

SUMMER 2026



North Springfield Civic Association

PO Box 1007 | Springfield, VA 22151

www.nscivic.org

President's Message

By: Jeff Schaefer

Hello Neighbors!

I hope your summer is going well and that you're finding a little time to slow down, enjoy the sunshine and late evenings. North Springfield seems to come alive this time of year; suns out and so are we! It is always great seeing folks out jogging, bicycling, going to the pool or the park.

A major shoutout to our Newsletter team for going above and beyond! They spent a great deal of time assessing budgetary impacts of rising printing costs, considering alternatives, and ultimately building out this new hybrid approach. And it's not as

simple as posting a PDF! They now design and produce a one-page flyer for every household, complete with a QR code linking to the full online newsletter. It's been a significant effort involving many hands. Check it out! A full-color newsletter, a little more room for full-size ads (something our advertisers have been asking for), and the same commitment to delivering association news and important information! Still prefer a printed copy? We would

be happy to bring one right to your doorstep, just be sure your membership in the civic association is up-to-date!

As we look toward fall, your civic association is working on a few ideas behind the scenes. One idea we're exploring is a late summer neighborhood get together at Lake Accotink Park. Once we have details, we'll share them on our Facebook page.

Our first association meeting of the new season will be Wednesday, October 7 at North Springfield Elementary School. I hope you'll join us!

This is a great time to join the North Springfield Civic Association. Your membership directly supports the work we do. Becoming a dues-paying member (it's only \$15!) is one of the simplest ways you can help keep NS a wonderful place to call home.

Are you interested in taking a more active role? A few of our committees need leaders willing to take the reins:

- **Parks & Recreation:** Help us stay informed about the county's plans for our parks and recreation facilities.



JOIN THE NSCA TODAY! It's only \$15 for the year.

Every household that joins or renews its membership will automatically be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$50 Giant Food gift cards! Your membership makes a real difference in our community.

More information on page 22.

"National Night Out" Community Open House Tuesday, August 4 • 6-8 pm

Join us for a FREE Community Open House at the North Springfield Swim Club on Tuesday, August 4th. In addition to cooling off in the pool, enjoy tennis, ping pong, and beach volleyball. Police cars, motorcycles, fire trucks, and ambulances have been invited.

Details on page 3.

Save the Date: 1st Annual North Springfield Porch Fest Saturday, September 19

Mark your calendar for this neighborhood music festival. This will be a FREE neighborhood music festival where neighbors play live music for the community. See page 4.

- **Neighborhood Watch:** Coordinate volunteers and be a visible presence keeping our community safe.
- **Community Service:** Lead service projects and activities and help other volunteer leaders see their ideas come to fruition.

Thank you for being part of North Springfield! I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood or at a future meeting.

Sincerely, Jeff



NSCA NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to Our First Digital Newsletter! ♥

You'll still receive this each quarter!

More Features!
More Connection!



Our digital newsletter brings you more!

- Full-color photos and graphics
- Clickable links to additional information
- Maps, videos, and other online resources
- More space for articles and community news
- Interactive advertising that supports our local businesses



Your Choice, Your Community, We've Got You Covered!

NSCA members may request a free paper copy of future newsletters. Subscribe to receive news, alerts, updates for your neighborhood (choose to be fully digital, printed copies not mailed automatically)



NOT AN NSCA MEMBER?

Join today and support your community!

JOIN THE NSCA

Link Below: ↓

<https://northspringfieldcivic.org/join>



PREFER A PRINTED NEWSLETTER?

Request a free paper copy of future newsletters.

REQUEST A PAPER NEWSLETTER

Link Below: ↓

<https://northspringfieldcivic.org/opt-in>

STAY INFORMED.
STAY CONNECTED.

Stay Involved!

♥ Thank you for being part of what makes North Springfield a wonderful place to call home! ♥



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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, August 4 • 6-8 pm

Community Open House! This event is free & open to all NS residents.

“The best way to build a safer community is to know your neighbors and surroundings”.

— the NNO website

National Night Out is an annual event designed to encourage connections and friendships between neighbors and community resources. It is held on the first Tuesday in August and its main focus is to build bridges between community and local police.

For the eleventh year, the North Springfield Civic Association (NSCA) and the North Springfield Swim Club (NSSC) will be co-hosting this event. A “Community Open House” from 6-8pm will take place at the **NSSC located at 5604 Earlehurst Street**. In addition to cooling off in the pool, your family can enjoy other amenities at the club like a playground, tennis, ping pong, and beach volleyball. Police cars, motorcycles, fire trucks, and ambulances have been invited to visit between 6-8pm. Children—of all ages—are welcome to climb on, inside, around these vehicles and maybe even push the siren button! Please understand we do not control which ones visit and what times they visit.

Our famous Snack Shack will be serving up food for purchase, available from 5:30-7pm. Free frozen treats (until supplies last) will be handed out around 7:30pm, sponsored by the North Springfield Civic Association.

Several local community groups have been invited with an “info table” to share news about their organizations and answer questions. These are some of the groups that have been invited: NS Civic Association, NS Elementary School PTA, Annandale High school PTA, Save Lake Accotink, Friends of Lake Accotink, Green Spring Gardens, Scouts and Girl Scouts.

You do NOT have to be a member of the swim club to attend this National Night Out event. NSSC members can bring free guests. All children under the age of 13 must be accompanied by a responsible adult 18 years or older.

The event is “weather permitting.” In case of thunderstorms, the pool must be closed, and the event will be cancelled. Announcements would be made the day of the event, posted on the swim club website (<https://www.ns-sc.org>) and the NS Community Facebook pages.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to help and be part of this wonderful community event or have questions, please contact Bobbi Grady, Community Outreach, at communityoutreach.nssc@gmail.com. Volunteers are needed to grill, hand out food, ‘marshall’ the decks, supervise press-on tattoos, and so on.

COME MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS! 🌟



(left) Fairfax County Police Officer and North Springfield family enjoy the 2025 National Night Out.

(right) Fairfax County detective shows future drivers the inside of his police car at last year’s NNO event.

1st ANNUAL NORTH SPRINGFIELD PORCH FEST!

Neighborhood Music Festival • Saturday, Sept. 19, 2026 • 2-6 pm
(Rain Date: September 26th)



North Springfield's 1st Annual Porch Fest is a **FREE** volunteer-led music event completely spearheaded by NS residents.

The goal is to bring together the community by showcasing neighborhood and area talent. This is a grass-roots event with no sponsors or organizations behind it. **WE NEED YOU!**

We have been planning this event for a few months. Here is the exciting update!

VOLUNTEERS

Our biggest need is for VOLUNTEERS now. Here are some of the areas we are looking for:

BEFORE THE EVENT:

- Design yard signs for each home venue
- Make yard signs to advertise the event that will be put around the neighborhood.
- Post fliers around at your shops, schools, churches, offices. Ask us for a digital copy of the flier. Copy a few and post, pass them around. (Ask us if you need copies)
- Spread the word about the event! Invite neighbors and friends!

"DAY OF" VOLUNTEERS: (NEEDED AT EACH VENUE)

- Photo and video the performers
- Help set up and break down at each venue
- Direct visitors to the venues
- Direct traffic, parking at each venue
- 'Usher' visitors to seating area
- Help keep visitors at each venue quiet, clean, respectful



Swingology, Gypsy Swing Band. Judy Gomez, local NS resident, is pictured holding her violin.

Here is the link to direct you to the Volunteer Google form to fill out by **July 15**: <https://forms.gle/JvKmZF2ZjkiQwt436>.

TEENS!

Remember these volunteer hours could qualify as your COMMUNITY SERVICE. In Fairfax County 15 hours of service are required by the end of 8th Grade. And what a fun way to earn them!

HOME VENUES

We have 7 house venues committed. We will need more as performers will continue to sign up. Contact us at the emails below if interested. Click on this link to volunteer your home by **July 15**: <https://forms.gle/7sRxNaDhRw6yHt5P7>.

- We are especially looking for 2 more home venues—one in the Woodland Drive area of NS (near another venue) and another near Inverchapel Road (near another venue).
- What will I have to do if I volunteer to host at my home?

Provide electrical outlets (preferably outdoor), trash cans, recycle bins, long, heavy duty extension cords (if you have any), a space that will permit several musicians to perform comfortably and a space for musicians to safely store their gear while performing. Optional: set up some chairs, some shade for the entertainment if you don't have a covered porch or shady yard, snacks, refreshments for the entertainment. Whether visitors can use your bathroom is your decision, but we are discouraging that.

PERFORMERS

We have 32 performers signed up already. Here is a partial line-up list so far:

- Jetset Cowboys, Rock
- Fairplay, Folk Ukelele
- Back Alley Blues Boys, Americana
- Mariachi Estrella, traditional Mexican music
- Code Purple, Bluegrass
- Stephen Schillinger, Rock
- AHS Atoms Buskers, jazz and classical strings
- North Springfield Dad Jammers, Pop
- Mount Vernon Community Band, German Oktoberfest
- Bull Run and Nova Uke, eclectic ukelele groups
- Swingology, Gypsy Jazz Swing
- UMC St. Johns Choir, Choral music
- Clive, Afrobeat
- November Cunningham, Indie Rock
- And many more!

If you would like to perform, contact Judy Gomez (email below) and fill out the Google form here by **July 15**: <https://forms.gle/a3rHZn1f35d8XECV8>. We are especially looking to add more variety to our performers' list. Contact us if you know of anyone
(continued on page 5)



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- Referring you to experienced experts for organizing plus selling & removing extra furniture & belongings
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- Working tirelessly as your advocate

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!

RECOMMENDATIONS:

"We loved doing business with [Pat], the only stress-free part of the whole moving process!"

"Pat knows the neighborhood and has a very personal touch. She was wonderful to work with."

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

SPONSORED AD



Clive, Afrobeat / Mariachi Estrella, Traditional Mexican Music

who plays, for example, Zydeco, Reggae, Celtic, Indian/Bollywood, South American, etc.

Like us, invite people and make (nice, please) comments on our public Facebook page: North Springfield Porch Fest | Facebook.

QUESTIONS? WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Contact BOTH OF US please:

[Judy Gomez mariachiestrella@hotmail.com](mailto:Judy.Gomez.mariachiestrella@hotmail.com)

[Dana Cibulski danacibulski@cox.net](mailto:Dana.Cibulski.danacibulski@cox.net)

Also, see the previous Porch Fest article in the NSCA Spring 2026 issue on the NSCA website (<https://www.nscivic.org>).

**MUSIC! OUTDOORS! NEIGHBORS! FREE!
WHO COULD ASK FOR MORE? 🌟**

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Sharing the faith of Jesus

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SUNDAYS
8:00 AM Holy Eucharist
10:15 AM Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAYS
10:00 AM Morning Prayer

CONTACT US

4801 Ravensworth Road
Annandale, VA 22003
Phone: 703-941-2922
Website: st-barnabaschurch.org
Instagram: @stbarnabasannandale
Facebook: @StBarnabasEpiscopal

SPONSORED AD



To better communicate with our residents, the NSCA is implementing a “North Springfield General Information Email” list in Constant Contact!

We will **NOT** flood your inbox with emails, but if you are interested in timely and important information from the NSCA, please sign up here: [Sign Up for North Springfield General Information!](#)

Use the link the link in blue above to sign-up. 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.

Translations of above:

Spanish: Utilice el enlace azul que aparece arriba para inscribirse. El formulario de inscripción solicita cuatro datos: (1) su dirección de correo electrónico, (2) su nombre, (3) el nombre de su calle y el número de su casa (por ejemplo, 1234 Heming Ave), y (4) su idioma de preferencia. Solicitamos su idioma de preferencia para evaluar la posibilidad de traducir estos correos electrónicos y hacer que esta información sea más accesible y útil para todos los miembros de nuestra comunidad.

Korean: 위에 있는 파란색 링크를 사용하여 신청해 주세요. 신청 양식에서는 다음 네 가지 정보를 요청합니다. (1) 이메일 주소, (2) 성함, (3) 거주하시는 거리 이름과 집 번호(예: 1234 Heming Ave), 그리고 (4) 선호하시는 언어입니다. 선호하시는 언어를 여쭙는 이유는 이 이메일을 번역할 수 있는 가능성을 검토하여, 모든 지역 주민들께 보다 쉽게 이용할 수 있고 유용한 정보를 제공하기 위함입니다.

Vietnamese: Vui lòng sử dụng liên kết màu xanh ở phía trên để đăng ký. Biểu mẫu đăng ký sẽ yêu cầu bốn thông tin: (1) địa chỉ email của quý vị, (2) họ và tên, (3) tên đường và số nhà (ví dụ: 1234 Heming Ave), và (4) ngôn ngữ ưu tiên của quý vị. Chúng tôi hỏi về ngôn ngữ ưu tiên của quý vị để có thể xem xét khả năng dịch các email này, giúp thông tin trở nên dễ tiếp cận và hữu ích hơn cho tất cả các thành viên trong cộng đồng.

FAMILY LIBRARY EVENTS

Summer 2026

Compiled by: Ivan Carrasco, NSCA Diversity Chair



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

Thursday, July 23, 2026; 10:30am - 11:00am; **BOUNCIN' BABIES STORY TIME**; Bond with your baby while you enjoy short stories, songs and lap sit activities in this interactive Storytime. Ages For children birth - 18 months (with adult).

Tuesday, August 18, 2026; 6:00pm - 7:30pm; **AMATEUR ART! PAINTING**; Unleash your inner artist! Each month we will explore different art techniques and materials. All you need to bring is your creativity! Registration is required. (Adults).

Wednesday, September 23, 2026; 2:00pm - 3:00pm; **TECHNOLOGY TUTORING**; One-on-one technology tutoring offered by library staff. A laptop will be available to use during the tutoring session for practice. Bring your laptop, smartphone, tablet or eReader if you wish.

RICHARD BYRD LIBRARY

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

Saturday, July 25, 2026; 2:00pm - 3:00pm; **MEET OWLS AND BIRDS OF PREY**; Learn About Birds at the Library Did you know that there are birds of prey living and hunting right in your own backyard? You may have seen them in the sky, roosting in trees, etc.

Tuesday, August 11, 2026; 2:00pm - 3:00pm; **FOSSIL DIG AND DISCOVERY**; Learn about fossils with hands-on activities and then unearth your own fossil to take home! Registration required for limited spaces. Ages 5-12.

Tuesday, September 15, 2026; 10:00am - 1:00pm; **MASTER GARDENERS PLANT CLINIC**; Need gardening help? Stop by for horticultural tips, information and advice from the Fairfax County Master Gardeners. In person on Tuesdays from May through September. Adults.

KINGS PARK LIBRARY

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

Friday, July 24, 2026; 4:00pm - 5:00pm; **TEEN CRAFT AND CHILL**; Have Snacks. Make Stuff. Do Crafts. Have Fun. A teen program of making stuff for your friends with your friends.

Saturday, August 1, 2026; All Day Event; **PUZZLE TABLE & ONGOING PUZZLE EXCHANGE**; Help complete one of our provided jigsaw puzzles at our puzzle table OR take part in our ongoing jigsaw puzzle exchange - Take a Puzzle/Leave a Puzzle! Our jigsaw puzzle table is available every day.

Monday, September 21, 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...

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

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER! 🌟

NSCA Senior Outreach – Proudly Serving Our Senior Community!

Submitted by: Marie Norman, NSCA Senior Outreach Chair

Since a CASOA (Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults) survey will be going out, let's review SHAPE. In 2019 it started with a CASOA Survey. Then the Older Adults Committee of the Fairfax County Supervisors approved a framework for a revised aging services plan using the acronym **SHAPE** that stands for: **S**ervices for Older Adults & Family Caregivers (caregiver support, dementia friendly resources); **H**ousing & Neighborhood Supports (affordable housing, home modifications, home maintenance, Villages, livable communities); **A**ccess to Mobility Options (transportation mobility support, walkability); **P**ersonal Well-Being (community engagement, isolation, public & mental health & nutrition); **E**conomic Stability and Planning (financial stability, exploitation, employment, end of life, business partnerships).

These categories and subcategories roughly align with other jurisdictions' aging services plans. The purpose of the SHAPE the Future of Aging Plan was identified as informing policy, making decisions about how to meet older residents' needs, educating the public and assisting communities and organizations in the effort to sustain a high quality of life for older adults. Its goals have included understanding what is working well and the gaps in services that need to be addressed, as well as the services and support that should be in place to respond to future needs. This is just a brief overview. If you want to dig deeper, go to the Fairfax County website under Older Adults ([Fairfax County CASOA Survey](#)). Please respond to the survey.

In 2022, I was invited to join the Personal Well-Being Committee. Our committee has been able to get the Stronger Memory program into Senior Centers and Libraries working with The Goodwin House. If you want a copy of that workbook, let me know at Seniors@nscivic.org. 🌟

BRADDOCK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT:

BDC Annual Legislative Review Meeting

By: Paul Hartwell, NSCA BDC Representative

Every year the Braddock District Council in collaboration with the Braddock District Supervisors Office hosts an Annual Legislative Review where our local political representatives in Richmond are invited to come and discuss what has been happening in the current session. This year's meeting was held on May 21, 2026 and representatives on the review panel were:

- Delegate Vivian Watts (District 14)
- Delegate Kathy Tran (District 18 — which includes North Springfield)
- Delegate Laura Jane Cohen (District 15)
- Senator Stella Pekarsky (District 36)

The introduction and welcome was by Braddock Supervisor Rachna Sizemore Heizer who gave a brief overview highlighting that the Fairfax County Budget was adopted on May 5 with investments in infrastructure and IT, dealing with food insecurity and ensuring the rainy-day fund was sound in case of weakening of the local economy. Another topic mentioned was housing affordability as the median home cost in Fairfax County is now \$770,000 which is a big issue at many levels of government. She also reminded the audience that at the mid-term elections on November 3rd there will be a bond referendum for funding to redevelop the local Audrey Moore Recreation Center which was the first and now oldest rec center in Fairfax County.

DELEGATE VIVIAN WATTS HIGHLIGHTS:

- Commonwealth of Virginia budget was not passed by end of the regular session, but the House will be reconvening for a special session in June. Although the next fiscal year starts in July there has never been a Virginia government shutdown yet. Biggest ticket items to be resolved are Health & K-12 funding.
- Data Centers are driving energy demand because of Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry. Legislators are debating if taxing should be tied to saving energy.
- Another tax ramification is caused by Virginia barely maintaining its population compared to North Carolina which is growing strongly.
- Concerned about real estate taxes for residents and wants to give relief from Richmond.

SENATOR STELLA PEKARSKY HIGHLIGHTS:

In total 1200 bills were signed last session including 18 that Stella was author or co-author of. These included bills dealing with language access in schools, every child receiving free education no matter status, AI in schools, and a consumer protection bill requiring "Click to unsubscribe".

DELEGATE LAURA JANE COHEN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Has a focus supporting legislation for the disabled and especially for disabled students transitioning from high

school, where IDA rules apply, to a university setting where the American with Disabilities Act is the governing legislation control.

- Also succeeded in getting health care education as a requirement for students in high schools. Virginia now leads the nation as the first state to adopt this important knowledge for school graduates entering society.

DELEGATE KATHY TRAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Also underlined the enormous number of bills introduced this session including one for paid family leave making Virginia the first state in the south to require this.
- Other bills worked on:
 - Composting bill supporting local govt
 - Birth injury fund
 - Junk fees for renters removed
 - Data sharing guardrails to Federal govt
- Made audience aware of 3 constitutional amendments coming on ballot for vote in November and dealing with Affordability, Resilience and Security

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

New Taxes proposed? Each bill has a Fiscal Impact Statement attached. Gov not ready to sign any new tax bills.

Assault Weapons Ban? Guns #1 killer of teens. Defined what is an assault weapon and limit on magazine capacity (15). In 2025, 1200 were killed by guns in Virginia.

WMATA funding? Not figured out yet.

Casino in Fairfax County? Will be an "Entertainment District" not just casino. Looking at stark economic realities of where Fairfax Co. can get revenue without having to increase existing taxes. Bill proposed to let local government have a referendum, but bill was vetoed.

Data Center legislation? Many bills were introduced but not all made it. Electric Rates are approved by state regulators. Complicating factor is the proposed NEXtera Energy merger with Dominion Energy creating a super-sized company for electricity generation and distribution on the east coast. There were bills passed around environmental constraints for data centers like type of backup generators that can be used or water use limits.

If there is no Commonwealth of VA budget agreement will there be a government shutdown? Not likely. By July 1 the 2-year budget should be passed.

More state funding for Fairfax County Public Schools? Unlikely until formula for calculating at state level is done. Many rural counties are in dire straits. (FYI — Annandale is one of poorest zip codes in Northern Va.) 🌟

GARDENING TIPS & SNIPS:

Tree Talk (Part 2 of 4) – FREE TREES!

Submitted by: *Martha Wilson*

See May 2026 Issue
of NSCA Newsletter
for Tree Talk, Part 1

Would you like to add trees to your yard, but you find them too expensive? Or perhaps you are unsure what kind would survive well or how to plant it properly. Luckily there are reputable, non-profit organizations, as well as some Fairfax County resources which may be able to help you. [Click on the blue links for more information!](#)

FAIRFAX RELEASE, INC.

An independent, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Their goals and offerings are:

- To restore large numbers of native trees on public and common land where funding for landscaping is lacking.
- To educate government and the public about the values and benefits of the urban forest.
- To provide free native tree seedlings (typically under three feet tall).

FAIRFAX TREE STEWARDS

A Virginia nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, which offers education, advise and a pilot program for planting trees on private property. Key features of the program are:

- Applicant must be the property owner.
- No existing tree in the front yard;
- Limit – one tree per applicant.
- Trees are approx. 1" caliper, 6-9 ft tall and native to VA, canopy, understory and evergreen.
- On-site reviews to discuss the program and help select trees suitable for specific site conditions.
- Delivery and planting assistance for a \$10 fee.
- Follow-up health checks six months after planting.
- Free educational presentations (virtual or live) on topics including the value of trees, planting techniques, maintenance, tree selection, care of mature trees, and pruning. See topics at <https://fairfaxtreestewards.org/education>.

FAIRFAX TREE RESCUERS

(also known as FAIRFAX PRISM)

PRISM stands for Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management. The first partnership was formed in the Blue Ridge area as the Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), in 2014. After changing its name to the Blue Ridge PRISM, it has been a leader in facilitating other partnerships throughout the state. Fairfax Prism is not involved with tree planting, but rather they rescue trees from invasive species. Their goals are:

- Stem the epidemic of invasive plants to protect existing trees.
- Promote the growth of native plants that support the ecosystem.
- Serve as a statewide leader in invasive plant education and advocacy.

FAIRFAX COUNTY Urban and Community Forestry Division (UCFD) and CASEY TREES

Fairfax County's UCFD has established the [Tree Preservation and Planting Fund \(TPPF\)](#) to increase community tree cover levels.

Benefits Include:

- High-quality, professionally grown trees (1.5"-2.0" caliper, 8-10 feet tall) from Casey Trees: <https://caseytrees.org>
- Regionally native, non-invasive trees which comply with Fairfax County's Natural Landscape Policy

Eligibility & Requirements:

- Community organizations including civic associations and 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations can apply for free trees.
- Private Property owners may not apply directly for TPPF funds.



Sample tree. Photo from Fairfax Tree Stewards.



Casey Trees planted at North Springfield Elementary School. Please visit the school to see examples of the high quality, large trees which UCFD and Casey Trees provided for their play-grounds and ball fields. Photo by Martha Wilson.

(continued on page 10)

EXPLORING THE HISTORY OF NORTH SPRINGFIELD

Submitted by: Robyn Carter (aka "Ye Olde Historian")

Hello North Springfielders!

I hope everyone is looking forward to the summer season! For those who received the former printed version of the newsletter, some of this will be repetitive but for everyone who is just now seeing it for the first time, thanks to its new digital format, let me introduce myself.

As "Ye Olde Historian" I have been researching, archiving and documenting the Post World War Two history of the Springfield area since 2006. In 2016 I self published a book on the early development of Springfield, telling the story of its transition from a mainly rural and agricultural part of Fairfax County into a beautiful new suburban "satellite city." I am happy to say that I was honored by The Fairfax History Commission that year with "The Edith

Moore Sprouse Achievement Award" for that volume. Copies of my original book can be found in The Virginia Room of The Fairfax Regional Library in Fairfax City and is available for a free PDF download on the civic association's Facebook page. As my work is an ongoing thing, there are many updates to that first book and I am currently expanding the details on the early individual subdivisions that came along in the 1950s and 60s. With some exceptions, when creating new volumes for the subdivisions I generally tend to do them chronologically. I am working my way towards an expanded version of North Springfield's history, beyond what I had available in 2016.

There is much to be told about why & how the Springfield area got started down its path, and perhaps I will cover that pre-North Springfield history in a future edition. For now, I am going to just share the pages from the first brochure put out by the developer Edward R. Carr showing the various models of houses that his subsidiary building companies offered to the first homeowners in 1955. For any of you living in an original, un-modified or slightly modified Carr-built home, you can tell the difference between your home and the ones that look very similar to it by the floor plans and window configurations. As time went on, Mr. Carr's companies tweaked some models and created new ones. I will share some of those models in a future edition. The original model home grouping consisted of the two houses that face diagonally on both side of Leesville Blvd at Backlick Rd and the homes along Appomattox Ct. The original sales office was in the home at 5500 Backlick. Very shortly after Carr's firms began building, The Crestwood Construction Corp began building on the Braddock Rd side of the neighborhood, created a sub-subdivision known as "Crestwood Park". I will give details on that in another edition of the newsletter. This brochure was donated to the archive by a former resident, Mr. Don Costello.

Until next time! 🌟



Gardening Tips & Snips

(continued from page 9)

- Private property owners may receive plants, materials and supplies made available free of charge through the sponsoring community organization.

Deadlines:

- Spring Applications due April 1 – May 14 for Oct 15 – Nov 30 planting.
- Fall Applications due October 15 – November 15 for Apr 1 – May 15 planting.

If you are contemplating planting a tree, see [Casey's Tree Guide](#) for a great resource for tree identification and care. **This is my favorite tree planting option for North Springfield. Stay tuned for more information on this topic!** Meanwhile — Happy planting this summer! 🌟

NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB (NSSC)

Open Now Through Labor Day

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

WHEW! IT'S HOT OUT THERE!

North Springfield Swim Club offers members a tranquil, shady retreat to relax and cool off all summer long. But did you know that the club also provides outstanding opportunities for neighborhood youth through its swim and dive programs?

As a member of the Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL), North Springfield competes each summer against other local pools. These fun and friendly swim and dive meets give children the chance to develop important life skills—including goal setting, teamwork, sportsmanship, and social skills—all within a positive, confidence-building environment.

The season features structured practices grouped by age, with both morning and afternoon options available, along with friendly competitions, team breakfasts, and a variety of social events throughout the summer. To learn more, visit our team page at: <https://nsscdolphins.swimtopia.com>.

Have a child who isn't quite ready for swim team? **Little Flippers** may be the perfect fit! This developmental swim program offers morning and evening classes for members' children at a minimal cost. Designed for swimmers ages 4 to 8 who are comfortable in the water, Little Flippers focuses on water safety and basic stroke development. One of the program's unique features is that many of our senior swimmers help coach and encourage our youngest participants.

New to the neighborhood, or have a child starting school this fall? NSSC's active social calendar provides a wonderful opportunity to connect with neighbors and build lasting friendships. There's something for everyone, including raft nights, "dive-in" movies, Wednesday grill nights, trivia nights, ladies' brunches,



beer tastings, wine downs, and more. For families with children entering school in the fall, the pool offers built-in playdates and opportunities for children to meet future classmates before the school year begins.

To schedule a tour or learn more about NSSC, please contact Membership Director **Ken Balbuena** at membershipnssc@gmail.com.

Also, save the date for our next community open house during **National Night Out on Tuesday, August 5, from 6:00–8:00 pm.** (See page 3 additional details.) We hope to see you at the pool!

For more information 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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HEAT SAFETY TIPS

On extremely hot days, it's important to stay cool and safe. Here are some tips from the [Fairfax County Extreme Heat webpage](#).

- **Drink plenty of water**, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- **Stay inside and out of the heat**, if possible.
- **Never leave children, older adults, or pets alone in a car.** Not even for a minute! Not even with the car running and air conditioner on.
- **Visit indoor locations during operating hours to stay cool.** This includes Libraries, Community Centers and REC Centers.
- **Know the symptoms of heat-related illness.** Heat stroke is an emergency, so call or text 9-1-1.
- **Fans do not reduce body temperature.** Stay hydrated and take other steps to get cool.
- **Check on people with vulnerabilities** who may need help responding to the heat. 🌟

Our cat and dog companions can find it more difficult to regulate their body temperature when it gets hot. The [Humane Society of the United States](#) published the following tips for helping pets stay safe when temperatures soar.

- **Always have access to fresh drinking water and shade from the sun.**
- **Limit exercise on hot days.** Exercise in the early morning or evening hours. Asphalt gets very hot and can burn your pet's paws, so walk your dog on the grass if possible. Always carry water with you to keep your dog hydrated.
- **Never leave your pets in a parked car.** Not even with the windows open or the air conditioner on. 🌟



Get 50% Off Metro Fare with Senior Smart Trip Cards!

Submitted by: *Paul Hartwell*

As most of you who have ever used Metro transit will know it is a fast way of getting around the DMV and avoiding driving in traffic. We have two stations on the Blue Line (Franconia-Springfield and Van Dorn) that are relatively close to our North Springfield neighborhood and especially if you travel in the non-rush hour times Monday-Friday or at weekends, the fares are very reasonable. **But what if there was a way to get 50% off any Metro fare, what a real bargain that would be!**

Well, there is a way, but the magic number is 65 as that is the age at which you become eligible for a **Senior Smart Trip Card**. The card is free and you load it up the same way as a regular Smart Trip Card. However, when you tap that card to pay your fare, you're charged the 50% discounted fare, not the regular fare.

The most convenient place to get a Senior Smart Trip Card close to North Springfield is the Metro Commuter Store at Franconia-Springfield Metro Station. The store is located on the pedestrian bridge next to the Metrorail entrance and is open Monday-Friday from 6:30am – 7:00pm. It takes less than a minute to be processed but make sure you have a valid government-issued ID to verify your age. The customer service agent took it on trust I was 65+. Guess I look my age!

For more information on Metro's other Reduced Fare Programs go to <https://www.wmata.com/pay/fare-programs.html>. 🌟

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SMALL STEPS, BIG NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACT

By: Charmel Menzel



I recently learned about a Fairfax County opportunity called the Sustain Fairfax Challenge, and I thought it was worth sharing with our neighborhood. It offers an easy way for residents to learn about simple, practical actions we can take at home and in our daily routines to save energy, reduce waste, and help make our community a little healthier and more sustainable.

The challenge uses **BrightAction**, an online tool that lets each household choose actions that make sense for them. Some may be as simple as switching to LED bulbs, sealing a drafty window, adjusting the thermostat, or unplugging electronics when they are not in use. Others might involve reducing car trips, learning more about solar options, or considering future home energy upgrades.

What I like most is that this is not about doing everything at once. It is about each of us picking one or two manageable steps and seeing how those small changes can add up when more neighbors participate.

Here are a few easy ways to get started:

- Sign up for the Sustain Fairfax Challenge and take a look around the BrightAction dashboard.
- Choose one simple home energy action to try this month.
- Consider walking, biking, carpooling, taking transit, or combining errands when possible.
- Explore home energy upgrades, solar options, or available incentives if you are ready for a bigger project.
- Invite a neighbor, friend, or family member to join you.

I am planning to start small and would love for others in the neighborhood to join me. Together, we can lower costs, improve air quality, reduce pollution, and help make Fairfax County more resilient for the future.

If you are interested, consider checking out Sustain Fairfax and choosing one action to try this summer. Small steps really can lead to a big neighborhood impact. Sustain Fairfax landing page: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sustain-fairfax>. 🌱



The Advent of the Spotted Lanternfly

Submitted by: Debra Stevenson

The infamous and invasive spotted lanternfly is not a fly but it moves as rapidly as one; it is not a moth, but it looks like one with its spotted wings and colors. It is classified as a leafhopper, although it does not look like one, as planthoppers are known for their ability to blend into their surroundings, looking like a leaf, or a bit of bark or a twig, whereas spotted lanternfly is quite colorful in the adult stage. Planthoppers excrete a white, waxy foam when they are feeding which protects them from being grabbed by predators; Spotted Lanternflies emit a sticky substance which becomes a gooey mess and can allow black soot mold to grow on plants. There are 12,500 varieties of planthoppers, the vast majority of which are harmless; aphids and cicadas are planthoppers. So is Spotted lanternfly but it is one of the few harmful ones.

So why is spotted lanternfly a planthopper? Because it has piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on plant sap, and they travel primarily by jumping; they are clumsy fliers but have powerful hind legs to give them a fast take off.

The name "lanternfly" is a misnomer. It stems from an early (and incorrect) belief that the head of the insect glowed in the dark. In reality, they have no connection to flies and are actually members of the planthopper family. Planthoppers can sort of crawl sideways, like a crab, but they mostly move by hopping, and that is the only way they can take flight.

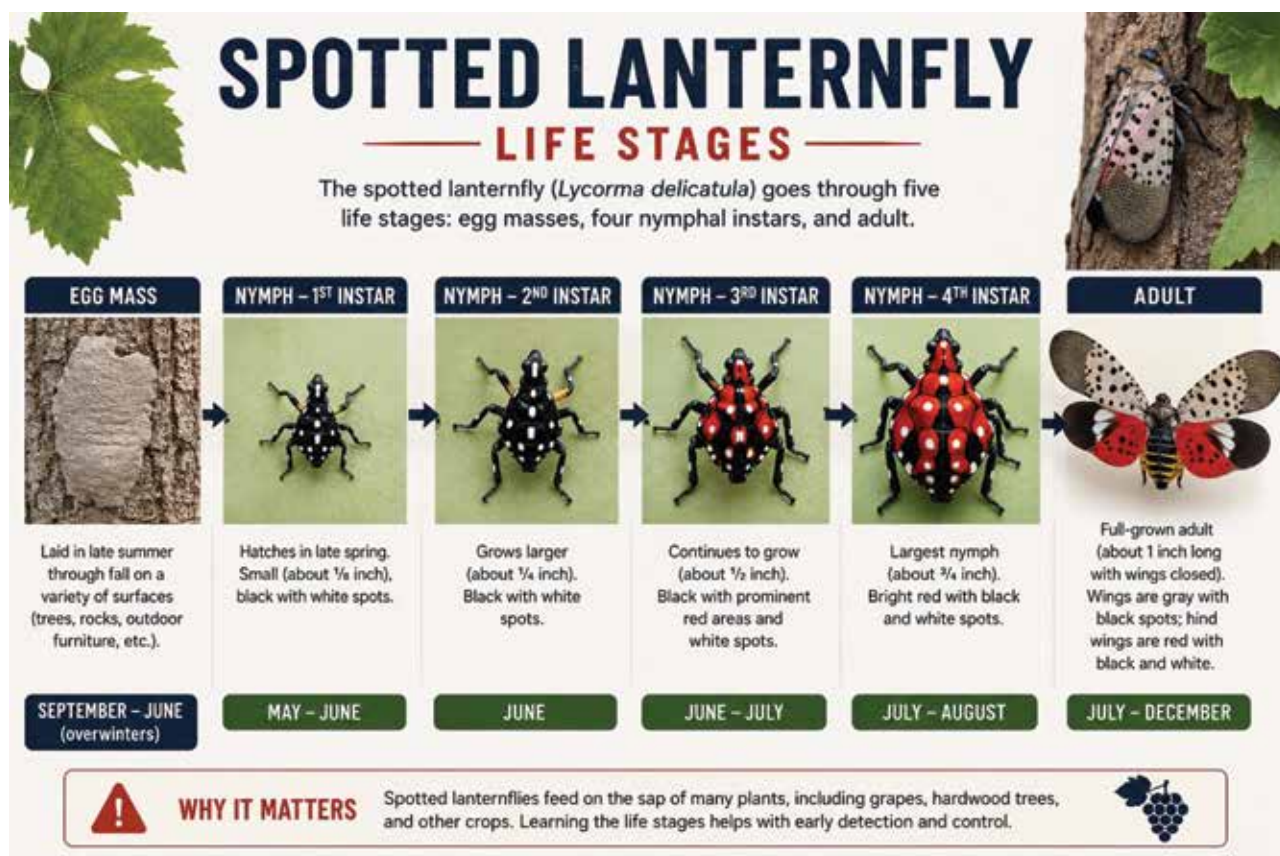
What's the harm? Spotted lanternflies drill into the soft tissue of plants to drink the sugary sap, which is meant to carry nutrition to the plant as part of photosynthesis. As the insects feed, they excrete a sticky, sugary waste called "honeydew". The mold blocks sunlight and can weaken plants, especially when combined with heavy feeding damage.

What attracts the spotted lanternfly and what are the natural predators? Adults favor the sap of the Tree of Heaven, wild and cultivated grapes, maples (red and silver), black walnut, and willow trees. Nymphs are particularly drawn to rose bushes, and a variety of young fruit and ornamental trees. They do have natural predators - bats, spiders, chickens, birds, praying mantises all feed on them. While these predators may help reduce numbers, they generally do not eliminate infestations on their own. Research is being done on introducing other predators to interrupt the reproduction cycle, such as wasps that carry a parasite that will prevent the nymphs from hatching, and a fungus that will cause disease in the Spotted Lanternflies.

So what can you do? Check all trees, especially those attractive to these pests, near your yard! Grape vines on the neighbor's side of my fence were infested with the nymph stage lanternflies this spring! These planthoppers are sensitive to some botanical smells, such as peppermint, lavender, tea tree oil and vinegar. You can kill

(continued on page 17)

Spotted Lanternfly's Life Stages to Help with Identification



Tree-of-Heaven: The Tree That Fights Back!

Submitted by: **Nancy Moore**

The invasive Tree-of-Heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is becoming increasingly common throughout Northern Virginia. Originally introduced from Asia in the 1700s as an ornamental tree, it has spread aggressively and is now considered one of the most troublesome invasive trees in our area. To make matters worse, it is a favorite host of the invasive **Spotted Lanternfly**.

Unfortunately, many homeowners discover the hard way that simply cutting down a Tree-of-Heaven often creates an even bigger problem. Chopping this tree down causes hundreds of “suckers” to sprout up along the root system. There are other species of trees that react like this when cut down so it is wise to do some online research or consult a certified arborist or tree-care professional before removing a mature tree.

I witnessed what happens with this type of tree firsthand when a neighbor removed one and it sprouted hundreds of little “trees” all over the front yard. It was incredible! The homeowner tried to mow them down, but they grew back every time. Eventually they were gone, I suspect the lawn needed to be treated to kill it. **Read on to avoid this unwanted surprise!**

HOW TO IDENTIFY A TREE-OF-HEAVEN

Common identifying characteristics include:

- Large compound leaves that can be 1–4 feet long
- A strong unpleasant odor when leaves are crushed, often compared to rotten peanut butter
- Smooth gray bark on younger trees
- Clusters of winged seeds that can persist through winter
- Rapid growth along roadsides, fence lines, woodlots, and disturbed areas

WHY SIMPLY CUTTING IT DOWN DOESN'T WORK

Unlike many trees, Tree-of-Heaven has an extensive underground root system. When the tree is cut down, the roots interpret the loss as a threat and respond by producing numerous new shoots, called **root suckers**.

Homeowners frequently report seeing dozens—or even hundreds—of new sprouts appear after removing a single tree. These shoots can emerge many feet from the original trunk and may grow several feet in just one season.

In effect, cutting down the tree without proper treatment can turn one tree into an entire colony.

THE RIGHT WAY TO REMOVE TREE-OF-HEAVEN

Experts recommend a “**treat first, cut later**” approach. The basic process is:

1. Apply an appropriate herbicide to the standing tree during the recommended treatment window.
2. Allow time for the herbicide to move throughout the tree and root system.
3. Remove the dead tree several weeks later.

This method helps kill the roots and greatly reduces the likelihood of widespread sprouting. Always follow herbicide label directions and consider consulting a professional for guidance.

WHY REMOVAL MATTERS

Tree-of-Heaven is the preferred host tree of the **Spotted Lanternfly**, a destructive invasive insect that is now well established throughout Fairfax County. Removing Tree-of-Heaven and replacing it with native trees can help reduce habitat for lanternflies while improving the health of our local environment.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Consider replacing Tree-of-Heaven with one of these attractive native species:

- Eastern Redbud
- Serviceberry
- Flowering Dogwood
- Red Maple
- Black Gum (Tupelo)
- White Oak

BEFORE YOU CUT

If you suspect you have a Tree-of-Heaven, take a little time to identify it correctly and develop a removal plan before reaching for the chainsaw. A bit of patience today can save you years of battling unwanted sprouts throughout your yard.

Here is a video with additional details. Tree of Heaven – Identification and Removal (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2OkDcHhfak>). 🌱

Spotted Lanternfly *(continued from page 16)*

them by spraying them with a mixture of Dawn (must be Dawn) dish detergent in water, a diluted soap spray can kill lanternflies on contact, but avoid heavy applications on plants because some soaps can cause leaf damage.

You can wrap trees they find attractive with sticky bands can catch the lanternfly nymphs as they crawl up the bark. Be sure to put a protective mesh or wire screen over the sticky bands to prevent birds, and helpful pollinators from getting stuck. Be sure to check them frequently and remove them when they are no longer needed to minimize unintended wildlife impacts.

For heavy infestations, use commercial insecticidal soaps or neem oil, which are highly effective when sprayed directly on the bugs. Pesticides such as Sevin will take care of them or you can check with your pest control company, many will treat for lanternflies.

To lay their eggs in the fall, adults are attracted to flat, hard, and light-colored vertical surfaces. This includes tree bark (especially Tree of Heaven), cars, outdoor furniture, firewood, and stone walls. During the fall and winter months, scrape off egg masses found on trees, patio furniture, or bricks, and drop them into a bag of rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer and dispose of in the garbage.

For additional information go to Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma Delicatul*) | VDACS (<https://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/plant-industry-services-spotted-lanternfly.shtml>). 🌱

Pet Vaccination & Microchipping Clinics – No Exam Fee!



Fairfax County Animal Shelter's Pet Resource Center is offering a fantastic opportunity for residents to get their pets vaccinated and microchipped without the cost of a veterinary exam, Services and prices are listed above!

For more details, please visit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Clinic:

(<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalservices/petresources/vaccine-and-microchip-clinic>)

Clinics are first-come, first-served, and are cash only:

Fri. July 24	9 to 11 am	Lorton Campus Animal Services	8875 Lorton Road, Lorton, VA 22079
Wed. Aug. 5	9 to 11 am	Fairfax Center Fire Station 40	4621 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
Fri. Aug. 28	9 to 11 am	Lorton Campus Animal Services	8875 Lorton Road, Lorton, VA 22079
Wed. Sept 2	9 to 11 am	Fairfax Center Fire Station 40	4621 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
Fri. Sept 18	9 to 11 am	Lorton Campus Animal Services	8875 Lorton Road, Lorton, VA 22079
Wed. Oct 7	9 to 11 am	Fairfax Center Fire Station 40	4621 Legato Road, Fairfax, VA 22030



JOIN THE NORTH SPRINGFIELD SWIM CLUB

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Send Updates to: [Nancy Moore, NSCA Secretary](#)

Join us at our General Meetings (@ 7:30 pm, North Springfield Elementary School) and meet your neighbors!

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

08/26 – NSCA Board Meeting 2/

SEPTEMBER 2026

09/02 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

09/10 – Articles and Advertising Copy Due

TBD – FY 2027 BDC Annual Meeting

09/24 – Fairfax Federation Meeting *

09/25 – NSES Movie Night

09/30 – NSCA Board Meeting 2/

OCTOBER 2026

10/02 – NSCA Newsletter Notification Weekend 1/

10/07 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

10/07 – NSES Walk to School Day

Keep NS kids safe – drive carefully!

TBD - Halloween Parade and Trunk or Treat

NOVEMBER 2026

TBD – Braddock District Council General Meeting

TBD – Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations

Membership meeting

DECEMBER 2026

TBD – Taste of Braddock / Best of Braddock Awards

12/20 – Call for SCA Newsletter Articles

JANUARY 2027

TBD – Braddock District Council General Meeting

01/22 – NSES Movie Night

01/27 – NSCA Virtual Board Meeting 2/

01/29 – NSCA Newsletter Notification Weekend 1/

FEBRUARY 2027

02/03 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

02/24 – NSCA Board Meeting 2/

MARCH 2027

03/03 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

03/05 – NSES Bingo Night (Silent Auction)

03/20 – Call for Newsletter Articles

03/31 – NSCA Virtual Board Meeting 2/

APRIL 2027

TBD – North Springfield Clean Up Day!

04/07 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

04/28 – NSCA Virtual Board Meeting (All committee leads are encouraged to attend)

04/30 – NSCA Newsletter Notification Weekend

MAY 2027

05/05 – NSCA Neighborhood General Meeting

Celebrate our year end and help to elect your FY 2028 NSCA officials!

* The Fairfax Federation Meets the 4th Thursday of every month. If you would like to help the NSCA represent North Springfield at any of the Fairfax Federation or Braddock District Council meetings, they are open to the public!

1/ Residents will receive a flyer with our newsletter highlights and a link to access the full version of our newsletter.

2/ NSCA Business/Planning Meetings are virtual meetings with the NSCA Elected Board and Committee Volunteers.

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

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SENIOR OUTREACH Marie Norman
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seniors@nscivic.org

HAPPY SUMMERTIME, NS NEIGHBORS!

Submitted by: Donna Moore, NSCA Membership/Outreach Chair

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR NSCA MEMBERSHIP TODAY! The North Springfield Civic Association (NSCA) membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st, each year and our **annual dues remain just \$15 per household**. To celebrate another great year, every household that joins or renews its membership will automatically be entered into a drawing to **win one of three \$50 Giant Food gift cards!** The drawing is open to all North Springfield residents—whether you own or rent your home. Your membership makes a real difference in our community. Your dues & donations help the NSCA to:

- Maintain the neighborhood's common areas and entrance signs.
- Protect our residents best interests through our representation on the Braddock District Council and the Fairfax Federation.
- Partner with the North Springfield Pool and North Springfield Elementary School to support community events.
- Enhance communication with residents through our newsletter, website & outreach.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the many neighbors who generously contributed above their annual membership dues. Your generosity helps strengthen our community and is sincerely appreciated. A special thank you to the following donors who have graciously allowed us to recognize them:

GOLD (\$50+) — Dave & Debbie Ingram, Don Neff, Joe & Betsy Stone, Lisa Zaricki

SILVER(\$25-\$49) — Susan Dallas, Andrea Diconi, Jim & Ellen Gray, Diane Hixson, George & Diana Mistretta

BRONZE(\$15-\$24) — Bieu Do, Jaime Bue & Max Ahrendt, Valerie Dray, Melissa Fedyschyn, John Harvey, Dorothy Inks, Shirley M. Kesler, Mindy Nash, Tom & Becky Parker, Romeo & Carina Vergel, De Dios, Debra Yap

\$7 for 70 — Susan Dallas, Diane Hixson 🌟



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

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

AMOUNT PAID \$ _____ (Mail checks to: PO Box 1007, Springfield, VA 22151 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 _____ |

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