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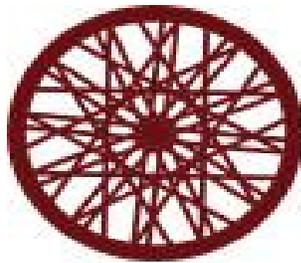
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Est. 1953

# Springfield Civic Association

Where we all come together

## President's Message

On behalf of the SCA Board allow me to wish one and all a Happy Vernal Equinox!

To top that sentiment, let me invite you to the SCA's Tuesday, March 21st meeting; we host our Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay at Crestwood Elementary School on Hanover Avenue. The social time runs from 7:00-7:30pm; business begins promptly at 7:30pm; door prizes awarded at 8:55pm; we adjourn at 9:00pm.

This is our annual opportunity to interact with Supervisor McKay. It is vitally important for the Supervisor to hear directly from his constituents, to understand our concerns, and for us to hear directly from him the latest County news impactful to Lee District and Springfield in particular. Don't miss the most important meeting of the SCA season. Other important SCA business will be the election of the 2017-18 Board of Directors in May. If you are interested in getting more active in the community please let us know at the March meeting or via our e-mail address: [Springfieldcivic@yahoo.com](mailto:Springfieldcivic@yahoo.com).

Happy Spring Everyone,  
Bruce  
SCA President

## Your Dues Make A Difference

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 the 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.

## SCA Elections

Have you ever thought about running for office? Are you interested in getting more involved with your community? The Springfield Civic Association is holding elections for officers at the May membership meeting and now is the time to let us know if you're interested in running for the office of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, or Member at Large. Contact the SCA at [springfieldcivic@yahoo.com](mailto:springfieldcivic@yahoo.com) if you're interested in becoming a board member.

(Candidates must live within the boundaries of the Springfield Civic Association.)



ELECTIONS AHEAD

**March Meeting**  
Tuesday March 21  
Crestwood ES

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

**Program:**  
Update from  
Jeff McKay  
Lee District  
Supervisor

## *A Message from Jeff McKay*

A lot is going on in Lee District and Fairfax County this month as the Board of Supervisors continues to work on the FY2018 budget. I encourage all Lee residents to stay updated on developments by attending our upcoming Budget Town Hall, with more information below. I also encourage residents to use the Real Estate Assessment Tax Calculator at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxcalc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxcalc/) to better understand where every dollar and cent in the budget goes, tailored to your personal tax rate.

### **Board of Supervisors Votes to Advertise a Zero Cents Increase**

The Board of Supervisors voted 9-1 on February 28 against advertising a tax rate increase from the current rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. The Board can adopt a tax rate that is lower, but not higher than the current rate when it makes amendments to the Advertised Budget on April 25. The County Executive's proposed budget would still be able to provide over \$2 billion in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools, as well as an additional \$84 million for school-related programming such as School Nurses and School Resource Officers. Residents will have an opportunity to comment on the advertised budget at my Budget Town Hall at 7 PM on March 22 at the Franconia Governmental Center, as well as the public budget hearings at the Fairfax County Government Center on April 4-6. I look forward to discussing this year's budget as a community and getting feedback as we move forward.

### **Help Prevent Illegal Dumping**

If you see illegal dumping in your neighborhood, please call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2205 to report it. Illegal dumping can have widespread negative effects on plant life, pets and people. Reporting it immediately can help curb those effects and discourage the act.

### **Potholes**

As the winter season comes to a close, we ask that residents report any potholes in their neighborhood to the VDOT Hotline, 1-800-FOR-ROAD or 1-800-367-7623, so that they may be repaired in a timely manner. Residents may also report potholes using the online VDOT complaint form at <https://my.vdot.virginia.gov/>

## *Fairfax County 275th Anniversary*



Two hundred and seventy five years ago, the land that would become Fairfax County was largely inhabited by Algonquian speaking Native Americans called the Doeg or Dongue. Fairfax County was formed in 1742 from land that was once part of Prince William County. It was named for Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron (1693-1781), proprietor of the Northern Neck. The Fairfax family name is derived from the Old English phrase for "blond hair" - *Faeger-feahs*.

On June 17, 2017, Fairfax County will officially celebrate its 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Activities will be centered on the area surrounding the historic court house in central Fairfax. Special events include many performances, speakers, living history performers, encampments and historical exhibits. There's even a chance that the current Lord Fairfax, Nicholas John Albert Fairfax will make an appearance. Save the date!

## *Grace Presbyterian Happenings*

### **What's Going on at Grace Presbyterian?**

Some of you may have noticed something happening at Grace Presbyterian Church on Bath Street in the last few weeks. But for those who may have missed it or didn't hear the details, Grace has a brand new steeple. The new, 6500-pound fiberglass steeple was constructed by Stealth Concealment Solutions, Inc., of North Charleston, S.C. But here is the fun part...inside the steeple is a Verizon cell tower. You can't tell from the outside, but it is in there! The new steeple, costing \$270,000, is being paid for by the communications corporation.



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## *Richard Byrd Library*

Sandy Freund, Branch Manager

In March, the Richard Byrd Library became the host for a Spanish language Family Literacy Preschool run by Fairfax County Public Schools. The preschool meets two mornings a week and signup is through FCPS. Children and parents attend the program. Our Youth Services staff will provide a short weekly storytime for the group. The preschool had been meeting at the John Marshall Library but has relocated to Richard Byrd due to the upcoming closing of John Marshall for renovation.

Thanks to a wonderful new volunteer, the library began a series of classes on March 6 called **Learning English through Computers**. Adult students learn English using free Internet resources and laptops are provided. Classes are every Monday, 7:00-8:30 pm through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Finally, Richard Byrd will host **Becoming a Foster Parent**, an information meeting presented by Fairfax County Foster Care and Adoption on Wednesday, April 12 at 4:00 pm.

### Additional Events from mid-March to mid-April 2017:

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. **English Conversation Group**. Adults.

Saturdays through April 15, 10:00 am-1:00 pm. **VITA Tax Assistance**. Tax help. IRS-certified volunteers help taxpayers who earn up to \$54 K per year. Adults.

Wednesday, March 15, 10:30 am. **Time for Twos**. Storytime focusing on early literacy skills just for twos. Age 2 with adult.

Thursdays, March 16 and April 6, 7:00 pm. **Springfield Writers' Group**. Share your work, give and receive feedback

in a supportive environment. Adults.

Saturday, March 18 and April 15, 2:00 pm. **Coder Dojo: Teaching Kids to Code**. Free computer programming for young people. Learn to code, develop websites and apps, and create games. Limited number of computers available, bring laptop if possible. Parent must be present with children under 10 years of age. Age 7-17.

Monday, March 20, 4:30 pm. **Hidden Pond Monday: Amphibians**. Presented by the staff of Hidden Pond Nature Center. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Age 6-12.

Wednesday, April 5, 10:30. **Mother Goose Time**. Join us for stories and activities. Age 0-13 months with adult.

Wednesday, April 5, 11:30 am. **Sensory Storytime**. In partnership with the Infant Toddler Connection, this welcoming storytime is geared toward children with special needs and children sensitive to sensory overload. Birth-3 with adult.

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 pm. **Financial Literacy Workshop**. Presented by Andrews Federal Credit Union. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Adults.

Tuesday, April 11, 2:00 pm. **Duct Tape Crafts**. Sponsored by the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. Age 12-18.

Tuesday, April 11, 7:00 pm. **Bedtime Storytime**. Come in your pajamas, bring your favorite stuffed animal, and enjoy bedtime stories and music. Age birth-5 with adult.

Wednesday, April 12, 10:30 am. **Fun with Ones**. Enjoy books, songs and rhymes in a special storytime for ones.



# *Janice Buckley*

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## Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Honors First Responders



Fairfax County first responders will be honored at the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Above & Beyond Breakfast Friday, May 12, 2017 at Springfield Golf & Country Club.

This annual event recognizes first responders in the Greater Springfield area who better our community by quietly volunteering personal time, energy and funds to fill a need. The Chamber uses this opportunity to give a portion of the event proceeds to the charitable organizations the first responder honorees represent.

Honoree nominations are requested from the community. If you or your community group has been served and supported by a Fairfax County first responder the Chamber wants to hear from you. The nomination form is available online, [springfieldchamber.org/annual-awards](http://springfieldchamber.org/annual-awards). Nominations are due by noon on April 28.

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid will be the keynote speaker. Sheriff Kincaid will give an overview of her department's role in keeping our community safe and will provide an update on the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office community outreach programs and its reserve deputy academy.

Tickets to the breakfast are \$40. Visit the Chamber website to reserve your seat. An early-bird discount is available on tickets purchased by April 28.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. To be recognized as a supporter of our community's first responders, contact the Chamber office, 703-866-3500.

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## Crestwood Elementary School News



Join the **Crestwood Elementary School** team for the Draft Day Dash 5K School Challenge on Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at FedEx Field in Landover, MD!!

**JOIN THE  
CRESTWOOD  
ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL TEAM**

**[www.redskins.com/5k](http://www.redskins.com/5k)**

School Challenge hosted by the Redskins Charitable Foundation

The school team with the most participants could win an amazing prize including a \$5,000 health and wellness grant, new gym equipment, or a Redskins player appearance and event!

**Anyone** – students, teachers, parents, siblings, grandparents, friends, community members – who registers with the **Crestwood Elementary School** team counts as a school challenge participant. Runners, walkers and strollers are welcome.

### Here is how **YOU** can support Crestwood Elementary School:

- 1) Sign-up at [www.Redskins.com/5K](http://www.Redskins.com/5K)
- 2) Select **Crestwood Elementary School** as your team
- 3) Use the code **SCHOOL2017** for a \$10 discount
- 4) Recruit more runners and walkers for our team



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### *Cable Clutter*

See this in your neighborhood? Well you shouldn't and neither should kids walking to school or potential home buyers.

Report it to Fairfax County CPRD at (703) 324-5902 or [wwwcprd@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:wwwcprd@fairfaxcounty.gov) Provide the nearest house address to the pole and a description of the problem.



### *CAC News*

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

If you're concerned about your 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, 15 March at 7:30 pm. The topic will be "the use of force."

After the business meeting, you have the opportunity to discuss your questions and concerns with 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.

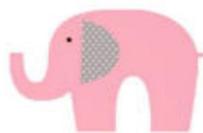
### *Woman's Club of Springfield*

The Woman's Club of Springfield is looking forward to a busy spring. We have no meeting in April, as we are having our Annual Luncheon on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Springfield Golf and Country Club, where we will install our new officers for the 2017-2019 term.

At the end of April, on the 29<sup>th</sup>, we will have our Annual Spring Faire to benefit Bethany House of Northern Virginia. Local vendors are invited to buy a table and sell their wares. The event is free to the public and will be held at Burke United Methodist Church from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We invite you to join us. There will be door prizes and wonderful items for sale. If you are a vendor that would be interested in participating, please contact Diana Hooper, at 703/913-5602. This is always a festive event!

In June, we will be giving our Annual Scholarship to a worthy young woman from Robert E. Lee High School. We will be holding a Scholarship Dinner at our meeting on June 13, 2017, at Grace Presbyterian Church, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Members and guests are asked to bring a dish to share. If you are interested in attending our June meeting, please contact Beverly Stoltz at 703/941-4501.

And, of course, we hope you will visit our Pink Elephant Shop in the Concord Plaza (by Aldi). The operation of the Shop allows us to give back to the Springfield community in many ways, including our Annual Scholarship.



Spring is a good time to clean out closets....so why not take unwanted things to the Pink Elephant Shop and consign them....you'll get half of what we sell the items for! We are open Monday-Thursday and Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Pink Elephant Shop has been part of the Springfield Community for over 50 years.

The Woman's Club of Springfield has been a part of the Springfield Community for 63 years. It is an affiliate of the General Federation of Women's Clubs ([www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)). Please visit our website at [www.womansclubofspringfield.org](http://www.womansclubofspringfield.org). If you are interested in joining our Club, please call the Pink Elephant Shop at 703/451-2467, or our Membership Chairman, Barbara Kiker at 703/451-5922.

***"Thank You"***

***Please thank our advertisers when you visit them. Their investment in our community is greatly appreciated.***

## *Friends of Richard Byrd Library Update*

### Annual Meeting

On Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, the Friends will host our annual meeting to celebrate our library and the Friends' accomplishments in 2016 - thanks to your help and support. At 6pm on April 27<sup>th</sup>, come to the library's meeting room for snacks and to socialize with fellow library lovers. At 6:15, we'll review our accomplishments and the financial health of our organization, meet our new board members and mingle with the best volunteers ever. At 7pm, U.S. Navy Captain Robert Wells will present a talk on his first book *Voices from the Bottom of the South China Sea*. Join us to learn about the untold story of America's largest Chinese emigrant disaster. See you on Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.



Photo courtesy of Captain Wells

### Financial Literacy Workshops

The Friends have been co-sponsoring a series of Financial Literacy workshops with Andrews Federal Credit Union. The first two workshops focused on Basic Budgeting and Credit, Fraud and Risk. Both workshops were very well attended and garnered excellent feedback. The final 2017 workshop, Saving for College and Retirement, will be held on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Join us for a free pizza dinner at 6:30pm.



Photos courtesy Friends of Richard Byrd Library

### Support Friends through AmazonSmile

AmazonSmile is a program that will automatically donate a small portion of your purchase to the Friends of the Richard Byrd Library. All you have to do is shop through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) instead of just going to amazon.com. The Smile site is just the same as the regular Amazon site. The first time you use smile.amazon.com, you'll be prompted to select your favorite charity. Simply select Friends of the Richard Byrd Library and Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price. You get to support the library without spending any additional funds, how great is that!

### Reading Buddies: Does your child need to practice/improve their reading skills?

Would you like to help a child improve their reading skills? Join the Reading Buddies at the Richard Byrd Library. First through sixth graders read for 30 minutes with an adult volunteer. Reading Buddies sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 6:30 pm during the school year. Sessions continue throughout the school year; sign up at the Information Desk. We're always looking for additional volunteers.



Photo courtesy Friends of Richard Byrd Library

### Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 1, 1:00-9:00 pm.

#### **Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Used Book Sale.**

Great bargains on summer reading, graduation and Father's Day gifts. Sale is 1:00-3:00 for Friends members, open to the public 3:00-9:00 pm. All ages.

Friday, June 2, 10:00 am-6:00 pm.

Saturday, June 3, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

#### **Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Used Book Sale.**

Great bargains on summer reading, graduation and Father's Day gifts.

Sunday, June 4, 12:00-2:00 pm.

#### **Friends of the Richard Byrd Library Bag Sale.**

Fill up a bag with books for \$5. We supply the bags.

**Volunteer:** Looking for a volunteer opportunity?...come join the Friends of Richard Byrd Library!

Contact us at [rbfriends@gmail.com](mailto:rbfriends@gmail.com). Check out Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsofRichardByrdLibrary)

## Springfield Art Guild



**You are invited!!** If you or someone you know is interested in art please join the Springfield Art Guild (SAG) for their Guest Speakers monthly meetings. The presentations are free and open to the public. We have great speakers who will get your artistic juices running.

SAG meetings have moved. SAG is now meeting in the auditorium at Grace Presbyterian Church, [7434 Bath St, Springfield, VA 22150.](#)

Note: Please use the parking lots to avoid being ticketed. There is NO parking on Bath St. unless you have a handicapped sticker. From Bath St. you can enter at door #2 (left door) under the steeple. Best entry: Park in the lower lot on Grace St. The auditorium is just up the stairs to the left.

**Dates of Monthly Meetings:** SAG meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed of the month from January through June. (No meetings in July or Aug).

6:00pm - Doors open with refreshments and social activities.

7:00pm - Short business

7:30-9:00. Guest speaker presentation

Our calendar of Guest Speakers:

April 12th: Sandy Olszowy - How to use ink and alcohol on tile  
 May 10th : Cindy Silas - Working with polymer clay and metals  
 June 14th: Frank Spink judge -Enjoy a display the artwork of SAG members  
 July & August - no meetings

Go to [www.springfieldartguild.org](http://www.springfieldartguild.org) to check out the SAG newsletters for more information about SAG and its activities.

## Garden Club News



Did you notice the beautiful daffodils at Richard Byrd Library or at the *Welcome to Springfield* sign on Backlick Road? They are courtesy of the Springfield Acres Garden Club!

Springfield Acres Garden Club is a local non-profit organization serving the Springfield community since 1955. Our 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 can even help you have your own green thumb!

This month's meeting is March 28<sup>th</sup> at Grace Church at 10am and next month's meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10am. We'd love to have you come and see what we're all about! Questions? Contact Gail Nittle at [gnittle@gmail.com](mailto:gnittle@gmail.com)

## Trails for Youth

### Winter Facility is a TYO Game Changer For Us and the Kids!

We began the new year and winter with a goal of providing more opportunities to kids to be active. In previous years we have provided a variety of hikes for kids to stay active during the colder months, but we felt we needed to provide more.

The kids were restless to ride, but we expected to have a typical winter - cold, snow, rain, wet trails - all obstacles to outdoor biking. So in this vein, we looked to our community partners to help us seek a temporary indoor facility that could provide a safe space for kids to play, get exercise and spin.

We asked the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce to help us, and they put us in touch with Federal Investment Realty Trust. I expected a conciliatory small space that wasn't being used. However, Federal Realty recognized the value of our programs and wholeheartedly agreed to help us. After looking at properties we settled on a space that used to be a bank, (which is why the kids call the space "The Vault"). Because of their support, TYO is able to provide indoor continuous, multi-day workout program opportunities through March, for kids to stay active. Has it been working you ask? You betcha!

At drop-off, one of the Moms told me her story that exemplifies how powerful and positive this program is.

First class/Week one: *"My son didn't want me to sign him up, but I was tired of him sitting on the couch playing video games. So I made him come."*

Week three: *"You know Julie, when I come home from work, he is at the door with his clothes ready to go. He has lost weight his pants are getting big!"*

Week eight: *"He loves it and he is getting so thin and healthy!"*

I can attest that he has built up strength and endurance, but mostly I enjoy that he laughs and has fun at every class, while sweating and working out. So yes, it is working!

TYO couldn't be successful without community business partners and the amazing volunteers who are willing to give of their time and efforts to help. TYO is tremendously grateful for Tom Mathis who provides our "Tuesday with Tom" workouts that are fun and a challenge for the kids. Coach Pat, who is willing to be creative and provide a multitude of games to help the kids spin out the time on the trainers that feel more fun than workout. And our resident mechanics who are superb in keeping all the equipment rolling properly - Mr. Ken and Mr. Randy. Plus several guest instructors - Suz teaching self-defense and Mr. Jason of World Karate Fairfax teaching Karate. It does take a village to keep kids moving and staying active, but it's worth the effort to see their self-realization of how strong and healthy they have become. They had it in them the whole time, we just helped to foster it and bring it out.

And breaking news, we just confirmed Federal Realty Investment Trust has agreed to allow us a few more months of use of the space. So, stay tuned for upcoming program offerings - wrenching classes, Trailblazer classes, more open house fun?? Stay tuned!

This indoor facility has demonstrated to us how vital it is for TYO to have a permanent "home" for year-round programming. It has changed the game for us in that our future strategic planning will include the goal of securing a permanent location so kids can get up off the couch, socialize, get healthy and transform their bodies and minds through physical activity and fun.

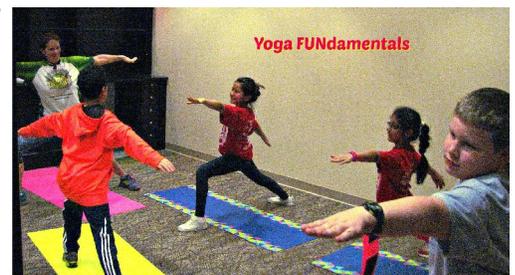
When we surveyed the youth and parents about this new program, 100% of the kids said they feel healthier than when we started and as one parent stated:



*"TYO, for me is a great help...as it helps our children mentally and physically and [keeps them] away from bad habits. It keeps them active and busy in their daily lives."*

It's our belief that as we continue to move forward, we must strive to provide the programs and opportunities the youth of our community need to succeed to be healthy and active all year long.

See you on the Trails {or at our indoor space}!



## *Friends of ECHO*

Thanks to Fairfax County, MV Transportation, Cardinal Forest Giant and many generous food donors, ECHO is celebrating a very successful February "Stuff the Bus" event which yielded over four thousand pounds of non-perishable food and hygiene supplies. Thank you to those who publicized this event in the community. Working together, we can help our neighbors get through their emergencies!

### ECHO Yard Sale

ECHO Yard Sale is coming! Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 22nd to join the fun at St. Bernadette's gymnasium from 8:00 am to noon for ECHO's semi-annual yard sale. The sale of donated items benefits ECHO, and shoppers always enjoy the hunt for "treasures."  
St. Bernadette is located at 7600 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

### ECHO's Current Greatest Needs

This month, ECHO especially needs rice (2 lb. bag), macaroni and cheese, canned tuna, deodorant and shaving cream. Our Housewares Department needs drinking glasses, bath towels and king-sized comforters. The Clothing Department needs diapers (sizes 3,4,5,6), teen clothing, children's sneakers sized 4, 5, or 6. To make sure battery-powered appliances are in good working order when we give them to clients, we need donations of AA and C batteries. ECHO is open to receive donations Monday-Friday from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm, and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road.

### How Echo Distributes Clothing

ECHO's Clothing Room operates like a small store, but, at check-out, no money is exchanged. Volunteers sort donated clothing by season, size and gender and place it in marked boxes or on hangers so that clients may look through apparel as they would at a store and choose what is best for their families. Clients may take several outfits for each family member, and volunteers help them bag their choices. Volunteers also record the amounts that clients receive so that ECHO can maintain a record for auditing. ECHO is committed to treating all people - clients, donors and volunteers - with dignity and respect.

### ECHO Now On Facebook

ECHO is now live on Facebook. Please click the link and like us! <https://www.facebook.com/EcumenicalCommunityHelpingOthers/>

### Congregational Food Drives

March – Springfield Christian, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Springfield United Methodist  
April – Burke United Methodist, Grace Christian Reformed, Adat Reyim

### Upcoming Dates to Note

March 4- Saturday opening  
March 17, 20 - No clothing appts/Changeover to spring, summer apparel  
April 1- Saturday opening  
April 13 – Closed in the evening only  
April 14 and 17 – Closed for Easter holiday  
April 19 – Exec. Committee meets 7:30, conference room  
April 22 – Yard Sale, St. Bernadette 8:00- noon

### For Current Information on These Topics, Please Visit Our Website

[Donating Money](#)

[Needed Right Now](#)

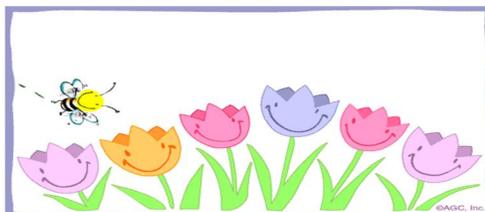
[Requested Donations](#)

[Current Volunteer Needs and Opportunities](#)

[ECHO's School Partnerships Program/Mentoring and Tutoring](#)

[Donations ECHO Can and Cannot Accept](#)

[Places to Donate Items ECHO Cannot Accept](#)



# Happy Spring

## Lake Accotink Happenings

### Lake Accotink Park in the Future - Master Plan Revision Process Continues

The Park Authority has been listening closely to understand the community's vision for Lake Accotink Park. Over the past twelve months, numerous community meetings and on-line questionnaires have provided plentiful insight for consideration. Would you like to know how people have voted and commented so far, visit the Lake Accotink Park Master Plan Revision project webpage and check out the links to comments and lots of other information. Link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/lakeaccotink.htm> If you haven't shared your opinion yet, or have something more to say, we would love to hear it. Just click on the comment button on the project webpage.

### Nature Corner

Warm Spring days sandwiched between more typical cold weather over the past few weeks have kept everyone guessing about the timing of buds, blossoms, and wildlife activities. For example, the end of February brought with it many warm days, and in turn wood frogs, who were observed calling and laying eggs all through the park. Parkgoers were treated as well to the sight of wildflowers such as Spring Beauties gracing the trails. Thanks to the warm weather, staff were treated to an increase in neighbors dropping by the Visitors Center to share their experiences or just to say hello. We encourage you to stop by whenever you can and meet new staff who are coming on board as we gear up for the more visibly active season. One of those is the park naturalist, Kyle Hughes-Segroves, who recently joined the Lake Accotink Park team after serving for many years at Hidden Pond Nature Center. He has come up with many new nature and cultural history programs for which registrations are already being accepted. Why not check out *Rock-hounders* which attracts children ages 6 to 12 on Friday afternoons in April. Or sign up your child for *Stream Study Saturdays* or *Experimental Sunday* science workshops. Both series start the weekend of April 8 - 9. For more details on these and other programs offered at the park, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/events.htm>

### Calendar Notes

Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. to 11:30

#### **Spring Clean-up Day at Lake Accotink Park**

Meet at the marina in order to sign-in, get your trash bags and receive further instructions. For insurance purposes, all volunteers must sign in before the clean-up and then report back to the marina after the clean-up to sign out. Any volunteers age 16 or under must be accompanied by a parent or other responsible adult.

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m

#### **Blossoms in the Park**

This is a new event to celebrate Spring and it's free. All are welcome to drop by for naturalist-led hikes, live animal displays, games and crafts, and information about summer camps and other programs.

Monday, April 24, 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m

#### **Master Planning Public Meeting**

Cardinal Forest Elementary School, 8600 Forrester Blvd.

Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

#### **Marina Opening Day**

Operating schedule varies over the course of the season; check website or call the park.

Sunday, June 4, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m (New EARLIER time!)

#### **Cardboard Boat Regatta**

Make this the year that you enter the race with a boat of your own making! Download boat-building tips and the contest entry form from the Park Authority website (coming soon). Admission to the event is FREE. Registration fees for boats to enter. Food concessions will operate all day. A \$5 parking fee per vehicle applies to all vehicles entering the park before 2 p.m. on June 4. Parking lots typically fill to capacity. If possible, carpool, walk or bike to the park. For more information, call Lake Accotink Park, 703/569-0285.



### Part-time Positions Available at Lake Accotink Park

If you like to work in a busy environment with other motivated, energetic team members, check out the positions listed on our website. If you meet the qualifications, are available May through October, and are ready for challenging and meaningful work, complete the online application found at this link: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink/employment.htm>

## GrandInvolve Knitting Club

### Knitting is Fun!

#### Observations from a Non-Knitter

I'd heard so much about the wildly successful knitting club at Crestwood Elementary and decided to check it out for myself. I coordinate the GrandInvolve Program which looks very different at each of the schools we are involved in and at Crestwood, there's a group of children, teachers and GrandInvolve volunteers who meet once a week on Wednesday afternoon to learn the ancient art of knitting.

I arrived a few minutes early in anticipation of the crush of youngsters who would soon be filling the large room with noise and activity. It had been several weeks since the last lessons had finished and this was a new term for the knitters. I was impressed that the teachers were so well prepared. Fifty children were expected and each newcomer had



a sandwich bag of yarn and knitting needles - courtesy of the Springfield Civic Association! Each bag had a ball of yarn and knitting needles which were already prepared for them with a row of cast stitches on the needle. With Ms. Hetty as their leader and main teacher, they had each table identified for the different levels of learners. This way, the children could begin knitting some new stitches right away if they were lucky enough to understand the directions! As soon as the end of school bell rang, children begin rushing into the cafeteria, several of them flinging their arms around the teachers who were waiting for them. Others who were new to the club came in tentatively and looked around. I noticed that the children seemed to come in groups with their friends. At one table of newcomers, there were 4 little boys - 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who had all come together from the same classroom. They were all friends and all wanted to make a wristband! The old timers had bags of projects ready to show their teachers - things they'd been working on over the holidays. Some of them had used instruction sheets and amazingly - were able to read the directions! Not be-

ing able to knit myself - I was jealous of their skills. Once the teachers had the children sorted by ability, Mrs Schmitz -4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, gave the newcomers a quick lesson. Immediately, 30 hands were in the air - "Please help me!" The teachers were so patient! Some of the children had slipped the cast on stitches off their needles. In a short amount of time, several of the newcomers had caught on and were helping their table mates. The experienced knitters were choosing from several projects which Ms. Hetty had prepared as samples. There were bags of supplies for each project and written instructions. I was again amazed that the children could follow a pattern. When I left the room, the experienced group was knitting furiously away and only about half the newcomers had their hands in the air for help. I wished I could stay longer to assist because the teachers were clearly outnumbered by children needing help but alas - I could not help at all and the children couldn't understand that there was an adult present who didn't know how to do this knitting project!

 **Lynne N Clark, P.C.**   
Attorney and Counselor at Law

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# Christmas Cookie Thank You

This was our fourth year of thanking our advertisers, supporters, and friends with homemade cookies!

Twenty-two SCA members/friends contributed the scrumptious cookies, bars and other culinary delights. Twenty-one boxes, each filled with 3 pounds of goodies, were delivered and appreciated! A huge thank-you goes to our bakers...

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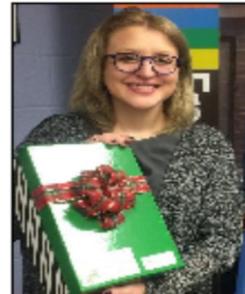


Packaging elves Jennifer, Jan and Susann

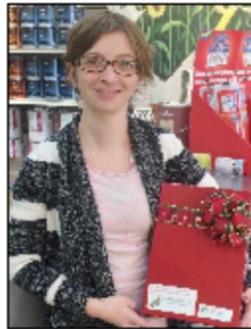


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March Meeting  
Tuesday March 21  
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Social time starts at 7:00  
Meeting begins at 7:30 sharp

**Program:**

Update from Jeff Mckay  
Lee District  
Supervisor

**PLEASE JOIN US! DUES  
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- Effectively interacting with local government and community organizations
- Enhancing the quality of life in Springfield.

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