

Springfield Reporter

Mall under Construction



Macy's, Target and JCPenney remain open at Springfield Mall, though the interior was shut down over the summer to begin redevelopment construction.

Michael Neibauer of the *Washington Business Journal* recently reported that Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay toured the mall in October. "I've seen a whole bunch of gutting in there, which is what I expected," McKay said. "The stores are all sealed off and there's a lot of demolition. There's no real new things being built quite yet."

Watch for the old Garfinckel's department store building (which later became a Sports Authority) to be demolished soon. The mall is scheduled to reopen as the Springfield Town Center in mid-2014. Visit www.springfieldtowncenter.com to see conceptual drawings and find out where your favorite mall stores have relocated.

President's Corner

Greetings from the SCA Board; our next meeting is Tuesday, 20 November. We hope that you came through Hurricane Sandy without too much discomfort. Overall, I think that June's Derecho storm cleared out many trees that weren't in the way for Sandy to bring down. There was a silver lining to the June pain we experienced, and for those of us who visited Fairfax County's County Emergency Management Operations Center tour we know that the County was better prepared for anything Sandy would deliver.

Pay Your Dues

- Online at www.springfieldcivic.org
- At the membership meeting on Nov. 20
- With a check for \$15 to PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150

On your behalf the Board and ExCom continue to bring you informative and substantive programs that enlighten and broaden your perspectives. Read on to learn more of what's on the horizon. As for our special meeting in October at Grace Presbyterian, I think we struck a harmonious chord with our community; more on that achievement later in the newsletter. Let me extend our special thanks to Gail Nittle and Michele Duell for the extensive outreach to local schools and organizations that work to better our lives as the SCA does. It's partnering that will bolster our future as we build out.

On behalf of the SCA Board I wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and a joyous Holiday Season. Best wishes to all our Veterans and their families,

Bruce Waggoner

Special Program: Community Opportunities

SCA's October 16th special presentation on community opportunities at Grace Presbyterian Church laid out a myriad of opportunities both for volunteering to help and for benefiting from the services offered by our local organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together those organizations in our SCA area with our membership to explore ways in which we can support each other. Sixteen organizations shared their volunteer opportunities and services they offer with the audience of 50.

Grace Presbyterian Church, www.gracepresby.org

Pastor Jay Click (pastor@gracepresby.org) of Grace Presbyterian (7434 Bath Street, 703-451-2900) highlighted Grace's "Aging with Grace" outreach directed by Beth Hershner (703-451-2900 x3013 or aging@gracepresby.org). The organization offers a month full of programs such as the Caregiver Support Group for adult children who are caring for their aging relatives (2nd Mon., 7-8:30pm); monthly brown bag luncheons (usually the 3rd Wed., 12:15-1:30pm); weekly exercise class (12:10-1:00pm; \$5 fee); and Proverbs 17:22 Club, aka BUNCO (last Tues. 1-3pm).



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St. Mark's Lutheran Church, www.stmarks-elca.org

Rev. Albert Triolo (atriolo@stmarks-elca.org) of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (5800 Backlick Road, 703-451-4331) spoke about his church's programs, especially its tutoring partnership with Lynbrook School.

Elementary Schools

School Counselor Sara Crummett (SLCrummett1@fcps.edu) of Crestwood, Principal Mary McNamee (memcnamee@fcps.edu) and PTA President Gary Bangs (gary.bangs@verizon.net) of Lynbrook, and Principal Maureen Marshall (MEMarshall1@fcps.edu) of Garfield Elementary School all gave thumbnail sketches of their schools, the wonderful programs in each, and their desire for community volunteers. All encouraged the audience to call the school office to see how they could help, emphasizing that it can be as much or little time as the individual has to offer.

- Crestwood Elementary School, www.fcps.edu/CrestwoodES, 6010 Hanover Avenue, 703-923-5400
- Lynbrook Elementary School, www.fcps.edu/LynbrookES, 5801 Backlick Road, 703-866-2940
- Garfield Elementary School, www.fcps.edu/GarfieldES, 7101 Old Keene Mill Road, 703-923-2900

ECHO, www.echo-inc.org

Meg Brantley (echoadmin@verizon.net), Executive Director of ECHO (Ecumenical Community Helping Others), explained the various ways ECHO serves our community and welcomed any and all help from volunteers. The purpose of ECHO is to help people in need in our community by assisting those who suffer the effects of long-term poverty as well as people who are experiencing an emergency need. Its Articles of Incorporation permit ECHO to engage in seven specific areas of service: aiding families in emergencies; providing family guidance and assistance; supplying transportation to adults and children for needed services; providing adequate shelter for clients; educating citizens with regard to social and charitable needs; operating a day care center for children; and other lawful activities. These areas provide a menu from which ECHO selects activities which seem to be most needed in the geographic area which it serves in the Burke and Springfield communities, south of Braddock Road, west of I-95/395, north of Lorton and east of Route 123.

ECHO is also associated with a mentoring and tutoring program but is actually just the middle man. It sent out emails to all 400+ of its volunteers and received a tremendously positive response.

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The first “wave” of mentors and tutors were walked through the process by ECHO’s School Program “champion” and were then paired up with those schools in need.



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Lake Accotink Park,

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink

Lake Accotink Park Supervisor Julie Tahan (Julie.Tahan@fairfaxcounty.gov) and Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP) President Jim Hickey (jimhickey12@gmail.com) outlined the wonderful programs the park has to offer and the volunteer opportunities that help our park continue its neighborhood outreach. FLAP holds monthly meetings at Richard Byrd Library on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Contact the park at 703-569-0285.

Woman’s Club of Springfield,

www.womansclubofspringfield.org

Susan Edson (scelande@aol.com), President of the Woman’s Club of Springfield, began by sharing a little of the long history of the Club. It was chartered in 1954 and played a major role in the creation of Richard Byrd Library. The purposes of the Club are to study topics of general interest, to promote fellowship, foster cultural interest in the Springfield community, advance general welfare, carry out charitable projects, and help our community. The Club received the 1997 Springfield InterService Club Council Organization of the Year Award for the Pink Elephant Thrift Shop operation. The Pink Elephant (located in Springfield’s Concord Center) opened for business in 1964, with the Club becoming the sole owner and operator in 1974. The shop is staffed entirely by the unpaid volunteers who are members of the Woman’s Club of Springfield, Inc. All profits are used for philanthropic projects.

Richard Byrd Library,

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb

Branch Manager of Richard Byrd Library Sandy Freund (sandy.freund@fairfaxcounty.gov) praised her library volunteers: “Our library volunteers enable us to provide services that otherwise we couldn’t offer to the public. Examples of volunteer-led programs at the Richard Byrd Library are our English conversation group, our Classics book club, and the Springfield Writers’ Group. We have a dedicated technology volunteer who teaches basic Internet and Microsoft Office skills by appointment. We could use another tech volunteer, perhaps on a morning or an evening. We are also looking for an e-book tutor to show customers how to download library books to their Kindle, Nook, or other devices. We provide the devices and the training. Reading Buddies volunteers help students in grades 1 to 6 with their reading on Monday and Tuesday afternoons. The demand is great, so we can always use more volunteers, especially people who are willing to be substitutes when one of our regulars can’t attend. The library, like ECHO, offers community services hours to students. Due to the large number of students looking for hours, it’s important to put in an application early. Student volunteers prepare library welcome packets for new card holders, cut scrap paper, sharpen pencils, check DVD and audiobooks to make sure that all the disks are in the case (and that they are the right disks). They also clean media and shelf-read. During the summer, students in rising

grades 7-12 can sign up to volunteer for the Summer Reading Program. They help children sign up for the program, take completed logs, help with library programs, and assist with other tasks as needed. Contact the library at 703-451-8055.

Friends of Richard Byrd Library President Christine Peterson (christine.peterson@hotmail.com) explained that the Friends raise money for our community library by selling used books. You can help us in three ways: donate your gently used books, volunteer for our Special Sale, and attend our Sale - all the money you spend on those terrific holiday purchases goes to the library's children's program.

Boy Scouts

Joseph Silver (josephsilver3@hotmail.com), Cub Master of Pack 691 (which meets at Grace Church), offered an invitation: "If you

have a boy between first and fifth grade, stop by on Tuesday night at 6pm. Come join the FUN with Pack 691! For more information contact: Cub Master Joe Silver 703-963-4757 for our English, German, and Russian Speakers or Sr. Glean Gonzalez at 301-892-0501 for our Spanish Speakers. Pack 691 would love to see more boys involved with this great organization. The pack is also looking for cash donations to send more boys to summer camp.

Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital

René Megill (rmegill@gscnc.org, 703-3762-4344), Membership Specialist for the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, was represented by Maria Murphy, Association 52 Assistant Chair of the Girl Scouts. Currently there are no Girl Scout troops at any of our three elementary schools but the Girl Scouts are looking for adult leaders.

Trails for Youth, www.trailsforyouth.org

Trails for Youth, represented by Julie Childers (julie@trailsforyouth.org, 703-209-5721), gave this synopsis of what the organization is all about: "TrailsforYouth.Org is a 501(c)3 Springfield-based children's health organization. Our mission is to mentor youth to overcome obstacles on the trail and in life. Without our programs, there are at-risk youth within Springfield that would not get outside to enjoy fresh air, a bike ride and the opportunity to be active outdoors. As one child recently said, "this is way more fun than playing video games!" We mentor at-risk youth and provide opportunities for all children to experience the joys and benefits of being active outdoors. Our programs focus on getting all youth outdoors and active. We have levels of involvement for everyone from a variety of backgrounds – find one that works for you!

What a wonderful investment of your time, talent and energy being a volunteer in one of these organizations would be! If you need a service, it's likely one of these organizations can provide just the thing! And, yes, SCA can use your help, too!

Huge Holiday Book Sale

Where can \$5 get you an arm full of books and solve your holiday woes? Why the Friends of Richard Byrd Library Used Book Sale, of course! All day Thursday, Friday and Saturday, November 29th - December 1st, the Friends will host their largest sale ever. With over 10,000 offerings, you'll find your favorite fiction, history (especially military), hobbies, and children's books, most in pristine condition.

Gift giving has never been easier or more affordable. Plus, the money we raise from your purchases go directly to our library. Thanks to you last year we were able to buy the library *The New York Times* and 14 other subscriptions. We also funded our children's programs and so much more. So include a shopping stop during our sale.



- Thursday, Nov 29, 1-3pm members only, 3-9pm everyone welcome
- Friday, Nov 30, 10am-6pm everyone welcome
- Saturday, Dec 1, 10am-5pm everyone welcome
- Sunday, Dec 2, 12-3pm - BAGSALE!!

We can't wait to see you at Richard Byrd Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield.

New Wing at Crestwood

Crestwood is anxiously awaiting the completion of our new addition and expanded classroom space. Our open space is also benefiting by the planting of new shrubs, trees and plants along our entire property. This will visually improve our landscape and help beautify the Crestwood neighborhood.

Along with our new construction, we will also be welcoming our youngest students. We are pleased to have been selected as an Early Head Start School, which will enable us to have an educational impact on our youngest community members.

Since the majority of our student population walks to school, we continue to stress safety to our students regarding safe walking habits. We also review with them their responsibility of respecting property of our neighbors. We believe that all children

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learn when provided a safe, nurturing environment. We appreciate all of the continued support the Crestwood community gives to our school.

Last year, The PTA raised a little over \$8,000. We used this money to purchase 3 risers for the music department, pay for 3 teacher luncheons, purchase display boards for the 6th grade projects, pay for the SOL Pass, provide free books to all students through Reading is Fundamental, have the fall ice cream social / dance, offset the cost of field trips, and assist with funds for the 6th grade party. We would love to do even more for the school! We have a lot of fun activities planned for this year, but that will require fund raising. We do hope to do this without any door to door selling if we raise enough with our "No Sell" Fundraiser! We are already collecting box tops, so please start sending those in. Also, Giant A+ registration has opened. Please remember to re-register your card to Crestwood. Our code is 02068.

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Leprechauns Run



There are many exciting things happening with the Leprechauns at Lynbrook Elementary School this school year, but for the month of October nothing was more exciting than the Healthy Kids Fun Run at the Pentagon held Saturday morning, October 27th. Many in Springfield may be unaware of the record setting participation that Lynbrook has in this 1-mile fun run each year the day before the Marine Corps Marathon. For 11 years straight, YES THAT'S RIGHT, eleven years straight, Lynbrook Elementary School has had the largest number of students participating. Last year we had 300 runners, outdistancing the 2nd place finisher George Mason Elementary School from Alexandria which had 243 and James K. Polk of Alexandria which had 240.

Thanks to the generosity of the community to help pay for expenses and the volunteer efforts of the parents and teachers, these youngsters discover the satisfaction of accomplishment which propels them forward academically, socially, and emotionally. Any businesses or individuals that would like to help defray some of the costs may contact lynbrookptapresident@gmail.com. A huge debt of gratitude goes towards the Lynbrook PE teachers Mr. Dexter and Mr. Bobier for without their efforts this never would happen. We hope some of you were able to watch the run, and keep it in mind for next year at the end of October.

Each year in the spring, Lynbrook's 4th grade students take a trip to Jamestown and learn firsthand about the founding of our country. Currently they are learning about the Native American tribes and regions of Virginia, the major rivers, and the main cities located on those rivers. This will continue throughout the year culminating with the trip to Jamestown. Field trips such as this bring everything together for the students. One way the cost of this trip is paid for is through the bake sale held on Election Day. Thank you to everyone who stopped by and helped out. However, donations for this trip will be accepted throughout the year if you are interested.

October 29th was supposed to be Lynbrook Spirit day at the Silver Diner in Springfield. But along came Sandy, and Spirit Day will now be rescheduled. A portion of the sales during that time goes towards Lynbrook programs promoting healthy eating and fitness. If you are a regular at the Silver Diner, link your Eat Well Do Well card to Lynbrook, and if you really want to help out use the card as a debit/gift card by preloading it with money online.

By linking the card and preloading it with money, Lynbrook will get 10% of what you spend. You may also link Lynbrook with your Giant A+ bonus card or Target Red Card. All of these little things help out greatly.

The winter concert is in January this year, and the community is encouraged to attend. It'll bring tears to your eyes to see those young people perform along with the pride you see in the faces of the many parents/families that attend. The gym will be overflowing so come early to get a seat.

Have you ever heard of shoe laces that curl up so you don't have to tie them? Well Y-ties are available through the Lynbrook PTA for \$4, and a portion goes towards fundraising for the school activities. Great for kids so those laces are not always coming untied and flopping around. Contact us at lynbrookptapresident@gmail.com for more information.

Lynbrook's PTA meets every fourth Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm in the cafeteria. Watch for a notice on the school sign each month. Everyone in the community is welcome to attend and hear what is occurring at Lynbrook. Be a part of our community school through the PTA. Membership is only \$10 for the year and is open to anyone who would like to be kept informed about Lynbrook activities or help the students of Lynbrook succeed. Lynbrook PTA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization, please consult your tax preparer as to deductibility of any donations.

Supervisor McKay on Sequestration

Sequestration. Try saying that fast five times and see what happens. I get a bunch of tangled syllables that pretty much illustrate the potential impact. Sequestration is \$600 billion of tax increases and spending cuts that will go into effect next year if Congress does not act. It's part of the fiscal cliff we're hearing so much about—the combination of sequestration, tax cuts that expire and the federal debt ceiling. When Congress' Joint Select committee on Deficit Reduction (also called the Super Committee) failed to reach agreement on \$2.1 trillion worth of cuts over 10 years, sequestration was triggered—and that was a threat that no one thought would ever be carried out.

However, here we are almost a year later looking nervously ahead. On October 23, the County's Economic Advisory Commission held a meeting on the potential impact. Dr. Stephen Fuller, Director of the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University's School of Public Policy, told us that no region is as vulnerable as Northern Virginia. According to Dr. Fuller, about 40 percent of the D.C. metro area's economy is linked to federal spending.

In FY2011, the County received \$289.6 million from the federal government. Should that revenue drop as a result of the

sequester, we would have to make adjustments to our budget and services to address short and long term funding issues. While only 1% of our General Fund revenue comes from the federal government, many Fairfax County public schools programs rely to a greater extent on federal dollars. There are also significant federal grant dollars in our budget and our residents receive important services that are federally funded. We are most concerned with reductions of federal funds for schools, human services, grants, and housing.

Even if we manage to avoid the sequester, we are most likely looking at significant federal cuts to state and local governments; we think that Virginia's share of the cuts would be in the neighborhood of \$1 billion.

I wouldn't even begin to guess what the lame duck or 113th Congress will do—my crystal ball is still in the shop for service—but I can assure you that my colleagues and I have been watching the potential for a sequester for some time. At our September FY2012 carryover budget review we prudently set aside a reserve of \$7 million to ensure that we would be able to continue critical services.

In many ways, we are in the position of a household with maxed out credit cards and bills that can no longer be put off. We must get a handle on our debt. Our challenge—at every level of government—will be doing that without also sending our economy into severe recession and shredding the critical safety net needed by so many of our residents. It's going to demand extraordinary amounts of creativity, hard work, and shared sacrifice. Can we do it? I believe we can.

**Check out the SCA
Community Calendar at
www.springfieldcivic.org**



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SCA Meeting: Washington Gas

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:00 pm, Crestwood Elementary School, 6010 Hanover Avenue

Social interaction begins at 7 pm and the business portion of the meeting kicks off promptly at 7:30. The drawing for door prizes is promptly at 9 pm. Pay your dues to be a member-in-good-standing for the drawing!

Washington Gas representatives will be on hand to discuss the ongoing infrastructure improvement program that has involved our roads, sidewalks, yards, and homes. Expect an informative session about the overall program, timeline, outcomes, and other details from an engineer who has oversight of the work and also the lead Community Representative for Washington Gas, Mr Huey Battle.

Thanks to Supervisor McKay's office which helped us to coordinate this program.

Utility Pole Hazards and Blight?



You don't have to live with it!

Report it to us by email at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com with the subject "Utility Pole."

Give us the nearest house number and street address and a brief description of problem: broken support wire, hanging cables, coiled wires taped to pole within reach, etc.

High Turnout at Springfield Polls

Thanks to all the Springfield community members who worked and volunteered at the polls on November 6 and to all who voted. It is uplifting to see everyone working together to make our democracy. Turnout was especially high for this election. Crestwood saw 80% of registered voters cast a ballot and Lynbrook saw 79.2%.