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Inside this issue:

Message from Jeff McKay P2

Crestwood ES PTA P5

Friends of Richard Byrd P7

Springfield Art Guild P8

Local Bird Count P12



Springfield Civic Association

Where we all come together

President's Message—Bruce Waggoner

On behalf of the SCA Board of Directors, I wish you a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2017!

Our next SCA meeting is Tuesday, January 17th, at Crestwood Elementary School on Hanover Avenue. The SCA will host the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce (Nancy-jo Manney) and the Revitalization Program Manager for the Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization (Mr. Doug Loescher). There, they will discuss economic development and redevelopment that is happening in our area. We greatly appreciate Nancy and Doug's time and look forward to hearing from them about the great things that are going on around our community.

Our social time begins at 7pm and business promptly at 7:30pm. Come join us and meet your neighbors and hear an update on development in our immediate area. Please take the opportunity to express your concerns to local experts and get answers to your questions.

I also wanted to update you on crime and security in our area. There was yet again a recent burglary in Crestwood. It has occurred to me that there are two kinds of neighborhood watches, one that is looking for an opportunity to commit a crime, and the other that is designed to deter it.

I don't think it's a stretch to say we are being watched by a criminal element that is waiting and watching for the right opportunity to strike. It's time we had a deter-

mined strategy to assist the FCPD in deterring crime within our boundaries. That effort is being led by local citizens; if you are interested in joining in the effort please let the SCA know via e-mail at springfieldcivic@yahoo.com or through our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/springcivic/>.

My best regards to ALL,
Bruce Waggoner (SCA President)



Reminder for Dues

The SCA would like to remind its members that dues for the 2016-2017 year were due in September. You can still pay your dues either by cash or check at our next meeting on January 17th, or you can pay your dues at anytime via our [website](#). Dues are \$15 per household.

While many activities hosted by the SCA are open to the public, the dues paying members receive full access and benefits with membership. The funds raised from dues go directly to helping support the SCA and its members.

January Meeting
Tuesday Jan. 17
Crestwood ES

Social time starts at 7
Meeting begins at
7:30 sharp

Program:
Revitalization and
Community
Development in
Springfield

A Message from Jeff McKay

As we welcome January and the start of 2017, snow and snow days are inevitable. After the many snow days this past school year, I knew we had to do something to make it easier for parents to go to work and still get quality care for their children while schools were closed. As a parent of two school-age kids, I know firsthand about this challenge.

I'm happy to report that after much work, the Fairfax County Park Authority has launched its first Snow Day Camp program to run from November 1 until March 31. There are four locations in the County and one is right here in Lee at the Lee District RECenter.

If schools are closed two or more days in a row, Snow Day Camps will run on the second day and thereafter. The camps will not operate for single day FCPS closures, late openings, or early dismissals nor on weekends or when the Fairfax County Government or Park Authority is closed. The Camps will run from 9 am until 5 pm and are available to children ages 6-10. Camp is \$65 per day. No scholarships or after care will be available.

Only 30 spaces are available at each location and are on a first-come, first-served basis. You can sign up online for advance email notifications and to register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/snowdaycamp.htm> or by phone at 703-222-4664.

For more information call the Park Authority at 703-324-5273.

I hope you will be able to take advantage of this exceptional pilot program this year and for many years to come as we learn how to best handle school closings for working parents.

As a reminder, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for maintaining and plowing the majority of our roads. For more information on plowing or to report a pothole and other maintenance concerns, please visit <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/> or call 1-800-FOR ROAD (367-7623).



Springfield Garden Club

You've probably seen our green thumb prints all over Springfield ... the plantings at the *Welcome to Springfield* sign on Backlick Road, the plant/flower arrangement behind the checkout desk of Richard Byrd Library as well as the plants outside, and the landscaping framing the Blue Star Memorial (across from St. Bernadette's Church).

Springfield Acres Garden Club is a local non-profit organization serving the Springfield community since 1955. Our dynamic members promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility throughout our community.

We meet once a month (September through May) at 10am at Grace Presbyterian Church located at 7434 Bath Street, Springfield, Virginia. It's a great opportunity to make new friends, learn more about gardening at all stages of life, participate in workshops, and take tours. We have an outreach to school children as well as an outreach to those in a nursing home. We'll can even help you have your own green thumb!

This month's meeting is January 24th at Grace Church at 10am. The Speaker will be Billie Trump and her presentation will be "Promise in a Pot - Container Gardening". How to select a pot and plant and techniques for care. Questions? Contact Gail Nittle at gnittle@gmail.com or 703-569-6902



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How to Report a Streetlight Outage

Fairfax County has created a new [Streetlight Reporting Map](#) to make it easier to report streetlight outages from your desktop or mobile device. The Streetlight Reporting Map shows streetlight service areas and individual streetlight locations and pole numbers in Fairfax County. You can now use your phone's GPS location to find pole numbers and report outages in your neighborhood and in other areas you frequent.

Reporting an outage is easier than ever and helps keep neighborhoods safe; it also helps keep pedestrians visible and safe.

Streetlights along public roadways in Fairfax County are typically maintained by Dominion Virginia Power or the Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC). The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) operates the streetlights along interstates and at major interchanges.

You may contact any of these providers directly to report outages or issues. When reporting an outage to Dominion Virginia Power or NOVEC, you will need to have the location of the pole and the pole number.

For more information, visit Fairfax County's site: http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/construction/streetlights/light_out.htm.

Richard Byrd Library

The GIVE Free Tutoring program held its annual orientation at the Richard Byrd Library on October 22. GIVE was founded by local high school students who wanted to provide educational peer mentoring by volunteering their services in communities with low income levels. The parents of these children cannot afford to pay for tutoring. The GIVE volunteers tutor students in grades K-6 on most Saturdays at the library from 2:30 to 4:30 pm. Parents who did not attend the orientation may check the website at www.giveyouth.org or check on Saturday afternoon with the coordinators to register their children for the program. The program runs through May 13, 2017.

Events at the library in November and December (excluding Friends Book Sale Dec. 1-4):

Every Tuesday at 7:00 pm. **English Conversation Group.**

Wednesdays, Nov. 2 and December 7, 10:30. **Fun with Ones.** Storytime for children age 12-23 months with adult.

Thursday, November 3, 17; December 1, 15, 7:00 pm. **Springfield Writers' Group.**

Tuesdays, November 8 and December 13, 10:30 am. **Mother Goose Time.** Age 0-13 months with adult.

Tuesdays, November 8 and December 6, 7:00 pm. **Bed-time Storytime.** Age birth-5 with adult.

Wednesdays, November 9 and December 14, 10:30. **Time for Twos.** Age 2 with adult.

Thursdays, November 10 and December 8, 1:30 pm. **Afternoon Book Club.** Adults.

November 10: *Brooklyn* by Colm Toibin.
December 8: *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks.

Tuesdays, November 15 and December 20, 7:00 pm.

Classics Book Club. Adults.

November 15: *Diary of a Madman* by Nicolai Gogol.
December 20: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.

Wednesday, November 16, 10:30. **Moose on the Loose!**
Age 3-5 with adult.

Saturday, November 19, 10:30 am. **Ipad Pictures.** Learn how to manage pictures on your ipad. Bring your charged iphone. Adults.

Saturdays, November 19 and December 17, 1:00 pm. **CoderDojo: Teaching Kids to Code at Richard Byrd Library.** Age 7-17; parents must attend with children under age 10. Bring a laptop to be on the safe side as number of computers are limited.

Mondays, November 21 and December 19, 4:30 pm. **Hidden Pond Monday.** Age 6-12.
November 21: Animals Prepare for Winter
December 19: Reptiles.

Tuesdays, November 22 and December 20, 10:30 am. **Preschool Storytime.** Age 3-5 with adult.

Tuesday, December 6, 4:30 pm. **Richard Byrd Explorers.** Presented by National Science Foundation Einstein Fellows. Age 8-12.

Saturday, December 10, 11:00 am. **Game On.** Have you ever wanted to learn how to design a computer game? Come and learn computer game coding. Ages 8-12.

Tuesday, December 20, 2:00 pm. **3D Printing Basics.** Learn about the Fairfax County Public Library's new 3 D printers and how to use the free online program Tinker-CAD to bring your ideas to life. Age 12-18.

Wednesday, December 21, 10:30 am. **Craft Extravaganza.** Come and join us to do some crafts. Let your imagination go wild. All ages.

Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Honors Area Business & Citizens

If you don't know Pete Conklin, it's not because he isn't trying. The owner of Personal Affairs Management is a volunteer's volunteer sporting a list of more than 15 local organizations he has spent time, talent and legal tender to better the Greater Springfield community. For his dedication to our community, Conklin is the 2016 recipient of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce's prestigious Herb Hunter Citizen of the Year honor.

Conklin was one of three award recipients at the Chamber's annual dinner on Dec. 8, 2016. Also recognized by the Chamber for their community dedication were Fairfax County Police Officer Lane Leisey from the Franconia District Station and Fairfax Memorial recipient of the Arthur E. Morrisette Top Hat Service Award.



Conklin enjoys volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum and has been known to offer private tours if someone isn't able to come in during normal hours. Fridays are dedicated to Hospice, where he either drives a patient to an appointment for treatment or gives respite to the family by staying with the patient in their home. He drives for The Shephard Center, taking those who can't drive anymore to doctor's appointments or events. He recently joined the Community Emergency Response Teams and already has jumped in to help raise money in support of first responders. While his business is to help families with their finances, he specializes in senior care and has been known to help families with his knowledge and not charge them for this service. That's just a sampling of the hard work and dedication to our community that earned Conklin the citizen of the year recognition.

Fairfax Memorial Park, a 128-acre cemetery, and the Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home and Crematory are two family-owned, service-oriented businesses centrally located in the heart of Fairfax County and serving the Greater Springfield community. Michael H. Doherty serves as the third-generation President of Fairfax Memorial. It's fitting, therefore, that the grandson of the award's namesake and third-generation CEO of family-owned Interstate Van Lines, Bud Morrisette, supported Fairfax Memorial's nomination for the 2016 Arthur E. Morrisette Top Hat Service award. The cemetery was established in 1957 on a parcel of farmland adjacent to Braddock Road. From its inception, Fairfax Memorial has served people from all faiths and nationalities with dignity and with the understanding of the diverse funeral traditions found in our local community. The men and women who work at Fairfax Memorial are driven by a common motivating belief that they are called to serve in the funeral industry and to serve the needs of the bereaved.

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Crestwood ES's International Night

If you're looking farther out into the year, Crestwood's International Night gives school and community members the opportunity to celebrate the rich diversity of cultural traditions and cuisines from around the world. This year, Crestwood Elementary School's PTA is excited to lead the effort in hosting the 8th Annual International Night in June.

We need YOUR help to ensure that this is a successful event! Volunteers are needed for planning committees as well as event-day activities.

To volunteer, sign-up in the school office or contact Esther Berg, PTA Vice President, at CrestwoodOwlsPTA@gmail.com.

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter! Find out the latest, and share information with us, too!



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A Message from CAC

Be in the Know about your Neighborhood and Community - Come to the CAC meeting!

If you're concerned about the recent burglaries in the Crestwood community, this is your opportunity to find out what is being done and what can be done!

The next meeting of the Franconia CAC (Citizen Advisory Committee) is Wednesday, 18 January at 7 pm. This will be special: the head of security (retired FCPD officer) wants to recognize the officers who worked so diligently at the Towne Center through the holiday season. After this meeting, the meetings (starting in February) will go back to starting at 7:30 pm.

After the business meeting, you have the opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns with the Captain Michael Grinnan and Lt. Justin Palenscar (the new commander and assistant commander). Light refreshments are served.

The Franconia Station Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) usually meets at 7:30 pm every third Wednesday of the month in the Helen Wilson Community Room, located at the Lee District Government Center/Franconia District Police Station (6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310).

All are welcome. NO membership or R.S.V.P. required.



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Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update

The volunteers of VITA will once again be providing tax assistance at the library. They will be here every Saturday morning from January 21 through April 15, 10:00-1:00. The program is first-come, first serve and no appointments are necessary. We recommend coming early as there is usually a line outside the library before we open.

Beginning in January, our youth services manager will be presenting a story time for children with special needs and children with sensory issues. This program is in partnership with the county's Infant Toddler Connection and grows out of a special playgroup that has been meeting at the Richard Byrd Library for some time. It is now open to the public as well.

Finally, don't miss Take Your Child to the Library Day on Saturday, February 4! Details are below.

Events at the library in January and February:

Tuesdays in January and February, 7:00 pm.

English Conversation Group. Practice and improve your English. Adults.*

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:30-6:00 by appointment.

Reading Buddies. Practice reading with a volunteer. Co-sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Grades 1-6. Call 703-451-8055, ext. 4 for an appointment.

Wednesdays, January 4 and February 1, 10:30 am

Mother Goose Time. Join us for stories and songs. Age 0-13 months with adult.

Wednesday, January 4 and February 1, 11:30 am.

Sensory Storytime. In partnership with Infant/Toddler Connection, this welcoming story time is geared toward children with special needs and children who are sensitive to sensory overload. Birth-3 years with adult.

Thursdays, January 5 and 19; February 2 and 16, 7:00 pm.

Springfield Writers' Group. Share your work, give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Adults.*

Tuesdays, January 10 and February 14, 7:00 pm.

Bedtime Storytime. Come in your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal and enjoy bedtime stories. Age birth-5 years with adult.

Wednesdays, January 11 and February 8, 10:30 am.

Fun with Ones. Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special story time just for ones. Age 12-23 months with adult.

Tuesday, January 17, 7:00 pm.

Time for Twos. Join us for a story time focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age 2 with adult.

Saturdays, January 21, 28; February 4, 11, 18, 25, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

VITA Tax Assistance. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$54K per year. Adults.*

Monday, January 23, 4:30 pm.

Hidden Pond Monday: Life in a Rotting Log. Presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Age 6-12.

Saturdays, January 21 and February 18, 2:00-4:00 pm.

Coder Dojo. Learn to code, develop websites and create games. Bring laptop if possible as number of computers is limited. Age 7-17 years. Younger than 10 accompanied by adult.

Wednesday, January 25, 10:30 am.

Mittens and Kittens. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult.

Saturday, February 4, 10:00 am.

Take Your Child to the Library Celebration. Celebrate by creating a craft to take home. All ages.*

Tuesday, February 21, 7:00 pm.

Classics Book Club. *Up at the Villa* by W. Somerset Maugham. Adults.*

Wednesday, February 22, 10:20 am.

Farm Animal Frolic. Stories and activities about farm animals. Age 3-5 with adult.

Monday, February 27, 4:30.

Hidden Pond Monday: Tracking. Presented by Hidden Pond Nature Center. Cosponsored by Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Age 6-12.

*No registration required. Otherwise, please register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or by calling the library at 703-451-8055, ext. 4.

You Are Invited to Attend the Springfield Arts Guild

Monthly Guest Speaker series on **January 11th**. The meetings are free and open to the public. Artist Chica Brunsvold is the January guest speaker. Using members' paintings, Chica will discuss ways to improve paintings still in the working stages. Listening to the suggestions by Chica as she discusses each piece of art is like taking a crash course in art. Her suggestions about what might improve other artists' work will help you look for similar challenges in your own art. It should be a very enjoyable and informative evening.

Our **February 8th** meeting "Putting Things in Perspective" will be a hands on activity about basic perspective by Lydia Jechorek.

The Springfield Art Guild's (SAG) is MOVING. The Springfield Art Guild's (SAG) monthly guest speaker series are moving to another close by location in January. SAG will meet in the **Grace Church** auditorium, 7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150 (3 blocks west of Hanover St. at the corner of Grace & Bath St.) **Note:** there is no parking on Bath St. unless you have a handicap sticker. Please use the parking lots to avoid being ticketed.

Dates of Monthly Meetings: SAG meets the **2nd Wed of the month** from January through June. (No meetings in July or Aug). The doors open at 6:00pm with refreshments and a chance to socialize with the artists. There will be a short meeting about 7:00pm and the speaker will begin her presentation about 7:30pm.



You learn more about January's Guest Speaker Chica Brunsvold's on her website www.chicabrunsvold.com or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/chica.brunsvold>

For more information about the Springfield Art Guild go to www.springfieldartguild.org. You will find SAG newsletters on their website for more information about SAG and its activities.

Update from Women's Club of Springfield

The Woman's Club of Springfield will kick off 2017 with its meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 6:30 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church. Our speaker will be a representative of King Street Cats, a no-kill shelter for cats. Our Club makes an annual contribution to King Street Cats as part of its Conservation Program. In addition, one of our members, Hilary Chin, volunteers at the Shelter and fosters cats and kittens.

Our February meeting will be held on February 14th and will feature an Art Show and Extravaganza. Our members will enter projects they completed in 2016 into the Show. The work will be judged by three professional artists or art teachers. The Blue Ribbon Winners will then go on to be entered in the Northern District Art Show in March, and if they win there, they will go to the GFWC Virginia Convention and Art Show in April for judging. This is always a fun evening, and we encourage visitors.

In March, we will have a meeting on March 14th with an Education theme.

Our Annual Spring Faire will be held on April 29th this year at a new venue – Burke United Methodist Church. Look for more information on the Spring Faire in the next newsletter, but put the date on your calendar now so you won't miss it.

Women in the community who are interested in learning more about the Woman's Club of Springfield are always welcome to attend meetings. We start with a refreshment and social time at 6:30 p.m., and begin our meetings at 7:00 p.m. with a speaker. The speaker is followed by a brief business meeting. For more information about membership, please visit us on the web at www.womansclubofspringfield.org or call our Membership Chairman, Barbara Kiker, at 703/451-5922.

Friends of ECHO

Dear Members and Friends of ECHO,

Stuff the Bus for ECHO on Monday, Feb 20 between 9:30 am and 4:30 pm at Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road! This program, sponsored by Fairfax County Government and MV Transportation, in participation with local stores, uses a Fastran bus parked at a prominent site as a collection vehicle for non-perishable food donations for local charities. The bus will be staffed, and donations in any quantity will be appreciated. Also, Giant will offer pre-packed bags of ECHO's most needed foods at different price points for the convenience of donors.

ECHO's most urgent needs for donated items this month include used, but in good condition towels, large pots and pans, flatware; new men's undershirts- size M and S, new white socks- all sizes; functional used computers, LCD monitors, keyboards, mice, cables. ECHO also needs supply items to help us organize donations: masking tape, 2" clear tape, 13 gal. and 30 gal. garbage bags, brown paper grocery bags. The food pantry needs jelly, vegetable oil, pancake syrup and 2# bags of sugar and flour.

If you know some young soccer players who are outgrowing their shoes, please consider donating those shoes to ECHO and help us with a special effort to assist street children in the Phillipines. Yes, ECHO's focus is our own community, but we have a unique opportunity to reach out to extremely poor children in another part of the world. If you can help, please bring soccer shoes for ages 6 to 12 in bags or boxes marked "Shoes for Phillipines" to 7205 Old Keene Mill Road on weekdays between 9:30 am and 12:30 pm, or Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings between 7:00 and 9:00.



Congregational Food Drives scheduled for February- Abiding Presence Lutheran, Grace Presbyterian, St. Mark's Lutheran



- Upcoming Dates to Note
- January 16 - ECHO closed for Martin Luther King Holiday
 - January 18- ECHO Executive Committee meets at ECHO
 - February 4- ECHO's monthly Saturday opening 9:30 - noon
 - February 20 - Stuff the Bus, Cardinal Forest Giant 9:30 am - 4:30 pm
 - February 20 - ECHO closed for President's Day
 - February 22 - Bd of Directors Meet, Springfield Methodist Church 7:30 pm

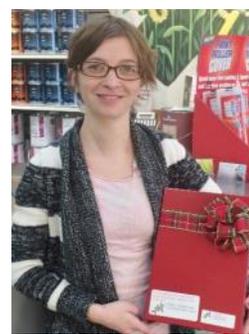
For current information on these topics, please click on the link: <http://www.echo-inc.org/>

- Requested Donations
- Current Volunteer Needs and Opportunities
- ECHO's School Partnership Program/Mentoring and Tutoring
- Donations ECHO Can and Cannot Accept
- Additional Donation Locations
- Donating Money

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Not available for photo: Janice Buckley Realtor, Senator Dick Saslow, and Springfield Plaze Laundromat. A special thank you to Jennifer, Jan, and Susann for helping package the cookies.

Another Springfield Art Guild Activity to Enjoy

The Springfield Art Guild (SAG) is enjoying a new partnership with the Friends of Lake Accotink Park (FLAP (www.accotink.org/FLAP/) and the Friends of Accotink Creek (FACC www.accotink.org/) to offer plein air (outdoor) painting, nature journaling, sketching and photography sessions, and workshops within Lake Accotink Park and at points along Accotink Creek. These opportunities are available to our members and the public.

This program supports the visual arts in our community while educating the public about these beautiful local parklands.

All outdoor sessions are free unless a fee is involved for services, i.e., renting a tour boat at Lake Accotink Park for plein air painting on the water, or for taking a workshop, etc.

Nature Journaling Mondays, 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, is SAG's latest offering. These free, fun sessions, organized by SAG volunteer Elaine Sevy, are continuing through the Winter for Jan. 9, 16, 23 and 30, and then ongoing every Monday unless it is raining or there is severe weather. Participants meet at the Marina.



Nature Journaling is a relaxing way to see and experience our local parks in a new way and can help us get "up close and personal" with plants and animals we might otherwise miss.

SAG member Marni Maree taught two successful plein air watercolor workshops in 2016. One was held at Lake Accotink Park in April, and the other at Byron Avenue Park, along Accotink Creek.

A Wildlife Photography workshop, taught by Professional Photographer Tom Kinder, was offered at Lake Accotink Park in August.

SAG will be offering other painting, sketching and photography workshops throughout the Accotink Watershed.

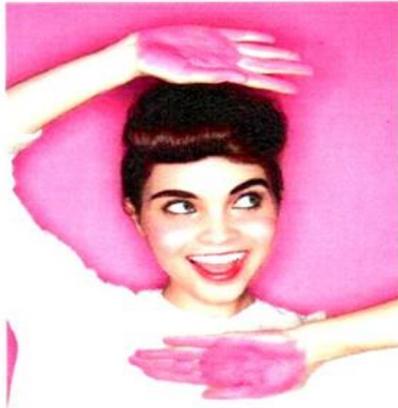
These outdoor art activities offer us a chance to join together in a natural – sometimes secluded – area to paint, sketch and photograph sites of interest to us.

The experience alone is worth the effort. Painting with friends and enjoying each other's company while enjoying nature and the outdoors is healthy and healing, and downright fun!

SCA members and the public are urged to sign up for these programs at the "Accotink Plein Air Painting, Sketching and Photography" site at meetup.com. When visiting the meetup.com site, search for "plein air," and the site should take you to this group.

For additional information, please contact Elaine Sevy, SAG Board Member for Outreach and Education at yorkiemum.sevy95@gmail.com, 703-901-5612.





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Local Count Helps National Survey

For several dozen people in southern Fairfax County, spending a winter day walking in the any kind of weather to count birds is normal, even exciting. I am one of those.

I have participated in the National Audubon Society's Annual Christmas Bird Counts from Maine to Florida, depending on where I lived at the time. After I moved to Springfield, I started participating in the Ft. Belvoir area count. Around 10 years ago, I volunteered to coordinate the portion of the Ft. Belvoir count area that includes Lake Accotink Park, Hidden Pond, Huntsmen Lake, and surrounding areas.

The count must be held on a designated day, regardless of the weather. January 2 was our day this winter, and it rained all day. But the birders were out, each in his or her smaller area, usually with a partner to assist. My assistant and I hiked 4 miles over 6 hours, with stops to stand still and look and listen for birds in the woods. We covered part of Lake Accotink Park and areas south, while another team covered the northern side of the park and adjacent areas.



At day's end, our Springfield count totaled 45 species of birds. Last year we found 55, and the year before 51, so the rain did hamper us. We saw one adult and one immature (third year) bald eagle that are residents at Lake Accotink. We also saw hooded mergansers, gadwalls, ring-billed gulls, and a double-crested cormorant on Lake Accotink. In the woods, we saw Carolina chickadees, tufted titmice, pileated woodpeckers, and other common birds. The first Christmas Bird Count was in 1900. In the years prior, a Christmas day tradition among some people within the country was to go hunting and shoot as many animals as possible, primarily birds. The winner was whoever shot the most animals. In 1900, an ornithologist with the newly created National Audubon Society convinced some people to *count* birds instead. The idea spread, and over the next century, birders from across the Western Hemisphere started their own bird counts centered the few weeks around Christmas.



The Audubon Christmas Bird Count is the largest and longest running wildlife monitoring effort in the world. It is all-volunteer, and we count no matter the weather. With data from more than a century, ornithologists first documented the shift in wintering range of some southern species to more northerly wintering grounds, which were becoming warmer. We also learn the status of bird populations across the continent as they rise and fall. In this way, the Springfield area contributes to the overall picture of bird populations in North America.

By: Susan Jewell

A Message From Trails for Youth

TrailsforYouth.Org (TYO) has been a children's health non-profit in the Springfield community for 15 years. We have worked with thousands of local youth and provided over 10,000 opportunities for them to get outdoors and active. Being in the Mid-Atlantic region we have been forced to offer limited winter programs due to shorter days and colder temperatures. Last year we successfully implemented a full eight-week hiking program.

We also worked with Lynbrook Elementary School to use indoor space for a six-week, once a week indoor spinning/fitness class. Both of these were popular and demonstrated that regardless of the weather, kids want to get up and get moving, if given the opportunity. Building upon those successes, we secured a local indoor facility to provide

more opportunities to keep kids active during cold snowy months. Thanks to the generous assistance from the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce and Federal Realty Investment Trust, we were able to secure a very low cost indoor facility.

We are thrilled to announce that we will be offering Springfield's youth six-weeks of indoor spinning and fitness classes! This is a great opportunity for the kids to stay active this winter. We are very excited and are looking forward to seeing many new faces in our programs. These programs will provide a bridge of activity that will keep local youth active until we can get outdoors and hit the trails.

The expansion of these programs, and the hundreds of hours of physical activity they will provide to local at-risk youth, could not be possible if it were not for the generous support we received from local businesses and individuals. We are extremely grateful for The Springfield Civic Association's donation to our programs for 2017. Your sponsorship helps us provide the programs and necessary outlet of healthy activity for our most vulnerable community youth. We are extremely grateful, thank you.

And we are *always in need* of other local sponsors to help us provide these opportunities to our community youth. If you have a company who would like to sponsor TrailsforYouth.Org, please contact Julie@trailsforyouth.org.

We at TYO are looking forward to an active winter full of fun, health and fitness for our area's youth. Happy (indoor) Trails to all!



Know Your Snow In Your Area

It's that time of the year again. Snow, Ice, Cold, more Snow. Winter can be a great time for everyone, but it can also result in some serious accidents. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with some information from Fairfax County regarding snow removal.

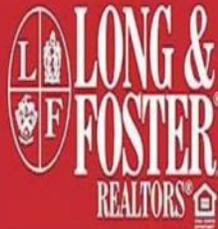
Who is responsible for clearing snow from the sidewalks in my neighborhood?

-Neither the state nor the county clears snow and ice from public walkways (sidewalks and trails). While not legally obligated, residents and businesses are asked to help keep sidewalks safe. They should, as soon as feasible, clear snow off the sidewalks in front of their property so that all pedestrians, especially school children, those with disabilities and the elderly, may walk securely. Homeowner associations may require members of their communities to clear walkways abutting their property. Please contact your association or property manager for further information. [Read more about snow removal responsibilities in Fairfax County.](#)

Where do I call about getting my street plowed?

-The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is responsible for plowing the public roads (interstate, primary, secondary, residential) in Fairfax County. Clearing is done on a priority basis, with interstates and high volume roads cleared first. Once the most heavily traveled roads and emergency routes are adequately clear, snow crews move to less-traveled roads and subdivisions. These public roadways can typically be identified by a [route number sign](#) posted at street intersections. Please [contact VDOT for additional information \(1-800-FOR ROAD \(367-7623\), TTY 711\)](#). If your street is not identified with a route number sign, it is most likely privately maintained. Snow removal on privately maintained roads is the responsibility of the property owners along the road or the homeowner association.

For more information regarding snow removal, please visit Fairfax county's site: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/navbar/faqs/snowremoval.htm>.



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Civic Association
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Springfield, VA 22150

January Meeting
Tuesday January 17th
Crestwood Elementary
Social time starts at 7:00
Meeting begins at 7:30 sharp
Program:
Revitalization and Community
Development in Springfield

***PLEASE JOIN US! DUES
RENEW IN SEPTEMBER***



The Springfield Civic Association is a volunteer organization dedicated to:

- Encouraging residents to be active in community affairs
- Promoting civic responsibility through education and advocacy
- Effectively interacting with local government and community organizations
- Enhancing the quality of life in Springfield.

We are the hub that links residents and organizations, enhances communications, and embraces diversity to create a vibrant Springfield community.

Join SCA

Annual dues of \$15 cover all adults in a household. Membership is open to all residents and non-resident property owners in the boundaries. Mail this form with your check to PO Box 842, Springfield, VA 22150 or bring it with you to the membership meeting, or visit www.springfieldcivic.org to join or renew online.

- Join SCA Renew my membership Add or change contact information
- Add me to the email list, I will join later (**email list is FREE**)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

By providing your email address, you agree to receive the newsletter and monthly updates by email.