond in creating this outstanding newsletter! They are supported by a team of volunteers who write articles and deliver the paper copy to your front door.

(continued on page 5)

GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!

Support your local Girl Scouts with a cookie purchase!
The best way to buy cookies is to order them directly from a local Girl Scout. Or locate cookie booths by entering your zip code in the [Find Cookies! search box](#). Enjoy!



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.





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We follow all COVID-19 guidelines from the CDC and Fairfax County.

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Beautification Committee Update

By Co-Chairs: Dana Cibulski and Calvin Coleman



Many thanks to Monica Jackson for maintaining the sign at Heming and Braddock Road for more than 20 years!

We are busy year-round on this committee. Did you notice the seasonal decorations at the entrance signs this Fall and December? Our neighbor volunteers added plants, flowers, objects to create welcoming entrances for their friends driving home into our neighborhood. We want to thank all the volunteers this past year that have maintained the signs, improved the landscaping, and decorated the signs for the seasons.

THANKS TO A 20-YEAR NEIGHBORHOOD VOLUNTEER

This month, we'd like to give a shout out to one of these volunteers that has been doing this for many years. Ms. Monica Jackson adopted and has been maintaining and improving the sign at Heming and Braddock Road for more than twenty years now. Monica is a long-time resident who also donated objects last year for other signs. Thanks Monica!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

With the help of your annual dues, we hire a company to mow and remove yard waste from the common areas. Thanks for paying your dues! Occasionally, we

need more help for bigger jobs or areas that continually have overgrowth issues. We could use a helping hand with the following community projects.

- Help repair and paint the wooden sign at Heming and Leesville
- Cut back, remove overgrowth behind and around the wooden sign at Heming and Leesville
- Remove litter along Leesville Bd. and Heming Avenue
- Remove overgrowth on the Appomattox Circle at Leesville "island"

IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO FERNDAL & BRADDOCK INTERSECTION

Look for some improvements soon at the intersection of Ferndale and Braddock Road. We have been working with a local tree service and they have volunteered to cut down and remove the fallen trees there. What an eyesore that has been!

Questions or want to help? Please contact the us at beautification@nscivic.org. 🌟

2023 NSCA Membership Drive

By: Donna Moore

It is time to renew your North Springfield Civic Association membership dues or consider joining the NSCA!



Our annual dues remain at the extremely affordable rate of \$15.00 so that it is easy for all residents to join and support our neighborhood. Your funding is critical to preserve the quality of our neighborhood and to keep our residents informed and connected. Your support helps the civic association to:

- Provide important programs of interest to our community through our General Meetings. Topics can include safety, elections, senior services, updates on our area park and recreation facilities, County changes that impact our neighborhood, area road improvements, etc.
- Finance the regular mowing and landscaping along the VDOT common areas throughout the neighborhood to maintain the beauty of our neighborhood to help sustain our property values.
- Maintain the shrubbery and trees in these common areas responding to emergency situations (downed trees, etc.) along these same areas.
- Keep our community informed with the quarterly NSCA Newsletter (Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall) which is delivered (in paper and/or electronically) to all 2,200 homes in North Springfield.
- Bring the neighborhood together by holding community events and partnering with the North Springfield Pool to co-host events for our residents and their families.

If you are unsure whether or not you have paid your dues you can email the Membership Chair, Donna Moore at Membership@nscivic.org. 🌟

North Springfield History – Part 7

By Robyn Carter, North Springfield Historian

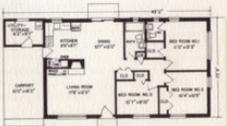
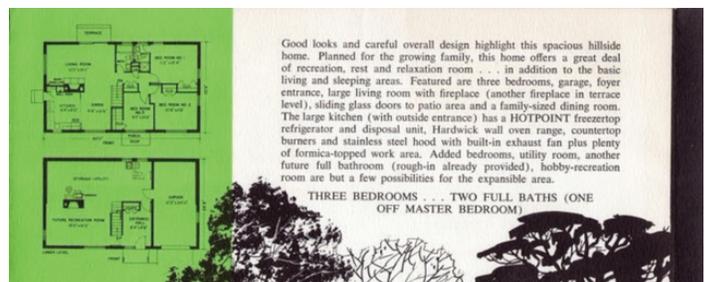
Hello again and Happy New Year, North Springfielders!! As we look forward to the coming months of 2023, I'm here again to give you all another look back into the history of the neighborhood. In this edition I am jumping back to the years 1957-58 to highlight two of the wonderful models built by the Carr corporation. All of the following images are scans of an original sales brochure and price sheet from the collection of former resident Don Costello. Mr. Carr and his associates were offering quite an array of different floor plans and configurations that changed from the start in 1955 up to 1963 with some models being more popular and prolific than others. The two I have selected for you this time are "The Sussex" and "The Stafford" which cover the least expensive to one of the two most expensive in early 1957. By today's standards, the prices and financing terms may seem shockingly low until you stop to realize what most wage earners in North Springfield were making at that time. For example, according to a published source, Civilian Government Employees in June 1958 would average from \$3,530 (\$135. 77 bi-weekly gross) for a GS-1 to \$9,530 (\$366. 54 bi-weekly gross) for a GS-12. (Source: Occupational outlook handbook, US Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Statistics 1959 ed., pp. 254-255.) Just like now, those original owners had the burdens of taxes, insurances, car payments, utilities and the like coming out of those figures, so the following payments were still pretty stiff for most. – Until next time, Ye Olde Historian wishes you all well. 🌟

NORTH SPRINGFIELD						
SALES PRICES AND FINANCING INFORMATION						
<u>SUSSEX</u>	<u>SALES PRICE</u>	<u>DOWN PAYMENT</u>	<u>LOAN</u>	<u>MONTHLY PAYMENT PRIN. & INTEREST</u>	<u>APPROX. TAXES & INSURANCE</u>	<u>APPROX. TOTAL MONTHLY PAYMENT</u>
25 yr. FHA Loan	16,500	1000	15,500	99.40	16.00	115.40
30 yr. FHA Loan	16,500	1000	15,500	92.14	16.00	108.14
25 yr. Career Service FHA Loan	16,500	900	15,600	93.60	16.00	109.60
30 yr. Career Service FHA Loan	16,500	900	15,600	86.27	16.00	102.27
<u>STAFFORD (With Basement)</u>						
25 yr. FHA Loan	19,950	1950	18,000	115.43	20.00	135.43
30 yr. FHA Loan	19,950	1950	18,000	106.99	20.00	126.99
25 yr. Career Service FHA Loan	19,950	2850	17,100	102.60	20.00	122.60
30 yr. Career Service FHA Loan	19,950	2850	17,100	94.56	20.00	114.56



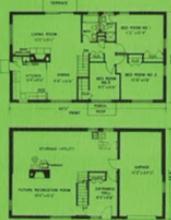
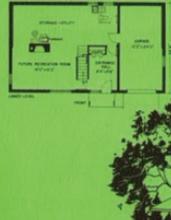
SUSSEX

Here's a prize-winning home for budget-minded young moderns. Within its more than 43 foot front there's an unobstructed vista from the front entrance through to the sliding glass doors and rear patio area . . . perfect for entertaining and family fun. Check the handy carport backed by a handy utility room plus a practical undercover entrance to the kitchen. The SUSSEX has pastel fixtures in both its full bath and powder room, and there is a living room fireplace. The queen-sized kitchen has a HOTPOINT frezertop refrigerator and disposal unit, Hardwick stainless steel wall oven (recessed in brick wall), 4 burner cooking top, and yards of formica topped work area. This, truly, is the bargain home of the year.

Good looks and careful overall design highlight this spacious hillside home. Planned for the growing family, this home offers a great deal of recreation, rest and relaxation room . . . in addition to the basic living and sleeping areas. Featured are three bedrooms, garage, foyer entrance, large living room with fireplace (another fireplace in terrace level), sliding glass doors to patio area and a family-sized dining room. The large kitchen (with outside entrance) has a HOTPOINT frezertop refrigerator and disposal unit, Hardwick wall oven range, countertop burners and stainless steel hood with built-in exhaust fan plus plenty of formica-topped work area. Added bedrooms, utility room, another future full bathroom (rough-in already provided), hobby-recreation room are but a few possibilities for the expandable area.

THREE BEDROOMS . . . TWO FULL BATHS (ONE OFF MASTER BEDROOM)

Library Events (February–March 2023)

Compiled by Ivan Carrasco • diverse@nscivic.org



Following are some events to join and enjoy. Please contact each library for registration, additional dates and updates.

Sunday, February 5, 2023; 1:00pm - 2:30pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Memories on Paper: What to**

Keep and How; Paper, paper, paper! Get basic information about paper and affordable ways to deal with your family treasures and perhaps ensure that they are relevant for future generations.

Monday, February 27, 2023; 5:00pm - 6:00pm; George Mason Meeting Room, George Mason Regional Library; **Digital Security Workshops for Kids;** Do you use social media? School Age Children.

Monday, March 27, 2023; 4:00pm - 5:00pm; George Mason Regional Library; **Libby Tech Tutoring;** Learn about library eBooks and eAudiobooks, as well as how to access them on your compatible device! Bring your charged device and associated password(s). Adults.

Saturday, February 18, 2023; 1:00pm - 3:00pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library; **Coderdojo: Teaching Kids to Code;** Learn to develop websites & apps; create games. Bring a laptop; limited computers available. In-person program. Ages 7-17. Registration required.

Monday, March 13, 2023; 7:00pm - 8:00pm; Richard Byrd Meeting Room 1, Richard Byrd Meeting Room 2, Richard Byrd Library; **Richard Byrd Bedtime Storytime;** Wear your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and enjoy bedtime stories and music. Birth-5 years with adult.

Thursday, March 9, 2023; 7:00pm - 9:00pm; Kings Park Library; **Poetic Musings Writing Workshop: Odes;** Get ready for our Poetic Musings Poetry Contest! Channel your inner William Wordsworth and learn how to write a lyrical poem. Participants will write an ode and get writing tips from a published poet! Adults-Teens. 🌟



Chinese New Year, Year of the Rabbit

Chinese New Year 2023 falls on Sunday, January 22nd, and celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on February 5th. Chinese New Year is celebrated by more than 20% of the world. It's the most important holiday in China and to Chinese people worldwide. Family is the basis of Chinese society, which is seen through the significance placed on the New Year's Eve dinner. All family

members must come back. Even if they truly can't, the rest of the family will leave their spot empty and place a spare set of utensils for them.

Lots of care and thought is put into the New Year's Eve menu. Special dishes include spring rolls, dumplings, steamed fish, and *Nian gao*, also known as rice cake.

Almond cookies are thought to resemble coins, making them particularly popular as a symbol of good fortune during the Chinese New Year. [Click here to view a delicious cookie recipe](#) courtesy of Andy Liang for Food Network Kitchen.

To learn more about the history and traditions of Chinese New Year, visit this link – chinesenewyear.net. 🌟

Local Food Banks

Together we can lessen food insecurity in our community. Food banks and pantries are in need of food donations, financial gifts, and volunteers.

[The Feeding America Network](#) is the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization. Visit this website to search for local food banks and food programs.

ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others) – list of food items needed is updated on <https://www.echo-inc.org>.

Annandale High School Pantry – information can be found at <https://annandalehsptsa.membershiptoolkit.com/ahspantry>.

ACCA (Annandale Christian Community for Action) – a list of food items and ways to donate are listed on <https://accacares.org/foodpantry>. 🌟

President's Message

(continued from page 1)

Marie Norman heads up our Senior Outreach committee, which is really for anyone in the community! She sends out regular updates with information from the county and news of interest and has also organized in-person social get-togethers. If you are interested in receiving her updates, contact Marie at seniors@nscivic.org.

Donna Moore and Cathy Field, Membership/Outreach and Parks & Rec respectively, have also been especially helpful with manning our NSCA table at community events! Thank you for your help with your regular committee responsibilities as well as with community outreach.

To borrow a passage from Craig Delaney, former NSCA President, we are extremely fortunate to have an active community! I hope you will please consider donating your time and energy in whatever capacity you can.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

Jeff Schaefer
NSCA President

GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS: *Ornaments or Assets?*

By Martha Wilson

Hello North Springfield,

Do you consider the grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers in your yard ornaments, or assets? An ornament has aesthetic value; sometimes a sentimental value, and it can give you pleasure, satisfaction and enjoyment. An ornament, in general terms, can be considered a luxury, and an expense. An asset, however in banking and accounting terms, is something that increases in value over time. Thus, the time, labor and money spent on obtaining and maintaining assets are not just considered expenses, but they are considered investments, because assets usually return to you the value of those expenditures and more.

Ornaments can be assets. So, let's go with that. How do we turn our grass, trees, shrubs, and flowers from ornaments into assets?

We can start by asking some questions. Do these outdoor plants function in any beneficial way? As soon as we use the word, "function," another word comes to mind – form. The form and the function go together.

Are your plants:

- Enhancing the beauty of your home?
- Highlighting or hiding the best features?
- Helping or hindering people as they navigate to your doors and around your house?
- Are they providing:
 - a "Welcome" to you, your family and visitors?
 - shade from the sun?
 - a buffer for street noise?
 - a screen from your neighbors?
- Creating outdoor rooms for you to live in?

Or are they simply ornaments to mow around, cluttering up a sea of grass?

BENEFITS

The economic benefit of landscaping around a home has been studied. A November [2018 Virginia Tech study](#) confirmed that landscape plants can add between 5.5% to 12.7% increase in perceived value of a home, depending upon the market and the degree of design sophistication. All of the plants I am recommending in this article are native species or cultivars. As you include more natives in your landscaping, you are increasing the beauty and economic value of your home, and you are benefitting the natural ecosystem of the plants, creatures, critters, and soil on which we live.

The rest of this article will focus on Foundation Shrubs. The function of foundation shrubs is to visually tie our house, a 3-D, vertical element, to our lot, a horizontal plane. Without foundation shrubs, the two adjoin in a rather harsh, right angle. But the curve created by shrubs at the base of a home gives the sense of added weight and permanence to our structures, like the flare of a tree at its base. It signals a transition from our man-made house to our natural, living yards. Foundation shrubs can also provide screens for various house utilities, like our "lovely" new gas meters, our hoses, dryer vents, and sometimes our trash cans, etc.

Resources:

- *Essential Native Trees and Shrubs*, by Tony Dove and Ginger Woolridge. Excellent photos; easy to read; includes named cultivars with important size & form constraints, and begins with essential charts with plant lists matching growing condition.
- *Plant NOVA Natives*, <https://www.plantnovanatives.org> My go-to site for guides to native plants.

FOUNDATION SHRUB DESIGN TIPS

- **Think of foundation shrubs as a part of a unified whole planting bed.** The planting bed does not have to be a straight line. It is a connected space, with rhythm and flow across the base of your home, like a collar on a shirt with a scarf or tie.
- **Be generous with the depth of the planting beds.** Plant foundation shrubs far enough away from the base of the house, so that you can move behind them in their maturity. This is not only practical, but a wider base gives a more solid look.
- **Plant shrubs whose mature height does not cover up windows, doors, and pathways.** Thus, pay attention to the "mature height & width" of the shrubs you buy.
- **Consider ground covers.** Use these low plants in front of ground level windows. Some have cheery flowers for part of the season, but the rest of the time they add lovely low, green texture and can grow out to the edge of the beds.
 - Please don't plant ivy, or Japanese pachysandra, *Pachysandra terminalis*. They are invasive. There are many better options!
- **Consider Native Sedges under ground-level windows or as edging** instead of monkey grass or lilyturf, Liriope muscari, which is also invasive! Instead try:
 - Broad-leaved Silver Sedge, *Carex platyphylla* 8-12 inches
 - Pennsylvania Sedge, *Carex pennsylvanica* 6-12 inches
 - Plantain-leaved Sedge, *Carex plantaginea* 8-10 inches
- **Mix the height of the shrubs.**
- **Consider grouping shrubs in 3's and 5's** (more for ground covers) instead of rowing them up in lines.
- **Repeat patterns and then highlight something unique at the front door.**
- **Use at least some evergreen shrubs** or your foundation plantings will visually disappear in winter. Smaller shrubs include:
 - Dwarf Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, 'Schilling's Dwarf' 3-4 ft; 'Nana' 3-4 ft.
 - Inkberry, *Ilex glabra*, 'Compacta' 3-4 ft; 'Ivory Queen' 6-8 ft; 'Chamzin' 3-4' 'Shamrock' 5-6ft.
 - Northern White Cedar or Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*, 'Golden Globe 2-4 ft; 'Hertz Midget' 3-4 ft (bluish green); 'Little Gem' 1-3 ft;
- **Consider zigzagging shrubs** with the shorter, front shrubs featuring flowers or berries:
 - Carolina Rose, *Rosa carolina* 1-3 ft. (Pink flowers May–June)

(continued on page 9)

NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB (NSSC)

Looking Ahead to Summer Fun!

By: Dana Cibulski, NSSC Member-at-Large

Located at the intersection of
Leesville Blvd. & Earlehurst Street

Part of the neighborhood
since 1956!



Brrrr! Yes, it is cold outside and jumping into a swimming pool may not sound pleasant right now. Try looking ahead and imagine this scene: it is July and 94 degrees outside; walking on the NSSC grounds, you are greeted by a smiling teen that lives in our neighborhood and is proudly holding down their first job; you hear cool, upbeat music playing over the speakers then you start humming; your kids are so eager to arrive on the sun-kissed deck or play on the playground or jump into the cool waters that you need to grab their hands more tightly; the warm sun rays welcome you as you arrive on the pool deck and you start spreading out your pool gear of soft, comfy towels and coconut smelling sun tan lotion; you see several familiar faces of friends, neighbors, parents that call out your name, happy to see you.

NSSC has been the unofficial community center for North Springfield since 1956. Right down the street from where you live, you (and your kids) can walk, cycle, or drive the short distance. The fees are affordable, averaging about \$4 a day for the whole family to enjoy 100 plus days of summer fun. We collaborate with local groups like the NS Civic Association and NS Elementary School to host events every year that are open to all residents of North Springfield. This year's "Community Open House" will be opening day of the swim club, Saturday, May 27. Also, look for the annual "Spruce Up North Springfield" April 22, "National Night Out" August

1, "Kindergarten Meet Up", "Halloween Parade and Social" and a "Tailgate Party" in the fall. Join today!

SUMMER JOBS? WE ARE HIRING!

Every summer, we hire young people to work at the front desk, to work as lifeguards, and to coach our swim and dive teams. We give preference to young people from our own North Springfield neighborhood. You can find more information on our web page — look for "Employment" under the "About Us" tab.

BUSINESS OWNERS — WANT TO ADVERTISE OR SPONSOR OUR SWIM CLUB?

Local business owners, you can arrange for ads on our website and banners to be hung around our swim club to increase your visibility. Thousands of people view these advertisements with our membership, swim and dive meets, and several community-wide events every season. Check our [website](#) for details and opportunities.

- For membership information, please contact: Ken Balbuena, membershipnssc@gmail.com.
- For more information about employment, membership, or other questions, please check our website: <http://www.ns-sc.org>. And follow us on [Facebook @ North Springfield Swim Club](#). 🌟



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Fairfax County Parks and Recreation Update

By: Cathy Field

UPCOMING EVENTS

Be sure to check for latest events posted here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events>.

Here's a sampling of some recent events at the park: HOMESCHOOL AT THE LAKE WINTER, CAMPFIRE FRIDAYS, Boy/Girl Scouts-HIKER, WINTER BIRD WALK, MAKE YOUR OWN PINECONE BIRDFEEDERS!, Boy/Girl Scouts-ECO FRIEND, OWL WALK AND TALK

DAM STREAM CROSSING PROJECT

Construction for the Lake Accotink Dam Stream Crossing continues and its progress is visibly exciting! According to the latest input from FCPA Project Manager, project completion is still anticipated for Spring 2023.

MASTER PLAN UPDATE

No formal date has been established for reinitiating the master plan revision yet, due to the pending delivery of the dredging project's conceptual design. The park master plan can be resumed after the conceptual design for the dredging is complete.

DREDGING PROJECT

Project webpage still shows construction start in 2023. However, no communications have been provided on the status or progress of the Conceptual Design, since the question of where the dredge spoils processing would be located. Awaiting word back from the project manager at the FDPWES.

Wakefield Park & Audrey Moore Rec Center Updates

WAKEFIELD SKATE PARK RENOVATION

Demolition is underway for the skate park 'facelift', a \$1.2 million project funded via Park Bonds. The design of the park is the result of a collaborative effort between local input and professional designers and caters to all skill levels of skateboarders, BMX riders, and other wheeled athletes. The new park will feature a competition-style bowl, multi-level jump line, hips galore, mini-ramp, spine, a-frame, ledges, euro, and much more. The public facing project webpage is no longer available with updates.*

AUDREY MOORE REC CENTER RENOVATION

Original timeline for this project publicized that the Conceptual Design Options & a follow up Community Meeting was planned for Spring 2022. However, this community meeting (and a prior community meeting after survey results were analyzed) never came to fruition. Additionally, the project webpage with the timeline is no longer available.*

**Awaiting word back from the Audrey Moore Director of Operations or FCPA for status and updates on these two projects.*



Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) Announcements

MONTHLY PARK CLEAN-UP

- **WHEN:** (2nd Sunday of every month)
- **TIMES:** 9:00am-12:00am
- **WHERE:** Sign in at one location — Lake Accotink Marina
- **ACTIVITIES:** Pick-up trash bags with debris carelessly dumped, dropped and forgotten. Dog waste stations (refill & check stations), vine clipping and more.
- **REGISTER:** <https://bit.ly/monthlycleanup>

Pick up your gloves, FLAP information, clean-up bags, tools, maps and more. You will also be loaned a FLAP Safety Vest. Volunteer 4 times and receive your very OWN Safety Vest to personalize!

CARING FOR & EXPLORING THE POLLINATOR GARDEN

- **WHEN:** (2nd Sunday of every month)
- **TIME:** 10:30am
- **WHERE:** Lake Accotink Park Margaret Kinder Pollinator Garden — Adjacent to the Marina
- **ACTIVITIES:**
 - Caring for: Work alongside our experts as they care for the Pollinator Plants, Watering and Clean-up. We'll provide the tools and gloves or you can bring your own: <https://bit.ly/caringforpollinator>
 - Exploring: Our experts will guide you through the Pollinators and Pollinator Plants, Starting and maintaining your own (any size) Pollinator Garden: <https://bit.ly/exploringpollinator>

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

PTA UPDATES ACROSS THE PYRAMID

NORTH SPRINGFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The school year has been a busy and productive one so far, and we have more fun activities happening at NSES. Save the date for the upcoming activities:

- **Friday, February 24th / Bingo Night with a Silent Auction**
Come play some Bingo and bid on many exciting prizes at the NSES Cafeteria. Doors open at 6pm, Bingo starts at 6:30. It is open to anyone in the community.
- **Friday, May 12th / Spring Fair**
Open to all North Springfield Elementary School families. There will be games, entertainment, food and more.

The NSES PTA is always looking for volunteers to help with various activities and for donations towards events such as the Silent Auction. If you're interested in donating your time, or anything else, please email nsespta@gmail.com.

The next PTA General Meeting is Monday, February 13th at 7pm.

HOLMES MIDDLE SCHOOL

Holmes is preparing for our **Teacher vs Student Basketball Game** and our **Community Fun Run**. We are seeking new, in-kind items (i.e.: gift cards, gift baskets) and donations from small businesses, and cash to be used as raffle prizes for these upcoming events!

If you have a Middle Schooler (or even if you don't!) you can add OW Holmes Middle School on <https://smile.amazon.com>.

For questions regarding Holmes Middle School and the PTA, please contact us at holmespta@gmail.com. We are here to provide support and connect you with staff and admin.

GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS

(continued from page 6)

- Common Winterberry, *Ilex verticillate*, 3-10 ft (bright red berries in winter)
- Fragrant Sumac, *Rhus aromatica*, 'Gro-Low' 1 ½ -2 ft.
- Lowbush Blueberries, *Vaccinium pallidum* 1.5-2 ft (Yes! They are edible!)
- **Add taller or larger shrubs at the corners.** Bring them even further out from the house than those running in front to round out the corner planting beds.
 - Northern White Cedar or Arborvitae, *Thuja occidentalis*, 'Degroot's Spire' 15-20 ft; 'Emerald' 10-15 ft; 'Techny' or 'Mission' 10-15 ft
 - Youpon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria*, species, 'Pendula' 15-20'
- **Consider looser (often deciduous) shrubs at the corners** to vary the texture. Their bare branches act like sculpture in the wintertime. These often have flowers or berries making them great focal points during the growing season.

ANNANDALE HIGH SCHOOL

MULCH SALE

Spring will be here before you know it! Plan now to support the Annandale High School PTSA Mulch Sale. This year's mulch sale will begin on Feb 16 and mulch will be delivered on March 11. Proceeds support the Annandale HS all Night Graduation Celebration (ANGC). The ANGC is an adult supervised, PTSA organized, independently funded celebration for all graduates of the Class of 2023. More information will be available in February at www.annandalehspta.org or you can contact angcmulch@annandalehspta.org.

ANNANDALE HS PANTRY

Donations are always needed for the Annandale HS Pantry.

- **Personal Hygiene Items:** Shampoo, Conditioner, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Razors, Deodorant, Body Wash, Hand Soap, Chapstick
- **Food Items:** White Rice, Breakfast Cereal, Tomato Sauce, Cooking Oil, Maseca Flour, Sugar, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Crackers, Boxes of Granola Bars, Diced Tomatoes
- **Household Items:** Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Dish Detergent, Dishwasher Detergent, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Supplies, Sponges

Additional information can be found at <https://annandalehspta.membershiptoolkit.com/ahspantry>.

Annandale HS PTSA is also seeking donations for our annual auctions! Local businesses take the opportunity to showcase their business with the Annandale Community. For questions or to donate please contact the Annandale PTA – subject line "All Night Grad" at atoms.ahs.president@gmail.com. 🌟

- Maple-leaved Viburnum, *Viburnum acerifolium*, 4-6 ft.
- Native Hydrangea, *Hydrangea arborescens*, 3-8 ft (4" clusters of white flowers)
- Pinxter Azalea, *Rhododendron periclymenoides*, 6-10 ft. (fragrant May flowers)
- Red Chokeberries, *Aronia arbutifolia*, 6-10 ft (white flowers in May, beautiful fall color, bright red berries into December)
- Virginia Sweetspire, *Itea virginica*, 3-8 ft (white flowers in May & June)
- Withered Viburnum, *Viburnum nudum*, 5-6 ft; 'Brandywine' 5-6 ft; 'Winterthur' 6
- Consider small trees at the corners
 - Florida Anis Tree, *Illicium floridanum*, 6-8 ft (up to 20 ft.)
 - Serviceberry, Amelanchier species, *A. laevis* 15-25 ft; *A. x grandiflora* 15-25 ft.
 - Witch Hazel, *Hamamelis vernalis*, 6-15 ft; and *Hamamelis virginiana* 15-20 ft.

As always – Happy Planting!
Martha

Girl Scout News

IT'S COOKIE SEASON!

Please support the girls. Many will be out and about. Watch for drive-thru booths at the NSSC on the weekends. When you see them at a cookie booth in front of your favorite shop, here are a few dos and don'ts:

DO:

- Make eye contact and smile; the girls are selling usually for 2-3 hours outside in the cold. Your smile goes a long way.
- Talk to the girls—ask them (rather than the adults) if they take credit cards—most do, to tell you about the cookies, what they are going to spend the money on, what food allergies your family has, etc. They will look to the adults when they don't have the correct answers.
- Be honest about not wanting any; the girls learn resilience from hearing no.
- Think about donating a box. Troops get to decide where they will send their donated boxes: USO, food pantries, educators, first responders, health care workers, and more.

DON'T:

- Overlook the older girls. Girl Scouts goes through Seniors in High School. Those girls get to do amazing things—create educational programs about something they are passionate about, be Congressional Aides, publish books, backpack to amazing places.
- Avoid the girls. It's heartbreaking when girls ask someone if they want to buy cookies and adults ignore them.
- Say "No, I'm dieting." We are raising girls to have healthy habits with food, and cookies are a sometimes food. Just a simple, "no, thank you" is perfect.

EXTRA GIRL SCOUT COOKIES?

There are amazing recipes online for extra Girl Scout cookies. Check out the following links.

- <https://www.brit.co/extra-girl-scout-cookies>
- <https://www.delish.com/food/g2718/girl-scout-recipe-finalists>
- <https://www.littlebrowniebakers.com/cookies/mmmmm-try-girl-scout-cookies-in-recipes>



Members of Brownie Troop 55118 visit the planetarium!

TROOP UPDATES

Brownie Troop 55118 just finished their Eco Friend badge and are currently working on their Space Science Adventurer badge, which will include a trip to the planetarium at TJHSST. This is their first year selling Girl Scout cookies at booth sales, so if you see them at a local store, please say hi!

Cadette Troop 120 would like to thank everyone who supported their curb painting fundraiser. The girls will begin again in late spring. Please email gscnctroop120@gmail.com if you would like the form emailed when it is available. If there was any problem or we somehow marked you done but you weren't, please send an email as well.

The girls had a blast in New York visiting the GS Headquarters, learning choreography from a Beetlejuice performer, eating NY bagels and pizza, and more!

Junior Troop 55053 has been working on their leadership this year. The girls have been taking turns leading badge work. This winter they will be going snow tubing. This spring they plan to go horseback riding, camping, and will be spending the night at Port Discovery Children's Museum in Baltimore.

Do you have a child interested in joining Girl Scouts? Go to <https://mygs.girlscouts.org> to find a troop to join. 🌟

NSCA

North Springfield Civic Association

Join Today!

The \$15 annual dues goes directly to help support the NSCA initiatives that benefit our community and make this newsletter possible. Simply fill out the membership form on page 16 or [join online](#).

Real Estate Talk

By: *Pat Sawhney, Re/Max*
Senior Real Estate Specialist

It's time to talk about our real estate market for 2023. At this time I foresee our moving into a more normal market with buyers able to have a contingency for a home inspection, sellers sometimes agreeing to provide some closing costs for the buyer, prices shifting, and houses staying on the market longer. There is a shortage of inventory and buyers still waiting to buy. There is now a little more acceptance of the new interest rate climate. Sellers, with the guidance of their Realtor, are offering more normal list prices; or, if not doing so initially, lowering their price after a brief time on the market.

During the first ten days of December the following had been noted: buyer activity saw an uptick, new listings fell, and inventory levels were still rising. According to senior economist Jeff Tucker at Zillow, typical home values across the Washington region dipped slightly more than the national average from a mid-2022 peak. The average home value in the Washington area stood at \$551,159 in recent weeks, according to a new study by Zillow using its own analysis of market conditions. That's down 0.7 percent from the market peak in June, slightly higher than the 0.5 percent decline (to \$357,733) recorded nationally.

The home real estate market stood all but frozen in November as buyers halted house searches for holiday shopping. House hunting resumed after the New Year, although the higher mortgage rates cooled the market over the past two months. As of November, mortgage rates began to recede bringing the monthly costs of a mortgage down for the first time since July and only the second time in the past nineteen months. If mortgage rates continue to fall the market during the busy spring buying season should will tell us if more buyers are back.

Sellers are more motivated now with some offering unusual bargains. Buyers will find that they have less competition gaining them a better negotiating position. My summary is that we will have a more normal market which is a more even playing field for buyers and sellers. If shortages of inventory decline, particularly in the first-time buyer price range, then values may rise. Waiting for rates to raise and/or waiting to save more money for down payment and closing costs may not be the best approach. I am glad to be of help with buying or selling now or in the future. ♦



Teen Job List

We have some industrious teens in North Springfield who would like to earn extra money over the winter and spring months! If you need any of the following services, please consider hiring these teens. The link to the job list can be found at www.nscivic.org.

Services Include: Babysitting • Dog Walking/Pet • Waste Removal • Pet Sitting • Lawn Mowing/Yard Work • Car Washing • Snow Removal

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Food Truck Fridays • Dolphin Snack Shack

For membership information contact Ken Balbuena
membershipnssc@gmail.com

www.ns-sc.org • [Facebook@North.Springfield.Swim.Club](https://www.facebook.com/North.Springfield.Swim.Club)

SPONSORED AD

Thank You to Our Many Newsletter Delivery Team Volunteers!

This is a tribute to the wonderful neighbors who volunteer their time and energy to deliver the NSCA Newsletter to all 2,211 homes in North Springfield.

Our neighborhood is amazing and filled with kind people who want to contribute to their neighborhood. I am guessing we are also a unique neighborhood in that we have an all-resident 100% volunteer newsletter delivery team!

We have 36 routes ranging from 20–76 homes which are covered by 36 lead delivery volunteers. When the lead is unable to make a delivery for any reason, we have 34 additional volunteers who have stepped up to fill in as needed. Some of our volunteers have been delivering for years and tell me how much they enjoy doing the routes, getting out and meeting their neighbors, and making a difference in their community.

We do have occasional turnover of our leads and whenever there is a vacancy, I reach out to the neighbors who reside within the distribution area, and I get an immediate response. I fill the vacancy on a first come first serve basis and there are always several people I need to turn down. But I ask if they'd like to be added to our list of alternates, so they hear about our delivery needs and most say yes!

So, this is a BIG THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers! If you see them out delivering to your homes, please be sure to thank them for all that they do! On a personal note, I enjoy working with all our volunteers and cannot tell you how much I appreciate your support!

Happy & Healthy New Year to you all,



Nancy Moore
Newsletter Distribution Coordinator

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

NATIONAL (United States)

President: Joseph R. Biden..... (202) 456-1111
Vice President: Kamala D. Harris..... (202) 456-1111

STATE (Virginia) District 35

Governor: Glenn Youngkin (804) 786-2211
Lieutenant Governor: Winsome Earle-Sears (804) 786-2078

ltgov@ltgov.virginia.gov

VA State Attorney General: Jason S. Miyares (804) 786-2078
U.S. Senator: Mark R. Warner (202) 224-2023
U.S. Senator: Tim Kaine..... (202) 224-2024
U.S. Representative: Don Beyer (202) 225-4376
VA State Senator: Richard L. Saslaw (804) 698-7535

district35@senate.virginia.gov

VA State Delegate: Holly Seibold (804) 698-1035

DelHSeibold@house.virginia.gov

FAIRFAX COUNTY

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors: Jeffrey C. McKay.....(703) 324-3151

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

Braddock District Supervisor: James R. Walkinshaw.....(703) 324-3151

braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov

Fairfax County School Board

- Member At Large: Karen Keys Camarra
<https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/karen-keys-gamarra>
- Member At Large: Abrar Omeish
<https://www.fcps.edu/staff/abrar-omeish>
- Member At Large/Chair: Rachna Sizemore Hizer
<https://www.fcps.edu/staff/rachna-sizemore-heizer>
- Braddock District Representative: Megan McLaughlin
<https://www.fcps.edu/school-board/megan-mclaughlin>

For more information, contact electedgovernment.org/officials/Virginia.

NSCA FY 2023 FINANCIAL DATA YTD 7/1/2022 – 1/4/2023

GRANTS:	Budget	YTD Actual
Grant Balance / Expense	\$312.13	\$0.00
INCOME:		
Membership Dues	\$3,600.00	\$690.00
Household Donations	\$6,000.00	\$875.00
Advertising	\$3,740.00	\$3,929.00
TOTAL:	\$13,340.00	\$5,494.00
EXPENSES:		
Beautification	\$7,150.00	\$2,887.10
Newsletter Printing & Delivery	\$6,205.00	\$3,012.40
Braddock Council & Ffx Federation	\$160.00	\$0.00
Community Support	\$1,300.00	\$100.00
Membership	\$300.00	\$0.00
Administrative Expenses	\$700.00	\$235.60
Square Fees (Dues paid by credit card)	\$200.00	\$24.60
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$16,015.00	\$6,259.70
Net Income/(Loss):	-\$2,675.00	\$765.70

Who Do I Contact If...?

This information is provided as a courtesy for our residents. Please send updates and/or requested additions to nscanewsletter@gmail.com.

I smell natural gas (inside or outside of the house)?

- Call Washington Gas at (703) 750-1400 or (800) 752-7520 immediately.

A street sign has fallen or isn't facing the right direction?

- Street sign only: Call Fairfax County at (703) 877-2800 or fill out a form online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/street-name-sign-maintenance-form>.
- All other signs (e.g. stop signs, dead end signs, speed limit signs, etc.): Call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD or fill out a form at <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov>.

I want to call the police for a non-emergency?

- Call Fairfax County Police non-emergency number at (703) 691-2131.

A streetlight is out or the power is out?

- Call Dominion Power at 1-866-366-4357 or go to <https://www.dominionenergy.com/outage-center/streetlight-outages>.

Storm Preparation / Electrical Outage

- Call Dominion Power at 1-866-366-4357 or go to <https://www.dominionenergy.com/outage-center/outage-safety-and-preparation> for information on storm preparation and to report outages.

I see an animal (wild or domestic) roaming around or been involved in a dog bite or attack?

- Call Fairfax County Animal Control via the Police non-emergency: (703) 691-2131.

I want to report a code violation (e.g. high grass, junk in a neighbor's yard, etc.) to the County? (After speaking to the resident if possible)

- Call the Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance at (703) 324-1300 or go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code> for a list of enforced code compliances and links as to what to do.

There is a bad pothole in the road, something in the road or if there is an issue with the sidewalk?

- Call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) or fill out a form at <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov>.

A sewer cover is missing or cracked?

- If in the middle of the road or labeled with Fairfax County markings, call Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (Wastewater Collection Division) at (703) 323-1211.
- For all other manhole covers and sewer inlets call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD or fill out a form at <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov>.

A tree has fallen in my yard?

- Homeowners are responsible for the removal of fallen trees and their debris on their land, including trees fallen from land owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA).
- Call Fairfax County Park Authority at (703) 324-8594 if a tree on their land is hanging over your property, hasn't yet fallen, but poses a danger to the property.
- Call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (1-800-367-7623) for fallen trees and debris in public roadways.

I want to check when my street will be snow-plowed?

- Visit VDOT's online status tracking to see current snow plow activity: <http://novasnowplowing.virginia.gov>.

Ask for a special trash pickup collection (for bulk items)?

- Republic Services (formerly AAA Trash): Call (703) 818-8222 or fill out a form online at <https://www.republicservices.com/residents/bulk-waste> (Service fees apply).
- American Disposal Services: Call (866) 884-8700 or fill out a form online at <https://www.americandisposal.com/customer-support/request-a-pickup-a-pickup> (Service fees apply).
- Bates Truck Trash Removal: Call 301-773-2069.

What are our neighborhood standards?

- Go to: nscivic.org/documents/standards.pdf.

Updated 1/9/2023



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This offer expires on March 31, 2023. No cash value. 18% gratuity will be added to the check before discount. Cannot be combined with any other offer.



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"I can't thank you enough for all of your patience and hard work in getting my sister's house to closing. You've gone above and beyond sharing resources and communication. It's been a pleasure working with you as a real estate agent and compassionate person."

I love receiving kudos from satisfied Sellers like this! Being a Realtor is a very rewarding experience and I'd love to help you as well!



I AM A "SENIOR REAL ESTATE SPECIALIST" WITH MANY SATISFIED CLIENTS! I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU OR THOSE WHO YOU REFER TO ME.

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treasurer@nscivic.org

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membership@nscivic.org

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(703) 307-8499
watch@nscivic.org

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2023 NSCA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

By Donna Moore

Happy New Year! It is time to renew your membership dues for Calendar 2023.

Our annual dues remain at the extremely affordable rate of \$15.00 so that it is easy for all residents to join and support our neighborhood. Thank you to all neighbors who include generous donations with their membership dues. With your permission we acknowledge your contributions in our Newsletters in the following categories: Gold \$50+, Silver \$25-49, Bronze \$15-\$24.

Your funding is critical to preserve the quality of our neighborhood and to keep our residents informed and connected. If you are unsure whether or not you have paid your dues you can email the Membership Chair, Donna Moore at Membership@nscivic.org.

GOLD – Anonymous, Chris & Michele Bergen, Mark Dawson, Monica Jackson

SILVER – Ken Balbuena, Larry & Jeanne Bond, Laurie Boulden, Cyndi Brown, Ben & Carol Cantrell, Anne Goodwin, Lauren Gordon, Paul Hartwell, John & Gail Hodge, Jackson Child Care, Michael Jones, Leslie Evers Kaplan, Dennis McDonald, Kathy & Basil Temchatin, Alex & Kauren Thorne, Paul Twohig, Fran & Nick Visco, Mike & Alicia Ward, Shelli Wayland, Jay Weitzel

BRONZE – Brenda Amaya, Elizabeth Bailey, Catherine Bernero, Jennifer Brotemarkle, Cyndi Brown, Jennifer Brown, Don & Jill Croft, Bobbi Grady, James Jones, Joan Komen, Ralph & Lydia Olson, Art Townsend



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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. By credit card: mkt.com/nscivic)

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

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Watch | <input type="checkbox"/> Federation of Citizen Associations |
| <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 _____ |

CONTACT INFO (If different from above)

NAME _____ EMAIL _____ PH _____