

Springfield Reporter

SCA on the Scene: Mall



SCA President Bruce Waggoner, Supervisor McKay, Director at Large Gail Nittle, and Past President Charlie Butler

The SCA was on hand to witness an exciting development in the renovation of Springfield Mall. Supervisor McKay invited our participation at the event. Officials from Vornado and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce spoke, as did Supervisor McKay.

"We're here today to celebrate a major milestone for this mall. It may not seem like a big deal to some people, but it is a big deal to people who live in Springfield and businesses in and around Springfield to see this process actually start. It's taken a long time to get to this point," Fairfax County Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay said.

President's Corner

On behalf of the SCA Board I wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2013. The SCA is off and running; our first meeting was Tuesday, 15 January with a strong local flavor and two local legends. Around the town we now know our Mall is being reinvented into a town center, eventually, with June 2014 the target date for retail. Who would think that destruction could be such a beautiful thing, but it represents for us an advance into a better future. The SCA will partner with Vornado Realty and the local business community at every suitable opportunity, and I have every confidence that they will wish to partner with us. In the spirit of renewal, new families continue to buy homes in our community. Our location, price point, and non-HOA status are

very attractive to many. Even 7302 Grace is getting a brick facelift after years of Tyvek masking; the SCA partnered with the County to spur that action. Challenges remain and always will, but the SCA is always working to build bridges to County and State agencies and elected-representative staffs to help us resolve problems. The opportunities to help and improve Springfield are as boundless as the eclectic talents and experience of our resident population. See you around the Town.

Best regards,

Bruce

Pay Your Dues

- Our membership year begins in September
- Pay online at www.springfieldcivic.org
- Pay at the membership meeting on March 19
- Or mail a check for \$15 to PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150

Supervisor McKay: A look back at 2012

It was an interesting year—2012. Derecho joined our vocabulary and we spent some time peering over a fiscal cliff, one that still threatens at this writing. With 2012 in the rearview mirror, here are some of its highlights.

Springfield Mall's renovation is one of the year's top stories. While inside work has been going on since July, the late November demolition of the outside shell proved that the Mall was really on track. In 2009, the Board of Supervisors fast tracked the new mall owners' (Vornado) plans and at my request assembled a team to expedite site plans and building permits. While the financial markets stagnated, so did the mall schedule. Now, with improved market conditions, the redevelopment is finally moving forward with Phase I. We've waited a long time for a revitalized place to dine and shop. The 700,000 sq feet of new stores, restaurants, and movie theaters will have a totally different look and feel from the old mall.



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County Budget: In 2012 a better economic climate and our work over the past several years to maintain core services and trim the non-essential put us in a far better position than many other localities. We restored a good part of the human services safety net cut by the state budget, strengthened public safety, and restored some library hours. Today, however, uncertainty over the federal fiscal cliff and significant potential cuts at both the federal and the state level are concerns. My citizen budget committee will again study the budget and provide me with valuable input and I'd also welcome your thoughts on the budget priorities as well.

Transportation: Improvements to one of our worst bottlenecks—the intersection of Van Dorn Street, Telegraph Road, and South Kings Highway continue. Right of Way acquisition is done and utility relocation is underway. The completed project will include widening Telegraph Road and new turning lanes to improve traffic flow. Construction should begin this spring.

Mulligan Road is back on track after a lengthy bid protest and should be open to traffic in early 2014. This is the road near Hayfield Secondary School that will connect Telegraph Road to Route One near Fort Belvoir.

The Woodrow Wilson Bridge has been almost done since August—only a small amount of final surface pavement and roadway

markings remain. With BRAC a reality, our success in working with Congressman Moran and other federal elected officials to get \$180 million to widen Route 1 from Telegraph Road to Mount Vernon Memorial Highway is welcome. This will expand the existing four-lane road to six lanes, provide pedestrian and bicycle improvements, and leave space to accommodate future transit. Construction should begin in fall/winter 2013.

The 495 Express Lanes (Hot Lanes) opened in November making it a lot easier and safer to drive to Tysons and points west. This January, Connector bus service will be available to Tysons from Burke and in the spring, new Connector routes will open from Springfield/Saratoga to Tysons and from the Lorton VRE station to Tysons. This will be limited- stop direct express bus service—even during rush hour buses will travel on average 55 miles an hour.

We've made a number of pedestrian and bus stop improvements throughout the district.

Parks and Recreation: We've continued to grow our fully accessible family recreation area in Lee District Park, funded through a public-private partnership. In June, we opened the Tiki Village playground as part of Chessie's Big Back Yard. It complements our spray park that opened in 2011.

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Springfield Acres Garden Club

Have you noticed daffodils blooming in the median strip of Old Keene Mill Road? And the Blue Star Memorial designation (in honor of members of the military service) of Keene Mill Road as well as the Blue Star Memorial plaque and flower bed near the entrance to Daventry? Or daffodils and other flowers blooming in the Welcome to Springfield sign on Backlick Road? Or the fresh flowers put in weekly at the Richard Byrd Library? Well, the same local group is responsible for these things and other community activities such as holding flower shows, collecting aluminum cans and helping inspire young gardeners at Crestwood School: our own local garden club, the Springfield Acres Garden Club, which meets monthly at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway in Springfield. Generally the meetings (covering diverse topics from lawn care to raptors and including great lunches) are held the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m., September through May. (Some months the date needs to change to accommodate holidays.) For information on joining this fun and worthwhile group, contact Joann Bosco at 703-569-9741 or Gayle Parsons at 703-644-4485.

Woman's Club of Springfield,
www.womansclubofspringfield.org

Springfield Woman's Club will be holding its annual Art Show at our February meeting, Tuesday, February 12th, at 7:00 p.m., at Grace Presbyterian Church. The show will be judged, and first-place winners will be taken to the next level - the Northern District of GFWC Virginia. The meeting is open to anyone, and the Club is always looking for new members.

Richard Byrd Library,
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb

The Friends of Richard Byrd Library had a wonderful winter sale - thanks to all the SCA patrons who came to our sale. The money we raised will go to funding vigorous children's programming and some nice treats for the adults too.

Please continue supporting our Library and the Friends by donating your gently used books, DVDs, and CDs. Winter is the perfect time to reduce clutter and do a good deed for your community. Donations are eligible for tax deductions. This is a winner all the way.

Cub Scouts

Joseph Silver (josephsilver3@hotmail.com), Cub Master of Pack 691 (which meets at Grace Church), reports that the pack is holding its annual Pinewood Derby on Saturday January 27, 2013 from 9:30 am to 12 noon at Grace Church in Springfield. The boys are working hard all month to put together their cars. Join the Pack for this this fun event! Snacks and drinks will be sold to help cover costs.

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- Clean and dry anything that came in contact with water (Boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.)
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

Also stressed at the meeting was the importance of not dumping yard waste in the park. It's to be disposed on your own property, i.e. compost pile or put out with the recycling pickup. Both Ed Richardson and Tony Vellucci encouraged all people to call or e-mail them personally to report anyone dumping trash/yard waste on any county property, particularly Lake Accotink Park. Your call will be anonymous. Their contact information is:

Ed Richardson 703-425-2123 or ed.richardson@fairfaxcounty.gov

Tony Vellucci 703-598-7029 For ajvellucci@gmail.com

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FLAP: Friends of Lake Accotink Park

FLAP's January meeting was well-attended, with 19 people, including Ed Richardson, Fairfax Co. Park Authority Area 4 Manager, as well as Fairfax Park Authority Board members Tony Vellucci and Ed Batten. FLAP meetings are at 7pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month at Richard Byrd Library.

Susan Jewell was the speaker and explained the dangers of "invasives". A publication from aquatic hitchhikers stressed four points:

When you leave a body of water -

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment

Officers Hosted Personal Safety Seminars

Officers of the Franconia District held two successful personal safety seminars on December 3 (English) and December 5 (Spanish) at the Richard Byrd Library located at 7250 Commerce Street. The focus of the seminars was to empower individuals to protect themselves and be aware of their surroundings while in public. Based on the turnout and positive feedback, the Franconia Station hopes to continue future sessions of these free safety classes. In the meantime, observe the following safety tips at all times:

- Pay attention to your surroundings. Look around.
- If you feel someone is acting suspicious, trust your instincts.
- Walk with confidence! Keep your head up.
- Avoid unlit parking areas or other remote areas.
- When possible, travel with others.
- Avoid carrying a purse. If you are carrying one, hold it firmly in front of you.
- Always let a family member know where you are and when you intend to return.
- If working late with other colleagues, park together, and leave together.
- Do not use headphones which take away your ability to hear what is happening around you.
- If you see suspicious persons or activity taking place, please call 703-691-2131 immediately.

New Wing at Crestwood

The new wing at Crestwood is now complete with additional classrooms and learning areas. A new marquee sign has been added that will allow us to quickly change and update important messages. Crestwood wishes to thank the Fairfax County taxpayers for their beautiful new building and continued support.



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Lake Accotink Park,
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink

Check out some of the recent and upcoming happenings at Lake Accotink Park:

Civil War Commemoration

On December 30, 2012, the park welcomed a hearty group of several dozen revelers who gathered to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the December 1862 Confederate raid on the Accotink railroad trestle that once spanned Accotink Creek. The commemoration was organized by Friends of Lake Accotink Park and Friends of Accotink Creek. Participants joined together for a quiet observation of the historic moment with a recitation of the events and a simulated torching of the long-gone train trestle.

Speaking of History....

Recently some Civil War artifacts which had been donated to the Park Authority were added to the exhibit at the Lake Accotink Park Visitors Center. The anonymous donor conveyed the artifacts to the Park Authority's Cultural Resources Management staff, who in turn researched and catalogued them, and then in October transferred them to Lake Accotink Park. The artifacts had been recovered from Lake Accotink Park property circa 1971. They include three brass eagle Union Civil War jacket buttons and one brass Civil War sword scabbard chape. The artifacts are associated with Union encampments that protected the Orange and Alexandria Railroad bridge. The artifacts are on view at the Park Visitors Center; hours are 11 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday.

Deer Management Program

As a reminder, the 2012-2013 Fairfax County Deer Management Program will be ongoing in Lake Accotink Park until February 9, 2013 (the program began in September). Aimed at addressing issues associated with an abundant deer population, the Fairfax County Park Authority works in cooperation with the County Wildlife Biologist (Fairfax County Police Department - Animal Services Division) to implement the Fairfax County Deer Management Program each year. The program utilizes qualified archery groups to conduct deer management activities in authorized areas of Fairfax County parks. For more information on the Fairfax County Deer Management Program please visit: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/wildlife/management/deer-management.htm

Dam Repairs Completed

Work to repair the sluice gate was completed in December. The project was necessary because over the years the sluice gate had become more and more difficult to close. Last summer, the wooden flashboards located along the top of the dam were repaired from damage sustained by severe storms. At that time the Park Authority inspected the sluice gate and found that a number of mechanical parts were worn and needed to be replaced. The sluice gate is a custom design, so it took several weeks to receive repair parts. The lake was drained for a short period in order to clean out debris which had accumulated at the point where flow enters the sluice gate. The gate stem valve (like the steering wheel of a car) was also repaired so that it functions more smoothly.

Trail Improvements at the Dam

With support from the local community and the Park Authority Board, the Park Authority has formed a project team to begin scoping out trail and outfall crossing improvements at the Lake Accotink Dam. Funding in the amount of \$590,000 has been reserved for this project. The project goal is to address safety concerns and accessibility of approximately 150 linear feet of asphalt trail that crosses the dam outfall. The existing trail has steep slopes leading to the existing crossing and frequently

floods during rain events, making the trail impassable. The scope and design phase will occur between now and April 2014, with the construction phase to occur between April 2014 and September 2014.

ADA improvements

Park users may recall that last year the marina parking lot was repaved and restriped to provide additional ADA spaces. The Park Authority continues working to make park features more accessible to individuals with disabilities. Construction activity currently underway alongside the small picnic shelter at the marina is a good example. The pedestrian route from the large parking lot by the dam up to the marina was at a slope that made the route inaccessible to people with disabilities. The slight reroute and related improvements will reduce the slope and make the trail connection safer for all users.

Boating Fun for Everyone

The lake is a favorite feature of Lake Accotink Park, and getting out on it is easy, thanks to the park's variety of rental boats. In addition to canoes and rowboats, the park's new, colorful fleet of pedal boats allows you to experience the lake's tranquil waters while enjoying spectacular views of birds and other wildlife, which vary by the season.

Pedal boating is a fun and stress-free way to enjoy being on the water. Boaters have a choice of two- and four-seat pedal boats; both types are easy to operate and maneuver. Options for people with disabilities are also available.

Pedal boats, canoes and rowboats can be rented at Lake Accotink Park beginning May 4, 2013. For days, times, rates, age and safety requirements, call the park or visit the Park Authority website: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

New Birthday Party Areas

One of the more popular venues at Lake Accotink Park has been the two birthday party areas adjacent to the miniature golf course and carousel. This winter, the Park Operations Area 4 team is revitalizing the birthday party areas with new borders, fencing and surface material. These improvements will serve to not only beautify the areas but also reduce run-off into the lake and nearby stream. Designed for children's parties, the birthday party areas may be reserved when you purchase the Lake Accotink Park Birthday Party Package, which includes carousel rides, miniature golf and an optional tour boat ride. Contact the Park for more details.

Camps and Classes

It's not too early to be lining up spring and summer activities for your children. Lakeside Nature Fun Camp, Adventure Racing Camp, and other unique camps will delight your kids and get them active - for one week or all summer long. A variety of classes this spring offer something for everyone: Dog Obedience,

Oil Painting, art classes for the little ones, even Robotics for the older kids.

Registration for spring classes starts February 5th. Summer class registration begins on May 14. Registration for summer camps begins on May 16. To register for classes or camps please call 703-222-4664 or go online to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/>. For more information on classes and camps please contact Mr. Christopher Goldbecker at 703-324-9151.

ISCC (Inter-Service Clubs Council)

If you are senior, have a friend who's a senior, or are caring for a senior, dialing 703-324-7948 could be a life-changer! It's the number for Fairfax County's Services for Older Adults and Adults with Disabilities and you will get a live person answering your call 8 am - 4:30 pm Monday through Friday (TTY 703-449-1186)!

Services for seniors, the ISCC's January meeting topic, were explained by Sharon Lynn, Director of the Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, and Evan Braff, Region 4 Manager, Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Did you know that in 1970, 2.1% of the population of Fairfax County was seniors but in 2020, that percentage is expected to rise to 12%? Fairfax County is working hard to meet today's seniors' needs and to be ready for the future increased demand for services.

To give you an idea of the services available, there are: adult day health care, adult protective services (which can be reached at 703-324-7450), care management, caregiver support, in-home care services, health insurance counseling, Meals on Wheels, nursing home and assisted living, senior centers, transportation, and Centers Without Walls (<http://scwow.org/>). There are 13 Senior Centers in Fairfax County, for active, senior adults. Eight of the 13 Senior Centers offer Senior Plus, for those seniors with minor cognitive and physical disabilities. There is a Senior Center as close as Kingstown Activity Center for Older Adults.

The County's **Aging, Disability and Caregiver Resource Line** is your one stop for information on county services. Call 703-324-7948, TTY 703-449-1186, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Professional social workers are ready to assist you find the services you need.

You can also visit the county's one-stop webpage at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/> for information about services, recreation and community engagement opportunities. When you do, be sure to subscribe to the *Golden Gazette* newspaper (available in printed or e-mail versions) and *Fairfax 50+ E-News*.

There are numerous ways you can volunteer to help older adults and adults with disabilities. Call 703-324-7948 to learn more!

Check out the SCA
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Investigation of Assaults Continues

Fairfax County Police representatives met with the SCA board, and representatives from Supervisor McKay's office and FCPS Cluster 5 concerning their continuing investigation into a series of sexual assaults of several females in the Springfield area. The assaults began in September 2012, and the most recent assault took place on Jan 3 2013. The victims have been approached from behind and fondled by an unknown male. The suspect is described as a possible Hispanic male, in his 30s. He was approximately 5 feet 6-8 inches tall, with an average build. The suspect possibly had a beard or goatee.

You are encouraged to contact police if you know anyone matching this description, you have seen this individual in your neighborhood, or you have any information regarding this incident. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.





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Fairfax County provides real estate tax relief and car tax relief to citizens who are either 65 or older, or permanently and totally disabled, and meet the income and asset eligibility requirements. Qualified taxpayers may also be eligible for rent relief. Returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1. (Some exceptions may be available if applications are filed late due to a hardship which prevented the application from being filed in time. Detailed requests for hardship waivers must be submitted in writing to the Department of Tax Administration.) Forgot to apply for 2012? Applications are still being accepted based on hardship and for first-time filers through December 31, 2013.

For eligibility requirements, refer to [Tax Relief - Frequently Asked Questions](#). For an application, call 703-222-8234; Español 703-324-3855, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays, request by e-mail, or download the [tax relief application](#) from this website. Those with hearing impairments may call TTY: 703-222-7594.

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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.

Help to Advertise SCA Meetings

SCA has a few more yard signs available for distribution to members who would like to help to advertise our meetings. A week before the meeting, our "sign volunteers" get an email reminder that it is time to display the yard sign. If you live on a well-traveled street and have not seen an SCA yard sign nearby, please consider helping out. Email us at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com for more information.